A Bill to Establish a Parliamentary Procedure System for ASG Senate

Whereas, The 2022-2023 Senate Standing Rules requires that Senate meetings be conducted using parliamentary procedure; and

Whereas, The Senate Standing Rules did not list a parliamentary authority by which meetings must be conducted; and

Whereas, It is increasingly common that organizations have their own parliamentary rules to fit the needs of their organizations;

Be it therefore resolved: The following be adopted as the parliamentary authority for the 2022-2023 ASG Senate.

ASG Senate Parliamentary Procedure

Article I: Purpose

I. Statement of Purpose: Parliamentary procedure has, for centuries, been the governing authority for legislative bodies, kept them in order, and allowed the business of organizations, communities, and nations to be carried out in an efficient and formal manner which lends gravitas fitting of the work being done. However, as those noted parliamentarians throughout history have realized, trying to apply a standard form of parliamentary procedure to a body with its own styles and intricacies is neither formal, nor efficient. Therefore, these rules are deemed appropriate for the efficient operation of the ASG Senate, while retaining the formality of traditional parliamentary procedure rules.

Article II: Motions

I. Motions: Most actions the Senate takes require a motion. A motion may be asked for by the Chair, or offered by a Senator when the need arises, regardless of whether or not the Chair has expressed the need for one. A motion may be made by a Senator raising their placard,
II. **Seconding a Motion**: A second is considered a show of support for a motion that is made by at least one other Senator. All motions require a second, and seconds will be made in the same way; with a raised placard and recognition by the Chair so that proper notation of motions and seconds may be made by the Legislative Clerk in the meeting minutes. If a motion requires a vote, the Chair will then conduct the vote and rule on the motion.

**Article III: MotionsRelating toMeeting Order**

I. **Motion to Adjourn**: A motion to adjourn ends the Senate meeting immediately upon its passage. The motion requires a majority vote, taken via voice vote unless a motion is made to the contrary. It may interrupt the speaker and will be immediately voted on without debate. The Chair may veto the motion to adjourn, requiring a two-thirds majority roll-call vote to overturn the veto.

II. **Motion to Fix Adjournment**: A motion to fix adjournment places a specific time at which the Senate meeting will end. It requires a specified time for adjournment, it may not be debated, and requires a two-thirds majority of present Senators to pass. The Chair will immediately end the meeting at the end of the meeting time.

III. **Motion to Recess**: If the need arises, a Senator may call for a recess, which must be offered with intent (to allow a committee to meet in the circumstance that a bill is introduced late, an amended agenda, etc.) and a length of time (five minutes, ten minutes, etc.). The motion is not debatable, may interrupt a speaker, and the Chair will simply rule on the motion immediately.

IV. **Motion to Amend the Agenda**: A motion to amend the agenda may be made by any member of the Senate only upon the request of the Chair. Any motion to amend the agenda without the request or consent of the Chair will be ruled out of order. This motion must have a second and can be adopted by unanimous consent or by placard vote. Following an amendment of the agenda, a member may motion to recess for a few minutes to read the legislation which was amended to the agenda.

V. **Motion to Limit Debate**: Debate may be limited to a certain total length of time by a motion to limit debate. A motion to limit debate may not interrupt a speaker, does not require debate, and requires a simple majority of present Senators to pass. The motion must be offered with a specified time limit (five minutes, ten minutes, etc.).
Upon the passage of such a motion, the Parliamentarian will keep time for debate and the Chair will move to end debate following the expiration of time.

VI. Motion to End Debate: Debate on a piece of legislation may be ended with a motion to that effect. It does not require debate itself, may not interrupt a speaker, and requires a two-thirds majority of the Senators present to pass. Upon its passage, debate on the item under consideration will immediately end, if necessary, the body will move into voting procedure on the item under consideration.

VII. Motion to Suspend the Rules: A motion to suspend the rules may be made at any time by any Senator. The motion must be offered with intent (in order to consider an item out of order on the agenda, invoke Section 11 of the Senate Standing Rules, etc.) and will be automatically reinstated after the business for which the rules were suspended is disposed of. This motion may not interrupt a speaker, requires a two-thirds majority of all present Senators, and may be debated with one speaker each for favor and opposition. If intent is too vague, the Chair may rule the motion out of order.

VIII. Motion for a Roll Call Vote: In situations where motions require a voice vote, a Senator may make a motion for a roll call vote, at which point the Legislative Clerk will call roll and Senators will vote one by one. This motion is not subject to debate, may interrupt a speaker, and will trigger a roll call vote on the motion for which it was made. Roll call votes cannot be called for legislative voting.

IX. Motion to Reconsider: If a Senator disagrees with a decision made by the Chair, that Senator may motion to reconsider, at which point the whole of present Senators will vote on the decision of the Chair immediately. This motion may be made at any time, may interrupt any speaker, and allows debate. A vote will immediately be taken to overrule the decision of the Chair, and a two-thirds majority is required for passage.

Article IV: Motions Relating to Legislation

I. Motion to Table a Piece of Legislation: A motion to table a piece of legislation is considered a suppression of legislation without debate and can be made to any legislation at any time after its introduction. It may not interrupt someone else who is speaking. A motion to table must be accompanied by a time at which the legislation is to be reconsidered (until the next meeting, indefinitely, three weeks, etc.). It also allows debate, with one Senator speaking in favor of the motion and one in opposition to the motion. It then requires a simple majority of the Senators present to pass.
II. **Motion to Take from the Table:** A piece of legislation which has been tabled indefinitely may be brought from the Table by a vote to take from the Table. This motion may be made at any time and is not debatable. It may not interrupt a speaker and requires a simple majority of present Senators to pass, at which time the legislation will be reintroduced as if it were being introduced for its second reading, unless rules are suspended requiring two full readings before it may be voted on.

III. **Motion to Postpone Consideration:** Under certain circumstances, items of business may require further work, information, or otherwise more context. In these cases, a motion to postpone consideration may be made. Unlike tabling legislation, postponement is qualitative, requiring a condition under which the item may be brought before the body for consideration. It is up to the legislative sponsors or author to inform the Chair that the condition offered in the motion has been met, so that the item may be reoffered. It requires a speaker in favor and opposition, may not interrupt a speaker, and requires a simple majority of Senators present to pass.

IV. **Motion to Amend:** A motion to offer an amendment may be made at any point after a piece of legislation is introduced. The motion must be accompanied with suggested changes offered to specific lines. It may not interrupt a speaker, it requires one speaker for and against, and a simple majority of present Senators to pass.

Article V: Amending Legislation

I. **Author Offered Amendments:** An amendment may be offered at any point following the first reading of a piece of legislation. In the time of questions given following the first reading, amendments may be offered by the author, at which point the bill will simply be changed to reflect the amendment.

II. **Deadlines for Amendments:** Following the referral of a bill to committee, bills may only be amended by the Senate body or upon the recommendation of a committee, following the process outlined in Article IV Section IV of these rules.

III. **Committee-Offered Amendments:** As part of their reports, committees may recommend amendments to legislation. These amendments must be motioned for by a Senator and will follow the process outlined in Article IV Section IV of these rules.

Article VI: Speaking Rights
I. **The Question:** Speakers must restrict their comments to the question being considered. Comments which deal with issues other than the question under consideration will be considered out of order.

II. **Assumption of Speaking Rights:** The Chair is assumed to have the floor when the floor has not been yielded to another member.

III. **Yielding the Floor:** Any member who is holding the floor may yield their time to anyone else in the chamber. Yielding does not reset time limits.

IV. **Special Reports:** Speaking rights do not need to be conferred by the Chair to someone who is listed for special reports. The Chair need only recognize the person listed to give their report.

V. **Impartial Comments:** Comments for the purpose of guidance or clarification may be offered under the authorization of the Chair without the need for a yielded speaker's time or time limits. These comments are only allowed at the Chair’s discretion.

VI. **Speaker Time:** Speaker time is to strictly follow the limit set by the Chair or agenda, enforced by the Parliamentarian. Speaker time may be extended once, not to exceed the original time limit.

**Article VII: Points and Privileges**

I. **Points:** Points may be made to express the need of a Senator for a certain action to be taken, a question to be answered, or a request to be granted. They are made to the Chair, may always interrupt a speaker, and do not require debate or a vote, as they are separate from a motion.

II. **Point of Information:** Should a member need clarification on a matter being considered, that Senator can make a point of information to the Chair, and the Chair may answer it. If the Chair does not feel capable of answering the question, the Chair may yield to someone in the chamber for a question. Points of information may interrupt a speaker.

III. **Point of Order:** In the event of a mistake or other infraction of the Senate Standing Rules or a violation of Parliamentary Procedure guidelines, a Senator may call a point of order to correct the error. The Chair will rule the point either disorderly or orderly and will, if needed, issue a correction.
IV. **Point of Privilege:** Should a Senator have a personal need, such as needing leave of the chamber, they may make a point of privilege to the Chair.

**Article VIII: Committee Referrals**

I. **Committee Referrals:** The Chair of Senate will inform the Senate, after the first reading of a piece of legislation, of a decision regarding which committees that legislation should be referred to. This is done at the prerogative of the Chair. It is not subject to a motion to reconsider.

**Article IV: Constitutionality**

I. **Constitutionality:** Pursuant to Article III Section 5 Subsection O Point B of the ASG Constitution, these rules have been derived from the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order and have simply been condensed and simplified for the sake of the orderly operation of the Senate.

Be it further resolved: These rules be added to the 2022-2023 Senate Standing Rules and future Standing Rules.

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this bill be sent to Chief Justice Anna Roach.

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Amendments: _________________________________

Vote Count: Aye 45  Nay 0  Abstentions 0

Legislation Status: **Passed** Failed  Other

Gabrielle Gies, ASG Chair of the Senate 11-1-22

Lauren Loften, ASG President 11-1-22