

Motion #1: Amendments to Standing Orders

Whereas, the only current way for students without a position to allow them to speak at USC meetings is through the process of being deferred such speaking rights by a current member of Council.

Be it resolved that, Council adopt the following amendments to the Standing Orders of Council to allow students-at-large to speak at Council Meetings:

5.00 SPEAKER AUTHORITY

1.01 In addition to the regular authority given to the Speaker of Council by virtue of holding the position itself, the Speaker shall also have the authority to do the following without having to ask for a motion from Council:

- (1) The Speaker shall have the authority to call for a vote on any given question or amendment should she determine that debate or discussion of the question has gone off topic or has become circular in nature. The Speaker may call for a vote at any time, regardless of the number or nature of names remaining on the Speaker's List.
- (2) The Speaker shall have the authority to recess a meeting at her sole discretion. This includes a short recess for Members to take a break and a recess until a later date for the purposes of gathering more information or conducting research for the benefit of Council.
- (3) The Speaker shall have the authority to refer any motion or question back to a Standing Committee or Ad-Hoc Committee of Council should she determine that more discussion or research is necessary before Council can make a decision. The Speaker may refer a question or motion before any discussion or debate has taken place in the Council meeting proper.
- (4) The Speaker shall have the authority to recognize any non-member and grant them the floor provided that the individual register with the Speaker or acting Speaker prior to the session being called to order.
 - i. The Speaker shall only be permitted to grant the right to speak and not the right to vote.
 - ii. Any individual recognized by the Speaker shall be subject to all of the rules of Council as expressed in the Act, the By-laws, RONR, and any applicable policy or procedure.
- (5) The Speaker shall have the authority to sanction Members who are in breach of Council decorum (e.g. personal attacks on another Member, causing disruptions to the meeting, etc.). Sanctions may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - i. A verbal warning;
 - ii. Removal of Member for the duration of the question on the floor;

- iii. Removal of Member for the duration of the meeting;
- iv. Application of a demerit point penalty to the Member no larger than 1.0 points; and
- v. Recommend the removal of a Member from Council subject to Member Removal provisions of By-Law #1.
 - a. Removal of a Member from Council shall be considered to be a last option used only in the case of repeated offenses or grossly inappropriate behaviour.

JACOBS/Singh