



PRECEDENTS *of the* ASSOCIATION COUNCILS

AGENDA

- ABSENCE THEREOF: In absence of a printed agenda, the agenda may be approved by other means (UMC, 21/4/1997).
- ACCEPTABILITY OF EMERGENCY MOTIONS: Motion on imminent war is of overwhelming importance (SRC, 15/1/1991); Emergency motion concerning publication of potentially offensive article in non-affiliated student-publication is of overwhelming importance (SRC, 18/5/1993); A emergency motion is time-sensitive in the last meeting of term (SRC, 29/11/1994).
- ADOPTION WHEN INCOMPLETE: Agenda may be adopted in skeletal form without all items of substantive business included (SRC, 14/1/1986)
- ALTERATION IN AQUORATE MEETINGS: The chair may discard items from the agenda in aquorate meetings (SRC, 30/05/1995).
- DISPOSITION OF LATE MOTIONS: If a Council rejects consideration of late motions, those motions will be considered at the next regular meeting (SRC, 3/5/1983; SRC, 24/4/1990).
- INCLUSION OF RESIGNATION LETTERS: Not in order to include resignation letter of minutes secretary in agenda (SRC, 19/4/1998).
- SKIPPING ITEMS THEREON: Motion to proceed to next item of business is in order twice on a single question provided some debate intervenes (SRC, 3/12/1985).

AMENDMENTS

- GERMANENESS THEREOF: *See* GERMANENESS.
- FOLLOWING ADOPTION: It is in order to amend a motion by unanimous consent immediately following adoption such motion (SRC, 24/1/1984).
- PERMISSIBILITY THEREOF IN THE SECOND DEGREE: Chair ruled amendments in the second degree to be in order (SRC, 19/11/2013) (*See also* Standing Orders § 11.6).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- ACCEPTABILITY THEREOF: Playing bridge with a member of staff is not an acceptable apology (SRC, 29/11/1983); Apologies submitted on the basis of returning home for an unspecified reason are not acceptable (SRC, 14/5/1985); “Overlong terminal oxidase activity determination” is not an acceptable apology (SRC, 17/2/1987); Academic excuses are inadequate (SRC, 12/5/1987; SRC, 5/12/1989; SSC, 18/11/2003); Apologies submitted without rationale are not acceptable (SRC, 17/2/1988).
- ACCEPTANCE THEREOF: Apologies must be formally accepted at the commencement of meetings (UMC, 9/5/1983).

- RECONSIDERATION THEREOF: Motion to reconsider acceptance of apologies upon receipt of new information is in order (SRC, 6/5/1986).
- REQUIREMENT TO BE IN WRITING: Verbal apologies are not adequate (SRC, 15/10/1985; SRC, 18/10/1994; UMC, 28/9/1999).
- SUBMISSION IN ADVANCE OF MEETINGS: Council ruled that apologies must be submitted in and in advance of meetings (UMC, 28/9/1999).

APPEALS

- CHAIRING THEREOF: The chair is declared vacant upon the seconding of an appeal from the decision of the chair (SRC, 16/5/1990) (overruled by Standing Order § 8.3.3).

ASSOCIATION PROJECTS

- CONSTITUTIONS THEREOF CONFLICT WITH LAWS: Chair ruled provisions of constitution of an Association Project out of order and struck on a point of order that the provisions were contrary to the Laws (SSC, 30/4/2013)

CASTING VOTES

- IN INTERNAL ELECTIONS: Chair exercised casting vote according to personal preferences (SRC, 9/4/2013; SSC, 16/4/2013).
- ON AMENDMENTS IN GENERAL: Chair exercised casting vote according to personal preferences (SRC, 25/4/1989).
- ON CONCURRING IN AN AMENDMENT BETWEEN COUNCILS: Chair voted in negative, noting that sending question to SAEC allows debate to continue (SSC, 30/04/2013).
- ON FINAL ADOPTION OF MOTIONS IN GENERAL: Chair exercised casting vote according to personal preferences (SRC, 24/10/2000; SSC, 11/2/2014).
- ON FINAL ADOPTION OF MOTIONS WHEN PREFERENCE OF MEMBER WHO HAS FAILED TO PROXY VOTE IS KNOWN: Chair exercised casting vote according to known preference of absent member (SRC, 20/02/2013).
- ON POSTPONEMENT: Chair exercised casting vote to postpone consideration of a motion of censure (SRC, 5/12/1989).
- ON PUTTING QUESTION TO REFERENDUM: Chair voted in negative (SRC, 20/02/2013).
- ON RATIFICATION: Chair's casting vote to ratify decision of inferior Committee (SRC, 16/3/1993).
- ON WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION: Chair's casting vote against permitting withdrawal of motion (SRC, 27/4/1993).

CENSURE

- CONSIDERATION IN THE ABSENCE OF MEMBER CONCERNED: Censure motion may be considered in the absence of member concerned (SRC, 14/5/1985) (*See also* Standing Orders § 14).
- REASONS THEREFOR: President censured for acting contrary to established SRC policy (SRC, 1/11/1983); Member censured for taking action based on a prediction on how the council will act (SRC, 23/01/1985); Members censured for submitting false information in apologies (SRC, 6/5/1986); Vice President (Services) censured for failing to perform duties (SRC, 27/4/1993)

- OF MULTIPLE OFFICERS POSES DISTINCT QUESTIONS: Votes on motions of censure of multiple officers must be held separately (SRC, 14/2/1984).
- PERMISSIBILITY OF STRAW POLLS THEREON: *See* VOTING.
- REQUIREMENT OF SECRET BALLOT: *See* VOTING.

CHAIR

- ADMINISTRATION, ABILITY TO PROPOSE MOTIONS THEREON: Chair may propose motions concerning Councils administration (SRC, 4/2/2014).
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chair vacated in favour of Senior Officer on motion concerning powers of Chair (SRC, 16/10/2007); Chair vacated in favour of acting Chair on motion concerning Standing Orders proposed by Chair (Joint, 02/04/2013; Joint 22/10/2013); Chair vacated in favour of Senior Officer on motion concerning Councils finances proposed by Chair (SRC, 4/2/2014).
- STANDING ORDERS, ABILITY TO MOVE CHANGES THERETO: Chair may propose changes to Standing Orders (SRC, 18/02/2003; Joint, 02/04/2013).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- POLICY THEREON: Chair notes that the Association does not have a policy on conflict of interest in voting and that members must determine for themselves whether it is appropriate to vote on a motion (SRC, 08/10/2013).

DEBATE

- FROM GALLERY: In order to open the floor to the gallery (SRC, 1/11/1983)
- LIMITS THEREON: Absolute time limits on debate may be amended once imposed (SRC, 14/2/1984) (*See also* Standing Orders § 9.2.4); Chair may limit debate when the substance of a motion has been discussed at great length previously in the meeting (23/10/1984) (Overruled by Standing Orders § 9.2.3).
- ON MULTIPLE MOTIONS: Chair ruled that debate must be confined to a single motion (SSC, 12/11/2013).
- REMARKS THEREIN ON BEHALF OF COUNCILS: Opinions expressed in meetings are those of members and not of the body (SRC, 8/4/1996); Chair ruled remarks which purported to speak on behalf of entire Council with respect to past actions to be out of order (SRC, 19/11/2013)

DECORUM

- CONVERSATIONS ON THE FLOOR: Members may not engage in idle chatter during meetings (UMC, 9/3/1999; SRC, 2/3/1999).
- CONDUCT BRINGING THE ASSOCIATION INTO DISREPUTE: Members may not engage in behaviour, within or outwith meetings, that has the tendency to bring the Association into disrepute (SRC, 30/4/1996).
- DEMONSTRATIONS: Partisan demonstrations in Council meetings are out of order (SRC, 24/1/1983).
- PERSONALITY IN DEBATE: Remarks in debate accusing Member of attempting to 'scare' other Members in order (SRC, 20/10/2009).
- PROFANE LANGUAGE IN DEBATE: Use of expletive in reference to Association budget in order (UMC, 27/4/99); asking if another member is 'fucking kidding me' is out of order (SSC, 26/11/2013).

- **QUESTIONS ADDRESSED THROUGH CHAIR:** Chair ruled that questions must be addressed through the chair and not directly to other Members (UMC, 27/4/1999; SRC, 1/10/2002).
- **UNPARLIAMENTARILY LANGUAGE:** Describing government policy as ‘unfair’ is out of order (SRC, 25/4/1989).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **AS A SUPERIOR COMMITTEE:** SAEC has authority to reprimand Council for ‘being lazy’ (SAEC, 27/11/1985); Council tabled and defeated a motion to overrule SAEC decision on an appeal submitted to it (UMC, 27/4/99); Council, sustaining a point of order submitted to the body, held SAEC to be a superior committee and a motion committed to SAEC by the other Council and duly resolved by SAEC to be outside the competency of the Council to reconsider (SRC, 7/3/2012)
- **ATTENDANCE OF NON-MEMBERS:** Non-Members may attend SAEC, unless SAEC adjourns *in camera* (SSC, 28/2/2012)

GALLERY

- **ATTENDANCE THEREIN:** Council may allow persons, in addition to matriculated students, to attend meetings without amending Laws (SAEC, 22/1/1986).
- **DEBATE THEREFROM:** *See* DEBATE.
- **INCLUSION IN SEDERUNT:** *See* MINUTES.

GENERAL MEETINGS

- **EFFECT WHEN AQUORATE:** Decisions of an aquorate AGM are advisory to the Councils (SRC, 3/2/1998)

GERMANENESS

- **OF AMENDMENTS:** Substitute amendment directly in opposition to main motion is in order (SRC, 24/1/1983) (overruled); Ruling of the Chair that substitute amendment directly in opposition to main motion is in order is overturned (SRC, 15/4/1986) (overruled); Amendment completely altering sense of main motion is out of order (SRC, 26/4/1988 (sustained on appeal); SRC, 23/5/1989); Amendment that weakens but does not challenge essence of motion is in order (SRC, 6/6/1989) (overruled); Amendment striking referendum and inserting questionnaire is germane (SRC, 14/2/1995); Chair held an amendments to be germane if it (1) was on the same subject matter as the main motion and (2) furthered the underlying purpose of the main motion (Joint, 2/4/2013); Chair held that an amendment to transform a J-Series motion to an R-Series motion was not germane (SRC, 04/02/2014).
- **OF MEETING PAPERS:** Chair ruled that non-germane meeting papers do not form part of the record of the meeting (SAEC, 28/10/2013).

INTERNAL ELECTIONS

- **REQUIREMENT OF PRESENCE OF NOMINEE:** Member does not need to be present to be elected as nominee to a subcommittee (UMC, 10/4/1980).

MINUTES

- **AMENDMENTS THERETO:** Question of amending minutes is one of accuracy; out of order to amend minutes because they reflect unfavourably on an individual (UMC, 6/5/1996);
- **CONTENTS THEREOF:** Minutes should be concise but sufficiently informative as to the business discussed in meetings (SRC, 3/6/1986); Minutes should be concise, accurate, and clear and proper attendance lists should be taken (SRC, 16/5/1996).
- **DECISIONS NOTED THEREIN:** Final decision should be noted by typographical device in the minutes (UMC, 1/5/2000).
- **FAILURE TO APPROVE:** If minutes are not approved, the Chair may be mandated to rewrite and resubmit the minutes to the next regular meeting of the body (UMC, 18/11/1996); In absence of approved minutes, business undertaken has no effect and must be reconsidered (SRC, 20/1997).
- **FONT THEREOF:** The Chair has the authority to determine the font in which minutes are printed (SRC, 12/5/1997)
- **POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE, RELATION THERETO:** Point of personal privilege that personal attacks should be removed from minutes was not sustained (SRC, 24/1/1984).
- **SEDERUNT:** Matriculated students in attendance at meetings should be recorded in the minutes (SRC, 3/6/1986)

POWERS OF COUNCILS

- **PERTAINING TO SUBCOMMITTEES:** Councils have the authority to overrule subcommittee practices inconsistent with the Association's Constitution, Laws, and statutory restrictions (SRC, 10/12/1996) (*See also* 3 Laws §2); SSC has the authority to dissolve its subcommittees and convene a new AGM (SSC, 12/11/2002).

PREVIOUS QUESTION

- **CHAIR'S POWER TO ORDER:** The Chair may stop debate and order the question after everyone has "said their piece" even if members wish to proceed with debate (SRC, 17/5/1984) (overruled by Standing Orders § 12.5).

PRIVILEGE OF COUNCILS

- **OF *IN CAMERA* PROCEEDINGS:** In camera adjournment is an inherent privilege and the rationale therefor need not be stated (SRC, 26/1/1988); Chair ruled that meeting papers that purport to divulge the business of an *in camera* meeting violate the privilege of the Committee and meeting papers do not form part of the record of the meeting (SAEC, 28/10/2013).

PRIVILEGE OF MEMBERS

- **PERTAINING TO MINUTES:** *See* MINUTES.

QUORUM

- **AGENDA IN THE ABSENCE THEREOF:** *See* AGENDA.
- **BUSINESS IN THE ABSENCE THEREOF:** Discussion may occur in the absence of a quorum (SRC, 18/10/1994) (overruled by Standing Orders § 2.3); A meeting may continue in absence of a quorum (SRC, 16/05/1994)

- **RATIFICATION OF DECISIONS IN ABSENCE THEREOF:** SAEC may ratify business conducted at an aquorate meeting (UMC, 23/11/1992; SRC, 16/4/1996; SRC, 24/11/1997; SRC, 21/4/1998) (overruled by Standing Orders § 2.3).

RECONSIDERATION

- **BASED ON ATTENDANCE OF MEETING:** In order to reconsider a motion adopted earlier in the meeting on the basis that members had since departed the chamber (SRC, 24/1/1984).
- **OF APOLOGIES:** *See* APOLOGIES.

RESIGNATIONS

- **RECONSIDERATION THEREOF:** In order to ask a member presenting a resignation to reconsider until next meeting (SAEC 7/5/1986).

SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS

- **CONFLICTS THEREIN:** Chair ruled that when a motion conflicts with an explanatory document, the text of the motion controls (Joint, 28/01/2014).
- **DILATORY:** Chair ruled that a second motion on the same subject is out of order (SRC, 17/5/1988 (ruling sustained on appeal)).
- **RELEVANCY THEREOF:** Chair ruled a motion to instruct the President to take action already in progress to be irrelevant (SRC, 24/01/1984).
- **WITHDRAWAL THEREOF:** Motion to withdraw motion in order (SRC, 18/5/1993); Motion may be withdrawn if proposer is not present (SRC, 18/5/1993); Council permitted the proposer of a substantive motion to withdraw it before the question was stated (SSC, 10/2/2004).

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

- **IN ENTIRETY:** Standing Orders may be suspended in their entirety (SRC, 14/2/1984) (overruled by Standing Order § 16.2)
- **TO ANNUL ALL PENDING PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:** In order to suspend the rules to vitiate consideration of all procedural motions currently pending and return to consideration of the main motion (Joint, 22/10/2013).

VOTING

- **ABSTENTIONS:** In order to not call for abstentions in a division when the proportion is “overwhelming” (SRC, 14/2/1984).
- **ON CENSURE MOTIONS:** Secret ballot is required (SRC, 17/11/1987) (*See also* Standing Orders § 13.1.4).
- **ON CONFIDENCE MOTIONS:** Chair ruled that motions of confidence do not trigger the secret ballot requirement of the Standing Orders for motions of no-confidence (SSC, 26/11/2013).
- **ORDERING ROLL CALL VOTES:** Chair may informally seek opinion of Council before issuing ruling on whether to proceed to roll call (SRC, 14/2/1984).
- **PERMISSIBILITY OF STRAW POLLS:** Straw poll permitted on question of order (SRC, 5/12/1989) Straw poll permitted on question of censure (SRC, 16/3/1993); Straw poll permitted on question of

negotiations with Court (SRC, 27/4/1993); Straw poll permitted on acceptability of student debt levels (SRC, 19/4/1995); Straw poll permitted on question of creating a new sabbatical post (UMC, 8/5/1995).

- **RECORDING IN DIVISIONS:** In order to not record number of votes cast in a division when the proportion is “overwhelming” (SRC, 14/2/1984).