

Bill Number: S- 09- 02- 10 Final Vote: Passed

Authors: John Jose Student Body Secretary: Ericka Briceno

Dean of Student Life: Dr. Lisa Webb Student Senate Chair: Allison Reyes

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE SMU
STUDENT SENATE**

WHEREAS following the Research & Recommendation Committee’s revision of the Student Senate governing documents, a few minor corrections and conflicts remain to be resolved, and

NOTING a few such final revisions and conflicts needing to be concluded in the Rules of Order,

BE IT

THEREFORE

RESOLVED that the following corrections and revisions be made to the Rules of Order of the SMU Student Senate:

ARTICLE V.

SPECIAL MOTIONS

1. Committee of the Whole

- a. **A member may call for a Committee of the Whole. The motion must be seconded and passed by a majority of the voting members of the Student Senate.**
- b. **A Committee of the Whole allows informal consideration of an issue by the entire Student Senate. The Speaker will preside over the Committee of the Whole, and will apply those rules that apply to Senatorial Forum, as articulated by the Student Senate By-Laws, Student Senate Policies and this document.**
- c. **In a Committee of the Whole, the following rules will be applied:**
 - i. **If the Committee of the Whole is called for the purpose of placing a recommendation on any issue before the Student Senate, or is called during a debate on amending any motion before the Student Senate, the Committee must begin with a member of the Student Senate making a motion.**
 - ii. **All members of the Student Senate (including those members that would otherwise not vote, with the exception of the Student Senate Advisor, who may never vote under any circumstances) may cast votes in a Committee of the Whole.**
 - iii. **Members will have one minute of debate, which is not modifiable,**
 1. **Non-members may only debate under the circumstances**

42 **Article concerning the Student Organizations Outreach**
43 **Initiative.**

- 44 iv. **Any motion made requires only a majority vote to pass;**
45 v. **The Committee of the Whole may conclude with a majority**
46 **vote or after twenty-five minutes;**
47 1. **When in Committee of the Whole under the Student**
48 **Organizations Outreach Initiative, the motion to**
49 **conclude the Committee of the Whole requires a 2/3**
50 **majority vote; and is extendable by a ¾ majority vote of**
51 **the Student Senate.**
52 vi. **If the Committee of the Whole has any pending motion before**
53 **it, at the conclusion of the Committee (either by vote or time**
54 **limit), all motions before the Committee of the Whole will be**
55 **disposed of by votes.**
56 vii. **If the Committee of the Whole was called to make a**
57 **recommendation on a motion before the Student Senate, or to**
58 **amend any motion before the Student Senate, after the**
59 **Committee of the Whole is concluded, the Student Senate will**
60 **treat the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole as a**
61 **formal amendment to the pending motion. A vote will**
62 **immediately be taken as to whether to accept the decision of**
63 **the Committee of the Whole as a formal amendment to the**
64 **pending motion. Only Student Body Officers, Student Senate**
65 **Officers (excluding the chair) and Student Senators may vote**
66 **on this motion. The motion passes by a majority vote, or a 2/3**
67 **majority vote if dealing with overturning a recommendation by**
68 **the Finance Committee.**

69
70 ...

- 71
72 1. **Secret Ballot Vote**
73 a. **Secret Ballot votes should be taken when conducting elections within the**
74 **chamber, when resolving an impeachment, or if a particularly contentious**
75 **issue demands secrecy in the voting process. The chair should balance the**
76 **need for secrecy against the importance of transparency within**
77 **government.**
78 b. **Secret Ballot votes used in situations other than elections will be taken**
79 **by members being given pieces of paper and then recording “aye,” “nay,”**
80 **or “present.” The Speaker or Parliamentarian should tally the votes and the**
81 **chair should rule on the result of the vote.**
82 c. **In non-election situations, the ballots should be retained until the end**
83 **of the meeting for any member to verify the result.**

84
85 ...

86
87

88 **ARTICLE IX.**
89 **AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSION**

90
91 **No provision of** ~~†~~ this document may ~~not~~ be suspended **at any time**. It may be amended
92 by a resolution voted on one meeting after its initial presentation to the Student Senate by
93 a 2/3 majority.

94
95 Respectfully submitted,

96
97 John Jose
98 Cox Senator