 **Faculty Senate Office**  *Phone: (818) 677-3263*

What’s a Committee of the Whole.

Under Robert’s Rules, committees discuss; Senates act. For example, each Senator may speak no more than once per motion. In committees there are very few procedural limits to debate.

Obviously, there are situations where a Senate may want to have a more open and unstructured discussion. That’s the purpose of the motion to convene as a Committee of the Whole.

How do you get into a Committee of the Whole?

* Agenda item
* Motion to convene as a Committee of the Whole
  + The motion should specify:
    - What topic should be discussed
    - Who the Chair will be
    - Any time or other limits to the discussion
* The Chair will keep a speakers list.
  + The Chair will call on speakers in first-in-first-out order.
  + If you would like to be recognized while someone else is talking, please non-verbally and unobtrusively communicate that desire to the Chair.
* Non-Senator participation: Non-Senator participation is valuable. Thus the Chair will add non-Senators wishing to speak to the same speakers list

How do you get out of a COW?

Very carefully. Sorry.

Only one motion is in order while in a COW: the motion to Rise (or Rise and Report, if the COW is going to return a recommendation to the Senate). \*

* There are fun other variations. The COW can move to rise for instructions. This returns to being the Senate, get additional instructions under regular order, and then return to the COW. The metaphysics of this are delightful.