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Biology

Rules of Debate

- A member must obtain the floor and be recognized by the Speaker before beginning to speak.
- Members must address all remarks to the Speaker; cross talk between members is not allowed.
- A member can only speak twice during the presentation. The second question will be asked at the end of the queue.
- Comments must be relevant to the topic under consideration
- The member who made the motion has the first right to speak to the motion. The member does so by being acknowledged by the Speaker once the Speaker has placed the motion before the assembly for discussion.
- During debate, a member can't talk against a previous action that is not pending, unless one of the motions to *rescind, reconsider*, or *amend something previously adopted* is on the floor

- A member can't read (or have the secretary read) from part of a manuscript or book as part of his or her debate without the permission of the assembly. However, the member can read short, relevant printed extracts in debate to make a point.
- During debate, members should take care not to disturb the assembly by whispering, talking, walking across the floor or causing other distractions
- Point of Order**
 - Raised when a rule appears to be broken
 - Raise placard, state point of order and wait to be recognized by the speaker
 - Can interrupt another motion on the floor
 - Speaker rules; not debatable
- Raise a question of privilege**
 - Raised when a matter affects either comfort, safety and accessibility of the assembly or an individual
 - Should not interrupt a person who has begun to speak, unless unavoidable
 - No need for second unless presented as a motion

To Amend a Motion

- Speaker rules unless presented as a motion – then assembly votes
- Limitations on Debate or "Call the Question"**
 - Only the motion *Call the question* can limit debate.
 - This motions need a second, isn't debatable, and requires 2/3 vote to adopt.
- Purpose:** To change the pending motion before it is acted upon
- proposed amendments must be relevant to the main motion.
- Needs a second
- Amendable, but the secondary amendment must be relevant or related to the primary amendment.
- Debate goes only to the amendment.
- Majority vote required to adopt.
- Can be reconsidered.
- **Result:** If adopted, the proposed change becomes part of the pending motion.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Thought</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Conditions</i>
1	Point of Order	Council (or a member thereof) is not following correct procedure	Raise placard, state "Point of Order!" and wait to be recognized, address the issue	Speaker rules; Council does not vote
2	Point of Privilege	I cannot participate at Council under these adverse conditions	Raise placard, state "Point of Privilege and wait to be recognized, address the issue	Speaker rules; Council does not vote
3	Object to a motion	I object to this motion under consideration, it is out of order	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, address the issue	Requires a vote by council, the vote passes with a 2/3 majority
4	Amend agenda	We have adopted the agenda, but we need to address a later issue now	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest the change to the agenda order	Must be seconded; requires a vote by council, the vote passes with a 2/3 majority
5	Overturn Speaker	The Speaker's ruling on this matter is incorrect, I want to challenge the ruling	Raise placard, state "Speaker, I challenge your ruling" and address the issue	Must be seconded and can be debated; requires a majority vote
6	Amend a motion	This motion is acceptable, but it requires an adjustment	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest the change to the motion	Must be seconded and can be debated; requires a majority vote
7	Refer a motion	Council should not vote on this motion, it requires further study by a committee	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council refer the motion	Must be seconded and can be debated; requires a majority vote
8	Table a motion	There's another pressing matter to attend to, we should debate this motion later	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council table the motion	Must be seconded and CANNOT be debated; requires a majority vote
9	Raise a motion	Council should resume debate on a tabled motion	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council raise a tabled motion	Must be seconded and CANNOT be debated; requires a majority vote
10	Postpone debate	Council needs to postpone debate of this motion	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council postpone current debate	Must be seconded and can be debated only on its timeframe; requires a majority vote
11	Reconsider a motion	Council must reconsider the motion debated earlier, it's important	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council reconsider a motion	Must be seconded and can be debated (if the former motion was); requires a majority vote
12	End debate	We have exhausted debate, it is time to vote on this motion	Raise placard, state "Speaker, I call the question;" remember, this ENDS debate	Must be seconded; CANNOT be debated requires a 2/3 majority vote by council
13	Roll call vote	We should record Councillor votes in the minutes	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest the roll call vote to Council	Speaker rules; Council does not vote
14	Call for recess	This has been a long meeting, we need a recess	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council have a recess	Must be seconded and can be debated only on its timeframe; requires a majority vote
15	Call to adjourn	We have completed the agenda, it is time to end the meeting!	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, move to have Council adjourn	Must be seconded and CANNOT be debated; requires a majority vote