

# Rules and Procedures

# Meeting and Session

## 1. Scope

These rules will be applicable for all UCBMUN committees unless the Secretary-General stipulates otherwise and will be considered adopted prior to the opening of the conference.

## 2. Session Date

The University of California at Berkeley Model United Nations will meet every year in regular session at a time and place stipulated by the Secretary-General. UCBMUN XXVII will be held from March 2-5, 2023.

## 3. Duties of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General will provide and direct the staff required by all UCBMUN committees. The Secretary-General will have ultimate authority over all such committees and may at any time delegate authority to a member of the Secretariat.

## 4. Credentials

Every registered delegation will have its credentials reviewed and accepted by the Secretary-General. Challenges to the credentials of any member should be addressed in writing to the Secretariat.

## 5. Functions/Powers of the Chair

- a. Procedure: In addition to exercising the powers conferred elsewhere in these rules, the Chair of a committee will:
  - i. Declare the opening and closing of each committee meeting,
  - ii. Interpret and ensure observance of these rules,
  - iii. Accord the right to speak,
  - iv. Put questions to a vote,
  - v. Announce decisions.
- b. Order: The Chair will have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and the maintenance of order therein
- c. Discretion: The Chair will have the discretion to entertain a motion, to deny a motion, or to decide that a particular motion would be appropriate or inappropriate at any time.
- d. Delegation: The Chair will have the power to delegate authority to either a vice-chair or any other appropriate person(s).
- e. Format: The Chair may require that any motion or request be submitted in writing.

## 6. Quorum

The Chair may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one-third of the expected number of members in the committee are in attendance. The presence of two-thirds of the members recorded in attendance will be required for any substantive votes to be taken.

## **7. Majority**

Committee Votes: Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, all committee votes will require a majority of the members present. In a procedural matter, a majority will be taken to mean 50 percent of the member-states present plus one. In a substantive matter, a majority will be taken meaning the assent of 50 percent plus one “yes” vote of the member-states present. UCBMUN makes no distinction between “Present” and “Present and Voting” except in the UN Security Council. “Present and Voting” is a non-revocable status during attendance that prevents them from abstaining on any substantive matters.

## **8. Adoption of the Agenda**

Note: No comments or yields are in order during procedural debate.

- a. Provisional Agenda: The provisional agenda for a regular session will be composed by the Secretary-General and the Secretariat and will be communicated to the member states prior to the opening of the session.
- b. Setting the Agenda: After the initial business of the committee has been conducted, or once debate has been postponed or closed on a topic, the committee will debate setting the agenda. Only topics which are on the agenda can be considered unless the Chair rules otherwise.
- c. Procedure: The Chair will open a temporary speakers’ list for the purpose of debating how the agenda should be set. The Chair will entertain motions to set the speaking time, but will otherwise assume a time according to the chair's discretion. No comments and no yields are in order as this is a procedural debate. At any time during the debate, a motion to place one of the topics on the agenda will be at the Chair’s discretion. In the event of a motion, the Chair will entertain at most two speakers for and two speakers against the motion. If there are no speakers against, the motion passes automatically (note: this rule applies to all motions requiring speakers). If the motion passes, then the Chair will open a new speakers’ list for the discussion of the chosen topic. If the motion to place a given topic on the agenda fails, then the committee will continue discussion on how to set the agenda. In this way, only one topic will be considered and placed on the agenda at any given time. If all topics fail such a motion, the Chair shall select a topic or choose to continue debate.
- d. Crisis: There is no adoption of the agenda for crisis committees; instead, they will have perpetual moderated caucus

## **9. Language**

English will be the official and working language of all UCBMUN committees. However, any representative may make a speech in a language other than the official and working language, if the representative provides for the interpretation of the speech into the working language.

Interpretation will not count against the speaker.

# DEBATE

## Committee procedures

1. Speakers List
  - a. General: After a topic has been chosen, one speakers' list will be followed for all debate on that topic area. Speakers may speak generally on the topic area being considered, or any proposal on the floor. Separate speakers' lists may be opened by the dais for motions that require discussion(s) different from direct debate on the topic. A member-state may add its name to a list if it is not already on the list and if the list has not been closed. The Chair may further limit a limited speakers' list by their discretion.
  - b. Recognition: The Chair will call upon speakers in the order in which they are listed on the relevant speakers' list. No member may address a committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chair. The Chair may call a speaker to cease if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject matter under discussion.
  - c. Speech Time: During debate on any procedural or substantive motion, the Chair may limit the time allowed to each speaker as deemed appropriate.
  - d. Closure: If the speakers list has been exhausted, debate will immediately be considered closed and whatever votes are required will be taken.
  - e. Crisis: There will be no speakers list in crisis committees; crisis committees will be in perpetual moderated caucus by default.
2. Yields: No comments are in order after yields have been made. No yields are in order after yields have been made. One may only yield to another delegate or to Point(s) of information while the Speaker's List is in order. A member who has been accorded the right to speak on a substantive issue may yield time in one of the following manners:
  - a. To the Chair of the committee: if the speaker does not desire to yield any remaining speech time to another member or to point(s) of information.
  - b. To Point(s) of Information from other members pertaining to the substance of the speech. The Chair will only count the speaker's answer(s) to the question(s) against the remaining speech time.
  - c. To another member if a speaker wishes to allocate any remaining time to another member-state. The member that is yielded to may not make any additional yields.
3. Point of Personal Privilege
  - a. A member may rise to a point of personal privilege during the discussion of any matter when experiencing personal discomfort that impairs the delegate's ability to participate.

4. Point of Order
  - a. A point of order is used when a member finds a procedural error made by the Chair or another member. A member may rise to a point of order during the discussion of any matter, and the point of order will be immediately ruled upon by the Chair. However, points of order should not interrupt a member if they are speaking.
5. Point of Information
  - a. If speaking time has been limited and a speaker has yielded any remaining time to points of information, then any member may raise a placard in order to ask a question concerning the substance of the speech to the speaker. The Chair will recognize such points of information until the speaker's time has elapsed. The speaker has the right to decline to answer a point of information. Only the speaker's answers to the points of information will be counted against the remaining time.
6. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry
  - a. A point of parliamentary inquiry may be raised by a member who is unsure of the committee's proceedings. A member may rise to a point of parliamentary inquiry only on matters of parliamentary procedure.
7. Right of Reply
  - a. If a delegate (not the country/position) is personally impugned in a speech, then after the speaker's speech time has elapsed, the member may request from the Chair the Right to Reply to the speaker. The Chair's decision to accord or not accord the Right of Reply may not be appealed. . No motions for right of reply will be granted in response to a right of reply.
8. Comments on Speeches Summary
  - a. No comments can be made on comments. No comments may be made after yields. Comments must be germane to the speech commented upon. The Chair may recognize a specific number of delegates other than the speaker to comment on any substantive speech. Those commenting may not yield and must keep their comments germane to the speech upon which they are commenting.
9. Closure and Reopening of the Speakers' List
  - a. A member may at any time move that the Chair close or reopen a speakers' list on a substantive motion. Debate on the closure or reopening of the speakers' list will be limited to two speakers in favor of and two against the motion, after which time the motion will be put to an immediate vote.
10. Unmoderated Caucus
  - a. During the discussion of any matter, a member may motion to suspend the meeting for an unmoderated caucus. The motion will be put to a vote. No speeches for or against the motion will be entertained. The sponsor of the motion must specify the time limit for which the meeting would be suspended. The time limit is subject to the

Chair's approval and will in no case exceed thirty minutes. The Chair also has the right to rule an unmoderated caucus dilatory.

#### 11. Moderated Caucus

- a. The committee may request to depart from the speakers list and have the Chair follow a different debate format. The motion will be to an immediate vote. No speeches for or against the motion will be entertained. The sponsor of the motion must specify the purpose for the moderated caucus, the total time limit and the time allowed for speeches. Only points are allowed during a moderated caucus. The time limit is subject to the Chair's approval and will in no case exceed fifteen minutes; any extensions for the moderated caucus may not exceed half the original time.

#### 12. Suspension/Adjournment of the Meeting

- a. A member may motion to suspend/adjourn the meeting in order to discontinue all official committee functions until the next scheduled session/conference. The Chair may rule this motion dilatory; this ruling is not subject to an appeal. The motion is not debatable and will be put to an immediate vote. Suspension is in order at the end of a session and adjournment is in order at the end the conference.

#### 13. Tabling/Resumption of Debate

- a. Key to the Rule: Requires a 2/3 majority for tabling an agenda item
- b. Procedure: A member may motion to postpone or resume debate on any substantive matter under discussion. Two members may speak in favor of and two may speak against the motion, after which time the motion will be put to an immediate vote. A two-thirds majority of the members present is required to carry the motion to postpone or resume the debate on a substantive matter.
- c. Postponement: If a motion to postpone debate passes, debate on the matter is said to be tabled and is placed aside without further action or votes of any kind until such time as the Chair entertains a motion to reintroduce the postponed item.
- d. Resumption: If the motion to reintroduce the postponed item passes, debate on the item resumes with the existing speakers list. It is the moderator's discretion to entertain a motion to close the speakers' list and open a new one.

#### 14. Suspension of the Rules

- a. A member may move to suspend the rules at any time when the floor is open, after the general speakers list has been opened. The member must specify what specific rules will be modified or discarded, to what purpose, and for what period. The Chair's decision is not subject to appeal. The motion is not debatable, and an immediate vote will be taken. This motion requires a two-thirds majority passage. Delegates are urged to use this motion sparingly.

#### 15. Appeal a Decision of the Chair

- a. A member may appeal the ruling of the Chair only on discretionary matters through a point of order. The point must be made immediately after a ruling by the Chair with

no motions intervening in between. The Chair will speak in defense of the ruling. If the member is not satisfied with the explanation, their appeal may be addressed in writing to the secretariat.

## **Proposals**

### **1. Working Papers**

- a. Note: The number of signatories required with resolutions will be established by the Chair at the beginning of the committee.
- b. Working papers must be shared with the Chair immediately upon inception. The Chair should read and return working papers with suggestions or point out glaring mistakes. Once working papers are submitted, they can be copied and distributed at the Chair's discretion. Working papers not approved by the Chair are out of order.

### **2. Draft Resolution**

- a. A working paper becomes a draft resolution after delegates work together to edit the working paper or consolidate it with other working papers. The document is then reintroduced as a draft resolution. Draft Resolutions can only be introduced to the committee after they have been accepted by the chair, at which point it will be distributed to the committee. A draft resolution only becomes a resolution when the committee has passed it in voting bloc.
  - i. Similar to working papers, draft resolutions must be shared with the chair immediately upon inception.
- b. Depth: Though multiple resolutions may be passed on the same topic, the UCBMUN Secretariat discourages insignificant, meaningless resolutions and instead suggests delegates produce comprehensive, well-reasoned resolutions, which further the topic under discussion.

### **3. Amendments**

- a. Format: proposal is considered an amendment if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises the operative clauses of a resolution. An amendment is considered to be out of order if it would render the resolution meaningless.
- b. Sponsorship: An amendment must have the required number of sponsors and signatories to be considered by the Chair.
- c. Editorial Amendments: An amendment may be considered an editorial amendment if it does not alter the meaning, effect, or overall substance of a resolution, and is introduced solely for the purpose of clarification. Editorial amendments, if approved by all of the sponsors of a resolution, are immediately incorporated into the resolution without a formal vote.
- d. Friendly Amendments: An amendment may be considered "friendly" if supported by all the sponsors of a resolution and does not fundamentally change the intent of the



resolution as a whole. “Friendly amendments” pending review by the chair are immediately incorporated into the resolution without a formal vote.

- e. Unfriendly Amendments: An amendment which is not supported by all the sponsors of a resolution is considered “unfriendly” and requires a majority (50 percent plus one) to be incorporated into the resolution. “Unfriendly Amendments” must satisfy all the stated conditions.
  - f. Amount: The chair may limit the number of amendments that are taken into consideration by their discretion.
4. Introduction of a Proposal
- a. Approval: In order for a proposal (working paper/draft resolution/directive) to be introduced to a committee, both signatures from a proportion (set by the Chair) of the members present and voting and the approval of the Chair must be obtained. Signatures do not necessarily indicate support for a proposal, but rather a desire to hear the proposal debated.
  - b. Sponsors: A member-state or group of member-states must express, in writing, their willingness to oversee the proposal while it is on the floor. The name(s) of the sponsor(s) will appear at the top of the proposal with signatories appearing beneath the text. These sponsors must move to introduce the proposal to the floor and will be consulted by the regarding any motion to withdraw the proposal. The sponsor(s) may request time to discuss their proposal and to take questions.
  - c. Procedure: A delegate may introduce a proposal on the current topic area whenever the floor is open. Once a proposal has been introduced, the Chair will entertain editorial non-substantive comments known as Points of Clarification. The proposal remains on the floor and may be debated until the committee closes debate on it, the committee moves to the next topic area, or a procedural issue takes precedence.
5. Withdrawal of a Proposal
- a. Any proposal may be withdrawn from the consideration of the committee if all the sponsors assent and if the Chair gives approval. Any member or members of the committee can move to re- introduce a withdrawn proposal by obtaining a sufficient number of signatures (the same amount needed to introduce) and the Chair’s approval as with any new proposal.

## **Voting**

- 1. Voting Rights
  - a. Every member-state of each UCBMUN committee will have one vote in both substantive and procedural matters.
- 2. Order of Voting
  - a. Motion: If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the committee will normally vote on the proposals in the order in which they were submitted. In case a

delegate wants to change the order, he/she will be required to raise a motion to change the order of voting of proposals, along with the new suggested order. The Chair may entertain multiple such reordering requests. The chair will entertain two speakers for and two speakers against motion. A majority (50 percent plus one) of the members present will be required to pass the motion. Once re-ordered, proposals may not be re-ordered again; however if a section is divided out, subproposals can be reordered.

### 3. Division of the Question

- a. Motion: Immediately after debate is closed on a proposal, once any motion to order the voting has been entertained, then, before the final vote, a member may motion to divide the question. This motion indicates that the member wishes to consider one or more specific clauses of the proposal separately. Once the motion for division has been made, the Chair may entertain two speakers for and two speakers against the motion. This motion will require a simple majority in a procedural vote.
- b. Procedure: An initial procedural vote on whether to divide the question requiring a simple majority will be taken. If it is passed, the Chair will then entertain suggestions of division. The suggestions will be re-ordered from most complex (most divisions) to least (least number of divisions); where equal complexity occurs, the Chair will order suggestions in the order they were taken. Suggestions can include a clause by clause division. The first suggestion to pass with a simple majority will be the division that is adopted. This vote is a substantive vote. When a division passes, then the initial proposal is voted upon first and the division is voted upon separately. This means that the proposal will be divided into a maximum of two proposals.

### 4. Clause by clause division

- a. In the event a clause-by-clause division is passed, there is a three tiered vote. This vote is a procedural vote where a yes means to divide out and a no means to keep the clause to the original proposal. The committee will vote on each clause (not a sub-clause) individually. At the end of this procedure, the committee will have two proposals: one retaining the non-divided clauses and one containing the divided out clauses. The committee will then proceed to pass these two proposals separately.
- b. Note: use this rule carefully because proposals may become meaningless due to the divided out clauses.

### 5. Voting on Procedural Matters

- a. Key to the Rule: No abstentions are allowed on procedural votes. All member and non-member states present must vote on procedural matters. Procedural matters include, but are not limited to, motions to adopt the agenda, closing and opening the speakers list, postponement, resumption, or closure of debate, caucuses, suspension or adjournment of the meeting, order of voting, and the first tier vote of the division of question.

### 6. Conduct During Voting

- a. After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting procedure, no member may interrupt the voting except by raising points having to do with the actual conduct of the voting. No motions other than those having to do with voting are in order. The doors of the chamber must be closed during voting procedure and no one may enter or leave the chamber until the voting has been completed.
- 7. Roll Call Votes
  - a. Procedure: A member may request a roll call vote for a given proposal before the final vote on that proposal. If the chair approves the motion, each member of the committee will vote as follows when called upon in alphabetical order: Yes, Yes with Rights, No, No with Rights, or Abstain.
- 8. Voting with Rights
  - a. Abstentions: are assumed to have no opinions on the matter and are not accorded any rights of explanation. They are not counted in the final tally of votes.
- 9. Points and Motions
  - a. Points: points indicated below shall have precedence above all motions, at all times, and in the following order:
  - b. Points that are in order during speeches:
    - i. Point of Personal Privilege,
  - c. Points that are in order when floor is open:
    - i. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry,
    - ii. Point of Order,
    - iii. Points of information are only in order when a proposal is being introduced
  - d. Motions: motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order:
    - i. Motions relating to the meeting:
      - 1. Motion to suspend/adjourn the meeting
      - 2. Motion to extend a recently expired moderated or unmoderated caucus
    - ii. Motions that relate to procedure
      - 1. Motion to move into voting (for crisis)
      - 2. Motion for comments,
      - 3. Motion to close/reopen the Speakers' List
    - iii. Motions Related to Substantive Debate (in order of disruptiveness)
      - 1. Motion to hold an unmoderated caucus
      - 2. Motion to hold a moderated caucus,
        - a. Disruptiveness is based first on total time of the moderated caucus, and then on number of speakers
      - 3. [Note: The disruptiveness of a motion to suspend the rules is based on the proposed motion, and is up to the chair's discretion.]
    - iv. Motions relating to substantive issues [in order during substantive debate]:
      - 1. Motion to introduce/withdraw a proposal

2. Motion to postpone (table)/resume debate, motion to close debate,
3. Motion to adopt (set) the agenda
- v. Voting: motions indicated below shall have precedence below all points, and in the following order, and are in order during substantive voting:
  1. Motion to order the proposals
  2. Motion for division of the question iii Motion for a roll call vote

## **Crisis Procedures**

1. Crisis Updates
  - a. A committee may introduce updates to the substantive debate by discretion of the dais and backroom staff
  - b. In a specialized body, the dais may introduce updates by their discretion
  - c. In a crisis committee, the backroom staff will aim to incorporate ideas by delegate crisis notes into their updates, but will otherwise create updates based on their discretion
  - d. Crisis Updates may be introduced at any time by the committee staff during committee sessions except during voting on substantive proposals
  - e. Crisis updates may lead to a special suspension of the rules and/or unique rules of procedure - these rules of procedure are left to the discretion of the committee staff, but will aim to ensure fairness within the committee as much as possible
2. Crisis Notes
  - a. Crisis notes, as well as Joint Personal Directives (hereby: JPDs) may be collected by the backroom staff
  - b. UCBMUN will be utilizing Slack to collect crisis note information
  - c. UCBMUN staff will be collecting JPDs, and JPDs should be submitted to the dais in writing
    - i. JPDs should include information on the sponsors of the JPD
  - d. UCBMUN will operate on a 'dual-notepad system' for the crisis notes - Only one notepad will be responded to by the backroom at a given time. Please take time to draft crisis notes on your 'second notepad' while waiting for a response on your initial notepad.
  - e. UCBMUN staff reserves the right to stop crisis note collection during any point of the committee, and thus prevent delegate note-writing, at any time, as a suspension of rules to the procedure
  - f. UCBMUN staff reserve the right to implement restrictions on the material of crisis notes and JPDs to maintain a respectful and cordial environment in committee

