

The Non-Delegate's Role at the GA Student Senate for California Community Colleges

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The Purpose of the Delegate is
...to take action.



The Purpose of the Delegates is ...to take action.

The Purpose of the Non-Delegate is

...to advise the Delegate

how to vote and what motions to propose.



The Role of the Non-Delegate

1. Every college sends one Delegate, in addition to 2-12 Non-Delegate students.
2. The Delegate is the only voting member of the General Assembly. (*Board of Directors has no voting power.*)
3. Delegates may not discuss, with other Delegates, GA business outside the meeting.
4. Delegates have the obligation of seeking advise from the Non-Delegates (their Constituents) anytime and anywhere.



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Four Problematic Convention Concepts



1. An Agenda Item vs the Main Motion

RONR (12th ed.) 3:21-22

1. An adopted agenda is a list of Agenda Items.
2. Agenda Items are not Main Motions for discussion or vote.
3. A formal Main Motion must be proposed before any discussion or vote is legal.
4. A Report may be heard first, but before debate is allowed, a Main Motion must be proposed.



2. Debate Protocol

RONR (12th ed.) 43:19-22, etc.

1. One person speaks at a time.
2. Speaker must be recognized before speaking.
3. All comments are directed to the chair.
4. All comments are confined to the current motion.
5. Repetitive speech content must be stopped.
6. No right to speak a 2nd time unless,...
7. No speaker may verbally attack or intimidate anyone.
8. Speech limits must be enforced.



3. Definition of Majority

RONR (12th ed.) 44:1

“50% plus 1” is fine for Hollywood (and even numbers).
Robert’s uses the Mathematicians definition - *“anything greater than half.”*

Proof:

What is the majority of 13?

50% of 13 is 6.5

6.5 plus 1 = 7.5 (which is 8 votes)

But 7 is a majority of 13! NOT 8!



4. Abstain - When One MAY Abstain

RONR (12th ed.) 45:3

1. Robert's Rules does state that a member "*can abstain, since he cannot be compelled to vote.*" RONR (12th ed.) 45:3
2. The right to abstain is proper as long as it does not conflict with an authority that is ranked higher than Robert's Rules. [NOTE]
3. This right to abstain is common in societies where each member has the sole power over his own vote ...and no one else's vote.



4. Abstain - When One MAY NOT Abstain

RONR (12th ed.) 45:4-5

1. Robert's Rules yields to the association's documents of governance, such as the bylaws, (*"Article III: Delegate Assembly"*).
 - a. To be the official voice of the California Community College students.
 - b. To facilitate student's involvement in the state system.
 - c. To engage, empower, enrich the student.
 - d. To approve strategic plan, bylaw amendments, resolutions, etc.
2. Voting is a fiduciary duty.
3. Abstaining from a vote is irresponsible, dishonest, and shameless.



Eight Convention Motions (Ranked)



11. Recess

RONR (12th ed.) 20:5

Need: Recognized but not interrupt, make motion, Seconded, no debate, amend number of minutes, majority vote.

State: *“I move to take a 5-minute recess.”*

“I move we recess until tomorrow’s meeting.”



10. Raise a Question of Privilege

RONR (12th ed.) 19:6

Need: Can interrupt, make demand, no second, no debate, no amend, no vote.

Purpose: To seek correction of the assembly's discomfort (temp., noise, glare, handouts, projectors, voting devices, etc.).

State: *"I rise to a Question of Privilege. It is too hot/cold/noisy, etc. in this room."*



9. Call for the Orders of the Day

RONR (12th ed.) 18:4

Need: Can interrupt, make demand, no second, no debate, no amend, no vote.

Purpose: To demand we adhere to the adopted agenda.

State: *“I call for the Orders of the Day.”*

Nullified by: *“I move to set aside the Orders of the Day.”*

“I move to extend debate by 5 minutes.”

“I move to suspend the rules that prohibit us from continuing.”



8. Lay on the Table

RONR (12th ed.) 17:3

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, no debate, no amend, majority vote.

Purpose: To allow for a short and urgent, but unplanned interruption of the handling of a motion.

State: *“I move to lay the Main Motion on the table.”*



7. Call the Previous Question

RONR (12th ed.) 16:5

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, no debate, no amend, 2/3 vote.

Purpose: To stop debate and go straight to the vote.

State: “*I move the Previous Question.*”

“I move the Previous Question on all the pending motions.”



6. Limit or Extend Limits of Debate

RONR (12th ed.) 15:5

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, no debate, can amend, 2/3 vote.

Purpose: To limit (or extend) debate, per speaker or for the entire Main Motion. To limit (or extend) number of speakers.

State: *“I move to extend debate by 5 minutes.”*

“I move to limit debate to 3 speakers per side.”



5. Postpone to a Certain Time

RONR (12th ed.) 14:4

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, debate, amend, majority vote.

Purpose: To procrastinate the Main Motion to another time.

State: “I move to postpone the motion.”

“I move to postpone the motion until 1 pm.”

“I move to postpone the motion until after Finance Report.”



4. Refer to a Committee

RONR (12th ed.) 13:7

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, debate, amend, majority vote.

Purpose: To allow a committee to deliberate the Main Motion.

State: “I move to refer the Main Motion to a Special Committee of 3 with Jane, Jan, and Jean as members and Jane as the Chair. To report recommendations at the next meeting.”



4. Refer to a Committee

RONR (12th ed.) 13:7

Note the difference:

Standing Committee	Special Committee
How many members? What are their names?	How many members? What are their names?
Who shall be the Chair?	Who shall be the Chair?
What will be the assigned task?	What will be the assigned task?
When will the committee report?	When will the committee report?



Five Incidental Convention Motions (Unranked)



Request for Information

RONR (12th ed.) 33:6-10

Need: Can interrupt, ask a question, no debate, no amend, no vote.

Purpose: To request information from the Chair.

State: *“Do we have enough money in the bank.”*
“How many delegates may we send to the convention.”



Point of Order

RONR (12th ed.) 23:2

Need: Can interrupt, make demand, no second, no debate, no amend, no vote.

Purpose: To demand a violation be stopped and corrected.

Member: *“Point of Order”*

Chair: *“What is your Point of Order?”*

Member: *“The vote for approval is a majority vote, not 2/3s.”*

Chair: *“Your point is (or is not) well taken.”*



Appeal from the Decision of the Chair

RONR (12th ed.) 24:3

Need: Can interrupt, make motion, Second, can debate, no amend, majority vote.

Purpose: To appeal any ruling or decision by the chair.

Member: *“I appeal from the decision of the Chair”*

Chair: [Explains his ruling. Every voting member may debate once. Chair explains his ruling a second time. Vote is taken on sustaining the Chair.]



Division of a Question

RONR (12th ed.) 27:3

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, no debate, can amend, majority vote.

Purpose: To move that a motion composed of a single topic with several parts that can stand alone be considered in parts.

State: *“I move that Resolved A, Resolved B, and Resolved C be considered separately.”*

“I move that Resolved A and Resolved B be considered separately from Resolved C.”



Suspend the Rules that Prohibit ...

RONR (12th ed.) 25:2

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, no debate, no amend, vote varies.

Purpose: To set aside a rule during a meeting, but only for one particular instance.

State: *“I move to suspend the rules that prohibit a speaker from speaking more than 2 minutes.”* [2/3 vote]

“I move to suspend the rules that prohibit the Delegates from eating in the meeting room.” [Majority vote]



Suspend the Rules that Prohibit ...

RONR (12th ed.) 25:2

Some rules may be suspended by a majority vote or by a 2/3 vote. Other rules may not be suspended at all.

Rule	Suspend	Vote
Brown Act	No	---
SSCCC Constitution	No	---
SSCCC Bylaws	No	---
Robert's Rules of Order	Yes	2/3
Convention Procedural Standing Rules	Yes	2/3
Convention Ordinary Standing Rules	Yes	Majority



Two Undo Convention Motions (Unranked)



Reconsider the Vote

RONR (12th ed.) 37:9

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, can debate, no amend, majority vote.

Purpose: To revisit a motion that was already voted upon.

State: *“I move that we reconsider the vote we took today on the Dinner motion. The motion was defeated, and I voted in the prevailing side.”* [Part 1]

Original motion is brought back, debated, amended, referred, postponed, etc. and finally voted upon again. [Part 2]



Rescind

RONR (12th ed.) 35:2

Need: Cannot interrupt, make motion, Seconded, can debate, can amend, vote varies.

Purpose: To reverse or annul a motion that had already been approved.

State: *“I move to rescind the motion on the Dinner. I gave Notice on the call to the meeting.”* [Majority vote]

“I move to rescind the motion on the Dinner. I did not give Notice on the call to the meeting.” [2/3 vote]



Conclusion

Per the SSCCC Bylaws:

1. Only the Delegate may cast a vote during the GA.
2. The Delegate is the official voice of his constituency.

Per the Brown Act:

1. The constituency is composed of at least any Non-Delegate student from his college.
2. The constituency may contact the Delegate by whatever means is possible.
3. The Delegate is accountable to his constituency.



Questions?

Answer?

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