

## FGCU Faculty Senate

**Mission:** The purpose of faculty governance at Florida Gulf Coast University is to safeguard academic quality, promote effective and open communication, insist upon academic integrity, emphasize rights and shared responsibilities of students, staff, community, faculty, and administration, and sustain a dynamic learning environment. This mission is accomplished through a system of collegial faculty self-governance ensuring that the rights of faculty are supported and faculty responsibilities in fulfilling the mission of the university are properly executed.

**Role of Senate:** The Faculty Senate is the decision-making body for FGCU faculty governance. The standing teams make recommendations to the Senate, which has final authority. The Senate may enact resolutions on any matter affecting the academic mission of the University, and speaks for the faculty on matters of concern. It is the responsibility of the senators to communicate with and get feedback from the constituents in their unit. The means of communication is determined by the senate representatives in each unit.

### Introduction to RONR Parliamentary Procedure

Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) provide common rules and procedures for deliberation and debate in order to place the whole membership on the same footing and speaking the same language. The conduct of ALL business is controlled by the general will of the whole membership - the right of the deliberate majority to decide. Complementary is the right of at least a strong minority to require the majority to be deliberate - to act according to its considered judgment AFTER a full and fair "working through" of the issues involved. Roberts Rules provides for constructive and democratic meetings, to help, not hinder, the business of the assembly.

Some general guidelines for meetings under RONR:

- The Chair recognizes members to speak
- No member can speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once
- All remarks must be directed to the Chair
- Members can introduce main motions ("I move that..."), and the motion has to be seconded by another member
- Once a motion has been moved and seconded, it no longer belongs to maker of the motion but now belongs to the assembly
- Once the motion is on the floor, it can be debated and amended. Debate is closed when the Chair determines that no other member is seeking to speak, or by order of the assembly (requires 2/3 vote). The maker of the motion has the right to speak first.
- Motions can be amended by inserting or adding words, by striking out words, or by striking out and inserting words or substituting paragraphs or the entire text of the motion
- Adoption of an amendment does not adopt the main motion: that motion remains on the floor in its modified form
- Adoption of bylaws require a 2/3rds majority
- Rules of order are defined in section 3.04 of the Senate bylaws, and require a 2/3rds vote for suspension. Bylaws cannot be suspended
- Under RR there are three types of motions (see attached charts). Part one outlines the 13 Ranking or Main Motions. Part two outlines Incidental Motions, which pertain to how the meeting is run. Part three lists motions that bring a question again before the assembly. The specific requirements for each of these motions are also outlined in the charts below.

**Part 1. Ranking Motions.** These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.  
 § indicates the section from Robert's Rules.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20	Take break	I move to recess for ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19	Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16	Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15	Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10	Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

**Part 2, Incidental Motions.** No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23	Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29	Demand a rising vote	I move for a rising vote	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

**Part 3, Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly.**

No order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§34	Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35	Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority with notice
§37	Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority