

PURPOSE: ~~To change the requirement for passing senate legislation from a two-thirds majority vote of the total senators to a two-thirds majority vote of the senators present and to~~ To clarify the version of Robert's Rules of Order we follow in the SGA Constitution.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TO SENATE:

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

~~Passing legislation in Senate requires a two-thirds majority vote of the total senators. However, senators may be unable to attend meetings, and passing legislation on days where many senators are not present but quorum is still met becomes far more difficult. To prevent presenting bills when many senators are not present from being disadvantageous and reduce pile-up of bills that need to be represented, only a two-thirds majority of the senators present should be needed to pass legislation. Additionally, it~~ It would be beneficial to specify exactly what points can be made according to Robert's Rules of Order in the SGA Constitution.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

On page 15 of the SGA Constitution, under Section 5 of "ARTICLE IV — The Legislative Branch," the following would be changed to:

Decorum

All Senate meetings will be conducted in an orderly manner, ~~and the version of Robert's Rules of Order found in the appendix will be followed.~~ To this end, the following rules shall be held at all times:

The following will be added to the end (page 21) of the SGA Constitution:

Appendix:

Parliamentary Procedures Adapted from Robert's Rules of Order

Official, formal, and concise phrases used to signify a certain action in Senate at MSMS

All motions and debates must be addressed to the chair (SGA Vice President), not to other senators. Senators are expected to raise their hand and be recognized by the chair before making a motion with the exception of the interrupting motions. Senators are free to converse when the floor is open. No movements outside of those listed are acceptable in MSMS Senate meetings. All movements are subject to the discretion of the chair. The chair may ask the senator questions to interpret the intentions of the senator, so as to not continue with a misinterpreted motion. Senators may speak freely when granted the floor. Motions and points are still limited to those allowed by the Rules of Order, but general speech pertaining to the topic at hand is permitted. If

one of the officers of Senate feels as though the individual is taking too long or not getting to a point, they may use a point of order to ask the individual to yield the floor.

PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRU PT	2ND	DEBATE	AMEND	VOTE
Poll the Senate	I motion to poll the Senate	No	No	Yes	No	No
Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
Request for more information	Point of inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
Clarify a rule or point	Point of clarification	Yes	No	No	No	None
Lay aside temporarily (to resurface next meeting)	I move to table the motion/bill	Yes	Yes	No	No	Majority
Lay aside indefinitely (to	I move that the motion/bill	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority

resurface when motioned to)	be postponed indefinitely					
Take matter from table	I move to take ... from the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Close current period of debate and move to next step	I move the previous question	Yes	Yes	No	No	2/3
Limit or extend debate	I move to limit/extend the debate to (amount of time)	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
Modify wording of the bill/resolution (Friendly/Critical)	I move to amend the bill/resolution by ...	No	No/Yes	No/Yes	No/Yes	No/Majority
Divide motion	I move to divide the motion	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3
Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

Suspend the rules	I move to begin an unmoderated caucus...	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Personal Privilege (Bathroom, etc.)	Point of (personal) privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
Rescind vote	I move to amend the ballot...	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Remove/Reinstate Filibuster	I move to reconsider the matter of the filibuster...	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3/5

Required Number of Votes to Pass

*Modified voting records necessary to pass specific bills or resolutions in Senate at MSMS. **All** majorities required refer to majorities the senators present, not the entire senate.*

Procedure:	Type of Majority Needed:
Pass Bill (Student Handbook)	3/5 Supermajority
Pass Bill (SGA Constitution)	3/4 Supermajority
Amend a Bill (Critical)	2/3 Supermajority
Amend an Amendment to a Bill (Critical)	1/2 Simple Majority
Confirm Member to Office	1/2 Simple Majority

The Table of contents will also be changed to reflect this:

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SECTION THREE (RESPONSES):

Response One (Anonymous Senator):

“I think that it is unfair that we follow a two-thirds majority of the whole senate, especially when most of the time some senators are absent.”

Response Two (Anonymous Senator):

"I think that this change would make passing legislation easier and more effective. With so many conflicting schedules during the school year, having senators not present in the chamber is a common occurrence that is leading to bills failing despite having a supermajority amongst the senators present, which is only delaying legislative processes."