



Script for the CSL Parliamentarian

Debating, Amending, and Voting on Bylaw Amendments

Problem:

Neither the Bylaws (Article VIII), nor the Standing Rules (Article VI), nor Robert's Rules grant the Bylaws Committee the power to establish a procedure on how to handle the proposed Bylaw Amendments beyond their presentation to the members. The Bylaws Committee does make an excellent recommendation on the process. However, it is the Bylaws, the Standing Rules, Robert's Rules, and the members that decide on the process.

Adoption of the Bylaws Committee Handling Process:

The chair needs to start the process by reading the Bylaws Committee recommended process, and stating ***"If there is no objection, we shall use the Bylaws Committee recommended process in handling the Bylaws Amendments."***

If no one objects, we have unanimous consent to proceed.

If someone objects, we now have on the floor a motion on the handling process. This process may be amended by the members and must be voted upon by the members.

Bylaws Committee Recommended Process, if adopted (Time and Card System):

Chair: *"You have heard the proposed bylaw amendment as read by the Bylaws Committee Chair."*

Chair: *"The author of the motion has the floor."* (3 min.)

Chair: *"First Proponent of the motion has the floor."* (2 min.)

Chair: *"First Opponent of the motion has the floor."* (2 min.)

Chair: *"Second Proponent of the motion has the floor."* (2 min.)

Chair: *"Second Opponent of the motion has the floor."* (2 min.)

Chair: *"The author of the motion has the floor."* (2 min.)

The Chair takes the vote. Adoption of any Bylaw Amendment, or of any amendment to the proposed Amendment, requires a majority vote in the presence of a quorum of the CSL. The quorum is 50% plus 1 of 120 members (i.e., 61 members present).

If there are no amendments to the Amendment, this is the **final vote**.

Special CSL Rules Different from Robert's Rules:

- a. A 2/3 vote is required for adoption of the following motions: Lay on the Table; Postpone; Refer; Adjourn; Appeal from the Decision of the Chair (after 10% second it).
- b. Reconsider a defeated motion requires a 2/3 vote.
- c. Reconsider an adopted motion requires unanimous consent.

Four Ways of Amending the Proposed Amendment:

At any time, any member may seek recognition to amend the proposed amendment:

Senator A: (Rises and addresses the chair and is recognized by the chair.)

Senator A:

- a. *I move to add the following words, "..."*
- b. *I move to insert the following words, "... after the word, "..."*
- c. *I move to strike the following words, "..."*
- d. *I move to strike the following words, "... and insert the following words, "..."*

Senator B: Second

Chair: *It is moved and seconded to ...*

Is there any discussion? [Discussion per Robert, not per handling process?]

Are you ready to vote?

***All in favor indicate by ...*

***All opposed indicate by ...*

Chair:

The 'Ayes' have it.

The amendment to the proposed amendment is adopted.

The amended proposed amendment now reads.

OR

The 'Noes' have it.

The amendment to the proposed amendment is defeated.

The motion before you is the proposed amendment as originally introduced.

[A **final vote** must be taken on the Bylaw Amendment after all the amendments to the proposed amendment have been handled.]

****Question:**

Will there be anybody else besides the 120 Senators in the room during the voting process? If so, how will we distinguish Senators from guests during the voting process?



Script for the CSL Bylaws Committee Chair

Presentation of Bylaws (or Standing Rules) Amendments

Bylaws Committee Chair: “Mr. President, on behalf of the CSL Bylaws Committee, I move adoption of (or I present) the following 2011 proposed CSL Bylaws amendments.”

AMENDMENT C – Article VII Section I G

1. Present Wording:

The Legislative Committee shall elect its own Chairperson who shall become an ex-officio, voting member of the Joint Rules Committee, and who shall be required to attend JRC meetings.

2. Proposed Change: (Amend by adding/striking/substituting the following)

If the position of Chairperson of the Legislative Committee is vacated due to resignation or for any other reason, the Legislative Committee members shall nominate and elect any of the remaining committee members to fill the Chair's term of office.

3. Proposed Wording if Adopted:

The Legislative Committee shall elect its own Chairperson who shall become an ex-officio, voting member of the Joint Rules Committee, and who shall be required to attend JRC meetings. If the position of Chairperson of the Legislative Committee is vacated due to resignation or for any other reason, the Legislative Committee members shall nominate and elect any of the remaining committee members to fill the Chair's term of office.

4. Rationale:

There currently is no bylaw statute or standing rules regarding a procedure to fill a vacated position of the Legislative Committee Chair if the Chairperson resigns, moves out of state or for any other reason is no longer able to perform the duties of the position. This situation has occurred two times during the past year. It is imperative that an amendment to the bylaws be generated and approved to remedy this situation.

5. Proposed by: Senator Robert Jaffee

6. Recommendation of the CSL Bylaws Committee: Approve/Reject/Amend

The President then handles the discussion, possible amendments, and final vote.

The Bylaws Committee Chair repeats the same form (6 steps) and wording for each of the remaining proposed bylaw (or Standing Rules) amendments.