

Introduction

General Faculties Council (GFC) is committed to having rules that assist rather than impede the conduct of business. GFC rules are not meant to unduly restrict debate or limit opportunities for participation. Their purpose is to facilitate inclusive and respectful dialogue, while ensuring efficient decision-making. It is the responsibility of the Chair, with the support of GFC, to employ the rules governing general meetings in a manner consistent with these principles. Substantive motions should be handled with considerable formality (as noted in the GFC Bylaws and Bourinot's Rules of Order), but whenever possible the Chair should deal with matters of procedure by general agreement.

The Rules for Debate are based on the fundamental principles that encourage participation and engagement of members. These principles include:

- A commitment to inclusive and participatory decision-making.
- A commitment to openness, transparency and respectful communication.

The GFC Bylaws contain two sections on Debate (19.3 and 19.4 - attached); however, to further clarify, GFC has adopted the following process to bring motions forward.

MOTION

- Placed on the floor by the GFC sponsor/member of GFC and then seconded

PRESENTATION

- By Sponsor/School Chair/faculty member who worked on the file
- For minor items: max. 2 minutes
- For major items: max. 10 minutes

DISCUSSION

- Chair will open the floor to Q&A for 10 min, with the option to extend, if needed.
- Limit of 2 minutes per person to ask their question (which must be germane to the motion).
- Option for the member who asked the question to respond to the answer.
- Members ask questions in turn.
- A second question by a member will be permitted:
 - Only after all members have asked their first question
 - If 10 min has not been exhausted
 - If there is no request to extend the Q&A beyond 10 min

VOTE

- Council Chair shall ask GFC Members if they are ready for the question, once the time for debate has concluded, or
- A GFC Member may call the question and the Council Chair shall ask Members if they are ready to vote on the motion being discussed.
- If there appears to be opposition to closing the debate, the Council Chair may ask for a motion to close debate. If seconded, Members shall then vote on the motion and proceed accordingly.

Excerpt from the Approved GFC Bylaws

19.3 Debate

19.3.1 Normally, a Member may not speak for a second time until the Council Chair is satisfied that all Members wishing to speak for their first time have done so.

19.3.2 A Member who has the floor may not normally be interrupted. However, the Council Chair may interrupt a speaker if the speaker is out of order by using unacceptable language, is abusive of other Members, or is not speaking to the motion. If the Council Chair does not do so, a Member may raise this as a point of order.

19.3.3 It is the right of any Member who notices a breach of these rules of GFC to insist on their enforcement. If the Council Chair fails to notice such a breach, any Member may make the appropriate point of order, calling on the Council Chair for a ruling. A point of order does not require a seconder, it is not debatable or amendable, and cannot be reconsidered.

19.3.4 Upon hearing a Member call the question, the Council Chair shall ask Members if they are ready to vote on the motion being discussed. If there appears to be opposition to closing the debate, the Council Chair may ask for a motion to close debate. If seconded, Members shall then vote on the motion and proceed accordingly.

19.4 Debates without Motions

When discussion of an issue and the formal rules pertaining to making motions, debate, and voting seem to be a hindrance to thoughtful discussion, the GFC agenda can allow for a less structured discussion guided by the Council Chair and the consensus of the members in attendance.