

MODEL ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT

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President of the
Senate

MIG 2020 Senate **Rules**

1. Senate Staff and **Duties**

I. **President of the Senate** - As the presiding officer of the Senate chamber of the MIG simulation, the President of the Senate serves as a member of the Executive Committee of MIG in full standing. The President shall be responsible for maintaining continuous attention to the flow of bills during the MIG simulation. The President shall be responsible for securing Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for each Senate committee. Furthermore, it shall be the responsibility of the President to secure legislative support personnel for the Senate. The President shall also be responsible for the training of all staff members and party leadership to ensure that they understand and fulfill their duties. All administrative authority within the Senate shall be vested in the President of the Senate.

II. **Chief of Staff** – The Chief of Staff assists the President in overseeing the business of the Senate. Any questions, concerns or requests for assistance can be directed to the Chief of Staff, who will then assess and address the situation. In the temporary absence

of the President of the Senate, all administrative authority within the Senate shall be vested in the Chief of Staff. During floor action, the Chief of Staff will assist the President in monitoring action during debate, and will serve as the presiding officer of the Senate in the absence of the President unless otherwise announced by the President. Any motion to appeal a decision by the President shall be made to the Chief of Staff, who will then serve as presiding officer of that vote. The Chief of Staff will coordinate with the Secretariat to act as Liaison with the House of Representatives when needed.

III. **Secretariat** – The Secretariat shall be responsible for overseeing the flow of all bills in the Senate. The Secretariat will assist the Senate staff in counting votes during floor action, as well as monitoring committee action. Duties will include keeping track of the status of all bills coming out of committees, helping formulate the docket for floor action, reading the synopses of bills being debated during floor action, and recording all final votes. Additionally, the Secretariat shall keep track of which bills are passed by the Senate and assist the Chief of Staff in acting as Liaison when needed. The Secretariat will keep track of which House bills have passed the Senate to be passed to the Governor.

IV. **Communications Director** – The communications director will be responsible for the effective communication between both chambers as well as monitor the proper use of parliamentary procedure and debate form within the senate chamber as well as handle all of the president's official communication on and off governmental grounds during the weekend of simulation. This includes statements about the state of the senate and any situations that come up concerning the senate during simulation.

V. **Logistics Coordinator** - will deal with all thing's hotel and directions during the weekend of simulation. This position will be integral in keeping the flow of the weekend smooth and effortless. She will have all intel on the location and time of all events in the hotel and the Old State Capitol.

VI. All staff positions are expected to receive unlimited access to the House of Representatives during floor action unless otherwise instructed by the Speaker of the House.

2. Administrative Rules

I. All individuals who wish to be present on the floor of the Senate must wear appropriate attire fo ladies this includes but is not limited to pants suits un-revealing

blouses and pants dresses and blouses with skirts and stockings. For males ties and suit jackets are a must with a nice button down shirt and slacks. Refer to MIG Governing Documents. All final decisions shall be made by the President of the Senate. Anyone who does not meet the requirements will not be permitted on the Senate Floor. The President retains the right to remove any individual that does not meet the requirements.

II. All individuals who wish to address the Senate in committee or on the Senate floor must use a high level of discretion and respect concerning actions and debate. Any action or debate that may be deemed inappropriate must be ruled out of order by the presiding authority. In case of circumstances where the offense had taken place in committee the Chair must report the incident to either the President of the Senate, their Chief of Staff, or any Senate staff officer (whom will report said incident to the President of the Senate in a timely manner). Any action or debate that is deemed grossly inappropriate by the President will be dealt with in an appropriate manner by the President which may include removal from the simulation. Maintaining professional decorum in committee and chamber debate is expected of all delegates.

III. Leadership

a. On the Thursday evening of simulation, each caucus shall elect their leadership offices. These offices are: Majority and Minority Leader; Assistant Majority and Minority Leader; Majority and Minority Whips

i. There shall be two (2) whips.

ii. One (1) whip is popularly elected.

iii. One (1) whip is appointed by leadership by whatever logic the leadership deems acceptable.

b. All nominations must be properly made by a member of the caucus and seconded by an additional member of the caucus.

c. Each nominated candidate must be present to accept or decline their nomination.

d. The President of the Senate and their Chief of Staff will preside over the elections.

e. The President of the Senate retains the right to dismiss any member of leadership on the basis of appropriateness, which is defined in Section 2, rule II.

f. The President of the Senate retains the right to change, re-define, or dismiss from the leadership any member or position of the Majority party leadership - including Majority Leader, Assistant Majority Leader, Majority Floor Whips, Committee Chairs, Committee Vice- Chairs, and Majority Committee Spokespersons.

i. The previous rule shall not apply to the Minority party. The Senate Minority shall be responsible for choosing its own Minority Leader, Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Floor Whips, and Minority Committee Spokespersons. Any changes in leadership within the Minority party shall be conducted internally, and a change in leadership shall require a majority vote during a Minority caucus meeting. All leadership designations and changes must then be reported to the President of the Senate in a timely manner. This is because the minority party does not hold the majority in the chamber as a whole so it would be unfair for the majority to make leadership decisions for the minority

IV. The Senate has a zero tolerance policy towards vandalism. Vandalism of any kind in committee rooms, chambers, or on hotel property is unacceptable will not be tolerated. Any member found to be responsible for any vandalism will be ejected and banned from participation for the rest of the simulation.

V. The President of the Senate retains the right to dismiss any member of the Senate if the above outlined rules are broken in any way.

3. Committee Rules

I. All Committees will consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair.

II. **Committee Chair** – will have the responsibility to yield time for debate, make judgment decisions on motions, and report the vote after it has been tallied. The Chair may yield time to themselves, but while doing so the Chair forfeits the chair of the

committee and the Vice- Chair will lead the Committee until the conclusion of the bill. The Chair at that time takes over the responsibilities of the Vice-Chair. The Chair may speak on administrative issues at any point without the need to yield the position or time. Both positions retain the right to vote at the proper time.

III. **Committee Vice-Chair** – is responsible for making sure that all written administration tasks are completed fully and done to the best of their ability and to chair the committee when the Chair is unable. The Vice-Chair will have speaking rights and may do so after the Chair has yielded time. The Vice-Chair is expected to read the synopses of each bill on the docket.

IV. Each caucus will elect a delegate to serve as spokesperson in committee.

V. There must be 2/3 majority of the committee present to convene.

VI. The President of the Senate will give each committee permission to start the day's action. This will be the only time the Committee Chair will not have complete discretion on when to convene the committee.

VII. The docket must be read out loud at the opening of the session. A motion to amend the docket can be made by any member of the committee at any time and is subject to a 2/3 majority vote of its members or by consent of both parties.

VIII. All bill synopses must be read out loud at the time of debate.

IX. A 2-minute recess will be taken after every reading of a bill's synopsis.

X. Debate will be limited to thirty minutes per bill.

XI. Any motion to call the question will be considered dilatory or improper during opening statements from both parties.

XII. When a piece of Original Legislation is introduced before a committee, any motion to kill a bill (i.e. postpone indefinitely, objection to consideration, and so on) will be ruled out of order. All pieces of Original Legislation written by MIG delegates and are

assigned to Senate committees shall be fairly debated. Any violations of this rule will result in disciplinary actions to be determined by the President against the member who made the motion to kill the bill.

XIII. Debate will be conducted in a back and forth manner where each side will have one person per yield from the Chair.

XIV. A proper vote is one of three options being as follows: Yea, Nay, and Abstention.

XV. Proxy votes are not allowed in Senate committees in any way, shape, or form. The only way to cast a vote in your committee is by being present at your committee. There are no exceptions to this rule.

XVI. There will be three 5-minute recesses that the Committee Chair will enact at a time deemed suitable. The committee members may move for a total of five 2- minute recesses where there must be a 2/3 majority vote of its members or by consent of both parties.

XVII. Lunch will be 1 and 1/2 hours.

XVIII. Lobbyists wishing to address a committee must obtain permission from the Chair and caucus spokesperson whose position on a bill caters to the Lobbyist's position. The Chair will determine the amount of time a Lobbyist gets to address the committee. Committee members including the Chair and Vice Chair may then ask up to three questions of the Lobbyist.

XVIII. All senators during debate are to address the well

I reserve the right in both committee and chamber action to administer disciplinary action to any senators acting inappropriately in attire, action, or language. All of my staff members have the authority to report directly to me any infractions they may hear or see, and I will address those concerns accordingly. Also, any individual senator may report infractions to my staff and my staff will report them to me and I will address those concerns accordingly.

4. Senate Floor Rules

I. The President of the Senate will preside over all action on the floor. At any time, the President may relinquish the gavel to anyone of their choosing. All decisions in regards to the relinquishment of the gavel are final and this authority shall be vested in the President of the Senate.

II. Any lobbyists who wish to address the floor must receive approval from the Leader whose position caters to the Lobbyist's position, and approval from the President within a reasonable amount of time before their presentation of the bill. Lobbyists who do not receive permission from the Leader of their choosing and the President will not be allowed to address the floor. This rule only applies to Lobbyists and does not apply to Executive Board and staff officers. E-Board and staff officers who wish to address the Senate floor shall be able to do so with the permission of the Leader whose position caters to the position of the before mentioned officers.

III. Caucus Leaders and the President are not obligated to inform the other party if and when they will have a Lobbyist speak for them on a particular bill. As long as the proper channels are

followed, a caucus Leader can use Lobbyists to their advantage because of the extra speaking time gained by their party.

IV. The President will determine the amount of time Lobbyists get to speak on the floor. During this time, only the Lobbyist shall speak and the Lobbyist does not have the authority to relinquish the floor to anyone other than the presiding officer of the chamber or committee. Senate members will be allowed to ask two questions of the Lobbyist. After making their remarks, Lobbyists are then asked to report to the back of the chamber to observe the progress of their bill and may confer with Senators. Lobbyists must exit the chamber following the vote on their bill.

V. All matters of parliamentary procedure will be decided by the President of the Senate and

then may be appealed by an appellant motion to the Chief of Staff.

VI. Any opinion of the chair can be appealed by a 2/3 vote of the body.

VII. Speaking time will be as follows:

a. For long debate: 2 minutes per side, for opening statements, in which time can only be yielded once; 5 minutes per side; 5 minutes per side; and 2 minutes per side for closing statements, in which time can only be yielded once.

b. For short debate: 1 minute per side, for opening statements, in which time can only be yielded once; 3 minutes per side; 3 minutes per side; and 1 minute per side for closing statements, in which time can only be yielded once.

c. The President of the Senate reserves the right to amend debate time as deemed necessary, but may not amend debate time in the middle of a bill being debated.

VIII. No member shall walk between another member who has the floor and the well during debate.

IX. All authors whose original legislation makes it to the senate floor will be granted 3 minute author explanation on the floor prior to debate. Immediately following this explanation there will be a 2:30 minute question answer period where any senate members can ask questions of the author. Following immediately debate shall start.

X. Proxy votes are not allowed during Senate floor action in any way, shape, or form. The only way to cast a vote during floor action is by being present in the Senate chamber. Members must be in their assigned seats in order to cast their vote. There are no exceptions to this rule.