

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

Resolution: G.B. 14 (F) 7

**Sponsor(s): The Rules and
Administration Committee**

**Approval of Changes to the Internal Rules of Procedure of the Graduate Student
Assembly**

Summary: A bill approving the changes to the Internal Rules of Procedure of the Graduate Student Assembly

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| 1 | WHEREAS | The Committee on Constitutional Clarity and Reform was tasked with correcting the governing documents of the Graduate Student Assembly to make them consistent and enforceable; and, |
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| 3 | WHEREAS | The Internal Rules of Procedure were not consistent with other governing documents and needed to be rewritten to facilitate the efficient operation of the Graduate Student Assembly; and, |
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| 6 | WHEREAS | The Constitutional Reform Committee has Dutifully reviewed and updated the Internal Rules of Procedure to meet the above stated goals; then, |
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| 8 | THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED THAT | The phrase “Vice President for Internal Affairs” become “Vice President” throughout the Internal Rules of Procedure; and, |
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| 10 | BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT | The Internal Rules of Procedure uniformly refer to “unfinished business” as “old business”; and, |
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| 12 | BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT | Art I, Sec 1 read “Chair shall refer to the Vice President unless otherwise specified. In the absence of the Vice President, a Chair shall be chosen upon the recommendation of the President and the approval of the assembly. The Chair shall preside over the Assembly but may not vote unless the Assembly is equally divided.”; and, |
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| 16 | BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT | Art I, Sec 3 read “Agenda. The agenda shall be set seventy-two (72) hours before each meeting and must |

17 include a call to order, roll call, opportunities to report
18 from both regular and ex-officio officers as well as
19 representatives and committees, consideration of old
20 and new business, open forum, announcements, and
21 any other business deemed necessary by the
22 Assembly, its officers, or Sponsors. The order of
23 business shall reflect the best use of the time of its
24 members and may be amended by a regular motion
25 and majority vote.”; and,

22 BE IT FURTHER Art I, Sec 7B be deleted; and
23 RESOLVED THAT

24 BE IT FURTHER Art II, Sec 1 read “All legislation shall be filed with
25 RESOLVED THAT the Administrative Director via email by seventy-two
26 (72) hours prior to introduction at an Assembly
27 meeting.”; and,

27 BE IT FURTHER Art II, Sec 1A be rewritten to read “Each resolution or
28 RESOLVED THAT bill shall...”; and,

29 BE IT FURTHER Art II, Sec 1B include “this shall take the form of a
30 RESOLVED THAT resolution immediately considered old business.”; and,

31 BE IT FURTHER Art II, Sec 1C be deleted; and,
32 RESOLVED THAT

33 BE IT FURTHER Art II, Sec 3 be re-written to indicate that the agenda
34 RESOLVED THAT shall be prepared and released seventy-two (72) hours
35 prior to Assembly meetings; and,

35 BE IT FURTHER Art II, Sec 7 be struck from the Internal Rules of
36 RESOLVED THAT Procedure; and,

37 BE IT FURTHER Art II, Sec 8 be rewritten as follows “A. Each member
38 RESOLVED THAT is permitted to speak three times on one topic for three
39 (3) minutes each time.

B. Each member is permitted to speak twice on
any single amendment for one (1) minute each

time.

- 40 C. Debate shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes
41 for a question and ten (10) minutes for an
42 amendment.
- 43 D. Debate shall alternate between the Yea side
44 and the Nay side. Debate must be equal in time
45 and number of speakers. If one side possesses
46 more speakers than the other, that side shall be
47 recognized in the order in which they rise to
48 speak until the opposing side has exhausted
49 their last speaker, then debate shall conclude.
- 50 E. Members may yield either all or none of their
51 speaking time to members and non-members
52 alike during debate. Once the person to whom
53 the floor was yielded finishes speaking, the
54 original member may use any unfinished time.
- 55 F. Debate may be extended or limited with a two-
56 thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) affirmative rising vote. The motion
57 to extend or limit debate requires a second and
58 must include the amount of time the debate
59 shall be extended or limited.”; and,
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61 BE IT FURTHER
62 RESOLVED THAT Art II, Secs 9A and 9C reflect that a Hand, Ballot, or
Roll Call vote are acceptable forms of voting on final
forms of bills, resolutions, or appointments; and,

63 BE IT FURTHER
64 RESOLVED THAT Art II, Sec 9B be deleted; and,

65 BE IT FURTHER
66 RESOLVED THAT Art III be deleted; and,

67 BE IT FURTHER
68 RESOLVED THAT “Section 2. Suspension. At a regular or special
69 meeting, the Assembly may suspend any individual
70 rule from the Rules of Order or Special Rules of Order
as found in this document for the duration of the
meeting by an affirmative two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the
voting members present.” be added to Art V of the
Internal Rules of Procedure; and,

61 BE IT FURTHER
62 RESOLVED THAT All articles and section of the Internal Rules of
Procedure be renumbered consistent with the changes

made in this bill; and,

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BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT

This legislation be filed with the Office of the Dean of
Students; and,

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BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED THAT

The relevant departments across the University of
Texas at Austin be notified of these changes.

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