

Florida State University Student Senate - Frequently Used and Important Motions

This chart is not comprehensive—any other motions in Senate Rules or the 11th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised may be used as long as they do not conflict with Senate Rules of Procedure, Statutes, or the Constitution of the Student Body.

Part 1, Main Motions. These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.						
IF YOU WANT TO...	YOU SAY...	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Close a meeting.	I move to adjourn.	No	Yes	No	No	Majority*
Take a break for a specified amount of time.	I move to recess for...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority*
Register a complaint or make a personal request.	Point of personal privilege.	Yes	No	No	No	None
Change the order of events on the agenda.	I move to unlock the Calendar.	No	Yes	No	No	2/3*
Force the Senate to follow the Calendar. ¹	I call for the orders of the day.	Yes	No	No	No	None
Consider later.	I move to table the bill for...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority*
End debate and proceed with a vote. ²	I move to call the question.	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Limit or extend debate.	I move that debate be limited/extended to...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
Refer to committee.	I move to refer the bill to...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Change a bill, resolution, etc.	I move to amend the bill by ³ ...	No	Yes	Yes ³	Yes	Majority
Kill a main motion.	I move to table the bill indefinitely.	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Go into Committee Caucus or Committee of the Whole.	I move to enter into Committee Caucus for [xx] minutes. OR I move to enter [Committee Name] as a whole.	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority*
Bring any other matter or action before the Senate for consideration. ⁴	I move that/to/for...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority*

Part 2, Incidental Motions. No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally during the consideration of main motions and are decided immediately.						
IF YOU WANT TO...	YOU SAY...	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Allow someone who's not a Senator or Senate Officer to speak.	I move for a non-Senator to speak.	No	Yes	No	No	Majority*
Enforce the Rules	Point of Order.	Yes	No	No	No	No
Suspend a certain rule	I move to suspend the rule...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Overturn a decision of the presiding officer.	I move to appeal the decision of the Chair.	Yes	Yes	Varies [#]	No	Majority
Avoid a main motion altogether.	I object to the consideration of the question.	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Divide a motion, bill, resolution, etc. into separate measures.	I move to divide the motion/bill/resolution.	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Demand that a vote be by iClicker or Roll Call Vote, even after a voice vote has occurred, but before the next matter is brought forward.	I call for a division of the Senate.	Yes	No	No	No	No
Ask a question about rules.	Parliamentary Inquiry.	Yes	No	No	No	None
Request Information.	Point of Information.	Yes	No	No	No	None
Make a relevant, factual statement.	Point of Clarification.	No	No	No	No	None

Part 3, Other Motions. No order of preference. Introduce only when nothing else is pending.						
IF YOU WANT TO...	YOU SAY...	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Take a matter from the table before the original tabled time expires.	I move to take bill ___ from the table.	No	Yes	No	No	Majority*
Cancel a previous action.	I move to rescind...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or majority with 24 hr notice.

Reconsider a motion. ⁵	I move to reconsider...	No	Yes	Varies [#]	No	Majority
-----------------------------------	-------------------------	----	-----	---------------------	----	----------

KEY

* - These motions may pass with unanimous consent (i.e. without debate or vote) as long as no senator objects.

- These motions are only debatable if the original motion they affect is debatable.

1 - Cannot be made after a motion to unlock the calendar has been approved

2 - The motion to call the question may not be made until the first round of debate if the main motion is debatable.

3 - Motions to amend may pass with unanimous consent if the sponsor finds it friendly and no one objects. However, amendments must be debated and voted if there is an objection *even if* the sponsor finds it friendly. Motions to amend may be amended, but after that no subsequent motions to amend can be made until the senate moves back to consideration of the main question.

4 - This opens the door for a very broad range of possibilities, but keep in mind that all actions, motions, questions, etc. must be in accordance with Senate Rules, Robert's Rules, Statutes, and the Constitution.

5 - The motion to reconsider must be made by a member on the prevailing side of the original vote/motion and must be made the same day as the question to be reconsidered.