



RUSA Agenda February 27th, 2019

7:30pm @ Student Activities Center

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes
5. Officer Updates
6. Legislation
 - a. Debate & Clerical Procedures Act of 2020
 - b. Bill to Endorse and Allocate Funding for the Open & Affordable Textbook (OAT) Program
7. Advisor Updates
8. External Representatives Report
9. Public Sector
10. Committee of the Whole
 - a. Constitution
11. Adjournment

"Public notice of this meeting has been given to all undergraduate students requesting such notice. Please speak to the Secretary of the Assembly after this meeting to learn more about how you can join the email list to receive a 24 hour meeting notice and a copy of the Agenda."



RUSA Bill S20 - 02

Author: N. Tharney, *Parliamentarian*

Sponsor: Internal Affairs Committee

Debate & Clerical Procedures Act of 2020

Whereas, the Standing Rules, among other things, facilitate the operations of the Assembly and contain provisions which govern the Assembly's deliberative and clerical processes, and

Whereas, the Parliamentarian solicited feedback on prospective changes to the Standing Rules and on prospective changes to debate procedure, and

Whereas, debate is indispensable from the thoughtful and careful deliberation of prospective legislative action considered by the Assembly, and

Whereas, the implementation of "standard debate procedure" has lead to some confusion as to when the Assembly unanimously supports an action or when there is actual disagreement, and

Whereas, after a resolution is adopted, there is often no formal mechanism for ensuring followthrough, and

Whereas, the Parliamentarian and the Internal Affairs Committee thoroughly review RUSA's operating procedures and recommends changes where necessary, and

Whereas, these changes are recommended by the same, upon review of the Assembly's rules, procedures, and practices in comparison with Robert's Rules, the University Senate, and other student governing associations,

Therefore, be it enacted by two-thirds of the Assembly, the Standing Rules of the Assembly shall be amended as follows:

RESOLVED, the Assembly adds the following as Art. 2, Sect. 12 of the Standing Rules:

12. Notwithstanding the above, debate and deliberation for all main motions (excluding consent agenda items) and amendments:

- a. For each debatable main and amendment shall be two running speakers list: one pro and one con based on the motion as written or otherwise stated.
- b. Unless the Assembly adopts a special rule through legislation, members of the Assembly, externally elected officers, and internally elected or appointed chairs of committees or heads of departments, may add themselves to the speakers list by standing in the appropriate line, and the presiding officer shall recognize speakers from each list, alternating and starting with the con list.
- c. The speaker, when recognized shall have the privilege of using the podium or lectern and may direct comments and questions to the presiding officer, to the author of the legislation or motion if he/she/they choose to yield to questions, or address the Assembly as a whole.
- d. If no speakers exist on the con speakers list, then the Assembly may adopt the motion unanimously or move the previous question; otherwise, at least three individuals shall be permitted to speak against the motion if they so choose, before someone may move the previous question (“call to question”).
- e. The speaker shall be limited to a speaking time not to exceed 3 minutes per turn, unless extended by the Assembly. Making motions shall not count toward the speaking time, nor toward the minimum speaker requirement under the above subsection. Other speaking limits shall accord with Robert’s Rules, unless suspended.
- f. The above shall not prohibit the presiding officer to ask the Assembly if it wishes to approve a motion unanimously (e.g., in the case of grammatical amendments).

- g. The following motions shall be out of order in the pro speakers line: to amend (except for grammatical/clerical amendments adopted unanimously), postpone indefinitely, table, insert a blank, and reconsider. All other motions as prescribed in Robert's Rules shall be in effect, unless otherwise prohibited by these Standing Rules.

RESOLVED, the following shall be added as Article 3, Section 9 to the Standing Rules:

- 9. Article 2 Section 12 shall not be suspended without the unanimous consent of the Assembly, unless at least two members of the Assembly have been afforded the opportunity to speak on the "con" list against the pending motion.

RESOLVED, the following shall be added as Article 4, Section 13 in the Standing Rules:

- 13. Every bill and resolution sponsored by a committee shall be assigned a number by the Secretary. Additionally, as an alternative track for proposing legislation, a member of the Assembly may draft a resolution or bill and file it with the Secretary who shall assign it a number; thereafter, the Executive Board may refer the resolution or bill to the appropriate committee(s) of RUSA, to the Allocations Board, or to another student government or to the University Senate. Nothing in this section shall be construed to circumvent the requirement to obtain committee sponsorship legislation, nor shall this section limit the powers of committees.

RESOLVED, the Assembly amends S.R., Art. 15, Section 4(m) to read as follows:

- m. The Secretary is required to create and maintain two binders containing all bills and resolutions introduced, passed, or rejected, both in their original format and with amendments. One of these binders shall be given to the RUSA advisor. The Secretary shall be required to update these binders within 14 days of a bill or resolution being passed or rejected by a vote of the Assembly. Additionally, the Secretary shall keep electronic records and provide electronic copies to the RUSA advisor and to members of the Assembly and the public. The records shall

include the bill/resolution number, the title, the committee sponsor, the text of the legislation, and the final vote (if any) and the disposition status (i.e., passed, rejected, tabled, postponed, referred to committee, or expired (if supervened by an adjournment sine die)).

RESOLVED, the following shall be added as Art. 15, Sect. 4(q) of the Standing Rules:

- q. If the Assembly includes a provision in legislation to refer the matter (including a committee report, if applicable) to a Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Director of a Department, another administrator, or a Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, the Secretary shall provide the official(s) with the resolution, bill, or report and shall request a formal response. If a formal response is returned, it shall be reported to the Assembly and published in the Assembly's records alongside the legislation as adopted and on the website or online folder.



RUSA Bill S20 - 03

Authors: Maya Ravichandran, *Academic Affairs Chair*; Eric Fuertes, *Off-Campus Representative*; Nicholas LaBelle, *Treasurer*

Sponsor: Academic Affairs Committee

Bill to Endorse and Allocate Funding for the Open & Affordable Textbook (OAT) Program

Whereas, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) is dedicated to providing a means for promoting access to education, and there is the concern that textbooks are in recent years a cost-prohibitive part of course materials;

Whereas, the cost of textbooks has risen astronomically, evidenced by the 1,041 percent increase in the past forty years, compared to a generic 308 percent increase in the general cost of living tracked by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index;¹

Whereas, several members of the Academic Affairs Committee have engaged in conversations with Librarian Lily Todorinova to ensure the funds are used to its full efficacy;

Whereas, the Assembly has priorly supported this initiative with legislation such as: Resolution S1718-02², which commended the program; Bill S19-07,³ which promised financial aid to the program but never actualized; Bill F19-12,⁴ which authorized the endorsement of the current year's promotional language;

¹ [Triangle Report](#)

² [RUSA Resolution S1718-02](#)

³ [RUSA Bill S19-07](#)

⁴ [RUSA Bill F19-12](#)

Be it hereby enacted that the Assembly reaffirms its support for the Open and Affordable Textbook program and will provide the following conditions to facilitate the program’s success:

- I. Upon their collection of their clickers, each member of the Assembly will be provided with brochures,⁵ produced by the Rutgers Libraries, at the next general meeting.
- II. Each RUSA member is entrusted with giving the brochures they are provided by RUSA to professors. Distribution of one or more brochures to professors will count for a maximum of one RUSA office hour. Each RUSA member will submit a form⁶ detailing which professors were handed the brochures.
- III. The Vice President will be responsible for ensuring that at least half of the Assembly voting members have handed out brochures by March 12, 2020, and shall contact members that have not done so by that date.

Be it hereby further enacted that the Assembly allocates \$5,000 of the “Discretionary Funding” line-item into the “Open and Affordable Textbooks” to finance five \$1,000 grants and have the funds held in trust by the Rutgers Library Business Office until entirely expensed.

⁵ [OAT Brochure](#)

⁶ [OAT Google Form](#)