SB44-07/08: Amending House Rules

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Amending House Rules
April 23, 2008
Senate Bill Number 44-07/08
Authored by: Senator Sean Morrison

Whereas, current House Rules Article I, Section 2 requires all proposed resolutions and motions be introduced during "New Business" of the preceding week;

Whereas, this practice has proven a hindrance to effective governance and unnecessary for the proper functioning of the Senate;

Whereas, this practice impedes resolutions and motions from being introduced outside of the Senate elect;

Whereas, the University Center Board, SPA, and Board on Budget and Finance are exempt from this practice according to House Rules Article 1, Section 2, Subsection E.

Therefore Let It Be Resolved that Article 1, Section 2 be amended to read as follows:

A. Unless the ASUM Constitution or Bylaws dictate otherwise, Senate meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The Senate may amend its own rules of parliamentary law by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, and those rules shall become part of the House Rules.

B. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Business Manager shall chair Senate meetings. In the absence of all officers, the Senate shall select a temporary chair from its membership, approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.

C. All proposed resolutions and motions introduced during "New Business" shall be placed under "Unfinished Business" for the following Senate meeting. Discussion and voting may take place only under "Unfinished Business" unless the Senate suspends the rules by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

D. Resolutions or motions to support or oppose increases in University of Montana or ASUM student fees shall be held under "Unfinished Business" until the Senate meeting two weeks after its introduction.

E. All approved actions of University Center Board, Relations and Affairs, SPA, and Board on Budget and Finance may be forwarded to the next ASUM Senate meeting as a seconded motion, a seconded motion meaning that a resolution need not be submitted under “New Business” and after one week be debated under "Unfinished Business.”

F. All Senate resolutions introduced as "New Business" must be placed in typewritten form given to the Vice President in either electronic or typewritten form in the Vice President's box before 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the meeting at which they are to be debated under "Unfinished Business." Resolutions not in compliance with this rule shall be automatically withdrawn.

G. All resolutions introduced under "New Business" shall be referred by the Vice President, acting as committee whip, to the appropriate committee or board. Prior to debate before the full Senate, the committee or board shall give its recommendation either for or against approval, or may elect not to forward a resolution to the Senate.
H. The Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee Vice President shall post, in the ASUM office, a list of all resolutions submitted for consideration at the next ASUM Senate meeting, by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday 24 hours preceding the meeting. The list shall state the ASUM standing committee to which each resolution has been referred.

I. Quorum shall be defined as two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of Executives and Senators currently holding office. No business may be conducted in the absence of a quorum. This rule may not be suspended.

J. No Executive or Senator may do homework, use a personal phone or leave the Senate meeting prior to adjournment without returning or the consent of the Chair. Violations that occur after one warning will result in an unexcused absence.

K. The final vote on all resolutions voted on by the ASUM Senate requires a roll call vote unless approved by unanimous consent.

Passed by Committee: April 23, 2008
Passed by Senate: April 23, 2008

Chair
Tara Ness

Chair of the Senate

Passed 14-1-1 on a roll call vote.