

RWU Founding Convention April 11, 2008

“Convention Rules”

Convention Rules: Roberts Rules of Order will govern when the Convention is in session.

Convention Committee: The Convention Committee will be established and approved by the body in the first session of the Convention. Its purpose will be to make recommendations on necessary changes to the agenda should they arise. If possible, please bring any suggested agenda change to the Convention Committee.

Voice and Vote: Only RWU members in good standing will have voice and vote when the convention is in session. Invited guests and friends shall be allowed to speak on any question before the Convention with the consensus of the House. They will have no vote.

Voting Procedure: When discussion upon a motion is brought to a close, the chair will call for a voice vote. If in doubt, the Chair will then call for a hand held vote. The Chair will refrain from voting on all issues before the body, except in the event of a tie, the Chair may choose to cast the deciding vote. In this case, if the Chair votes in favor, the motion shall pass. Should the Chair refrain from voting, the motion shall fail (per Robert's Rules, a motion fails in the event of a tie).

Motions: All members are free to put a motion on the floor. To be discussed, all motions require a second. All motions may be subject to amendment, such proposed amendments also requiring a second. An amendment to an amendment shall be considered in order, but not an amendment to an amendment to an amendment. Amendments to amendments shall be voted upon first, then the amendment (as amended). Then the main motion (as amended). If the maker of the motion accepts the amendment as “friendly”, the amendment shall be incorporated into the motion, and there shall be no reason to vote upon the amendment.

Discussion: All discussion should be pertinent to the motion on the floor. Otherwise, the Chair shall rule the speaker out of order. Unless otherwise provided, all who speak on a specific motion shall be limited to three (3) minutes. No speaker shall speak twice if there are others who wish to speak and have yet to do so. *Exception:* The Chair may ask someone who has already spoken to answer a question, and the maker of the motion shall be allowed to clarify the motion if/when there is confusion.

Motion to End Debate: Any member may move to cut off debate on any subject on the floor (to “call for -- or to move -- the question”). While non-debatable, the Chair shall call for a show of hands of those who still wish to speak so the house can make an informed decision.

Recognition to Speak: Normally, to be recognized, the speaker must raise their hand and be called upon by the Chair. However, there shall be a number of exceptions to this rule:

- Point of Personal Privilege: To be used only when there is difficulty in participating in the meeting, such as inability to hear, breath, see, etc.
- Point of Procedure: To be used when you wish to have a change in procedure.
- Point of Order: Used when it is felt that the Chair is failing to proceed according to previously agreed upon process.
- Point of Information: To ask a question of the Chair.

Note: Only on a “Point of Personal Privilege” may you interrupt someone else who is speaking on the floor.

