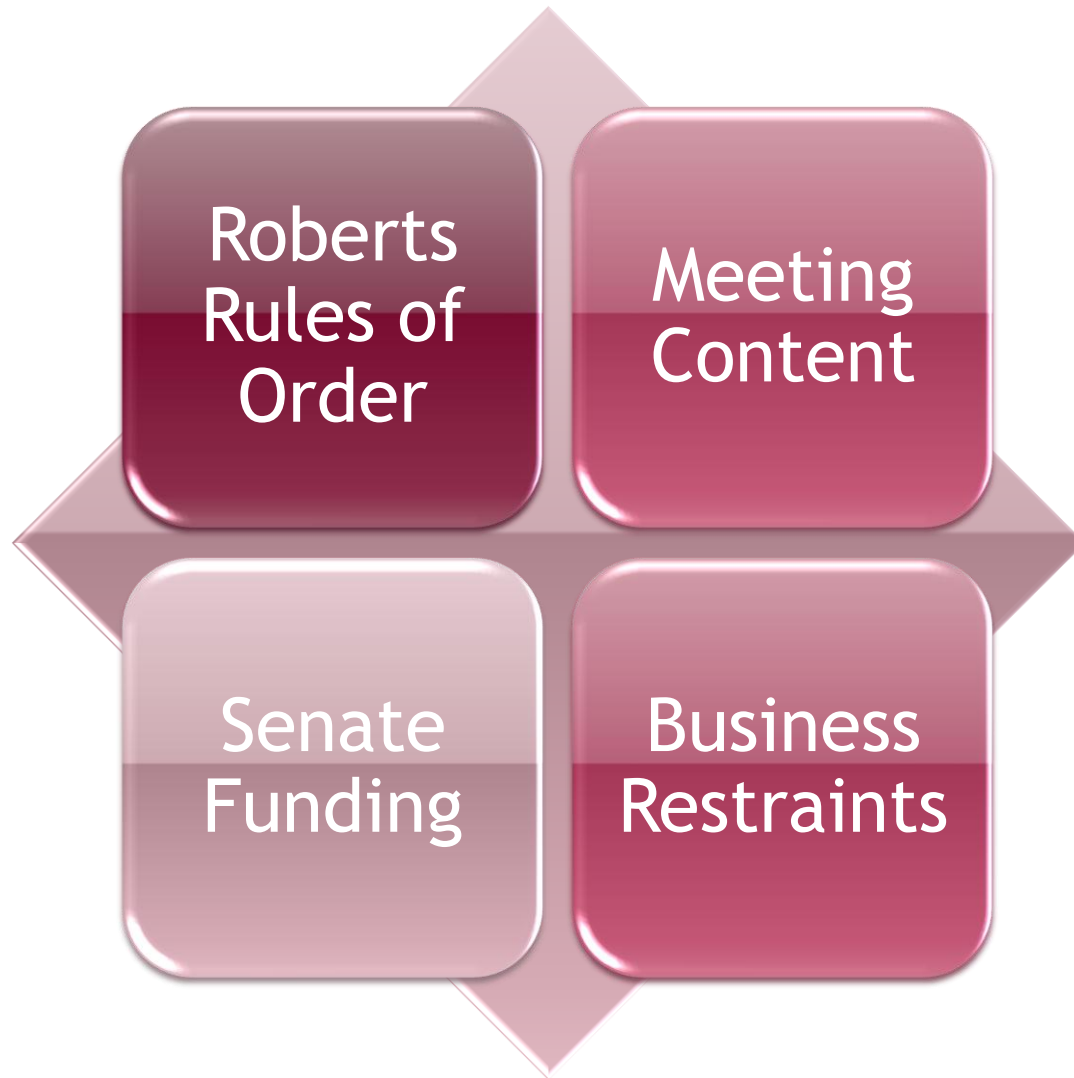


# PSGA SENATE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 - 2015

Teddy J. O'Rourke, *Chairman*

# FIELDS OF INTEREST



# ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

- Are Roberts Rules of Order helping or hurting the productivity of the Senate?
- Are Senators feeling comfortable exercising their knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order?
- Is the current duel-retreat training model working?
- Is the process of creating and distributing agenda items efficient?
- Shall open speaking without a speakers list continue as a common practice?

# Roberts Rules of Order

- Many Senators are not well versed in Robert's Rules of Order and thus are lacking the proper skills to entertain a professional meeting.
- The Chair is unable to act as a simple facilitator of the meeting and is speaking too much.
- Discussion often continues for too long with multiple conversations circling the same ideas.
- Agenda approval has not been include as a general practice - violating Robert's Rules. The agenda in general is outdated.

# MEETING CONTENT

- **Are Senators utilizing their powers to advocate on behalf of the students?**
- **Are the items addressed by Senate prematurely released from committees or meetings?**
- **Should the Senate re-implement Resolutions as a commonality?**

## Meeting Content

- Senate's main focus for the past two years has been improving the lives of students on campus through initiatives and projects but has been lacking in advocacy regarding overarching issues stemming from SUNY as a system.
- The Senate has seen over a 90% drop in Resolutions in the past two years; whereas this is a common practice in most SUNY colleges.

# SENATE FUNDING

- **Is the Senator Initiative Fund sufficient for the work provided by Senators?**
- **Is the Senate Lunch Fund sizable enough for the amount of Senators?**
- **Are there any other tangible products or services that may benefit the Senate?**

## Senate Funding

- 57.14% of the Senate Lunch Fund was used within the first two months of school. If spending patterns continue like this the line would be drained by February. The allocated amount reflects the previous Senate seats filled, which averaged around 14–15 whereas we hold at least 25–27 at all times.
- Senate requires purchases throughout the year to keep it maintained but has no means of acquiring these funds without pulling from Unallocated.



# BUSINESS RESTRAINTS

- Does the length of the campus free period need to be revisited?
- Where shall Senate continue to meet in the future?
- How can we create a greater sense of Senate transparency in the community?

## Business Restraints

- Senate is unable to complete the entirety of the agenda due to time constraints (often getting cut off directly before Committee Reports).
- The Senate is not branded on campus and generally holds little clout among the student body.
- Tables and chairs utilized by the Senate are broken, rickety and overall unprofessional.

# PILLARS OF SUCCESS



# MOVING FORWARD WITH ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Retrain Robert's Rules of Order in an extensive retreat setting at the end of Winter Break.

- Create a Senator Training Manual in this process
- Focus training on the Language of the Rules, Minute Taking for Senators and Student Advocacy

Implement a condensed agenda similar to that of the Student Assembly.

- Reformat agenda to keep to one page.
- Supplemental information will be provided by the Presenter

Require *Approval of the Agenda* as an agenda item.

- As per Robert's Rules of Order

Implement a Speakers List system, similar to the one used by the Senate from 2009-2011.

- Used by the previous two Chairs, a Speakers List will in theory keep the conversation from going in circles.

Expand the position of Senate Secretary.

- Senate needs a constant person who is well trained in taking minutes and can assist in the set up/strike of Senate meetings.

Appoint a Parliamentarian.

- Stipulated in our Constitution. The Senate should have a Parliamentarian to deal with the Rules in lieu of the Chair.
- Will keep Senators on point with the language of their discussion.

Research into how other SUNYs do their Executive Reports.

# MOVING FORWARD WITH MEETING CONTENT

Have Senators present all legislation coming from committees.

- Allowing Senators to present legislation, especially from the Steering Committee will take the Chair out of the position of “Presenter” and allow them to speak less.

Train Senators how to write, read and understand Resolutions.

- Allows for Senate to form an official opinion on matters especially policy or budgetary matters from the college or SUNY Central.

Commit all Canvassing and Outreach to the Committees.

- Canvassing and Outreach should be done on a committee basis not at the Senate level.

Provide more updates to Senators regarding issues coming from SUNY as a system.

Stress the importance of Advocacy in the community.

Stress the importance of Advocacy as a SUNY system.

Create a bylaw regarding Student Assembly and PSGA Senate.

- *The PSGA Senate shall review and vote upon all resolutions, university policy statements and legislative agendas that are on the Student Assembly agenda each semester.*

# MOVING FORWARD WITH SENATE FUNDING

Continue to support the Senator Initiative Fund.

Increase the Student Lunch Fund.

- To reflect the growth in Senatorial attendance.

Develop a Line Item in the budget specifically for Senate Maintenance

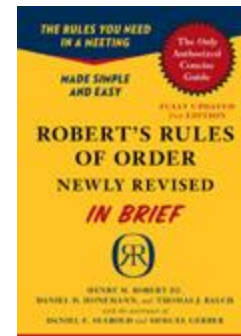
- Would be a discretionary line item used to maintain the Senate (ie: buying folders, table cloths, New Roberts Rules each year for every Senator, folding tables, chairs, podium, etc...)

# EXAMPLES OF SENATE MAINTENANCE LINE ITEM

- ◉ Identification Plates for Executives, Parliamentarian and Recording Secretary
- ◉ Custom Tablecloth with the SUNY seal for official meetings
- ◉ Robert's Rules of Order (\$7.13/book)
- ◉ Folding tables for Senate use.
- ◉ Binding with Senate documents for individual Senators

## President

Purchase Student Government Association



# MOVING FORWARD WITH BUSINESS RESTRAINTS

Extend the Campus Fee Period  
to 12:00PM - 2:00PM

- Extending the Campus Free Period will allow the agenda to be finished in its entirety.

Reevaluate the location of  
Senate in the future.

- Options: The Stood, The Red Room, Southside Lounge, President's Conference Room, etc...

Redesign the Leadership Section  
at Senate

- In the hopes that a more professional environment will stimulate a more productive meeting.

Work with Public Affairs to begin  
a Who's Who Campaign



# TIMELINE

Preliminary RONR  
Implementation

Preliminary  
Advocacy  
Implementation

Spring Senate  
Retreat

Full RONR &  
Meeting Content  
Implementation

Budget Defense  
Period

Full  
Implementation

Analyze and  
Reevaluate

## Key

Green – Fall 2013

Blue – Spring 2014

Red – FY1415

# QUESTIONS