Cleanup, Special Rules, and Drafting Bylaws

A Report
OF THE
Drafting Committee (GA/C.D)
OF THE
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
OF THE
University of Pennsylvania

GA/44/BILL/27
GA/C.D/44/M/3
A/Const/44/Amend.7/Pro.5
GA/SRO/44/Amend.2/Pro.1
EB/BYL/44/Amend.3/Pro.1
GA/C.D/BYL/44/R.0/Pro.1

Committee Chair: Simeon Ristić

Committee Members:
Simeon Ristić, Paradorn Rummaneethorn, Maya Singh, Nandan Tumu, and Paul Welfer

April 9, 2023
Abstract

The Drafting Committee was constituted by the GAPSA General Assembly on March 15, 2023 and appointed on March 29, 2023.

These constitutional amendments refine the rules for previous notice, implement an oath of office for the Speaker, simplify the rules for the requirement for two Readings, and simplify or refine various other minor rules.

This Bill also proposes the creation of Drafting Committee Bylaws and the organization of several special rules of order for the General Assembly including a rule requiring prior deliberation of Bills in subunits of the General Assembly before they can be included in the General Assembly agenda.

Contents

1 Cleanup of Notice Requirements 2

2 General Cleanup 3

3 Simplification of Rules 4

4 Oath of Office 4

5 General Assembly Special Rules of Order 4

6 Drafting Committee Bylaws 4

7 Enactment 5

Section 1. That the amendments in this instrument are applied sequentially and take effect simultaneously, even if this instrument is divided and voted on in separate questions at the same meeting; all punctuation included quotes is literal and interpreted as the content of the quote, not as part of the enacting sentence;

1 Cleanup of Notice Requirements

Section 2. That Article II(D)(9)(b) is amended by striking out “outright”;

Section 3. That Article II(D)(9)(e) is amended by inserting “the suspension” after “after debate on” and before “and thirty-six (36) hours previous notice of both the suspension and the Bill’s full text”;

Section 4. That Article VIII(A)(3) is amended by striking out “Bills” in the phrase “The full text of Bills that alter any spending authority, authorizations, or provisions” and inserting “motions”;

2
Section 5. That Article XII(B)(2)(a) is amended by inserting “, distribution,” after “If a measure requires previous notice” and before “or announcement to the General Assembly”; 

Section 6. That Article XII(B)(2)(a) is amended by striking out “sent” and inserting “distributed/sent”; 

Section 7. That Article XII(B)(2)(a) is amended by inserting “(to each officer’s official GAPSA electronic address and each other member’s electronic address in the Penn Directory)” after “electronic mail”; 

Section 8. That Article XII(B)(2)(a) is amended by inserting “if notice of the full text is not required,” after “(2)” and before “announced at a meeting of the General Assembly and entered on the minutes”; 

Section 9. That Article XII(B)(2)(a) is amended by striking out “, or (3) delivered by a method the General Assembly has approved by three-fourths vote” and inserting “or” before “(2)”;

Section 10. That Article XII(B)(2)(a) is amended by inserting “The default minimum notice is thirty-six (36) hours unless otherwise specified to be longer.” at the end of the subparagraph;

Section 11. That Article XII(B)(2)(b) is amended by striking “GAPSA” and inserting “General Assembly”;

2 General Cleanup

Section 12. That Article II(C)(6) is amended by inserting “be involuntarily” after “The membership and good standing of voting members of the General Assembly can only” and before “removed by the dismissal proceedings described in Article II, section C.”;

Section 13. That Article IV(A)(5)(b) is amended by striking out “by the Parliamentarian” and inserting “by a member thereof the committee shall appoint”;

Section 14. That Executive Board Bylaws Article 5.1.2 is amended by striking out “Standing Committee” and inserting “Steering Committee”;

Section 15. That Executive Board Bylaws Article 8.4.5 is amended by striking out “one member making counterpoints to previous members’ speeches,”;
3 Simplification of Rules

Section 16. That Article II(D)(9)(d) is stricken in its entirety; that subparagraph (e) of the same paragraph is redesignated subparagraph (d);

Section 17. That Article XII(B)(4)(b) is substituted by “the list of all persons in attendance”;

4 Oath of Office

Section 18. That Article II(G) is amended by adding “Before they assume the chair for the first time for their current appointment, the Speaker (or each chair pro tempore) shall recite to the General Assembly: “I swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of Speaker of the General Assembly in accordance with the GAPSA Constitution, that I will remain strictly impartial on all questions before the General Assembly.”” as paragraph (7) at the end of the section;

5 General Assembly Special Rules of Order

Section 19. That any existing Special Rules of Order are rescinded;

Section 20. That Special Rule of Order 1 is created with the text: “The Chair in their discretion can impose a uniform limit on speeches in debate to as short as one tenth of the remaining time of debate (if it is subject to an order that limits consideration) or 30 seconds, whichever is greater, unless the General Assembly changes that limit.”;

Section 21. That Special Rule of Order 2 is created with the text: “Prior Deliberation Rule. A Bill cannot be included in the General Assembly’s agenda for the first time unless a set of subunits of the General Assembly collectively covering its full voting membership have each either considered the full text of the Bill or did not hold a quorate meeting in the prior week.”;

Section 22. That Special Rule of Order 3 is created with the text: “Ten Minute Rule. Each Bill must be allocated at least 10 minutes on the agenda at each meeting it is considered.”;

6 Drafting Committee Bylaws

Section 23. That the following Drafting Committee Bylaws are enacted:

“(1) Advice on Legislative Process. The committee should advise members of GAPSA—

“(1.1) on the notice deadlines for bringing measures to the General Assembly;

“(1.2) how to write up an idea into a resolution, taking care to emphasize—
“(1.2.1) the distinction between preambulatory (e.g., “whereas”) and operative clauses; 
“(1.2.2) the inclusion of references to the authority on which an action is taken; 
“(1.2.3) that budget reallocations be fully specified; 
“(1.2.4) that motions and amendments to motions be written out in full properly; 
“(1.2.5) that documents be specifically identified with version numbers from the Standardized Symbol System, in accordance with Article XII(B)(1)(d); and 
“(1.2.6) that Constitutional Amendments include official abstracts for insertion into Article XIII; 
“(1.3) on the primarily used motions in meetings by preparing a summary card. 

“(2) Committee Opinions. The Drafting Committee shall be automatically referred all matters regarding controversies about the application of the rules of GAPSA outside of General Assembly meetings, for the issuance of an opinion specifically describing the rules applied to the case, before their consideration by the General Assembly.

“(3) Committee Operations. At the discretion of the Chair, the Drafting Committee is authorized to meet by videoconferencing technology that is accessible to all members of the committee. The Committee should ordinarily meet regularly in the week prior to General Assembly meetings, to review upcoming Bills.

7 Enactment

Section 24. That measures previously passed in accordance with the Constitution at the time of passage that conflict with the Constitution as amended by this instrument shall remain in effect for the remainder of the academic year in which this instrument is adopted;

Section 25. That the official Abstract of the Constitutional Amendments in this proposal is: “These amendments refine the rules for previous notice, implement an oath of office for the Speaker, simplify the rules for the requirement for two Readings, and simplify or refine various other minor rules.”