

NUS National Conference 2017

Debate Regulations as set by the NUS Democratic Procedures Committee

Drafting of debates

1. The DPC will only convene drafting commissions where it is not possible to determine the order and interrelationships of debate and/or the allocation of speeches without a meeting.
2. Upon receipt of amendments to Zone Policy proposals, Zone Committees will be invited to accept or reject the proposed amendments. Where they accept the CM or Committee proposing the amendment will be added to the list of proposers of the motion or amendment.
3. Where amendments have been submitted, amendments will be debated at 1.5 mins introduction, 1.5 mins opposing and 1 min summation. These speeches will be owned. At the discretion of DPC a further round of for and against speeches may be allocated. These may be free or owned by CMs. In the event of the allocation of an additional round of owned speeches as described at least one additional round of free speeches will always be allocated.
4. Amended debates will always end with a balancing opposing speech on the substantive at 1.5mins and a summation of 1 minute. The summation shall always be owned by the proposer of the last successful amendment passed, or the owner of the original substantive speech if no amendment was passed.
5. Where multiple CMs or Committees own a motion or amendment, the CMs or Committees shall be invited to determine the ownership of positive speeches. In the event of disagreement this will be determined at the DPC's discretion.
6. Where CMs or Committees own text in a composited debate and they wish to be allocated a speech against a main motion or amendment, the CMs or Committees shall be invited to determine the ownership of positive speeches. In the event of disagreement this will be determined at the DPC's discretion.
7. In order to save time during Conference, to their absolute discretion the DPC may resolve to
 - a. Reduce the time allocated to speeches in the final motions document
 - b. Advise the chair to move directly to a vote where there is no active opposition to a proposal
 - c. Remove allocated summation speeches in the interest of time saving
8. The DPC shall be empowered at its absolute discretion to move any text submitted into a zone that it believes has been allocated to the wrong Zone.
9. It shall also be empowered after appropriate consultation to structure any debate in such a way as to ensure that it meets wording limits and that the possibly of resolving a matter twice is removed.
10. The allocation of the order and interrelationships of a motion and amendments to it shall be determined by the DPC at its absolute discretion following appropriate consultation with submitting CMs and Committees. It shall reserve the right to vary any interrelationship as a result of a parts debate.

Parts

1. During the drafting, the DPC should attempt to ensure the most effective structure of proposals, motions and amendments.
2. Once the final proposals document is published, delegates shall be entitled to propose that a particular clause or set of clauses of a proposal is debated separately from the rest of a proposal.
3. Where the removal of the proposed clause or set of clauses would result in the remainder becoming meaningless the proposal shall be ruled invalid.
4. Any delegate may submit a proposal to this effect before the end of the speech in favour of the motion.
5. At the appropriate point, the chair will explain each proposal. If 100 delegates indicate as such, the proposal will be approved.
6. In this event, the clause(s) shall be voted upon after a speech for, and against the text in question.
7. If the clause(s) which is passed is part of an amendment it shall become part of a substantive. If the clause(s) which are passed are part of the substantive motion on the final vote then they shall be passed into policy.
8. No parts will be accepted in any guillotine extension.
9. Where the guillotine has been extended for more than an hour in total, parts will be suspended for the duration of that conference.

Order

1. In a given zone, the order of Zone Policy proposals shall be determined by the Zone committee.
2. The order of ordinary motions shall be determined by a ballot of all registered delegates in which repeated Alternative Transferable Vote counts will be performed on single ballots for each zone.
3. The order paper shall be moved for adoption at the beginning of Conference.
4. Although the timings allocated to each item may be altered at the discretion of the DPC, the timings of elections, breaks and session starts and ends shall be fixed.
5. In addition the order of business shall be fixed.
6. Procedural motions that challenges the order of ordinary motions must be submitted before the start of debate on the first item in the first zone.

Statements

1. Time will be allocated in the order paper with the purpose of allowing delegates to make a statement.
2. Delegates may present the topic on which they want to make a statement to the DPC who will then draw these at random during the allocated time.
3. Conference will be asked if it wishes to hear the statement and a simple majority will result in the delegate being given 60 seconds to make the statement at the rostrum.
4. The DPC may allow any other delegate to make an emergency statement at any other time in the interests of the good order of conference at their absolute discretion.