



PACIFIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SENATE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Unlike any other previous Model United Nations conference, the PACMUN 2017 U.S. Senate will follow a Rules of Procedure similar to the functioning of the actual Senate instead of an adapted Model UN format. As such, delegates will write and bring bills regarding legislature on the national level to the conference as opposed to the traditional position paper format. Each delegate will be required to carefully research the positions of their assigned Senator and then construct an idea for two bills, each following one of the main themes, that their specific Senator would be likely to propose and support. Well-written bills often tend to do better in debate, and it is important to ensure that each bill is specific.

The format of the bill will be similar but slightly modified from the sample bills provided. Please refer to the template for specific information on how to format and correctly write each bill. It is highly recommended that each delegate download the template and fill it out with their bill language, with the information in italics meant to help with formatting. Please delete the italicized information before the bill is submitted. Bill submission is required, and each bill submitted **on time** will be assigned a bill number upon receipt by the dais.

The dais will determine the docket prior to the start of the conference. The docket is the list of all the bills that will be debated in the order that they will be debated, and will be made available for all delegates to see at the beginning of the conference. The U.S. Senate at PACMUN 2017 will have no moderated caucuses and will instead cycle through all the bills, in what can be compared to a continual voting bloc. The delegates have the choice to pass as many bills as they would like, but must keep in mind that they debate and vote in accordance with the views of their assigned Senator.

Despite there not being any moderated caucuses, there will occasionally be opportunities for delegates to have party caucuses. Within the party caucuses, each major party, whether Democrat or Republican, will meet with all the other members of their party to look over the bills that the Senate is to preside over and decide a general course of action for each bill. For example, if there was a bill restricting access to abortion nationwide, the Democratic party would likely agree in their party caucus to speak out against that bill during debate time and ensure that all members of their party are aware that they need to vote against that bill. Meanwhile, the Republican party might agree in their party caucus to support that particular bill and plan out a strategy for speaking out in favor of it.

As each bill is considered, the dais will call out the bill number and ask for the proponent of the bill, whereupon the Senator that wrote the bill will stand up and announce their name and state. Then, the dais will ask whether the proponent would like opening remarks, which the proponent must agree to. **The opening remarks should be prepared prior to the conference** and opening remarks essentially state what the bill is in a verbal manner and then explain why Senators should support this bill, usually providing statistics and logical arguments.

Then, the Senate will move into debate, where each Senator that wishes to speak will raise their placards to be called upon by the dais. Once called upon, Senators have the choice to either ask questions to the proponent of the bill or to speak out in favor of or against the bill. They cannot follow any other course of action. Below is the parliamentary procedure each Senator must comply with exactly in order to speak.

To ask only one question:

Senator: *States name and state* "Will the proponent yield to a question?"

Dais: "Will the proponent yield?"

Proponent: "Yes."

Senator: *Asks question*

To ask multiple questions:

Senator: *States name and state* "Will the proponent yield to a series?"

Dais: "Will the proponent yield?"

Proponent: "Yes."

Senator: *Asks questions*

To speak out in favor:

Senator: *States name and state* "I would like to [use the remainder of my time to*] speak out in favor of this bill." *Speaks in favor*

To speak out against:

Senator: *States name and state* "I would like to [use the remainder of my time to*] speak out against this bill." *Speaks against*

*Add in this phrase if speaking after a question is asked.

Keep in mind that any time a Senator speaks in the Senate, they must preface it with their name and state, even after being called upon by the dais. Additionally, the proponent themselves cannot ask any questions during debate time. Filibustering is allowed during debate time, but Senators must explicitly state they would like to filibuster so that the clock timing debate can be paused.

After the total debate time has elapsed, delegates may motion to extended total debate time in case strong debate is still occurring. However, if there is still plenty of debate time but delegates feel as if debate on the particular bill has been exhausted, they have the option of calling for "Previous Question" in order to end debate time. The parliamentary procedure for this is as follows.

To call previous question:

Senator: *Raises back of their placard*

Dais: "Previous question has been called and recognized. Is there a second?"

Any other senator: "Second."

Dais: "We will now move to vote on previous question. All those in favor please signify by raising their placards."

If there is a 2/3 majority, previous question passes and debate time ends.

If debate is still ongoing and valuable to the discussion of the bill despite the elapsing of total debate time, delegates have the option to extend debate time before the dais moves on past debate. The parliamentary procedure for this is as follows.

To extend debate:

Senator: *Raises placard*

Dais: *Recognizes Senator*

Senator: *States name and state* "Motion to extend debate time by [time, must be shorter than the original debate time]"

Dais: *Rules whether or not the motion is in order. If the motion is in order, will move to voting on the motion, and needs a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to pass.*

Following debate time, the proponent will have time for closing remarks. Closing remarks are similar to opening remarks and can be prepared in advance. Their purpose is to persuade the Senators one last time to be in favor of the bill. However, the closing remarks are also a good place for the proponent to address negative comments other Senators may have brought up during debate and sum up their counterarguments, therefore closing remarks typically aren't completely scripted.

After closing remarks, the U.S. Senate will vote on the bill, always by placard. The dais is at liberty to call whether or not the bill passes or fails. However, if the committee looks divided and about half of the placards are up in a very close vote, Senators should call division before the dais gavels. Once division is called and recognized, all those in favor of the bill must stand to be individually counted off in order to ensure an accurate vote. The parliamentary procedure for voting and division are as follows.

General voting:

Dais: "We will now move to vote on this bill. All those in favor please signify by raising your placards now."

Senators: *Raise placards if in favor*

Dais: "And all opposed."

Senators: *Raise placards if opposed*

Dais: "Obvious majority, this bill passes." OR "Obvious minority, this bill fails."

Voting with division:

Dais: "We will now move to vote on this bill. All those in favor please signify by raising your placards now."

Senators: *Raise placards if in favor*

Dais: "And all opposed."

Senators: *Raise placards if opposed*

Senator: *Provided the number of Senators in favor and opposed are too close to each other to call by eye, "Division."*

Dais: "Division is called and recognized. All those in favor please stand." *Counts off each Senator individually.* "Obvious majority, this bill passes." OR "Obvious minority, this bill fails."

Clapping is in order if the bill passes. However, clapping is not in order if the bill fails. Senators must maintain proper decorum at all points during the conference and the dais reserves the right to call out decorum against delegates that are not in accordance. Additionally, the dais reserves the right to call out points of order against delegates that do not comply with proper parliamentary procedure, and therefore Senators must ensure they are familiar with how procedure works.