

How to shape the debate at Union Council



**PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND
POINTS OF ORDER: HOW THEY
WORK AND WHAT THEY DO**

Points of order

This is something you can use if you think that the meeting isn't following the SU's rules. There are four 'points' that you can raise:

- 1. To ask the Chair to check that we have enough people in the room.** This is known as a 'quorum count'. We need a minimum of 40 councillors.
- 2. To change a decision that the Chair has made.** Sometimes, the Chair of Union Council will make decisions about whether policies can be debated, who can speak at Council or something else completely. If you think their decision was wrong, you can ask Union Council to change it.
- 3. To say that you think what's being discussed is against the SU's rules.** The SU has a formal constitution called the 'Articles of Association' that outlines why we exist, what we're allowed to do and many other details of our work. You can find it at www.uea.su/union/governance/constitution. If you think something is happening in Council that breaks those rules, you can ask that the Trustee Board (the people who make sure the SU follows the law) make a formal decision on the issue.
- 4. To ask for clarification on something.** You can ask the Chair to explain something for you if you're unclear about it.

Procedural Motions

The other way you can change what's happening in a meeting is through a 'procedural motion'. This is when you ask to change a specific thing about the meeting, such as the order of the agenda or whether we discuss something.

To propose a procedural motion, simply raise your hand in the air at any time and call out "I have a procedural motion". You will get a chance to explain what you want to change and why, and anyone who disagrees will get the chance to speak too. Council will then vote to decide whether to accept or reject your idea. There are ten 'procedural' motions you can propose.

1. **To move straight to a vote on something that's being discussed.** If you think a debate is going on too long, or that enough has been said, you can ask the Chair to end the debate and have a vote right away.
2. **To split up the issue being discussed into different 'parts' and talk about a sentence, paragraph or issue separately.**
3. **To reduce the number of speeches or make them shorter.** This can be used if you think there should be fewer speeches on an issue, and/or they should be shorter.

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- 4. To hold a campus-wide referendum of all students on the issue that's being discussed.** If you propose this, and a majority of Union Councillors vote for it, the SU will have to hold a campus-wide vote on the issue that all students get to vote in.
- 5. To discuss the issue at a later meeting of Union Council.** If you think something should be discussed later in the year, rather than at that time, you can propose to "refer it to a later meeting".
- 6. That somebody else should look at the issue before Union Council.** If you think something needs to be studied/researched more before it is voted on by Union Council, you can ask that it be "referred" to a relevant SU committee, Caucus, Liberation Society or Assembly of your choice for examination.
- 7. That Union Council shouldn't discuss the issue at all.**
- 8. That the meeting hold a temporary break.**
- 9. That the meeting end at a specific time.**
- 10. That something be moved to the very top of the agenda.**