

TEAM PROBLEM SOLVING MASTER (PRELIM A, PRELIM B, SEMI)

2017 National Convention Morning Preliminary Round Team Problem Solving Practicum

Directions:

Assume that the following scenario transpired during the chapter meeting that was just held. As a team, provide a professional parliamentary opinion to the questions posed by composing your answers on the computer provided in word processor. Please be sure to provide appropriate citation of your parliamentary authority. You may use both the digital Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as well as your own books as reference material

Scenario:

At the last meeting, the chapter discussed presenting a parliamentary procedure demonstration to the school board. During debate, MEMBER A moved to lay the pending question on the table. The chair ruled the motion to Lay on the Table lost via voice vote. MEMBER A was the only member who noticeably voted in favor of the motion to table. MEMBER A called for a division and the chair proceeded to take a vote by show of hands. The chair announced that the motion to table was lost with a vote of 1 in favor and 12 opposed.

MEMBER A then moves to take a 10-minute recess. The motion to recess fails with a vote of 3 in favor and 8 opposed. MEMBER A then again tries to move to lay the main motion on the table. The chair rules MEMBER A out of order and asks them to sit down.

Later in the meeting MEMBER A spoke against the main motion and in his/her debate indicated there was not a good way to amend the main motion, but if it was rejected, he/she would offer an alternative main motion for the chapter to consider. Then two members stood up at the exact same time to be recognized by the chair. MEMBER B had previously spoken in favor of the main motion. MEMBER C had previously spoken against the main motion. The chair recognized MEMBER C.

Questions

- 1. Was the chair right to rule MEMBER A's motion out of order when he/she tried to make the motion Lay on the Table for the second time? Why or why not?**

Yes. Motions to Recess than have been made and lost do not justify a renewal of the motion to lay on the table.

See [RONR (11th Ed.), p. 214]

- 2. Did the chair need to conduct a revote when MEMBER A called for division of the assembly?**

No. The chair was not compelled and could have ruled it out of order. A motion is dilatory if it seeks to obstruct or thwart the will of the assembly as clearly indicated by the existing parliamentary situation.... Any main or other motion that is frivolous or absurd or that contains no rational proposition is dilatory and cannot be introduced. As further examples....by demanding a division on a vote even when there has been a full vote and the result is clear...

See [RONR (11th ed.), p. 342, ll.12-25]

- 3. During debate, was the chair using proper procedure in recognizing MEMBER C to speak after MEMBER A's debate?**

No. The chair should have alternated between opposite opinions.

See [RONR (11th Ed). p.31 ll. 8-17]

**National FFA (@NationalFFA)
Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event (#SuperBowlLDE)**

2017 National Convention Afternoon Preliminary Round Team Problem Solving Practicum

Directions:

Assume that the following scenario transpired during the chapter meeting that was just held. As a team, provide a professional parliamentary opinion to the questions posed by composing your answers on the computer provided in word processor. Please be sure to provide appropriate citation of your parliamentary authority. You may use both the digital Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as well as your own books as reference material

Scenario

At a meeting held at 10am on October 25th, 16 members were present and the chapter discussed taking a field trip to the State Land-Grant University Agricultural Research Facility. Early in the meeting, MEMBER A moved to suspend the rules and dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed with a vote of 10 in favor and 5 opposed.

During the meeting, MEMBER B moved to Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn and reconvene at 4pm that afternoon. *(The next regularly scheduled meeting is Oct. 26th.)* The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

MEMBERS A, B, and C exhausted their rights to debate by each discussing the main motion two times.

MEMBER C moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Later that day, the meeting reconvened at 4pm and the unfinished business was taken up. The chair called for the reading of the minutes from the earlier session and then proceeded to call for debate on the unfinished main motion. MEMBER A addressed the chair and the chair recognized him/her. MEMBER A debated the main motion. The chair called for further discussion and then proceeded to call for a vote on the main motion.

Questions

1. Was the chair correct in recognizing MEMBER A and allowing him/her to debate during the adjourned session?

No. The limits of debate are two speeches per member per day per motion.

See [RONR (11th ed), p. 43, ll. 8-10]

“A member who has spoken twice on a particular question on the same day has exhausted his right to debate that question for that day.”

2. If the maker of the motion Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn had made the motion that when the assembly adjourned they would remain adjourned until 4pm on October 28th, would that be in order? How should the chair have handled that?

No. The chair should have ruled it out of order as it is beyond the time of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

See [RONR (11th ed.), p.244, ll.3-6]

“In an organized society, the adjourned meeting scheduled during by adoption of this motion (privileged or main) must be set for a time before that of the next regular meeting.”

3. Was the chair correct in announcing that the motion to suspend the rules passed?

Yes. The suspension of rules requires a two-thirds vote of the votes cast. 10 of 15 constitutes two-thirds vote. The agenda including the reading of the minutes is an order of business and rules of order.

See [RONR (11th ed). p.265 ll. 13-18]

“The rules of order of a society, as contained in the manual established by the bylaws as the parliamentary authority, or as included in any special rules of order adopted by the organization, are rules of parliamentary procedure, the suspension of which requires a two-thirds vote.”

National FFA (@NationalFFA)
Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event (#SuperBowlLDE)

2017 National Convention Semi-Final Round Team Problem Solving Practicum

Directions:

Assume that the following scenario transpired during the chapter meeting that was just held. As a team, provide a professional parliamentary opinion to the questions posed by composing your answers on the computer provided in word processor. Please be sure to provide appropriate citation of your parliamentary authority. You may use both the digital Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as well as your own books as reference material.

Scenario

- Member A** Mr. President, I move that the chapter host a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast during National FFA week.
(Second)
- Chair** It is moved and seconded that the chapter host a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast during National FFA week. Are you ready for the question?
- Member B** (After being recognized) Mr. President, I move to amend the motion by striking "Breakfast" and inserting "Dinner," so that if adopted, the main motion would read, "I move that the chapter host a Teacher Appreciation Dinner during National FFA week."
(Second)
- Chair** It is moved and seconded to amend the motion by striking "Breakfast" and inserting "Dinner," so that if adopted, the main motion would read, "I move that the chapter host a Teacher Appreciation Dinner during National FFA week." Are you ready for the question?
- Member C** (After being recognized) Mr. President, I move the Previous Question.
(Second)
- Chair** The Previous Question has been moved and seconded.
- Member D** (Interrupting) Mr. President, I move the Previous Question on all pending questions.
(Second)
- Chair** Member D, your motion is not in order at this time as we currently have a motion for the Previous Question pending. The question is now on Member C's motion for the Previous Question. Those in favor of the Previous Question, raise one hand. (Chair counts 22 in favor.) Thank you. Those opposed to the Previous Question, raise one hand. (Chair counts 12 opposed.) Thank you. There are less than 2/3 in the affirmative and the motion for the Previous Question is lost. The question is now back on Member B's motion to amend the main motion. Are you ready for the question?
- Member E** (After being recognized) Mr. President, I move to suspend the rules and allow our cafeteria manager to speak to the chapter on the merits of both the main motion and the pending amendment so that we might understand the implications of our decision tonight.
(Second)

Chair It is moved and seconded to suspend the rules and allow our cafeteria manager to speak to the chapter on the merits of both the main motion and the amendment. This motion is not debatable. Those in favor of suspending the rules to allow our cafeteria manager to speak to the chapter on the merits of both the main motion and the amendment, raise one hand. (*Chair counts 21 in favor.*) Thank you. Those opposed to suspending the rules, raise one hand. (*Chair counts 13 opposed.*) Thank you. There being a majority in favor, the motion is adopted and the rules are suspended to allow our cafeteria manager to speak to the chapter on the merits of the main motion and the amendment.
The question is back on the amendment to the main motion. Are you ready for the question?

Member F Mr. President!

Chair Member F is recognized. (*While Member B was also rising to address the chair.*)

Member B Point of Order!

Chair The Member will state her point.

Member B As the maker of the motion to amend, I am entitled to be recognized before Member F because I have not yet been recognized to speak on this question.

Chair The chair saw Member F rise more timely and therefore rules the point of order not well taken.

Member B I appeal the decision of the chair. (*Second*)

Chair It is moved and seconded to appeal from the decision of the chair. The chair ruled as he did because he clearly saw Member F rise and address the chair more timely than Member B. Is there any debate on this question? (*Pause to allow members to rise. No members sought recognition.*) Are you ready for the question? The question is shall the decision of the chair be sustained? Those in favor of sustaining the decision of the chair, say aye. Those opposed to sustaining the decision of the chair, say no. The ayes have it and the decision of the chair is sustained. Member F, you may continue speaking.

Member F (*concludes her debate on the amendment*)

Chair Are you ready for the question? The question is on the amendment to amend the main motion by striking "Breakfast" and inserting "Dinner," so that if adopted, the main motion would read, "I move that the chapter host a Teacher Appreciation Dinner during National FFA week." Those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say no. The no's have it and the amendment is lost.

The question is now on the main motion, which is that the chapter host a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast during National FFA week. Are you ready for the question? Those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say no. The ayes have it and the motion is adopted. We will host a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast during National FFA Week.

Member C Mr. President, I move that we adjourn. (*Second*)

Chair It is moved and seconded to adjourn. Those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say no. The ayes have it and the motion is adopted. The chair declares the meeting adjourned.

Questions:

1. **Was the Chair correct to rule Member D's motion for the Previous Question out of order?**

No. The Chair should have allowed Member D's motion to go forward.

"When a motion for the Previous Question is immediately pending in such a case, it can be made again with more or fewer pending questions included [. . .] before the first motion for the Previous Question is voted on."

See RONR (11th Ed.), p. 200, ll. 4-11.

2. **Based on the vote of members, may the cafeteria manager properly address the assembly during this meeting?**

No. This motion sought to suspend a rule of parliamentary procedure and therefore required a 2/3 vote for adoption, not a majority, as the chair stated, and the vote threshold did not reach the required 2/3 vote.

"The rules of order of a society, as contained in the manual established by the bylaws as the parliamentary authority, or as included in any special rules of order adopted by the organization, are rules of parliamentary procedure, the suspension of which requires a two-thirds vote."

See RONR (11th Ed.), p. 265, ll. 13-18.

3. **Was the Chair correct to call for discussion on the question of whether to sustain the decision of the chair following Member B's appeal?**

No. An appeal which relates to the transgression of the order of speaking is not debatable.

"[The motion to appeal] is debatable, unless it (a) relates to indecorum or a transgression of the rules of speaking"

See RONR (11th Ed.), 257, ll. 33-34.