

### **Presiding Officer's Response on the 2 Question Rule**

As set forth in the Bylaws of the Senate Point 1 "Rules of Order" states that: "1.1. Except as otherwise provided herein, *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Senate, assemblies and convocations of the Faculty, and proceedings of committees and subcommittees established by the Senate or by Senate committees.

This makes clear that Roberts Rules of Order governs all aspects of senate meeting unless an exception has been specifically set forth in the bylaws. As there are no exceptions currently in the senate bylaws all provisions of Roberts Rules are in effect.

Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (11<sup>th</sup> edition) states that: "In the debate, each member has the right to speak twice on the same question on the same day, but cannot make a second speech on the same question so long as any member who has not spoken on that question desires the floor. A member who has spoken twice on a particular question on the same day has exhausted his right to debate that question for the day." (Section II The Conduct of Business in a Deliberative Assembly, Sub-Section Part 4 the Handling of a Motion, Sub Section Debate on the Question p. 43).

This statement makes clear that each senator is only allowed two questions/comments per topic per day. It is clearly one of the rules of order and as such should be applied to senate deliberations. Its purpose is to ensure orderly and efficient discussion that gives the minority the right to make its voice heard and the majority its right to continue with the business of the day.

Roberts Rules of Order states that: "The application of parliamentary law (rules of order) is the best method yet devised to enable assemblies of any size, with due regard for every member's opinion, to arrive at the general will on the maximum number of questions of varying complexity in a minimum amount of time and under all kinds of internal climate ranging from total harmony to hardened or impassioned division of opinion". (Principles Underlying Parliamentary Law p. XLVIII).

If a senator feels that there has not been enough debate on a topic or is unsatisfied with answers to the questions. They should introduce a motion or resolution to address the issue. Creating motions and resolution are more likely to address an issue or bring about change than long periods of questioning. The goal of the two question rule is not to limit debate but to focus debate and encourage the use of motions and resolutions to achieve outcomes.

In response to the issues discussed in Senate, Senators are encouraged introduce a resolution addressing the issue or to use any of the following motions:

- Move to charge a standing committee with evaluating, considering, investigating, etc. (Requires two thirds majority to carry).
- Move to create an ad hoc committee or working group to investigate or discuss the issue. (Requires two thirds majority to carry).
- Move to have a Town Hall Meeting to let all faculty and staff have a discussion about an issue. (Requires two thirds majority to carry).
- Move to call a special meeting of the senate. Must be approved by 40% of the senators. Subject to rule restricting senate meetings to no more than 2 per month.