Motion: An item presented to the General Assembly for a vote. Motions must be seconded by another voting representative or the motion is not upheld ("dies"). Motions can be posed as any definable course of action.

Which motions are “debatable”? Every main motion presented to the assembly is debatable, though in practice, we proceed directly to a vote for some special motions (i.e. motion to adjourn).

Most “auxiliary” motions (a.k.a. subsidiary motions) are also debatable. Auxiliary motions act upon the main motion. Two auxiliary motions that do not require debate are the motion to table a question and the motion to end debate.

When in doubt, follow the lead of the Presiding Officer.

What action is taken for a debatable motion? Debate opens and does not close until the question is tabled or the question is called.

When you end debate by calling the question, the assembly votes to conduct a final vote ("votes to vote"). While this may seem cumbersome, we do this to allow minority opinions ample opportunity to be heard.

This process proceeds smoothly when regularly practiced!

Types of Motions

Amend: You wish to modify the content of a piece of legislature or debatable motion.

debatable

Extend time: You wish to increase the time allotted to a specific agenda item.

debatable

Postpone: You wish to end the debate and the vote for the current item until another specified time (or indefinitely).

debatable

Table: You wish to put the current item “on the table” away from proceedings. During unspecified agenda time, the item can be called from “the table” by any representative and re-opened for debate.

not debatable

Reconsider: You wish to re-open a previously voted upon question for debate and vote.

debatable

Limit/Extend debate: You wish to place some mandate on debate such as permitting two speaker presentations before moving to call the question.

debatable

End debate: (a.k.a. “call the question”) You wish to end debate and move to a vote on the current motion.

not debatable

You can interrupt at any time

Point of Order: You question that proper procedure is being followed.

Point of Information: You want to gain or provide information.

Point of Privilege: You are making an urgent motion to address a potential violation of the rights of a representative or the assembly.