

General Assembly Rules--Overview

Our UUA Bylaws, Section 4.18 (Agenda Rules) and Section 4.19 (Rules of Procedure), state that, “rules relating to the agenda” and “rules of procedure for the conduct of the meeting” are to be adopted by the General Assembly. Rule G-4.19.1 states, “The Board of Trustees shall offer rules of procedure for adoption at the first session of each General Assembly”.

Section 14.3 of our Bylaws provides that the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order govern the Association unless they are inconsistent with our Bylaws and “...not inconsistent with any rules that may be adopted hereunder”. Accordingly, where GA Rules and Robert’s conflict, the GA Rules take priority.

GA-adopted rules set forth which items can and cannot be amended and how debates will proceed (length of time, use of microphones, votes required for passage, etc.). GA delegates fully control the conduct of GA business sessions, both when the Rules are initially adopted, as well as through their right to suspend the rules when they feel that doing so will make for more effective process. Once the rules for GA are adopted, they are binding on the debate moderators. Delegates are therefore encouraged to read the proposed GA rules in preparation for the vote to adopt them.

Consent Agenda Process Write-Up^[GB1]

A consent agenda is a process for grouping items of business that are thought to be routine, procedural, self-explanatory, and non-controversial. GA delegates, by collaborating with their Co-Moderators to construct a consent agenda, give themselves the ability to group items they deem routine, noncontroversial and appropriate for consideration as part of a single motion. The use of a consent agenda process is consistent with both our bylaws and *Robert’s Rules of Order*. The first mini-assembly from [redacted] will recommend approval of the consent agenda to place before the delegates for a final vote^[KPB2].

Proposed rules for General Assembly will include a procedure for creating and adopting a consent agenda. Should the rule for creating a consent agenda not be adopted, each item proposed will be voted on individually.

The process for creating the consent agenda motion and passing the motion is a two-phase process:

1. The Board of Trustees, at its April meeting, will create a proposed consent agenda. This proposed consent agenda will be published in the final GA agenda no later than May 22. We hope, however, to have this published the first week in May.
2. The proposed consent agenda will be considered at the first Mini-Assembly scheduled for (day/time/place). The Mini-Assembly will have the power to recommend amendment or

removal of items from the proposed Consent Agenda. However, items may not be added to the consent agenda. Items may only be amended in a mini-assembly. Amendments not made in the mini-assembly will not be considered during General Session. Following the Mini-Assembly, the Co-Moderators will determine which proposed amendments will be incorporated, and which items will be removed from the consent agenda as needing further discussion and debate based on the recommendations and discussion from the mini assembly.

3. The proposed consent agenda, as revised after consultation with the Mini-Assembly, will be presented to GA delegates at the Business Session on Saturday from [REDACTED], and moved by a member of the Board of Trustees. An item will be removed from the consent agenda if a delegate moves to remove the item and the Co-Moderators determine that at least 99 other delegates support the request.
4. To affirm the final grouping of items on the consent agenda motion, a majority affirmative vote is required.
5. If affirmed, the consent agenda motion is neither amendable nor debatable and an immediate vote will be taken.

To approve the consent agenda motion, a two-thirds majority affirmative vote is required.

If either the vote for the affirmation of the consent agenda motion or the consent agenda motion itself fails, the Assembly must vote on each item that was proposed for inclusion individually.

If the consent agenda motion fails, all items in the motion fail and cannot be reconsidered at this General Assembly.

Sources:

Barlow, J. (2016, February 6). "What is a consent agenda for board meeting?" [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/what-is-a-consent-agenda-for-a-board-meeting/>

National Council of Nonprofits. (n.d.). "The consent agenda." Retrieved from <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/sites/default/files/documents/a3e8abbbfab7a4d088d56ba3e563c6c061.pdf>

Robert III, H.M., Honemann, D.H., Balch, T.J., et al. (2011). *Robert's rules of order newly revised* (11th ed.), pp. 191–197. Da Capo: Philadelphia, PA.

Unitarian Universalist Association. (2019). "Rules of procedure." Retrieved from https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/2019_agenda.pdf