

Guidelines for Addressing Disruptive Behavior at Senate Meetings

University Senate meetings are open to all members of the campus community and serve as a forum for Senators to discuss and openly debate matters before the Senate. All discourse should be civil and respectful of all viewpoints even when opposing viewpoints are expressed. The Senate Leadership's priority is to ensure that the Senate is able to conduct its business without disruption while also ensuring that Senators' voices are heard, which aligns with the intent of Robert's Rules to balance the rights of the individual to have their voice heard with the rights of the group to get their work done.

In order to support these principles, the following guidelines provide consistent practices for addressing disruptive behavior at Senate meetings. When disruptive behavior occurs:

1. The Senate Chair will make rulings based on any advice received from the Parliamentarian and Senate Director.
2. If a motion is perceived as intending to cause a delay of the Senate's proceedings, the Senate Chair will rule the motion to be dilatory and out of order.
 - a. The Senate Chair has the right NOT to recognize a Senator who makes repeated dilatory motions.
3. Senators who are found to be disruptive during a specific agenda item will be warned that if they continue to do so, they will be muted and their video shut-off during the discussion of that agenda item but they will still be allowed to view the meeting and vote on that agenda item. They will then be given an opportunity to participate in an orderly fashion for subsequent agenda items.
4. Senators who continue to be disruptive during subsequent agenda items will be warned that they are interfering with the Senate's ability to conduct business and if they continue to do so, they may face removal from the Senate meeting.
5. Senators who are in egregious violation of the Senate Chair's previous warnings, may be removed from the Senate meeting following a motion by a Senator and a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Senate.
6. Any speaker who becomes hostile towards a presenter, members of the Senate leadership, a member of the Senate, or another participant at the Senate meeting, may be muted with their video shut off for the remainder of the Senate meeting.
7. Any non-Senators in attendance at the Senate meeting who choose to be disruptive may be muted with their video shut off or removed entirely from the meeting.