

The Book of Senate Procedure

and the Order for the Senate Debates
and Senate Ceremonies
and Alternative Forms

Together with the Constitution and Standing Rules

According to the use of

The American Whig-Clisophic Society

Certificate

I certify that this edition of the Book of Senate Procedure has been compared with the duly approved forms of debate, as outlined by the Standing Rules of this Senate, and that it conforms thereto.

Daniel H. Shaw

Emeritus President of the Senate

February, 2024



The American Whig-Clisophic Society, 2024

© 2024 by The Trustees of the American Whig-Clisophic Society.

Except where otherwise noted, all text in the Book of Senate Procedure is made available under an CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

All images in this work are © 2024 by The Trustees of the American Whig-Clisophic Society, all rights reserved.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Preface	3
Concerning the Use of This Book	4

Order for the Senate Debates

Concerning the Debates	7
Order for Senate Debates: Traditional	10
Order for Senate Debates: Contemporary	18
An Order for Senate Debates	24

Ceremonies and Events

The Swearing In of Officers: Traditional	29
The Swearing In of Officers: Contemporary	33
The Convocation	38

Historical Documents and Reference

Constitution of the American Whig-Clisophic Society (1938)	45
Constitution of the American Whig-Clisophic Society (r. 2023)	51
Constitution of the Senate	59
Standing Rules of the Senate (r. 2024)	75
Layout of the Senate Chamber	82
Additional Exhortations	83

Preface

regarding the merger of the American Whig and Cliosophic Societies

It has long been the privilege of the American Whig and Cliosophic Societies to pursue, on this campus, the pursuit of the several useful arts, first amongst them that of rhetoric, and in so doing to shape their members into citizens of this Republic. For many decades, each of the Societies served admirably in this formative role, and despite, or perhaps through, their long-standing antagonisms, each instructed its own members in the freedoms and responsibilities of self-government.

When, however, the vicissitudes of human events resulted in the Union of the American Whig and Cliosophic Societies into one new Society, the reorganization of their constituent organs necessarily resulted from that Union; and so it came to pass that the Senate became the primary organ for public debate within the new Society.

As the years passed from the merger of the Societies, however, it too became apparent that the traditions that the new Society inherited from its founders became so altered, broken, and neglected, and the practices of the Senate so inconstant from administration to administration, that one person seeking to be formed in the tradition of debate in the Senate might see four different forms in as many years, so that none were clear on what the form of Senate Debates ought to be. Moreover, the passage of time meant that many great and valuable traditions were lost from administration to administration.

These inconveniences therefore considered, here is set forth such an order, whereby the same shall be addressed. In this Book are set forth the basic rule and order of the Senate, whereby its traditions may persist though different administrations may come and go.

Now, with this work having been brought to a conclusion, it is hoped the whole will be received and examined by every member of the Senate, and that it be apparent to them that it is true to the tradition and historic practice of this body.

Concerning the Use of This Book

Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate, the principal meeting of the Whig and Cliosophic Societies on a regular basis throughout the academic year, and Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Business, as set forth in this Book, are the regular meetings appointed for public conduct in the Senate.

In addition to these services and the other forms contained in this Book, other forms set forth by authority within this Society, according to the rubrics contained in this Book, may be used. Also, subject to the direction of the President of the Senate, special forms taken from this Book, or based in the historic tradition of parliamentary debate, may be used when the needs of the Senate so require.

For special occasions, appointed by the Society or other relevant authority, for which no form has been provided in this Book, the President of the Senate may set forth such forms as are fitting to the occasion.

In all events, the entire Senate participates in such a way that the members of each office within the Senate fulfill the functions proper to their respective roles, as set forth in the rubrical directions for each session.

The presiding officer in all proceedings of the Senate is the President of the Senate. Deputies and Party Leaders by virtue of their roles do not exercise a presiding function. Under exceptional circumstances, when the President of the Senate is unavailable, the President of the Senate may, at discretion, authorize a Deputy to preside at other times also, subject to the limitations described in the directions for each service.

In any of the forms and ceremonies of the Senate, and in other forms contained in this Book celebrated in the context of a contemporary language event, the contemporary idiom may be conformed to traditional language.

Order for the Senate Debates

Concerning the Debates

Senate Debates are the Society's primary form of public debate.

Senate Debates shall follow the following order and timing, as prescribed in the Standing Rules of the Senate. Note that in debates between the American Whig Society and the Clisophic Society, the officers involved may be referred to as the American Whig and Clisophic Leader or Whip, respectively.

The Order of Debate According to the Standing Rules		
Event	Speaker Recognized	Time Allotted (min)
Introduction/Initiation	Presiding Officer (PO)	5:00
Preliminary Vote	Presiding Officer	2:00
Government I	Prime Minister	8:00
Opposition I	Leader of the Opposition	7:00
Caucus Meeting	None	10:00 ext.
Floor Debate	Upon Recognition by PO	15:00, 2:00 per, ext.
Opposition II	Opposition Whip	7:00
Government II	Government Whip	6:00
Final Vote	Presiding Officer	5:00
Conclusion	Presiding Officer	2:00

Speakers may speak only both when authorized by the Standing Rules and when recognized by the Presiding Officer. Speakers may yield time only to the Presiding Officer.

Unless the President of the Senate states otherwise or delegates their authority, the Presiding Officer is always the President of the Senate. In the Order laid out in this

Book, if an Officer of the Senate other than the President of the Senate is presiding, the wording on pages 13 and 19 is changed to read “by the powers vested in me...”. In addition, wherever the title of President occurs, it is substituted for the appropriate title.

The President is ultimately responsible for enforcing the rules regarding Unparliamentary Language, the No Media Policy, the Chatham House Rule, and for adherence in their role to institutional neutrality, as described in the Senate Constitution.

It is general practice, though not mandatory, that the Members do not address each other directly, but to the Presiding Officer, who is referred to as the ‘President.’ In addition, it is customary for the Members to address other Members on their side of a debate as “my honorable friend,” and those on the other side as “the honorable Lady/Gentleman/Member (from the Opposition),” with additional descriptors as required.

It is customary for members to demonstrate their approbation of statements by tapping a nearby surface using their knuckles, and to demonstrate their disapprobation by hissing. These behaviors are to be permitted and encouraged until and unless they become so disruptive as to prevent the recognised speakers from being heard.

Any Motion to extend the Caucus or Floor Speech period may not extend the period by more than half. Such motions are to be considered dilatory.

Mr. and Madam are the gendered generic titles. The Hon. is a gender-neutral alternative.

If there are Amendments to the Standing Rules to be considered, they are considered immediately after the President declares the Senate to be in session.

In debates between the American Whig and Clisophic Societies, American Whig members sit on the left, and the Clisophic members sit on the right (both facing towards the front.)

Additional guidance can be found in the Constitution and the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Order for Senate Debates: Traditional

The Initiation

The President shall hit the gavel thrice, saying

Audīte, audīte, audīte!

The President shall then say

The honorable, the Members of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisosophic Society and their duly recognized guests are admonished to draw near and give their attention, for the Senate is now in session.

Amendments to the Standing Rules may be entertained at this stage, upon the introduction of the appropriate motion.

The President or a designated deputy may deliver a brief overview of the Senate's rules, procedures, and expectations, saying the following or any part of it, or some other suitable summary of the rules

An Exhortation

Friends, we are gathered here today as Members of this Senate: and so are bound by oath and honor to carry out this exercise with civility, humility, and humor. For in these proceedings we examine together the great ideas of our time, so that we may be strengthened in our command of the spoken word, enriched in our knowledge and understanding of this world, and made friends with each other even across difference.

But if we are to share rightly in these exercises, and receive most fully the benefits thereof, we must remember the dignity of these proceedings and of each other. I beseech you, therefore, to recall the oath by which we are made one, and to uphold the promises made therein:

Firstly, that you would not impugn the honor of any other Member of this Senate;

Secondly, that you would neither make attribution of, nor in any way record, the words of any Member spoken here; and

Thirdly, that you would let each Member of the Senate have their say according to their right and recognition.

Recall that it has long been the practice of this Senate to recognise the honor of each other and of this place by adopting the proper forms of reference; that all speeches ought to be directed to the President, and not to each other, that those on the same side of this Senate be referred to as “my honorable friend,” and those on the other as “the honorable Member.”

Recall also that it has long been the custom of this Senate to express approbation by tapping [here may the President give a demonstration] and disapprobation by hissing [likewise]. By sharing in these customs we are able to more fully express our commitment to, as we have pledged, to speak always in good faith and act always with respect.

Additional Exhortations for special occasions or as needed can be found on page 84.

Now, as President of the Senate of the American Whig - Clisophic Society, it is my honor to say...

The President shall then welcome the Members, saying

It pleases me to welcome the Members from both Halls, and those of neither, in the spirit of good faith, open inquiry, and thorough examination.

The following motion has been laid before the Senate to be carefully examined in that spirit:

The Motion shall be read aloud. The President shall give a background on the topic and why it is being discussed. The President shall then introduce the speakers.

The First Ballot

The President shall say

We shall now conduct the first secret ballot on the motion. I call upon all Members of the Senate to close their eyes at this time.

Having confirmed that the Members have closed their eyes, the President shall then say

I bid those of you in favor of this motion to raise your hands at this time.

The President and the Clerk shall count the votes in favor, and then the President shall say

Thank you. The vote in favor having been recorded, the Members in favor may lower their hands.

I bid those of you in opposition to this motion to raise your hands at this time.

The President and the Clerk shall count the votes in opposition, and then the President shall say

Thank you. The vote in opposition having been recorded, the Members in opposition may lower their hands. All Members may open their eyes at this time. [At this time, the President and the Clerk shall compare tabulations.]

The President and the Clerk shall confirm that they have the same count for both votes. If there is a discrepancy, the President shall call for a revote. Otherwise, the President shall say

[The President and the Clerk agree in their tallies that] the total number of votes cast is _____. As this is the preliminary vote, the number of votes for the Ayes and Noes will not be revealed at this time.

The Government's Constructive Speech

The President or Officiant shall then open the debate, saying

Now, by the powers vested in me as (by) the President of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisosophic Society, I hereby declare that debate on the following motion is opened:

The President shall restate the motion, and then introduce the speaker as appropriate, saying

Mr./Madam/Hon. Prime Minister, the floor is yours for a period of eight minutes.

The Prime Minister speaks. For all speeches, time may only be yielded to the Chair. Following the conclusion of the Prime Minister's speech, the President shall say

The Opposition's Constructive Speech

Thank you, Mr./Madam/Hon. Prime Minister. The honorable Leader of the Opposition, N., is now recognized for a period of seven minutes.

The Leader of the Opposition shall speak. Following the conclusion of their speech, the President shall say

The Caucus

Thank you, Mr./Madam/Hon. Leader. Both speakers having exhausted their time, we shall now enter the general caucus. I release the Government and Opposition frontbench and the Members to move about the chamber and speak freely on the motion until recalled, abiding always by the Rules of this House and with the honor of its members in mind.

After the Caucus Period has elapsed, the President shall sound the gavel thrice, saying

The Senate will come to order. The time allotted for the caucus period has elapsed, and unless there is a motion to extend we will be returning to regular order.

Does any Member wish to make such a motion at this time?

At which time a Motion may be made and, if seconded, carried out by majority vote. Otherwise, the President shall say

The Floor Speeches

Hearing no additional motions, the Chair will now recognize speeches from any Member of the Senate, not to exceed two minutes in length, for a period of fifteen minutes.

At which time the President may give a brief explanation of the Floor Speeches. After which the President shall recognise Members in the proper form, until the time allotted is exhausted. The President shall then say

The Senate will come to order. The time allotted for the floor speeches has elapsed, and unless there is a motion to extend we will be returning to speeches from the front bench.

Does any Member wish to make such a motion at this time?

If no motion is made, the President shall say

Hearing none, we shall now entertain speeches from the honorable Government and Opposition Whips. I bid the Whips recall that during this period, no new arguments may be introduced.

The Opposition Whip's Summation

The honorable Opposition Whip, [N.], is recognized to speak for a period of seven minutes.

The Government Whip's Summation

After the conclusion of the Opposition Whip's speech, the President shall then say

Thank you. The honorable Government Whip, [N.], is recognized to speak for a period of six minutes.

After which the President shall begin the final voting procedure, saying

The Second Ballot (Traditional)

Alternative contemporary forms to the Second Ballot may be found beginning on page 22.

The Voice Vote

If a ceremonial voice vote is desired, the President may begin by saying

The Question is that (motion). As many as there are of the opinion, say Aye.

Following the shouts, the President shall say

Of the contrary, No.

The Division of the House

The President shall then say

Seeing as this House is not completely agreed on this question, I find it proper to call a Division of the House.

The President shall then ring the voting bell thrice, saying

Division! Clear the Chamber!

After which the doors to the Senate Chamber shall be closed, and non-Members shall be asked to leave the room. The President and their aides may then distribute paper

ballots to all Members, who shall make use of the Ballot Box or hand back their preferred choice to the President or an aide; the President may also have the Members walk past their preferred bench and be counted in that manner.

After all have voted, or if five minutes or some other reasonable amount of time has lapsed, the doors shall be opened and the President shall ring the Voting Bell twice to signify the end of the Voting Period, saying

The Voting Period having ended, the doors to this Chamber are now opened. At this time, the President and the Clerk will ensure that the votes have been properly counted.

At which time the President and Clerk shall confirm that their tallies march, after which the President shall say

[The President and the Clerk agree in their tallies that] the total number of votes cast is _____, of which the Ayes received ____, and the Noes received _____. Therefore:

The Promulgation (Traditional)

Alternative contemporary forms of the Promulgation may be found beginning on page 23.

Should the Motion pass, the President shall say

Whereas I find that the Halls of the American Whig-Clisophic Society in Senate assembled have, in good faith and with sound mind, deliberated thoroughly on the matter at hand, AND

Whereas I find that this motion enjoys the freely given and thoughtfully considered assent of this esteemed body, and that all proper procedures were followed in its consideration:

I, N., by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, declare that the following motion is adopted in this (no.) _____ Session of the (no.) _____ Senate:

The Motion is said here.

The motion having been adopted, its adoption shall be made known to the Society.

The gavel is struck once.

Should the Motion fail, the President shall say

Whereas I find that the Halls of the American Whig-Clisophic Society in Senate assembled have, in good faith and with sound mind, deliberated thoroughly on the matter at hand, AND

Whereas I find that this motion has failed to earn the freely given and thoughtfully considered assent of this esteemed body, though all proper procedures were followed in its consideration:

I, N., by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, declare that the following motion is not adopted in this (no.) _____ Session of the (no.) _____ Senate:

The Motion is said here.

The motion is therefore dismissed, and this dismissal shall be made known to the Society.

The gavel is struck once. The President shall then close the debate, saying

Declaration of Victor and Closing of Debate

Furthermore, given that the Ayes received (no.) _____ votes and the Noes received (no.) _____ votes in the first ballot, it is my honor to declare the _____, having swung more voters, are the winners of the debate. Congratulations, applause is in order.

Unless there are any disputes as to this result, the Senate stands adjourned [sine die OR until the next meeting is scheduled.]

If there be no disputes, the gavel is struck three times.

Order for Senate Debates: Contemporary

The Initiation

The gavel is struck three times, and the President stands, saying

The Members of the Senate are asked to give their attention, for the Senate is now in session.

The President or a designated deputy may deliver a brief overview of the Senate's rules, procedures, and expectations. If desired, they may make use of the Exhortation on page 10 and Additional Exhortations on page 84. Otherwise, the President shall proceed by saying

Hello and welcome! My name is _____, and I serve as the President of the Senate.

The motion laid before the Senate tonight is as follows:

The Motion shall be read aloud.

The President may give a background on the topic and why it is being discussed. The President shall then introduce the speakers.

The First Ballot

Following the introduction of the speakers, the President shall say

We will now conduct the first secret ballot on the motion. All Members of the Senate are asked to close their eyes at this time.

Having confirmed that the Members have closed their eyes, the President shall then say

All Members having closed their eyes, those in favor of the motion are now asked to raise their hands.

The President and the Clerk shall count the votes in favor, and then the President shall say

Thank you. The vote in favor having been recorded, the Members in favor may lower their hands at this time.

Those in opposition to the motion are now asked to raise their hands.

The President and the Clerk shall count the votes in opposition, and then the President shall say

Thank you. The vote in opposition having been recorded, the Members in opposition may lower their hands, and all Members may open their eyes at this time. [At this time, the President and the Clerk will ensure that the votes have been correctly counted.]

The President and the Clerk shall confirm that they have the same count for both votes. If there is a discrepancy, the President shall call for a revote. Otherwise, the President shall say

[The President and the Clerk agree in their tallies that] the total number of votes cast is _____. As this is the preliminary vote, the number of votes for Ayes and Noes will not be revealed at this time.

The Government's Constructive Speech

The President or Officiant shall then open the debate, saying

Now, by the powers vested in me as (by) the President of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society, I hereby declare that debate on the following motion is opened:

The President shall restate the motion, and then introduce the speaker as appropriate, saying

Mr./Madam/Hon. Prime Minister, the floor is yours for a period of eight minutes.

The Prime Minister speaks. For all speeches, time may only be yielded to the Chair. Following the conclusion of the Prime Minister's speech, the President shall say

The Opposition's Constructive Speech

Thank you, Mr./Madam/Hon. Prime Minister. The honorable Leader of the Opposition, N., is now recognized for a period of seven minutes.

The Leader of the Opposition shall speak. Following the conclusion of their speech, the President may enter the Caucus period by saying

The Caucus

Thank you, Mr./Madam/Hon. Leader. Both speakers having exhausted their time, we will now be moving into the general caucus. At this time, the Government and Opposition frontbench is permitted to interact with the Senate members generally. The Members are released to move about the chamber, and speak freely on the motion with the exception of unparliamentary or otherwise disallowed language.

After the Caucus Period has elapsed, the President shall sound the gavel thrice, saying

The Senate will come to order. The time allotted for the caucus period has elapsed, and unless there is a motion to extend we will be returning to regular order.

Is there a motion to extend the caucus period, and for how long?

At which time a Motion may be made and, if seconded, carried out by majority vote. Otherwise, the President shall say

The Floor Speeches

Hearing no additional motions, the Chair will now recognize speeches from any Member of the Senate, not to exceed two minutes in length, for a period of fifteen minutes.

At which time the President may give a brief explanation of the Floor Speeches. After which the President shall recognise Members in the proper form, until the time allotted is exhausted. Unless a Motion to extend is raised, the President shall say

The period allotted for floor speeches having elapsed, unless there is a motion to extend, we will now be entertaining speeches from the honorable Government and Opposition Whips, during which no new arguments may be introduced.

The Opposition Whip's Summation

If no valid motions are made and carried, the President shall then say

Hearing no additional motions, we will be returning to speeches from the front bench. The honorable Opposition Whip, [N.], is recognized to speak for a period of seven minutes.

The Government Whip's Summation

After the conclusion of the Opposition Whip's speech, the President shall then say

Thank you. The honorable Government Whip, [N.], is recognized to speak for a period of six minutes.

After which the President shall begin the final voting procedure, saying

The Second Ballot

The President shall say

We will now consider the motion in the final ballot. All Members of the Senate are asked to close their eyes at this time.

Having confirmed that the Members have closed their eyes, the President shall then say

All Members having closed their eyes, those in favor of the motion are now asked to raise their hands.

The President and the Clerk shall count the votes in favor, and then the President shall say

Thank you. The vote in favor having been recorded, the Members in favor may lower their hands at this time.

Those in opposition to the motion are now asked to raise their hands.

The President and the Clerk shall count the votes in opposition, and then the President shall say

Thank you. The vote in opposition having been recorded, the Members in opposition may lower their hands, and all Members may open their eyes at this time. [At this time, the President and the Clerk will ensure that the votes have been correctly counted.]

The President and the Clerk shall confirm that they have the same count for both votes. If there is a discrepancy, the President shall call for a revote. Otherwise, the President shall say

[The President and the Clerk agree in their tallies that] the total number of votes cast is _____, of which the Ayes received ____, and the Noes received _____. Therefore:

Promulgation

The traditional form of the Promulgation on page 16 may be used here as well

Should the Motion pass, the President shall say

It is my solemn duty to declare that this House (believes that/regrets that/etc...) for this (no.) _____ Session of the (no.) _____ Senate.

The motion is therefore adopted.

The gavel is struck.

Should the Motion fail, the President shall say

It is my solemn duty to declare that this House does not (believe that...) for this (no.) _____ Session of the (no.) _____ Senate.

The motion is therefore dismissed.

The gavel is struck.

Declaration of Victor and Closing of Debate

Furthermore, given that the Ayes received (no.) _____ votes and the Noes received (no.) _____ votes in the first ballot, it is my honor to declare the _____, having swung more voters, are the winners of the debate. Congratulations, applause is in order.

Unless there are any disputes as to this result, the Senate stands adjourned [sine die OR until the next meeting is scheduled.]

If there are no disputes, the gavel is struck three times.

A Note on the Use of *An Order for Senate Debates*

The use of this Form requires special preparation by the Officers and Members of the Senate.

This Form is intended to allow for rubrical flexibility as the requirements of the Senate may demand. As such, this Form is not intended for use as the typical or regular order for Senate Debates. Rather, its use should take place only in the context of:

- (1) Trial changes to the Order for Senate Debates,
- (2) Usage of the Senate Debate format outside of regular Senate Debates and outside of the special occasions prescribed in this Book, or
- (3) When authorized by the President of the Senate for

Usage of this Form to regularly conduct the Senate Debates without an amendment to the Standing Rules is to be considered a violation of the Standing Rules.

An Order for Senate Debates

Introduction/Initiation

The Presiding Officer shall initiate the debate, introducing the rules and customs of the Senate, as adapted to the event taking place.

Preliminary Vote

The Presiding Officer shall take a preliminary poll of the Members on the motion. This vote must be secret.

Government I

The Prime Minister (alternatively, the Proposition Leader) shall be recognized for their speech at the discretion of the President of the Senate.

Opposition I

The Leader of the Opposition shall be recognized for their speech at the discretion of the President of the Senate.

Caucus Meeting and Floor Debate

The President may call for a caucus meeting and a floor debate at their discretion. Members shall speak as recognized by the President.

Opposition II

The Opposition Whip (alternatively, the Opposition Deputy) shall be recognized for their speech at the discretion of the President of the Senate. This may take place as the fourth speech at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Government II

The Government Whip (alternatively, the Proposition Whip or Deputy) shall be recognized for their speech at the discretion of the President of the Senate. This may take place as the third speech at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Final Vote

The Presiding Officer shall take the final poll, which shall also be secret.

Conclusion

The Presiding Officer shall declare the winner of the debate and dismiss the Senate.

Ceremonies and Events

The Swearing In of Officers: Traditional

The Deputy President(s) of the Senate proceed into the Senate Chamber, followed by the President of the Senate, who stands behind the Speaker's Chair. Members of the Governing Council, if present, follow and take seats in the crossbench.

An Invocation

President of the Society

You are invited to join me in a spirit of humility for the invocation.

A moment of silence is kept.

Bless this Senate and its Officers, that knowledge may be increased among them, and all good learning flourish and abound; bless all who speak and all who listen, and grant that in humility of heart they may hear each other, and come to know thou which art the fount of all wisdom. Guide those who sit as Officers, and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may justly guide this Senate in pursuit of the truth.

Or this

Benedictum sit sanctum nomen Domini pro fundatricibus nostris caeterisque Benefactoribus.

May it be so.

Swearing In

Officer Oath I — Alternative Forms on Page 31.

The President of the Senate stands, and turns to face the President.

Do you, N., solemnly swear that you have read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society?

That you will uphold and maintain that Constitution? That you will execute the duties of your office to the utmost of your capacity? That you will champion the right to free and open discourse whilst comporting yourself with respect toward your fellow members? And that you do freely take this oath, devoid of any mental reservation or intent to evade?

I do [so help me God.]

Then, by the power vested in me as President of the American Whig-Clisophic Society, and in accordance with the Senate Constitution, I declare you sworn in as a President of the Senate, with all of the rights and obligations that pertain thereto.

The President of the Senate takes their seat in the Speaker's Chair.

The Deputy President or Presidents of the Senate, as well as any other officers, are sworn in in like manner.

If the Officers are being sworn in in the context of a debate, then the debate continues as described in the Order for Debate on page 10 (traditional) or 18 (contemporary).

Alternative Forms of the Officer's Oath - Traditional

Oath II

Do you, *N.*, solemnly swear that you have read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society? That you will uphold and maintain that Constitution?

I, *N.*, do solemnly swear that I have read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society, and that I will uphold and maintain that Constitution.

Do you swear that you will perform the duties of your office to the best of thy ability, upholding the rights of all members in so doing?

I will perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability, and I will defend the right to free and open debate while acting with respect toward the members.

Do you take this oath freely?

**I take this oath freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.
[So help me God.]**

Oath III

Please say as I have said.

The officer being sworn in repeats the lines after the President has stated them.

I, *N.*, do solemnly swear
That I have read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested
the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society
and that I will respect and uphold that Constitution.
I will perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability,

and I will defend the right to free and open debate
while acting with respect toward the members.

I take this oath freely,

without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

The officer being sworn in may add:

So help me God.

The Swearing In of Officers: Contemporary

The Deputy President(s) of the Senate proceed into the Senate Chamber, followed by the President of the Senate, who stands behind the Speaker's Chair. Members of the Governing Council, if present, follow and take seats in the crossbench.

The President of the Society may open with an Invocation.

An Invocation

President of the Society

You are invited to join me in a spirit of humility for the invocation [to which the response is "May it be so."]

A moment of silence is kept.

Bless this Senate and its Officers, that knowledge may be increased among them, and all good learning flourish; bless all who speak and all who listen, and grant that in humility of heart they may both hear each other and, by listening, come to know that which is the source of all wisdom. Guide the Officers of this Senate, and give them a spirit of wisdom and understanding, so that they may guide this Senate in pursuit of the truth.

May it be so.

Swearing In

Officer Oath A

Alternative forms on Page 36

The President of the Senate stands, and turns to face the President.

Do you, *N.* solemnly swear [or *affirm*] that you have read and understood the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society? Will you respect and uphold that Constitution, and perform the duties of your office to the best of your ability? Will you defend the right to free and open debate while acting with respect toward the members? Do you take this oath [or *affirmation*] freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion?”

I do [so help me God.]

Or this

Do you, *N.*, solemnly swear [or *affirm*] that you have read and understood the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society?

I do.

Will you respect and uphold that Constitution, and perform the duties of your office to the best of my ability?

I will.

Will you defend the right to free and open debate while acting with respect toward the members?

I will.

Do you take this oath [or *affirmation*] freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion?

[With God’s help], I do.

Then, by the power vested in me as President of the American Whig-Clisophic Society, and in accordance with the Senate Constitution, I declare you [sworn in as a] President of the Senate, with all of the rights and obligations that pertain thereto.

The President of the Senate takes their seat in the Speaker's Chair.

The Deputy President or Presidents of the Senate, as well as any other officers, are sworn in in a similar manner.

If the Officers are being sworn in in the context of a debate, then the debate continues as described in the Order for Debate on page 8 (traditional) or 16 (contemporary).

Alternative Forms of the Officer's Oath - Contemporary

Oath B

Do you, *N.*, solemnly swear [*or affirm*] that you have read and understood the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society? That you will respect and uphold that Constitution?

I, *N.*, do solemnly swear [*or affirm*] that I have read and understood the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society, and that I will respect and uphold that Constitution.

Do you swear that you will perform the duties of your office to the best of your ability, upholding the rights of all members in doing so?

I will perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability, and I will defend the right to free and open debate while acting with respect toward the members.

Do you take this oath [*or affirmation*] freely?

**I take this oath freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.
[So help me God.]**

Oath C

Please repeat after me.

The officer being sworn in repeats each line after the President has stated it.

I, *N.*, do solemnly swear [*or affirm*]
That I have read and understood
the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society
and that I will respect and uphold that Constitution.

I will perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability,
and I will defend the right to free and open debate
while acting with respect toward the members.

I take this oath [*or affirmation*] freely,
without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

The officer being sworn in may add:

[So help me God.]

The Convocation

The Convocation may begin with

The Procession of the Halls

A suitable entry fanfare may be played.

The American Whig and Clisophic Halls assemble outside of the Senate Chamber, with the American Whig members assembled on the left and the Clisophic members assembled on the right.

The American Whig Leader and Clisophic Leader, followed by their Whips, process to the front of the room via the center aisle, followed by their Members. The Members take their seats on their respective Party benches. Non-affiliated members follow and take seats on the crossbench.

The Deputy Presidents of the Senate proceed into the Senate Chamber, followed by the President of the Senate, who takes their seat at the Speaker's Chair. Members of the Governing Council, if present, follow and take seats in the crossbench.

If present, any associates of the President of the University enter, followed by the President. After proceeding past the Centre Table on the left, they are seated in the gallery behind the Centre Table.

The Invocation

The following may be said by the President of the Senate:

A Benediction

Benedictum sit sanctum nomen Domini pro fundatricibus nostris caeterisque Benefactoribus.

The President of the Senate stands and administers the Invocation and the Senate Oath.

Invocation

The Members make their responses in **bold**.

V. You are invited to join me in a spirit of humility for the Invocation.

May the members of this Senate foster amongst themselves a spirit of intellectual curiosity and critical inquiry, challenge and examine ideas regardless of their orthodoxy, and speak always with respect and in good faith, in pursuit of the truth.

R. **May it be so.**

The Oath

V. Please rise and join me in affirming the Senate Oath. Do you promise to uphold the Constitution and the Standing Rules of the Senate?

R. **I promise to respect and uphold the Constitution and the Standing Rules of the Senate.**

V. Do you promise to uphold the rights of members to express themselves freely?

R. **I promise to uphold the rights of members to express themselves freely, to speak and act in good faith, and to respect the other members of the Senate.**

V. Do you make this promise freely?

R. **I make this promise freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion** (*so help me God.*)

V. Then, by the power vested in me as President of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society, I declare you all members of the Senate, with all of the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Please be seated.

The Greeting

The President of the Senate shall then say

The President of the Society is recognised for the Greeting of the Members.

The President of the Society shall give a brief greeting welcoming the new Members to the Society.

If the President of the University is present, the following rite is used for the Convocation, otherwise the ceremony in The Opening of the Debate B, on page 41, is used.

The Speech from the Gallery A

SENATE PRESIDENT: The President of the University is recognised for the Speech from the Gallery.

The President of the University shall deliver an address to the Members of the Society.

The Opening of the Debate A

The President of the Senate shall then say

Now, it is my honor to invite the President of the University to open the Senate of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society for this term.

The President of the University shall strike the gavel thrice, and then say

Audīte, audīte, audīte!¹ The honorable, the Members of the Senate of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society and their duly recognized guests are admonished to draw near and give their attention, for the Senate is now in session.

The President of the Senate shall then say

Thank you, Mr./Madam/Hon.² President.

It pleases me to welcome the Members from both Halls, and those of neither, in the spirit of good faith, open inquiry, and thorough examination.

The following motion has been laid before the Senate to be carefully examined in that spirit:

¹ Traditional. ‘audīte’. Latin, second-person plural present active imperative of ‘audiō,’ trad. ‘(you) listen.’

² Mr. and Mme. are the traditional gendered titles. For those who do not use gendered titles, ‘Hon.’ is the preferred alternative.

The order shall then continue as described in the Order for Senate Debate: Traditional or the Order for Senate Debate: Contemporary

The Opening of the Debate B

The President of the Senate shall then say

Now, it is my honor to invite the President of the Society to open the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society for this term.

The President of the Society shall strike the gavel thrice, and then say

Audīte, audīte, audīte!³ The honorable, the Members of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society and their duly recognized guests are admonished to draw near and give their attention, for the Senate is now in session.

The President of the Senate shall then say

Thank you, Mr./Madam/Hon.⁴ President.

It pleases me to welcome the Members from both Halls, and those of neither, in the spirit of good faith, open inquiry, and thorough examination.

The following motion has been laid before the Senate to be carefully examined in that spirit:

The order shall then continue as described in the Order for Senate Debate: Traditional or the Order for Senate Debate: Contemporary.

³ Traditional. ‘audīte’. Latin, second-person plural present active imperative of ‘audiō,’ trad. ‘(you) listen.’

⁴ Mr. and Mme. are the traditional gendered titles. For those who do not use gendered titles, ‘Hon.’ is the preferred alternative.

Historical Documents and References



2024 by The Trustees of the American Whig-Closophic Society

© 2024 by The Trustees of the American Whig-Closophic Society.
The “Historical Documents and References” section in the Book of Senate Procedure is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

Constitution of the American Whig-Clisophic Society (1938, rev. 2011)

(Adopted 1938; Amended 1966, 1987, 2011)

I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the American Whig-Clisophic Society.

II. Organizational Purpose

The purpose of the Society shall be to educate its members in the practices of speaking, writing, politics and administration, and to provide a forum for discussion and debate in the Princeton University community.

III. Composition

- A. The Assembly: The Assembly shall be a function of the American Whig-Clisophic Society Senate and shall be composed of all undergraduate members in good standing.
- B. The Governing Council: The Governing Council shall be composed of the eight executive officers of the Society and of the executive officer of every subsidiary and executive department of the Society which has been given a charter by the Governing Council of the Society. The eight executive officers of the Society are the President, Vice President, President of the Senate, Secretary, Director of Program, Speaker of the Whig Party, Chair of the Clisophic Party, and Treasurer; the subsidiary executive officers are the President of the International Relations Council, the President of the Princeton Debate Panel, the President of Princeton Mock Trial, and the Executive Director(s) of Princeton Model Congress.
- C. No person can hold the office of President/Executive Director of a subsidiary and President of the Society at any one time. In the event that a President/Executive Director of a subsidiary holds a voting position in the Society, the subsidiary should appoint a representative to the Governing Council for the purposes of that vote. Each executive officer of the Governing Council and each subsidiary shall have one vote, except the President, who shall only vote in the event of a tie.

1. Non-voting Governing Council Membership

- a. The Historian, the Chief of Staff, the Director of Alumni Affairs (who shall each semester produce a report to alumni), and the Director of Public Relations shall be non-voting members of the Governing Council if and when appointed by the President.
 - b. Any President appointee may be given temporary status as a non-voting members of the Governing Council.
 - c. Any Society member in good standing may attend regular meetings of the Governing Council. The Governing Council may close proceedings to non-members of the Governing Council if its membership agrees by majority vote.
2. The Governing Council shall be the agent of the Assembly between meetings of the Assembly and shall have the authority prerequisite for all matters not acted upon by the Assembly, excepting amendments to the Constitution and other particular cases noted herein.
 3. The Governing Council shall meet at the discretion of the President or upon the petition of at least one-third of the voting members of the Governing Council.

D. Officers

There shall be eight executive officers of the Society and they shall be a President, a Vice President, a President of the Senate, a Secretary, a Director of Program, a Speaker of the Whig Party, a Chair of the Clisophic Party, and a Treasurer. The first seven are to be elected and the eighth appointed in accordance with Section III.C.2.

1. Elective: The President, Vice President, President of the Senate, Secretary, Speaker of the Whig Party, Chair of the Clisophic Party, and Director of Program of the Society shall be elected annually. Their respective terms shall each be one year to begin on February 1.
 - a. The President shall be the head of the executive branch of the Society and shall preside at all meetings of the Assembly and of the Governing Council. To this end the President shall be empowered to take such measures and to make such committee and other appointments as the President deems necessary, subject to the Assembly and the Governing Council. Whenever the Board of Trustees of the Assembly shall require, the President shall submit a written report of the activities and financial status of the Society during the administration.
 - b. The Vice President shall advise and assist the President and perform the President's duties whenever the President is unable to do so or whenever the President delegates them to the Vice President. The Vice President of the Society shall be responsible for oversight of

visiting speakers, presentation of the James Madison award, and social functions when appropriate.

- c. The President of the Senate is in charge of all aspects regarding public debates organized by Whig-Clio for the University community. The Senate President works with the party leaders and officer corps, appointed by the Senate President with consultation from the President and Governing Council. The Senate officers are then in charge of organizing and planning the events, advertising the events, getting speakers, and so on.
 - d. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Governing Council and Assembly meetings, shall supervise all correspondence connected with the Society, and shall exercise a general supervision over the Society's records. The Secretary shall manage the reservations of rooms in Whig Hall, both for Society activities and by other campus organizations. The Secretary shall also be responsible for scheduling of the Society's van.
 - e. The Director of Program shall be responsible for the administration of the Society's Speaker, Seminar and other programs designed to meet the needs of the Society as a whole and promote societal unity. The Director of Program shall coordinate such activities with the responsible officers of the subsidiaries.
 - f. The Speaker of the Whig Party and the Chair of the Cliosopic Party, the party leaders, are responsible for helping the Senate President organize Senate debates, and maintain the tradition of the Whig and Clio parties within the Society. The party leaders have jurisdiction over party events and meetings. The party leaders represent the parties at Society functions, and deliver summary or rebuttal speeches at Senate debates. They are also in charge of procuring speakers for their party at Senate debates.
 - g. If the President is unable to complete the term of office, the Presidency shall be assumed by the Vice President. Should any other officer not complete the term, a replacement shall be selected by two-thirds of the Governing Council upon nomination of the President.
2. Non-elective: The non-elective officers of the Society shall be those deemed necessary by the President for the efficient and proper functioning of the Society. They shall be approved by the President, subject to the approval of the Governing Council, and shall be subject to removal by the President. They shall be regarded as agents in the execution of the will of the President and of the Governing Council.

- a. A candidate for Treasurer who has been nominated by the President shall not assume the duties of office until the Governing Council has approved the appointment by a majority vote.
- b. The Treasurer shall be responsible for attending to all financial business and records connected with the Society and for submitting reports of the same whenever they may be required by the President, the Assembly, or the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer is also responsible for collecting dues from Society members.
- c. The Treasurer shall be appointed for two years.

E. Parties

There shall be two official sections or parties in the Society: the American Whig Party and the Clisophic Party. Each member of the Society may only be officially enrolled in one of the two parties.

1. The organizational structure of each party will be governed, respectively, by the American Whig Party Speaker and the Clisophic Party Chair.
2. The respective heads of the two parties will maintain running lists of their members.
3. The heads of the respective parties may, at their discretion, appoint deputies.

IV. Instruments of Organization

There shall be established and maintained an Instruments of Organization to include this Constitution, the Constitution of the American Whig-Clisophic Senate, the Charters and Constitutions of Society organizations, the packet governing Society elections, and other material necessary for the continuing governance of the Society which the Governing Council expressly includes.

- A. The Instruments of Organization shall be updated annually by the Governing Council.
- B. The Governing Council is bound by all amendment provisions contained in the Instruments of Organization.
- C. Nothing in the Instrument of Organization shall in any way be construed to contradict or supersede this Constitution.
- D. The Senate of the Society shall maintain a Constitution that may be amended by two-thirds vote of attending members at the first debate of the academic year.

E. The Elections Packet shall be reviewed by the Governing Council at the first meeting of each semester.

V. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present at a meeting of the Assembly, provided that all members shall have received reasonable notice of time, place and purpose of the meeting.

VI. Quorum

A. A quorum on the Governing Council shall consist of two-thirds of the voting members present in person or by proxy.

B. A quorum of the Assembly shall consist of twenty percent of the membership in good standing, present in person.

VII. Ratification

This Constitution will become effective upon acceptance of two-thirds of the Governing Council and of two-thirds of those present at a meeting of the Assembly, provided that all members shall have received reasonable notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

VIII. Membership

Membership in the American Whig-Clisophic Society is determined by one of two methods

1. Membership in a subsidiary

- a. Two weeks prior to the date stipulated for elections, subsidiary heads should provide to the President a list of members in good standing who will be eligible to vote.
- b. The voter eligibility procedures of each subsidiary are subject to the vote of 2/3 of the Governing Council. Procedures are to be reported to Governing Council members one month before the date stipulated for elections.

2. Regular attendance at Whig-Clio events

- a. Attendance at three or more Whig-Clio events over the course of a calendar year.
- b. The Secretary of the Society shall maintain sign-in sheets at each event for the purpose of determining voter eligibility.

B. Membership Dues

1. At the beginning of each calendar year, the new Governing Council will, at its first meeting, hold a vote to determine the amount of dues to be collected for that calendar year.
2. Payment of dues is a requirement for those wishing to vote in the Society elections.
3. Dues are to be collected by the Society Treasurer over the course of the year with enhanced availability in the week before the election.
4. Dues are a one-time cost to new members of the Society. Members who pay dues shall be given preference in signing up for events with limited attendance.

IX. Elections

- A. Elections shall be held in January of each year at a date of the President of the Society's choosing. They shall be announced not later than one month prior to the election.
- B. When elections are announced, the President shall distribute an elections packet to be submitted to him or her no later than one week prior to the elections.
- C. No person may run for an elected office in Whig-Clio unless he or she is a member in good standing of the Society.
- D. The President of the Society, Vice-President of the Society, and the President of the Senate shall conduct voting. Each candidate for Society wide office may designate an impartial election observer to be present when ballots are counted.
- E. If the American Whig Party and the Cliosopic Party have active membership rosters, only those included in the roster will be permitted to vote for their respective party wide positions.

Constitution of the American Whig-Clisophic Society (rev. 2023)

Name (I): The name of this organization shall be the American Whig-Clisophic Society.

Organizational Purpose (II): The purpose of the Society shall be to educate its members in the practices of speaking, writing, politics, and administration, and to provide a forum for discussion and debate in the Princeton University community.

Composition (III)

1. The Assembly: The Assembly shall be composed of all undergraduate Members in Good Standing. The Assembly shall operate under the provisions stipulated in §V.
2. Governing Council: The Governing Council is the instrument of the Assembly when the Assembly is not in session. The Governing Council shall operate under the provisions stipulated in §VI.
3. Executive Officers: The composition of the Executive Officers and their function shall be as stipulated in §VII.
4. Subsidiary Organizations: Subsidiary Organizations are classified as groups that have a charter as approved by the Board of Trustees and are defined in §X.

Membership (IV)

1. All members of the Undergraduate Community of Princeton University are eligible to be Members of the Society.
2. Members in Good Standing
 - a. Members in Good Standing can vote in Elections and Assembly Meetings.
 - b. In order to become a Member in Good Standing of the Society, an individual must first be a Member of the Society.
 - c. An individual can become a Member in Good Standing by fulfilling either of the following standards:
 - i. Being a member in good standing of a Subsidiary Organization and having attended two or more Society events in the last twelve months.
 - i. The Criteria for determining Membership of a Subsidiary Organization is determined by Subsidiary Heads, as defined in §X.B, who shall provide the Secretary with an accurate list of Subsidiary Membership.
 - ii. Having attended three or more Society events in the past twelve months.
 - d. Determining Attendance at Events
 - i. Society Events are defined as every publicized Event, except Assembly meetings, Elections, and Governing Council meetings, hosted by the Society.
 - ii. The Host of a Society Event shall maintain a sign-in sheet at every Society Event in order to determine attendance at that Event.

- i. The sign-in sheet must be visible and accessible throughout the duration of the Event.
- ii. The Host of a Society Event shall advertise the sign-in sheet during the Event.
- iii. The existence of the sign-in sheet shall be noted in all advertisements for Events.
- iv. No other means shall be used to prove attendance at Society Events.
- iii. The Secretary will maintain an updated membership list based on Event sign-in sheets.

Assembly (V)

1. The President and Vice President shall call a meeting of the Assembly upon the receipt of a petition of at least one-fifth of the Members in Good Standing of the Society, or by the instruction of a decree of a previous meeting of the Assembly.
2. The date of an Assembly meeting that has been called by a petition must be set by a one-half majority vote of the Governing Council.
 - a. The CCC is responsible for overseeing this process. Should the CCC believe that an unreasonable time and date of the Assembly has been called by either party, it is permitted to intervene.
3. The Governing Council shall appoint by at least a simple majority vote a Member in Good Standing to Chair the Assembly.
4. A Quorum of the Assembly shall consist of at least one-third of the Membership in Good Standing, as defined in §IV.B, present in person.
 - a. No decision of the Assembly shall be binding unless a Quorum of Members in Good Standing is established.

Governing Council (VI)

1. Meetings
 - a. A Meeting of the Governing Council can be called at the will of either:
 - i. The President of the Society.
 - ii. At least one-third of the Voting Members of the Governing Council. A Voting Member of the Governing Council is defined in §VI.B.
 - b. The Constitutional Compliance Committee is responsible for ensuring that Meetings of the Governing Council are called frequently, at appropriate times, and with enough notice.
2. Voting
 - a. All Executive Officers, as defined in §VII, and Subsidiary Heads with constituencies, as defined in §X.B, shall have a Vote on the Governing Council and be called Voting Members.

- i. In the event that any Subsidiary Organization has more than one Executive Officer, only one Executive Officer from that Subsidiary Organization may vote in any given Governing Council vote.
 - ii. In the event that a Subsidiary Head is also an Executive Officer of the Society, the Subsidiary Organization should appoint a representative to the Governing Council for the purposes of that vote.
 - iii. An Executive Officer or Subsidiary Head may appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf at the Governing Council Meeting given sufficient notice.
 - b. All voting shall be supervised by the Secretary of the Society and conducted under a secret ballot, unless at least a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members of the Governing Council request an open ballot for the purposes of that vote. In the event that the Secretary is not present at a Meeting of the Governing Council or is deemed by a simple majority of the Governing Council to be in a conflict of interest, voting shall be supervised by a Member of the Constitutional Compliance Committee.
3. Composition
 - a. All Executive Officers, as defined in §VII, shall be members of the Governing Council.
 - b. All Non-Executive Officers, as defined in §VIII, shall be members of the Governing Council.
 - c. Any Society Member may attend regular Meetings of the Governing Council.
 - i. The Governing Council may close proceedings to non-Members of the Governing Council by at least a simple majority vote of the Voting Members.
4. Decisions
 - a. No decision of the Governing Council shall be binding unless a Quorum is established.
 - i. A Quorum of the Governing Council shall consist of at least half of the Voting Members of the Governing Council, present in person or by proxy.
 - b. All Publicised Events must be confirmed by at least a one-third majority of the Voting Members of the Governing Council.
 - c. For all other decisions, voting is not required unless at least one-third of the Voting Members, as defined in §VI.B, call for a vote, at which point a simple majority is required to pass a motion.
 - d. A decision in that vote is binding, unless it is overturned by the Assembly, a subsequent vote of the Governing Council, or deemed in violation of this Constitution by the Constitutional Compliance Committee.

Executive Officers (VII)

1. All Executive Officers except the office of Treasurer are elected in accordance with §XI. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and Vice President of the Society in January of each year.
2. All Executive Officers except the Treasurer shall serve a term immediately following conclusion of annual elections until the next elections are held unless removed from office. The Treasurer shall serve a term from their appointment until the appointment of a new Treasurer unless removed from office.

- a. **The President:** The President shall be the head of the executive branch of the Society, which consists of all the Executive Officers, and shall preside at all meetings of the Governing Council. Whenever the Board of Trustees or the Assembly shall require, the President shall submit a written report of the activities and financial status of the Society during the administration. The President shall designate the Host of every Society Event. At the beginning of their term, the President shall, in consultation with the Vice President, set the guidelines for and be responsible for overseeing the appointment of the Treasurer and all Non-Executive Officers. The President is also the official liaison between the Society and the University and Press.
 - b. **The Vice President:** The Vice President shall advise and assist the President and perform the President's duties whenever the President is unable to do so or whenever the President delegates them to the Vice President. The Vice President of the Society shall be responsible for oversight of visiting speakers, presentation of the James Madison Award, liaising with all subsidiary-held conferences, alumni affairs and Reunions, Society events hosted by a Non-Executive Officer, and traditional social functions such as the Senior Roast and Semesterly Galas, when appropriate.
 - c. **The Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Governing Council and Assembly meetings, shall supervise all correspondence conducted within the Society, and shall exercise general supervision over the Society's records. The Secretary shall manage the reservations of rooms in Whig Hall, both for Society activities and by other campus organizations. The Secretary shall also be responsible for scheduling of the Society's vans. The Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing the sign-in process at Events and maintaining the list of Members in Good Standing, as described in §IV.B.4. The Secretary shall be the official liaison between the Society and its subsidiaries.
 - d. **The President of the Senate:** The President of the Senate is in charge of all aspects regarding public debates organized by Whig-Clio for the University community. The Senate President works with the Party Leaders and officer corps, appointed by the President of the Senate with consultation from the President and Governing Council. The President of the Senate is responsible for implementing a "Closed Press Policy" for all Senate Debates.
 - e. **The Director of Program:** The Director of Program shall be responsible for the administration of the Society's Speaker, Seminar and other programs. The Director of Program shall coordinate such activities with the responsible Officers of the Subsidiaries.
 - f. **The Speaker of the Whig Party, and the Chair of the Cliosopic Party, or "Party Leaders":** the Party Leaders are responsible for helping the Senate President organize Senate debates, and maintain the tradition of the Whig and Clio parties within the Society. The Party Leaders have jurisdiction over party events and meetings.
 - g. **The Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for attending to all financial business and records connected with the Society and for submitting reports of the same whenever they may be required by the President, the Assembly, or the Board of Trustees.
3. If the President is unable to complete the term of office, the Presidency shall be assumed by the Vice President. If any other executive officer is unable to complete their term of office, unless they are removed according to §XIV, the Governing Council shall confirm a replacement according to at least a two-thirds majority upon nomination of the President.

Non-Executive Officers (VIII)

1. Non-Executive Officers of the Society shall be those deemed necessary by the Governing Council for the efficient and proper functioning of the Society.
2. No person shall be appointed a Non-Executive Officer unless they are Members in Good Standing of the Society.
3. The appointment of Non-Executive Officers is subject to an at least simple majority of a Governing Council vote.
4. A Non-Executive Officer may be removed in accordance with §XIV. If, for any other reason, a Non-Executive Officer is unable to complete their term, the Governing Council may appoint a replacement, as described in §VIII.C.

Parties (IX): There shall be two official sections, or “Parties” in the Society: the American Whig Party and the Cliosophic Party. Each Member of the Society may only be officially enrolled in one of the two Parties.

1. The organizational structure of each party will be governed, respectively, by the American Whig Party Speaker and the Cliosophic Party Chair.
2. The respective Heads of the two Parties will maintain running lists of their Members.
3. The respective Heads of the Parties may, at their discretion, appoint Deputies.

Subsidiary Organizations (X)

1. The following are Subsidiary Organizations of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society:
 - a. International Relations Council
 - b. Princeton Debate Panel
 - c. Princeton Mock Trial
 - d. Princeton Model Congress
 - e. Honorary Debate Panel
2. The Subsidiary Heads are, respectively:
 - a. President of the International Relations Council
 - b. President of the Princeton Debate Panel
 - c. President of Princeton Mock Trial
 - d. Executive Director of Princeton Model Congress
 - e. President of the Honorary Debate Panel
3. Adding a Subsidiary
 - a. Any organization that has a Charter approved by the Board of Trustees shall become a Subsidiary of this Society.

Elections (XI)

1. Elections shall be held in December of each year at a date of the President’s and Vice President’s choosing. They shall be announced no later than one month prior to the election.

2. The President, Vice President, and CCC shall distribute an elections packet no later than ten days prior to the Elections.
3. Eligibility to Run for Executive Office
 - a. No person may run for an Elected Office in Whig-Clio unless they are a Member in Good Standing of the Society.
 - b. The Candidate must have attended one Meeting of the Governing Council in the six weeks prior to the Election.
 - c. The Candidate must pledge to the Constitutional Compliance Committee that they have read this Constitution.
4. Only members of the American Whig Party and the Cliosopic party, as described in §IX, shall be permitted to vote in the election of their Party Leader.

Constitutional Compliance Committee (XII)

1. Composition
 - a. The Constitutional Compliance Committee (henceforth CCC) shall be comprised of four Members in Good Standing. Although somewhat traditional, it is not mandatory for a Member of the CCC to have been a former Voting Member of the Governing Council.
 - b. No current Voting Member of the Governing Council shall also be a member of the CCC.
2. Appointment Procedure
 - a. At the first meeting of the Governing Council after January 1st in a given year, the President, in consultation with the Vice President, shall appoint two Members of the CCC.
 - b. The Speaker of the Whig Party shall then appoint one Member of the CCC.
 - c. The Chairperson of the Clio Party shall then appoint one Member of the CCC.
 - d. The Appointment of the four Members of the CCC shall be overseen by the previous CCC, at which point those four Members shall assume the responsibilities of the CCC.
3. In the event that the Governing Council does not have at least a two-thirds majority on an interpretation of this Constitution, the CCC will be tasked with deciding on an interpretation.
 - a. This ruling will only have a binding effect if at least three-quarters of the CCC concur.
 - b. If a ruling cannot be agreed upon by at least three-quarters of the CCC, the issue will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.
4. The CCC shall keep a record of their decisions, and shall publish their Opinion after each ruling.
5. Elections shall be run in compliance with the elections packet and overseen by the CCC.

Constitutional Amendments (XIII)

1. This constitution may be amended by an at least two-thirds majority of a vote of the Assembly.

2. Any Amendment accepted by the Assembly will come into force upon the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Removal from Office (XIV)

1. An Office of the Society is all Offices held by Executive and Non-Executive Officers as defined in §VII and §VIII respectively.
2. Any Officer of the Society may be impeached for any of the following:
 - a. Gross Misconduct
 - b. Violating any stipulation of this Constitution
 - c. The Loss of the Assembly's Confidence
 - d. Bringing the Society into Disrepute
3. Any Executive Officer may be removed from office by at least a two-thirds majority of a vote of the Assembly.
 - a. Should an Executive Officer be removed from Office, the Assembly shall elect a replacement by at least a simple majority vote of the Assembly.
 - i. This vote shall be immediate and not subject to the Elections stipulation from §XI.
4. Any Non-Executive Officer may be removed from office by at least a two-thirds majority of a vote of the Governing Council.
 - a. Should a Non-Executive Officer be removed from Office, the Governing Council must confirm a replacement by at least a simple majority vote.

Instruments of Organization (XV): There shall be established and maintained an Instruments of Organization to include this Constitution, the Charters and Constitutions of Society organizations, the packet governing Society elections, and other material necessary for the continuing governance of the Society which the Governing Council expressly includes.

1. The Instruments of Organization shall be updated annually by the President of the Society and reviewed by the Governing Council.
2. The Governing Council is bound by all amendment provisions contained in the Instruments of Organization.
3. Nothing in the Instrument of Organization shall in any way be construed to contradict or supersede this Constitution.
4. The Elections Packet shall be reviewed by the Governing Council at the first meeting of each semester.
5. The Instruments of Organization shall be made readily available to any Member of the Society by the Secretary.
6. By-laws will be maintained by the Governing Council within the Instruments of Organization. They shall be amended by at least a two-thirds majority of a vote of the Governing Council.
7. All published opinions by the CCC shall be maintained in the Instruments of Organization.

Ratification (XVI): This Constitution will become effective upon an at least two-thirds majority vote of the Governing Council and an at least two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly, provided that all members shall have received reasonable notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Philosophic Society (1938, rev. 2023)

Contents.

Preamble

ARTICLE 1 — NAME

1.1 Name of Organization

1.2 Use of Name

ARTICLE 2 — APPLICABILITY

2.1 Basic Law

2.2 Supersession

2.3 Severability

ARTICLE 3 — PARTICIPATION AND VOTING RIGHTS

3.1 Participation in the Senate Generally

3.2 Voting Rights

3.3 Loss of Voting Rights

ARTICLE 4 — FREE EXPRESSION AND MEDIA POLICY

4.1 Commitment to Expression

4.2 Restricted Expression

4.3 Unparliamentary Language

4.4 Responsibility for Speech

4.5 Appeals for Wrongly Disallowed Speech

4.6 Controversial Events

4.7 No Media Policy

4.8 Chatham House Rule

4.9 Institutional Neutrality

ARTICLE 5 — OFFICERS OF THE SENATE, STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

- 5.1 Powers and Duties of the President of the Senate, Standing Rules
- 5.2 The Deputy President
- 5.3 Votes of No Confidence
- 5.4 Oath of Office

ARTICLE 6 — MEETINGS OF THE SENATE

- 6.1 Senate Meeting Types
- 6.2 Business Meetings Generally
- 6.3 Debate Meetings Generally
- 6.4 Obligation to Describe in Standing Rules

ARTICLE 7 — SENATE PARTIES AND CAUCUSES

- 7.1 Parties of the Senate
- 7.2 Senate Caucuses
- 7.3 Caucus Rules

ARTICLE 8 — DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 8.1 Senate Disputes
- 8.2 Constitutional Disputes

ARTICLE 9 — AMENDMENT AND RATIFICATION

- 9.1 Amendments to the Constitution
- 9.2 Recording of Amendments
- 9.3 Ratification of Constitution

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

APPENDIX AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

- 11.1 Definition of Majority
- 11.2 Rules of Procedure

Preamble

Whereas the American Whig-Cliosophic Society is the nation's oldest collegiate political, literary, and debating society,

Whereas that heritage compels us to maintain our tradition of free and open debate on the great public issues of our time, to make those debates open to all members of the University community, and to promote the public discourse in general,

Whereas the Senate, as the oldest and only non-subsiary organ of the Society, serves a special and central purpose in maintaining that tradition through Senate Debates between the Whig and Cliosophic Halls and among the University community more broadly,

Whereas the American Whig-Cliosophic Society and the Senate in particular, as nonpartisan yet political institutions open to all members of the University community, have a special responsibility to foster a spirit of intellectual curiosity and critical inquiry, to encourage and protect the exchange and examination of ideas regardless of orthodoxy, and to serve as a forum for respectful and constructive dialogue,

Therefore, we, the members of the Senate of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society, in order to promote these values of the Society, to organize debates and events to that end, and to secure for future generations of Princetonians the opportunity to challenge, examine, and defend the great ideas of our time, do hereby establish this constitution and commit ourselves to carrying out to the best of our ability its precepts, values, and principles.

1. Article 1 — *Name*

- 1.1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION. — The name of the organization shall be “The Senate of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society.”
- 1.2. USE OF NAME. — The words “Whig-Clio Senate,” “The Senate of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society,” and any other claim of association with or endorsement by the organization shall not be used by any individual or group of individuals without the express written consent of the President of the Senate, the Governing Council of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society, or the organization as a whole.

2. Article 2 — *Applicability*

- 2.1. BASIC LAW. — This constitution is the fundamental law of the Senate of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society.
- 2.2. SUPERSESSION. — This constitution may only be superseded by the Constitution of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society, ODUS policies, *Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities*, and applicable state, local, or federal laws.
- 2.3. SEVERABILITY. — In the event any provision or part of this Constitution is found to be invalid or unenforceable, only that particular provision or part so found, and not the entire Constitution, will be inoperative.

3. Article 3 — *Participation and Voting Rights*

- 3.1. PARTICIPATION IN THE SENATE GENERALLY. — All members of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society shall carry, in Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate, the right to speak and vote on the motion.
 - 3.1.1. Participation in the Senate shall also be open to all members of the Princeton University community who express interest in participating, including graduate students, staff, and faculty members.
 - 3.1.2. The President of the Senate may invite persons outside of the Princeton University community to participate in the Senate.
- 3.2. VOTING RIGHTS. — Certain members of the Society shall, after a period of participation in the activities of the Senate, have the right to vote to amend the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society, the right to make motions and vote during Meetings of the Senate for the Purpose of Conducting Business, and to vote in elections as the President of the Senate may deem appropriate to hold.
 - 3.2.1. Members of the Society may gain the right to vote described above by meeting any of the following criteria:

1. Attending at least two Senate Debates within the 12 month period preceding any referendum or election;
2. Being an active member of a Party and attending at least one Senate debate within the 12 month period preceding any referendum or election;
3. Being a Member in Good Standing of the Society and attending at least one Senate debate within the 12 month period preceding any referendum or election;
4. Serving or having served previously as an elected or appointed officer of the Senate;
5. Serving or having served previously as Speaker of the American Whig Party or Chair of the Clisophic Party;
6. Successful submission of a petition to obtain the right to vote and approval by the President of the Senate, contingent upon the provision of:
 - a. A compelling reason for failing to meet the attendance criterion; and
 - b. Evidence of participation in the activities of the Senate in any capacity.

3.2.2. To obtain the right to vote as described in 3.2, members of the Society must additionally agree to the following oath, agreement to which may be indicated by print or electronic signature during the voter registration process or en masse during the first meeting of the Senate in a given session:

“I promise to respect and uphold the Constitution and the Standing Rules of the Senate, to uphold the rights of members to express themselves freely, to speak and act in good faith, and to respect other members of the Senate. I make this promise freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.”

3.3. LOSS OF VOTING RIGHTS. — Members of the Society may lose their status as eligible voters if the member no longer meets the criteria set out in 3.2.

4. Article 4 — *Free Expression Rights and Media Policy*

This section is partially adapted from the following sources:

Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities, *quoting the* Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago.

Report on the University’s Role in Political and Social Action of the University of Chicago.

4.1. COMMITMENT TO EXPRESSION. — Because the Senate is principally a platform for the discussion, debate, and contestation of ideas, except insofar as such

restrictions are absolutely necessary to the proper functioning of the Senate, it guarantees to all its members the broadest possible latitude to speak and discuss ideas while the Senate is in session.

- 4.1.1. IN GENERAL. — Although the Senate values civil discourse, and all members of the Senate share in the responsibility to create it, concerns over civil discourse, disagreeability, or offense alone may never be used to prevent a member from speaking or being recognized to speak while the Senate is in session.
- 4.1.2. Consequently, in the course of debate:
 - 4.1.2.1. The presiding officer of the Senate may not prevent or stop a member from speaking on those grounds alone.
 - 4.1.2.2. The presiding officer of the Senate may take action to stop members from preventing other members from speaking or being recognized to speak in the course of debate.
 - 4.1.2.3. Unless it becomes so disruptive as to prevent a speaker from being heard, tapping to express agreement and hissing to express disagreement during the course of a speech is not to be considered as preventing a speaker from speaking or being recognized to speak.
- 4.2. RESTRICTED EXPRESSION. — The President of the Senate, as the presiding officer, retains the right to disallow speech, including by refusal to recognize the speaker, which:
 - 1. Violates the law;
 - 2. Falsely defames a specific individual;
 - 3. Constitutes a genuine threat or harassment;
 - 4. Unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests;
 - or
 - 5. Is otherwise directly incompatible with the functioning of the Senate.

Such an exception is narrowly tailored and shall not be interpreted in a manner that is inconsistent with the Society’s commitment to free and open expression.
- 4.3. UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE. — The President of the Senate, as the presiding officer, may also rule specific language unparliamentary in nature.
 - 4.3.1. The only permissible grounds for ruling a remark unparliamentary are that it:
 - 1. Suggests that another member is dishonest or not acting in good faith;
 - 2. Suggests that another member is dishonorable; or that it
 - 3. Uses profane language.
 - 4.3.2. Unless a member refuses to withdraw and apologize for a remark that has been ruled unparliamentary, unparliamentary language is not grounds for refusing to recognize a speaker.

- 4.3.3. Prohibition of speech on the basis of unparliamentary language is narrowly tailored and shall not be interpreted in a manner that is inconsistent with the Society's commitment to free and open expression.
- 4.4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPEECH. — Members have primary responsibility for not violating 4.2, and in the case of such a violation the President of the Senate is not obliged to provide warning to a member of the Senate before ruling that a speaker will no longer be recognized for the remainder of the meeting.
- 4.5. APPEALS FOR WRONGLY DISALLOWED SPEECH. — In the case that a member of the Society feels that their speech has been wrongly disallowed under 4.2 or 4.3, they may appeal to the Governing Council of the Society. In the case of a majority vote by the Governing Council that such speech was wrongly disallowed:
- 4.5.1. The President of the Senate shall be prohibited from disallowing that speech or substantially similar speech, and
- 4.5.2. The President of the Senate shall review and demonstrate understanding of the speech guidelines in this Constitution as well as Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities Section 1.1.3 to the Governing Council.
- 4.5.3. In the case that the Governing Council determines that the President of the Senate acted correctly, upon the written dissent of two voting members of the Governing Council, the dispute shall be referred to the Constitutional Compliance Commission of the Society, who shall make the final determination. Otherwise, the ruling of the President of the Senate shall stand.
- 4.6. CONTROVERSIAL EVENTS. — If the President of the Senate anticipates that a debate or other event may result in activities or protests that would interfere with the normal functioning of the Senate, they shall consult with ODUS or other relevant officials to ensure that the normal functioning of the Senate continues.
- 4.7. NO MEDIA POLICY. — In order to protect the liberty of the members of the Senate to exercise the “broadest possible latitude to speak and discuss ideas in the course of debate,” the President of the Senate is responsible for enforcing, including by expulsion from a debate, a policy strictly prohibiting the following:
1. The presence of members of the media, acting in their capacity as members of the media;
 2. The usage of analogue or digital recording devices, including the recording of video or audio of members speaking;
 3. The usage of analogue or digital photography;
 4. The creation of artistic depictions of members speaking;
 5. The digital or analogue transcription of the speech of members; and
 6. The provision of any specifically attributed Senate debate quotations, direct or indirect, to non-Senate organizations.
- 4.8. CHATHAM HOUSE RULE. — The President of the Senate is additionally responsible for enforcing the Chatham House Rule, which reads:

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

- 4.9. INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY. — The Senate shall adhere to the principle of institutional neutrality, as described in the University of Chicago’s Report on the University’s Role in Political and Social Action. As such:
- 4.9.1. The Senate as an institution shall:
1. Act as a home and sponsor of critics, and not a critic in and of itself;
 2. Sustain an extraordinary environment of freedom of inquiry and maintain an independence from political fashions, passions, and pressures; and
 3. Embrace, be hospitable to, and encourage the widest diversity of views within its own community.
- 4.9.2. The Senate as an institution shall not:
1. Insist that all of its members favor a given view of social policy;
 2. Take collective action on the issues of the day; or
 3. Adopt, as an institution, a political or policy stance.
- 4.9.3. This section shall not be interpreted as precluding the membership of the Senate from voting on and adopting a motion in Meetings for the Purpose of Parliamentary Debate.
- 4.9.4. Additionally, this section shall not be interpreted as preventing the Senate from, in times of crisis, opposing measures which restrict free expression and actively defending its interests and values.

5. **Article 5 — *Officers of the Senate, Standing Rules of the Senate***

- 5.1. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, STANDING RULES. — The President of the Senate shall be the presiding officer of the Senate, and is thus charged with the enforcement and execution of this Constitution as well as any additional rules the Senate may adopt.
- 5.1.1. WITH CONSULTATION. — The President of the Senate may, with the consent of the majority of the voting members of the Governing Council, appoint, and with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority remove, a Deputy President or Presidents of the Senate, and delegate their authority to those deputies.
- 5.1.2. SOLE PREROGATIVE AND STANDING RULES. — The President of the Senate has the sole authority to:
1. Produce, enforce and interpret the Standing Rules of the Senate, which shall govern the typical conduct of the Senate and Senate Debates, with changes to the Standing Rules subject to revision and review by the voting membership;

- a. The President of the Senate must publish any proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of the Senate at least one week before those amendments come into effect; and
 - b. At least one meeting of any type must take place before the proposed amendments come into effect, during which the members shall have and be informed of the ability to motion by majority vote to modify the agenda to review the proposed changes, and
 - c. These amendments may be rejected or amended during that meeting, regardless of meeting type, by a majority vote of the voting membership.
 2. Moderate debate, make rulings on procedure, and announce the results of votes;
 3. Select and invite speakers and observers to Senate events, including those outside the University community, contingent upon their observing the Senate rules and their not charging an honorarium.
 4. For Meetings for the Purpose of Parliamentary Debate, set the topic, time, and location of the debate;
 5. Represent the Senate in public fora;
 6. Determine and execute the direction and activities of the Senate, so long as the direction and activities of the Senate are Constitutional and otherwise consistent with its mission of providing a forum for free and open debate and discussion,
 7. Create, recognize, and assign a budget to bodies of the Senate consistent with its mission of advancing the public discourse;
 - a. Any modifications to the Senate budget shall be done in consultation with the Treasurer of the Society and other relevant officials;
 8. Appoint and remove additional officers of the Senate, who shall not be considered members of the Governing Council, as they deem necessary to carry out specific tasks, and to delegate tasks to those officers.
 9. Enforce this Constitution and the Standing Rules of the Senate.
 10. Execute any otherwise Constitutional powers vested in the position of the President of the Senate by the Society.
- 5.1.3. OBLIGATIONS. — The President of the Senate shall be obligated to:
1. Maintain and make publicly available the Constitution and Standing Rules of the Senate,
 2. Create and maintain a list of eligible voters,
 3. Create and execute a budget for the Senate,

- a. The President of the Senate shall consult with the Treasurer and President of the Society before adoption of a final budget, and before any extra-budgetary spending;
 4. Regularly make a report to the President of the Society and the Board of Trustees on the State of the Senate,
 - a. The President of the Senate may optionally address the membership of the Senate on the State of the Senate during a Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Business;
 - b. Such a report shall be provided to the President of the Society and the Board of Trustees in the form of a written text in addition to any verbal presentations made;
 5. Reserve the Senate Chamber for the purposes of conducting Senate business;
 - a. Such a reservation shall be made with the Secretary.
 6. Enforce the provisions of this Constitution to the best of their ability;
 7. Maintain a diversity of views in the topics and speakers presented for debates; and
 8. Protect and preserve the unique, distinct, and open nature of the Senate, including through the maintenance of Senate-specific styles of debate and other Senate traditions.
- 5.1.4. ABSENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICER. — In the absence of the President of the Senate, the President may designate a member of the Society who has attended at least one Meeting for the Purpose of Parliamentary Debate as the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the purposes of presiding over a meeting.
 - 5.1.4.1. If no such determination is made, the Deputy President of the Senate shall presumptively serve as the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
 - 5.1.4.2. The President Pro Tempore may not be the Speaker of the American Whig Party or the Chair of the Cliosophic Party, or one of their deputies.
- 5.1.5. NEUTRALITY OF THE PRESIDENT. — Regardless of the President of the Senate's current or prior affiliation with one or both Parties, they shall not privilege the viewpoints or activities of either party and shall generally act in a neutral and nonpartisan manner while occupying the office of President of the Senate.
- 5.2. THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT. — The Deputy President of the Senate shall serve as the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in the event of the absence of the President and the failure of the President to designate a member as the presiding officer, and shall also execute any duties delegated to them by the President of the Senate.
- 5.3. VOTES OF NO CONFIDENCE. — In the event of a successful vote of No Confidence in the President of the Senate, the Deputy President of the Senate, or

any other Senate officer, they shall be compelled to resign from their office within the Senate.

- 5.3.1. Such a vote of No Confidence shall require an affirmative vote of three quarters of the total number of eligible voters, to be counted by the Secretary of the Society.
- 5.3.2. Replacement procedures for Senate Officers who are also members of the Governing Council shall be governed by the Constitution of the Society.
- 5.3.3. The President of the Senate shall appoint replacements for Senate Officers who are not also members of the Governing Council.
- 5.4. OATH OF OFFICE. — All Officers of the Senate shall be obligated to take the following oath:
 - “I, [Name], do solemnly swear that I have read and understood the Constitution of the Senate of the American Whig-Clisophic Society, that I will respect and uphold that Constitution, that I will perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability, that I will defend the right to free and open debate while acting with respect toward the members, and that I take this oath freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.”

6. Article 6 — *Meetings of the Senate*

- 6.1. SENATE MEETING TYPES. — There shall be two types of Meetings of the Senate: Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Business and Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate.
- 6.2. BUSINESS MEETINGS GENERALLY. — Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Business shall be held for the purpose of managing the affairs of the Senate as an institution.
 - 6.2.1. TIME OF MEETING. — Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Business shall be held at the first meeting following the election of a new President of the Senate and:
 - 1. With at least seven days notice, upon the call of the President of the Senate, or
 - 2. With at least three days notice, preceding a Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate, or
 - 3. Upon petition by $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total number of eligible voters, at a date and time determined by those eligible voters..
 - 6.2.2. AMENDING STANDING RULES. — Except where otherwise stated, motions to adopt or amend the Standing Rules of the Senate, to amend the Constitution, or to call for a vote of No Confidence in a Senate Officer are considered privileged motions and may only be considered during the Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Business.

- 6.2.2.1. The Motion to Adopt the Standing Rules of the Senate shall be considered in the first meeting following the election of a new President of the Senate.
- 6.2.2.2. The President of the Senate shall provide Standing Rules for the consideration of the Senate at least three days prior to the first Meeting in a new session.
- 6.2.2.3. In the case that the Motion to Adopt the Standing Rules fails, the previous Standing Rules shall govern debate until such time as new Standing Rules are adopted.
- 6.2.3. ORDER OF BUSINESS. — The General Order of Business for Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Business shall be:
 - 1. Announcements
 - 2. Special Orders and Privileged Motions
 - 3. General Orders and Unfinished Business
 - 4. New Business
- 6.3. DEBATE MEETINGS GENERALLY. — Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate shall be held for the purposes of allowing the members of the Senate to debate and discuss public issues and other non-Senate topics of interest.
 - 6.3.1. Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate shall be held at the discretion of the President of the Senate.
 - 6.3.2. Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate shall consider one question or motion for the duration of the session for the purpose of discussion of public issues, and motions by the body to amend the motion or — except for the condition in 5.1.2 — otherwise act to conduct Senate business shall be considered out of order.
 - 6.3.3. The President of the Senate shall publish a motion to be debated during the Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary debate at least three days in advance of the meeting, and shall select and recognize speakers for and against the motion.
 - 6.3.3.1. With the exception of a motion to call a Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Business, members may not make motions during Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate.
- 6.4. OBLIGATION TO DESCRIBE. — The President of the Senate shall, in the Standing Rules of the Senate, address and provide rules consistent with Constitutional provisions governing both types of meetings.

7. Article 7 — *Senate Parties and Caucuses*

- 7.1. PARTIES OF THE SENATE. — The American Whig Party and the Cliosophic Party shall be recognized as the Parties of the Senate.

- 7.1.1. The leaders of the Parties of the Senate shall be entitled to, by mutual agreement between the Speaker of the American Whig Party and Chair of the Clisophic Party, compel the President of the Senate to select and recognize their joint nominees speakers and joint selection for the motion to be debated for one Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate.
- 7.1.1.1. Such a request must be made to the President of the Senate at least one week prior to the proposed Meeting.
- 7.1.1.2. The President of the Senate may choose to recognize additional requests as described in 7.1.1. subject to a one week notification period.
- 7.1.2. The Speaker of the American Whig Party shall be the Floor Leader of the Left, and the Chair of the Clisophic Party shall be the Floor Leader of the Right, and responsible for managing their respective coalitions during Meetings for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Debates.
- 7.1.3. Floor Leaders shall preside over meetings of their respective coalitions.
- 7.2. SENATE CAUCUSES. — The Standing Rules of the Senate may make provisions for the formation of Caucuses within the American Whig and Clisophic Parties for the purposes of intra-party debate.
- 7.2.1. Such Caucuses must minimally:
1. Name a Chair;
 2. Have a distinct, descriptive, and non-profane name;
 3. Form a distinct ideological grouping within the American Whig or Clisophic Parties,
 4. Obtain the consent of the Floor Leader of the Left or the Floor Leader of the Right to register within their coalition, and
 5. Not take the place of a substantially similar and already existing Caucus.
- 7.3. CAUCUS RULES. — The Standing Rules of the Senate may additionally provide for membership requirements, debating format, and other regulations governing the formation, dissolution, and conduct of Caucuses.

8. Article 8 — *Dispute Resolution*

- 8.1. SENATE DISPUTES. — In the event of a dispute between members of the Senate with regard to Senate business or the interpretation of the Standing Rules, the President of the Senate shall determine the resolution of the dispute.
- 8.1.1. The membership may, by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, reject this resolution.
- 8.1.2. A rejection of the resolution must also provide an alternate resolution, which shall be presented to the Governing Council and adopted by majority vote.
- 8.1.3. In the event of the Governing Council rejecting such a resolution, it may:

- 8.1.3.1. Provide a binding alternate resolution, or
 - 8.1.3.2. Allow the original resolution made by the President of the Senate to stand.
- 8.2. CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTES. — If the dispute is of a Constitutional nature, the President of the Senate shall provide a resolution to be voted on by the Governing Council by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.
- 8.2.1. If the Governing Council does not approve of the resolution, the President of the Senate, seconded by voting one member of the Governing Council, may make an appeal to the Constitutional Compliance Committee of the Society to be voted on by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote.
 - 8.2.2. If the CCC does not approve of the resolution by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, it may provide an alternate resolution by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote. In the case that the CCC is unable to agree upon an alternate resolution by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, the dispute shall be referred to the Trustees.

9. Article 9 — *Ratification and Amendment*

- 9.1. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION. — An amendment to this Constitution shall be considered to be valid if the following conditions have been met:
- 9.1.1. A successful Motion to Amend the Constitution was made in the course of a Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Senate Business;
 - 9.1.2. The motion was sustained within one month by $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative vote of the total number of Members in Good Standing of the Senate, and
 - 9.1.3. The amendment was ratified by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total number of voting members of the Governing Council.
- 9.2. RECORDING OF AMENDMENTS. — Amendments shall be appended to the end of the Constitution, and inoperative sections shall be indicated through strike-throughs of those sections.
- 9.3. RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION. — This Constitution shall be considered to be ratified upon completion of the following conditions:
- 1. Approval by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the American Whig Party, and the Chair of the Cliosophic Party;
 - 2. Approval of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total number of voting members of the Governing Council; and
 - 3. Approval of the majority of members present and voting at a Senate meeting called for the purposes of ratifying this Constitution or at an American Whig-Cliosophic Society Assembly.
 - 4. Approval of this Constitution by the Trustees of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society.

10. Amendments.

11. Appendix.

11.1. Definition of Majority

11.1.1. Unless otherwise stated, for the purposes of this Constitution, a majority or other numerical threshold is considered to be that threshold plus one of members present and voting as long as at least one third of the total number of eligible voters are present.

11.2. Rules of Procedure.

11.2.1. Unless otherwise specified, meetings of the Senate shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Ratification and Signatures

The PRESIDENT of the SENATE. — Daniel H. Shaw '25

The SPEAKER of the AMERICAN WHIG PARTY. — Samuel Kligman '26

The CHAIR of the CLIOSOPHIC PARTY. — Justin Murdock '26

The VOTING MEMBERS of the GOVERNING COUNCIL.

Won-Jae Chang '24, the PRESIDENT of the SOCIETY.

Karina Wugang '24, the VICE-PRESIDENT of the SOCIETY.

Elliot Lee '26, the DIRECTOR of PROGRAMS of the SOCIETY.

Santhosh Nadarajah '25, the SECRETARY of the SOCIETY.

Emily Paulin '25, the TREASURER of the SOCIETY.

The MEMBERS of the SENATE.

Standing Rules of the Senate (rev. 2024)

Contents.

RULE 1. — SPEAKERS AND DEBATE FORMAT

- 1.1 Formal Speakers
- 1.2 Floor Speakers
- 1.3 Order of Debate and Speaking Times
- 1.4 Determination of Debate Winner
- 1.5 Party and Assembly Debates

RULE 2. — SENATE CAUCUSES

- 2.1 Registration of Caucuses
- 2.2 Deregistration of Caucuses
- 2.3 Membership Requirements
- 2.4 Debating Format
- 2.5 General Conduct
- 2.6 Budget

RULE 3. — PRIVILEGED MOTIONS IN BUSINESS MEETINGS

- 3.1 Order of Privileged Motions

RULE 4. — FORMS OF ADDRESS

- 4.1 Customary Forms of Address

RULE 5. — REPORTING POLICY

- 5.1 Requirement to Make Public
- 5.2 Means of Making Public
- 5.3 Presumptive Establishment

RULE 6. — ADDRESSING DISALLOWED OR UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

- 6.1 Notification of Disallowed Language
- 6.2 Notification of Unparliamentary Language
- 6.3 Members Speaking while Not Recognized

RULE 7. — STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING SENATE DEBATES

- 7.1 Evaluative Standards for Senate Debate Topics
- 7.2 Negating Factors for Senate Debate Topics
- 7.3 Public Notice of Debate Topic Evaluation

1. Rule 1 — Speakers and Debate Format

- 1.1. FORMAL SPEAKERS. — The Named Speakers, who shall have designated speaking slots during Meetings for the Purpose of Parliamentary Debate, shall be:
 - 1.1.1. GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS. — The Named Speakers for the Government shall be the Prime Minister and the Government Whip.
 - 1.1.2. OPPOSITION SPEAKERS. — The Named Speakers for the Opposition shall be the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Whip.
 - 1.1.3. In Debates between the Parties, the Named Speakers may also be referred to as the American Whig Leader, American Whig Whip, Clisophic Leader, and Clisophic Whip, according to their speaking order and Party affiliation.
- 1.2. FLOOR SPEAKERS — The Floor Speakers, who shall be Members of the Society present during the Meeting for the Purpose of Parliamentary Debate, may be recognized by the President of the Senate for periods of time described in Section 1.3.
- 1.3. ORDER OF DEBATE AND SPEAKING TIMES. — The following rules shall govern Meetings for the Purpose of Parliamentary Debate.
 - 1.3.1. ORDER OF DEBATE. —
 - Introduction — Presiding Officer, NMT⁵ 5 Minutes.
 - Preliminary Vote — All Members, NMT 2 Minutes.
 - Government I — Prime Minister, 8 Minutes.
 - Opposition I — Leader of the Opposition, 7 Minutes.
 - Caucus Meeting — All Members, 10 Minutes.
 - Floor Debate — Floor Speakers, 15 Minutes, 2 Minutes Each.
Extendable by Presiding Officer on Majority Vote.
 - Opposition II — Opposition Whip — 7 Minutes, No New Information.
 - Government II — Government Whip — 6 Minutes, No New Information.
 - Final Vote — All Members, 5 Minutes.
 - Conclusion — Presiding Officer, 2 Minutes.
 - 1.3.2. The President of the Senate or Presiding Officer may extend a speaker's time beyond the Speaking Times recognized in 1.3.1 to 1.3.10, but may not cut short a speaker's time unless the speaker yields their time to the Chair.
 - 1.3.3. Any extension of a speaking time for a Named Speaker shall, if possible, also result in a parallel extension of speaking time for their counterpart on the

⁵ Not more than

other bench, such that the total amount of time that the Government and Opposition Names Speakers have to address the Senate is equal.

- 1.3.4. Speakers may only yield time to the Chair, and not to their future speeches or debating partners.
- 1.4. DETERMINATION OF DEBATE WINNER. — Upon comparison of the initial and the final votes, the team which earns a greater percentage of the final vote as compared to the initial vote shall be declared as the winner of the debate. The initial and final vote numbers shall be published in addition to the debate winner.
- 1.5. PARTY AND ASSEMBLY DEBATES. — Debates where the Named Speakers form teams from the American Whig and Cliosophic Parties shall be referred to as Party Debates, and, unless determined otherwise by the President of the Senate, the Party Leaders shall be responsible for providing speakers to the President of the Senate for approval. In other cases, debates shall be referred to as Assembly Debates, and the President of the Senate shall select and approve the speakers.

2. Rule 2 — Senate Caucuses

- 2.1. REGISTRATION OF CAUCUSES. — Upon petition by at least 10 members or 1/5th of the membership of the American Whig or Cliosophic Parties, whichever is smaller, and the fulfillment of other Constitutional requirements, a Caucus may request to register with the Floor Leader of the Left or the Floor Leader of the Right.
 - 2.1.1. If a Caucus is not accepted into the Left or Right coalitions, the President of the Senate may recognize the Caucus as an Independent Caucus pending their recognition within a Coalition.
 - 2.1.2. Once within a Coalition, Caucuses must receive approval from the Floor Leader of their Coalition to host events with other Caucuses.
- 2.2. DEREGISTRATION OF CAUCUSES. — If a Caucus fails to meet the membership criterion or is no longer recognized by the Floor Leader of their Coalition, the Caucus is considered to have deregistered.
- 2.3. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS. — A Caucus shall have at least 10 members or 1/5th of the membership of the American Whig or Cliosophic Parties, whichever is smaller.
- 2.4. DEBATING FORMAT. — The Floor Leader of the Left and the Floor Leader of the Right may arrange for debates between caucuses within their respective coalitions, and shall preside over those debates.
 - 2.4.1. In the event that a respective Floor Leader is unwilling or unable to preside over a debate between two or more caucuses, the Caucus Chairs may appeal to the President of the Senate to host and moderate such a debate, which will take the form of a Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Parliamentary Debate.

- 2.4.2. The Chair of a Caucus may arrange for debates to occur between Caucus members, and the Chair of that Caucus shall preside over those debates.
- 2.5. GENERAL CONDUCT. — The Chair of a Caucus shall determine the general rules of conduct for their caucus, including forms of meeting, debate, and events, as long as those rules of conduct are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Standing Rules.
 - 2.5.1. The adoption of rules of conduct and selection of the Chair of a Caucus must be reasonably open and democratic, subject to oversight by the President of the Senate.
- 2.6. BUDGET. — The Chair of a Caucus may request funding for Caucus-related events from the President of the Senate or their Floor Leader; however, requests are not guaranteed to be funded.

3. Rule 3 — Privileged Motions in Business Meetings

- 3.1. ORDER OF PRIVILEGED MOTIONS. — The following is considered to be the correct order for privileged motions, which shall take precedence over other motions in a Meeting for the Purpose of Conducting Business.
 - 3.1.1. Motion to Adopt the Standing Rules of the Senate. Majority Vote. Does not require a second. Debatable. Not Amendable. Effect: Adopts the Standing Rules as proposed, governing Senate procedure until new Standing Rules are adopted.
 - 3.1.2. Motion to Amend the Constitution. Three-Quarters Vote. Requires a Second. Debatable. Amendable. Effect: Begins the Constitutional amendment process.
 - 3.1.3. Motion to Amend the Standing Rules of the Senate. Majority Vote. Does not require a second. Debatable. Amendable. Effect: Amends the Standing Rules of the Senate.
 - 3.1.4. Motion of No Confidence in the President of the Senate. Three-Quarters Vote. Requires a second. Not Debatable. Not Amendable. Effect: The Constitutional process to begin the removal of the President of the Senate is begun.
 - 3.1.5. Motion of No Confidence in the Deputy President of the Senate. Three-Quarters Vote. Requires a second. Not Debatable. Not Amendable. Effect: The Constitutional process to begin removal of the Deputy President of the Senate is begun.
 - 3.1.6. Motion of No Confidence in an Officer of the Senate. Majority Vote. Requires a second. Not Debatable. Not Amendable. Effect: The Constitutional process to begin the removal of the Officer is begun.

4. Rule 4 — Forms of Address

- 4.1. CUSTOMARY FORMS OF ADDRESS. — It is customary but not required that Members utilize proper the following forms of address. However:
- 4.1.1. Members of the Senate must refer to each other in a respectful manner, with disrespectful references liable to be ruled unparliamentary.
- 4.1.2. It is general practice that Members do not address each other directly, but rather address their remarks to the presiding officer, who is referred to as the “President” regardless of their actual position in the Senate.
- 4.1.3. If Members of the Senate do choose to use formal forms of address, the following are considered to be the proper form:
- 4.1.3.1. “My honorable friend,” for members who are of the same Party or are on the same side in a motion.
- 4.1.3.2. “The honorable lady,” “The honorable gentleman,” or “The honorable member” for all other members.
- 4.1.3.2.1. If necessary, the above terms may be appended with non-derogatory descriptors, such as “with the gray jacket,” “who spoke last,” etc.
- 4.1.4. Titles may not be combined with additional derogatory descriptors, for example, “the so-called,” “the supposedly,” etc.

5. Rule 5 — Reporting Policy

- 5.1. REQUIREMENT TO MAKE PUBLIC. — The President of the Senate shall inform the Members of means of reporting unlawful harassment or discrimination that do not otherwise conflict with University policy, including mechanisms that are independent of the leadership of the Society, including:
- 5.1.1. Anonymous reporting to the President of the Senate or a Senate Officer, who are not mandatory reporters and not necessarily confidential.
- 5.1.2. SHARE Peers, who are confidential.
- 5.1.3. The University Ombuds, who are confidential.
- 5.1.4. The University Health Services Counseling Program, which is confidential.
- 5.1.5. The Office of Religious Life, which is confidential.
- 5.1.6. The Whig-Clio Program Coordinator, who is a mandatory reporter and an agent of the University.
- 5.2. MEANS OF MAKING PUBLIC. — The President of the Senate shall make this Reporting Policy available on the Senate’s website, announce it at the first Senate meeting of a term, and provide it upon request by a member.
- 5.3. PRESUMPTIVE ESTABLISHMENT. — If the establishment of any of these reporting mechanisms is not elsewhere established and does not conflict with the Constitution, this section establishes that mechanism.

6. Rule 6 — Addressing Unparliamentary or Disallowed Language

- 6.1. NOTIFICATION OF DISALLOWED LANGUAGE. — The President of the Senate may interrupt a speaker at any time to inform them that they have used disallowed language.
- 6.1.1. Because disallowed speech is defined in the Constitution as speech that is objectively incompatible with the functioning of the Senate, the President of the Senate is not required to provide a warning before informing a member that they will no longer be recognized for the remainder of the session.
- 6.1.2. Because this ruling cannot be appealed in the session, within three academic days of the conclusion of the session, the President of the Senate shall inform the member whose speech has been disallowed of the mechanism for formally appealing disallowed speech.
- 6.1.3. Profane language is defined as speech which, in the context of the debate, is 1) utterly devoid of any meaningful social value, and 2) which objectively cannot be seen as contributing in any meaningful way toward any argument that the speaker may be constructing. As such any speech which does not meet this standard may not be disallowed.
- 6.2. NOTIFICATION OF UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE. — The President of the Senate may interrupt a speaker at any time to inform them that they have used unparliamentary language.
- 6.2.1. The President of the Senate must allow the user of the unparliamentary language an opportunity to withdraw and apologize for the remarks, whereupon no further disciplinary actions may be taken.
- 6.2.2. If the speaker refuses to withdraw and apologize for the remarks, the President of the Senate may refuse to recognize the member for the remainder of the session.
- 6.3. MEMBERS SPEAKING WHILE NOT RECOGNIZED. — If a Member continues to speak while not recognized by the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate may request that the member leave the chamber for the remainder of the session. Under no circumstances are the President or Officers of the Senate to remove or attempt to remove a member by physical means.

7. Rule 7 — Standards for Evaluating Senate Debates

- 7.1. EVALUATIVE STANDARDS FOR SENATE DEBATE TOPICS. — Senate Debate topics should be evaluated on the basis of the following three tests:
- 7.1.1. Is the debate being held in good faith by both sides attending?
- 7.1.2. Is the topic being discussed a topic of active contention, either in scholarly works or in the public sphere?
- 7.1.3. Would debating this topic advance the campus conversation or build understanding on this topic?
- 7.2. NEGATING FACTORS FOR SENATE DEBATE TOPICS. — Senate Debate topics additionally may not fail the following test:

- 7.2.1. Would discussing the topic violate the law, falsely defame a specific individual, constitute a genuine threat or harassment, unjustifiably invade substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or otherwise directly inhibit the functioning of the Society?
- 7.3. PUBLIC NOTICE OF DEBATE TOPIC EVALUATION. — The President of the Senate shall publish the rationale for the selection of a Senate Debate topic according to these rules on the website of the Senate or another publicly accessible forum prior to the debate being held.

Additional Exhortations

Which may be said in addition to the typical Exhortation given before the opening of the debate, or as needed by the President of the Senate

For the Freshman Debate

Recall also that all of you returning were once strangers in this House, and that you were welcomed by your elders, let us now take on the responsibility of inculcating our new Members into the traditions of this House, by permitting them to speak first and encouraging them to speak often, as is the tradition of this Senate.

For the American Whig and Clisophic Societies in Debate

Recall also that we are here to lay down the task of our forebears, showing that even the most ancient and irreconcilable of rivals might yet learn not only to live together but to reason together, and so let us treat those from the opposing Society with the honor in debate that we accord our own.

When there are Guests of the Society Present

And for those of you who are our guests, be assured that as long as you respect the rules of this House you shall be accorded the utmost of welcome, and shall carry precisely the same right to speak and vote on the motion at hand; [*but know also that the Rules of this House are inviolable and that infractions shall not be tolerated.*]

On the Occasion of the Swearing-In of New Officers

Recall also that it is you, the Members of this Senate, who these officers have pledged to serve, and that much as it is their duty to uphold the rules of this body, so it is your responsibility to hold these officers [*and myself*] to account, so that all may profit from the maintenance of this Senate.