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RULES COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Rules Committee consists of one elected member of each USGP class. This committee is instrumental in running the Legislative Semester. They provide leadership and guidance to representatives in their classrooms and take on the organization and management of all aspects of Issue Draft, Elections, Committee Hearings, and the Full Session. The most important functions of the committee are managing the issue claiming process, running leadership elections, appointing committee chairs, and assigning representatives and their bills to the committees, and working with the speaker to plan the full session agenda. They can also serve as a dispute resolution body, as they are in charge of the “House Rules”.

Rules Committee meetings should be run using parliamentary procedure. The Chair of the Rules Committee should run the meetings following the agenda that s/he has developed or been provided.

As the teacher/advisor your job is to guide the committee to prepare them for their roles and support their decision making. Decisions of the committee should be made democratically, and every effort should be made to allow the students’ voices and opinions to be prominent, rather than the opinions of the teacher. This will become easier each successive semester, as you have more and more ability to gauge what is essential and give the students enough context to make good decisions. In the first semester you’ll likely need to guide them more as you are also learning the procedures.

MEETING SUMMARY

Block 7- Meeting 1: Overview of responsibilities, introductions

Block 9- Meeting 2: Choose Rules Committee Leadership, Begin Prepare for Issue Dec Day

Block 11- Meeting 3: Appoint Additional Majority Party members if needed, Prep for Elections and Issue Draft

Block 13: 7:00 AM Issue Draft

Block 15- Meeting 4: Elections Prep- approve signatures, review procedures, election shifts, assign roles, prep ballots

Block 17- Meeting 5: Prep for Elections

Block 18: Leadership Elections

Block 19- Meeting 6: Appoint Committee Chairmen- Create Bill Evaluation Process (90 minutes)

Assign Representatives to Committees (90 minutes)

Announce Committee Membership ASAP after review by teachers. Create Committees on Moodle.

Block 20- Meeting 8: Assign Bills to Committees and prepare packets (90 minutes)

Post Committee bill assignments on Moodle before Day 21, when students will begin bill review. Copy packets (Bill and Paper) for each committee to distribute o Day 21.

Block 22- Meeting 9: Final Committee Hearing Prep (45 minutes)

Block 24:

Block 26- Meeting 11: Debrief Committee Hearing (45 minutes)

Block 28: **COMMITTEE HEARING- No Meeting: Set up for Committee Hearings in LMC**

Block 30: Prep for Full Session with Leadership Team (45 minutes)

Block 31/32: Full Session

Appendix A

Sample Agendas

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 1

DATE:

- I. Roll Call (Clerk)**
- II. Approval of the Agenda**
- III. Committee Chairman Report**
- IV. Director Reports**
- V. Citizens Comments**
- VI. Old Business**
- VII. New Business**
 - a. Appoint acting Secretary to take meeting minutes (volunteer)
 - b. Share Contact Information
 - c. Discuss meeting times and communication methods
 - d. Major Tasks and Dates
 - i. Oversee House Rules, make changes to ensure smooth operation of legislature
 - ii. Manage Issue Declaration Process
 1. Lead by Issue Draft Day Director
 - iii. Conduct Elections
 1. Lead by Elections Director
 - iv. Committee Hearings
 1. Lead by Committee Hearing Director
 2. Appoint Committee Chairmen
 3. Assign members to Committees
 4. Review Bills
 5. Assign Bills to Committee
 - v. Resolve Disputes
 1. Address formal complaints
 - e. Committee Organization and Leadership
 - i. Acting Chair:
 - ii. Secretary:
 - iii. Clerk/Communications:
 - iv. Issue Declaration Day Director:
 - v. Elections Director:
 - vi. Committee Hearing Director:

VIII. Adjournment: (1 minute)

Rules Committee Members and contact information

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Ex Officio: Speaker of the House
6. Ex Officio: Majority Leader
7. Ex Officio: Minority Leader

RULES COMMITTEE ROLES

Acting Chair:

- This role is temporary - only needed until the Speaker of the House is chosen and then he/she will take over the role of Chair.
- Run RC meetings until Speaker of the house is elected
- Maintain order in meetings
- Oversee all members of RC and ensure that each is completing their assigned tasks.
- Review and bring all member concerns to committee via complaint forms

Secretary:

- Take meeting minutes (write notes on the group discussion during all meetings)
- Post Minutes and Agendas to Google Classroom

Clerk/Communications:

- Timing during meetings
- Maintain Rules Committee Bulletin board
- Act as the main communicator regarding meetings/deadlines etc.
- Establish communications system for all members of RC
- Ensure that necessary forms are available to all members

Issue Declaration Day Director:

- Ensure that all members have accurate information regarding Issue Declaration Day
- Run the Issue Declaration Process, with support of entire Rules Committee
- Clarify and resolve disputes regarding issues among classes.

Elections Director:

- Manage elections (Cannot run for any elected office)
- Ensure that all members have accurate and timely information regarding elections
- Create, count, and secure all nomination forms and ballots
- Gather & supervise poll workers and elections clerks
- Post election results by 5:00 pm on election day.

Committee Hearing Director:

- Ensure that all members have accurate and timely information regarding Committee Hearings
- Coordinate and lead the selection of Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs
- Help run committee chair training
- Coordinate assignment of members and bills to committee, ensuring balance
- Gather Committee hearings set up & tear down workers

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 2

- I. **Roll Call**
 - a. Adopt the Agenda
- II. **Committee Chairman's Report**
- III. **Director Reports**
 - a. Issue Dec Day Director
 - b. Elections Director
- IV. **Old Business**
 - a. Discuss Issue Dec Day Procedures
- V. **New Business**
 - a. Rules Committee Report in Class
 - b. **Upcoming:** Appoint additional Rules Members to reflect majority - gather interest and come with nominations to next meeting
- VI. **Adjournment: (1 minute)**

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 3

- I. Roll Call**
 - a. Adopt the Agenda
- II. Committee Chairman**
- III. Director Reports**
 - a. Issue Dec Day Director
 - b. Elections Director
 - c. Committee Hearings Director
- IV. Old Business**
 - a. Debrief Issue Dec process
- V. New Business**
 - a. **Elections**
 - i. Review Declarations of intent
- VI. Adjournment: (1 minute)**

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 4

- I. Roll Call
- II. Old Business
 - a. Any Final Feedback on Issue Claiming Process?
 - b. Finalizing Bill Topics
 - i. Orphaned Issues
 - ii. Enter final groups into new tab on spreadsheet
- III. New Business
 - a. Upcoming Tasks
 - i. Appoint Committee Chairs (14D, 14R) (begin keeping a list- both parties)
 - ii. Assign Bills to Committees (distribute interesting bills!)
 - iii. Create Committees to reflect ratio of Dems: Republicans (about 14:6)
 - b. Rules Committee Report in Class
 - i. Gather interest in Committee Chairmanship from BOTH parties.
 - ii. Encourage Caucus leaders to report back to class on what interesting bill topics were claimed in other classes and what is discussed at their caucus meetings. (Agenda setting)

Adjourn Rules Committee, convene Elections Committee.

- c. Elections (Okoli)
 - i. Rules Committee members running for elected positions? Appoint addition; Elections Committee member to serve on Elections Committee, must attend meetings 12, 15th and work at Elections.
 - ii. Petition Signatures (Due by 3:45 on 10/11, can someone be here to receive them?)
 - iii. **Special Meeting of Elections Committee 10/12 am to approve signatures, announce candidates. (7:15 am) Arnold will not be there, Okoli is in charge.**
 - iv. Campaign Rules: Challenges ruled on by Elections Committee within 48 Hours\
 - 1. Discuss what is/is not allowable.
 - v. Okoli create Elections Schedule (need 6 people present during each shift, 4 shifts), sign up 10/15 at Rules Meeting. Arnold can be present at lunches.
 - vi. Need tables in the Courtyard before school and during lunches. (delegate)
 - vii. Create Draft of Ballot for Dems, Republicans, Ind. (delegate)
 - viii. Voter Registration Wednesday and Thursday in class.
 - ix. Elections publicity- Announcements, fliers, etc... (delegate)
- d. Elections Committee Report in Class
 - i. Talk to class about elections timeline- Signatures Due 10/11, talk up elections! Encourage students to read declarations of intent.

- IV. Adjourn

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 5 (Block 14)

- I. Call to Order (ELECTIONS COMMITTEE)
- II. Old Business
 - a. Signature Gathering and Checking: Feedback
 - b. Announce Candidates?
 - c. Campaign Rules, any issues so far?
 - d. Elections Schedule (need 6 people present during each shift, 4 shifts)
 - e. Voter Registration Wednesday and Thursday in class (did it get done?)
 - f. Need tables in the Courtyard
 - g. Draft of Ballot for Dems, Republicans, Ind.
 - h. Elections publicity- Announcements, fliers, etc...
 - i. Create Voting Booths
 - j. Voting Procedures
- III. New Business
 - a. Report in class
 - i. Announce Candidates
 - ii. Hype Elections!
- IV. Adjourn Elections Committee, convene Rules Committee.
 - a. Committee Chairs
 - i. Discuss Potential Nominees
 - 1. Republican
 - 2. Dem
 - ii. Committee Chair Appointments next week, make personal contact and encourage Representatives who you believe would be strong candidates.
 - b. Rules Committee Report in Class
 - i. Gather interest in Committee Chairmanship from BOTH parties.
 - ii. Encourage Caucus leaders to report back to class on what interesting bill topics were claimed in other classes and what is discussed at their caucus meetings. (Agenda setting)
- V. Adjourn

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 6 (Block 16)

RE: APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- I. Roll Call
 - II. Old Business
 - a. Elections update
 - III. New Business
 - a. Appoint 2+ additional Democrats to the Rules Committee
 - b. Appoint Committee Chairs (Ropa)
 - i. Democrats (14)
 - ii. Republicans (14)
 - c. Rules Committee Role in Bill Review
 - i. 10/23-10/28 Rules Committee AND both Caucus Leaders review and comment on bills. Bills are not finalized until all three members approve on Moodle. You are responsible for following up with the issue groups in your class, giving them feedback on their bills, and making sure that they resubmit the revised version to Moodle by 10/31
 1. When you review bills, think like an English teacher. Focus on the clarity, grammar, and structure. Did they follow the structure outlined in the assignment? Did they fully explain their proposal in enough detail? Did they leave the persuasive language out and focus on the proposal?
 2. Your job is not to agree or disagree with the bill, but to be sure that when it is assigned to a committee, the committee members will clearly understand the proposal.
 3. If the bill is clear and free of errors, reply saying that you have approved the bill. Otherwise reply with feedback and ask them to send you a message when they update it. Bills are not finalized until approved by both caucus leaders and the Rules Committee Member.
- IV. Rules Committee Report in Class
 - a. Let students know that you will be reviewing bills.
 - b. Talk to Caucus Leaders about bill review. Help them understand the process.
 - c. Encourage Caucus Leaders
- V. Adjourn

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 7 (Block 18)

RE: ASSIGN REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMITTEE

- I. Roll Call
- II. Old Business
 - a. Committee Chairs
 - i. Have they all been notified/accepted?
 - b. Bill Review
 - i. Thoughts, questions
 - ii. Final approval, Post by 10/31, Submit Paper Copies by 11/1
- III. New Business
 - a. Committee Assignments
 - i. Overview Instructions
 - ii. Prep for Assignments
 - iii. Make Assignments
 - iv. Review Committees
 - v. Post
- IV. Rules Committee Report in Class
 - a. Announce Committee Assignments
 - b. Final Deadline for Bills/Paper: 10/31 on Moodle (MUST POST AS A WORD DOC, make it easy to find the final versions)
 - c. Paper copy of Cover Sheets, Bills, Group Position Papers must be filed by ____
 - d. Encourage Caucus leaders (Agenda setting for their party)
 - e. Announce the bills will be assigned to a Committee ____
- V. Adjourn

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 8 (Block 20)

RE: ASSIGN BILLS TO COMMITTEE

- I. Roll Call
- II. Old Business
 - a. Bill Review and Approval Recap
 - i. Organize Bills using Bill Check in Sheet.
 - ii. What if some bills were not turned in?
 - iii. What if some bills were not approved by you?
- III. New Business
 - a. Assign Bills to Committee
 - i. Make sure we have copies of all bills. Sit with other Rules members from your class and look over your bills together.
 - ii. Which bills are the “hot topics” and which will likely promote good discussion?
 - iii. Divide bills between committees, trying to distribute the controversial bills across committees. Consider where you would like your own bill... in your Committee or a committee with a co-sponsor? (It is best if the bill is not in the same committee as the student who will make the Bill Sponsor Speech)
 - iv. Once bills are divided, report back to committee to see if there are any imbalances.
 - v. Type up Committee Bill Assignments
- IV. Rules Committee Report in Class
 - a. PUMP THEM UP!
 - b. Your main job for the next two weeks is **cheerleader**. When you give your report you have to sound excited! Help your classmates get excited about the bills in their committee, and the task of trying to get their bills passed. Talk to the caucus leaders in your class about this too. They need to help you help your class get ready for the committee hearings.
 - c. Participate in classroom debate. Act as a role model!
 - i. Model active listening (Sit up, look at the speaker, don't fidget)
 - d. Remember that everything we have done up to this point in the semester is preparing us for the Committee Hearings. Students have put a lot of work into their bills. Now you have help them get their bills passed!
 - i. Help them line up testimony for or against their own bills or bills in their committee.
 - ii. Encourage them to begin discussing the bills in their committee on Moodle starting over the weekend, and all the way through next week
 - iii. YOU should participate in the Moodle discussions for your Committee. Again, be a role model!
- V. Adjourn

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 9 (Block 22)

- I. Roll Call
- II. Old Business
 - a. Committee Hearing Questions
- III. New Business
 - a. Rules Committee Planning
 - b. Committee Hearing Set up REMINDER
 - c. Other agenda items?
- IV. Rules Committee Report in Class
 - a. PUMP THEM UP!
 - b. Your main job for the next two weeks is **cheerleader**. When you give your report you have to sound excited! Help your classmates get excited about the bills in their committee, and the task of trying to get their bills passed. Talk to the caucus leaders in your class about this too. They need to help you help your class get ready for the committee hearings.
 - c. Participate in classroom debate. Act as a role model!
 - i. Model active listening (Sit up, look at the speaker, don't fidget)
 - d. Remember that everything we have done up to this point in the semester is preparing us for the Committee Hearings. Students have put a lot of work into their bills. Now you have help them get their bills passed!
 - i. Help them line up testimony for or against their own bills or bills in their committee.
 - ii. Encourage them to begin discussing the bills in their committee on Moodle starting over the weekend, and all the way through next week
 - iii. YOU should participate in the Moodle discussions for your Committee. Again, be a role model!
- V. Adjourn

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 10 (Block 24)

Committee Hearing.

Rules Committee help set up, no meeting.

AGENDA: RULES COMMITTEE

MEETING NUMBER: 11 (Block 26)

- I. Roll Call
- II. Old Business and Announcements
 - a. Committee Hearing Wrap Up
 - b. Full Session Questions and Details (Speech Review)
 - c. Upcoming D-Day Meetings
- III. New Business
 - a. Divide Bills into First and Second Session (Joey, Jack, Matt, Sam, Max)
 - b. Update Amended Bills
 - c. Update Digital Vote Record

Appendix B

Organizational Instructions and Documents

RULES COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

The following information will be posted on Moodle in the Rules Committee Discussion Forum

[illegible]

PRELIMINARY ISSUE DECLARATION (PID) PROCEDURES

Materials:

1 staplers
3 laptop computers
3 pens
Extra copies of declaration form
Paper copies of class rosters
Google Spreadsheet

Set Up

The goal is to control the crowd, maintain order, and establish a logical flow of people through the room. Set up tables along bulletin board with chairs behind the tables. Only Rules Committee members should have access to the bulletin board. There will be three stations, one for each teacher. Each station needs a computer, a pen, a stapler, extra forms, and should be manned by 2 rules committee members from that teacher's class. It would be helpful to label each station with the teacher name.

One additional RC member should stand at the door control the flow of representatives into the room. Only allow representatives to enter if there is an opening at the station for their teacher. DO NOT allow representatives to crowd the room.

The final RC member (or a teacher) should stay in the hallway, ensuring that the line does not block traffic in the hall, and that no one is cutting in line. If necessary, give the people in line numbers so that they stay in the correct order.

** It is very important to share the google spreadsheet with all of the rules committee members (school email) before the process begins so that they have access to edit it.

Process

1. The RC member at the door should ask the next person in line who their teacher is, and direct them to the correct station.
2. At the station ask the representative about their bill topic and check google spreadsheet for duplicates.
 - a. Duplicates: Confirm with the PID director that the topic is a duplicate. Ask the student to step aside and fill out a new blue slip for a different topic, or advise them to come back later when they have come up with another topic. If they have a second topic ready they do not need to wait in line again.
 - b. Unclear topics: PID director and two other rules committee members will discuss any conflicts or issues and make a decision to accept or reject the topic. You may also help a student clarify a topic that is unclear.
 - c. Joke Topics: Issues claimed must represent a legitimate policy proposal. Joke issues may not be submitted. If you feel that a topic is a joke, please confer with the PID director and one other member of the Rules Committee to decide if the issue should be rejected.
3. If there are no problems the person on the computer should enter the topic, bill sponsors, teacher and class period in the Google Doc Spreadsheet.
4. The second RC member at the station should check off the names of the bill sponsors on paper copy of class roster and record bill topic and description. (This will be your paper record to keep track of the issues in your class).
5. Sign declaration form, and hand it to the PID director.
6. The PID director should call out the issue which has been claimed so the other RC members are aware of which issues are taken, and post the form on board under correct class. All forms must be posted by the PID director as a last check for duplicate issues.
7. Smile and congratulate your fellow representative! Ask them to exit through the computer lab.

COMMITTEE FORMATION INSTRUCTIONS

Class Roster color coded

Committee Formation Templates (need to be adjusted to reflect size and makeup of each committee)

Scissors

Tape

Guidelines:

- The ratio of Democrats to Republicans must reflect the ratio in the overall Legislature as closely as possible.
- Ideally there will be at least two students from each class on every Committee.
- Attempt to balance the gender ratio on each Committee.
- Spread out the most vocal students and the most partisan students.
- Avoid personality conflicts.

PROCESS

1. Locate the roster for your class. Take a moment to review the roster and consider which students are the strongest participants. Think about students who probably should not be together due to possible disruptions. Consider who are the most liberal and the most conservative members of the class.
2. Highlight the students who participate the most in **Yellow**.
3. Put a star by the names of students who have strong partisan views.
4. Write "CL" to the left of the names of the Caucus Leaders
5. Write "RC" to the left of your name and the names of any other Rules Committee Members.

Now the fun begins!

6. Cut your class into strips (be sure that you don't cut off any information from the strips!)
7. Start by placing the Committee Chairs in the proper committees . They already have their committee assignment filled in. (The Democrat is the Majority Chair)
8. Next place yourself and any other Rules Committee Members. Do not put yourself in the same committee as a Chairman from your class. ***There will be EXACTLY one Rules Committee Member in each Committee!***
9. Next Place the elected leaders in Committees. ***They should not be in a committee with a Chair or Rules Committee member from their own class.***
10. Place the Republicans from your class into Committees. ***There should never be two Republicans from the same class on a Committee, including the Minority Chair.***
11. Place the Democrats from your class into a Committee. Before placing three students from the same class in a Committee, be sure that there are no other openings.

In order to finalize the Committees each of you will now take ownership of the Committee you were assigned to. Review the Committee Membership against the guidelines above. If you find any problems bring the to the attention of the group and we will try to make adjustments.

Write the letter of the Committee on each slip of paper. Now carefully copy the names of the Committee Members onto the template sheet. Include their teacher and class.

Resort the slips by class period and teacher, and enter the committee assignments into the Master Spreadsheet.

Pat yourself on the back! You just helped solve a huge puzzle!

BILL REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

Rules Committee AND both Caucus Leaders review and comment on bills. Bills are not finalized until all three members approve on Moodle. You are responsible for following up with the issue groups in your class, giving them feedback on their bills, and making sure that they resubmit the revised version to Moodle by 10/31

When you review bills, think like an English teacher. Focus on the clarity, grammar, and structure. Did they follow the structure outlined in the assignment? Did they fully explain their proposal in enough detail? Did they leave the persuasive language out and focus on the proposal?

Your job is not to agree or disagree with the bill, but to be sure that when it is assigned to a committee, the committee members will clearly understand the proposal.

If the bill is clear and free of errors, reply saying that you have approved the bill. Otherwise reply with feedback and ask them to send you a message when they update it.

Final bills are due to Moodle on 10/31. The Rules Committee members need to follow up with groups in your class if their final bills are not revised and posted. Groups also need to submit paper copies of the cover page, bill, and position paper to the Rules Committee member on Nov 1 or 2 so they can post them on the Bill Board.

BILL CHECK IN SHEET

Teacher _____ Block _____

[illegible]

COMMITTEE BILL ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Goals: The most interesting and controversial bills are spread among all committees. Representatives making the sponsor speech are not in the same committee as their bills. Committees do not have bill topics that overlap.

1. Prep: Lay the committee rosters out on the table. Use the Bill Check in Sheet to make sure we have copies of all bills. Print the most recent copy from Moodle if there is no paper copy in the file.
2. Sit with other Rules members from your class and look over your bills together. Which bills are the “hot topics” and which will likely promote good discussion? Set aside the most interesting and controversial bills from your class.
3. Round 1: Place the most controversial bills. Be sure that these are distributed among all of the committees, and that bills on similar topics are in different committees. Check to be sure that the bill is not in a committee with its sponsor. Review the distribution of controversial bills as a group and re-balance.
4. Round 2: Where would you like your own bill, in your own committee or a committee with a co-sponsor? (Please do not place a bill in the same committee as the student who will make the Bill Sponsor Speech)
5. Round 3: Place the remaining bills in committee. Every committee should have the same number of bills. (If possible)
6. Stand by your own committee and review the bills. Are there multiple bills from the same class period? Are the bills sponsors on same committee as their bills? Are there overlapping bills? Do you have too few or too many controversial topics? Discuss and make any final switches.
7. Type up Committee Bill Assignments and post Bill Assignments on Moodle.

FULL SESSION PRACTICE SCRIPTS

Set up the room like the Full Session (Table in front with chair and clerk, chairs in rows, carts for podiums) The following script includes speaking parts that are taken from an onion article. These are just placeholders to allow the elected leadership a chance to practice their roles.

Duff: “HB 200, a federal bill to fix the fiscal cliff, is now opened for discussion. Representative Okoli, you have five minutes to present your introductory remarks.”

Duff: Thank you Mr. Okoli. This bill will have 6 minutes of debate time. Discussion will begin on the democratic side. Mr. Weber, you have the floor for 3 minutes.

Weber: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I yield 1 minute to Rep. Hinshaw.

Duff: Ms Hinshaw, you have 1 minute.

Weber: I yield one minute to Mr. Ropa

Duff: Mr. Ropa, you have the floor for one minute.

Weber: I yield the remainder of my time to the Speaker.

Duff: Thank you Mr. Weber. The debate will now move to the Republican side. Mr. Verstegen, you have the floor for 3 minutes.

Verstegen: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I yield 30 seconds to Ms. McShane.

Duff: Ms. McSHane, you have 30 seconds.

Verstegen: I yield 1 minute to Ms. Holmes.

Verstegen: Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

Duff check with Head Clerk, report time remaining.

Verstegen: Thank you. You have heard from a number of representatives about the dangers presented by this bill and about alternative ideas. Clearly we need to take action to address the fiscal cliff, but this bill does not have the solutions that America needs. Please vote no on HB 200. I yield to the Speaker.

Duff: Thank you Mr. Verstegen. Debate time for HB 200, a federal bill to fix the fiscal cliff, has now ended. Representative Woody will give the closing remarks on the bill. Ms. Woody, you have three minutes.

Duff: Thank you Ms. Woody. “We will now move to a three minute recess before voting. Please return to your seats at the end of the three minutes and record your vote with your Assistant Whip.”

OKOLI: With the so-called fiscal cliff arriving in three weeks, *The Onion* would like to offer its own simple and mutually beneficial plan for averting a crisis. Those who reject any part of this plan are not only ignorant, but are also guilty of actively trying to undermine the nation and its government. Thank you.

HINSHAW I rise in support of HB 200. We should eliminate school breakfast and lunch programs, Medicaid, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, Medicare, PBS, New Mexico, elk, the Coast Guard, and all dams. We should also eliminate all nonessential public school programs entirely and offer only three courses: Corn Farming, Nuclear Weaponry, and Print [Journalism](#). Please vote yes on HB 200. Thank you, I yield the remainder of my time to Mr. Weber.

ROPA: STEP THREE: I rise in support of HB 200. This bill would eliminate federal prison system by converting U.S. territory of Guam into an unsupervised penal colony known as “The Gauntlet.” It would also eliminate a randomly selected 8 percent of the nation’s total population, preferably teenagers or very young children from the Iowa or Minnesota regions. I urge you to vote yes for this bill. I yield the remainder of my time to the Mr. Weber.

MCSHANE: STEP FIVE: I rise in opposition to HB 200. Instead of the cuts proposed in this bill, we should raise taxes on single mothers to encourage them to work harder. *We have* repeatedly called for a national referendum on how best to punish single mothers, and yet [Congress](#) has remained silent. We should also cut all foreign aid, with the sole exception of support for Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian government, as they need our help the most. I urge you to vote no on this bill. I yield the remainder of my time to Mr. Verstegen.

HOLMES: Hello Ladies and Gentleman. I am here today to speak in opposition to HB 200 This bill has the wrong solutions for our country. Instead I believe we should Raise the cost of fishing licenses to \$140,000. We should also Increase special interest loopholes and tax deductions for *The Onion*. Please vote no. I yield the remainder of my time to Mr. Stenklyft.

STENKLYFT: If this eight-point plan is followed to the letter, then crisis will not be averted. Failure to comply with the *Onion*’s plan will result in catastrophe on a national scale as well as the faster ascendance of our future Chinese Overlords, whose inevitable rise to power we nonetheless welcome with open arms, for they are America’s cultural and economic superiors. I yield the remainder of my time to Mr. Verstegen.

WOODY: *The bill sponsors* would like to offer the following message to Chinese premier Wen Jiabao:Peace be with you, glorious comrade of the Far East! It is now but a matter of time until you take ownership of our slovenly American homeland, and we would like to remind you that esteemed journalistic institutions—especially those like ours, which are more than willing to compromise their claim to objectivity—could prove highly useful to your great nation’s sophisticated propaganda wing. Let us help you reeducate the American pig people and spread word of your magnificence.

Other Roles:

Talk loudly to your neighbor during debate.

Make a motion to call the question while the democrats are still speaking.

Take out your phone and make a phone call.

Read a book during debate.

Fill out a Floor Speech request form and give it to the Head Whip.