



RUSA Bill XXXXX-XX

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Sponsors: Internal Affairs Committee, Executive Board

Public Participation Act

The Public Participation Act is a crucial part to upholding transparency and participation from the student body. As the university is facing many challenges, students are feeling the effects and need to know that their voices are being heard by their representatives to the student assembly.

Whereas, RUSA [Standing Rules](#) Chapter 301 includes Sunshine Provisions to ensure transparency and fairness to assembly members and the student body;

Whereas, the state of New Jersey has implemented its own set of Sunshine Laws known as the Open Public Meetings Act, which the ACLU [describes](#) as "...[giving] the public the right to be present at meetings of public bodies and to witness in full detail the deliberation, policy formulation and decision making of public bodies";

Whereas, *Chapter 308: Rules of Order on Assembly Floor* of the RUSA Standing Rules is outdated, limits the ability of public participation, and is no longer conducive to transparent legislation;

Whereas, the Student Assembly has seen great levels of public participation from the student body, which has been [noted](#) by Rutgers administration;

Whereas, at the January 23, 2025, general assembly meeting, debate regarding legislation reached [30 minutes](#) in length, and included [3 motions](#) regarding length of the question and answer period, as well as 5 motions regarding length of the debate period;

Whereas, at the February 19, 2025, general assembly meeting, debate regarding legislation reached over [30 minutes](#) in length, and included [7 motions](#) regarding length of the debate period;

Therefore, be it hereby resolved, RUSA's 18th Assembly enthusiastically appreciates and



encourages the participation of both its members as well as the general public;

Therefore, be it hereby resolved, Chapter 308.3 shall be changed to read “Following the presentation, there shall be at least five (5) minutes of questions for the bill. The time taken with responses from the authors will not be included in this period. If there are no questions left with time remaining, this rule may be skipped by a simple majority and debate allowed to proceed;”

Therefore, be it hereby resolved, Chapter 308.4 shall be changed to read “Following the questions and answers for the bill, there shall be at least twenty (20) minutes of debate where members may speak freely on the bill for no more than one (1) minute. Any time not used will be absorbed by the chair. There may be motions to extend or reduce an individual’s speaking time;”

Therefore, be it hereby resolved, Chapter 308.7 shall be changed to read “Following debate, motions for entering voting procedure may be entertained and passed by a simple majority vote. Main motions shall be passed as in line with requirements within the RUSA governing documents.”

Therefore, be it finally resolved, the final Standing Rules changes to Title III: Chapter 308 and can be found within the Appendix of this bill.

Dates:

Creation:

02/22/2025

Pass the Assembly:

XX/XX/2025

Vote Count: [Insert #] Yeas, [Insert #] Nays, [Insert #] Abstain, [Insert #] Present



APPENDIX

Title III: The Assembly

Chapter 308: Rules of Order on Assembly Floor

1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rule of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Assembly floor in all cases which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Chapter and any other special rules of order the Assembly may adopt.
2. A bill shall be introduced with a presentation by the author(s). The length of time for the presentation shall be set at the discretion of the chair with the advice of the Executive Board.
3. Following the presentation, there shall be at least five (5) minutes of questions for the bill. The time taken with responses from the authors will not be included in this period. If there are no questions left with time remaining, this rule may be skipped by a simple majority and debate allowed to proceed.
4. Following the questions and answers for the bill, there shall be at least twenty (20) minutes of debate where members may speak freely on the bill for no more than one (1) minute. Any time not used will be absorbed by the chair. There may be motions to extend debate period, or to extend or reduce an individual's speaking time.
5. Speakers may yield their time to any person present in the meeting, as permitted by the presiding officer.
6. Motions for amendments shall be seen as subsidiary motions and addressed via a speaker's list, at the discretion of the chair.
7. Following debate, motions for entering voting procedure may be entertained and passed by a simple majority vote. Main motions shall be passed as in line with requirements within the RUSA governing documents.