PURPOSE: To clarify and affirm the Special Rules of the College of Charleston Student Government Association Senate.

WHEREAS: The Special Rules of the College of Charleston Student Government Association Senate as they are currently written include grammar, punctuation, spelling, and procedural errors and are in many places inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Student Government Association of The College of Charleston, and

WHEREAS: The Special Rules of the College of Charleston Student Government Association Senate as they currently read are attached as Appendix A of this document.

THEREFORE: BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION I: The Special Rules of the College of Charleston Student Government Association Senate shall be amended to read as attached in Appendix B of this document.

SECTION II: THIS BILL SHALL TAKE EFFECT (UPON PASSAGE) BY THE STUDENT SENATE SITTING IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SIGNATURE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT.

x____________________
President Jeremy W. Turner
Appendix A follows:
Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Senate of the College of Charleston Student Government Association except where it conflicts with Federal or State law or the Bylaws and Special Rules of the Senate. For the purposes of these Special Rules Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be termed “RONR”

Speaking Rights in the Senate
- Any student may be recognized and hold the floor in the Student Senate. Executive Council members, with the exception of the Vice President, may be recognized and hold the floor in Senate, however they do not have floor rights and shall not make motions or have the right to vote. Floor rights, the right to make motions are held by student Senators.
- Any speaker who has obtained the floor by recognition of the presiding officer shall have the privilege of yielding the floor to another speaker. However, any Speaker who has obtained the floor by having it yielded to him/her shall not have the privilege of yielding the floor to anyone else.

Setting of the Agenda
- All bills and resolutions must be submitted to the Vice President of the Student Government Association or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate if designated by the Vice President by a time to be recommended by the Vice President at the first Senate of the fall semester which must be ratified by a 2/3 vote of the Student Senate.
- The Vice President or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate if designated by the Vice President shall arrange the legislation, guest speakers, officer reports, and any other business that may be coming before the Senate and arrange the material to create an agenda that the Senate shall follow during each meeting.

The Keeping of a Speaker’s List
- There shall be a speaker’s list, which shall be kept by the Parliamentarian. The President of the Senate shall call on members in the order that they appear on the speaker’s list. The Parliamentarian shall record the names of members in order in which the members request recognition by the President, and shall place members who have not been recognized during the current period of discussion or debate above members who have spoken, on the speaker’s list.
Recognition of Points of Personal Privilege

- Senators wishing to leave during a Senate meeting shall first be acknowledged for a point of personal privilege by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Senator may seek recognition by holding a sign or through other nonverbal means.

Differences in Debate from Normal Procedure

- When the agenda calls for a piece of legislation to be brought before the Senate, the President of the Senate shall call recognize the presenter of the legislation and shall ask the presenter to read the bill to assembly before giving the present the floor.
- When the presenter(s) of a bill is given the floor by the President of the Senate, the presenter may speak for two minutes total (unless the Senate extends the time allowed by a vote or general consent) to introduce their legislation. No member may interrupt the speaker except for motions that are able to interrupt per RONR.
- When the time for introduction has expired, the assembly shall move into a period of "Discussion." This period shall last five minutes, unless changed by a majority vote of the Senate or by general consent. Once recognized by the President of the Senate, members may ask questions of the Present. The President of the Senate shall be careful not to allow questions phrased to be persuasive or debating about the legislation. There shall be no debate in the period of "Discussion."
- After the period of discussion has ended, the Senate shall move on to a period of debate. This period shall last five minutes, unless changed by a majority vote of the Senate, or by general consent. The President of the Senate Shall recognize members for speeches in favor and in opposition to the legislation alternatively. Members shall designate the purpose of their speech by either raising an open hand to express a speech in favor of the legislation or by raising a closed fist to signify a speech in opposition to it.
- After the time period of debate has ended, the presenter may be given his/her last rights of speech, which shall last for two minutes (unless changed by a majority vote of the senate or general consent). No member may interrupt the speaker except for motions that are able to interrupt per RONR.
- After the period of time allotted for the presenter’s last rights has expired the President of the Senate shall instruct the presenter to re-read the motion. Once the motion has been read the Senate shall be in line to vote on the legislation.

Differences in Voting from Normal Procedure

- The President of the Senate, or any member of the Senate may call for a vote to be taken by either a standing or roll call vote prior to the vote being taken. If there is no request for the vote to be taken by other means, then the vote shall be taken by a voice vote. Division can be called by any Senator after a voice vote and, if five senators rise in support of the call for Division, the vote shall be retaken by standing vote.

Unanimous Consent and Unanimous Proclamation
• A member may move to pass a motion by “Unanimous Consent” in order to expedite the hearing of an uncontroversial piece of legislation. The motion may only be made during the period of discussion. The motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and shall fail if there are any objections. If the motion pass than the legislation shall have passed, and the Senate shall proceed to the next order of business.

• A member may move to pass a motion by “Unanimous Proclamation” in order to show a particularly enthusiastic vote in favor of the legislation. This motion may only be made during the period of debate on a speech in favor of the legislation. The motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and shall fail if there are any objections. If the motion pass than the legislation shall have passed, and the Senate shall proceed to the next order of business.

Differences in Voting from Normal Procedure

• Senators may make friendly amendments to a main motion during a period of discussion. The Senator making the friendly amendment upon being recognized by the President of the Senate, shall ask the presenter of the motion if that member agrees to the friendly amendment. If the member agrees to the amendment the main motion shall proceed as amended.

• All amendments, whether friendly or not, must be submitted in writing to the President Pro Tempore. Friendly amendments may be submitted after it has been made. Regular amendments must be submitted prior to the Senator being recognized to bring the amendment to the floor.

Tabled Legislation

• Legislation that is "Laid on the Table" shall be automatically be brought up in Unfinished business for the following two senate meetings. If, after the second Senate meeting in unfinished business, the legislation remains on the table the motion shall be considered withdrawn and may not be brought back before the Senate. A motion to lay on the table shall require a second and a majority vote of the Senate and shall not be debatable.

• Any motion may be withdrawn before being amended or before a vote has taken.

Time of Senate Meetings

• The College of Charleston Senate shall, during the regular school session, meet weekly at 4:30 PM on Tuesdays.

• Meetings hall be limited to two-and-a-half hours from the time the meeting is officially called to order. A two-thirds vote of the Senate can allow for a continuance.

Suspending and Amending the Special Rules

• A two-thirds vote of the Senate may vote to suspend any provision of these special rules that are not outlined in the Bylaws.

• These special rules may be amended by a three-quarters vote of the Senate. The amendment shall be brought before the Senate as a piece of legislation and shall take effect upon passage by the Senate.
Appendix B follows:
Special Rules
of the
College of Charleston
Student Government Association Senate

Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Senate of the College of Charleston Student Government Association except where it conflicts with Federal or State law or the Bylaws and Special Rules of the Senate. For the purposes of these Special Rules, Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be termed "RONR."

Speaking Rights in the Senate

- Any student may be recognized and hold the floor in the Student Senate. Non-senator Executive Board members, with the Exception of the Vice President, may be recognized and hold the floor in Senate; however, they do not have floor rights and shall not make motions or have the right to vote. Floor rights and the right to make motions are held by Student Senators.
- Any speaker who has obtained the floor by recognition of the Vice President shall have the privilege of yielding the floor to another speaker. However, any Speaker who has obtained the floor by having it yielded to them shall not have the privilege of yielding the floor to anyone else.

Setting of the Agenda

- All bills and resolutions must be submitted to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding the Senate in which they are to be presented.
- The Vice President, or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate if designated by the Vice President, shall arrange the legislation, guest speakers, officer reports, and any other business that may be coming before the Senate and arrange the material to create an agenda that the Senate shall follow during each meeting.

Recognition of Points of Personal Privilege
• Senators wishing to leave during a Senate meeting shall first be acknowledged in a method determined and previously communicated by the Chief of Staff.

First Rights
• When the agenda calls for a piece of legislation to be brought before the Senate, the Vice President Senate shall recognize the presenter(s) of the legislation and shall give the presenter(s) the floor.
• When the presenter(s) of a bill is given the floor by the Vice President, the presenter(s) may speak for three minutes total, unless the Senate extends the time allowed by a vote or general consent, to introduce their legislation. No member may interrupt the speaker except for motions that are able to interrupt per RONR.

The Keeping of a Speaker’s List
• There shall be a speaker’s list, kept by the Vice President. The Vice President shall call on members in the order that they appear on the speaker’s list. The Vice President shall record the names of members in the order in which the members request recognition and shall record members who have not been recognized during the current Period of Discussion or Debate above members who have already spoken.

The Period of Discussion
• When the time for introduction has expired, the assembly shall move into a Period of Discussion. This period shall last five minutes, unless changed by a majority vote of the Senate or by general consent. Once recognized by the Vice President, members may ask questions of the presenter(s). The Vice President shall be careful not to allow questions phrased to be persuasive or debating about the legislation. There shall be no debate in the Period of Discussion.

The Period of Debate
• After the Period of Discussion has ended, the Senate shall move on to a Period of Debate. This period shall last five minutes, unless changed by a majority vote of the Senate, or by general consent. The Vice President shall recognize members for speeches in favor and in opposition to the legislation alternatively, beginning with a speech in opposition. Members shall designate the purpose of their speech by either raising an open hand to express a speech in favor of the legislation or by raising a closed fist to signify a speech in opposition to it.
• Senators may make friendly amendments to a main motion. The Senator making the friendly amendment upon being recognized by the Vice President, shall ask the presenter of the motion if that member agrees to the friendly amendment. If the member agrees to the amendment the main motion shall proceed as amended.
• Regular amendments must be submitted to the President Pro Tempore prior to the Senator being recognized to bring the amendment to the floor.

Last Rights
• After the Period of Debate has ended, the presenter(s) may be given their Last Rights of Speech, which shall last for two minutes, unless changed by a majority vote of the Senate or general consent. No member may interrupt the speaker except for motions that are able to interrupt per RONR.
• Once Last Rights have expired the Senate shall be in line to vote on the legislation.

Voting Procedure
• Any member of the Senate may call for a vote to be taken immediately at any time prior to the conclusion of Last Rights through a motion. The motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and shall fail if there are any objections.
• If there is no request for the vote to be taken by other means, then the vote shall be taken by any form of voting chosen by the Vice President.
• Division can be called by any Senator after a voice vote and, if five Senators rise in support of the call for Division, the vote shall be retaken by roll call vote.

Unanimous Consent and Unanimous Proclamation
• A member may move to pass a motion by “Unanimous Consent” in order to expedite the hearing of an uncontroversial piece of legislation. The motion may only be made during the Period of Discussion. The motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and shall fail if there are any objections. If the motion passes then the legislation shall have passed, and the Senate shall proceed to the next order of business.
• A member may move to pass a motion by “Unanimous Proclamation” in order to show a particularly enthusiastic vote in favor of the legislation. This motion may only be made during the Period of Debate. The motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and shall fail if there are any objections. If the motion passes then the legislation shall have passed, and the Senate shall proceed to the next order of business.

Tabled Legislation
• Legislation that is Tabled shall automatically be brought up in Unfinished Business for the following two Senate meetings. If, after the second Senate meeting in Unfinished Business, the legislation remains on the table, the motion shall be considered withdrawn and may not be brought back before the Senate as is. A motion to table shall require a second and a majority vote of the Senate and shall not be debatable.
• Any motion may be withdrawn before being amended or before a vote has taken.
Time of Senate Meetings

- The College of Charleston Senate shall, during the regular school session, meet weekly at 5:00 PM on Tuesdays.
- Meetings shall be limited to two hours from the time the meeting is officially called to order. A two-thirds vote of the Senate can allow for a continuance.

Suspending and Amending the Special Rules

- A two-thirds vote of the Senate may vote to suspend any provision of these Special Rules.
- These special rules may be amended by a three-quarters vote of the Senate. The amendment shall be brought before the Senate as a piece of legislation and shall take effect upon passage by the Senate.