
December 18, 2017

Item Name: Follow-up to Parliamentary Training at July 2017 Offsite

Program: Board Governance

Item Type: Information

At the July 2017 Offsite meeting in Monterey, the parliamentarian Lorenzo Cuesta made several suggestions of potential modifications to Board and committee procedures that could make meetings more efficient. Those suggestions included:

- Formal adoption of a timed agenda at the beginning of each Board or committee meeting. The idea here was for the applicable body to agree to a rough time allocation for all items on the day's agenda and to attempt to stick to that schedule. This could also help the public estimate when each particular agenda item would be considered.
- Adoption of a procedure whereby the presiding officer would ensure that all members who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so before calling again on a member who has already had a chance to speak.
- Adoption of a procedure whereby the presiding officer would, after hearing three consecutive speakers express their support for or opposition to a motion, ask whether any members wish to be heard on the other side of the issue and if there are none, call the question without further debate.
- Adoption of time limits on discussion or debate, or on a single member's allotted time to be heard and to ask questions. This would be similar to the limits commonly placed on legislators in Congress, state legislatures, and other legislative bodies.
- Adoption of a procedure requiring that after significant debate has transpired on a motion, the presiding officer would repeat the motion before calling the question for a vote.

This agenda item will give Committee members an opportunity to discuss the merits and demerits of these suggestions.

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