*Parliamentary Rules*

**Basic Principles**

1. All members have equal rights and privileges.
2. Minority Rights (every persons’) are protected. The Majority decides each issue.
3. Each question is fully discussed by all the Members.
4. Only one issue is discussed at a time.
5. The meaning of each proposal must be clear to every person before the vote is taken. When there is no further discussion, the Council votes.
6. Duties and powers may be delegated by the Council, (for example: to a Committee) but the Council retains the right to make the final decision.
7. It is the responsibility of the Presiding Officer to administer the rules impartially. The President does not vote except in case of a tie.

**How Groups Decide**

All decisions are reached through **motions**: (Formal statements given to the group for consideration, discussion, and voting)

* Any Member may “Make a Motion.” It must be “Seconded” to show that at least two people are interested in the proposal.
* The Presiding Officer then “States the Question,” i.e., repeats the Motion in brief, clear language. (Note: We consider only what is genuine Student Council business. Other “stuff” is Out-of-Order.)
* Members who wish to discuss the Motion ask for “Recognition from the Chair.” They discuss the facts of the proposal, not the personalities and motives of the proposers. No person who has spoken may speak again until everyone who wishes has had a turn.

When there is no further questions or statements, the Chairperson of Council calls for a VOTE.

* **Voice Vote-** Easy and fast, where a vote is clearly one way or the other.
* **Show of Hands**- Gives an exact count, quickly.
* **Roll Call**- Keep a record of how each Member votes.
* **Ballot**- Insures secrecy.

Voting is decided by…

Majority (At least 1 more than ½), Plurality (The most cast votes), or Two-Thirds (At least ⅔)