

Minority Report (Sample Script)
Prepared by Patrick Wilson, January 2013

It is much more material that there should be a rule to go by, than what that rule is; that there may be an uniformity of proceeding in business, not subject to the caprice of the Speaker, or captiousness of the members.
—Thomas Jefferson

PROF. A (stands, reads written report adopted by majority vote in a proper committee meeting): The Academic Affairs Committee wishes to report that . . . and therefore recommends that INDS 101: *Parliamentary Law* (3) be approved for inclusion in the next edition of the Academic Catalogue. Signed, Professor A, Chairman. The minority wishes to submit a separate report. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, I move the adoption of the recommendation just read. [Passes copies of committee report to Chair and Clerk, yields the floor by sitting down.]

CHAIR: The Academic Affairs Committee recommends “that INDS 101: *Parliamentary Law* (3) be approved for inclusion in the next edition of the Academic Catalogue.” The question is on the adoption of this motion. If there is no objection, the report of the minority will now be heard. [Pauses.] Since there is no objection, the chair calls on Professor B to present the views of the minority.

PROF. B (stands, reads written report signed by one or more committee members): The undersigned, a minority of the Academic Affairs Committee, not agreeing with the majority, believe that the subject of parliamentary law is too advanced for an introductory course and that any such course should be offered experimentally the first time. We therefore recommend that the course be numbered INDS 385. Signed, Professors B and C. [Passes copies of minority report to Chair and Clerk, yields the floor by sitting down. Note that committee members may not allude to committee deliberations.]

CHAIR: The minority report is for information. The question is on the adoption of the motion “that INDS 101: *Parliamentary Law* (3) be approved for inclusion in the next edition of the Academic Catalogue.” [Turns to Prof. A, who has the right to speak first in debate.] Is there any debate?

PROF. A (stands): I support the motion because . . . I urge the faculty to vote for its adoption. [Yields the floor by sitting down.]

PROF. B (stands to seek the floor): Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR: Professor B.

PROF. B (remains standing): I move to amend by striking out “101” and inserting “385”. [Yields the floor by sitting down.]

PROF. C (sitting): Second!

CHAIR: It is moved and seconded to strike out “101” and insert “385.” If the amendment is adopted, the main motion will be “that INDS 385: *Parliamentary Law* (3) be approved for inclusion in the next edition of the Academic Catalogue.” The question is on striking out “101” and inserting “385.” [Turns to Prof. B, who has the right to speak first in debate on the amendment.] Is there any debate?