

Objection to the Consideration of a Question (Sample Script)
Prepared by Patrick Wilson, January 2015

Absolute arbitrary power, or governing without settled standing laws, can neither of them
consist with the ends of society and government. —John Locke

The motion *Objection to the Consideration of a Question* enables the faculty to protect itself from embarrassment or impropriety by refusing to entertain a potentially damaging motion.

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

CHAIR: Professor A.

PROF. A (remains standing): I move to censure. . . .

PROF. B (sitting): Second!

PROF. C (standing but without waiting to be recognized): Mr. Chairman, I object to the consideration of the question. [Note: No second is required. Also, the chair may raise such an objection on his own initiative.]

CHAIR: The consideration of the question has been objected to. The objection is undebatable, so the faculty will now proceed to a vote on whether the motion to censure will be considered.*

An affirmative vote indicates a preference that the faculty *consider* the motion to censure; a negative vote indicates a preference that the faculty *not* consider the motion to censure. Two-thirds in the negative will prevent consideration of the motion to censure.

Shall the motion to censure be considered? Those in favor of considering the motion to censure, rise. . . . Be seated. Those opposed to considering the motion to censure, rise. . . . Be seated.

There are two-thirds opposed, and the question will not be considered. Is there any further new business?***

OR

There are fewer than two-thirds opposed, and the objection is not sustained.**
It is moved and seconded to censure. . . . Is there any debate?

Between the points marked by * and **, anyone may move that the vote be taken by ballot (requires a second, is undebatable, and is decided by majority vote).

Every main motion made by a faculty member who has the floor—even if the motion dies for lack of a second or has an objection against it sustained—is included verbatim in the minutes.