

Handling a Motion (Sample Script)  
Prepared by Patrick Wilson, September 2012

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHAIR: The chair recognizes Professor A, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, for a report.

PROF. A (stands, reads written report adopted by majority vote in a proper committee meeting):  
The Academic Affairs Committee wishes to report that it has been investigating the issues of . . . The Committee also reports, for information, . . . Finally, the Committee moves that INDS 101: *Parliamentary Law* (3) be approved for inclusion in the next edition of the Academic Catalogue. [Passes copies of 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. [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 oppose the motion on the grounds that . . . I therefore encourage my colleagues to vote against it. [Yields the floor by sitting down.]

PROFS. A and C (stand simultaneously to seek the floor): Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR (notes that Prof. C has not yet spoken in debate): Professor C.

PROF. C (remains standing, while Prof. A sits): I favor the motion for the following reasons . . . I urge the faculty to adopt it. [Yields the floor by sitting down.]

PROFS. D and E (stand simultaneously to seek the floor): Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR: Since the previous speaker favored the motion, who wishes to oppose it? [Prof. E sits down.] Professor D.

PROF. D (remains standing): I speak against the motion, because . . . I strongly recommend that the faculty reject the motion. [Yields the floor by sitting down.]

CHAIR: Is there any further debate? [Pauses.] 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.” Those in favor of the motion, say *aye*. [Pauses.] Those opposed, say *no*. [Pauses.] The ayes have it, and the motion is adopted. INDS 101: *Parliamentary Law* (3) will be included in the next edition of the Academic Catalogue. The next item of business is the report of the Faculty Affairs Committee. The chair recognizes Professor D, chair of that committee, for a report.