

Office of the Hunter College Senate
Summary and Explanation of Motions and their Priority

In general there are four types of motions that the assembly can consider:

- a. Motions concerning the substance of the question
- b. Motions concerning the disposition of other motions
- c. Motions concerning the rights of the assembly members
- d. Motions concerning the conduct of the assembly's business

Categories "c" and "d" are the highest ranked motions in that they can be made even when motions of categories "a" and "b" are on the floor. Similarly category "b" motions can be made while a motion in category "a" is on the floor. (There are a few exceptions to these rules which will be delineated later). A lower ranked motion is out of order when a higher ranked motion is on the floor. Thus, a motion to recommit (category "b") is out of order if a motion to suspend the rules (category "d") is on the floor.

Type of Motion	Category	Undeatable	Requires 2/3 vote	Cannot be amended	Can interrupt the speaker	Does not need a second	Opens debate on main	Cannot be reconsidered
<i>Fix time to which to adjourn</i>	<i>d</i>	(A)						
<i>Adjourn</i>	<i>d</i>	*		*				*
<i>Personal privilege</i>	<i>c</i>							
<i>Reconsider an undeatable motion</i>	<i>d</i>	*		*	(B)		*	*
<i>Reconsider a debatable motion</i>	<i>d</i>			*	(B)		*	*
<i>Orders of the day</i>	<i>d</i>	*		*	*	*		
<i>Special orders</i>	<i>d</i>		*					
<i>Point of order</i>	<i>d</i>	*		*	*	*		
<i>Appeal decision of Chair -- redecorum</i>	<i>c</i>	*		*	*			
<i>Appeal decision of Chair -- other</i>	<i>d</i>			*	*			
<i>Objection to consideration of question</i>	<i>d</i>	*	*	*	*	*		
<i>Reading of papers</i>	<i>d</i>	*		*				
<i>Leave to withdraw a motion</i>	<i>b</i>	*		*				
<i>Suspension of the rules</i>	<i>d</i>	*	*	*				*
<i>Take up out of order</i>	<i>d</i>	*	*	*				
<i>Lay on the table</i>	<i>b</i>	*		*				*(affirm.)
<i>Previous question</i>	<i>b</i>	*	*	*				
<i>Close debate (at a fixed time or after a fixed number of speakers)</i>	<i>b</i>	*	*					
<i>Extend debate</i>	<i>b</i>	*	*					
<i>Postpone to a certain day</i>	<i>b</i>	(C)						
<i>Commit, refer, recommit</i>	<i>b</i>							*
<i>Amend an amendment</i>	<i>a</i>			*				
<i>Amend: insert; strike out; strike out and insert; substitute; divide</i>	<i>a</i>							
<i>Postpone indefinitely</i>	<i>b</i>			*				*
(E) <i>Main motion: general voting</i>	<i>a</i>							
<i>Motion to rescind</i>	<i>a</i>						*	
<i>Take from the table</i>	<i>a</i>	*		*				*(affirm.)
<i>Amend the rules (D)</i>	<i>a</i>		*					

- (A) Is undeatable if another motion is before the assembly
- (B) Can interrupt only to enter the motion on the minutes
- (C) Debate is limited to the propriety for postponing
- (D) Requires prior notice to the assembly
- (E) Only one main motion may be on the floor at one time