

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate
FROM: Janet Badia
DATE: 11 February 2019
SUBJ: Resolution on Robert's Rules Interpretation

WHEREAS, at the January 28 Senate meeting during discussion of a particular question on the agenda, the Presiding Officer invoked a rule to prevent a senator from speaking a third time on that agenda item; and

WHEREAS, when that senator asked for an explanation as to why the current Presiding Officer was choosing to interpret Robert's Rules in ways that break with past practices of the Senate in allowing senators to speak as many times as they wished as long as the comments/questions were relevant to the topic at hand, the Presiding Officer would not provide an explanation and stopped discussion of the question entirely; and

WHEREAS, I was also a visitor at the December Senate meeting and witnessed the PO grant one senator a third comment, even after it had been pointed out that the same senator had already spoken twice on the matter;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Presiding Officer or members of the Senate Executive Committee please provide an explanation of this new interpretation of Robert's Rules of Order and why they have chosen to break with past practices and implement their interpretation in this way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the PO is going forward with the practice, then he will explain how will he insure the rule will be implemented fairly and evenly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the PO answer the question.