

Open Source Consortium

Standing Orders for the conduct of General Meetings

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1. AUTHORITY

The authority of these standing orders lies in the Constitution of the Open Source Consortium subsequently referred to as the "Constitution". Where a contradiction exists between the Standing Orders and the Constitution, the Constitution takes precedence.

2. PURPOSE

The Standing Orders are designed for the regulation of General Meetings, laying down rules for conduct of the business.

3. REVISIONS AND CHANGES

Standing Orders may be revised or changed by a simple majority of members present at a General Meeting of the OSC. A motion to amend the Standing Orders may be introduced without notice being given in the agenda for the meeting. All revisions and changes in Standing Orders shall have immediate effect.

4. CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEETINGS

4.1. The Chairman, Council and all ordinary Members of the OSC shall observe all provisions of the Constitution in the convention and conduct of such Meetings.

4.2. The Chairman shall direct the Work, ensure the observance of Standing Orders, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote. The decision of the Chairman is final unless challenged by two thirds of the Members present.

4.3. Every ordinary Member of the OSC is entitled to attend a General Meeting as are other interested parties including Temporary Members. Anyone attending the meeting is entitled to speak. The meeting may agree to limit speeches to a given period of time by a simple majority vote. No Council member shall have any special rights beyond that of the ordinary Member.

4.4. Anyone attending the meeting is expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner; in particular (but not exclusively) speakers should not interrupt others, except to make points of order, information etc., as allowed for in 4.5, and should observe any time limits imposed by the meeting. The Chairman, or if the Chairman is the offender, the Secretary, shall warn persistent offenders. If a person continues to behave inappropriately the meeting has the right, by a two thirds majority, to require such a person to withdraw for a given time or for the rest of the meeting, as deemed appropriate.

4.5. The Chairman shall permit the proposal of only those Motions and Amendments which have been submitted in accordance with the Constitution and may allow the following

motions to be made without notice in order of precedence shown.

4.5.1. A challenge to the Chair

4.5.2. A point of order.

4.5.3. A point of information.

4.5.4. A motion to suspend or reinstate a Standing Order

4.5.5. A motion to amend a Standing Order.

4.5.6. A motion for adjournment.

4.5.7. A motion to proceed to the next business.

4.5.8. A motion to refer any matter back to the Council for examination.

4.5.9. A motion that the question now be put

4.6. A challenge to the Chairman or a point of order shall be taken immediately it is brought to the notice of the Chairman. These must not introduce new business. A point of information may be declined by the speaker.

4.7. When a motion that the question now be put has been moved and seconded, the Chairman has discretion to accept it or not.

4.8. If an Amendment to a Motion is moved, no further Amendment shall be moved until the original Amendment has been disposed of. The mover of the Amendment may accept modifications at their sole discretion. Amendments may only be moved on the substantive motion, as tabled or as amended subsequently.

4.9. The Chairman shall call upon the Proposer of a Substantive Motion to speak in support of the Motion for up to five minutes. Other speakers may then be called on that Motion. The Chairman shall call upon the Proposer to speak for up to two minutes as a summary at the end of the discussion. After which no further speeches may be taken and the question must now be put.

4.10. An alteration to the Constitution, any Motion to suspend a Standing Order, shall require the affirmative vote of two thirds of the Members present and voting. All other Motions and Amendments shall be decided on a simple majority of those Members present and voting.

4.11. The election of the OSC Council and auditors shall precede the consideration of the Substantive Motions and Amendments.

4.12. All nominations for election to the Council must be in writing. Such nominations must be received by the Secretary at least seven days before the meeting and have the written consent of the nominee. A list of the nominees shall be available from that date.

The provision for written nominations may be waived:

4.12.1. In the absence of written nominations for the post.

4.12.2. Not fewer than two thirds of the Members present agree to such a waiver. In such cases the Chairman shall accept nominations from the meeting supported by two members.

5. ELECTIONS AND VOTING

5.1 Every Member of the OSC is entitled to one vote in any election or upon any Motion debated at a General Meeting.

5.2. In the event of a tied vote on a Motion debated before a General Meeting the Chairman shall have a second deciding vote on that matter.

5.3. In the event of a tie in an Election for any Council post, the Chairman shall declare a tie. In such an event:

5.3.1. A further Election shall be held immediately amongst those candidates whose votes were tied.

5.3.2. If the result is still tied, the candidates will be asked to leave the room and the election shall be held on a show of hands.

5.4. All changes in the Constitution shall be notified to all members by publication in the next bulletin produced after the General Meeting at which the proposals were made.

6. ACCOUNTABILITY

6.1. The Chairman is responsible to the General Meeting of the OSC for the successful management of the affairs of the OSC.

6.2. The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that all officers comply with any legal requirements, the Constitution and Standing Orders in that order of precedence.

Last revised 21 March 2009

Gerry Gavigan, Chairman, Open Source Consortium