Section 5-1  Authority

A. These rules shall apply only to meetings of the ASMSU Senate.

B. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall serve as the authority on conduct and procedure in all matters pertaining to the Senate when not in conflict with the authorities of the Constitution or these Bylaws.

Section 5-2  Session

A. The Senate shall be in session beginning from the first meeting of the Fall semester until the last meeting of the spring semester.

B. The first meeting of the session shall occur no later than the second full week of the fall semester.

C. Meetings shall be held at least weekly during the instructional periods of the fall and spring semesters not including the first full week of fall semester, the last full weeks of fall and spring semesters and finals weeks.

D. Meetings of the Senate can be cancelled only by a three-fourths majority vote of the Senate and must be voted on at the meeting immediately preceding the cancelled one. The Senate Speaker may cancel a meeting only if a risk exists to life or limb.

Section 5-3  Voting

A. General Voting

1. In all instances where a specific proportion of affirmative votes from the members of the Senate that are present at the meeting and voting shall be required, such proportion shall be calculated solely from the affirmative and negative vote counts, ignoring any abstentions entirely.

2. In all instances requiring a specific proportion of affirmative votes from the entire membership of the Senate, abstentions necessarily must be calculated as negative votes.
3. The Senate Speaker shall vote only in the case of a tie vote. This vote must be disclosed.

B. Ballot Voting

1. Ballot Voting shall be used for all appointments of Senate Leadership, Senate vacancies, committees, councils, boards, and taskforces that require an appointment by the Senate.

Section 5-4 Executive Session

A. Executive Session

1. Executive session is closed to the public.
2. Prior to convening in executive session the chair shall announce the rationale that forms the legal basis for the executive session.
3. Executive session shall only be conducted to address confidential personnel issues. Executive session shall not be called if the person being discussed wishes to have an open meeting. Senate may go into executive session at any time.
4. No public record shall be kept of executive session business.
5. Executive session shall be conducted according to MCA 2-3-203.
6. MCA 2-3-203 shall supersede Section 5-4 in case of conflict with these Bylaws.

Section 5-5 Quorum

A. Quorum of the Senate shall consist of the presence of at least 50% plus 1 of the voting seats in the Senate.

B. In the absence of quorum, the Senate shall only:

1. Receive reports from senators, program directors, and members of the Administrative Council;
2. Conduct public comment;
3. Hear presentations; and,
4. Allow members to make announcements.
Section 5-6   Open Meeting

A. Senate meetings shall be open to the public in accordance with MCA 2-3-203

B. Public comment regarding issues pertaining to ASMSU shall be allowed at the beginning of each meeting.

C. The amount of time allotted for public comment will be at the Senate Speaker’s discretion.

Section 5-7   Yielding to the Public

A. Any member of the public can be yielded time for relevant input by a senator who has the floor.

Section 5-8   Conduct

A. Each year, following taking office, the Senate will affirm a code of expectations for the upcoming year.