

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION**



BILL NO. 61-32

INTRODUCED BY: Harding (VPIA)

SECONDED BY: Rodriguez (RCAH)

CONTRIBUTORS: Grad Assistant Barker

A BILL TO: Amend Title Two of the General Assembly Code of Operations to Include the Public Comment Rules and Procedures

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, Each session of the General Assembly the ASMSU President and VPIA must draft new public comment guidelines to be approved by the General Assembly; and,

WHEREAS, Currently the only way to view these public comment guidelines is through the bill passed by the General Assembly that details them, and including these public comment rules in the ASMSU General Assembly Code of Operations would make them more visible to the public in preparation for comment; and,

WHEREAS, In each session of the General Assembly, the public comment rules have only been changed very slightly; and,

WHEREAS, The current public comment guidelines were passed by the 61st General Assembly in Bill 61-07¹; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students of Michigan State University shall amend Title Two, Section 11, Subsection C of ASMSU Code as follows:

(FROM)

C. During public comment on agenda items, any topic may be discussed up to 15 minutes unless extended by a majority vote of the Assembly. Any **Michigan State University affiliated person** may speak, but only once, with a three minute time limit unless extended by consent of the General Assembly.

1. **Rules for public comment shall be drafted by the ASMSU President and VPIA and approved by the Assembly at the beginning of each Session.**

¹ ■ 61-07_Approve Public Comment Guidelines_Rodriguez_Thorell.pdf

(TO)

C. During public comment on agenda items, any topic may be discussed for up to 15 minutes unless extended by a majority vote of the Assembly. Any **Michigan State University affiliated person as defined in these guidelines** may speak, but only once, with a three minute time limit unless extended by consent of the General Assembly. **The rules for public comment shall be reviewed by the ASMSU President and VPIA at the beginning of each Session, and any edits the ASMSU President and VPIA deem necessary will be made through a code change bill. The current public comment guidelines are as follows:**

1. To public comment, one must make that desire known by either submitting a comment through the form on the ASMSU website within 24 hours of the General Assembly meeting and/or simply raising their hand during the public comment portion of the meeting. Should the public commenter be unable to attend, the ASMSU Vice President for Internal Administration will read their comment aloud at the relevant meeting.
2. Public commenters will be addressed in the order in which their desire to speak was made known. Those who submitted the form shall go first in the order in which they submitted, then those in attendance who did not submit the form shall be permitted to speak in the order they raised their hands.
3. Those from the public wishing to comment must begin their public comment by stating their name, their direct affiliation to Michigan State University, and the topic they are wishing to comment on.
 - a. If a speaker is representing or speaking on behalf of other persons, groups or entities, then the speaker shall state the nature of that representation.
 - b. Those with direct affiliation to Michigan State University that may public comment includes tax-paying students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Michigan State University.
4. Comments shall relate to either items specifically on the agenda or the business of ASMSU and undergraduate Spartans.
5. Public commenters must address the Chair during the entire length of their comment.
6. Public commenters may not yield or give their speaking time to another person.
7. Those who have speaking privileges within a meeting are not permitted to speak during the public comment period on items that will be discussed further in the agenda.
 - a. Those who have speaking privileges within the General Assembly (Office of the President, Chief Officers, & General Assembly Representatives) may only ask clarifying questions of the public commenter if they are extremely pertinent.
8. Any public comment that has to deal with sensitive topics (violence, suicide, sexual misconduct, etc) must include a warning before the public comment is read/spoken.

9. Public commenters shall refrain from comments or behavior that involves:
- Disorderly speech or action
 - Name-calling or personal attacks
 - Obscene or indecent remarks
 - Derogatory comments on personalities
 - Any comment that goes against relevant parts of the ASMSU Manual (ex. Anti-Discrimination Clause) or these rules
10. If a public commenter is found in violation of these rules:
- Depending upon the extent of the indiscretion, they may first be interrupted and given a warning by the Chair.
 - If the indiscretion is continued after being warned, they will be interrupted again and their time will be given back to the Chair.
11. These rules shall be available on the ASMSU website with the form to submit public comments and made available per request at meetings.
12. At the beginning of each session of the General Assembly the ASMSU President and VPIA will review and revise these public comment rules to ensure their continued effectiveness

INTRODUCED ON 10.24.2024

REFERRED TO Policy COMMITTEE ON 10.17.2024

SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN _____ DATE _____

COMMITTEE ACTION	<u>X</u>	<u>7-0-1</u>	<u>10.17.2024</u>
	PASSED	FAILED	DATE

FINAL ACTION TAKEN	<u>X</u>	<u>24-0-2</u>	<u>10.24.2024</u>
	PASSED	FAILED	DATE

	
PRESIDENT: Connor Le	VPIA: Kathryn Harding