

Memo
April 12, 2016

From: Elizabeth Haynes RP

To: Myra Willis
Chair, CFUW Articles and Bylaws Committee
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Re: Amendment to 2016 CFUW Bylaw Amendment Number 2

In response to the question of whether the proposed amendment to the bylaws can be “tabled,” I submit the following explanation.

The proper motion is to “lay on the table.” It is a common misconception that “lay on the table” should be used when the intent is to kill the motion. That is not the purpose of the motion, and if it is presented for that purpose it should be ruled out of order. The proper use of the motion to “lay on the table” is to temporarily set aside the pending business in order to handle business of a more urgent nature or when something needs to be addressed before considering the pending question. When “lay on the table” is adopted the expectation is that the motion can be taken from the table at any time during the session by a majority vote of the membership.

The motion that is properly used to kill a motion is to “postpone indefinitely.” If adopted the original motion is not considered further during that session. Therefore, if “postpone indefinitely” were adopted during the discussion of the bylaw amendment, the motion to amend the bylaws would be killed for the entire AGM. It could not be brought back for consideration until the next AGM or Special Meeting. However, it should be understood that “postpone indefinitely” is the lowest ranking motion. It cannot be made after a motion to amend the amendment or a motion to refer the amendment to committee have been made. Conversely, motions to amend the amendment or to refer the amendment to committee could be made before the motion to postpone indefinitely has been voted on.

By way of example, the following chart explains how the motion to postpone indefinitely can be used properly to kill a motion

Postpone indefinitely <i>in order</i>	Postpone indefinitely <i>not in order</i>
The proposer of the bylaw amendment opens debate	The proposer of the amendment opens debate
Debate continues until a motion to postpone indefinitely is moved and seconded	Debate continues until a motion to renew a proposed amendment to the amendment is moved and seconded
Debate continues on both the desirability of the bylaws amendment and the reasons for killing the motion	Debate continues on the motion to amend the amendment
A motion to renews a proposed amendment to the amendment is moved and seconded.	The motion to refer the bylaw amendment and the amendment to the amendment to committee is moved and seconded
Debate continues on the desirability of amending the proposed amendment.	The motion to postponed indefinitely is moved and seconded

<p>The motion to refer the bylaws amendment and the amendment to the amendment to committee is moved and seconded.</p>	<p>The Chair rules the motion to postpone indefinitely out of order.</p>
<p>The motions are voted in the following order: The motion to refer, the motion to amend the amendment, the motion to postpone indefinitely, the bylaws amendment.</p>	<p>The motions are voted on in the following order: the motion to refer, the motion to amend the amendment, the bylaws amendment.</p>