



BUCS IX Guide to Crisis



Content of this (Brief) Guide:

- Basic overview of parliamentary procedure used in committees
- Crisis committees



General Flow of Debate Over Time

Committee begins → Delegates share and debate their varying ideas → Those with similar ideas come together in groups (blocs) → Blocs write documents to help them accomplish their goals → Different blocs work together and negotiate to form more cohesive documents—necessary because any given bloc usually does not have the majority → Voting on documents → Next topic and repeat process.

In crisis and specialized/historical committees, this cyclic process is fast because a large quantity of small documents are expected—issues are usually dealt with one at a time instead of all at once like in general assemblies



Flow of Debate Over Time via Parli Pro (Crisis Committees)

Roll Call

Open Debate (MOTION)

~~Speaker's List~~

Moderated Caucuses

Unmoderated Causes and Document Writing

Q&A? Moderated Caucuses?

Voting

Moderated Caucuses on new topic



Roll Call

- Chair calls out each delegate's CHARACTER name in alphabetical order
- Delegates respond either "present" or "present and voting"
 - P—delegate reserves right to abstain from voting on documents
 - P&V—delegates may NOT abstain from voting on documents
 - This is kind of a power move—demonstrates that your character has strong opinions on the topics to be debated
- Chair records each delegate's voting status on the attendance spreadsheet



Motions

- To do anything in committee, delegates must make motions
- Delegate raises placard → chair calls upon delegate → delegate proposes motions → motion is voted on by whole committee (or approved at chair's discretion) → motion is enacted/rejected
- Laundry list of possible motion
 - Motion to open debate
 - Motion for a moderated caucus—must specify speaking time, total length, topic
 - Motion for an unmoderated caucus—must specify total time
 - Motion to introduce _____ document
 - Motion to move into voting procedure
 - Motion to suspend debate (at end of each session)



Disruptiveness

- When multiple motions are proposed, you vote on them based upon order of disruptiveness—how much a motion will break regular debate structure
- This results in a sort of scale:
 - Moderated caucus
 - Based on amount of speakers, NOT the total speaking time
 - Ex. A 12 min/45 sec has 16 speakers and thus is more disruptive than a 15 min/1 min which has 15 speakers
 - Time for a mod is NOT continuous—each speaker is timed separately and may not use whole speaking period
 - Unmoderated caucus
 - Introduce document
 - Voting Procedure
 - Open and close debate



Points

- Proposed by delegates, essentially a way to ask questions
- Laundry list
 - Point of information—question about content (someone’s speech, etc.), rarely used because debate is mostly in moderated caucus and does not allow questions
 - Point of personal privilege—question for someone to speak up, asking to go to bathroom, etc.
 - Point of parliamentary procedure—clarifying question about procedural matters



Unmoderated Caucuses

- Time for delegates to speak to each other in an unregulated setting
- Often times, this is when ideas are consolidated into documents

Chairs and Directors will walk around during unmods and observe delegate behavior

- Make sure power dels are not cutting off others
- Make sure everyone is respectful
- Observe who is being diplomatic—this is very important to us!
- Observe who has really good ideas, but may not be comfortable with making speeches



Documents

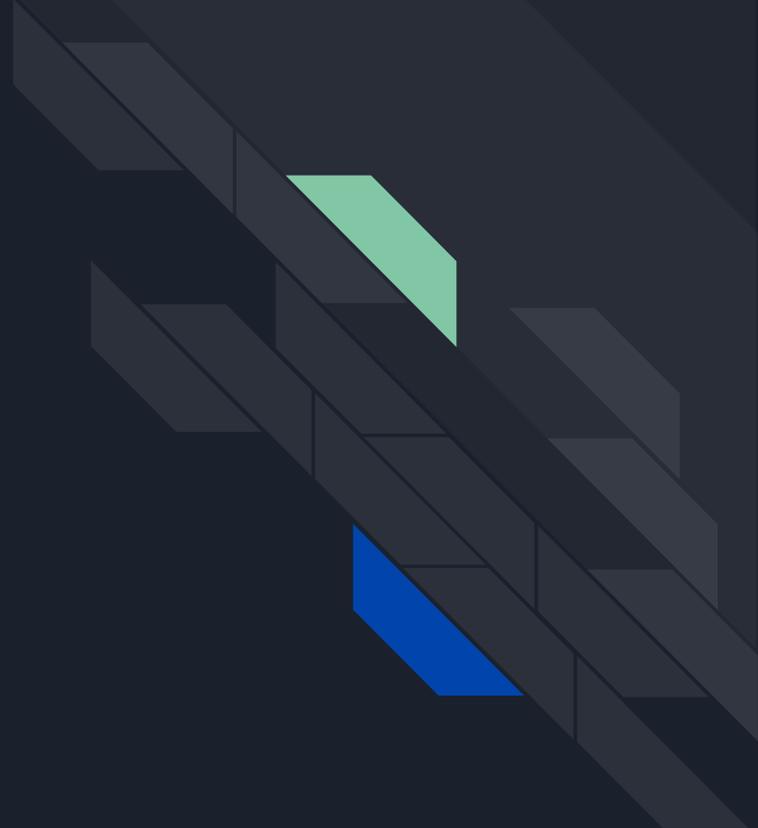
- Crisis committees typically use directives
 - Short, actionable statements aimed at achieving some goal
 - No preambulatory clauses—operative (action) clauses only
 - Exact types of documents vary by committee
 - Could have treaties, constitutions, etc.—Chairs and CMs will explain any irregularities
- Documents must have a certain amount of sponsors and signatories
 - Sponsor—someone that helped write the document
 - Signatory—someone that wants to see the document debated (whether to support it or shut it down)
 - The numerical requirements for each of these are up to the chair and CM
- Once they are introduced and debated upon via mods and Q&A sessions with the sponsors, we move to voting procedure



Voting Procedure

- Motion to move into voting procedure, with or without speakers
 - Speakers—1 for, 1 against the document or 2 for, 2 against
 - Not used often—takes excess time
- Delegates then vote on the document to pass it—the rules of this (i.e. simple vs. $\frac{2}{3}$ majority) are up to the chairs and CMs

More Crisis Committee Specifics





What Makes Crisis Unique?

- Smaller committees!
- Backroom vs. Frontroom
 - Backroom—exists to help you carry out personal plans
 - Frontroom—where you and the other delegates are
- Crisis committees are about balancing backroom and frontroom
 - Normal debate ensues in frontroom, which you should participate in
 - At the same time, backroom activity is constantly occurring behind the scenes
 - How does this work?



Crisis Notes and Backroom

- Crisis note
 - Just like how you can send other delegates notes, you can send notes to people who aren't represented in committee by consulting with backroom
 - You can use them to do sneaky stuff, from conducting covert operations to laundering money
- Backroom
 - A room full of staffers who respond to all these notes as if they were the people being addressed in the note
 - They decide whether or not you can carry out your crisis arc—your individual plan for your character and what you want to achieve

Example Crisis Note

- Historical UNSC on Salvadoran Civil War (1985)
- Country represented: Thailand
- Key takeaways—follow this model!
 - Written to specific people
 - States specific actions
 - Somewhat entertaining—keeps staffers engaged and more likely to approve your requests
- Not all notes need to be this long, but they all must be very specific

Prime Minister
I hope you are having a great start to the New Year. I have received word of ¹⁰⁰ "Entrepreneurial" groups that may be ~~of~~ ^{of} interest, most notably the Medellín and Cali Cartels in Colombia and the MS-13 and 18th St gangs in Los Angeles, California. Would the National Intelligence Agency be able to find ways to contact these groups and see if they would be interested in incorporating opium and heroin manufactured in Thailand into their product of sale. ^{They've been contacted but only 18th St. opium. Their interest in setting up shop whatnot? - PM}
Your Majesty Phumchai Adanyalai,
My hands shake as I write this letter, for my humble personage is unfit to address you on equal grounds as my own. I have identified an opportunity for the Thai Kingdom to expand her reach in this vast world. Our ~~kingdom~~ ^{kingdom} has ~~the~~ ^{the} means to bring an end to this endless dance between the US and USSR in the Global South. I request the equivalent of \$1 billion USD to set up a ~~fund~~ ^{fund} in Krassan to fund and hire our future influence operations named "Goldman Stacks." ^{we should send our best NIA operatives to hire American bankers to run this fund and ensure that these bankers cannot realize they are hired by our government. Long live the king!}