

**GUIDELINE NO. GL- 37**

## **AA GUIDELINE FOR MINORITY REPORTS**

**The following Minority Report Guidelines are adopted from the US/Canada General Service Conference and have been approved for use in Australia:**

1. The minority, expressing a feeling or opinion in light of the right of appeal to the General Service Conference, has been very rare. It is hoped that an individual entitled under Concept V to appeal would exhaust every avenue offered within the General Service Conference structure prior to making an appeal to the General Service Conference.
2. All Conference members are entitled to appeal to the General Service Conference.
3. The minority should announce, in writing, to the chair of the General Service Board, the Chair of the Conference Agenda Committee and to the General Service Office Conference Coordinator that it intends to appeal under Concept V to the General Service Conference.
4. All Conference members will be given notice through the General Service Office of the minority's decision to file an appeal.
5. Appeals under Concept V, including any minority report and background, should be submitted in writing 30 days prior to the General Service Conference in order for these materials to be distributed to Conference members. The G.S.O. Conference Coordinator will be responsible for seeing that this material is made available to all Conference members within 10 business days after its receipt.
6. The minority's appeal will be presented before the start of deliberation on Committee Reports:
  - The minority will be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their appeal. • The majority will then be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their position.
7. The discretion to debate a minority's appeal rests with the Conference body.  
The chair will ask if there is a motion to decline to debate the minority's appeal. A motion to decline to debate a minority's appeal:
  - Must be made without comment. • Needs a second. • Is not debatable. • Requires a two-thirds majority.
8. If the Conference decides to debate the appeal, it then takes the form of a motion which does not require a second. If passed by substantial unanimity, it becomes an advisory action.
9. Whether or not an appeal is debated, a summary of the minority's report and the disposition of the appeal will be published in the Final Conference Report.

**2012 Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee considered modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and took no action. They agreed that the policy approved by the 2011 General Service Conference sufficiently provides a process for the "Right of Appeal" as described in Concept V — the procedure allows for a "well-heard minority" to be a "chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority," and it makes the "best possible use of minority feeling and opinion."