

# The Rule of Order and Higher Education Dee Bruce Sun (China 1995)

## Biography

Dee Bruce Sun is a professor of business at California State University-Long Beach (brucesun@csulb.edu). He was a Fulbright researcher in China 1995-96, and has since been focusing on China's reform, corporate governance, industry performance, and system accountability. He took professional leave in 1999 to work full time in China since, including teaching/research in Peking Univ., Nanjing Univ., Shanghai Univ. of Economics & Finance, Zhejiang Univ., Jiaotong Univ., and advising/consulting for enterprises and governmental agencies such as China Construction Bank, Shenzhen Development Bank, etc. He achieves many management projects and awards in China, publishes 11 books in Chinese, and becomes influential through his newspaper and magazine columns. He holds Ph.D. in MIS (UT-Austin) and M.A. in economics (OSU-Columbus).

## Background

The proposed discussion should elaborate why the rules of order are essentially important to China, and how to implement it through seminars and training programs. Deeply rooted in the West as a corner stone for organizational governance, Robert's Rules of Order will serve an effective instrument.

I have devoted the past three years to building up a foundation, the work including the Chinese translation of the 10th edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (600 pp.), and a user's manual for RONR. The first batch of training workshops conducted in Chinese in home owners associations, EMBA programs in key universities, NPOs, foundations, and major banks, etc.

In sum, the theme is significant, and will produce positive and long term impacts in sustaining improvement in higher education in China and other developing societies.

## Discussions Questions

- Are the conditions matured for introducing the rules of order to the reform of higher education in China?
- How to adapt this vehicle to improve corporate governance in terms of procedural justice, efficiency in group decision-making, and balanced interests among various stakeholders?
- How to mitigate the possible gaps between the rules of order and conventional practices in China?
- How to establish rules in an educational institution for conducting meetings, capable of holding participants (the chair presiding meeting in particular) accountable, and eliminate hidden rules often abusive in convention? (The governance of rule, in essential, requires an organization to state what it actually does and do what it states.)
- How to enforce due procedures in passing and amending rules governing school management? How to ensure the resolution reached in a meeting to be effectively carried out? How to conduct a meeting to get business processed in orderly and focused manner? E.g., how to form a motion in a meeting, and encourage open and constructive discourse leading to resolution?