The Select Committee on the

Modernization of Congress

Business Meeting – December 8, 2021
AGENDA

The following text is being provided in consonance with committee rule 5(c)(2).

<u>Consideration of the following recommendations:</u>

Civility, Collaboration and Member Empowerment

1. **Promoting collaboration and leadership at member orientation:** New Member Orientation should strive to promote civility, collaboration, and leadership skills and be held separately from party leadership events.

2. **Promoting collaboration and civility through voluntary training opportunities:** The proposed Congressional Leadership Academy and Congressional Staff Academy should offer voluntary training to members and staff to promote civility, collaboration and leadership skills.

3. **Expand sponsor designations for bipartisan bills:** The House should permit legislation to have two members of Congress serve as first sponsors, provided that members are affiliated with different political parties.

4. **Acknowledging member involvement in legislation:** Congress.gov should provide a clearer accounting of member contributions to legislation.

5. **Optional committee feedback tool:** The House should develop and provide tools for committee leadership to receive member feedback on committee operations.

6. **Bipartisan committee events:** Committees should have flexibility to host occasional events to foster collaboration and further develop working relationships among committee members.

7. **Learning from state best practices:** The House should survey and examine best practices from state legislatures.

8. **Bipartisan group events:** The Library of Congress is encouraged to expand its regular, bipartisan events to include events specifically focused on promoting relationship building and collaboration among members.

9. **Ongoing institutional support to facilitate civility and collaboration:** An institutional office of the House should provide best practices and facilitate workshops that encourage bipartisan collaboration.

10. **Technology tools to enable collaboration:** The House should offer technology tools to facilitate member collaboration on legislation and issues of mutual interest.

11. **Information on outside organizations and resources:** The House should provide information on organizations and resources members can access for services to help manage conflict and foster common ground.

12. **Bipartisan committee websites:** Committees should have a bipartisan, public-facing website with basic, nonpartisan information about the committee and its operations.

13. **Voluntary resources to help committees develop civility norms:** The House should provide resources and guidance to committees seeking to create tailored civility norms.

14. **Co-working spaces for staff:** The House should explore bipartisan co-working spaces for staff.

15. **Task force on the legislative process:** A bicameral, bipartisan group of members should convene to discuss rules changes to require reciprocated consideration for widely supported, bipartisan legislation.

Support Agency (CRS, CBO, GAO) Recommendations

16. **Make available non-partisan summaries**: The House should prioritize ensuring that bills to receive a floor vote have nonpartisan summaries available.

17. **Bolster legislative support agency access to federal data and experts:** Support agencies should report on challenges and potential solutions for accessing federal data.

18. **Enhancing the customer experience at CRS:** CRS should ensure that its products and services are designed to adapt and meet the needs of an evolving Congress.

19. **Enhancing the customer experience at GAO:** GAO should boost initiatives to meet Congress' information needs and assess member and staff awareness of and satisfaction with its products and services.

20. **GAO annual report on unimplemented recommendations:** GAO should report annually on the estimated cost savings of its unimplemented recommendations.

21. **GAO report to congressional committees on legislative options:** GAO should annually report to Congress on legislative options to address open priority recommendations.

22. **Enhance CBO outreach to Congress:** CBO should expand its congressional outreach to provide additional information and assistance to members of Congress and staff.

23. **Legislative and support agency staff directory:** Congress and congressional support agencies should establish a shared staff directory to enhance the exchange of information and improve collaboration.

24. **Modernize the congressional support agencies:** The committees of jurisdiction should examine support agency authorities and determine if they need to be updated.

25. **Authorize STAA and make it a permanent part of GAO:** The Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics program at GAO should be authorized and made permanent by Congress.

Evidence-based Policymaking Recommendation

26. **Congressional Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking:** Congress should establish a bipartisan, bicameral Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking to encourage and facilitate better use of data in the legislative process.