**TBILISI**

**SETTING THE AGENDA WITH A MODIFIED BORDA COUNT, MBC**

In a role-play performed in Tbilisi State University, 13 students acted as if they were Members of the Georgian Parliament, choosing an agenda for debate. Options presented were as in Table I.

**Table I A List of options**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Options | |
| ***A*** | International Relations |
| ***B*** | Obligations on EU trade |
| ***C*** | The Territorial Question |
| ***D*** | Gender and Equality |
| ***E*** | Labour Laws |
| ***F*** | The location of Parliament |
| ***G*** | Education |

Eleven voters submitted full ballots, so every 1st preference received 7 points, every 2nd got 6, every 3rd got 5, and so on. The results are shown in Table II.

**Table II The Results**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Options | | Points |
| ***A*** | International Relations | 50 |
| ***B*** | Obligations on EU trade | 34 |
| ***C*** | The Territorial Question | 67 |
| ***D*** | Gender and Equality | 37 |
| ***E*** | Labour Laws | 42 |
| ***F*** | The location of Parliament | 13 |
| ***G*** | Education | 65 |
| Total = (11 x 28) = | | 308 |

With 11 voters, each casting (7 + 6 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 =) 28 points, the total cast was 308 points. So option ***C*** was the top priority with 67 points, option ***G*** the second priority, and so on. Accordingly, the agenda could be finalised as shown in Table III, with time allocations (to the nearest quarter hour) in direct proportion to the points received.

**Table III The Agenda**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Options | | Points | Time allocation | |
| ***C*** | The Territorial Question | 67 | 1 hour | 30 minutes |
| ***G*** | Education | 65 | 1 hour | 30 minutes |
| ***A*** | International Relations | 50 | 1 hour | 15 minutes |
| ***E*** | Labour Laws | 42 | 1 hour | - |
| ***D*** | Gender and Equality | 37 | - | 45 minutes |
| ***B*** | Obligations on EU trade | 34 | - | 45 minutes |
| ***F*** | The location of Parliament | 13 | - | 15 minutes |

Therefore, even though passions on some topics were high, differences were tolerated and a collective decision was made. No one won everything; but everyone won something; of such is the nature of consensus voting.

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Tbilisi, 22.12.2017