



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

VISION

I see the Students' Senate as a forum to promote the interests of the Student Community and act as a fair and capable representative body for students. Streamlining the Rules and Procedures of the Senate would go a long way in helping us deliver on our responsibilities and making IIT-Kanpur a successful student-driven campus.

I shall exercise my role as Parliamentarian and Convener of the Rules & Procedures Committee to build a strong procedural backbone of the Senate, which shall work unhindered by the ambiguity of laws or ill-information. I envision a policy-making body which has a clear vision of its capacities and can use its rules to address issues and advance the general cause of the student body on every front. By the end of my tenure, I hope to leave the Constitution strengthened & complete and enable it to tackle the affairs of the General Body in the best possible manner.

INTRODUCTION

The Parliamentarian is entrusted with interpreting the constitution and upholding constitutional integrity. My duties essentially fall into 2 categories, to interpret the constitution in the Senate & supervise the procedures, and to opine on proposed amendments & formulate them in a suited form with the Rules and Procedures Committee. I shall report the work carried out in these regards separately.

INTERPRETATIONS

The Parliamentarian has been explicitly required to provide an interpretation of the constitution on 2 separate occasions in this term till now.

2015-16/2nd Meeting of the Students' Senate: Mr. Abhishek Singh (Senator UG Y11) presented an issue regarding eligibility criteria for the consideration of the Senate. He raised questions over the eligibility of one of the students, holding a ratified post under the Students' Gymkhana. It was clarified by the Acting Parliamentarian that the Appendix- VI of the Constitution of the Students' Gymkhana states that the eligibility criteria should be satisfied at the time of application and hence, there is no procedure to recheck the eligibility of any student during his tenure.

Due to concerns raised over this issue, the Rules and Procedures Committee was directed to look into the relevant clauses and provide its opinion on proposed changes.

2015-16/5th Meeting of the Students' Senate: Clarification was asked from the Chairperson, Students' Senate regarding the status of Ms. Richa Agarwal (UG Girl's Representative) as a member of the Senate. The Parliamentarian in his interpretation of the



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

Constitution told the Senate that as a UG girl had become a member of the Senate through the Mid-term elections, the applicability of the relevant clause regarding the UG Girl Representative had ended and Ms. Richa Agarwal should be relieved of her responsibilities.

To increase clarity in this regard, the Rules and Procedures Committee in its next meeting proposed an amendment in the constitution.

AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of the Students' Gymkhana is the highest document governing it and it is the duty of the Parliamentarian to maintain it as a coherent, comprehensible and organised institution. The Rules and Procedures Committee helps keep up this task and further assists the Parliamentarian in carrying out his/her duties. All proposed amendments in the Students' Senate are directed to the Rules and Procedures Committee for its opinion. So this part of my report would also be the report of the Rules and Procedures Committee.

Members of the Committee

The Rules and Procedures Committee has the Parliamentarian, Students' Senate as its Convener. In addition to the Parliamentarian, the Committee consists of three other members (2 UG and 1 PG this year). The composition of the Committee is:

1. Vedant Goenka, *Parliamentarian (Convener)*
2. Jitendra Katiyar, *Senator PhD*
3. Ayushya Agarwal, *Senator UG Y14*
4. Simrat Singh, *Senator UG Y14*
5. Shubham Atreja, *Chairperson, Students' Senate*

The committee also invited several other relevant individuals for their suggestions and benefitted from their opinions at different points of time. The Committee thanks Gautam Pratap Singh, Sabyasachi Verma and Ashish Aggarwal in this regard.

Meetings

The Rules and Procedures Committee has had 5 meetings this term till now. The meetings took place on the following dates:

1. 23rd March, 2015
2. 21st September, 2015
3. 28th September, 2015
4. 4th October, 2015
5. 5th October, 2015



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

The Committee was able to do considerable work and proposed 17 Constitutional amendments as a result, all of which got passed. The Constitution has undergone some major changes in principles through the process.

Majority of the work has been done in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Meetings of the Rules and Procedures Committee, which took place between two Senate meetings. The proposed amendments were subsequently passed in the 3rd (Special) Meeting of the Students' Senate and await voting. The amendments have been numbered and are listed here. Please refer to the minutes of the above meetings for further insight into the relevant discussion that led to these amendments.

Constitutional Amendment I

This amendment was regarding a new mechanism for Senator Seed Fund. It was formulated in the 1st Meeting of the Rules and Procedures Committee and was subsequently accepted by the Senate in its 2015-16/1st Meeting. It shall be reflected in the Appendix II of the constitution. The text of the amendment has been reproduced here:

- i. **“The Finance Convener shall allocate an amount as seed fund to every senator at the beginning of each financial year.**
- ii. **The senator seed fund shall be used with due intimation to the senate.**
- iii. **The Senator Seed Fund shall be around 1/6 (one-sixth) to 1/8 (one-eighth) of the total Gymkhana Budget, which shall be equally distributed among the Senators.**
- iv. **A Senator shall commit a maximum of 1/3 (one-third) of the seed fund allocated to him/her for a particular activity.**
- v. **An SSF form for any activity shall not be approved by the Finance Convener if it reaches him/her after the date on which the activity actually happened.**
- vi. **The seed fund committed by a Senator for any activity shall be valid only for two months after the date of signing.**
- vii. **Any Club shall in no condition be allowed to use Senator Seed Fund for any activity before a date pre-specified in the Gymkhana Calendar. This date shall be in the month of October.**
- viii. **The Chairperson, Students' Senate shall have to authorise the concerned SSF form before circulation if a Club under the Students' Gymkhana wants to use SSF.**
- ix. **In case any activity by a Gymkhana Club requires more than 1/10 (one-tenth) of the total budget allocated to Senator Seed Fund, the Students' Senate shall decide on it.**
- x. **The Finance Committee shall maintain an updated account of the Senator Seed Fund, accessible at any time to all General Body Members.**
- xi. **The Finance Convener shall re-allocate any unspent fund to other activities towards the end of the financial year.”**



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

Constitutional Amendment II

This amendment is regarding the quorum requirements of the SAC. The following clause is to be reflected in the Constitution of the SAC (**Appendix III**):

“One student representative from each department, Two Students’ Senate nominees to SUGC (SPGC in case of PGSAC) and One Senator shall constitute the quorum.”

Constitutional Amendment III

This amendment is to add clarity to the Eligibility Criteria for various posts under the Gymkhana. The following text is to be added in **Appendix VI** of the Constitution under General Eligibility Criteria after the current clauses:

“Further, he/she is expected to maintain a CPI greater than or equal to 6.0 (in case of UG) or a CPI greater than or equal to 7.00 (in case of PG) during his entire tenure failing which he/she shall cease to hold his/her post in the Gymkhana.”

Constitutional Amendment IV

This amendment is regarding the various positions of responsibility that can be nominated by a concerned authority to be ratified in the Senate. The following list is to be included in an Appendix of the Constitution:

“The Students’ Senate:

- **Secretaries, who shall work under the office of the Students’ Senate**

The Presidents’ Office:

- **Member, President’s Office**
- **Head, SAC**
- **Book Master**
- **Webmaster**

The Executive Councils:

- **Council Head: To assist the Executive in managing the overall activities of the Council**
- **Coordinators/Leaders: To manages the Clubs/Hobby groups respectively**
- **Secretaries: To assist the Coordinators/Leaders in managing their work**
- **Executives: To assist the General Secretary in carrying out a very specific set of work. For ex: Finance Executives, Web Executives etc.**
- **Overall Managers: To organise the council event under the General Championship**



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

- **Event Managers:** To organise major events like Freshers' Night, Josh etc. under the Council
- As an exception, the Vox Populi may have Chief Editors instead of Club Coordinators.

The Cells:

- Overall Coordinators/Heads
- Executives

The Election Council:

- Senior Election Officers
- Junior Election Officers

The Festival teams:

- Festival Coordinators/Heads
- Senior Executives/Managers, who shall work directly under the Heads
- Junior Executives/Secretaries, who shall assist the Senior Executives in their work
- Security Officers, further categorised as:
 - Principal Security Officers
 - Senior Security Officers"

Constitutional Amendment V

This amendment is regarding the composition and the role of the Nominations Committee under the Students' Senate. To make the text consistent with corresponding clauses in other Committees, **Article 4.11** is proposed to be re-written as:

4.11 Nominations Committee

- a. The Nominations Committee shall recommend to the Senate the names of persons **for any representation of the Senate or for Senate ratified positions, where it is asked to by the constitution or where there is no recommending authority.**
- b. **Specifically, the Nominations Committee shall recommend to the Senate the name(s) of Students' Senate Representative(s) to the Standing Committees of the (Academic) Senate.**
- c. **The Nominations Committee can call for an explanation, in case its recommended nominee(s) is (are) not found suitable for the assigned task. All its nominations/actions are to be ratified by the Senate.**
- d. **For each selection pertaining to any representation/position, the Nominations Committee shall constitute a panel to interview the various**



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

- candidates and select from them the names that shall be recommended to the Senate. The panel may not contain anybody who is contesting for the various posts, even if they are a member of the Nominations Committee.
- e. The President, Students' Gymkhana shall be the *ex-officio* Convener of the Nominations Committee and the Chairperson, Students' Senate shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Nominations Committee.
 - f. It shall otherwise consist of **one more** member, elected by the Senate to this position.
 - g. **Ordinarily, the committee should have at least one undergraduate and one postgraduate Member of the Senate. However, if the Senate is unable to elect one such member, it may, by resolution, choose to elect one Member of the General Body to this position, such that the above condition is satisfied in terms of Members of the General Body.**

Constitutional Amendment VI

This amendment is regarding the restructuring of the Presidential Council. The Council is to be dissolved and replaced with the President's Office. The Article 5.09 which defined the Presidential Council is proposed to be replaced by **Article 5.02**, which may read as:

5.02 The President's Office

- a. **The Office shall assist the President in discharging his/her duties, and any other duty assigned by the Senate.**
- b. **The Office shall otherwise consist of all members nominated by the President and the Finance Convener (*ex-officio*).**

Constitutional Amendment VII

This amendment is regarding re-defining the duties of the President in order to better reflect his/her work and account for the new changes. The Article 2.05 defining the role of the President is now to be **Article 2.06** and may read as:

2.06 The President, Students' Gymkhana shall be the Chief Executive of the Gymkhana. He/she shall:

- a. **Be elected by the General Body.**
- b. **Supervise and coordinate the general affairs of the General Body.**
- c. **Represent views of the students at all forums of the Institute.**
- d. **Be an *ex-officio* special invitee to the (academic) Senate of the Institute.**
- e. **Be a member of various bodies of the Institute whenever a representative of the Gymkhana is required.**
- f. **Preside over meetings of the General Body, when convened by him/her.**



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

- g. Maintain and execute an Office of the Students' Gymkhana (hereinafter referred to as the President's Office).**
- h. Have other responsibilities and powers as mentioned in this Constitution or as assigned to him/her by the Senate from time to time.**

Constitutional Amendment VIII

This amendment is to re-order the duties of the Chairperson to better reflect his/her work. The Article 2.06 defining the role of the Chairperson is now to be **Article 2.07** and may read as:

2.07 The Chairperson (/Chairman/Chairwoman), Students' Senate shall convene and preside over meetings of the Senate. He/she shall:

- a. Be elected by the Senate from amongst its non-executive members.**
- b. Direct the appropriate persons for the successful implementation of the decisions of the Senate and be responsible to the Senate for the same.**
- c. Represent the view of the Senate at all forums of the Institute.**
- d. Be an *ex-officio* special invitee to the (academic) Senate of the Institute.**
- e. Be a member of various bodies of the Institute whenever a representative of the Senate is required.**
- f. Preside over meetings of the General Body, when convened by him/her.**
- g. Maintain this Constitution, its Appendices, and all records of the Students' Senate.**
- h. Maintain and execute an Office of the Students' Senate.**
- i. Have other responsibilities and powers as mentioned in this Constitution or as assigned to him/her by the Senate from time to time.**

Unless specifically assigned by the Constitution or the Senate, he/she shall not have any executive responsibilities.

Constitutional Amendment IX

This amendment is to re-define the duties of the General Secretaries in order to better fit the new structure of the Gymkhana. The sub-clauses b. and c. in each one's duties were changed. Further, the term Council is to be dropped from the names of each General Secretary and their names are to be re-ordered alphabetically. The **Article 2.03 (a)** and **Articles 2.08-2.11 (b) & (c)** may thus read as:

2.03 (a) The Executives, namely:

- i. The President, Students' Gymkhana**
- ii. The General Secretary, Cultural**
- iii. The General Secretary, Films and Media**



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

- iv. The General Secretary, Games and Sports
- v. The General Secretary, Science and Technology

2.08 The General Secretary, Cultural shall be the Executive of Gymkhana overseeing the Cultural activities. He/she shall:

- b. Supervise and coordinate all Cultural activities of the General Body.
- c. Be the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Cultural Council.

2.09 The General Secretary, Films and Media shall be the Executive of the Gymkhana overseeing Films and Media activities. He/she shall:

- b. Supervise and coordinate all Film and Media activities of the General Body.
- c. Be the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Films and Media Council.

2.10 The General Secretary, Games and Sports shall be the Executive of the Gymkhana overseeing Games and Sports activities. He/she shall:

- b. Supervise and coordinate all Games and Sports activities of the General Body.
- c. Be the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Games and Sports Council.

2.11 The General Secretary, Science and Technology shall be the Executive of the Gymkhana overseeing Science and Technology activities. He/she shall:

- b. Supervise and coordinate all Science and Technology activities of the General Body.
- c. Be the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Science and Technology Council.

Constitutional Amendment X

This amendment is regarding the introduction of a new entity under the Gymkhana called Cells. The Cells shall function independently of the councils and report directly to the Senate. The relevant clauses pertaining to Cells are to be introduced as **Articles 5.16 - 5.21:**

5.16 There shall be Cells which operate independent of any council and carry out activities that serve a diversified cause.

5.17 Cells shall be headed by one or more Overall Coordinators appointed by the Senate at the recommendation of the Nominations Committee. Overall Coordinator(s) shall recommend to the Senate for ratification the names of the



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

students who shall be appointed to various positions of responsibility in their respective cell.

- 5.18** Whenever asked, the Overall Coordinator(s) shall report to the Senate and be answerable for the activities carried out by their cell. The Overall Coordinator(s) shall further present an Annual report of the cell before the handing-over session of the Senate.
- 5.19** A cell may have Faculty members as Advisors who may counsel and assist the cell in its working.
- 5.20** Cells shall receive funding from the Annual Gymkhana Budget.
- 5.21** A list of all cells, clubs and hobby groups and details of the positions of responsibility under the councils and the cells shall be maintained in an Appendix to this Constitution.

Constitutional Amendment XI

This amendment is regarding a grammatical inconsistency in the **Preamble** to the Constitution. The text is to be amended as:

- *Advancing the general welfare of our fellow students*

Constitutional Amendment XII

This amendment is regarding the changes due to the new structure of the Gymkhana in Chapter 1. The **Article 1.05** is to be amended as:

- 1.05 The Counsellors shall advise their respective **councils** of the Gymkhana.

Constitutional Amendment XIII

This amendment is regarding the various inconsistencies that were pointed out in Chapter 2 of the Constitution. Further, it also includes the changes due to the new structure of the Gymkhana. The following Articles are to be amended as:

- 2.01** The Gymkhana shall function through the Students' Senate and its **Executive wing**.
- 2.02** The Students' Senate (hereafter referred to as the Senate) shall be the Central Representative, Legislative and Supervisory body of the students. It shall:
- a. Serve as the main forum of expression of student opinion.
 - b. Be in continuous touch with the General Body, consult the students, and act as a feedback system.
 - c. Act as the central policy making body of the Gymkhana.
 - d. Guide and check the functioning of the **Executive wing** of the Gymkhana.



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

However, it shall not interfere in matters of minor importance, in order that the free functioning of the **Executive wing** within the general policy framework defined by the Senate is not affected.

- 2.05 The Executive wing of the Students' Gymkhana shall comprise of the President's Office, the Executive Councils and independent Cells.**
- 2.12** The Parliamentarian shall advise the Senate on Constitutional and procedural matters.
- 2.13** The Finance Convener shall advise the Senate on **financial** matters. He/she shall oversee the **financial** affairs of the Gymkhana.
- 2.15 In all matters of general interest, the President's office, the Executive councils, cells and the committees and councils of the Senate,** all bodies appointed by the Senate, and all **other** bodies of the Gymkhana except its Advisory Body and General Body, shall be subordinate to the Students' Senate, and therein the Senate shall be subordinate to the General Body.
- 2.17** Majority decisions shall be binding. Persons holding different views at any level shall have the right to committee and report directly to all higher bodies up to and including the General Body (as in **Article 2.14**), however the decisions taken shall be executed until and unless higher bodies undo them.
- 2.18** The President or the Chairperson may convene a meeting of the General Body on their own initiative to discuss matters of general importance. The meeting will be presided over by whosoever convenes it.
- 2.19** The President or the Chairperson may refer any matter to the General Body through a meeting (as per Article 2.17) or through a referendum, if so requested by at least 1/3rd of the total strength of the Senate.
- 2.21** The President and the Chairperson shall have the power to requisition a meeting of any **Executive council or cell or any subcommittee, committee or council of the Senate.**
- 2.22** Notwithstanding any other Articles of the Constitution, the President may attend as a full-fledged member any meetings of any **Executive council or cell, or any subcommittee, committee or council of the Senate** or any other body appointed by the Senate except for the Rules and Procedures Committee, the Finance Committee and the Steering Committee, and may overrule any decisions taken by them. In the event of the President doing so, he/she shall be obliged, if requested by the concerned body, to requisition a meeting of the Senate and place his/her decision before it.
- 2.23** Notwithstanding any other Articles of the Constitution, the Chairperson may attend as a full-fledged member any meeting of any subcommittee, committee or **council of the Senate.**
- 2.24** During vacations (as specified in the Academic Calendar of the Institute), the Vacation Senate, consisting of all Senators present on campus, shall discuss matters of urgent importance. Other matters may also be discussed; however any decisions taken must be ratified by the full Senate when it meets next.



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

- 2.25** Every year, there shall be a handing over session which shall be jointly attended by members of both the incoming as well as outgoing Senate as full-fledged members. The President, the General Secretaries and the Chairperson of the outgoing Senate will handover charge to the same of the incoming Senate respectively in writing, under the supervision of the Chairperson of the incoming Senate. The annual report of the Gymkhana, consisting of the reports of all **Office bearers and councils/cells/festivals** shall be presented before the House for comments.
- 2.26** The **Members** of the Senate must attend every meeting of the Senate. If he/she is not able to attend a meeting, he/she is expected to nominate another student of his/her batch to attend the meeting on his/her behalf. The attendance rules for Senators and Executives shall be documented in the Rules and Procedures of the Students' Senate (**Appendix I**).
- Any Senator who shall be unable to attend a meeting of the Senate is expected to inform the Chairperson for his/her aforementioned inability, and must take prior permission before doing so. If he/she fails to do so, or if he/she is absent from too many meetings (as specified in the Rules and Procedures of the Students' Senate), then he/she shall cease to hold his/her post.
 - Any Executive who shall be unable to attend a meeting of the Senate is expected to inform the Chairperson for his/her aforementioned inability, and must take prior permission before doing so. If he/she fails to do so, the Chairperson shall issue a show-cause notice to him/her. If the concerned Executive is unable to present a satisfactory explanation (as determined by 2/3rd of the Senate present and voting, and not less than half the total strength of the Senate), or if he/she is absent again without prior permission from the Chairperson, then he/she shall cease to hold his/her post.
- 2.27** If the President, any General Secretary, the Chairperson or the Finance Convener is not on campus due to vacation, is on leave from the Institute or is otherwise unable to fulfil his duties for a short period of time, then he/she may appoint any member of the General Body as the Acting **Office-bearer** for the duration of his absence. The Acting **Office-bearer** shall take care of all responsibilities of the **Office-bearer**, and any action taken by or on him/her will be considered an action taken by or on the **Office-bearer**.
- 2.28** If the Parliamentarian, or the Convener of any Standing Council or Standing Committee of the Senate is unable to attend a Senate meeting, or is otherwise unable to fulfil his duties for a short period of time, then he/she may appoint a Senator as the Acting **Office-bearer** for the duration of his absence. The Acting **Office-bearer** shall take care of all responsibilities of the **Office-bearer**, and any action taken by or on him/her will be considered an action taken by or on the **Office-bearer**.



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

Constitutional Amendment XIV

This amendment is regarding the various inconsistencies that were pointed out in Chapter 3 of the Constitution. The following Articles are to be amended as follows:

3.02 The Election Council shall conduct General Elections annually for all Members of the Senate.

a. Members who shall officiate till the Senate hands over charge shall be:

- i. President, Students' Gymkhana
- ii. **General Secretary, Cultural**
- iii. **General Secretary, Films and Media**
- iv. **General Secretary, Games and Sports**
- v. **General Secretary, Science and Technology**
- vi. **Senator BT/BS-MT/MS/MBA, 4th Year**
- vii. **Senator BT/BS, 3rd Year**
- viii. **Senator BT/BS, 2nd Year**
- ix. **Senator BT/BS, 1st Year**
- x. Senator MTech (2-year), 1st Year
- xi. Senator MBA, MDes and other 2-year programmes, 1st Year
- xii. Senator MSc (2-year), 1st Year
- xiii. **Senator PhD (from all PhD students)**

b. Members who shall officiate till the Convocation of the Institute shall be:

- i. **Senator BT/BS-MT/MS/MBA, 5th Year**
- ii. **Senator BT/BS, 4th Year**
- iii. Senator MTech (2-year), 2nd Year
- iv. Senator MBA, MDes and other 2-year programmes, 2nd Year
- v. Senator MSc (2-year), 2nd Year

3.03 General Elections shall ordinarily be held around 20th January **each year**. However, under exceptional situations, the Senate may postpone it for a maximum period of one month.

3.04 The Election Council shall conduct Mid-term elections annually for the following Members of the Senate, who shall officiate until the Senate hands over charge:

- i. **Senator BT/BS, 1st Year**
- ii. Senator MTech (2-year), 1st Year
- iii. Senator MBA, MDes and other 2-year programmes, 1st Year
- iv. Senator MSc (2-year), 1st Year



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

- 3.05** By-elections shall be conducted along with the Mid-term Elections for any post mentioned in Article 3.02 which is vacant at that point of time.
- 3.06** Mid-term elections shall be held in August or early September each year.
- 3.07** In case no UG Girl Senator (respectively PG Girl Senator) is elected, the elections of the UG Girl Representative (respectively PG Girl **Representative**) as per Article 2.03 (c) shall be conducted by the same Election Council. **Further, if any UG Girl Senator (respectively PG Girl Senator) gets elected during the Mid-Term election, the incumbent UG Girl Representative (respectively PG Girl Representative) shall stand unseated from office.**
- 3.08** Notwithstanding any other article in the constitution, the eligibility criteria for each of the above posts shall be as stated in the Appendix VI to the Constitution.
- 3.09** The President and the General Secretaries shall be elected from the General Body on the basis of the following system:
- If there are $n (>1)$ candidates, the voters shall either give a “no-preference” vote or $(n-1)$ preferences. If there is 1 candidate, the voters shall give either a “no-preference” or a vote in favour of the contesting candidate.
 - If the number of “no-preference” votes is greater than or equal to half of the total valid votes cast, then the election of that post shall stand void, and each candidate will be barred from contesting again for the post of President or General Secretary. A re-election will be held with no option of “no-preference”, that is, for $n (>1)$ candidates, the voters shall give $(n-1)$ preferences. **If there is 1 candidate, he/she shall stand elected for that post.** Counting shall be as per **Article 3.09 (d)**.
 - If the number of “no-preference” votes is less than half of the total valid votes cast, then the “no-preference” votes shall be discarded and counting of the rest of the votes shall be as per **Article 3.09 (d)**.
 - Counting shall be done in successive rounds. In the first round, only first preference votes shall be counted and the candidate with the least first preference votes shall be declared unsuccessful. In the next round, second preference votes of the unsuccessful candidates shall be added to the first preference count of continuing candidates and again the candidate with the lowest tally shall be declared unsuccessful. The procedure continues until one candidate, who shall be declared successful, secures half or more than half of the total valid votes remaining after discarding the no-preference votes.
- 3.10** Senators shall be elected **from their respective batches** on the basis of **the following** preferential voting system:



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

- a. Each voter shall cast three preferences in favour of different candidates, the first preference carrying 5 points, the second preference carrying 3 points and the third preference carrying 1 point.
 - b. **Counting shall be done in successive rounds.** The names of Senators will be listed according to first preference points. If the requisite number of candidates got more than 500 first preference points, the requisite number of candidates in order of points obtained will be elected. If otherwise, those getting above 500 points will be elected and the rest will be listed again according to first and second preference points and candidates getting above 750 points will be considered for election in order of points obtained. If the requisite number of candidates are still not elected the rest of the senators will be elected on the basis of combined first, second and third preference points.
- 3.11 The Chairperson shall be elected by the Senate from among the non-executive Members of the Senate. The elections of these posts for the incoming Senate will be conducted by the Chairperson and Parliamentarian of the outgoing Senate in the following manner:
- a. Each Senator and Executive shall cast one vote for one of the candidates. If only two candidates are contesting at any point, the vote of the President will be hidden, and shall be considered in case of a tie.
 - b. If a candidate gets more than half of the votes cast, **he/she** is declared elected.
 - c. If not, the candidate(s) with the least votes gets eliminated.
 - d. Each Senator and Executive shall once again cast votes for the continuing candidates, and this process will continue until **Article 3.11 (b)** occurs, or until all but one candidate (who shall be declared elected) are eliminated.
 - e. If a tie occurs as per **Article 3.11 (a)**, the vote of the President will be counted to break the tie.
- 3.12 The elections of the Parliamentarian, the Finance Convener, the In-charge Hostel Affairs, the In-charge UG Academics and the In-charge PG Academics will also be conducted as per **Article 3.11**. In this case, the tie-breaking vote will be that of the Chairperson and not the President.
- 3.13 If the post any Senate **Office-bearer** falls vacant in the middle of the Senate's term, by-elections will be called by the Senate for that post. This election shall be conducted by the **incumbent** Chairperson or Parliamentarian or both (whichever is applicable) as per **Article 3.11**.
- 3.14 Notwithstanding any **other** Article in this Chapter **except Article 3.08**, the norms and modalities regarding the elections shall be fixed by the Election Council which can be



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

challenged only in the Senate. The Chief Election Officer shall present these in the Senate meeting before every election.

Constitutional Amendment XV

This amendment is regarding the changes in Chapter 4 of the Constitution due to the new structure of the Gymkhana. The Article 4.08 is to be amended as follows:

4.08 Finance Committee

- a. The Finance Committee shall manage the finances of the Gymkhana and shall control and supervise the expenditures incurred by the **Executive wing** of the Gymkhana.

Constitutional Amendment XVI

This amendment is regarding the various inconsistencies that were left in Chapter 5 of the Constitution due to the new structure of the Gymkhana. The name of the Chapter is also to be changed to:

ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE WING

The following Articles are to be amended as:

5.01 The Executive activities of the Gymkhana shall be discharged through **the President's Office, the four Executive Councils and independent Cells.**

5.02 The President's Office.

- a. **The Office shall assist the President in discharging his/her duties, and any other duty assigned by the Senate.**
- b. **The Office shall otherwise consist of all members nominated by the President and the Finance Convener (*ex-officio*).**

5.03 The four Executive Councils shall be:

- a. **Cultural Council**
- b. **Films and Media Council**
- c. **Games and Sports Council**
- d. **Science and Technology Council**

5.04 Each council may comprise of clubs and hobby groups which may carry out activities related to a particular interest.

5.05 A hobby group shall be an association of 10 or more students united by a common activity or interest. Such groups **shall** be associated with a council, with the consent of its General Secretary, and shall be headed by **one or more Leaders** appointed by Senate at the recommendation of the General Secretary.



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

5.06 An exceptionally performing hobby group can be converted into a club. Such groups shall be headed by **one or more** Coordinators appointed by **the** Senate at the recommendation of the General Secretary, and shall be selected by a call for nominations to the General Body.

5.08 Cultural Council

- a. The Cultural Council shall organize and promote extracurricular activities in the field of culture.
- b. Clubs and hobby groups in the field of culture shall be part of the Cultural Council.
- c. The **General Secretary, Cultural** shall be the Chairperson of the Cultural Council and shall supervise the Council's activities.
- d. The Council will consist of all members nominated by the General Secretary, the Coordinators of the clubs/hobby groups of the Council, the President or his/her nominee, Finance Convener (*ex-officio*), the member of the Finance Committee associated with Antaragni (*ex-officio*) and the Festival Coordinator, Antaragni (*ex-officio*).

5.09 Films and Media Council

- a. The Films and Media Council shall organize and promote extracurricular activities in the fields of films and media.
- b. Clubs and hobby groups in the fields of films and media shall be part of the Films and Media Council.
- c. The **General Secretary, Films and Media** shall be the Chairperson of the Films and Media Council and shall supervise the Council's activities.
- d. The Council will consist of all members nominated by the General Secretary, the Coordinators of the clubs/hobby groups of the Council, the President or his/her nominee, Finance Convener (*ex-officio*) and the member of the Finance Committee associated with Antaragni (*ex-officio*).

5.10 Games and Sports Council

- a. **The Games and Sports Council shall organize and promote extracurricular activities in the fields of games and sports.**
- b. **Clubs and hobby groups in the fields of games and sports shall be part of the Games and Sports Council.**
- c. **The General Secretary, Games and Sports shall be the Chairperson of the Games and Sports Council and shall supervise the Council's activities.**
- d. **The Council will consist of all members nominated by the General Secretary, the Coordinators of the clubs/hobby groups of the Council, Captains of the various sports teams of the Institute, the President or his/her nominee, Finance Convener (*ex-officio*), the member of the Finance**



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

Committee associated with Udghosh (*ex-officio*) and the Festival Coordinator, Udghosh (*ex-officio*).

5.11 Science and Technology Council

- a. The Science and Technology Council shall organize and promote extracurricular activities in the fields of science and technology.
- b. Clubs and hobby groups in the fields of science and technology shall be part of the Science and Technology Council.
- c. The **General Secretary, Science and Technology** shall be the Chairperson of the Science and Technology Council and shall supervise the Council's activities.
- d. The Council will consist of all members nominated by the General Secretary, the Coordinators of the clubs/hobby groups of the Council, the President or his/her nominee, Finance Convener (*ex-officio*), the member of the Finance Committee associated with Techkriti (*ex-officio*) and the Festival Coordinator, Techkriti (*ex-officio*).

5.12 Clubs and Hobby groups that do not belong in any council shall be supervised by the President. In such a scenario, all duties pertaining to clubs and hobby groups carried out by General Secretaries shall be carried out by the President for those particular clubs or hobby groups.

5.13 The President and General Secretaries shall recommend to the Senate for ratification the names of the students who shall be appointed to various **positions of responsibility in their respective office or councils.**

5.15 At most five of the names recommended by the President/General Secretary for inclusion in their respective **office or council** may be Senators.

5.22 Notwithstanding any of the above, the Gymkhana shall organize three inter-collegiate Gymkhana festivals, viz.

- a. Antaragni, the Cultural Festival;
- b. Udghosh, the Sports Festival; and
- c. Techkriti, the Technical **and Entrepreneurial** Festival

5.23 The festivals shall be governed by a Festival Manual which shall be maintained as an Appendix to this Constitution.

Constitutional Amendment XVII

This amendment is regarding the various inconsistencies that were left in Chapter 6 of the Constitution due to the new structure of the Gymkhana. The following Articles are to be amended as:



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

- 6.06 Finance Committee will finalize the budget on the recommendation and requirements of **the President's office, Executive councils and cells** and will present it to the Senate for ratification.
- 6.07 In the budget of the **Executive councils**, separate heads are to be made for various club activities, other major expenses and estimates of miscellaneous expenses.
- 6.08 In the budget of the President's office and cells, separate heads are to be made for all the major expenses and estimates of miscellaneous expenses.**
- 6.16** Advances will be given to **the President and the General Secretaries** (that is the five executives) or to any person they authorize, in writing, to do so against their name. All advances shall stand due against the names of the concerned executives unless and until satisfactorily accounted for in accordance with all the rules in force.
- 6.18** If somehow expenditures have been done without taking the advances then the concerned club coordinator, **cell overall coordinator or the Executive** will have to give an explanation to the Finance Convener and seek his/her permission to get the bills reimbursed.
- 6.18 Payment for any bill will be made only after the same has been verified for payment by the concerned **overall coordinator or the Executive**. However, no bill/voucher will be accepted as valid and adjusted for unless scrutinized and accepted as proper, as per rules laid down by the Students' Senate and by the Finance Committee.
- 6.22 The Senate shall take disciplinary action against any person(s) against whom a case of gross financial **mismanagement**/mal-appropriation has been reported and accepted as true after the concerned person(s) has (have) been given adequate opportunity to defend himself/herself (themselves). The decision shall be referred to the chief Counsellor for implementation.
- 6.24 If the Finance Committee of a particular year fails to point out cases of gross financial **mismanagement**/mal-appropriation of funds which are subsequently discovered by the succeeding Finance Committee, then disciplinary action will be initiated against the Finance Committee members also (as per Article 5.21).

PROPOSED WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN

There are multiple tasks that I shall be taking up post this major Constitutional Amendment. I am looking forward to a busier second half of my term.

1. Primarily, the Rules and Procedures Committee shall be re-looking into all the existing Appendices to ensure that they are in line with the new structure of the Gymkhana. Appendix VI, in particular, might need some major re-hauling.



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

2. Secondly, I shall be working with the Committee to re-write the Appendices to write the pending appendices of the New Constitution. While the Appendices V, VI, VII and VIII have been completed and passed, the Appendices I, II, III and IV are yet to be completed. Major inputs are required from the Finance Convener, COSHA Convener and SAC Conveners for each of their respective Appendices.
3. The proposal for a new Appendix IX was accepted by the Senate and so it also needs to be shaped accordingly.
4. Chapter VII of the Constitution: BY-LAWS, has not undergone any amendment as a part of this term's set of major amendments as it did not require any change due to the new Gymkhana structure. This Chapter however contains clauses overlapping with some clauses in other Chapters or Appendices of the Constitution. Further, it lacks a coherent structure and shall need some re-structuring.
5. In order to enable easy browsing through the Constitution, I shall try and build in internal hyperlinking at various points in the Constitution.
6. The Student Governance Report passed by the Academic Senate lays down various rules and regulations for governing all students of the institute. As a self-governing student body, it is imperative for us to adopt those guidelines and incorporate them in our Constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All amendments to the Constitution or its Appendices should be numbered serially, starting from the first amendment to the New Constitution. The list should be continuous across subsequent terms of the Senate and each new Amendment should get added at the end of the list. The Senate in the past has practiced numbering Constitutional Amendments in a fresh list each term. The practice however has not been prevalent across terms and hence this new practice is recommended.
2. In my pursuits through previous minutes and amendments, I found on multiple occasions that passed amendments had failed to get reflected in the Constitution. I feel that this is a major breach in conducting affairs and hence recommend a new procedure to take care of the same. When a Constitutional Amendment is voted upon and passed in a Senate meeting, the updated Constitution should be brought as a noting item in the next meeting thereafter, regular or special.
3. In order to better reflect on the Constitutional changes in a term, an edited Constitution with changes in Track Mode should be presented at the end of each term, as a part of the End-Term Report of the Parliamentarian. Importance is being given to highlight amendments in Track Mode so as to enable readers to contrast the amendments made in that term.



Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (2015-16) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Mid-Term Report



Presented by - Vedant Goenka

4. Certain procedures and Constitutional requirements may sometimes be overlooked by the Senate due to human error. It should be incorporated into the responsibility of the Parliamentarian to point out any unconstitutional procedure being followed and provide the relevant Constitutional clauses against the same.
5. A Webpage of the Rules and Procedures Committee should be made on the Students' Senate website, on lines of webpages of the other Standing Committees and Councils of the Senate.