



Rules and Procedures Committee, Students' Senate, 2014-15 Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Parliamentarian | Sabyasachi Verma

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting held on 07.11.14

The 2014-15/2nd Meeting of the Rules and Procedures Committee was held on Friday, 7th November, 2014 in the Convener's Room, New SAC. The meeting was called to order by the Convener, Rules and Procedures Committee at 10:15 PM.

The Agenda Items were taken up for the consideration.

Item No. 1	To consider the constitutional amendment regarding the "Procedure of the Elections of Senators in the institute."
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The Elections sub-committee constituted by the Senate submitted its interim report on the 6th Meeting of the Students' Senate, 2014-15. The report contains two methods for the conduction of the election of Senators, in which one is the scaled version of the current system while the other is a new method proposed by the sub-committee based primarily on distribution of points. The proposal was referred to the Rules and Procedures Committee by the senate for its opinions regarding the constitutional amendments.

Further in the report, the scaled version shall be referred as Method 'A' and the new method as Method 'B' for any consideration.

The committee looked into all the aspects of the proposal and came out with the following recommendations-

1. The Method 'A' is a scaled version of the current model and is a totally valid form of election considering the prevalent and used current model.
2. The Method 'B' is a new method based on distribution of points and casting of a 'vote'. The major stand-point of this method is the flexibility granted to the voter in terms of the distribution. This method of election is also a constitutionally valid method as it represents the 1:150 ratio of the 'Senators of a batch: No. of students in the batch'.
3. The new method however still needs more critical review regarding its implementation in the upcoming elections as well as its adequacy and advantage over the previous system in certain cases.

Hence, the validation of the methods was reviewed by the Rules and Procedures Committee. The Committee limits itself to the constitutional amendment and urges the Senate to review both the methods above and to reach a conclusion urgently and wisely. The agenda should be discussed upon in the Senate, giving full consideration to all the aspects included since it will involve a major change in the way used since a long time.

With regard to the above mentioned points, the committee recommends the given constitutional amendment for each of the method of election submitted by the Elections Ad-hoc sub-committee regarding the 'Method of Election of Senators'. The method 'A' shall require amendment of article 3.07 and 'B' shall require an amendment in the article 3.06 and 3.07 of the constitution.

For convenience, the current articles are reproduced below:

3.06 - Senators shall be elected on the basis of a preferential voting system. 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.

3.07 - Senators for each class will be declared elected in the following way. The names of Senators will be listed according to first preference points. If the requisite number of candidates got more than 340 first preference points, the requisite number of candidates in order of points obtained will be elected. If otherwise, those getting above 340 points will be elected and the rest will be listed again according to first and second preference points and candidates getting above 500 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.

The constitutional amendments regarding method of elections-

For method 'A' :-

3.07 - Senators for each class will be declared in the following way. The names of candidates 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 will be elected. If otherwise, those getting above 500 points will be declared elected and the rest will be listed again according to first and second preference points. The candidates getting above 750 points will be considered elected 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."

For method 'B' :-

"3.07 - Senators shall be elected on the basis of a mixture of a preferential voting system and a first-past-the-post system. Each voter shall cast a ballot which will consist of a vote and of a point distribution. If there are n Senators for a given class, then each voter shall have n integral points to distribute among the candidate, which he/she may do so howsoever he/she wishes. For any given ballot, the candidate who got the most points will be considered as having gotten the vote on that ballot. If two or more candidates have equal and highest points, then the voter must choose one of them for the vote.

3.08 - Senators for each class will be declared in the following way. In the first round of counting, the names of the candidates will be listed according to the number of votes obtained. All candidates who secured at least 150 votes will be declared elected. If less than the requisite number of candidates are declared elected, then the remaining candidates will be listed according to the total number of points they received from all the ballots the requisite number of candidates from the top shall be declared to be elected."

The Senate is requested by the committee to consider the above amendments.

Item No. 2	To update the Constitution by checking and correcting the inconsistencies, if there are any.
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The Agenda item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 3	Any other item with the permission of the Chair.
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No other agenda item was introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 PM.