



Rules and Procedures Committee, Students' Senate, 2014-15

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Parliamentarian | Sabyasachi Verma

Minutes of the 4th Meeting held on 13.03.15

The 2014-15/4th Meeting of the Rules and Procedures Committee was held on Friday, 13th March, 2015 in the Convener's Room, New SAC. The meeting was called to order by the Convener, Rules and Procedures Committee at 11:00 PM.

The Agenda Items were taken up for the consideration.

Item No. 1	To consider the proposal for 'Restructuring the Standing Committees of the Students' Senate'
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Details- The proposal regarding restructuring the Standing Committees was submitted in the 9th Meeting/SS/2014-15 by Mr. Gautam Pratap Singh (Incoming President, SG) and Shubham Atreja (Incoming Chairperson, SS) for the consideration of the Senate. The Senate considered the proposal and as it will require a constitutional amendment, sent it to the Rules and Procedures Committee for its opinion.

The committee decided to look into the proposals presented in order of mention and look into their constitutional acceptability as well as the possibility of having the new system as mentioned in the proposal. The following opinions are made by the committee-

1) Regarding dissolution of the Steering Committee-

The proposal of dissolution of the Steering committee rested on the fact that the strength of the Senate has reduced and the work of the Steering committee is not one which shall be given to the Senators, as representatives of the batches. The proposal demanded this work to be given to the Secretaries of the Students' Senate under the responsibility of the Chairperson, SS.

The committee opines that-

1) The work of the Steering committee is important regarding assisting the Chairperson in steering the meetings of the Senate i.e. maintaining order of business as well as decorum during the meeting. The finalization of the agendas is one of the most important work to be performed by this committee.

2) The steering committee has failed to achieve its objective since the last few years, but the importance of such committee for a Senate cannot be undermined under any circumstances. Hence the dissolution of Steering Committee shall not take place given its position in the Constitution and the necessity of the same.

3) The Secretaries of the Students' Senate are not bound to attend the meetings of the Senate by the constitution and therefore the steering of the meeting can be a big issue under certain circumstances of chaos etc.

4) The committee feels that the work described in the constitution for the Steering Committee under Article 4.09 (b) i.e. "It shall be responsible for preparing the agenda and publishing the minutes of the meetings." is not one which shall be given to the senators, as proposed in the draft submitted. Therefore the responsibility of preparation of agenda and publishing of minutes shall be given to Secretary(s) of the Students' Senate with the Chairperson, SS being answerable to the Senate if any problem is accounted.

5) The agenda of the meetings should be finalized by the Steering Committee and the same shall be represented in the Appendix of the Rules and Procedures to be added in the constitution in future.

6) Strength- Since the strength of the Senate has reduced the Steering Committee shall have 2 members in which there shall be 1 UG and 1 PG senator respectively. However if the Senate is unable to elect such members under any circumstances, it may by resolution, choose to elect any 4 General Body members to this position.

7) The committee recommends the Chairperson to help the Steering Committee gain momentum towards its effective functioning.

The constitutional amendment in this case shall be-

1) The clause (b) of Article 4.09 shall be removed from the constitution.

2)Change in Article 4.09 (d)-

'd. It shall otherwise consist of two members, who shall be elected by the Senate.'

3)Change in Article 4.09 (e)-

'e. Ordinarily, the members shall be one Undergraduate Senator and one Postgraduate Senator. However, if the Senate is unable to elect two such members, it may, by resolution, choose to elect any two members of the General Body to this position.'

2) To consider a change in the size of Standing Committees-

The Student Senate decided to expand the size of the Standing Committees in past, but owing to the present status, the committee feels that the reduction in strength is necessary for proper execution of matters in the committee as well as the Senate.

The committee opines the following in regard to various committees-

a) Rules and Procedures Committee- The committee feels that the work of the Rules and Procedures committee can effectively be done by 3 members also, as suggested in the proposal. Hence the committee recommends following constitutional amendment in this regard.

'4.10 (d)- It shall otherwise consist of three members, who shall be elected by the Senate.'

'4.10 (e)- Ordinarily, the members shall consist of at least one UG and one PG Senator. However, if the Senate is unable to elect two such members, it may, by resolution, choose to elect any two members of the General Body to this position.'

b) Nominations Committee- The committee recommends the reduction in size of the Nominations Committee and hereby proposes the constitutional amendment. The committee felt that there is a need to ensure UG-PG balance in the nominations committee and such a decision was kept in mind.

'4.11 (d)- It shall otherwise consist of one member, elected by the Senate to this position. Ordinarily, the committee should have at least one UG student and one PG student.'

c) Finance Committee - The proposal for the Finance Committee was based on the idea of reducing the members from 3 to 2, which was the idea followed before the change to 3 was made. The committee looked upon the merits and demerits of reducing the members of Finance Committee from 3 to 2 and concluded that the present system of Finance committee serves better than the proposed amendment.

The representatives of Finance Committee in COFA (U), (A), (T) can serve for a very good cause if their work is determined beforehand and they are motivated for the same. Considering the amount of work the FC can effectively perform, the present system can be executed. The reduction in size due to the strength of Senate is not the only measure to reduce the members of the Finance Committee, considering the amount and quality of work that can be done.

3) To consider a change in composition of COFA-

The committee recommends the change to be brought as given in the proposal. It recommends the following constitutional amendment in this regard-

'4.12 (c)- The General Secretary of the respective Council shall be ex-officio Chairperson of the respective COFA and shall maintain the records of the COFA. He shall represent the COFA in the meetings of the Senate, and the Senate in the meetings of the COFA'

The Article 4.12 (g) shall be removed from the Constitution. The Article to be amended as below and the article 4.12 (h) to be hereby removed.

'4.12 (g)- Joint Meetings of the COFA shall be called by the President, Students' Gymkhana on his own initiative or when so requisitioned by the Chairperson to discuss matters that affect the festivals. Such meetings shall be presided over by the President. The recommendations of COFA in such a meeting shall be forwarded by to the Senate for approval.'

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 12.15 AM.