



Students' Senate (2014-15)
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Anurag Sahay | Chairperson



Interim Report: Ad-hoc subcommittee for Elections

In the 2012-13/8th Meeting of the Students' Senate, a proposal for a change in the Senator elections was considered. After discussion, the Senate decided to constitute an ad-hoc subcommittee to look into the proposal and come up with alternatives to the current election model. The committee was reconstituted by the Senate in its 2014-15/3rd (Special) Meeting with the following members:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Anurag Sahay | (Chair) | Chairperson, Students' Senate |
| • Harpreet Singh | (Convener) | Senator, UG Y13 |
| • V. Srinivasan | (Member) | General Body Member |
| • Ashutosh Ranka | (Member) | Senator, UG Y13 |
| • Palak Agarwal | (Member) | General Body Member |
| • Abhimanyu Arora | (Member; <i>ex-officio</i>) | President, Students' Gymkhana |

In the 2014-15/4th Meeting of the Senate, a proposal to change the method of election of the President, Students' Gymkhana was considered. After consideration, the Senate decided to refer the matter to the above-mentioned ad-hoc committee with the direction to submit a consolidated report with multiple possible procedures for both Senator and President elections.

The following General Body Members were invited as special invitees to the meetings of the committee for their special knowledge:

- Sarthak Chandra
- Sohil Bansal
- Shivendu Bhushan

The committee met on 24th September, 2014, 28th September, 2014 and 15th October, 2014.

The recommendations of the committee are as follows:

Senator Elections



Students' Senate (2014-15)
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Anurag Sahay | Chairperson



The committee noted the change in the ratio of Senators to batchmates from 1:100 to 1:150. Taking that into account, the committee decided to come up with two models – one that was a scaled version of the previous election procedure and the second which would be a new proposal.

Model 1

This model is essentially a scaled version of the current model.

- Each student will cast three preferences.
- 1st preference will be 5 points, 2nd preference will be 3 points, and 3rd preference will be 1 point.
- At the first round of counting, only 1st preferences are counted. If any candidate gets 500 points he/she is declared elected.
- At the second round of counting, 1st and 2nd preferences are counted. If any unelected candidate gets 750 points he/she is declared elected.
- At the third round of counting, all preferences are counted. The unelected candidates are linearly ordered, and as many candidates from the top as necessary are declared elected.
- If in any round, more candidates are declared elected than positions, the candidates with the least points are eliminated and the rest stand elected.

Model 2

This model is a new proposal.

- If there are n positions, then each student can cast n “points”.
- The student may distribute the n points however he/she wishes among the candidates standing.
- The student will also have to cast a “vote”. The vote on a ballot shall be the candidate getting the highest points from that ballot. If two candidates are getting equal and highest points, the student must declare which student is getting the vote.
- At the first round of counting, all votes are counted. If any candidate gets 150 votes, he/she is declared elected.



Students' Senate (2014-15)
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Anurag Sahay | Chairperson



- At the second round of counting, all points are counted. The candidates are linearly ordered according to the number of points they get, and as many candidates from the top as necessary are declared elected.

The principle behind this model is to represent the 1:150 ratio, alongside giving each student the right to distribute points as he/she wishes.

President Elections

The committee was unable to discuss this issue sufficiently to make any recommendations.

The committee decided to request the Senate for more time for coming up with its recommendation with respect to President Elections. In particular, the committee request guidance on this issue from the Senate.