

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Rules and Procedures Committee, Students' Senate 2012-13

The fourth meeting of the Rules and Procedures Committee, Students' Senate 2012-13 was held on the 13th of February, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm.

1. Discussion on the following issues regarding Vox Populi referred to the Rules and Procedures Committee by the Senate:

- a. 'Can a club of the Student's Gymkhana function independently without the supervision from the corresponding General Secretary?'

The Constitution of the Student's Gymkhana clearly lays down in article 5.07 that the General Secretary, Films and Media Council, shall supervise and coordinate all its activities, and thus, as per the present structure of the Gymkhana, a club cannot function independently of the supervision of the corresponding General Secretary, since he/she is elected by the students of IIT Kanpur directly to carry out this responsibility.

- b. 'Can the President, Student's Gymkhana over-rule a decision taken by a particular club in a council?'

The Constitution of the Students' Gymkhana lays down in article 2.16 that the President, as the chief Executive of the Gymkhana can attend the meetings of all the councils/committees of the Senate except the Finance Committee, the Rules and Procedures Committee and the Steering Committee as a full-fledged member and can over-rule any decisions taken by them. In the event of the President doing so, he/her shall be obliged, if requested by the concerned body, to requisition a meeting of the Senate and place his/her decision before it. In the light of this article, the Rules and Procedures Committee opined that the President does have the discretion to over-rule a decision taken by any council and therefore, club, of the Gymkhana, and in such an event the concerned body can request that the matter be taken up in the Senate for consideration. The Decision taken by the Senate shall be final and binding to all, unless overturned by the General body.

2. Drafting of the following proposed constitutional amendments

- a. **Replacement of the word 'ratification' with the word 'confirmation' when used in relation to the minutes of the Senate meeting to better reflect the act carried out by the Senate in the process**

The corresponding change would affect 3 clauses in the Appendix of the Gymkhana Constitution:

1. 7 times in article 1.10 (c) of the Appendix

Confirmation:

When the procedure **laid** down in article 1.10(b) above has been followed the draft minutes shall be placed for **confirmation** at the first subsequent session of the Students' Senate. However, if less than twenty-four hours have elapsed since the circulation of the draft minutes; **confirmation** shall be done in the next session if so demanded by even

one member of the Senate. **Confirmation** of the draft minutes shall constitute the first item on the agenda. Changes, if any, shall be included in full in the minutes of the session in which **confirmation** is done. On **confirmation**, the Convener shall sign the **confirmed** minutes, whereupon they shall become official.

2. Once in article 3.1 (c) of the Appendix

The Steering Committee shall also be responsible for the recording of the minutes of the sessions of the Students' Senate, for this purpose the Steering Committee shall meet within four days of every session of the Students' Senate and prepare the draft minutes for **confirmation** by the Students' Senate.

3. Once in article 4.3 (a)(i) of the Appendix

Order of Business:

a. The order of business at sessions of the Students' Senate shall be as follows:

i. **Confirmation** of draft minutes

The Rules and Procedures Committee felt that the change would indeed better reflect the act carried out by the Senate in relation of the minutes of the Senate meetings, and also bring the terminology in alignment with that used in the Academic Senate of the Institute.

b. Renaming the post of 'Convener, Students' Senate' to 'Chairperson, Students' Senate' in order to better reflect the responsibilities associated with it

The word Convener in reference to the Convener, Students' Senate appears at the following places in the Gymkhana Constitution:

1. Once in article 2.09

2. Once in article 2.14

3. Once in article 2.15

4. Once in article 2.17

5. Twice in article 2.19

6. In article 2.20

a. Thrice in part (a)

b. Four times in part (b)

7. Once in article 3.08

8. Twice in article 3.09

9. Once in article 3.10 (c)

10. Once in article 4.03 (b), and once in article 4.03 (d)

11. Once in article 4.05 (a) and once in article 4.05 (b)

12. Once in article 4.07 (b)

13. Once in article 4.13

14. Once in article 8.04

15. Once in article 8.06

16. In article 8.07

a. Once in part (a)

b. Four times in part (b)

17. Once in article 1.4 (a) of Appendix I

18. In article 1.5 of Appendix I
 - a. Twice in part (a)
 - b. Once in part (b)
19. Thrice in article 1.6 of Appendix I
20. Twice in article 1.7 of Appendix I
21. In article 1.8 of Appendix I
 - a. Once in part (a)
 - b. Once in part (b)
22. In article 1.10 of Appendix I
 - a. Once in part (a)
 - b. Once in part (b)
 - c. Once in part (c)
23. Twice in article 1.11 of Appendix I
24. In article 1.12 of Appendix I
 - a. Once in part (a)
 - b. Once in part (b)
25. Article 2.2 of Appendix I
 - a. Twice in part (a)
 - b. Once in part (b)
 - c. Twice in part (c)
 - d. Once in part (e)
 - e. Once in part (g)
26. Once in part 2.3 (e) of Appendix I
27. Once in article 2.4 (c) of Appendix I
28. In article 3.1 of Appendix I
 - a. Once in part (a)(i)
 - b. Once in part (d)(i)
29. Once in article 4.1 (a) of Appendix I
30. Once in article 4.2 (b) of Appendix I
31. Once in article 4.3 (a) (iii) of Appendix I
32. In article 4.4 (b) of Appendix I- once in part (i), once in part (iii), twice in part (viii), once in part (ix)
33. Once in article 4.5 (b) of Appendix I
34. In article 4.7 of Appendix I
 - a. Once in part (a)(iii)
 - b. Once in part (b)
35. In article 4.8 of Appendix I
 - a. Once in part (a)
 - b. Once in part (b)
 - c. Once in part (f)
36. In article 4.9 of Appendix I
 - a. Once in part (a)

- b. Once in part (f)
 - c. Once in part (i)
37. Once in article 35 of Appendix II
 38. Twice in article 38 (a) of Appendix II
 39. Once in article 8.06 (c) of Appendix III
 40. Once in article 8.07 (e) of Appendix III
 41. Once in article 8.08 (e) of Appendix III
 42. Once in article 8.10 (b) of Appendix III
 43. In article 8.13 of Appendix III
 - a. Once in part (b)
 - b. Once in part (c) (v)
 - c. Once in part (e)

The constitutional amendment regarding the renaming the post of 'Convener, Students' Senate' to 'Chairperson, Students' Senate' was discussed and favored by the Rules and Procedures Committee, as it was felt that the term 'Chairperson' better describes the responsibilities carried out by the Convener as a committee with as large a membership as the Students' Senate requires explicit chairing and hence a Chairperson, the responsibilities of whom are carried by the Convener in the present Senate. This would also bring the terminology in alignment with that followed in various committees of the institute starting from SUGC, SPGC, IAC right up to the Academic Senate and Board of Governors of the institute.

c. Reorganization of the Office of the Students' Senate

The proposal was for the addition of an additional part to the clause under Chapter 1 of Appendix 1 of the Gymkhana Constitution regarding the Office of the Students' Senate. The amendment proposes the inclusion of the following clause to the Constitution in Chapter 1 of the Appendix 1 of the Constitution:

1.12 (c) To assist the Convener in the discharge of his/her responsibilities, as mentioned above or otherwise, he/she may, through a call for nominations to the general body, nominate Secretary(s) under the Office of Students' Senate, the number and responsibilities of whom may be ascertained by the Senate from time to time based on the recommendation of the Convener, Students' Senate.

The Rules and Procedures Committee discussed the proposed amendment, and opined that this clause would provide the much needed constitutional framework for streamlining the work under the Office of the Students' Senate. Thus, the proposed amendment was favored by the Committee. However, the committee advised the addition of the following line:

The name(s) of the person(s) for the(se) post(s) shall be proposed by the Convener to the Senate for ratification.

d. Holding elections for the Conveners of the various standing committees of the Senate along with the election of Convener, Students' Senate

The rules dealing with the elections of the Convener and Finance Convener, Students' Senate are given under article 3.09 of the Constitution and states:

The Convener and the Parliamentarian of the outgoing Senate shall conduct the election of the Convener, and the Finance Convener of the incoming Senate.

The proposed amendment, which includes the election for the Conveners of the various standing committees, reads as follows:

The Convener and Parliamentarian of the outgoing Senate shall conduct elections for the following posts of the incoming Senate:

- a. **Convener of the Senate**
- b. **The Convener of each standing committee for which the Convener is required to be elected by the Senate**

The Rules and Procedures Committee favored this amendment and opined that it would make the process of elections of these committee Conveners more uniform.

Further, this would help the Conveners of the various standing-committees to have some time before they have to start carrying out their duties, and hence would give them the time to learn about the responsibilities and duties of the post they are taking up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Members:

Jyoti Gupta (Chair)	Present
Shouvik Sachdeva	Present
Srinivas Chitturi	Absent
Ankit Bhutani (Convener, Students' Senate)	Present