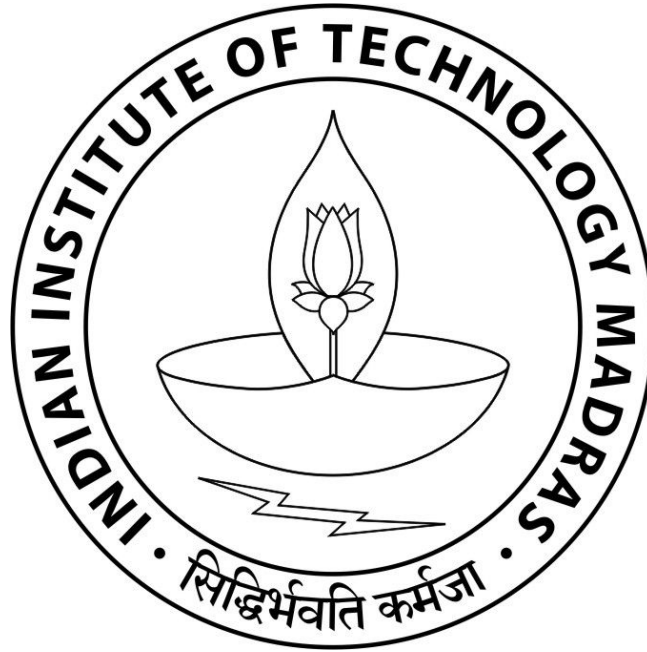


STUDENTS' CONSTITUTION



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MADRAS

Original Constitution Committee

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Revisions to the Original Constitution

First Revision – By the Senate sub-committee –	Second Revision – 1997	Third Revision – 2011
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PREAMBLE

We, the students of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, give ourselves a Constitution to promote, through a democratic representative system, the common welfare of all students by:

- A.** responding to and resolving student concerns,
- B.** representing students to the administration,
- C.** sharing institute resources,
- D.** promoting liberty, equality and fraternity,
- E.** promoting unity in diversity,
- F.** providing opportunities for all-round excellence, and
- G.** promoting cooperation among the members of the campus community.

For these ends, we are resolved to respect and abide by this Constitution, to reflect maturity in our thoughts and actions, and to cultivate an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, and harmony.

CHAPTER I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

I. Student Government

The student organization under this Constitution will be known as the IIT Madras Student Government. The authority of this Constitution is the basis for all business of the Student Government.

II. Membership

All registered students of the institute who pay Gymkhana fees are members of the General Student Body (General Student Body), and shall be subject to the Constitution and the laws of the Student Government.

III. Political Power

All political power granted to bodies authorized under the Constitution, and by-laws and regulations of the Student Government, is inherent in the General Student Body. The Student Government governs, represents and is directly accountable to the General Student Body, which is the supreme power in this governmental setup. The General Student Body's rights shall supersede those of all other student organizations, including the Student Government, unless otherwise limited by this Constitution,

IV. Precedence

This Constitution shall take precedence over all other instruments for the governance of the Student Government or any part thereof.

V. Branches of Government

The Student Government shall be divided into legislative, executive, and regulatory branches.

A. Student Legislative Council

The name of the legislative branch shall be the Student Legislative Council.

B. Executive Council

The name of the executive branch shall be the Executive Council.

C. Student Ethics and Constitutional Council

The name of the regulatory branch shall be the Student Ethics and Constitutional Council.

VI. Exercise of Powers

No person belonging to one branch shall exercise any powers appertaining to either of the other branches unless expressly provided by the Constitution.

VII. Student Government Officials

All Student Government Officials shall be members of the General Student Body in good academic and ethical standing, as determined by the Student Election Commission (SEC), at the time of the election and appointment. These officials are expected to maintain the highest levels of ethical standard during the term of office.

VIII. Student Organization

A student organization is any grouping of members of the student body recognized by the Student Legislative Council. There are two types of student organizations:

A. Student Government Associated Organizations

These organizations come under the purview of either the Executive Council, the Student Legislative Council or the SECC , and can use Gymkhana funds.

B. Board of Student Associated Organizations

These organizations function independent of the Student Government and cannot use Gymkhana funds. This does not prevent the Student Legislative Council from recommending guidelines regarding the registration, functioning and termination of such bodies to the Board of Students.

IX. Institute Organizations

Organizations comprising of students, faculty, and/or staff that report directly to the Deans or the Director shall be known as Institute Organizations.

X. Positions of Responsibility

Any student member of a student organization who possesses executive or decision-making power within that organization will be considered to be in a Position of Responsibility (PoR). No member of the General Student Body can hold more than one elected Position of Responsibility at any given point of time.

Institute Boards

Institute Boards refer to the Senate subcommittees that deal with student issues, including, but not limited to, the Board of Students (BoS), the Board of Academic Courses (BAC), the Board of Academic Research (BAR), and the Board of Placements (BoP).

CHAPTER II - RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION I - RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

I. Introduction

All members of the General Student Body will enjoy, and shall not be prevented from enjoying, any rights granted to them under the purview of this Constitution. These rights shall be maintained by the constant endeavor of the General Student Body, who shall refrain from any abuse of these freedoms and rights and shall be responsible for utilizing them for the public welfare.

II. Amendability of Rights of Students

The rights of students form a part of the basic structure of this constitution and cannot therefore be amended by an act of the Student Legislative Council or the Senate.

III. Fundamental Freedoms

All members of the General Student Body shall have the freedom:

- A. of thought, opinion, expression, belief, faith, and worship. This also includes the freedom of campus publications and the freedom to address the media outside of the campus.
- B. to assemble and/or protest peacefully in the hostel zone.
- C. to form associations and student organizations, as long as they are not affiliated to external political parties, or organizations that promote hatred, violence, and divisiveness in the campus on the basis of race, color, caste, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, political convictions, language, ethnicity, region, nationality, socio-economic condition, or disability.
- D. to move freely within the hostel zone.

The above freedoms can be subject to reasonable restrictions as per the Institute rules and regulations.

IV. Equality

All members of the General Student Body shall have the right to equality before law and equal protection and benefit of law without discrimination, exclusion or preference based on race, color, caste, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, political convictions, language, ethnicity, region, nationality, socio-economic condition, or disability.

V. Equal Opportunity

All members of the General Student Body shall be given equal opportunity to apply for a position of responsibility. This does not prevent the Student Legislative Council from listing out relevant criteria for said application subject to judicial review on the basis of the spirit of this Constitution and the rights it enshrines.

VI. Personal Liberty and Privacy

All members of the General Student Body shall enjoy personal liberty and privacy without infringing on the rules and regulations of the Institute.

VII. Exercise of Rights of Citizenship Outside Campus

As citizens, all members of the General Student Body are to enjoy the same freedoms and rights enjoyed by other citizens.

VIII. Political Rights

All members of the General Student Body shall have the right -

- A. To vote in student elections;
- B. To contest in student elections;
- C. To address student representatives regularly.

IX. Secret Ballot

In all elections, secrecy of the ballot shall not be violated. A voter shall not be answerable, publicly or privately, for the choice he or she has made.

X. Right to Seek Information

All members of the General Student Body shall have, in addition to the rights granted by the Right to Information Act (2005) passed by the Parliament of India, the right to seek any information about any entity which uses either the Institute Fees or Hostel Fees. The Executive Council shall be responsible for furnishing any such information requested, failing which the request shall be forwarded to the SECC.

XI. Access to Quality Healthcare, Hygiene, and Nutrition

All members of the General Student Body shall have the access to quality healthcare, medical service, hygiene, and nutrition. The medical records of the members of the General Student Body shall be considered to be confidential.

SECTION II - RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

XII. Non-Enforceability

The provisions contained in this section shall not be enforceable by the Student

Government or the Institute Administration, but the principles therein laid down are nevertheless fundamental in the constant endeavor of consciously building a flourishing, mature, and diverse student community.

XIII. Responsibilities of Students

It shall be the responsibility of every member of the General Student Body:

- A. To abide by and uphold the Constitution in both letter and spirit and respect its ideals and institutions;
- B. To cherish and develop the noble ideals of scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of enquiry and reform;
- C. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the student community constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement;
- D. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among all individuals transcending religious, linguistic and regional, or sectional diversities;
- E. To renounce and condemn practices derogatory to the dignity of all individuals;
- F. To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- G. To protect and improve the natural environment in the campus, and to have compassion for all living creatures;
- H. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence in our thoughts, words, and deeds;
- I. To act in accordance with the IIT Madras Student Honor Code.

CHAPTER III - LEGISLATURE

SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

I. Legislative Powers

All legislative powers of the General Student Body are vested in the Student Legislative Council.

II. Types of Legislation

The Student Legislative Council shall have the power to pass three types of legislation:

A. Bills

Legislation pertaining to policies that can be implemented under the authority of the Student Legislative Council will be labelled Bills. The Executive Council shall be responsible for their satisfactory execution.

B. Resolutions

Legislations that propose official recommendations and directives of the Student Legislative Council will be labeled Resolutions. They express the will of the General Student Body.

C. Constitutional Amendments

Legislations that seek to modify any part of this Constitution shall be deemed to be Constitutional Amendments and shall follow the procedure elucidated in Chapter XI to be valid.

III. Powers and responsibilities of the Student Legislative Council

The Student Legislative Council, provided a quorum of more than fifty percent of the total legislators elected at a given point of time is met, has the power and responsibility:

- A. To be the primary legislative body with the mandate to enforce this Constitution and enact legislation by making rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary and proper for the execution of its responsibilities to fulfil its mandate;
- B. To be a body to recommend approval or derecognition of student organizations in the campus to the institute;
- C. To be the primary student body for overseeing all student activities and to ensure the smooth functioning of the Student Government;
- D. To be the primary advocating body of student interests and student welfare;
- E. To create offices and positions as it deems necessary for the satisfactory execution of its responsibilities.

- F. To be an investigative authority on such matters as are pertinent to the interests of the General Student Body and to make recommendations about the same to the administration, the faculty and staff, and the students;

IV. Prohibitions

The Student Legislative Council shall not:

- A. Enact any legislation or amendment that violates the spirit of this Constitution;
- B. Appropriate funds for a period of more than one year;
- C. Deny speaking privileges in the Student Legislative Council to members of the Executive Council;
- D. Conduct any vote on legislation in the Student Legislative Council by secret ballot;
- E. Overrule a decision of the SECC ;
- F. Change election laws during the six weeks before a scheduled election
- G. Discuss or vote on issues that pertain to the private lives of individual students.

SECTION II - ORGANIZATION

V. Composition

The composition of the Student Legislative Council shall be as follows:

1. One Hostel Legislator from each hostel.
2. One Department Legislator (Academic) representing the taught programs of each department.
3. One Department Legislator (Research) representing the research programs of each department.
4. Four Legislators representing postgraduate students pursuing two year postgraduate courses in engineering/technology.

The Speaker shall be the presiding officer of the Student Legislative Council.

VI. Legislative Committees

The Legislative Committees shall be a link between the Student Legislative Council, the Executive Council, and the General Student Body. These committees shall:

- A. Review the actions of the Executive in order to maintain accountability, and
- B. Thoroughly and systematically scrutinize all agenda points that are raised in the Student Legislative Council.

The Legislative Committees shall take into account the views of Executive Council and other student government officials, as well as the opinions of the General Student Body, and shall submit reports to the Student Legislative Council at least once a month. The Committees and the Executive Council shall work together amicably, and the former shall have no executive authority over the latter. However, the Executive Council is expected to cooperate with the legislative committees and must take all possible measures to ensure that the legislative committees fulfil their mandates. The Legislative Council may create new Legislative Committees as and when required.

VII. Types of Legislative Committees

Legislative Committees can be of two kinds:

A. Standing committees

Standing Committees are permanent committees of the Student Legislative Council with a prescribed area of jurisdiction.

B. Ad-hoc committees

Ad-hoc Committees are temporary committees established to deal with matters in need of immediate/urgent attention.

SECTION III - SPEAKER OF THE STUDENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

VIII. Election of the Speaker

The Speaker will be elected by the Legislators of the Student Legislative Council. S/he shall not hold any office that falls under the chain-of-command of any other member of the Executive Council.

IX. Responsibilities of the Speaker

The Speaker shall:

- A. Convene, conduct, and moderate the meetings of the Student Legislative Council in an impartial manner;
- B. Be responsible for the smooth functioning of Student Legislative Council and Legislative Committees;

- C. Call for agenda points from Legislators before every meeting of the Student Legislative Council;
- D. Be a non-voting member of the Executive Council and facilitate coordination between the Executive and Legislative branches of the Student Government;
- E. Represent the views of Student Legislative Council and the Student Government to the Board of Students and the Senate;
- F. Act as a point of contact for communications between the Student Legislative Council and other individuals and organizations.
- G. Be responsible for taking steps to inculcate interest in governance, politics and policy formulation amongst General Student Body Members
- H. Maintain up to date records of the following documents:
 - 1. A copy of the Constitution and Amendments,
 - 2. The minutes of all meetings of the Student Legislative Council for all preceding years,
 - 3. The reports of all student committees, legislative committee, Institute Boards, and executives at the hostel and institute levels for all preceding years, and
 - 4. All official correspondence from any individual or group of individuals of the General Student Body to the Speaker for the past five years;
- I. Be responsible for the production of the above documents within reasonably short time hours when demanded by any of the following:
 - 1. Legislators of the Student Legislative Council,
 - 2. Members of the Executive Council,
 - 3. The SECC ,
 - 4. Campus Student Press, and
 - 5. Any other person or body authorized by the Student Legislative Council;
- J. Call for, compile, and release to the General Student Body, reports from:
 - 1. Individual members of the Executive Council, covering their activities and the activities of the organizations falling under their purview,
 - 2. Student Legislative Council and its committees, and
 - 3. Constitutional Bodies, as defined in this constitution, after ensuring anonymity if required.

This shall be done, at a minimum, twice every academic year. The Speaker may also call for reports from any student organization and position of responsibility in the Institute.

X. Powers of the Speaker

The Speaker shall:

- A. Set the legislative agenda for every meeting of the Student Legislative Council;

- B. Be the final arbiter in case of disputes related to rules of procedure of the Student Legislative Council;
- C. Define the terms of reference for legislative committees in such cases where the Student Legislative Council has not set the same;
- D. Oversee and supervise the work done by members of legislative committees and report on the same to the Student Legislative Council periodically;
- E. Have the right to restrict the entry of General Student Body members into meetings of the Student Legislative Council after due consultation with members of the Student Legislative Council;
- F. Appoint Legislators to Standing Committees, subject to the ratification of the Student Legislative Council;
- G. Oversee and supervise the work done by members of the Student Legislative Council Secretariat;
- H. Appoint the student-heads of constitutional bodies in consultation with the outgoing student-heads, subject to ratification by the Student Legislative Council;
- I. Have the right to censure Legislators, members of the General Student Body and members of the Executive Council for unparliamentary and unconstitutional behavior in matters related to the functioning of the Student Legislative Council. Three censures in a year shall lead to automatic disqualification of the Legislator from the Student Legislative Council;
- J. Have the right to suspend Legislators from sessions of the Student Legislative Council for unparliamentary and unconstitutional behavior in matters related to the functioning of the Student Legislative Council;

The Speaker must exercise his/her punitive powers with caution. The Speaker must submit a report to the Student Legislative Council and the Board of Students via the Dean (Students) giving detailed reasons behind the exercise of his/her punitive powers within a reasonably short period of time. Misuse of his/her powers and failure to submit the report on time are grounds for impeachment of the Speaker.

SECTION IV - STUDENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

XI. Responsibilities of the Student Legislative Council Secretariat

The Student Legislative Council Secretariat, under the leadership and guidance of the Speaker, shall be in charge of looking after the publicity and facilities requirement of the Student Legislative Council and its committees. In addition, the Secretariat shall carry out those duties and responsibilities that are assigned to it by the Speaker insofar as it relates to fulfilling the Speaker's constitutional obligations.

XII. Composition

The student-head of the secretariat shall be appointed by the Speaker subject to ratification by the Student Legislative Council. The student-head shall in turn appoint coordinators in consultation with the Speaker.

SECTION V - LEGISLATORS OF THE STUDENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

XIII. Election of Legislators

Each hostel shall elect a Hostel Legislator and each Department shall elect two Department Legislators (Branch and Research) to represent itself in the Student Legislative Council. In addition to this, three Legislators representing postgraduate students pursuing two year postgraduate courses in engineering/technology shall be elected to the Student Legislative Council.

XIV. Powers and Responsibilities of Legislators in the Student Legislative Council

Each Legislator shall:

- A. Attend and participate in every meeting of the Student Legislative Council.
- B. Represent the interests of their electorate in specific and the Institute in general in the Student Legislative Council.
- C. Ensure unfettered access for all members of his or her electorate to voice their concerns to him or her.
- D. Ensure the maximum possible level of personal interaction with members/groups of his or her electorate in order to represent them to the best possible extent in the Student Legislative Council.
- E. Take an active part in both offline and online discussions and votes.
- F. Be a member of at least one Standing Committee for the course of the entire year;
- G. Be well-versed with the Students' Constitution and legislation passed by the Student Legislative Council.

SECTION V - STANDING COMMITTEES

XV. Responsibilities of Standing Committees

Standing Committees shall be responsible for:

- A. Improving the efficiency, economy, performance, and effectiveness of the Student Government operations and activities;
- B. Detecting and preventing poor execution, abuse, arbitrary and capricious behavior, or illegal and unconstitutional conduct of the EC;
- C. Ensuring that executive policies reflect student interest by collecting information from the General Student Body;

- D. Gathering information to develop new legislative proposals or to amend existing laws;
- E. Ensuring executive compliance with legislative intent;
- F. Preventing executive interference in legislative authority and prerogatives.
- G. Reviewing and examining legislative proposals that require expertise and close scrutiny that is not possible on the floor of the Student Legislative Council.
- H. Preventing the Student Legislative Council from getting lost in details and thereby losing hold on matters of policy and broad principles.
- I. Providing useful forums for the utilization of experience and ability that may otherwise remain untapped.
- J. Enabling the General Student Body to participate more directly and effectively in the consideration of issues directly affecting it.

XVI. Membership

Members to all standing committees shall be selected by the Speaker based on application with a statement of purpose for joining that committee. This selection shall be ratified by the Student Legislative Council. Members must be Legislators.

XVII. Standing Committee Chairperson

The Standing Committee Chairpersons shall:

- A. Be elected by the members of the respective standing committee from among themselves;
- B. Set an agenda of goals for their respective Committees after due consultation with the Speaker;
- C. Be a member of the respective Institute Boards.
- D. Ensure that any and all resolutions and bills pertinent to the respective committee are passed by the respective Boards and followed through;
- E. Schedule and hold at least one committee meeting a week;
- F. Record the attendance of committee members at committee meetings and report the same to the Speaker;
- G. Delegate tasks to each committee member in each meeting and ensure that tasks are completed within the specified deadline;
- H. Submit a report of the committee's findings and activities to the Student Legislative Council every two months;
- I. Be responsible for scheduling and holding meetings with member(s) of the Executive Council to discuss matters of their committee pertinent to that member's domain whenever deemed necessary.

- J. Submit a comprehensive petition to the Speaker for the removal of a Committee member in case of dereliction of duties by the member.

Any Legislator may submit a comprehensive petition in case of dereliction of duties against the Chairperson of any Standing Committee to the Speaker. The Standing Committee Chair can be removed from their position, after being allowed to present his/her defence in Student Legislative Council, by a two-thirds vote of the Legislative Council at the advice of the Speaker. Appointment of a replacement Chairperson in such a circumstance will follow the same procedure as appointment of a new Chairperson.

XVIII. Terms of Standing Committees

A Standing Committee shall hold office for the tenure of that year's Student Legislative Council.

SECTION VI - AD-HOC COMMITTEES

XIX. Ad-hoc Committees

The Speaker can constitute Ad-hoc committees with specific mandate to work on issues not falling under the purview of any standing committee.

XX. Membership

Members can be selected to these committees either through self-nominations or by submitting an application with a statement of purpose based on the discretion of the Speaker. General Student Body members can also be part of Ad-Hoc committees.

XXI. Ad-Hoc Committee Chairperson

The Ad-Hoc Committee Chairpersons shall:

- A. Be elected by the members of the respective standing committee from among themselves.
- B. Schedule and hold at least one committee meeting a week.
- C. Record the attendance of committee members at committee meetings and report it to the Speaker.
- D. Delegate tasks to each committee member in each meeting and ensure that tasks are completed within the specified deadline.
- E. Submit a report of the committee's findings to the Student Legislative Council at the end of its mandate.

- F. Be responsible for scheduling and holding meetings with member of the EC to discuss matters of their committee pertinent to that member's domain whenever deemed necessary.
- G. Submit a comprehensive petition to the Speaker for the removal of a Committee member in case of dereliction of duties by the member.

Any Legislator may submit a comprehensive petition in case of dereliction of duties against the Chairperson of any Ad-Hoc Committee to the Speaker. The Ad-Hoc Committee Chairpersons can be removed from their position, after being allowed to present his/her defense in the Student Legislative Council, by a simple majority of votes within the committee. Appointment of a replacement Chair in such a circumstance will follow the same procedure as appointment of a new Chair.

XXII. Terms of Ad-Hoc Committees

The mandate and duration for which the committee shall work will be specified in the Student Legislative Council meeting in which the committee is constituted before any members are selected for the same.

XXIII. Nominations and Ratifications Committee

The Nominations and Ratifications Committee shall be a mandatory Ad-Hoc Committee formed to collect applications and propose a final list of nominations for all positions which the Student Legislative Council is required to ratify.

SECTION VII - LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

XXIV. Introduction of Legislation

An agenda point can be raised by any Legislator either on the online group or on the floor of the Student Legislative Council with the permission of the Speaker, and shall be subject to due deliberation. If the matter requires only a discussion, the Speaker may call for a vote after s/he feels that due deliberation has occurred. If it requires greater scrutiny, the Speaker may forward the legislation either to a Legislative Standing Committee or an Ad-Hoc Committee formed specifically for this purpose. The committee shall table a report on the same after which it will be discussed and voted on.

XXV. Legislative Privilege

Legislators and Executive Council Members shall have the right to speak freely within the Student Legislative Council and cannot be prosecuted for their speech or conduct during the proceedings of a meeting except by the Speaker.

XXVI. Voting

All legislation shall be passed only under the condition of a simple majority of affirmative votes of legislators present and voting, except for Constitutional Amendments, which require a half of the total strength of the house to be present and two-thirds majority of affirmative votes of legislators present and voting.

XXVII. Online Voting

The Speaker may put an agenda to an online vote at times when it is not possible for the Student Legislative Council to meet physically. The Speaker must inform Legislators of the same well in advance and must provide Legislators at least 24 hours to cast their vote. The regular rules of procedure follow for online voting. Constitutional Amendments, however, cannot be voted online.

XXVIII. Approval by the Board and the Senate

- A. All legislation except for resolutions passed by Student Legislative Council shall be forwarded to the Chairperson of the appropriate Board by the Speaker within reasonably short period of being passed for inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting of the Board.
- B. Legislation shall be considered approved if passed by the Legislative Council, the Boards, and the Senate.
- C. Legislation passed by the Legislative Council but rejected by the concerned Board will return to the Legislative Council, which shall make modifications to the legislation, if necessary. The Legislation shall then be passed to the Board again. In case of a deadlock, the Legislative Council may appeal to the Chairman of the Senate whose decision is binding.
- D. The Boards shall ideally not take up any legislative agenda concerning the welfare of the students without consulting the Student Legislative Council first.

CHAPTER IV - EXECUTIVE

SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

I. Executive Council

All executive powers of the Student Government shall be vested in the Executive Council. The members of the Executive Council shall be responsible for the execution of their Constitutional responsibilities and the policies of the Student Legislative Council. They shall function independent of one another in the process of implementation and execution of these policies.

SECTION II - ORGANIZATION

II. Composition

The Executive Council shall consist of:

- A. Academic Affairs Secretary
- B. Co-Curricular Affairs Secretary
- C. Cultural Affairs Secretary (Arts)
- D. Cultural Affairs Secretary (Literary)
- E. Hostel Affairs Secretary
- F. International and Alumni Relations Secretary
- G. Research Affairs Secretary
- H. Sports Secretary
- I. Students' General Secretary
- J. Speaker of the Student Legislative Council (non-voting)

III. Accountability to Student Legislative Council

The Executive Council shall be accountable to the Student Legislative Council for the satisfactory execution of its constitutional responsibilities and the policies set by the Student Legislative Council. The Executive Council must present reports to the Legislative Council once in two months detailing its actions thus far and the plans for the remaining length of the term and when ever asked by the Student Legislative Council.

IV. Executive Committees

Each Executive Council member shall form a committee to assist him/her. The Core Members of each Committee will be nominated by the respective Executives in consultation with respective Faculty Advisors and ratified by the Student Legislative

Council. The coordinators will be selected by the respective Core Members.

SECTION III - GENERAL PROVISIONS

V. Student Government Associated Organizations

Every organization, committee or club working under the Student Government for the students through office of Dean (Students) shall be headed by a member of the Executive Council. Every such organization, committee or club shall hence work in coordination with the Executive Committee of the Executive Council member concerned. All Core Member appointments to these organizations must be ratified by the Student Legislative Council.

VI. Executive Rule Book

The Executive Council member shall obtain and maintain an Executive Rule Book. The Executive Rule Book shall contain the list of organizations working under the respective Executive Council member, the duties and responsibilities of the Core Members of each organization and the process of selection of the Core Members of each organization. Any changes to the Executive Rule Book must be verified by the respective Standing Committee and ratified by the Student Legislative Council. A copy should be made available in Dean (Students) office.

VII. Formulation of Policies

Any Executive Council member, along with the members of the Committee under him/her, can recommend policies to the Student Legislative Council, including ones which may have been proposed in his/her election manifesto regarding the matters under his/her purview. These policies must be deliberated upon and passed, with amendments if required, by the Student Legislative Council before officially becoming the policy of the Student Government.

SECTION IV - POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

VIII. Circulation of Minutes of Meetings

Every Executive Council Member shall be responsible for circulating to the General Student Body minutes of meetings of student government associated organizations that they are a part of. The Speaker must circulate the minutes of Student Legislative Council Meetings within a week of the meeting after due approval from the Student Legislative Council.

IX. Students' General Secretary

The Students' General Secretary shall:

- A. Co-ordinate the work of the other Executive Council members;
- B. Represent the views of the General Student Body to the Senate;
- C. Handle matters and monitor organizations, committees or clubs which do not fall under the purview of other Executive Council members.

X. Academic Affairs Secretary

The Academic Affairs Secretary shall:

- A. Represent the views of the students from taught programs on academic matters to the Board of Academic Courses and the Senate. These include, but are not limited to the academic programme, the curriculum, teacher and course feedback, academic clubs and activities, and undergraduate and postgraduate research.

XI. Research Affairs Secretary

The Research Affairs Secretary shall:

- A. Represent the views of the students from research programs on matters related to academic research to the Board of Academic Research and the Senate. These include, but are not limited to the research programme, the curriculum, teacher, guide and course feedback, and postgraduate research.

XII. Hostel Affairs Secretary

The Hostel Affairs Secretary shall:

- A. Look after the issues regarding general maintenance of the hostels;
- B. Be the principal representative of the Student Body to the Hostel Management in all matters, including, but not restricted to, the procurement of equipment and supplies for hostels and messes.

XIII. Sports Secretary

The Sports Secretary shall:

- A. Look after all issues regarding sports activities of the students;
- B. Be responsible, with the assistance of the Physical Training Instructors, for the selection of Institute Teams, coaching and organizing inter-hostel and inter-collegiate matches.
- C. Be involved in all matters of procurement of sport equipment and maintenance of facilities.

XIV. Cultural Affairs Secretary (Literary)

The CAS (Literary) shall:

- A. Be responsible for the satisfactory conduct of all literary based cultural competitions and events in the institute.

XV. Cultural Affairs Secretary (Arts)

The CAS (Arts) shall:

- A. Be responsible for the satisfactory conduct of all arts/social based cultural competitions and events in the institute.

XVI. Co-Curricular Affairs Secretary

The Co-Curricular Affairs Secretary shall:

- A. Be responsible for planning and organizing all the co-curricular activities for the students.

XVII. International and Alumni Relations Secretary

The International and Alumni Relations Secretary shall:

- A. Work in coordination with the Office of International & Alumni Relations to maintain and improve the Institute's relations with its alumni and organize avenues for the students to interact with and benefit from the Institute's alumni network;
- B. Maintain and improve the Institute's public image by managing the Institute's public relations, including, but not restricted to, its interactions with the external media and its online and social media presence.

CHAPTER V – REGULATORY BODY

SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

I. Regulatory Powers

All regulatory powers of the General Student Body shall be vested in the Student Ethics and Constitutional Committee (SECC).

SECTION II - ORGANIZATION

II. Composition

The SECC shall be composed of the following members:

A. Faculty Advisor, SECC

The Faculty Advisor who is also the Chairperson of the SECC, shall be appointed by the Dean (Students). A suggested list of names for the Faculty Advisor, SECC will be prepared by the Chief SECC Commissioner in consultation with the Speaker, Student Legislative Council and the Students' General Secretary. The SECC Faculty Adviser may impart non-binding advice to the student members of the commission.

B. Chief SECC Commissioner

The Chief SECC Commissioner shall be chosen from amongst the student members of the SECC. The outgoing Chief SECC Commissioner shall nominate his or her successor subject to ratification by the outgoing Student Legislative Council in consultation with the Faculty Advisor, SECC.

C. SECC Commissioners

There shall be two SECC Commissioners, each of whom shall be selected from among the members of the General Student Body through a due process overseen by the Speaker, Student Legislative Council, the Chief SECC Commissioner and the Office of the Dean (Students). The appointment of the SECC Commissioners shall be subject to final ratification by the Student Legislative Council.

The members of the SECC shall be ex-officio members of any committee formed in institute that discusses or acts on disciplinary matters concerning students, including the Hostel Disciplinary Committee and Institute Disciplinary Committee.

III. SECC Secretariat

The SECC shall have a dedicated Secretariat comprising of Core Members nominated by the Chief SECC Commissioner subject to ratification by Student Legislative Council. The Core Members shall appoint coordinators subject to the Chief SECC Commissioner's approval.

SECTION III - JURISDICTION AND POWERS

IV. Jurisdiction

Original jurisdiction of the SECC shall include controversies arising over:

- A. Interpretation of the Constitution.
- B. Interpretation of constitutional amendments.
- C. Interpretation of all legislation passed into law.
- D. Disputes and controversies involving:
 1. Student(s) against an organization or vice versa
 2. An organization against an organization.
 3. Student(s) against student(s).
 4. Student(s) against faculty members and staff in such cases where the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by this Constitution are suspected of having been violated.
- E. Charges of violations of the constitution, constitutional amendments, or other legislation passed by Student Legislative Council and signed into law.

Violations of academic rules or the rules laid out in the Office of Hostel Management Manual shall be referred to the Academic or Institute Disciplinary Committee respectively after being heard by the SECC. The verdict of the SECC along with its recommended penalty(ies) shall be forwarded to the Chairperson of Institute Disciplinary Committee.

V. Powers

The SECC shall have the power to:

- A. Impose Sanctions on students as provided for under this Constitution, subject to laws framed by the Student Legislative Council;
- B. Issue charges, subpoenas and orders to students and request the presence of faculty members and/or staff;
- C. Rule on any procedural decisions that are necessary to carry out its duties within the limits of its jurisdiction.

VI. Conducting Student Government Elections

The SECC shall be responsible for conducting free and fair Student Government

elections. The SECC shall act as the Election Commission during the period of elections. The Chief SECC Commissioner shall be the Senior Student Core of the Election Commission and the SECC Commissioners shall be the junior student cores.

VII. Contempt of Court

Failure by a student or an organization to comply with the decision(s) issued by the court will result in that student being in violation of a disciplinary policy of the Institute.

VIII. Voting

Ordinarily, decisions should be taken by consensus failing which the matter will be decided by a vote of simple majority. Each member of the SECC shall have one vote each and must provide a written document detailing the reasons behind each judgment. All discussions and deliberations of the SECC shall be documented and these documents shall be accessible by all students after the necessary arrangements are made to ensure the privacy of the concerned parties by the Secretariat.

IX. Public Interest Litigation

All members of the General Student Body shall have the right to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) with the SECC regarding issues which affect the Institute. The Commission shall hear the PIL at the earliest and can recommend the concerned authorities to take action based on the PIL.

X. Impeachment

The student members of the SECC can be impeached by the Student Legislative Council under circumstances and procedures elucidated in Chapter VIII (VII) of this Constitution.

XI. Sanctions

The SECC , in cases where the Student Legislative Council has not legislated upon, shall have the following sanction available to it:

- A. Disciplinary Warning
- B. Suspension from a particular event for a particular time period. This can be awarded to both individuals and organizations.
- C. Restrictions on further participation and/or fines
- D. Compensation for losses
- E. Dismissal of elected representative

CHAPTER VI - HOSTELS

SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

I. **Introduction**

The Hostel Student Body (HSB) shall decide policies with respect to their own Hostels in accordance with the Constitution and the laws passed by the Student Legislative Council.

II. **The Hostel Council**

The Hostel Council shall be responsible for taking decisions consistent with the policy set by the general body of the hostel, and their implementation. It shall be in continuous touch with the Hostel Student Body and shall apprise it of issues of interest.

III. **General Body Meeting**

The Hostel Student Body shall meet at a General Body Meeting (GBM) in order to discuss the issues of its interest, to pass policies and the Budget of the Hostel Council, and to review the performance of the members of the Hostel Council. The following are the rules and procedures pertaining to General Body Meetings:

- A. The Hostel General Secretary shall call for the General Body Meeting.
- B. There shall be at least one General Body Meeting every semester, chaired by the Warden.
- C. The Hostel Student Body shall pass the budget allocations obtained out of Establishment B funds in the General Body Meeting. The general policies of the hostel shall also be formed during the General Body Meeting.
- D. The quorum for any General Body Meeting shall be 10 percent of the total current strength of the residents of the hostel.
- E. All the members of the Hostel Council shall mandatorily attend the General Body Meetings.
- F. The minutes of all General Body Meetings shall be communicated to the hostel residents within 72 hours of holding the General Body Meeting.

IV. **Hostel Budget**

The Hostel Council shall draw up a budget for the hostel for a period of no longer than one year, and shall have it passed in the first General Body Meeting of the academic year by a simple majority of the members of the Hostel Student Body present and voting. The budget, along with the signatures of all the members of the Hostel Student Body voting for it, shall be forwarded to the Financial Accountability Committee.

V. Policies

The Hostel Council shall have the power to table policies at a General Body Meeting and have them passed by a simple majority, provided they are not contradictory to the spirit of the Constitution or any legislation passed by Student Legislative Council. These policies shall be forwarded to the Speaker within three days of the General Body Meeting. The Council shall maintain the records of all the policies passed in at least the past five years.

VI. Expenditure

All expenditures incurred by the Hostel Council under the budget approved by the Warden shall follow the procedures found in the Hostel Expenditure By-Laws.

SECTION II - HOSTEL COUNCIL

VII. Composition of the Hostel Council

The Hostel Council shall consist of the following members:

- A. Hostel Legislator
- B. General Secretary
- C. Sports Secretary
- D. Social Secretary
- E. Literary Secretary
- F. Technical Affairs Secretary
- G. Health and Hygiene Secretary

The Hostel shall be administered by the Warden with the assistance

SECTION III - POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I. The Hostel Legislator

The Hostel Legislator shall, at the hostel level:

- A.** Convene and chair Hostel Council meetings when the Warden and the Assistant Warden are not present.
- B.** Take the Minutes of the Meeting for Hostel Council meetings and General Body Meetings, and shall circulate it to the Hostel Student Body by email and display it on the notice board of the Hostel.
- C.** Call for, compile, and release to the Hostel Student Body, reports from Hostel Council Secretaries.
- D.** Advise the Hostel Council Secretaries in their work.
- E.** Raise issues from the hostel level to Student Legislative Council in case of wider applicability.

II. The General Secretary

The General Secretary shall:

- A.** Ensure the proper maintenance of the hostel and its precincts;
- B.** Co-ordinate the activities of the other Hostel Secretaries;
- C.** Convene the Hostel General Body Meeting as and when required;
- D.** Help the Assistant Warden and/or the Warden in keeping an account of procuring or condemning of hostel furniture;
- E.** Ensure adequate security provision for the hostel.

III. The Sports Secretary

The Sports Secretary shall:

- A.** Procure and maintain sports equipment for the use by the hostel residents through Sports Equipment Ledger, which shall contain the list of all sports equipment that the Hostel possesses;
- B.** Plan sports activities within the hostel for the year and propose budget to the Hostel Student Body at the beginning of the year for approval;
- C.** Plan sports activities by identifying suitable teams for different events;
- D.** Appoint Captains for various teams of the hostel sports/games;
- E.** Conduct various intra-hostel sports/tournaments in his/her hostel and coordinate the participation of hostel teams in the inter hostel competitions organized by the Institute Sports Secretary.

IV. The Literary Secretary

The Literary Secretary shall:

- A.** Plan cultural activities within the hostel for the year and propose budget to the Hostel Student Body at the beginning of the year for approval in coordination with the Social Secretary;
- B.** Monitor and maintain the Hostel library;
- C.** Arrange to buy new books after obtaining approval from Warden and take them on stock, catalogue them and check the physical stocks every month;
- D.** Procure magazines and newspaper for the Hostel Common Rooms;
- E.** Identify suitable talent and mobilise teams for participating literary events.

V. The Social Secretary

The Social Secretary shall:

- A.** Conduct social functions and festivals within the hostel.
- B.** Be responsible for arranging food, if necessary, during the organization of social events in the hostel in cooperation with the Cultural Secretary.

- C.** Procure and maintain musical instruments and other accessories and account for these through Hostel Musical Instruments Ledger, which shall contain the list of all musical instruments that the Hostel possesses;
- D.** Conduct of the various social and cultural activities of the hostel and coordinate the participation of hostel teams in the inter hostel competitions organized by the Cultural Affairs Secretaries;
- E.** Repair or replace faulty audio/video equipment in the hostel.

VI. Technical Affairs Secretary

The Technical Affairs Secretary shall:

- A.** Plan co-curricular activities within the hostel for the year and propose budget to the Hostel Student Body at the beginning of the year for approval.
- B.** Procure and maintain computers and technical parts and other accessories and account for these through Hostel Computer Equipment Ledger, which shall contain the list of all computer and technical equipment that the Hostel possesses.
- C.** Repair or replace faulty technical equipment in the hostel.
- D.** Conduct various co-curricular activities in the hostel and coordinate the participation of hostel teams in the inter-hostel competitions organized by the Co-Curricular Affairs Secretary.
- E.** Identify suitable talent and mobilise teams for participating in intra-hostel and inter-hostel co-curricular events.
- F.** Assist the Election Officer in conducting elections when his/her hostel is one of the polling venues.

VII. The Health and Hygiene Secretary

The Health and Hygiene Secretary shall:

- A.** Be in charge of maintaining cleanliness in and around the hostel premises.
- B.** Be responsible for the functioning and training of the hostel housekeeping staff
- C.** Be part of any committee formed to ensure the safety of the students, such as the Disaster Management Committee.
- D.** Be responsible for the proper upkeep of the hostel garden(s)
- E.** Be a member of the MMCC and shall represent his electorate in issues related to messes. He shall be the point of contact for the redressal of complaints made by his/her electorate
- F.** Maintain a database of blood donors specific to that hostel
- G.** Be the point of contact in the case of a medical emergency and shall be liable to help in the case of a student falling sick in the hostel.
- H.** Monitor and inspect the water storage, supply and distribution systems to ensure that the hygiene and quality of potable and non-potable water is maintained.

- I.** Be responsible for the cleaning and sanitization of the water dispensers and water storage facilities in the hostel.
- J.** Initiate and regulate the necessary actions in a hostel in case of an outbreak of disease.
- K.** Monitor and regulate the issues related to waste bins in the hostel.

CHAPTER VII - DEPARTMENTS

SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

I. Introduction

The Department Student Body (DSB) shall decide policies with respect to its own Department in accordance with the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras, any legislation passed by Student Legislative Council, or the respective Department Charter, whichever is appropriate in the given circumstance.

II. The Department Council

The Department Council shall be responsible for taking decisions consistent with the policies set by the general body of the Department and their implementation. It shall be in continuous touch with the Department Student Body and shall apprise it of issues concerning students' interest.

III. General Body Meeting

The Department Student Body shall meet at a General Body Meeting (GBM) in order to discuss the issues of its interest, to pass policies, to review the performance of the members of the Department Council, and to make amendments to the Department Charter, if necessary.

- A. The Department Legislator/Research Councillor shall call for the General Body Meeting;
- B. There shall be at least one General Body Meeting every semester;
- C. The quorum for any General Body Meeting shall be 10 percent of the total current strength of the students of the Department. Individual Departments can choose to increase the quorum;
- D. It is mandatory for all the members of the Department Council to attend the General Body Meetings;
- E. The minutes of all General Body Meetings shall be communicated to the Department Student Body within 72 hours of holding the General Body Meeting.

IV. Policies

The Department Council shall have the power to propose policies at a General Body Meeting and shall have them passed by a simple majority, provided they are not contradictory to the spirit of the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras, any legislation passed by Student Legislative Council or the Department Charter. It shall maintain the records of all the policies passed in at least the past five years.

V. The Department Charter

The Department Student Body of every Department shall create and maintain a Department Charter. The Charter shall create and specify the structure of the Department Council, along with the powers and responsibilities of all the members of the Council. It shall also contain rules and procedures regarding General Body Meetings and finances. The Charter shall be passed, and can be amended, in a General Body Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the total members present and voting, and a copy, or an updated copy in the case of an amendment, shall be given to the Speaker of Student Legislative Council.

VI. Department Finances

Each Department will have the option to ask for fees from the students of the department. These fees shall be collected at the beginning of every academic year (or every semester) and shall be used to conduct Department events and fests. Any changes to these fees will have to be passed in a General Body Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the students present in the meeting.

SECTION II - DEPARTMENT COUNCIL.

VII. Mandatory Members of the Department Council

The Department Council of every Department shall mandatorily contain the following members:

- A. Department Legislator (Academic)
- B. Research Councillor
- C. Department Legislator (Research)
- D. Class Representatives

VIII. Other Members of the Department Council

Every Department shall have the power and liberty to create any other positions of responsibility as it deems necessary. These include, but are not restricted to, Deputy Secretaries, Department Secretaries etc. Their election procedures and powers and responsibilities shall be clearly stated in the respective Department Charters.

IX. The Legislators

Every Department shall elect two Legislators to represent the interests of its course and research students respectively in Student Legislative Council.

The Department Legislator (Academic) shall be a B.Tech, Dual Degree, M.A, M.Sc, or MBA student.

The Department Legislator (Research) shall be an M.S or Ph.D student.

X. Duties and Responsibilities of the Department Legislator (Academic) and Research Councillor

The Department Legislator (Academic) shall, at the department:

- A. Represent any academic/research concerns of students to the Head of the Department and the Department Consultative Committee and shall facilitate interactions between faculty and students;
- B. Conduct General Body Meetings at the Department at least once a semester;
- C. Help students tackle their specific academic/research problems and take up their problems with the respective authorities;
- D. Attend the Department Consultative Committee meetings and represent the views of the students;
- E. Be conversant with all the rules and procedures of the Department;
- F. Facilitate the disbursement of stipends/fellowships/scholarships/etc. to the scholars;
- G. Take up any other responsibility not falling under the other Positions of Responsibility created by the Department Charters.

In addition to these, the Research Councillor shall, by default, be part of the placement team headed by the Research Affairs Secretary.

XI. Elections of Department Council

- A. The electorate for the Department Legislator (Academic) shall include B.Tech, Dual Degree, M.Sc. MBA and MA students.
- B. The electorate for the Research Councillor and Department Legislator (Research) shall include Research scholars.
- C. M.Tech students shall elect four M.Tech Legislators to represent them in the department and in the Student Legislative Council.

XII. The Class Representative

It is mandatory for each class to elect a Class Representative. The representatives of all classes shall form the Class Council which shall be answerable to the Department Legislator (Academic).

XIII. Duties and Responsibilities of the Class Representative

The Class Representative shall:

- A. Assist the Department Legislator (Academic) with collecting feedback and compiling the mid-term review for his/her class.
- B. Notify the Department Legislator (Academic) about any academic concerns and developments in the class.

C. Inform the Department Legislator (Academic) about issues related to course registration and shall attempt to solve the issues in coordination with the Academic Section and the faculty advisors.

CHAPTER VIII - ELECTIONS AND IMPEACHMENT

SECTION I - STUDENT ELECTION COMMISSION (SEC)

I. Mandate

The Student Judicial Commission, acting as the Student Elections Commission (SEC) will be empowered with the full authority to enforce any and all regulations, rules, policies and procedures relating to student elections.

II. Special Election

In the case of a Special Election, the Student Election Commission will provide a Special Elections Code specifying the election's rules and procedures at the direction of the Chief Election Officer and the Office of the Dean of Students. Special Elections shall be conducted in case a position remains unfilled or if an elected representative resigns with more than three months to go before the scheduled General Elections. In such cases, the Special Election shall be held within a month of the vacancy being notified.

III. Composition

The Student Election Commission shall be constituted by:

- A.** Chief Election Officer (CEO)
- B.** Deputy Election Officer (DEO)
- C.** Student Judicial Commission members

IV. Coordinators

In order to facilitate its smooth functioning, the Student Election Commission may select student coordinators to assist it in conducting the elections. These coordinators shall not be members of the commission, but shall work directly under the supervision of the commission. Applications to this post should be open to the entire General Student Body. In case no applications are received, the Student Election Commission can nominate members.

V. Financial Support

The Student Election Commission shall receive funding from Gymkhana Fees. The Student Legislative Council shall allocate the money requested by the Chief Election Officer in its budget.

VI. Duties of the Student Election Commission

The Student Election Commission shall be responsible for:

- A. The conduct of all elections prescribed in the Constitution in a free and fair manner.
- B. Issuing and publicizing the Code of Conduct and campaign restrictions
- C. Arbitration of complaints through the Grievance Committee
- D. Announcing the dates and times for the following:
 - 1. Filing of nominations
 - 2. Withdrawal of nominations
 - 3. Complaints regarding nominations
 - 4. Date of elections
 - 5. Declaration of results
- E. Specifying procedures for filing and withdrawal of nominations.
- F. Announcing the list of valid nominations and the results of the elections to the General Student Body.

SECTION II - ELECTORATE

VII. Executive Council

The electorate for all Executive Council positions will be the General Student Body; Provided the electorate for the Academic Affairs Secretary and the Research Affairs Secretary will be the students from taught and research programs respectively; Provided further that the electorate for the Speaker, Student Legislative Council will be the Hostel, Branch, M.Tech and Research Councillors.

VIII. Hostel Council

The electorate for Hostel Council positions will be the Hostel Student Body.

IX. Department Council

The electorate for Department Council positions shall be as follows:

- A. The electorate for the Department Legislator (Academic) will be the Department Student Body from taught programs.
- B. The electorate for the Department Legislator(Research) and the Research Councillor will be the Department Student Body from research programs.
- C. The electorate for any other elected position in the Department Councils will be defined in the respective Department Charters, and their elections shall be conducted separately.

SECTION VII - IMPEACHMENT

X. Grounds for Impeachment

Any student representative may be impeached on grounds of

- A.** Non-performance of duties specified in the Students' Constitution
- B.** Gross misconduct, as found by the Student Judicial Commission, Institute Disciplinary Committee, Complaint Committee Against Sexual Harassment or any similar competent authority
- C.** Financial misappropriation (Financial Accountability Committee shall intimate the Student Legislative Council about the initiation of enquiry and shall submit the report to the Legislative Council in the designated time period)

XI. Procedure for Impeachment of Members of Executive Council and Student Judicial Commission

The following procedures shall be followed in case of impeachment of EC members:

- A.** An impeachment motion against any member of the Executive Council or Student Judicial Commission can be raised in a regular meeting of Student Legislative Council, or by letter/email to the Speaker by any General Student Body member, provided that it is supported by at least 12 Councilors of the Student Legislative Council. This support must also be intimated to the Speaker in writing or as an e-mail.
- B.** A Legislative Committee shall be formed within 48 hours of the receipt of the letter/e-mail to look into the allegation and the representative shall be presented with the opportunity to defend himself/herself in front of the Committee.
- C.** A special session of Student Legislative Council must be convened for the impeachment vote within two weeks of the Committee being set up. The Committee must present a detailed report on the issue to Student Legislative Council in this meeting. The representative shall be considered impeached only if at least three-fourths of the total number of Legislators vote in favour of the motion.

XII. Procedure for Impeachment of Other Elected Representatives

The following procedures shall be followed in case of impeachment of elected Hostel and Department Council members:

- A.** An impeachment proceeding against any elected hostel or department representative can be initiated by one-tenth of the total strength of the electorate for a particular post. The impeachment motion must be initiated by writing a letter/email to the SEC and the Warden/HoD (except in the case of the Speaker).

- B.** The SEC, along with the Warden/HoD (except in the case of the Speaker) shall call for a meeting of the electorate within 5 days of the receipt of the letter/e-mail, where the accusers shall be allowed to present their case and the accused representative shall be allowed to defend himself. The Student Election Commission must ensure that this session is conducted in a fair and balanced manner.
- C.** If the impeachment motion is against the Speaker, the Student Legislative Council shall nominate a Legislator to conduct the impeachment proceedings.
- D.** The impeachment vote must be held by the Student Election Commission within 72 hours of the meeting.
- E.** The representative shall be considered impeached if the number of votes cast in the impeachment vote is equal or greater to the number of votes that were cast in the representative's election to the post, and at least two-third of the votes support impeachment. If the candidate had an unopposed election, then at least two-third of the electorate must vote in the impeachment motion, and at least half of the votes must support impeachment.

In addition to the above, a Legislator of the Student Legislative Council can be impeached by the Student Legislative Council on grounds given in this chapter, following the procedure established in this chapter by a 2/3rd majority of the total members of the Student Legislative Council

CHAPTER IX - BUDGETS AND PLANNING

SECTION I - SOURCES OF FINANCE

I. Sources of Finance

All activities of the Student Government shall be funded either through sponsorship deals, the Gymkhana fund, alumni funds or money allocated for the welfare of the students by the institute.

II. Gymkhana Fund

Gymkhana Fund will consist of the money collected from every member of the General Student Body per semester as the Gymkhana Fee.

III. Financial Transparency

The details regarding the usage of Gymkhana Fund shall be made accessible to all members of the General Student Body.

IV. Sponsorship

All student organizations under the Student Government have the option of being funded through sponsorship deals in addition to receiving money from the Gymkhana Funds.

V. Limitations on Accepting Sponsorship Money / Donations

Sponsorship deals / Donations cannot be accepted with:

- A.** Political parties or known affiliate organizations of political parties
- B.** Organizations that promote hatred, violence, and divisiveness in the campus on the basis of race, colour, caste, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, political convictions, language, ethnicity, region, nationality, socio-economic condition, or disability;
- C.** Any company or its subsidiary which is in the business of liquor, tobacco, or any other banned substances; and
- D.** Any company or organization that Student Legislative Council explicitly votes against.

SECTION II - BUDGET

VI. Preparation of the Budget

All student bodies under the Student Government shall draw a budget and present it to the Executive Council member to whom they report (or to the Speaker if they are Constitutional Bodies). The Executive Council shall consolidate the proposals presented

to it and shall work along with their corresponding Standing Committees to prepare the final budget. Final budget shall be finalized in consultation with the faculty advisor and the Dean Students.

VII. Approval of the Budget by Student Legislative Council

Student Legislative Council may approve the budget demanded by the Executive Council or can recommend modifications to it as it deems necessary. For the budget to be approved, two-thirds of those present and voting must approve. Any modification should again be finalized in consultation with the faculty advisor and the Dean Students.

CHAPTER X - CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

Introduction

Constitutional Bodies are student organizations that are essential to the democratic functioning of the Student Government of IIT Madras. Constitutional Bodies report to the Student Legislative Council through the Speaker, Student Legislative Council.

SECTION I - THE FIFTH ESTATE (T5E)

Introduction

The Fifth Estate (T5E) is a recognized campus publication of IIT Madras.

I. Composition

T5E shall be composed of:

- A. Faculty advisor
- B. Executive Editor
- C. Editors
- D. Correspondents

II. Faculty Advisor

The Faculty Advisor shall have an advisory role. His/her recommendations and suggestions regarding T5E shall not be binding on the student team.

III. Executive Editor

The Executive Editor shall be responsible for the functioning of T5E. He/she shall appoint the Editorial Team in a month's time of assuming office and shall be the official representative of T5E.

IV. Editorial Policy

The Executive Editor and the Editorial Team will be responsible for the formulation and update of the Editorial policy of the team and the content published by T5E.

V. Selection

The selection process for the members of T5E is given below:

- A. The Faculty Advisor shall be appointed by the Dean (Students).

- B. The Executive Editor shall be selected by the previous Executive Editor, in consultation with the Speaker, Faculty Advisor and the previous Editorial team.
- C. The Executive Editor shall be responsible for the selection of the Editorial team and the correspondents.
- D. The selection of the Executive Editor shall be ratified in the first Student Legislative Council meeting with a two-thirds majority. The Editorial team shall present the Editorial Policy in the meeting.

VI. Powers and Responsibilities

T5E shall:

- A. Act as a valuable aid in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and of intellectual exploration in the campus community;
- B. Be found to be fair, unbiased, and impartial in its reporting;
- C. Cover the major events conducted on the campus, be present in and report every Student Legislative Council meeting, and aid the Legislative Council & the Executive Council in dissemination of information;
- D. Review comprehensively the work of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council, including the work done by the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees.

VII. Complaints and Protection from Arbitrary Suspension and Removal

The Editorial Team are protected from arbitrary suspension and removal because of student, faculty and administrative views on editorial policy or content. Complaints regarding content shall be raised with the Executive Editor, and if not satisfactorily resolved, can be raised with the Speaker, Student Legislative Council, faculty advisor, the SECC and the HDC.

VIII. Impeachment of the Executive Editor

The Executive Editor may be impeached on grounds of:

- A. Non-performance of duties specified in the Students' Constitution.
- B. Gross misconduct, as found by SECC, Hostel Disciplinary Committee, Complaint Committee Against Sexual Harassment, or any similar competent authority.
- C. Financial misappropriation (FAC shall intimate Student Legislative Council about the initiation of enquiry and shall submit the report to Student Legislative Council in the designated time period).

IX. Funding

T5E shall present a yearly budget in the first meeting of the Student Legislative Council.

SECTION II - THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (FAC)

I. Introduction

The Financial Accountability Committee is envisaged as the primary student body for scrutinizing and maintaining the financial records of student organizations of IIT Madras.

II. Composition

The Financial Accountability Committee shall be composed of a maximum of 10 students.

III. Term of Office

Each member shall have a term of office of one year, which is extendable up to a maximum of two years

X. Eligibility

The eligibility of the members of Financial Accountability Committee shall be as follows:

- A. No Academic or Hostel disciplinary actions
- B. A minimum CGPA of 6.50
- C. On-campus resident
- D. Should not hold any other post at Hostel, Department, or Institute level, whether elected, selected, or nominated, during the period of membership in the Commission.

XI. Appointment of Members

The Speaker shall call for applications. The Student Legislative Council shall forward the applications to the Nominations and Ratifications Ad-Hoc Committee to study the applications carefully, with due attention given to the past positions of responsibilities of the applicants. The Committee shall table a report on the same in the Student Legislative Council along with its recommendations. The Student Legislative Council shall then select each of the 10 members of the committee by the following condition:

- A. At least two-thirds of the Student Legislative Council members should vote
- B. At least two-thirds of the votes should confirm the appointment

XII. Appointment of the Core(s)

The Student Legislative Council shall also appoint Core(s) for the Commission from among the ten members. The confirmation of Chair will require:

- A. At least three-fourth of the Student Legislative Council members to vote
- B. At least two-thirds of the votes to confirm the appointment

XIII. Term Extension

After the end of one year, any member may choose to continue in the Commission for a further period of one year, provided that the next Student Legislative Council confirms the appointment as per the conditions laid out above.

XIV. Vacancy

In the event that the ten seats are not filled after exhausting the applications received, Student Legislative Council may suo moto appoint the remaining members from eligible members of the General Student Body by the condition required to appoint the Chair.

XV. Financial Accountability Committee and Student Legislative Council

The Financial Accountability Committee is an independent student investigative body. The Commission is only answerable to the Dean (Students). The FAC shall, however, present reports of completed investigations before the Student Legislative Council. The chairperson of the FAC must also submit a report once in every two months to Student Legislative Council which would give a broad overview of the investigations undertaken by the FAC. In carrying out functions related to accounting and keeping track of the expenditure of student organizations, the Financial Accountability Committee is completely independent.

XVI. Jurisdiction

Every student post (elected/selected/nominated) will come under the jurisdiction of the FAC:

- A. Executive Council members
- B. Hostel Council members
- C. Department Council members
- D. Legislators and Speaker of the Student Legislative Council
- E. cores and coordinators and all recognised PoRs of any body.
- F. Any student who uses either the Establishment B fund at the Hostel Level or the Gymkhana fund at the Institute level or any sponsored fund and raised fund or or money allocated for the welfare of the students by the institute.

XVII. Impeachment of Members from the FAC

The procedures for impeachment of any member from the FAC shall be as follows:

- A. Any complaint received against a member of FAC will be investigated by the Student Legislative Council, of which a report has to be submitted within 14 days of receipt of such a complaint.
- B. The report has to be forwarded to the Dean (Students) and the member concerned.
- C. If the member so wishes, he/she may submit a report within 7 days of receiving the report.
- D. Within the next 7 days, Student Legislative Council may decide to impeach the member concerned.
- E. To impeach a member:
 1. At least two-thirds of the Student Legislative Council members should vote
 2. At least two-thirds of the votes should confirm the impeachment
- F. To impeach the Core(s):
 1. At least three-fourths of the Student Legislative Council members should vote
 2. At least two-thirds of the votes should confirm the impeachment

Failure of the members of the FAC to perform their duties is a ground for impeachment. On receipt of a complaint, the Dean (Students) may recommend the impeachment of a member to the Speaker.

CHAPTER XI - AMENDMENTS

I. Initiating the Amendment Process

Amendments to this Constitution can be proposed only by the Student Legislative Council. To be considered for approval, an amendment to this Constitution must be presented at a meeting of Student Legislative Council and provided, via e-mail, to all members of Student Legislative Council at least one week prior to the Student Legislative Council meeting.

II. The Amendment Process

The Student Legislative Council shall form an Ad-Hoc Committee to look into the need and constitutionality of the proposed amendment. The committee shall prepare and submit a report regarding the same to the Speaker. This report, along with the proposed amendment, shall be presented to the Student Legislative Council at least a week prior to the final vote.

III. Adoption of the Amendment

To be adopted, a proposed amendment to this Constitution must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote at a meeting of the Legislative Council and must be ratified with a simple majority in the Senate. The amendments are effective immediately upon ratification by the Senate.

IV. Editorial Changes

Editorial changes such as grammar, formatting, and non-substantive re-wording may be proposed by any member of Student Legislative Council at an official meeting of the Legislative Council and can be approved by a simple majority vote of the Legislative Council.

V. Record of Amendments

A record of all amendments to this Constitution must be kept, by the Speaker of the Student Legislative Council, as an appendix to this Constitution.