

## **A Statement on Ravenshaw University's New Model of Students' Elections**

Based on the mandate given by the Executive Council of the University, an alternative model of representation of students to various student bodies has been designed. The proposed model of Students' Elections has been the result of in-depth consultations at multiple levels, specifically taking into account some of the fundamental aspects of popular democracy, namely, decentralization, direct and enlarged basis of representation and secrecy of ballot. Views from various stakeholders were sought through a notification in our website. Out of 15 such responses, 12 were in favour of changing the existing process of elections.

### **Our Objective**

- to strengthen the idea of representation of students through direct elections at the School/ Department level;
- to enhance students' participation through decentralization of the election process;
- to prevent the role of external forces, use of money power and violence in the process of election;
- to follow Lyngdoh Committee's recommendation in letter and spirit.

### **Are we doing away with the democratic process?**

- ⇒ Rather we are strengthening democratic process by expanding the scope of participation.
- ⇒ During the last few years it has been observed that the turnout rate of voting is about 50%. The proposed model is likely to provide greater opportunities for higher rate of participation;
- ⇒ There is a visible trend towards the decline of interest in the electoral process. For instance, out of the 53 positions available for contests, nominations were filed for less than 50% of the positions and elections were actually held for 10-11 positions during the last 3 years. In the proposed model, elections will be held for all the available positions, thus ensuring effective representation.

### **How will this help in our academic activities?**

- Earlier, a large number of working days were lost in electoral campaigning as well as due to pre and post-election violence. Now, face-to-face acquaintance between the voters and candidates is likely to reduce the loss of productive time.

### **Finally**

The objective of a University is to provide quality education as well as to inculcate the ideas of democratic values. The proposed model of students' representation is an attempt to strike a balance between the two by ensuring minimum loss in teaching hours, more participation and greater transparency.