

# Senate of Serampore College

College Founded by Carey, Marshman and Ward, 1818  
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1827 and  
Bengal Act IV of 1918 as modified  
upto 1997 by Govt. of  
West Bengal



**MANUAL OF ACADEMIC  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**2012**

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## PREFACE

Serampore College is the first University in India, established through a Royal Charter, granted by the His Danish Majesty, King Frederick the VI, in 1827. It is a unitary university, as it can confer degrees and distinctions only upon those who had received education and instruction as internal students at the College. Serampore College also has the unique distinction to be the only Theological University in India after the Serampore College Act was passed in Bengal Legislative Assembly, and was promulgated in 1918.

We often fail to notice that the Serampore College Act is not an Act to establish a university, but is an Act to re-affirm it as a university, though limiting its powers to award degrees only in the Faculty of Theology. This was necessitated by the fact that by 1918, Calcutta University was already in existence to which Serampore College was an affiliate for degree courses in Arts and Science (and later Commerce) since its very inception in 1857. When the re-organization of the College was undertaken under the leadership Dr. George Howells in 1910, the arrangement was made not to disturb the relations with the University of Calcutta with regards to affiliation with other faculties; instead, awarding of a diploma (Licentiate in Theology) and a degree (Bachelor of Divinity) under the Faculty of Theology were initiated through Higher Theological Department of the College.

Moreover, University Act of 1904, prohibited universities, set under central/state legislatures, to establish faculties of theology in any of the Indian Universities in order to preserve the secular character of the educational system under Governmental support. It is, in this context, the Faculty of Theology was specially mentioned in the Serampore College Act under Article 13. This provision bestows upon Serampore College another unique characteristic: being a University in itself, is also an affiliate to another University at the same time.

Serampore College, however, can commence awarding degrees in other faculties if it can satisfy the Government of West Bengal, under the Article 13 of the Act, that it has physical facilities, academic standard and financial resources to support the staff and other liabilities.

Academic administration of the University is the responsibility of the Senate of Serampore College which has been empowered to make rules and regulations for the convening of its meetings and for proper conduct of its business, a privilege that is granted to it by the Bengal Act. Senate of Serampore College is now about a century old, and has a long tradition, and conventions, in managing its own business. It has volumes of written Minutes of the Senate and its Committees, which has been meeting regularly every year since 1919. Rev. John Drake, the first Registrar, has been ascribed as the one who laid the foundation of academic administration of the Senate. Along with him, the Senate was privileged to have illustrious administrators and educationists to run its affairs. Senate, strangely enough, did not attempt to systematize the decisions of the Senate and its Committees into a Manual for the administrators of the system.

When I took up the responsibilities at the Senate Office in 2004, I started almost in vacuum. My previous experience in this office helped me to familiarize myself with the functioning of the office and get the things going. The job of the Registrar is not simply running the office; he is expected to provide guidance: for his office-staff and administrators of affiliated colleges. The demand, therefore, for a code to work with the administration of this institution, was very much understandable. An attempt has now been made, as an initial effort, in that direction so that it may help to take decisions which are continuous, and based upon the tested ground. I have gone through all the Minutes of the Senate and its Committees since 1919, and have collected decisions that are relevant and can be a guide to take actions in similar cases that often come across now in the changed circumstances. This volume, I sincerely hope, will be a great help to the academic administrators within our system.

All rules and regulations, that may additionally be prescribed by the colleges, in respect of courses they offer, should be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Senate of Serampore College. Affiliated colleges are authorized to frame supplementary rules in general conformity with the spirit

of the rules of the Senate. In case of any need for clarifications, the matter should be referred to the Senate for necessary guidance/direction. Only Senate, and its appropriate committees, is authorized to enact/interpret/change/suspend any rule as per the need of the situation.

Serampore  
Dec. 2012

Ravi Tiwari  
Registrar