

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2016**

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A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan.

2. The agenda of the meeting was as under:-

- i. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting dated 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.
- ii. Compliance report regarding earlier decisions of the Business Advisory Committee.
- iii. Business to be transacted during the 248<sup>th</sup> Session.
- iv. Proposal of Committee day during the Session for improved attendance.
- v. Finances required for technical and infrastructure support to the Members and Committees.
- vi. Discussion on the Senate Forum for Policy Research (SFPR).
- vii. Proposed amendments in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.
- viii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. Following Members attended the meeting:-

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| 1) Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate  | Chairman         |
| 2) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri        | Member           |
| 3) Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq          | Member           |
| 4) Senator Aitzaz Ahsan                        | Member           |
| 5) Senator Saleem Zia, Chief Whip, PML (N)     | Member           |
| 6) Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan                 | Member           |
| 7) Senator Saeed Ghani                         | Member           |
| 8) Senator Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi | Member           |
| 9) Senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour                  | Member           |
| 10) Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood             | Member           |
| 11) Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed             | Member           |
| 12) Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo             | Member           |
| 13) Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar          | Member           |
| 14) Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini             | Member           |
| 15) Senator Hidayat Ullah                      | Member           |
| 16) Mr. Amjed Pervez                           | Secretary Senate |

4. Meeting started at 12:45 p.m. with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The Committee started consideration of the following agenda items.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.I: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2016.**

5. As no objection was raised by any member, therefore, the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meetings dated 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.II: COMPLIANCE REPORT REGARDING EARLIER DECISIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

6. Secretary Senate briefed the Committee about the compliance report on the earlier decisions of the Committee upon which the Committee showed satisfaction.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.III: BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED DURING THE 248<sup>TH</sup> SESSION.**

7. The Chairman apprised the Members about the business likely to be transacted during the session. It was informed that other than the routine Private Members' business some government bills are likely to be introduced. It was further decided that meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Senate Elections may be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

On the proposal that the House may pass resolution in favour of Mr. Sadiq Khan on his election as Mayor of London, it was agreed that Members may speak on the issue on floor of the House.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.IV: PROPOSAL OF COMMITTEE DAY DURING THE SESSION FOR IMPROVED ATTENDANCE.**

8. The agenda item was exhaustively discussed by the Committee. The Chairman showed serious concerns over the lack of quorum in the Committee meetings. The Chairman shared the International practice of dedicating a specific day for Committee meetings, during the sessions of the parliament.

**Most of the members liked the idea while some others were of the view that it may not solve the problem. However, it was decided that second Wednesday during the current Session will be observed as Committee Day on experimental basis.**

**The Committee further directed that all the Members of the House may be informed through letters to ensure better participation in the Committee meetings.**

The Committee further deliberated upon the method through which the Members could be tempted to attend the Committee meetings.

Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, suggested that the Members whose attendance would be higher in committee meetings should be preferred for the foreign tours, however, the Committee could not arrive at a conclusion in this respect.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.V: FINANCES REQUIRED FOR TECHNICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES.**

9. Secretary Senate briefed about the background of the agenda that some of the members and Chairpersons of the Committees have been raising this issue and wanted to bring it in the House or take up with the Senate Standing Committee on Finance. The Secretary said in view of the constitutional and legal position the matter does not pertain to the Standing Committee on Finance as the House can decide on the advice of its Finance Committee. However perks and privileges for members and Committees are determined by Acts of Parliament which need to be amended.

The Parliamentary Party Leaders and Members also raised the demand for provision of suitable offices. They were of the view that they will be able to contribute more effectively in the House business if suitable office place is provided to them. The issue of funding some of the activities of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups was also raised. The Chairman said that he will look into the matter. The Committee was of unanimous opinion that the funds of the Secretariat should be enhanced in order to facilitate the Members.

**The Chairman explained the Members the efforts made by him and the Secretariat in increasing office space in the C-Block / former US-AID Building and said that he was hopeful that in the coming financial year the problems would be resolved by and large. It was further decided that the Secretariat will ensure budgeting required amount for increased Parliamentary and Committee activities for effective functioning.**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.VI: DISCUSSION ON THE SENATE FORUM FOR POLICY RESEARCH (SFPR).**

10. The Committee was informed about the background of the creation of the Forum and some of its recent decisions as well as its working which required a review. Further discussion in the matter was deferred.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.VII: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE SENATE, 2012.**

11. The Committee discussed the agenda item at length and decided that the substantive amendments in the rules may formally be made whereas the typographical/grammatical/patent errors in the text of the rules may be rectified by the Secretariat at its own.


Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi suggested to refer the amendments to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges but the Committee did not agree the suggestion.

12. In juxta position, the Committee decided as under:-

1. The minutes of the meeting dated 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were confirmed.
2. The Committee decided that before deciding Wednesday falling during the sessions as Committee Day, the second Wednesday during the current Session be used on experimental basis.
3. The Committee decided to write letters to all the Members informing them about the Committee Day and also to sensitize them to attend the Committee meetings.
4. The Committee approved that the substantive amendments in the rules may formally be made whereas the typographical/grammatical/patent errors in the text of the rules may be rectified by the Secretariat.

13. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

  
(Amjed Pervez Malik)  
Secretary Senate

  
(Mian Raza Rabbani)  
Chairman Senate of Pakistan