Proposals for

Vice President

Technology Students' Gymkhana

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

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Proposal 1: BTP/MTP and Project Portal

Overview:

Looking for the opportunity to do a project under a professor is a widespread inquiry we see on campus. Projects assist students in figuring out their field of interest by exposing them to academic and industrial research. It also helps them develop in-depth skills in particular technologies. The current mailing process for allocation of B.Tech. Project, M.Tech. Project, thesis, or any other research project is quite tiring both for students and professors; thus, there is a need to develop a common platform that can deal with all projects and student applications smoothly.

Proposal:

1. I propose creating an institute-wide platform that can help manage student project allocation for BTP, MTP, Thesis, and non-Credit projects efficiently.
2. On this platform, professors will be allowed to list the projects with customization options such as deadline, CV requirement, CGPA, Project Credits (if any), students eligibility (BTP/MTP/Thesis/Non-credit projects). Also, they will be able to filter and select students on a suitable priority basis. Students will be able to apply for all kinds of projects via basic steps, including, but not limited to, uploading personal information and required documents. The vice president will form a dedicated team for managing the portal.

Impact:

1. This will be a significant improvement over the previously used excel sheet circulation system by some departments and will reduce the time consumed by both students and professors in the overall process.
2. Students will be able to know the project details beforehand and hence can save time in writing emails, quickening the whole application process.
3. This will increase awareness about all available projects in the campus community and further motivate students to pursue research.
4. The professors will be able to view the list of students, and they may filter(using CG/Eligibility/Experience) and select the ones with the relevant skills.
5. This portal will simplify the process for professors to review many resumes otherwise sent through email.

Proposal 2: KGP Alumni Angels

Overview:

KAA is an alumni grant that is made to support and encourage campus startups. The motto of this platform is to provide the basic need to an Ideation Stage Startup like:
- Fund for piloting their concept
- Support In the process of R&D
- Marketing
- Product Development: creating the MVP
- Services at zero cost (some services)
- Mentorship and Networking

A new position will be nominated under Technology Students' Gymkhana and will be advised only by the **Vice President, Technology Students Gymkhana.**

Structure
- Stakeholders will be Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Research Scholars students, Entrepreneurship promoting bodies on the campus, Alumni, Alumni, and Campus Startups.
- A group of 5-10 alumni will be created who will be contributing to the fund.
- A Board will be made of 2-5 members.
- A specific time period will be provided to use the investment under the guidance of mentors, and periodic updates will be asked from the startup.
- Entrepreneurship promoting bodies will be the facilitating body.

Board:
The board will consist of 2-5 alumni from the group of alumni participating.
- The board will be leading all the due diligence and funding activities.
- Criteria for choosing the board member:
    1. Alumni angels interested in helping and evaluating startups will be part of the Board and leading the others.
    NOTE: This all will be mutually decided by the alumni.

- Role of the Board:
    1. The Due-Diligence of the startup will be performed by the Board members.
    2. The Board will decide which startup would be raising funds/grants and the amount of it.
    3. The Board will decide the amount of the grant/fund, the number of installments and their value, and the number of updates that the startup has to provide them.
    4. Along with the amount, the board will decide the period of time and numbers of updates the startup will be asked to provide.
    5. The board will decide the number of installments and the value of each installment.

NOTE: This will vary from startup to startup depending on their various factors like:
- *Sector of startup*
- *Amount of funding/grant raised*
- *Stage of the startup*
- *Depending on the need for mentorship, the startup needs to work.*

Conditions for startups
- At Least one of the founders is from IIT Kharagpur.
- At least three months of ideation is required.
- The startup has to provide a deck including:
  - The problem it is solving
  - The solution
  - Market Research
  - Details of any survey or pilot (if any)
  - Financial Statements if the startup is working
- If they raise funding or receive grants, startups have to justify their expenditure to facilitating bodies and the Board.

Procedure
1. The Startup will approach the Entrepreneurship promoting bodies of IIT Kharagpur.
2. The startup will be asked to fill out a form and provide some details that will help in understanding the startup/idea.
3. These responses will be shared with the Board, which will then choose the startup to provide monetary support.

NOTE: The parameters of judging the startup depend on various factors like sector, stage, the need of the startup, and many more. So, the exact parameter will be specified later.

Role of the nominated position
- The person will be nominated by the Vice President, Technology Students' Gymkhana..
- This person will be answerable to all the queries of Technology Students' Gymkhana.
- The person can only be advised by the Vice President but will not work directly under him.

Role of the Entrepreneurship promoting bodies participating
- The body will be the facilitating body.
- The body will be responsible for:
  1. Publicity of this initiative through the Kharagpur network.
  2. Bringing startups and connecting them to the alumni.
  3. Ensuring the proper utilization of the investment (grant/funding) by tracking and taking regular updates from the startups.

Proposal 3: Technical Apprenticeships Program

Overview:

KGP has a long history of innovation in the field of mechatronics, software development and has built a strong student Research and Development community. In the past, KGPians have won laurels in international competitions, published in well-known journals by working in these fields. Until recently, most of our research groups have had sufficient funding, immense functional inventory, and a steady knowledge transfer in place. This has been impacted in the past years due to multiple issues.

IIT Kharagpur has one of the most effective student initiatives on campus, the Placement Committee of Career Development Centre, which is a prime example of the benefits of the inclusion of students in the decision-making and executive process. We see a clear advantage "of the students, for the students, by the students."

To create increased value added to the student research and development within IIT Kharagpur, we propose the formation of a new council of research groups, in addition to all relevant authorities, to bring corporate backing and industrial apprenticeships to a group of students rather than individual internships or unguided sponsored projects.

Proposal:

1. The creation of a council under Technology Students' Gymkhana of student-run research groups and technical societies in coordination with Technology Students' Gymkhana, Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy for bringing in industry expertise and funding to student groups for technical development.
2. These will require the creation of a new classification for the projects taken, which will retain the structure of sponsored projects, but with continuous corporate guidance.
3. This council will be at the forefront of corporate outreach and will aim to bring a cutting-edge corporate presence to our campus. Collaborations, projects, and other opportunities with these companies will be explored and managed by this council.

Structure:

1. The council will consist of representatives of respective research groups, Public Relations Chair, Vice President, Undergraduate and Postgraduate representative.
2. The council will function under the Technology Students' Gymkhana towards collaborating with the Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy to push for apprenticeships.
3. Rather than simply obtaining funding for certain projects, we will expect apprenticeships from technically oriented companies that are relevant to the skill sets and goals of student groups.
4. This will advocate the creation of a separate council of representatives from each of the participating Research groups, Public Relations Chair, General Secretaries of Technology, Technology Coordinator, and Vice President while having oversight and guidance from the Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy.

Functioning:
1. Projects and opportunities brought to the council will be allotted to the groups with the most relevant experience. This will further be floated to non-research group members among the student community.
2. From the assigned students to an apprenticeship, a project lead shall be elected. This will bring in an additional aspect of techno-management into the process. The project lead will coordinate with the company and schedule regular meetings after the terms of the apprenticeship have been finalised by the council.
3. The Public Relations Chair will forward any relevant requests to the council, which will try to convert any internship requests to a group apprenticeship if deemed to be worthy. Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy will be consulted for additional guidance regarding corporate approach, fiduciary and legal issues.

Impact:
1. This will have a direct impact on the projects undertaken by students and shall lead to more application-oriented developments on campus, culminating in the creation of highly skilled groups with a deep understanding of the latest technological requirements.
2. Students shall be in direct correspondence with the companies and will gain recommendations and an outlook of corporate functioning.
3. The abundance of such individuals will empower more startups and ventures from IIT Kharagpur, creating a directly linked ecosystem with the KAA proposal.

<u>Proposal 4: Physical and Mental Health</u>

<u>*Overview:*</u>
Physical Health:
The recent pandemic has left a mark on the history of humankind for the better, and everyone has started to realise the importance of physical and mental health. The institute has recognized this as a major pain point for the student community and has regularly conducted sessions and provided resources on the same. This has been a helpful initiative to stressed students.
In this proposal, I plan to expand these initiatives and with a few additions, enhance the state of living of the student community.

<u>*Proposals:*</u>
1. The relevant authorities and experts will be consulted to release regular blogs and podcasts to deal with health issues that are commonly faced on campus while also providing precautionary measures and early indicators for the same.
2. A yearly newsletter will be published containing the various changes that happened in Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy Technology Hospital throughout the year.
3. Incorporating an online appointment booking portal with the respective doctors and diagnostic facilities in the ERP is accessible to the entire KGP community.
4. I propose to ensure systematic allocation of health facilities for the entire KGP community by implementing the following steps.
    a. A year-wise full-body physical checkup for the students to address any medical problems due to unawareness.
    b. The examination charges, estimated at around Rs 2500 per member, will be covered through the medical insurance services.

<u>*Impact:*</u>
1. With improved accessibility, the entire KGP community will be more willing to address what they previously considered as minor symptoms.
2. With the proposed appointment booking portal, every patient will be able to access their past medical records and can book appointments for various diagnostic tests. Feedback options will be given, thus bringing accountability to the system and making the process more efficient. This will also provide easy access to specialists to the student community.
3. With year-wise examination, the symptom detection process will be streamlined and assist doctors in recognizing and putting forth preventive measures to keep the KGP community safe.

With toll-free, easily memorable hotline numbers, reaching out to medical staff will be more convenient.

Mental Health :
In addition to the proposals targeting physical health, we shall also be bringing the mental health of the student community into focus, thereby, improving the general well-being.

Proposals:

1. The Faculty Advisor will be requested to meet with students at the beginning of each semester and hear their concerns. During this meet, they are encouraged to flag any concerns and suggest the concerned student reach out to the Counselling Centre. The above procedure will also be introduced at the end of the mid-semester examinations so that such students can address their concerns and get valuable feedback.
2. During the Disciplinary Committee's resolution, students facing disciplinary measures will be advised to at the counseling sessions.
3. Increasing the number of visits per week on a case-to-case measure to the psychiatrist makes the process more accessible.

Impact:

1. The Counselling Centre will become accessible and play a more integral role in every student's life.
2. With improved psychological health, students will be eager to attend classes and focus better, resulting in improved academic performance and overall holistic improvement.