



PROPOSALS

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20EE30030

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Contesting for the post of

VICE PRESIDENT

Technology Students' Gymkhana

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (2023-24)

OVERVIEW

Proposal 1 - Empowering PG/RS students for a thriving campus life at IIT Kharagpur: Establishing standardised processes for academic and financial needs, and programs to prepare for career events.

Proposal 2 - Women in Entrepreneurship and Leadership: Encouraging female population in the campus to start new entrepreneurial ventures and take up leadership positions.

Proposal 3 - Undergraduate Research Advancement Program (URAP): Introducing a structured program for students across the nation to take up projects under professors at IIT Kharagpur.

Proposal 4 - Community Wellbeing at IIT Kharagpur: Taking steps towards making the campus a safer and more inclusive place to stay.

Proposal 1

Empowering PG/RS students for a thriving campus life at IIT Kharagpur

Establishing standardised processes for academic & financial needs, and programs to prepare for career events.

1. Improving Academic Life of Research Scholars at IIT Kharagpur

Overview:

Research scholars at IIT Kharagpur face several challenges related to the alignment of their academic cycle, delayed exams, lack of formalised contingency funds, and absence of concrete introduction and awareness about campus placements. These challenges can negatively impact their income, academic progress, and career prospects.

Proposal:

To address these challenges, the following actions have been proposed:

- **Standard Operating Procedure:** A standard operating procedure will be set up to clarify the academic tenure of the research scholars. This includes formulation of rules and norms regarding the conduct of various evaluative measures for the scholars.
- **Feedback System:** A feedback system will be put in place for the research scholars to improve their academic life at IIT Kharagpur. This system will allow scholars to provide feedback on their academic experiences, including suggestions for improvement.
- **Defined Timeline:** A timeline with fixed deadlines for the various exams and seminars will be established for their comprehensive exams, registration seminars, and enhancement seminars. This will ensure that these exams and seminars are conducted on time and do not delay the progress of research scholars.

- Standard List: A standard list will be issued for an effective use of the contingency funds. This will provide clear guidelines on how research scholars can use these funds and will help prevent any misuse.

Impact:

The proposed measures will have the following impacts:

- Improved Academic Life: Having clarity on their academic tenure and prior information of their exams and seminars schedule will lead to a greatly improved academic life for the research scholars at IIT Kharagpur.
- Consistent Income: The proposed measures will ensure that the income of the research scholars is not affected due to delayed exams and seminars. This will be particularly helpful for the married research scholars who need a more consistent source of income.
- Reduced Workload: The proposed measures will ensure that the research scholars are not overworked with more than what is sufficient for their academic tenure.

Background:

- Interacted with research scholars in various domains regarding the underdefined academic milestones of their tenure, lack of standardisation of comprehensive exams and timelines, and ineffective utilisation of contingency funds. (Some of the scholars that were approached include Mr. Emel V. Kurian, Research Scholars' Representative to the Institute Senate, Ms. Monidipa Sengupta, Mr. Avishek Pandey, Mr. Ajay Shankar Tiwari, and Mr. Sunandan Adhikary)
- I am in the process of conversing with Mr. Rishi Sirohi, Assistant Registrar and Mr. Gopal Sinha, Deputy Registrar about the standardisation of the rules and regulations regarding the academic tenure of research scholars.

2. Placement Induction Program for PG/RS Student Community

Overview:

This proposal aims to address the challenges encountered by postgraduate students and research scholars in the placement process by increasing their awareness of the procedure. It will lead to a better prior understanding of the process, active participation in placement teams, and lastly a better performance during placements. The proposal seeks to provide the postgraduate students and research scholars with a solid foundation for their careers after college.

Proposal:

- The Placement Induction Program will ensure knowledge transfer between the batches. The students will be addressed on the department level. This interaction will also include placed students to share their experience and the required skills for upcoming placements.
- The program will be conducted during the months of February and March. This timeline will help students to prepare in the summer for the upcoming placement season, and provide them the necessary background to apply for the position of the member of the Placement Committee. As the placed batch would still be in campus, they can readily address the problems and doubts of the junior batch.
- This program will include a general introduction to the placement process, previous year placement domain and department-wise statistics, problems and difficulties faced by the previously placed batch, CV building sessions, and creating awareness around the selection process for CDC department representatives and Student Placement Co-ordinators.

Impact:

- The program will establish a structured channel to ensure knowledge transfer from the previous batch of placed students to the batch sitting next for placements.
- Given timeline will help postgraduates and research scholars in obtaining a comprehensive understanding of placements in advance and thereby giving them ample time during the summers to prepare for placements.
- The program will increase their familiarity with the Placement Committee structure and allow them to have a better preparation for the positions.

Background:

- Talked with Mr. Purushotham, the postgraduate representative to the institute senate to the institute senate, regarding the difficulties faced by PG/RS students during placements.
- Mr. Shreyash, Postgraduate Alumni of IIT Kharagpur, was contacted regarding their experience of placement and their feedback on the proposal.
- A small group of PG students, including first and second-year students, were systematically interviewed to gather input on their grievances during and before placement drives.
- To ensure the feasibility and specificity of the proposal, feedback was sought from Mr. Ashwith Koyyala, a PG member of the Placement Committee, as well as several other Placement Committee members.
- Mr. Divyajyoti Divyaranjan Rana, a postgraduate student who is also a CDC Departmental Representative, was contacted for his feedback and experience on PG placements.

Proposal 2

Women in Entrepreneurship and Leadership ***Encouraging female population in the campus to start new entrepreneurial ventures and take up leadership positions.***

Overview:

An initiative aimed at encouraging the women entrepreneurs to start their own businesses by enhancing their abilities, providing guidance and support through mentoring, networking, and enabling practical learning opportunities. Entrepreneurial events conducted in the institute has observed lesser women participation. To increase the women participation, I plan to host a boot camp that caters exclusively to female entrepreneurs. The Boot Camp will serve as a platform to create awareness about the benefits of entrepreneurship and the various opportunities available for women in this field. By creating a supportive environment and providing access to valuable resources, the Boot Camp aims to inspire and enable women to become successful entrepreneurs.

Proposal:

- I propose to organise a week-long Boot Camp for women entrepreneurs, designed to empower them by enhancing their skills, and providing guidance and support through mentoring, networking, and practical learning opportunities.
- I propose to bring in women speakers, mentors, investors in the guest lectures, pitching and mentoring sessions, where women participants will have the chance to gain real-life experience by presenting their ideas to a panel of investors and mentors.

I will be conducting a week-long Boot Camp which will consist of a series of guest lectures, workshops, and mentoring sessions to help the women entrepreneurs to attain relevant skills. The key is to provide a mix of expert insights, practical workshops, and personalised mentoring sessions to help participants refine their business ideas, validate their business models, and prepare for potential investment and growth. I am planning to fund the Boot Camp through a company-led CSR initiative, and am currently in process of shortlisting companies that may be willing to provide dedicated funding for the same.

Structure:

Day	Topic covered	Detailed composition
1	Business Idea Refining	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction to the process of refining a business idea.● Guest lecture by an experienced entrepreneur on how they refined their business idea.● Workshop on ideation techniques.
2	Validating Business Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction to the importance of validating a business model.● Guest lecture by an experienced entrepreneur on how they validated their business model.● Workshop on market research and customer validation techniques.
3	Legal Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction to legal considerations for starting and running a business.● Guest lecture by a lawyer specialising in business law.● Workshop on legal documents and contracts.
4	Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction to the different types of funding sources and investment opportunities.● Guest lecture by a venture capitalist on how they evaluate and invest in startups.● Workshop on creating a compelling pitch deck.
5	Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction to growth strategies for startups.● Guest lecture by an experienced entrepreneur on how they grew their business.● Workshop on growth hacking techniques.
6	Pitch Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Participants pitch their refined business ideas and validated business models to a panel of investors and experienced entrepreneurs.● Panel provides feedback and selects the most promising pitches for potential investment.

7	Networking and Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking event with investors, mentors, and fellow participants. • Reflection session to discuss key takeaways and lessons learned from the Boot Camp. • Wrap-up and closing remarks.
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Impact:

The proposed Boot Camp has the potential to have a significant impact on the women participants and their businesses. It can improve women participants' knowledge and skills related to legal considerations, refining business ideas, validating business models, and attracting investment. It can also expand their network, increase their confidence, and provide an opportunity for potential investment and growth. Further, this program will boost women's participation in various startup-oriented competitions, and hackathons, and will encourage them to pursue their own businesses.

Background:

- Speaking with some of the current executive heads of Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Kharagpur, I inquired about any potential overlap between the year-long initiatives of Entrepreneurship Cell and the proposed Boot Camp.
- The Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited has undertaken a similar CSR initiative at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, for funding the Women Startup Program.
- I intend to reach out to corporations such as HUL, ICICI Bank, ITC, Bandhan Bank that allocate their CSR funds towards women's education, and entrepreneurship awareness.
- I have had conversations with representatives from IIT Bombay and IIM Bangalore, both of whom administer programs aimed at promoting women entrepreneurship.

Proposal 3

Undergraduate Research Advancement Program

Introducing a structured program for students across the nation to take up projects under professors at IIT Kharagpur

Overview:

- IIT Kharagpur has a rich tradition of fostering innovative research and development across a wide range of disciplines. However, the process of finding and participating in research projects can be challenging for undergraduate students, particularly those who are not familiar with the research landscape. The existing process of finding the right research project can be tedious, involving a long search for available opportunities and a series of cold emails. This often leads to students being unable to find a professor working in their field of interest, which can be discouraging.
- To address this issue and promote greater engagement with research among undergraduate students, I propose to launch a structured program to channel undergraduate research at IIT Kharagpur. My aim is to create a centralised platform where undergraduate students can easily find available research opportunities and connect with professors who are conducting research in their field of interest. By doing so, I hope to streamline the research process for undergraduate students, increase their engagement with research, and create a more conducive environment for innovation and development at IIT Kharagpur.

Proposal:

- The program will offer research opportunities for undergraduate students, with stipends being provided by the professors based on the projects. As the program progresses, the possibility of additional funding through alumni and government-funded programs can also be explored.
- The program will span nine months, with the research period taking place from May to July. To ensure that students have access to high-quality research opportunities, the program will be structured with a preparatory phase, during which students can apply for

available projects. The application window will be open from January to February, with the selection process taking place in March.

- To kick-start the program, in November of the preceding year, all professors will be asked for their willingness to participate in the program. Based on their responses, a list of research projects will be created, and students will be invited to apply for projects that align with their interests. The selection process will be based on academic merit, prior experience, and demonstrated interest in the research area.
- This program aims to channel undergraduate research at IIT Kharagpur and provide students with the opportunity to pursue summer research projects under the guidance of experienced professors. This will welcome students from both within and outside of IIT Kharagpur to apply for this program and benefit from the rich research culture of our institution.

Impacts:

- The goal of this program is to increase the number of undergraduate students who participate in research activities at IIT Kharagpur and to help facilitate the development of the next generation of researchers and innovators. By streamlining the research process and making it more accessible, we can encourage more students to pursue research and contribute to the ongoing advancements in their respective fields.
- Professors would have access to a larger pool of interested and motivated undergraduate students who are looking to gain research experience. This would provide professors with a wider range of potential research assistants to choose from and could also help to identify students who are particularly passionate or skilled in a particular field.
- By creating a more streamlined and accessible research process for undergraduate students, IIT Kharagpur will establish itself as a leading institution for research and innovation at the national level. This would not only help to attract more talented undergraduate students to the institution but could also increase the number of high-quality applicants for M.Tech. and Ph.D. programs.

Background:

- I engaged with the students at IIT Kanpur and IIT Roorkee, both of which offer similar programs - SURGE and SPARK. I discovered the many benefits they receive, including early exposure to research and high-quality learning opportunities.
- I contacted Mr. Abhishek Singh, Project Engineer at SURGE, IIT Kanpur, and Mr. Yash Gupta, Student developer at SPARK, IIT Roorkee, to learn more about the program structure and got many insights related to stipend allocation, selection process, and external participation in the program.
- To gauge the interest of faculty members in such a program, I conducted meetings with various professors at IIT Kharagpur. The response was positive, with many expressing their enthusiasm for the program and willingness to float their projects.
- I conducted discussions with undergraduate students at IIT Kharagpur from various research backgrounds. They expressed difficulties in identifying available research opportunities, connecting with professors who are conducting research in their field of interest, and navigating the application process.

Proposal 4

Community Wellbeing at IIT Kharagpur

Taking steps towards making the safer and more inclusive place to stay

1. PoSH Training and Awareness

Overview:

The proposal aims to enhance the safety and security of students at IIT Kharagpur by introducing a program that will increase awareness and education among students. While IIT Kharagpur is already a safe community for students, this program will further improve the safety measures.

The primary focus of the proposed program is to raise awareness about sexual harassment and educate students about the issue. The program will highlight the importance of reporting such incidents and seeking help if required. The aim is to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their gender, by empowering them with knowledge and resources to combat any form of harassment.

The proposed program will also strengthen the effectiveness of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and Women Student Representatives. By educating students about their rights and the role of the ICC, the program will increase the likelihood of students reporting incidents of sexual harassment. This, in turn, will aid in the prevention of such incidents and ensure a timely response to any reports.

Overall, this proposal seeks to establish a comprehensive program that promotes awareness and education about sexual harassment among students at IIT Kharagpur. By doing so, it aims to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students, while also strengthening the effectiveness of the ICC.

Proposal:

- Introduction of a mandatory Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Training for all students across the campus.

- The training workshops would be conducted in partnership with a certified PoSH training agency. These workshops would include a short series of live lectures and an assessment to understand the efficacy of the program. Upon successful completion of the assessment, a certificate from the training agency would be issued for the student.
- It would be made mandatory for each member of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to undergo the PoSH training program at the start of their tenure.

Impact:

- The proposed program to enhance safety and security at IIT Kharagpur through increased awareness and education about sexual harassment is likely to have a significant impact on the student community.
- By providing mandatory Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) training for all students, the program will empower students with the knowledge and resources to recognise and combat any form of harassment. This would create a safer and more inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their gender.
- The proposed partnership with a certified PoSH training agency would ensure the quality and effectiveness of the training program.
- Additionally, making it mandatory for each member of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to undergo the PoSH training program would strengthen the effectiveness of the committee. It would ensure that the committee members are well-equipped to handle any complaints of sexual harassment and ensure that justice is served in a timely and efficient manner.

Background:

- Interacted with Mr. Abhishek, General Secretary Students' Welfare, Technology Students Gymkhana, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, 2022-2023, to discuss the existing initiatives being taken in the campus and what improvements can be taken.
- I have talked to a few PoSH Agencies to get insights into their current working structure and discussed its implementation in the institute.
- Consulted with the institute women representative, Ms. Sruthi Mahalakshmi, to understand the problems faced by the female population in the campus and discussed possible solutions.

2.LGBTQIA+ Certification for counsellors

Overview:

The IIT Kharagpur community prides itself on its inclusivity and acceptance of individuals from all backgrounds. However, there is a need to equip the campus to handle mental health issues effectively.

It is essential to recognize that members of the LGBTQIA+ community face unique challenges and stressors that require specialised attention. The proposal aims to put some focus on the importance of special training for counsellors towards LGBTQIA+ issues. This training will help counsellors understand the specific needs and challenges of the LGBTQIA+ community and provide appropriate support and guidance.

Proposal:

- Introduction of a mandatory LGBTQIA+ certification program for all counsellors at the Counselling Centre, IIT Kharagpur.
- The certification would be issued by established organisations who have a proven track record of training counsellors at big organisations.

Impact:

- Creation of a safe and inclusive environment for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, ensuring they receive the necessary support and guidance regarding their mental health concerns.
- The proposed program would equip counsellors with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively address the unique challenges and stressors faced by the LGBTQIA+ community. In addition, it would also send a positive message to the student community, emphasising the importance of inclusivity and diversity.

Background:

- Interacted with Ambar Governor, Ms. Monidipa Sengupta to understand the significance and necessity to certify counsellors, and how it would help them.
- Conversated with a few members of the community to understand their problems at a deeper scale and what improvements they would prefer in the campus.