Student Parliament

Indian Institute of Technology, (BHU), Varanasi

Minutes of the 5th Session

8th August, 2015

The 5th Session of the Student Parliament was convened on 8th August at 1300 hrs in the Sengupta Hall (G-11), Department Of Electrical Engineering, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.

The meeting was attended by the following:

1. Mr Prateek Hundekar, Convener, Student Parliament, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
2. Mr Shivam Gupta, Co-convener, Student Parliament, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
3. 33 elected members of the parliament.
4. Mr Lovish Tyagi, General Secretary, Cultural Council

Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

I. Discussion on the following issues:

1. Hostel Affairs & General Welfare Committee:
   a. Final draft of the Hostel Constitution.
   b. Dates for the Hostel Elections.
   c. Revision of the proposed Mess Policy.
   d. Hostel Allotment and Mess Allotment committees – composition and functioning.
   e. Status of Garbage removal around the campus – follow up on discussion with the Director.

2. Security Committee:
   a. Compulsory ID-Card checking at certain designated checkpoints in the campus. Maintenance of a record of non-BHU/IIT (BHU) faculty visitors.
   b. ID-Card checking before entry into IIT (BHU) hostels.
   c. Installation of additional CCTV cameras and adequate illumination at the designated checkpoints.
   d. Diversion of traffic from the hostel roads to the outer circular road.
   e. Library Timings – clarifications regarding extension till late night.
   f. Acceptance of the consultancy service offered by the CISF for IIT (BHU).

3. Training and Placement Committee:
   a. Requirement of additional space for the working of the Training and Placement Cell.
   b. Requirement of rooms in the IIT (BHU) Guest House.
   c. Maintenance of proper environment around the T&P Cell offices.
   d. Internet Connectivity Issues – in the offices and in New Lecture Theatres.
   e. Issue of the Monogram of the Institute and College Tie for final year students.

4. UG Academic Affairs Committee:
   a. Clarification on course completion requirements for students who have undergone a change of branch in the current session.
   b. Introduction of "Minor" into the academic curriculum based on a model similar to or derived from the ordinances of IIT-G, IIT-K and IIT-B.
   c. Co-operation from DUGCs to discuss various branch specific issues.

5. Web Management Committee:
   a. Status of utilisation of NKN line:
      i. Follow-up on the discussions held with the Director in the previous semester concerning modernisation of network infrastructure.
      ii. Providing better connectivity in the Mech/CAD lab to assist with T&P examinations.
   b. Hostels facing excessive problems be placed on AMC with private companies.

c. Establishment of a separate IIT (BHU) Computer Centre.

6. **Grievance Redressal and Enquiries Committee:**
   a. Setting up a Visitor's Gallery for non-parliamentary members seeking transparency in parliamentary proceedings.
   b. Permanent web-link for Grievance lodging on the Institute website.
   c. Establishment of a Grievance Cell – composition and functioning.
   d. Efficient usage of RFID cards throughout the campus.
   e. Issue of lost/missing RFID cards and their reissue.

7. **Nomination Committee:**
   a. Actions to be taken in the event of a member's resignation from the parliament.
      i. "Nomination" of an individual from the general body (satisfying the criteria) or from among the candidates in decreasing order of votes obtained during elections.
      ii. Ratification of the nominations by a 2/3rd majority of the members present in the parliament session.
      iii. The parliament can seek explanation, if required, from the nomination committee, if the nominated person is not suitable for the assigned position or office.

8. **Parliamentary Affairs Committee:**
   a. Position for a Ph. D. scholar in the Training & Placement Committee of parliament to be reserved under clause 3.16 of the constitution.
   b. Formation of a separate committee dealing with Research & Development issues – composition and functioning.

9. **Festivals Committee:**
   a. Authority to regulate the permissions for the briefing in hostels of first year students by the various councils or festivals be given to the festivals committee.
   b. Allotment of a permanent office for each festival/council furnished with a desktop, internet, printer etc. and a common photocopier.
   c. Amendment in Gymkhana Constitution's clause 6.12; relaxation in the necessity of a minimum CGPA of 7.0 for post-holders; which involves students who did not have relative grading in their first year itself.

Minutes:

1.5.1. Report on the discussions with the standing committee for mess policy revision were tabled. It was stated that provision for inter hostel switching of mess could only be made in consultation with the finance department. If approved this would come into play from the next semester.

1.5.2. On the issue of rebates, it was informed that the committee proposed to allow students a maximum of 30 diets or 10 days of rebate every month, in the absence of any valid reason. Vacations and official college trips' mess rebate would be over and above this.

1.5.3. For utilising this rebate on specific meals of the day, the specific mess had to be notified in advance at least one meal before.

1.5.4. The tentative dates for the Hostel elections were decided to be 22-23 August 2015.

1.5.5. Other issues which were the responsibility of the Hostel Affairs and General Welfare committee were put on hold till the Hostel Council formation was completed.

1.5.6.	The Security Committee's proposals were discussed and agreed upon. It was decided that the committee would try to get selected points of entry into the campus closed after 10 pm.

1.5.7.	It was clarified that the proposal for extension of timings of the Library to 10:30 p.m. had been accepted but the official order had yet to be forwarded. Once that was done, the rule would come into effect.

1.5.8.	The Festivals committee proposed a relaxation in the CGPA criteria for the appointment of the post of Conveners of various festivals. The members of the parliament disagreed to amend the rule but took under consideration the fact that the grading system of the batches till 2012 had absolute grading and relative grading thereafter, and an exception could be allowed for the final batch.

1.5.9.	Accordingly, the appointment of Mr Akondi RaviTeja, as the convener of Kashiyatra'16 was ratified by the parliament.

1.5.10.	Amendment was proposed by the Festivals Committee to remove the CGPA criteria for appointment into the Core Team of various festivals. Motion was unanimously approved.

1.5.11.	The dates for the Gymkhana's Festivals were decided as follows:
  I.	Spardha '15 : 30th Oct – 1st Nov 2015
  II.	Kashiyatra '16 : 19th Feb – 21st Feb 2016
  III.	Technex '16 : 4th Mar – 6th Mar

1.5.12.	Motion was proposed, giving the Festivals committee the authority to grant permission to students for briefing in the first year hostels. The festival committee was advised to discuss this matter with the Dean of Student Affairs.

1.5.13.	On the issue of allotment of offices to councils it was informed by the Hostels committee that this was subject to availability of rooms which would involve discussions with the Council of Wardens.

1.5.14.	The Grievance Redressal committee's proposal for a Visitor's Gallery for students wanting to observe the functioning of the parliament was approved on the condition that it was ensured that these visitors would not be allowed to spread dissent on any public forums, including, but not limited to mass mail. Doing so would result in disciplinary action.

1.5.15.	It was informed that proposal for a Grievance Cell was underway, and would be tabled in the parliament very soon.

1.5.16.	It was decided that the committee would look into the issue of RFID cards more thoroughly and try to come up with a feasible solution for the administration to implement.

1.5.17.	It was informed that a permanent web link for Grievances on the institute website would soon become available.

1.5.18.	It was informed by the T&P committee on the issue of Official Ties and Monograms that the fund for these that had been taken from the students had lapsed and that the administration was trying to work out an alternative but it would take time.

1.5.19.	On the issue of student applying for Research Internships after getting selected for an Internship through the T&P cell, it was stated that it could not be allowed to do so, and

any student dropping an Internship obtained through T&P cell for the aforesaid reason would be debarred from the T&P cell.

1.5.20. The UG academic Affairs committee proposed a motion to appoint all student representatives of the DUGCs and SUGCs as ad-hoc members of the committee. Motion was passed unanimously.

1.5.21. On the issue of including 'Minors' into the revised academic curriculum, it was decided that the feasibility could only be decided through talks with the Dean of Academic Affairs.

1.5.22. The committee's recommendation that students who had managed a change of branch in this academic session, not be asked to complete their course requirements in the summer semester; and alternative arrangements/relaxations be made for them; was unanimously ratified by the parliament.

1.5.23. Institute's policy on Memorandum of Understandings with foreign institutions encouraging student exchange and interaction, had to be worked upon in co-operation with the administration. The committee was asked to hold talks in this regard at the earliest.

1.5.24. The Web Management committee presented a status report on the condition of the network connectivity in the institute. It was informed that the NKN line is for academic purposes only, currently was limited to the Teaching and Learning Cell and would not be extended to the hostels.

1.5.25. Extension of the NKN to the library and departments was proposed and accepted. A standing committee comprising three members was formed to look into this matter. The members are:
    i. Mr Utkarsh Sharma, B. Tech Part IV
    ii. Mr Saksham Gupta, B. Tech Part IV
    iii. Mr Shubham Shukla, B. Tech Part III

1.5.26. It was informed that upgradation of network infrastructure would take place through private AMCs and that this was already in progress in some hostels. The service provider in the college was the same as all other IITs.

1.5.27. Nominations committee's recommendations concerning the filling of vacant seats in the parliament could not be ratified as they were in direct violation of clause 6.15 of the constitution.

1.5.28. The Parliamentary committee's recommendation to include a Ph.D. scholar in the Training and Placement committee was approved by the parliament, unanimously.

1.5.29. PG academic affairs was asked to handle Research and Development issues, instead of formation of a separate committee for said purpose. The parliament agreed on this.

1.5.30. The Alumni Affairs committee informed that a proposal for an Alumni cell was underway and would be tabled very soon. A Mega Alumni meet was also being planned, tentative dates for which were, 30th Dec 2015 – 1st Jan2016.

1.5.31. The parliament then opened for questions to various committees. On the issue of cleanliness of the campus, the Grievance Redressal committee was asked to handle the issue till the Hostel Affairs committee sorted out the Mess Policy. The Web management

committee was requested to form mailing lists for various committees and for the parliamentarians to avoid hassle in communication.

1.5.32. The meeting concluded with the Convener instructing all committees to be pro-active in their fields so as not to face a situation where remedial measures were needed for a policy framed by the administration.