­**Student Parliament**

**Indian Institute of Technology, (BHU), Varanasi**

**Minutes of the 3rd Session**

**13th March, 2015**

The third session of the first Student Parliament, IIT (BHU), Varanasi was held on 13th March, 2015 at 1700 hrs in ABLT-4, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.

**CHAIRMAN:**

The third meeting was chaired by Mr. Prateek Hundekar, Convener of the Parliament and Vice-President of the Gymkhana, with unanimous approval of the members.

**ATTENDEES:**

The meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Dr. Rajeev Sangal, Director, IIT(BHU), Varanasi.
2. \_\_ Registrar, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
3. Prof. A. K. Mukherjee, Dean of Student Affairs, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
4. Prof. G.V.S. Sastry, Dean of Academic Affairs, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
5. Prof. A.K. Tripathi, Dean of Alumni Affairs, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
6. Prof. A. K. Agarwal, Training and Placement Officer, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
7. Prof. Sunil Mohan, Representative from Council of Wardens, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
8. \_\_ Representative from Council of Wardens, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.
9. Fifty eight elected members of the parliament
10. General Secretaries of the following councils of the IIT (BHU), Varanasi Gymkhana:
11. Science and Technology Council : Himanshu Gangwar
12. Cultural Council : Ashish Rangra

**AGENDA:**

The following points were put up as the agenda of the meeting by the Parliamentary Affairs Committee and were accepted by the parliament.

1. Permanent meeting room for the Students’ Parliament.
2. Committee Mandates
3. **Hostels & General Welfare Committee**
4. General Welfare:

* Creation of committees for the management and maintenance of hostels.
* Limbdi Corner food shops to open until 10 PM. Adequate security to be ensured.
* Opening of library until 12 AM. In case of shortage of staff, new staff to be hired expeditiously.

1. Infrastructural Requirements:

* Renovation of toilets, washrooms and washbasins
* Maintenance and regular cleaning of Aquaguards and water coolers to be assigned in a manner that can be monitored continuously.
* Installation of dustbins throughout the Institute and within hostels with provision for waste separation.
* Development of sports infrastructure in each hostel.

1. Mess & Canteen

* Establishment of professionally run contractual canteens in every hostel. Of these, a certain number of canteens to be identified which would be open 24/7.
* Messes to be run by contractually employed professionals with complete abolition of child labour. Alternatively, the *maharaj* system to be integrated into a contractual system. The mess workers need to wear proper uniforms and carry identification.
* Provision for providing infrastructure and utensils to messes by the Institute.

1. **Training & Placement Committee**
2. Infrastructural Requirements

* Improved internet connectivity and dedicated proxy to be provided exclusively to the Training & Placement Cell.
* Improved internet connectivity and LAN connections in ABLT rooms.
* Allotment of rooms in advance for the December Placements Season, and as per the requirements identified by the TPC.

1. Scheduling Requirements

* The semester exams should be scheduled such that they end a week prior to the commencement of the Placement Season, allowing preparation time to students.

1. Institutional Support

* Support in the form of availability of mineral water, tea and coffee vending machines.
* Support for the conduction of preparatory workshops.
* Clarity with respect to allowing core and non-core internships for third year undergraduate students.
* Possibility of extension of internship period.

1. **Web Management Committee**
2. Internet Connectivity & Access

* Status of National Knowledge Network Line.
* Status of Wi-Fi connectivity.
* Position of the Institute Administration regarding access to social networking websites.

1. Coordination of the Web Management Committee with concerned administrative authority responsible for all Institutional web content.
2. Institute Website

* List of current students to be updated.
* Information to be updated periodically on the website including professors‘ publications, contact details, and departmental activities.
* Portal for the Students’ Gymkhana and Students’ Parliament.

1. **UG Academic Affairs Committee**
2. Prompt evaluation of examination papers, and expeditious intimation of results.
3. Initiation of floating courses; and incorporation of elective courses into the curriculum at an early stage.
4. Flexibility with regard to B. Tech projects.
5. Position of the administration on student exchange programs through MoUs.
6. Provision for providing feedback of faculty members online and anonymously.
7. **Alumni Affairs Committee**
8. Institute Outreach Initiatives

* Maintenance of alumni database with the Office of the Dean of Alumni Affairs.
* Organization of alumni reunions to be led by the Institute.
* Alumni awards to be given out by the Institute.
* Alumni outreach newsletter.

1. Alumni Mentorship Program
2. Invitation of nominations for Institute Awards and constitution of Awards Committee.
3. Constitution of festival bodies for Institute festivals in the next academic session.

**MINUTES:**

1. The agenda for the meeting was tabled and was unanimously approved.
2. The Convener opened the discussion with the demand of the parliamentary affairs committee for a separate permanent location for holding Parliament meetings. It was decided, after deliberation, that the current system of booking rooms for events shall be continued due to shortage of infrastructure.
3. Conveners of all committees were then asked to introduce the functioning of their committees and list their expectations from the parliament.
4. Motion for drafting of a Hostel Constitution was proposed by the Director, was accepted by the Hostel Affairs committee, and unanimously approved by the Parliament. Deadline for submission of names for the Drafting committee of said Hostel Constitution was set at 27th March, 2015. Deadline for completion of work on the aforesaid document was set to be the end of the current semester.
5. Motion for formation of an ad hoc Hostel Allotment Committee was proposed by Prof. Sunil Mohan, and was unanimously accepted by the Parliament. The deadline for formation of said committee was set to be 27th March, 2015.
6. Following Points of Information were brought to the table by the Director:
7. Demand for thirty one more guards has been raised with the BHU administration.
8. All hostels to be brought under CCTV surveillance by 20th March, 2015.
9. Provisions being made to improve Inter Faculty Harmony; student volunteers from different faculties will teach additional skills to the general student populace.
10. Because of the underlying security concerns, the issue of opening Limbdi Corner and Dhanrajgiri Corner up to 10pm, was postponed, to be readdressed in three weeks’ time.
11. The issue of opening the institute Library till midnight, on Sundays and Holidays and during the summer semester to be reviewed after two weeks.
12. Renovation of Hostels was discussed. Point of Information was raised by Prof. Sunil Mohan on behalf of the Council of Wardens that the renovation work was being done by the IWC and IWD, had already started with Vivekananda Hostel, and would be completed for all hostels by July. It was suggested by the Director, that a timeline for execution of this renovation be developed, so that proper check could be kept on this. Point of Information was raised by the COW, stating that provision for penalty on failing to complete work within allotted time already exists in the contract.
13. Motion was proposed by the Director for formation of two ad hoc committees to monitor a) the cleanliness of the hostels and b) the regular maintenance of water purifiers and coolers. These committees would comprise of one student per hostel. It was proposed that hostels be cleaned twice a day on all days except on Sundays when, once a day cleaning was deemed sufficient. The names of student members for these committees to be provided by 24th March 2015.
14. Proposal for setting up of one additional dustbin in front of every hostel was accepted by the Director. These new dustbins will be of a different colour to implement separation of waste on biodegradable/non-biodegradable or wet/dry waste basis. Monitoring of cleanliness situation in the campus at, at least six locations would be done by the administration. No timeline for these steps was mentioned.
15. The issue of revamping of the mess system was postponed to be readdressed at a later date with the concerned committee of the Parliament, in concurrence with the drafting committee of the Hostel Constitution. No timeline was specified.
16. Proposal to bring all existing sports infrastructure in the hostels to par was accepted. Deadline of 24th March 2015 was decided.
17. It was assured that complete transparency would be maintained with the Parliament on all these issues.
18. Proposal for registration of all motorised vehicles inside the hostel campus was raised. For the running semester, registration without parents’ signature would be accepted. For subsequent semesters, parents’ signature would be mandatory. The Parliament agreed to the proposal unanimously.
19. It was suggested to the parliament that discussions be held on methods to curb the menace of alcoholism inside the residential campus. The parliament agreed.
20. Following points of information were brought to the table by the COW:
21. Fifteen percent of the HDF (Hostel Development Fund) was allotted to hostels for general maintenance. This amounted to approximately 40,000 INR to 50,000 INR per hostel depending on the occupancy and other similar factors.
22. Rest eighty five percent was reserved for major renovation tasks in all hostels.
23. Point of Information was put up by the director regarding Internet Infrastructure inside the campus stating that the work for revamping of the entire network was already underway and is scheduled to be completed by 15th May, 2015. Accordingly, testing of the network under varying traffic and other constraints would take place in July, 2015.
24. The issue of accommodating a preparation week into the odd semester academic calendar for final year students was discussed. Further shortening of the examination period or early starting of the semester was suggested. However, no conclusion could be arrived upon. The issue was postponed for later redressal.
25. In response to queries regarding institute policy over core/non-core internships, it was informed that the Senate has a clear policy on this which shall be intimated to the students and faculty of all departments by an official notice. Additional flexibility in this matter rested with the department administration.
26. Proposal for official nomination of Training and Placement Representatives by the Institute was raised. It was accepted on the condition that this would be a non-stipend volunteer position only.
27. It was stated that the Training and Placement Office and Institute Administration recognised the problems faced by the TPRs and that steps would be taken to remedy them.
28. The issue of the National Knowledge Network Line was brought up, and it was informed to the Parliament that the current internet infrastructure of the Campus was insufficient to utilise it. Once the up gradation was completed by 15th May 2015, the issue would be readdressed.
29. Regarding access to websites like Facebook and Youtube, the problem was attributed to limited bandwidth capacity of the current infrastructure. If the upgraded infrastructure allowed, then this issue would be readdressed.
30. It was informed that the institute website was also under up gradation, and all website content would be updated by the end of the summer break. The responsibility for the content under departmental tabs rested with the department.
31. The issue of prompt evaluation of examination papers was discussed. It was informed that the Academic Automation Committee was working to make this process faster and smoother. Currently, the administration ensured that the marks were made known to the students as early as possible. Students in urgent need of Result mark sheets could obtain it separately by contacting Academic Affairs.
32. On the issue of Relative Grading, it was stated that no exact method had been specified, to give the faculty the freedom to grade the students as they deemed fit. The possibility of an advisory to the faculty on this issue was discussed.
33. It was informed that that the curriculum is under continuous revision and that suitable elective courses would be incorporated as deemed fit. The need for completing certain prerequisite courses before becoming eligible to pursue elective courses was stressed upon. The institute would decide the proper requirement and proper time for elective courses accordingly. The provision wherein a student fulfilling a certain academic criteria was allowed to take an overload of courses from future semesters was mentioned.
34. It was informed that B. Tech. Projects are completely under the care of the respective departments. The committee and the students were advised to take up these issues with the respective DUGCs. Possibility of an advisory on this issue to the departments was discussed.
35. On the issue of Student Exchange Programmes through MoUs, it was stated that work was being done in this direction and that this would take a lot of time as it depended to a large extent on mutual good will between international universities, ranging from exchange of information to interaction on the faculty level.
36. It was informed that online anonymous faculty feedback was in its experimental stages. Insufficient student response was the reason behind dropping of the idea. It would be reinstituted tentatively by the end of this semester.
37. The Director accepted the proposal that the faculty members would be asked to explain the grading system beforehand, at the start of every course.
38. Motion was proposed regarding institution of an alumni database, and modified email addresses for passing out students and alumni. Motion was approved and accepted by the Director. Deadline for this was set to be the beginning of the next semester.
39. The Office of Alumni Affairs agreed to decide a specific window when Annual Alumni meets, and alumni twenty five years’ anniversary would be organised.
40. The Director agreed to institute Alumni Awards by the next Alumni Meet.
41. It was informed that the Alumni Mentorship Programs are under process.
42. The PG Academic Affairs Committee raised the issue of upgrading software used to detect plagiarism in students’ thesis. The Director agreed to look into the matter.
43. A request was raised to increase the travel amount allotted for attending conferences to European countries. The Director agreed to look into it.
44. The quality of courses being taught at the PG level was called into question. The demand was corroborated by the Dean of Student Affairs, and the Director agreed to look into the matter.
45. The convener raised the issue of hiring additional employees in the Gymkhana so that work there could get fast tracked. A deadline of two weeks was decided for this.
46. Motion was proposed that the Convenor of the festivals should be appointed within 15 days of the appointment of the General Secretaries of the respective councils. Motion was unanimously approved.
47. Motion was proposed that two members of the Festival Committee should be a part of the panel responsible for appointment of the Convenor of the festivals. Motion was unanimously approved.
48. The two general secretaries present at the meeting brought up the following amendments for selection of panel members of Various Councils, which were unanimously approved by the Parliament:
49. Proposal was raised by the Dean of Student Affairs that the results of all the activities conducted by the various clubs under the councils of the Gymkhana, should reach the gymkhana offices by 21st March 2015. Proposal was unanimously accepted.

Minutes prepared by:

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Parliamentary Affairs Committee

Minutes Approved by:

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