**REPORT OF THE ONGOING INCIDENTS (STUDENTS UNREST) AT SRFTI FROM 05.06.2023**

Date: 05/06/2023

The Gender Committee formed by the SRFTI Student Union sent an email (copy enclosed as **Annexure-I**)at 10 AM on 05.06.2023 demanding the following:

1. Strictly enforcing the recommendations of Internal Committee (IC) i.e prohibiting entry of an accused student inside the campus of the Institute.
2. Challenging the recommendation of the IC and decision of the Competent Authority related to a separate case of sexual harassment against one Assistant Professor.

In addition to the above they also mentioned the following issues:

1. Informal complaint from two girls from the 18th batch regarding inappropriate sexual behavior by one **Associate Professor** (he is an Instructor).
2. Informal complaint from one girl from the 19th batch regarding inappropriate sexual behavior by one**Associate Professor (**he is a Faculty on contract).

While the Director was discussing with several officials on those issues, at around 11 AM a group of students barged into his chamberraising the aforementioned issues along with functioning of the IC thus demanding expulsion of IC chairperson Smt. OindrillaHazara , Associate Professor, Cinematography and occupied the chamber of the director in an unruly manner.

Director tried to address their issues in presence of other officials through peaceful dialogue with the students but despite his best efforts the situation didn’t change for which the Director had to leave his chamber and start work from the committee room adjacent to his office.He then convened an urgent meeting with the faculty and non-academicsectional heads of this Institute to take stock of the situation.

Later, the Student Union also submitted a letter titled ‘statement’ raising the above mentioned issues and demanded removal of accused Assistant Professor immediately from the Institute,suspension of the accused student from all academic activities, show cause to Registrar and other officers for security lapse, removal of ICC Chairperson as the committee has failed to submit the report within 90 days along with removal her from the Institute alleging the Associate Professor is unfit for the teaching job.They also demanded reconstitution of the Grievance Committee by removing the Head of the Grievance Committee who happens to be the same person i.e. Smt. OindrillaHazra.

**They further demanded as follows:**

1. **Immediate accommodation of all genders of the campus in the SRFTI hostel.**
2. **To form their (students’) own ICC different from the laid down guidelines**
3. **Institute ensures ICC must recommend the actions to be taken upon for all the cases. It deals and the Institute should ensure that the actions are enacted upon.**
4. **POSH workshop to take place well in advance, sooner in the semester and should be mandatorily attended by all students and faculties. Frequency of workshop needs to be increased.**
5. **POSH workshop should be needs to be gender neutral and cover all diversities.**
6. **A student member should be included in the ICC and should be updated about the proceeding of the ICC on regular basis.**
7. **Proper guidelines to be devised for the grievance cell.**
8. **Strict and immediate actions against all harassers and accused individuals.**
9. **Institute needs to form strict and thorough policies to avoid harassment of students.**
10. **All cases should be updated within 3 days.**

(copyof letter enclosed as **Annexure-II**).

In response to the students demands the following actions were taken:

1. Aletter was issued by Director to the Chairperson of IC enclosing the copy of emails including allegations made by the complainant and the Students’ Union videaforesaid email of Gender Committee of SRFTI Students’ Union.
2. Another letter was issued to the concerned Security Agency directing them again to take all possible steps to ensure denial of the entry of the alleged student inside the campus of the institute.
3. The Grievance Committee of the Institute was reconstituted by the Competent Authority.
4. The students were informed regarding their other demands that Institute would require suitable time following of due process.

But the students continued their protests and the occupied the chamber as well as the Chair of the Director till next morning.

Date: 06/06/2023

It was seen that the students were continuing with their agitation and were occupying the Director’s office and started defacing the walls of Admin block and other areas of the Institute. The Director was continuing his official work from the committee room. In the afternoon, the Institute sent a point wise reply to the letter dated 05.06.2023 submitted by the students unionand requested them to withdraw the agitation. Copy of the reply is enclosed as **Annexure-III**. The student remained adamant and continued with their agitation.

In addition to the above one letter was received from 19th batch students intimating the boycott of all academic related activities by them. On 6th evening again a meeting was held between students union and Director & other officials where they were again requested to withdraw their agitation and vacate the Director’s office in view of the steps already taken by the institute but the students body refused to do so.

Date: 07/06/2023

It was seen that the aggrieved students were continuing with their agitation and were occupying the Director’s office. On this day Director was on official trip to Tripura and charge of his office was assigned to the Dean.

The students union submitted a letter signed by 65 students against OindrillaHazra, the Associate professor, Cinematography to the Dean (Director-in-Charge), with a demand to form an inquiry committee on an immediate basis and issue an order to remove OindrillaHazra from taking and evaluating any academic related activities for the 19th batch. Copy of letter enclosed at **Annexure-IV**.

Besides two letters were received from two complainants (students already mentioned above) seeking information regarding Appellate Authority in case of ICC. Copy of both letters enclosed at **Annexure-V**.

In the afternoon while the Dean was addressing their issues,suddenly a group of students entered into Dean’s office, occupied it and started to continue with their demands as mentioned above. Dean initially in presence of other faculty members and officials tried to persuade them but it yielded no result. In the late evening Dean left his office and the students continued to occupy his chamber.

Date:08.06.2023

It was seen that a group of students while continuing with their agitation and were occupying the Director’s and Dean’s office as well extended their activities in the morning bylocking the main gate of the Institute and restricting all kind of movements in and out of the Institute. Later on pursuance they allowed only the staff members and residents to move in and out of the campus by walk. No vehicles were allowed to enter the campus for which all the faculty and staff members were compelled toparktheir vehicles outside the campus throughout the day.

In the afternoon the students started occupying the other departments and the employees were coerced to vacate their work places. On returning from the official trip, the Director called an emergency meeting at the office of DG, PIB, Kolkatato assess the situation for necessary measures where some officials from the Institute were asked to attend the meeting.

After the closing of office while the employees were going out found the main gate was completely closed by the students.They blocked the main gate and prevented all employees, residents, outsourced manpower and others to leave the campus. After the blockade continued for 2-3 hours the situation turned grim and employees and staff members started panicking. This resulted the resentment amongst the employees and others who then contacted Director over phone. Meanwhile Director, Dean and Registrar reached the campus at about 9.00 PM and requested the students to open the main gate for the staff member to enable them to go out.

The students again put forth their demands and the authority assured to address those issues.

Date: 09.06.2023

It was observed that a group of students were still there in Director’s, Dean’s office and admin block. Students’ union was again approached to vacate the offices as promised by them in the previous night. Following which they vacated the spaces. They however continuing with their agitation by putting extra banners and others.

The replies in respect of the letters received on 07.06.2023 from the complainants (students) were issued to them by the Institute furnishing the details of information sought therein. Copies of replies are enclosed at **Annexure-VI**.

The entire situation was handled sensitively addressing the issues on merit with constant dialogues and communications. It was conscious decision of the authority not to use force or police intervention in view of protecting the interest of the students and the Institute.