



6th Special Meeting of the Students' Senate (2018-19): Minutes

The 2018-19/6th Special Meeting of the Students' Senate was held on Thursday, 2nd February, 2019 in the Senate Hall, SAC. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Students' Senate at 8:30 PM.

S.			
no.	Name	Post	Status
1.	Ayushya Agarwal	Chairperson, Students' Senate	Present
2.	Pratyush Rai	President, Students' Gymkhana	Present
3.	Anshumali Prakash	General Secretary, Media and Cultural	Present
4.	Rahul Shekhar	General Secretary, Games and Sports	Present*
5.	Akash Jain	General Secretary, Science and Technology	Present
6.	Abhishek Aryan	Finance Convener	Present
7.	Ahir Sudhendu Prashant	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Absent
8.	Prakhar Ji Gupta	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present
9.	Shrey Agarwal	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present*
10.	Sohail Saifi	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present
11.	Sirsendu Sarkar	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present
12.	Mayank Chauhan	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present
13.	Aayushi Bansal	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present
14.	Anant Chopra	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present*
15.	Anmol Chaman	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present*
16.	Navanya Sharma	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present
17.	Rahul Sethi	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present
18.	Siddhartha Srivastava	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present
19.	Aditya Mishra	Senator, BT/BS Y17	Present
20.	Faizan Siddiqui	Senator, BT/BS Y17	Present*





21.	Mataria Pence Jagatkumar	Senator, BT/BS Y17	Present
22.	Nikunj Kothari	Senator, BT/BS Y17	Present
23.	Rishab Agarwal	Senator, BT/BS Y17	Present
24.	Yash Maheshwari	Senator, BT/BS Y17	Present
25.	Ankur Banga	Senator, BT/BS Y18	Present*
26.	Ashutosh Bajpai	Senator, BT/BS Y18	Absent#
27.	Chinmay Goyal	Senator, BT/BS Y18	Present
28.	Deepankur Kansal	Senator, BT/BS Y18	Present*
29.	Prince Pratap Singh	Senator, BT/BS Y18	Absent#
30.	Shivam Rajoriya	Senator, BT/BS Y18	Present
31.	Abhishek Verma	Senator, MTech Y18	Present
32.	Akshay Bajaj	Senator, MTech Y18	Absent#
33.	Somya Sharma	Senator, MTech Y18	Absent#
34.	Yogendra Vyas	Senator, MTech Y18	Present
35.	Deepak Singh Attri	Senator, MTech Y17	Absent#
36.	Hemant Kumar Singh	Senator, MTech Y17	Absent#
37.	Jitendra Kumar	Senator, MTech Y17	Absent#
38.	Narayan Mishra	Senator, MTech Y17	Present
39.	Viswadeep Ojha	Senator, MBA, MDes and other 2-year programmes Y17	Present
40.	Ajay Vallabh	Senator, MSR	Absent
41.	Suraj	Senator, MSR	Absent#
42.	Panchajanya Sanyal	Senator, PhD Y16	Absent#

^{* -} Present with Nominee, # - Absent with Permission

The meeting was commenced at 8:54 pm.

The following agenda items were taken up for consideration:





Item No. 1	To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings and to ratify the decisions taken in the 1st Emergency meeting:
	i) 2018/19 – 4th Meeting
	ii) 2018/19 – 5th Meeting

The minutes of the meetings were presented by the Chairperson Students' Senate 2018-19 and were confirmed by the Senate.

Item No. 2	To hold by-elections for the post of Finance Convener (2018-19)
------------	---

The Chairperson Students' Senate called for nominations for the post of Finance Convener, Students' Senate (2018-19). Mr. Abhishek Aryan filed his nomination for the post and presented his vision for the post.

The Students' Senate posed questions to the candidate and after due deliberation confirmed Mr. Abhishek Aryan as the Finance Convener, Students' Senate, 2018-19 by a show of hands.

Item No. 3	Announcements, remarks, and questions, if any
------------	---

The following announcements were made on the floor of the Senate -

- The President Students' Gymkhana was asked about the reasons behind the delay in the conduction of the Open House for PG Students with the Director. The justification provided to the Students' Senate was that the schedule of the Director, IIT Kanpur was not permitting such a session. The Students' Senate was assured that an appropriate time slot before mid-sem would be thought of and the items for the meeting would be prepared by the PG-SAC Convener.
- The President Students' Gymkhana was asked to present the account details of the Student Activity Fund to the Students' Senate. The President, Students' Gymkhana in his reply informed the Students' Senate that the fund had 4.15 lakhs remaining and the same





had been allocated amongst the executives for different novel expenses alongside the expenditure for Galaxy'19. It was noted that the use of the SAF for General Championship activity was a one off event and should not be used as a precedence.

- A Senator raised the question of the unallotted nature of the room of the erstwhile General Secretary, Films and Media. The Senate decided to allot the room to the newly constituted Academics and Career Council.
- A Senator raised the issue that the Constitution uploaded on the Students' Senate website
 was not in line with the structures being followed in the Senate. The Parliamentarian,
 Students' Senate informed the Senate that the constitutional amendments that had been
 accepted in principle by the Students' Senate had not actually been voted upon in the
 Senate leading to these discrepancies. The Senate took cognizance of the same and
 directed the Parliamentarian to correct the issue at the earliest.
- A few of the Senators had concerns with respect to an article published by Vox populi that threw light on the inner workings of the General Elections, 2019. There were concerns raised in the Students' Senate that the article often didn't reflect the complete truth and was based on the rumors spread in the campus during the election period. The Vox team reassured the Students' Senate that the article was based on the testimonials of various students, associated with the electoral events along with other electronic proofs that had been collected by them through an extensive investigation. The Vox Populi team stated that they had worked with no outside influence and had not even taken inputs from the Chief Election Office, a fact that was confirmed by the Chief Election Officer. The Students' Senate opined that a disclaimer regarding this fact should be placed along with the article.

There were further concerns that the Vox Populi team had presented views from only one side in a case that had been reported in the article and since the team claimed that it was an unbiased article the Students' Senate opined that both points of view should have been presented. The team was directed to make the required edits. Further, the Students' Senate opined that this decision did not take away the mandate of opinion pieces from Vox Populi.

The Students' Senate felt that questioning the Vox on articles in the Students' Senate should not become a norm as that will hamper the independence of their journalism. It was thus proposed that Vox Populi should draft a code of ethics document according to which it shall function and get it approved through the Senate. The Senate would admit only such cases which violated these codes.





Item No. 4

To consider the reply of the following Position Holders to the Show Cause Notice issued to them:

- 1. Chief Marketing Officer;
- 2. To consider the reply of the Senators issued a Show Cause Notice for the violation of attendance rules of the Senate

A show cause notice was issued to the Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) as negligible marketing activity had been undertaken by the CMO during the tenure. While defending on the floor of the Senate, the CMO claimed that while the festivals had their own dedicated Marketing teams the same had not been available to him and he faced a lack of manpower while performing his duties. The Students' Senate opined that this matter should have been brought up earlier than near the end of the tenure of the CMO and reprimanded the CMO for dereliction of duty. Since this was the first time that the Students' Gymkhana had appointed a Chief Marketing Officer, the Students' Senate directed the CMO to prepare guidelines for the working of the CMO to prevent the issues that had been faced by him from being repeated in the coming years. Further, the CMO pledged to make a concentrated efforts to find sponsors for the Gymkhana events left on the calendar.

The following Senators were issued a Show Cause Notice for the violation of attendance rules of the Senate and were asked about their respective reasons for the same-

1. Mr. Sirsendu Sarkar, Senator, BT/BS Y15-

The Senator had missed 2 meetings of the Students' Senate without permission. In his defence, the Senator stated that he had not been on campus during one of the missed meetings while during the other, he had been suffering from illness. The Senate accepted the defense of the Senator with the caveat that if the senator missed another meeting without informing the Senate, he would stand removed from his post.

2. Ms. Navanya Sharma, Senator, BT/BS Y16-

The senator had missed 2 meetings of the Students' Senate without permission. In her defence, the senator stated that she was suffering from illness during one of the missed meetings while during the other, she had not been on campus and her mail for the leave of absence bounced back. The Senate accepted the defense of the Senator with the caveat that if the senator missed another meeting without informing the Senate, she would stand removed from her post.

3. Mr. Rishab Agarwal, Senator, BT/BS Y18-

The Senator had missed 4 meetings of the Students' Senate with or without permission. In his defence, the senator stated that he had been not on campus during some of the meetings and had





not able to send any nominees. The Senate accepted the defense of the Senator with the caveat that if the senator missed another meeting he would stand removed from his post.

4. Mr. Ankur Banga, Senator, BT/BS Y18-

The Senator was not present in the meeting with the permission of the Chairperson, Students' Senate.

5. Mr. Ashutosh Bajpai, Senator, BT/BS Y18-

The Senator was not present in the meeting with the permission of the Chairperson, Students' Senate.

6. Mr. Akshay Bajaj, Senator, MT/MS Y18-

The Senator was not present in the meeting with the permission of the Chairperson, Students' Senate.

7. Mr. Ajay Vallabh, Senator MSR Y16-

The Senator was not present in the meeting and was removed from the post of Senator.

Item No. 5	To consider the text of the resolution on the Hall 11 issue
------------	---

The text of the resolution on the issue of Hall 11 HEC being denied basic constitutional rights by their warden was presented by the proposer. The same was passed unanimously.

Item No. 6	To consider the Action-taken report (ATR) for the decisions taken in the
	Students' Senate (2018-19)

This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No.7	To consider for noting the decisions taken on the Mailing List
-----------	--

This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 8	To consider the minutes of the meeting of COFA(U)
------------	---

This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.





Item No. 9	To consider for ratification the names of the student nominees to the SSAC and	
	the SUGC	

The list of names of the Students' Senate's nominees to the SSAC and SUGC was ratified by the Students' Senate.

Item No. 10	To consider the mid-term reports of the following: 1. President. Students'
	Gymkhana 2. Finance Convener, Students' Senate

This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 11	To consider the post-conduction report of Techkriti'18
-------------	--

This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No.13.	To consider the pre-conduction report of Galaxy'19
-------------	--

The General Secretary, Media and Culture presented the report on the floor of the Senate. The following were the major points of discussions:

- The Senate pointed out its concerns with the event schedule not being as mandated in the pre-conduction report of the General Championship. The General Secretary, Media and Culture clarified that all efforts had been made to spread out the events over the calendar but due to clashes with other events only the weekends that were being utilised had been found feasible. The Senate commented that there was a need to embrace event clashes since with a growing student body and Gymkhana, event clashes were inevitable.
- It was further pointed out that since Inferno'18 had not been conducted as a pool-wise competition and with the deviation of the conduction of Galaxy from the GC pre-conduction report, the General Championship 2018-19 needed be scrapped. The





Students' Senate decided to take up the scrapping of the General Championship as a separate agenda item.

• After due deliberation on the points distribution and questions on the events being organised as a part of Galaxy, the pre-conduction report of Galaxy 2019 was accepted by the Senate.

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 15.	To consider a proposal for the formation of a Hobby Group for Public
	Speaking

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 16.	To consider a proposal for an Award on Entrepreneurship
--------------	---

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 17.	To consider a proposal for the formal provision of executive powers to the
	General Secretary during the respective festival.

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 18.	To consider the constitution of Blues Committee
--------------	---

The constitution of the Blues committee was planned to as such to include total 5 members of which 2 (1 UG and 1 PG) associated with any Cell while the rest 3 being general Body members associated with the 3 respective Councils. Upon the suggestion of the President Students' Gymkhana and the Chairperson Students' Senate, the following names were considered and accepted by the Senate for the constitution of the Blues committee:

- 1. Mr. Mayank Chauhan (Senator, BT/BS Y15)
- 2. Mr. Viswadeep Ojha (Senator, MBA, MDes and other 2-year programmes Y17)





- 3. Ms. Bhuvi Gupta (General Body Member)
- 4. Mr. Balamurugan R. (General Body Member)
- 5. Mr. Rohit Sonker (General Body Member)

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 20.	To consider the proposal for de-ratification:
	1. A Programming Club Coordinator
	2. Coordinator, Creatives ARC

The de-ratification of the Programming Club Coordinator, namely Mr. Parv Mor was accepted by the Students' Senate.

The Overall Co-ordinator of ARC informed the Students' Senate that the two Coordinator, Creatives, ARC had not made any significant contributions to the cell and had under-performed with respect to the Cell's expectations of them. The Senate was also informed that upon getting the intimation of their de-ratification, they maliciously pulled down the websites and portal of the ARC. The Senate was of the opinion that such an act of deliberately trying to harm the property and reputation of the cell was not acceptable and the students may be barred from participating in any future activities of Student Gymkhana. However, before imposing such punishment, it is necessary that the students be given a chance to state their defense. Thus, the Senate accepted their de-ratification and directed the Chairperson, Students' Senate to issue a show-cause notice to them

Item No. 21.	To consider a proposal for the establishment of the Summer Undergraduate
	Entrepreneurship Program

The item was deferred due to paucity of time

Item No. 22. To 1	note the results of the General Election'19
--------------------------	---





The results of the General Elections'19 were not noted as the post-conduction report of the General Elections'19 was not accepted by the Senate and the Senate wanted to hear the replies of the Chief Election Officer to the alleged misconduct in the Elections.

Item No. 23. To consider the Post Conduction Report of the General Elections'19

The Post Conduction report of the General Elections was presented on the floor of the Senate by the Chief Election Officer (CEO). The following were the major points of the discussions:

• The Chairperson Students' Senate requested the CEO to first address the concerns raised on the Student Senate's mailing list. The CEO was questioned about the delay in the circulation of the link of the manifestos of the candidates and the information relating to the SOP box of candidates for the General Elections 2019. The CEO stated that the manifestos could not be circulated since the candidates had not submitted the soft copies in time and the Election Commission did not want to bias the general body by circulating the manifestos of only a few candidates. However, the Students' Senate was of the opinion that any losses due of a candidate due to not following rules was not the concern of the Election Commission and the circulation of manifestos was required for the General Body to make an informed decision. The CEO accepted his mistake and agreed to inform his successor of the same.

Further, The CEO said that the reason for non-communication of SOP box timing was that the Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) had long deliberations upon the decisions concerning the General Elections 2019 and certain decisions were overturned at the last moments which led to uncertainty in the timings of the following events. Since the Election Commission (EC) was not able to confirm the timings of the following events, they refrained from sending any doubtful information beforehand. Once the details were confirmed, the required details were forwarded on the Students' mailing list.

• A General body member questioned the Chief Election Officer upon the cancellation of envelope voting at the last moment. It was argued that this could have resulted in many of the members of the campus community not been able to vote and express their voice in the electoral process which does concern them. The CEO informed the Senate that there had been uncertainty over the candidature of certain candidates and if envelope voting had been done then the votes would have been needed to be cancelled. It was stated that undertaking any such voting process without the confirmation of the list of the candidates





- contending for the respective posts would not have been appropriate. Thus, the envelope voting was delayed by a day.
- A Senator pointed out that the expenditure on the refreshments was mentioned Rs.3000 more than that was mentioned in the pre-conduction report. The Cheif Election Officer replied that he had done the arithmetic for the expenditure of the refreshments considering the expenditures of only the polling day. However, he mentioned that the net expenditure came out to be approximately the same as it had been the previous years.
- The Senate was also informed that the software that was supposed to be used for the voting process was found malfunctioning when it was reviewed by the candidates at 9 am on the day of polling. It was argued that determining such grave issues concerning the General Elections 2019, just hours before the polling process reflects negligence on the part of the CEO. The CEO informed the Senate that the ".exe" files of the Software malfunctioned upon installation in the laptops of the executives of the Election Commission and since due to logistical constraints the laptops could not have been taken from the executives earlier, this malfunctioning could not have been detected by the EC beforehand.
- There were also a number of other issues that the General body members raised questioning the misconducts during the General Elections 2019. The Chairperson Students' Senate directed the CEO to answer them directly on the Student Senate's mailing list -
 - One of the main concerns of the General body members was the delays that occurred in the starting of the polling process on the day of voting in various halls. The CEO informed the Senate that all the halls had not allocated space to the Election Commission for setting up booths and in the Halls that had not done so, the booths were not set up on time.
 - A general body member argued that the hall office of Hall 10 was active from 9 am onwards on the day of polling but no executive of the Election Commission was present on the location till 11 pm to set up any booth and start off the polling process.
 - The Senate was also informed that in Hall 11, the executive of the Election Commission reached at 11.15 am, while the polling was scheduled to begin from 10 pm. Further, he had no Hall Student's list with him to conduct the polling process.





- A Senator informed the Senate that in Hall 12, the executive of the Election commission was not taking signs of the students who appeared for voting, instead, he was himself just ticking out their names in the Hall students' list he had.
- Moreover, the above-mentioned points were neither addressed nor stated in the post conduction report presented by the Chief Election Officer. The Students' Senate directed the CEO to update the report including the exact details.

Due to the issues raised on the floor the post conduction report was not accepted by the Students' Senate. Further, the results of the General Elections 2019 were also not noted as there were doubts whether a complaint before the Grievance Redressal Committee could still be filed. The Chairperson Students' Senate assured the Senate that the replies of the CEO would first be considered and evaluated, then the appropriate and necessary actions would be taken.

The CEO informed the Senate that the Election Commission witnessed the violation of the electoral rules by two of the General Secretaries, namely General Secretary, Games and Sports and General Secretary, Media and Culture

The CEO informed the Senate that the General Secretary, Games and Sports was caught calling voters to vote in favor of a candidate contesting for the post of General Secretary, Games and Sports. The General Secretary, Games and Sports accepted the allegations and apologized for his wrong doing. The CEO also told that the concerned General Secretary cooperated with the Election Commission during further proceedings. A no-confidence motion was moved against the General Secretary, Games and Sports condemning his conduct during elections. The General Secretary, Games and Sports defended his actions before the Senate and the motion was put to vote and got defeated. Soon after, a Censure motion was proposed against the General Secretary, Games and Sports which was accepted by the Senate. Further, it was decided that the level of the censure motion be elevated to level 1 due to the gravity of the infractions.

The CEO informed the Senate that there were several complaints and accusations against the then General Secretary, Media and Culture with respect to the violation of various electoral rules. The allegations made by the CEO against the then General Secretary, Media and Culture are summarised as follows:

- The General Secretary, Media and Culture publicly supported a presidential candidate.
- He was caught anti-campaigning against a specific Presidential candidate.
- He was involved in utilizing academic processes with the involvement of Teaching Assistants to influence the Election results





- He tried to influence the proceedings of GRC by physically threatening GRC members.
- He forced a General Body Member to become a seconder for a certain presidential candidate.
- He was involved in an act of vandalism after the conclusion of a GRC meeting. He broke the glass of a notice board at the DOSA office and threw cycles of GRC members in front of the DOSA office.
- The Senate was also informed that one executive candidate and three senator candidates testified that they were asked to collude with a presidential candidate by the General Secretary, Media and Culture

The General Secretary, Media and Culture presented the following points in his defense:

- Replying to the accusation of publicly supporting a Presidential candidate, he stated that such a discussion where he publicly showed his support towards the presidential candidate occurred only with some of his friends/wingmates of his hall of residence.
- He accepted his involvement in anti-campaigning against a specific Presidential Candidate and told that this stemmed from his belief of certain rumors being spread against that Presidential Candidate.
- Upon being questioned about him influencing electoral results through academic processes, he replied that he was aware that a certain tutor of a first-year course was using his influence to seek votes for a Presidential candidate and he tried to resolve this issue on his own as he believed that the EC was biased and would not help in resolution of the issue in any form.
- The General Secretary, Media and Culture was asked of reasons for committing the act of Vandalisms and threatening the GRC and EC members. He replied that when he got to know about the cancellation of candidature of two presidential candidates, he was in emotional trauma and not mentally stable. When the GRC meeting took place, he overheard the proceedings of the GRC, which as stated by the CEO was a grave violation, and he was enraged after seeing the members of the EC celebrate upon the decision of the GRC, and hence committed the acts of Vandalism in a fit of rage. The CEO and the President Students' Gymkhana were present during the proceedings of the GRC and when the incident took place and they confirmed that no such celebration took place therein. The General Secretary, Media and Culture said that he had informally apologized to the DOSA and the CEO after the incident.





A no-confidence motion was proposed against the General Secretary, Media and Culture and after the General Secretary, Media and Culture had defended his actions the Students' Senate accepted the motion by a 2/3rd majority.

Further, The Students' Senate directed the Chairperson, Students' Senate to forward the case of misconduct by the General Secretary, Media and Culture during the electoral process to the SSAC.

Item No. 24.	To consider the Proposal to restructure the Ombudsgroup
--------------	---

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 25.	To consider a proposal to start a Dual Degree programme in Entrepreneurship
--------------	---

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 26.	To consider a proposal for Honours and Specialisations in Undergraduate
	programmes

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 27.	To consider a proposal to increase the Gymkhana Fees
--------------	--

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 28.	To consider modifications in the working of the SSAC
--------------	--

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

Item No. 29.	To consider a proposal to integrate the SPO and the Students' Gymkhana
--------------	--

The President Students' Gymkhana presented the proposal on the floor of the Senate. The objective of the proposal was to ensure greater transparency in the placement processes and the





accountability of functionaries of the SPO through the existing mechanisms of the Students' Gymkhana. The following major discussions took place:

- A Senator pointed out that the discussion should also involve the Overall Placement Coordinator (OPC), SPO in order to have a constructive discussion on the matter. The President Students' Gymkhana informed the Senate that the matter had been discussed with the concerned OPC's but they were reluctant to discuss the idea of SPO coming under the umbrella of the Students' Gymkhana and concerned that their executive powers might get unduly affected.
- Some of the Senators were of the opinion that placing the burden of Placement related activities upon the Students' Gymkhana might reduce the efficiency of conduction of the Placement activities which is now the responsibility of the SPO, an independent organization. The President Students' Gymkhana replied that only a form of collaboration is being proposed while the responsibility of the conduction of Placement related activities would still remain with the SPO. The collaboration would allow the UG and PG Secretaries of Academics and Career Council to work coherently with the SPO and act as a liaison between the Students' Gymkhana and the SPO. Moreover, this collaboration would not hinder the functioning of the OPC's in any form.
- The President Students' Gymkhana informed the Senate that the acceptance of the proposal would not directly ensure the integration of SPO and the Students' Gymkhana rather the proposal would be forwarded to the Director, IIT Kanpur and would then be discussed with the SPC where the concerns of the OPC's would be addressed.

The Senate accepted the need for such collaboration and accepted the proposal

Item No. 30.	To Interview candidates for the post of Festival Coordinator, Techkriti'19
--------------	--

The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 am with a vote of thanks to all the members.