

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Students' Gymkhana

Date: January 25, 2006

Draft Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the Students' Senate held on **January 15th, 2006** in SAC conference room at 8:30 pm.

The Meeting was called to order at 8:45 pm.

Attendance Record:

Present: 26

Absent: 12

Designation	Name	Present/Absent – Signature
The President	Neeraj Kumar	Present
The General Secretary – Cultural	Vipin Kumar Pathak	Present
The General Secretary - Films	Abhinav Biyani	Absent With Permission
The General Secretary - Science and Technology	Varun Garg	Present
The General Secretary – Games	Harendra Verma	Present
Senator PG 5th Year, students in 5 year program	Saksham Agarwal	Present
Senator UG 4th Year (Y2 Batch)	Harish Awasthi	Present
	Pranay Das	Present
	Saurabh Awasthi	Present
	Vaibhav Tripathi	Present
Senator UG 3rd Year (Y3 Batch)	Abhishek Gupta	Present
	Arpit Srivastava	Absent With Permission
	Jatinder Singh Randhawa	Absent With Permission
	Vaibhav Ketewa	Present
Senator UG 2nd Year (Y4 Batch)	Ankit Raj	Present
	Nikhil Suri	Present
	Pawan Kadyan	Present
	Saurab Gupta	Present
	Siddharth Sodhani	Present
Senator UG 1st Year (Y5 Batch)	Anuj Gupta	Absent Without Permission

	Aviral Chopra	Present
	Shashank Yalakala Rao	Absent With Permission
	Taha Sadiq Hissain Malik	Absent With Permission
	Vikas Pandey	Present
Senator MBA+M.Des+others (Final Year) Senator MBA+M.Des+Others Senator PhD	Yashodhan Shevade	Present
	Jasminder Singh	Absent without Permission
	Arjun Singh Yadav	Absent With Permission
	Jaydev	Present
	Tony Jacob	Present
	Vikas Gupta	Present
	Ankur Purwar	Absent With Permission
	Shyam Kumar Chaudhary	Present
Senator MTech – Final Year.	Kulkarni Rushikesh Dileep	Present
	Pankaj Kumar	Present
	Pawan Bir Singh	Absent With Permission
	Lava Kumar P	Absent With Permission
Senator MTech – Final Year.	Bipin Ramesh Inamdar	Absent Without Permission
Girls' Representative	Shubham Nath	Present

Some General Body Members were also present.

Item No. 1 Ratification of the minutes of the seventh and eight meeting of the students' senate.

The minutes of the 7th & 8th Meetings were ratified without any changes.

Item No. 2 Announcements and Remarks

- Convener, Yashodhan Shevade announced the termination of M Tech Y5 Senator Mr. Madhav Verma from the institute on academic grounds. Consequently the strength of Senate would now be 38 instead of the previous 39.
- Cultural Secretary, Vipin Kumar Pathak apprised the senate of the excellent performance shown by the 17 member team of students who went to IIT-Bombay's cultural festival - Mood Indigo. He announced that IIT Kanpur stood 2nd overall in the festival.

Item No. 3 Submission of Action Taken Reports.

1. Request members of all the standing committees under the Academic Senate to keep the Students' Senate informed about the happenings in their respective committees.

No updates were available from the members' end.

2. Status of the interface to be created by the Institute between students who wish to buy PCs and the PC vendors: Convener **Yashodhan Shevade**

Convener, Yashodhan Shevade informed the Senate that he had interacted with a couple of vendors and found that the margins with Desktop PCs are very low and the lack of availability of a common configuration of PCs desired by students makes it difficult for vendors to propose any common quotation.

Also in case of laptops, the changing technology and frequent slashing of prices had made the possibility of any quotation difficult. It was hence concluded that intervention of Gymkhana into this may not lower the prices borne by students by a considerable amount. Hence the ATR was **DROPPED**.

3. The constitution of PGSAAC and UGSAAC: President **Neeraj Kumar**

The President intimated the Senate that the UGSAAC had been constituted but since enough nominations had not been received for PGSAAC, the matter was still pending. He assured the Senate that he would try to get PGSAAC constituted by next month.-
ACTION PENDING.

4. Review of the amount of insurance coverage available to students incase of accidents: Convener, **Yashodhan Shevade**.

Convener, Yashodhan Shevade informed the Senate that he had received quotations form various intermediaries and offered some options for the review:

- The first proposal simply offered to hike the insurance amount from the current Rs. 1.5 Lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs. This would increase the premium from the current Rs.65 to approximately Rs. 185.
- The other proposal in addendum to the first one offered to insure the lives of earning parents of all students. Under this scheme, in case a student loses his/her earning parent, he/she would be issued to the tune of the amount of insurance. The amount disbursed to the student shall vary in accordance with the batch in which the student is studying (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th yr etc.) at the time of demise of the parent. Also the amount of premium paid by students shall vary with each year of fee paid. The fee hike caused by the premium shall vary from Rs. 600-Rs. 750 for every student, depending upon the year of the student.

The students' senate greatly appreciated both proposals, however was concerned about whether the general body members will be able to appreciate it as much. This concern stemmed out of the fact that it was a significant hike which would be caused in the students' annual fee towards insurance.

Hence, though the students' senate was on a consensus towards recommending this to the higher authorities, it was considered prudent to disseminate this idea to the general body members and obtain an opinion from their end. For this several methods like mails, web based or ballot based referendum were considered. To begin with however, a mail would be sent out to the students' in this regards. The Convener was hence entrusted to decide on the mechanism for feedback from the students.

- **ACTION PENDING**

5. Status of the proposed SAC Restaurant: President **Neeraj Kumar**.

While a temporary arrangement was made by giving the charge of the SAC restaurant to a canteen person during the placement season, a month's time would be required to work out the formalities for establishment of a full-fledged restaurant. Formulation of these formalities is presently in progress. – **ACTION PENDING**

6. Report on the re-look into the Students' Gymkhana & Senate Constitution and its structure: Senate Ad-Hoc Committee
7. Report on: "The Student Placement Council Constitution" – Senate Ad-Hoc Committee

*Items 6 & 7 could not be pursued voraciously owing to the placement season and the winter holidays. The Convener hoped to be able to table the developments in these regards by the next senate meeting. – **ACTION PENDING***

Item No. 4 Constitutional Amendment: Chapter III Elections 3.02
Postponing the Gymkhana Elections to a later date.

The opinion of the Rules and Procedures Committee was tabled (AT1) and the discussion was initiated accompanied by a formal statement of the proposed amendment (AT2).

The discussion initially focused on the perceived need for postponing. Reasons for postponing were discussed at length. It was pointed out that with the current system, the new General Secretaries are known by third week of January and consequently the losing candidates and their supporters lose interest and motivation to work for the festivals Josh and Techkriti. Also the elected members have no motivation to work, as they already know they're elected with their term starting from March 1st and hence they too lose interest in working for the outgoing gymkhana. It was also brought to note that in the current system the new gymkhana comes into being very early and with the previous financial year under the old Gymkhana still on. This impairs their starting to work, as they cannot use that money till 1st April. It was counter argued that the current system gives the new General Secretaries some run-in period which helps them get acquainted with their work, before the financial year starts.

With respect to the effect on non-festival gymkhana activities it was argued that the postponement would free up the crucial months of January & February for more activities. However the Cultural Secretary, Vipin Kumar Pathak, pointed out that delaying the dates of takeover of the new gymkhana could affect the early start of Antaragni preparations. He pointed out that the marketing team would especially be losing precious time. It was also pointed out that under the current system the new General Secretaries being in their 6th semester (as the trend has been and likely to be) they are time-tied in months of March and April. However if the dates are postponed then they would be in the 7th semester and relatively be able to give more time.

With all these considerations in mind, the final dates of 25th February to 25th March were narrowed down upon. The proposal was then put to vote and in a call of hands for Senators in favor of passing the resolution for the second round of discussion and a consequent vote on the tabled amendment, the resolution was unanimously passed.

Item No. 5 Decision on "Blazer Issue" for the incoming executives and formulation of a Policy.

The discussion started on the deeper question of whether the Blazers should be given as a perk/need of the official post, or should they remain as a mark of recognition by the institute for the work done by the executives. The General Secretaries agreed that the Blazers should remain as a mark of recognition and felicitation and hence it was decided that the Executives would be awarded the Blazers at the end of their term.

Item No. 6 Ratification of the Election Council, Schedule, Budget, Rules and Procedures for the Gymkhana General Elections 2006.

Item **DEFERRED** till the final vote on the proposed constitutional amendment to change the Gymkhana Election dates(See Item No.4). The Convener remarked that the Election Council and the CEO, Uttam Tripathi were ready to declare and conduct the Elections around the 20th January incase the proposed amendment was not passed by 2/3rds majority. He announced that the 10th Meeting of the Senate would be called on the 17th Jan and requested the Senate members to gather opinion on the proposed amendment from the general body.

Item No. 07 Questions and Remarks

Questions were raised on deciding a schedule for the dates of various hall days. After opinions and discussions, it was decided that this shall be decided in a COSHA meeting which will be scheduled sometime after the elections are over in the PG halls.

Item No. 08 Any other item with the permission of the chair

None

At this point the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 pm

Yashodhan Shevade
Convener, Students' Senate.

cc to –

1. [students] list
2. [studentsenate] list
3. Dr. Sanjay Dhande, Director & Patron, Student's Gymkhana.
4. Dr. Prawal Sinha, Dean of Students' Affairs & Chief Counselor, Student's Gymkhana.
5. Dr. Kripa Shanker, Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur

AT1

Opinion of the Rules and Procedure Committee on the proposed Amendment of clause 3.02 of the Students Senate Constitution

As discussed in the meeting of the committee we considered the discussion which was held in the 8th senate meeting on the said topic. The main point of consideration was the time which the incoming senate will get for adjusting with the system. Also the appropriateness of time required for council formation and distribution of work after the charge handover of the senate was also discussed, keeping in mind the closeness with the End Semester Exams.

The committee found that the present system does hamper the work of the councils and with major Institute festivals around, this is certainly not desirable. The proposed time is free from any major events and will not affect much of the work of the councils.

However the dates mentioned in the new proposal are inappropriate. If the elections get postponed due to any emergency condition beyond 25th March then there will be further delay in the charge handover of the senate. The committee was of the view that under no case the charge handover should exceed beyond 1st of April. So we recommend that the proposed dates for the election should be any time between 20th of February to 10th March every year so that even in case of an emergency situation the charge handover takes place at the normal time.

Regards,

Arpit Srivastava
Convener, Rules and Procedures Committee
Parliamentarian, Students Senate

Notice of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment:

Chapter III: Elections – 3.02

The proposed changes in the text are highlighted in bold letters.

Clause 3.02 currently reads as:

“Annual Gymkhana Election shall normally be held around 20th of January every year. However, under exceptional situations, annual elections can be postponed for a maximum period of one month.”

Proposed Amendment:

“Annual Gymkhana Election shall normally be held between 25th of February and 25th of March every year. However, under exceptional situations, annual elections can be postponed for a maximum period of one week”

Statement of purpose:

The current schedule of elections in January and handover in March renders the month of January useless for carrying out Gymkhana activities as a lot of people from various councils are involved in campaigning. Further, with the election of the general secretaries, the composition of the coming Gymkhana more or less starts getting clear. This leads to the demotivation of would be secretaries thus resulting in little work getting done in the months of February and March. We thus propose that the elections be postponed to either February or March with takeover on 1st of April.

We request the Convener, Students’ Senate to table the amendment and also obtain the opinion of the Rules & Procedures Committee.

Proposed by: General Secretary, Science & Technology – Varun Garg

Seconded by: PhD Senator – Tony Jacob

General Secretary, Games – Harendra Varma