

**Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
Students' Gymkhana**

Date: June 23, 2008

Draft Minutes of the Summer Senate Meeting of the Students' Senate held on June 15, 2008 in SAC conference room.

The Meeting was called to order at 2:17 pm.

Item No. 1	Announcements and Remarks
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The General Secretary, Cultural made the following announcements:
Dramatics workshop was conducted. Dram eve was held on 1st of June.
Around 35 people participated.

Item No. 2	Ratification of Antaragni '08 coordinators and executives
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The names were ratified with a note that this will require endorsement in the full senate.

Item No. 8(a)	Any other item-New overload rule during a semester
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Convener submitted the appeal that he had received about the new overload rule which is hampering their graduation within the time frame. It was noted that the problem is mainly due to branch change. Even in spite of having very good academic record, due the new rules, which have been introduced after the branch of the concern students, they are not going to graduate in time if they are not allowed to take over load(beyond the new rule).

Few suggestions which were pointed are:

- 1) Students from a department has to do 24 credits in their 7th and 8th semester should be allowed to have a maximum of 28 credits so that they are able to take overload.
- 2) Students who make a branch change after 2nd year may be allowed to take overload in 9th and 10th sem.
- 3) Rules shall be relaxed for the people who had made branch change beforehand without having any indication that such could be the case.

Therefore please permit them to take overload as per old rules

Convener was requested to inform SUGC chairman about the suggestions.

Item No. 3	Discussion on "Insurance Policy"
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The senate was informed about the current policy. Currently every student is paying 242/- as premium per annum. This covers the accidental death of the student (Rs. 5 lacs) and the insurance providing parent/guardian (Rs. 2 lacs).

In the last two years the total premium paid is ~Rs. 20 lacs. However the claims that we had is just one students parent (Rs. 2 lacs). Based on these numbers convener expressed that if money can be used for building a fund rather than paying the money to an insurance company then it will be benefiting the students in long run. Following concerns were raised:

- 1) What about fund management?
- 2) What if the fund runs out? Who takes responsibility?

However it was felt that the problem is only likely to be in the first 1-2 years, later on it as amount builds on the problem will not be there. For this the current amount can be continued and after re-negotiating the premium, the remaining amount can be maintained as corpus. Additional funds can also be raised from alumni. For this a proposal will be prepared and will be circuited containing all the details about the fund management and terms and conditions for claims.

Item No. 4	Discussion on “LAN restriction/regulation”
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Internet Usage Committee student members explained that the LAN ban introduced so as to control the abuse of the facility and addiction which is affecting the academic performance. On the floor of the senate it was felt that the agenda point needs to be broadened to reasons for poor academic performance so as to achieve the right solutions without curbing the freedom. After a long discussion the following reasons seems to be affecting the academic performance:

1) **Attendance** does play a crucial role for the performance.

2) Over usage of LAN

After a long discussion it was felt that it is not appropriate to punish the majority of the people just because some of the people are misusing the facility. Rather the people who are misusing and/or whose academics are affected need to be put under regulation so that they can come out of the problem apart from the monitoring the abuse.

3) Excessive participation in Gymkhana/HEC activities

Senate felt that Even though there are regulation regarding the long term commitments in the festivals and clubs, there is problem with participation in multiple short term commitments. People in A.P and Warning participate in various activities which are short term but since they participate in many activities, it amounts to the same type of job delivered by a full term commitment job. So there is a need to identify such people.

4) Quality of teaching

Senate also felt that Quality of teaching also matters a lot in the performance of the students. Considering the fact that UGRC has been formed, if the committee takes proper feedback from the students then it would be really help for bettering the system. Concerns were also raised against the number of electives that are being offered.

5) People joining IIT without knowing what they want to do

Senate felt that there are students who do not want to do what they are doing. Many of these people who join IIT after clearing JEE are clueless. They are joining IIT because of pressure. It was felt that counseling parents and the students during the JEE counseling could make a difference.

6) Personal problems

Apart from all above mentioned reasons, in current system there many students having personal problems. Even though Counselling service does help the students a professional psychologist would really help the students with personal problems.

Item No. 5	Discussion on increased number of suicides in IIT-Kanpur
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The senate was briefed about all the six suicides which happened in the last three years. Since the fact finding committee constituted for investigation Ms. Toya Chatterjee's case has not yet submitted report, full facts are not yet known. However, with the current information it was clear that the misconception that she had cleared IIMs was wrong. She was not even called for the interview in any of them. However full details will be available after the committee submits its report. Senate also felt that it would really helpful if all the six reports together available, to analyze what could be basis for these incidents and what plan of action should be initiated. Convener was asked to make a request to Director for the reports. Once all the reports made available an open house should be held. After the open house, with all the feedback, it would be appropriate for the senate to take up for discussion.

Item No. 6	Discussion on "Introduction of Jeevan Vidya in Counseling Service"
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Senate was briefed about the proposal. Since proper proposal was not in place (what exactly we are going to achieve by this? what would be the structure etc), senate felt that a request should be made to Director, asking for the full details of the proposal. Once such a proposal is in place it would be appropriate to discuss the agenda.

Some of the general body members said that Jeevan vidya just an organization. A group of students (who attended the Shivir) wants to help the students who are having problem. Senate welcomed the gesture and suggested that they can form a club under Presidential council, to help the students.

Item No. 7	Questions and Remarks
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Convener presented two Questions which he received from Mr. Rahul Verma

- 1) What's the renovation Budget of the main stadium?
- 2) What's the % hike in the swimming pool budget?

General Secretary, Games & Sports informed that senate that he is not aware of any budgetary details; however he is looking into the renovation work. Full budgetary details should be requested from the chairman of the renovation committee and circulate the same on senate list.

Regarding the swimming pool budget General Secretary, Games & Sports informed that he is in the process of procuring the details. Once they are available they will be made available to the senators.

Item No. 8	Any other items with the permission of the chair
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b) Enhancement of M.Tech Assistantship:

Convener informed the senate about a series of exchanged mails regarding the issue. He informed the senate that students want a grievance petition to be sent to president. A request was made to the students that such a petition to be drafted and submit to the convener. Once a draft petition is received, further discussion will be followed.

The Meeting was concluded at 7:50PM on June 15, 2008.

K. Sudheendra Rao
Convener, Students' Senate
Student's Gymkhana.