



**Students' Senate (2018-19)**  
**Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**  
**Ayushya Agarwal | Chairperson**



**7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Students' Senate (2018-19): Minutes**

**The 2018-19/7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Students' Senate was held on Thursday, 10th February 2019 in the Senate Hall, SAC. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Students' Senate at 8:30 PM.**

<b>S. no.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Ayushya Agarwal	Chairperson, Students' Senate	Present
2.	Pratyush Rai	President, Students' Gymkhana	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.	Prakhar Ji Gupta	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present
8.	Shrey Agarwal	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present
9.	Sohail Saifi	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Absent
10.	Sirsendu Sarkar	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present
11.	Mayank Chauhan	Senator, BT/BS Y15	Present
12.	Aayushi Bansal	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Absent#
13.	Anant Chopra	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present
14.	Anmol Chaman	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present
15.	Navanya Sharma	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present*
16.	Rahul Sethi	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present
17.	Siddhartha Srivastava	Senator, BT/BS Y16	Present
18.	Aditya Mishra	Senator, BT/BS Y17	Present
19.	Faizan Siddiqui	Senator, BT/BS Y17	Present



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

\* - Present with Nominee, # - Absent with Permission

The meeting was called to order at 8:54 pm.

The following agenda items were taken up for consideration:



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<b>Item No. 1</b>	To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings: i) 2018/19 – 6th Meeting
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The minutes of the meeting had not been prepared and were not ratified.

<b>Item No. 2</b>	Announcements and Remarks, if any
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The following announcements were made on the floor of the Senate -

- A Senator raised his concern that the nominations and interview schedule for the Student nominees to the Departmental Committees of the UGARC were not sent to the Students' Senate mailing list. The Students' Senate nominee to the UGARC apologised for the same.
- There were concerns regarding the delay in the formulation of the report of the Fact-Finding committee constituted for the purpose of investigations of the Ramjas College incident that took place during Antaragni 2018. The Chairperson Students' Senate informed that the Convener of the committee has resigned from the post. The Chairperson Students' Senate agreed to be the Convener of the FFC and present the required report soon.
- The General Secretary, Games and Sports informed the Senate that the council was planning to schedule Inferno, the inter-hall sports competition during the last weekend of March 2019. The overall Coordinators, ARC raised their concerns stating that the Students Research Convention (SRC) was also scheduled and approved by the Senate for the last weekend of March 2019 and a clash with Inferno may reduce the amount of participation in the events in SRC. Upon being proposed to conduct the Inferno in the 1st weekend of April 2019, the General Secretary, Games and Sports said that a Sports Alumni meet was also being planned by the DORA during the same time. The Students Senate suggested that the General Secretary, Games and Sports conduct the two events in collaboration in the first weekend of April. A Senator pointed out that since the Gymkhana term ends by March, the Inferno conduction will take place out of the scope of the present Gymkhana term and hence considering the fact that the Freshers' Inferno was not conducted in a pool-wise manner and the conduction of Galaxy also deviated from the pre-conduction report of the General Championship, the General Champion for the term 2018-19 should be scrapped. The Chairperson Students' Senate assured the Senate that this would be taken up as another item in a subsequent meeting.



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- A Senator asked about the ATR and mid-term reports of various Student nominees of the Senate not being included as agenda items to which the Chairperson Students' Senate informed that the concerned reports were not prepared yet and will be included in the agenda from next meeting.
- 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 directed the Parliamentarian to correct the issue at the earliest.

<b>Item No. 3</b>	To consider the reply of the Senators issued a Show Cause Notice for the violation of attendance rules of the Senate To consider the reply of the General Body Members, previously, Coordinators ARC to the show-cause issued against them
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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. Ankur Banga, Senator, BT/BS Y18-

The Senator had missed 2 meetings of the Students' Senate without permission and one with permission. In his defense, the Senator stated that he was ill during one of the missed meetings while during the other, he was not on campus. 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. Somya Sharma, Senator MBA, MDes and other 2-year programmes-

The senator had missed 4 meetings of the Students' Senate with permission. In her defense, the senator stated that she was suffering from illness during one of the missed meetings while during the other, she had her GATE exam. The Senate accepted the defense of the Senator with the caveat that if the senator missed another meeting with or without informing the Senate, she would stand removed from her post.

3. Mr. Shivam Rajoriya, Senator, BT/BS Y18-

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

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

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



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Next, the the reply of the General Body Members, previously, Coordinators, Creatives, ARC was considered by the Senate. The Senate was informed in the previous meeting that the Coordinators, Creatives, ARC had not performed upto the expectations of the Overall Coordinator, ARC and hence, were de-ratified from their post. 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, which the Senate opined was a deliberate act harming the property and reputation of the cell. Following this, a show-cause was issued to them and they were asked to explain the reasons for undertaking such an act, on the floor of the Senate. The Coordinators, Creatives, ARC gave the following justifications:

- As per them, they did sufficient work that they were asked for, but the expectations of the Overall Coordinator were considerably high and their work was not recognised.
- The reasons for pulling down the website portal were that they were promised AWS servers by the Overall Coordinator, ARC but the same was not provided in time and hence, they hosted the website from their personal Azure account, for which they were bearing the charges. Upon getting the intimation of their de-ratification from the post, the Coordinators, Creatives, ARC thought that their Azure server charges would not be reimbursed and hence, they decide to pull down the website and portal. Also, the Overall Coordinator stated that he had not been consulted before placing the portal on the personal accounts and had not been aware of this situation.
- With the context of the case, the Senate dropped the charges of malicious activity by the students. The Coordinators, Creatives, ARC asked for recognition for the work that had been done by them as they were being deratified due to creative differences.
- A Fact-Finding committee was constituted with the mandate to look into, whether any significant work was done and if so, should any formal recognition of the same be provided or not. The constitution of the committee was done as follows:
  - Mr. Yash Maheshwari - Convener (Senator BT/BS Y17)
  - Mr. Pratyush Rai (President, Students' Gymkhana)
  - Yash Srivastava (General Body Member- ex- Programming Club Coordinator)

The committee was asked to present its mid-term report by March 2019.

<b>Item No. 4</b>	To consider the minutes of the meeting of COFA(U)
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.



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<b>Item No. 5</b>	To consider the mid-term reports of the following: 1. President. Students' Gymkhana 2. Finance Convener, Students' Senate
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The President Students' Gymkhana presented his mid term report. The report threw light on the plans and present works of various Institute Standing and Ad-hoc committees, COSHA, different festivals and Institute events. The report was accepted by the Senate after minor discussions. The consideration of the mid-term report of the Finance Convener was deferred to the next meeting.

<b>Item No. 6</b>	To consider the post-conduction report of Techkriti'18
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This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No.7</b>	To consider the post-conduction report of Takneek'18
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This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 8</b>	To consider the Interim Reports of the Gymkhana Review Committee (GRC)
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 9</b>	To consider a proposal for the formation of a Hobby Group for Public Speaking
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 10</b>	To consider a proposal for an Award on Entrepreneurship
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This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.





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<b>Item No. 11</b>	To consider a proposal for the formal provision of executive powers to the General Secretary during the respective festival.
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This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 12.</b>	To consider the proposal for reformation of Departmental Societies
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This item was deferred for the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No.13.</b>	To consider a proposal for the establishment of the Summer Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program
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The proposal was presented by the President Students' Gymkhana. It was proposed that a Summer Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program similar to SURGE (a program for academic internships) can be established to promote the Entrepreneurship drive amongst the students. The presenter informed the Senate that the proposed program would be conducted in collaboration with the SIIC, IIT Kanpur and E-cell. The proposal was accepted by the Senate and the Senate directed the President Students' Gymkhana to take it up further with the administration

<b>Item No. 14.</b>	To note the results of the General Election'19
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The post-conduction report of the General Elections'19 was passed and the results of the General Elections were noted by the Senate.

<b>Item No. 15.</b>	To consider the Post Conduction Report of the General Elections'19
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The update post-conduction report was presented by the Chief Election officer. The questions raised on the Students' Senate mailing list and during the last session of the Students' Senate were answered by the Chief Election Officer:

- Delay in the circulation of manifestos of the candidates-

The Senate was informed that the manifestos of the candidates were not shared with the student community until a few hours before the silence period started. The CEO stated that two candidates had not uploaded their respective manifestos till 24 hours after the executive dialogue



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was scheduled and circulating a link carrying an incomplete number of manifestoes would have been unfair. The Senate was of the opinion that uploading of manifestoes is the responsibility of the candidates and not the Election Commission (EC) and the EC should have sent the information.

- Delay in envelope voting-

The Senate was informed that there were no updates on the envelope voting till the day it was scheduled. A general body member had raised this concern, stating that there was a lack of communication from the EC and this affected those students who wanted to cast their vote using envelope voting. The CEO said that there were contentions of cancellation of the candidature of certain Presidential candidates and due to this the EC had delayed the envelope voting.

- Loss in the campaigning time of certain Presidential candidates-

The Senate was informed that certain Presidential candidates had been prevented from campaigning for 2-3 days. The CEO stated that the time consumed due to the procedures of the GRC resulted in the loss of a major part of the campaigning time. The candidature had not been cancelled by the EC and it was the decision of the Presidential candidates to not campaign.

- Guidelines for working of the EC-

A General body member enquired about the guidelines which specifically govern the workings of the EC. The CEO replied that the working of the EC is implicitly governed by the code of conduct, though there are no explicit guidelines regarding this. The Students' Senate directed the Convener, Rules and Procedures Committee to take up the matter of explicit guidelines in the Rules and Procedures, Committee.

- Unpreparedness on the part of EC-

The Senate was informed that on the day of Polling many booth election officers didn't have the list of students in printed form and hall residents/HEC members were asked to arrange the list in a printed format which could have lead to serious electoral manipulation. The process suffered from some delays due to logistical reasons for which the CEO took complete responsibility and assured the Senate that going forward such issues would not crop up as the Election Commission would be moving towards an online system of voting.

- Manpower issues of EC-

The Senate was informed that only one polling officer with a laptop was assigned in the PG halls which made the polling process slow. Also in one of the halls, the laptop of the polling officer stopped working during voting. This, in turn, resulted in a long queue which delayed the whole polling process. The CEO clarified that since there were 2 booths set up in the PG halls, hence the number of polling officer per booth reduced to one. The CEO also said that in the case of one





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of the laptops not working a new laptop was arranged within 30 minutes. In order to compensate for the delay caused, the voting hours of that hall were also extended by 30 minutes.

- The Senate was also informed that in some of the halls, the Hall President signed on the students' list, stating the closing of polling and the total number of voters, after completion of polling, but in many halls, no such practice was followed. The CEO replied that this is not a mandate as such and any General body member can also do so. The practice followed is just an extra precaution taken by the EC. The Senate had opined that the process can be standardised by taking the sign of either the SIS guard present at the polling booth or the Hall office staff. However, the CEO said that the SIS guards generally do not consent to signing the documents while the Hall office staff are not present on Sundays. The Senate decided that a standard procedure of the Hall President counter-signing the document should be established..
- A Senator had also raised his concern regarding an incident in one of the Halls where the polling officer was marking ticks across the names of the Voters instead of taking their signature. The CEO informed the Senate that no such instruction had been given to the polling booth officer and the mistake arose due to miscommunication. The EC came to know of the case during patrolling and decided to continue with the practice as changing the procedure midway would have caused confusion. The CEO clarified that any false vote was prevented by keeping a check on the voters and matching the final votes to the number of ticks present. Moreover, with the presence of the SIS guard and the beep made by the machine when a vote was cast there was no chance of any manipulation of the votes.

The CEO reiterated after his answers that with the adaption of the online voting system from next year, the logistical issues won't occur. The Senate was also made aware that the candidates for whom the elections didn't take place, had not submitted their manifestoes to the EC. The CEO was reprimanded by the Students Senate for this negligence and it was decided that the newly elected senators would be asked to submit a manifesto document.

With the General elections 2019 witnessing malpractices there were concerns on the validation of the election results. However since the Students' Senate was constrained in terms of its Constitutional Mandate to only comment on the results, a suggestion was made that a referendum be called to determine the validity of the elections in the mind of the students community. The Students' Senate was of the opinion that a referendum may also witness malpractice such as the General Elections 2019 had witnessed. Another alternative was to refer the matter to the Grievance Redressal Committee which had the mandate for listening to



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electoral grievances, however the Parliamentarian, Students' Senate opined that since the GRC was a body that existed through the code of conduct, its existence ceased with the end of the code of conduct. The Senate then decided to move towards accepting the election results and making structural changes to ensure that such malpractices did not occur again.

<b>Item No. 16.</b>	To consider the Proposal to restructure the Ombudsgroup
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 17.</b>	To consider a proposal to start a Dual Degree programme in Entrepreneurship
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 18.</b>	To consider a proposal for Honours and Specialisations in Undergraduate programmes
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 19.</b>	To consider a proposal to increase the Gymkhana Fees
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 20.</b>	To consider modifications in the working of the SSAC
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 21.</b>	To consider the issue of accessibility in Gymkhana Festivals
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 22.</b>	To consider the proposal for the formation of an Analytics Hobby Group
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The item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting due to paucity of time.

<b>Item No. 23.</b>	To consider the ratification of names of students to the DUGC, HSS
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The ratification list was presented by the Chairperson Students' Senate and was approved by the Senate.

<b>Item No. 24.</b>	To Interview candidates for the post of Festival Coordinator, Techkriti'19
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The interview of Mr. Yazur Gupta was conducted on the floor of the Senate. The Chairperson Students' Senate provided 10 minutes for presentation followed by a Question and Answer session. The panel unanimously selected Mr. Yazur Gupta as the Festival Coordinator of Techkriti'19.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 am with a vote of thanks to all the members.