**Minutes: 3rd Special Meeting of the Students’ Senate, 25th September, 2016**

**The 2016-17/3rd Special Meeting of the Students’ Senate was held on Sunday, 25th September, 2016 in the Senate Hall, SAC.** **The meeting was called to order at 6:38PM by the Chairperson, Student’s Senate**

The following agenda items were taken up for consideration.

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| **Item No. 1** | To consider the issues with the functioning of the Chief Counsellor, Students' Gymkhana (Dean, Students' Affairs) |

The Chairperson presented the item on the floor of senate which was followed by a short note by the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS clarifying that the discussion from this meeting would be a learning experience for him, towards improving himself.

The senate highlighted the issues of misbehaviour with an artist by the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS during an event, to which no convincible answers were received.

The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS shared his personal views about the situation when students didn’t attend the class, and explained that in such situations the blame goes to gymkhana. Senate reminded DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS that no individual is “forced” to participate, and also agreed to the point that more initiatives can also be considered for spreading awareness among campus community to highlight the fact that participation is a voluntary.

The senate then discussed about the concerns of parents, which the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS dealt with and clarified to him that the Student Senate includes the decisions of every student and it is the lack of trust between parents and students which may be responsible for the false message to be sent to the parents regarding the negative impact of gymkhana on academics.

The senate raised another issue against the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS regarding the fact that he had made several measures to penetrate into the functioning of Student Senate and another point was noted that faculty advisors were left out of the rule. The DEAN answered that few rules have been changed and gave examples related to gymkhana account.

The senate clarified that the issue which the senate raises is with the ‘safety nets’ used by the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS and the incorporation of new levels of hierarchy like the inclusion of ADSA. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS answered that the new levels were put forth to ensure that the mistakes can be avoided. With reference to the booking of lecture halls, the dean pointed out that the faculty advisors and general secretaries needed to be aware of the activities conducted under them. The senate provided a recommendation to the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS in regard to festivals to consider either DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS or ADSA, rather than both, to be part of the hierarchy and mentioned that the philosophy of “Ease of Business” should be used to improve efficiency and ensure the smooth functioning of our activities.

The senate again reiterated the argument questioning the need of ADSA and pointed that the presence of two layers of hierarchy signifies the presence of 'safety nets'. The DEAN insisted that all the safety nets can’t be removed, though certain can be reframed to an extent.

The senate pointed out another issue that the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS hasn’t always followed the rules which have been made by him. The senate pointed out that at times when students approach the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS for help, there was a lack of awareness for certain proceedings. The senate pointed out the example where a former Chief Election Officer who was disregarded without proper procedures and gave a remark that if there is any complain, then proper procedure should be followed through the senate rather than directly executing an action and also pointed that being a student representative body, the senate is also answerable for its actions. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS accepted the allegation, and said that at times he would have broken some rules knowingly or unknowingly and pointed out that at times he had to take risks, in order to avoid a bigger problem.

The Senate pointed an instance where a ground near Hall-8 was not allowed for inferno and the general secretary was asked to take permission from faculty advisor, then SIS, then CS. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS explained that it was done because of the anti-ragging initiatives and explained that the guidelines were the same but just that they were not seriously enforced. The senate believed this approach was part of the ‘trust issues’ which the institute authorities had with the student community and asked for an explanation on the need of multiple permissions for a small event. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS explained that on few occasions he may would have been “over correct” which might have caused temporary problems.

The Senate reiterated the question on the need of hierarchies apart from being on the ‘safety net’ and identified the presence of hierarchies as part of the ‘trust issue’. DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS explained that sometimes he do have to take calls and if needed break the rules depending upon the circumstances. The senate recommended the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS about the reconsideration of these hierarchies and pointed out that these hierarchies only increased complications for the senate. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS assured that he will rethink on the recommendation but won’t comment on whether he will accept all the recommendations.

The Senate raised another issue that the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS wasn’t positive to new initiatives and only mentioned the shortcomings whenever they were proposed to him. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS explained that there is a negativity in public perception when things go wrong and his concerns are just to avoid such situations.

The Senate raised the issue faced by students who were a part of counselling service during the entry of fresher’s and pointed out that people were facing problems at that time and the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS was absent.

The Senate pointed out that on few occasions the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS acted on complains too selectively rather than treating all of them with equal concern. Reference to ragging and substance abuse initiatives was cited. DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS explained that sometimes he acts on issues, but doesn’t let others know what he is doing. The senate believed that the working should not be influenced by the causes one cares for, rather should be based on what one should be doing as the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS.

The President pointed out that the senate feels that the work done by the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS on anti-ragging issues had a substantial force which was not with the case in substance abuse. The senate expressed its disappointment in regard to the substance abuse issue. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS explained that both the issues are equally important and pointed that anti-ragging initiative started with posters but gradually they got the “penetration”. Senate expressed that it expects the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS to take action over such issues and questioned whether the student community can expect the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS to take them to the highest authorities. The dean expressed his support to take a stand for such issues in future.

The Chairperson expressed his discontent with regard to an incident related to decisions taken on the mailing list. The manner in which the decisions were taken on mailing list was questioned and it was stated that such mistakes are not ignorable. The dean expressed that he may not have perfect administrative skills and therefore he requested the senate to inform him in case if such issues were spotted in future.

The Senate discussed about the issue with the bills being charged without informing any student and pointed out that finance is the most critical issue which goes on in the senate and any mis-administration in its regard can be considered as a crime. The dean mentioned an instance where the finance convener didn’t sign a particular document. The senate stated that financial transactions should be managed carefully and mistakes should be avoided.

The Senate pointed out that even the other executives, chairperson and president himself are to take care to various activities and recommended the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS to reduce his burden of responsibilities. The president again re-iterated his question to the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS regarding the need of ADSA for lecture hall bookings and the senate suggested that work should be divided among ADSA and DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS. The dean explained that most of the time he is careful in that regard.

The senate raised a concern that the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS refrains from acting as a bridge between students and authorities. The President explained that three resolutions were passed on the issues concerning with the - CEO issue, hall-2 issue, health centre issue. The issue of the change in MCM rule which was taken in summer’16 was taken into account and at instances the credibility of gymkhana was questioned at various institute forums. Senate believed that the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS, didn’t took the stand at right time, which lead to sufferings for the student community. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS said that he was always present at the HC incident and agreed that he didn’t raise the issue in the academic senate it should not to be confused with whether he is working for the welfare of the students or not. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS expressed his concern and requested the senate to remind him if such impression prevails and he would take actions to prevent it from happening.

The President raised an issue that in april the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS took a major stand to get few students punished in the SSAC and expressed his concern that whenever required to take actions against students the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS acted more proactively. President conveyed that the community expects the same pro-activeness to be followed when the students are the real sufferers and not the institute

In regard to the budget allocation issue, the senate mentioned that the student community almost needs to “beg” in order to avail the money, and that sponsorships won’t be able to sustain the gymkhana very well in the near future as it needed to develop a reputation to attract sponsors, which will take time to build.

The meeting ended with the following concluding remarks. Senate requested to the DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS to interact more with Student Senate and to prevent a feeling of helplessness prevail among the student community. The DEAN OF STUDENTS’ AFFAIRS said that he would take initiatives and start working immediately on the issues discussed and requested the student community to help him in this process, correct him whenever he goes wrong, and to respond to his requests.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM of the same day by the Chairperson, Student’s Senate.**