**3rd (Special) Meeting of the Students’ Senate (2019-20): Minutes**

**The 2019-20/3rd (Special) Meeting of the Students’ Senate was held on Thursday, 29th August 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** | **Signature** |
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| 1. | Richeek Awasthi | Chairperson, Students’ Senate | Present |
| 2. | Rahul Sethi | Caretaker, President’s Office | Present |
| 3. | Jaspreet Singh | General Secretary, Games and Sports | Present |
| 4. | Abhigyan Verma | Caretaker, Media and Culture | Present |
| 5. | Abhigyan Verma | General Secretary, Science and Technology | Present |
| 6 | Rahul Sethi | UG Secretary, Academics & Career | Present |
| 7. | Shivam Kumar Gautam | PG Secretary, Academics & Career | Present |
| 8. | Abhishek Aryan | (Officiating)Finance Convener | Present |
| 9. | Yash Maheshwari | Parliamentarian, Students’ Senate | Present |
| 10. | Nikunj Kothari | Convener, CoSHA | Present |
| 11. | Bhanupratap Niranjan | BT/BS-MT/MS/MBA Y15 | Present |
| 12. | Anivesh Sahu | Senator, BT/BS Y16 | Present |
| 13. | Abhinav Arora | Senator, BT/BS Y16 | Absent |
| 14. | Vineet Kumar Singh | Senator, BT/BS Y16 | Present |
| 15. | Saqib Mohammed | Senator, BT/BS Y17 | Present |
| 16 | Shashi Shekhar | Senator, BT/BS Y17 | Present |
| 17. | Vatsalya Tandon | Senator, BT/BS Y17 | Present |
| 18. | Vineet Shukla | Senator, BT/BS Y17 | Absent |
| 19. | Ashutosh Bajpai | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Absent |
| 20. | Gurasheesh Singh | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present |
| 21. | Luvneesh Kumar | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present |
| 22. | Vedaant Sikka | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present |
| 23. | Kartikeya Dhakad | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present |
| 24. | Ramyata Sriniwas Pate | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present |
| 25. | Naiza Singla | Senator, BT/BS Y19 | Present |
| 26. | Pakshal Secretry | Senator, BT/BS Y19 | Present |
| 27. | Devansh Parmar | Senator, BT/BS Y19 | Present |
| 28. | Ankit Yogi | Senator, BT/BS Y19 | Present |
| 29. | Abhimanyu Sethia | Senator, BT/BS Y19 | Present |
| 30. | Avinash Bansal | Senator, BT/BS Y19 | Present |
| 31. | Ankit Yadav | Senator, BT/BS Y19 | Absent |
| 32. | Akshay Bajaj | Senator, MSR | Present |
| 33. | Vishal Sharma | Senator, MSR | Present |
| 34. | Sitanshu Nandan | MBA, MDes & other 2 year programmes Y17 | Absent |
| 35. | Suraj Sahab Jha | MBA, MDes & other 2 year programmes Y18 | Present |
| 36. | Aditya Gupta | MTech 2 year Y18 | Present |
| 37. | Ashish Ubana | MTech 2 year Y18 | Present |
| 38. | Akshay Kumar | MTech 2 year Y18 | Present |
| 39. | Motilal Meher | MTech 2 year Y18 | Present |
| 40. | Soham De Roy | MTech 2 year Y18 | Present |
| 41. | Vivek Prajapat | MTech 2 year Y19 | Present |
| 42. | Monark Prakashchandra Sutariya | MTech 2 year)Y19 | Present |
| 43. | Aditi Jublie | PhD Y16 and earlier batches (including MSc-PhD Y14) | Absent |
| 44. | Gokhale Nachiket Aashish | PhD Y18 (including MSc-PhD Y16) | Absent with Permission |

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 pm.

The following agenda items were taken up for consideration:

| **Item No. 1** | To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings:  i. 2019-20/2nd Meeting  ii. 2019-20/3rd Meeting |
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* The minutes of 2019-20/2nd Meeting were not completed due to some problem in the Students’ Senate Office and shall be itemized for the next meeting of the Student’s Senate.
* The minutes of 2019-20/3rd Meeting were presented and ratified on the floor of the Senate.

| **Item No. 2** | Announcements, Questions and Remarks, if any |
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The following announcements were made on the floor of the Senate:

1. The Chairperson informed the Senate that there will be an SSAC meeting on 31st August, 2019.
2. The General Secretary, Science and Technology informed the Senate that Team Humanoid performed very well in . They were also declared best in Basketball. They were the first team in India to qualify for the competition. Their trip was funded by the Alumni Association, IIT Kanpur.
3. The Women Cell nominee informed the Senate that there will be a session by Women Cell on Saturday 31st August, 2019 for the Students in which members of Media and Cultural Council and all the executives need to be present. He also informed that there will be a separate session for the executives as well in which all members of Students Gymkhana need to be present.
4. The General Secretary, Science and Technology informed the Senate that the Council is now in long term collaboration with BAARC India. The Chairperson congratulated the General Secretary on this achievement. The General Secretary also informed the Senate about the Inter IIT board meeting that was held on the 24th of August in which 22 out of 23 IITs took part. It was recommended in the meeting that Tech meet and Cult meet should no longer be Inter IIT. The dates for Inter IIT Tech Meet were decided upon as 20 to 22nd December, 2019. Moreover this time Inter IIT Tech meet will be combined with so the General Secretary suggested that E-Cell shall also be combined in the preparations.
5. The CoSHA convener informed the Senate that the shifting of the Masters Students to the new halls will start this weekend.
6. The UG Secretary, Academics & Career informed that the Council will be organising Research Fest and Career Fair inn which more than 30 institutions out of the top 100 institutes of India will be participating.
7. The Chairperson Students’ Senate informed the Senate that the elections for Hall 13 HEC will be held after midsem break.

| **Item No. 3** | To take note of decisions taken over the Mailing List |
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The Chairperson Students’ Senate informed the Senate that the names of Student nominees to SSAC and Student nominees to SUGC were sent over the mailing list.

| **Item No. 4** | To consider the reply of Senators to the Show-Cause Notice issued to them for not complying with the Attendance Rules  of Students' Senate |
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The Senate accepted the defence of Ms. Ramyata Pate to the show cause notice sent to her and allowed her to continue as Senator, BT/BS Y18.

| **Item No. 5** | To note the results of the Mid-term & By-Elections |
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The results for the Mid-term & By-Elections were announced by the Chairperson Students’ Senate on the floor of the Senate and were accepted by the Senate. Taking cognisance of the fact that NOTA had garnered a majority votes in the case of President Students Gymkhana and General Secretary, Media and Culture, Mr Rahul Sethi, UG Secretary, Academics and Career and Mr Abhigyan Verma, General Secretary, Science and Technology agreed to take up the role of Caretaker Presidents’ Office and Caretaker Media and Culture Council respectively.

The Chairperson informed the Senate about the malpractices in the elections and the fact that the GRC has recommended the cases to SSAC. The Chairperson assured the Senate that the minutes of the GRC meeting shall soon be forwarded over the mailing list.

| **Item No. 6** | To consider the Office Order dated 26/08/2019 issued by the DoSA office affecting the policies of the Students' Gymkhana  and consider the action to be taken thereof |
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The Office Order was presented on the floor of the Senate for consideration and the following points were noted:

* This Office Order concerned SSAC, an Academic Senate sub-committee. Any policy changes regarding the same should have gone through the Academic Senate.
* In an earlier version of The SSAC manual ban from Gymkhana activities was kept as separate level of punishment. Not allowing SSAC punishees to participate in these student activities is equivalent to punishing them till graduation.

On the lines of the aforementioned points the following Resolution was proposed by Mr. Abhishek Aryan Sinha:

The Students’ Senate in its 2019-20/3rd Special Meeting, addressed the issues pertaining to the Office Order ref DOSA/2019/OO/06/715 dated 26/08/19 regarding changes in the functioning of the SSAC (Senate Students’ Affairs Committee).

Citing the SSAC Manual, approved by the Academic Senate:

*“One of the duties assigned to SSAC is to look into the violations of the code of conduct by students and come up with recommendations that discourages such violations. This may at times necessitate corrective action by the committee. However, it should be kept in mind that corrective action is meant to act as a deterrent and Is aimed at making our students better citizens.”*

The Students’ Senate resolves that the mandate of SSAC should be to give recommendations which are meant to be reformative, in lieu of this, the implementation of this office order disallowing students to hold any position of responsibility in the Students’ Gymkhana will deprive the students who have redeemed themselves throughout the probation period, as these positions are essential for one’s co-curricular learning and not allowing to hold the same might also be detrimental for the mental well-being of the students in general as it would curtail their eligibility and discourage them to participate in various extracurricular activities if applied to each and every case, making the consequences of their offenses permanent.

The provision of disciplinary probation with the clause of disallowing students to hold any position of responsibility is already in place and may be used if felt necessary by the committee. Instead of increasing the punishment for every student as a baseline as per this office order, the members of SSAC should reserve the discretion to award appropriate action on a case to case basis.

Additionally, it is the opinion of the Students’ Senate that the office order implies a change to the current SSAC manual, and its implementation without being approved by the Academic Senate violates due procedure and undermines the authority of the Academic Senate as the highest decision-making body within the institute.

Following the Resolution, Mr. Akshay Bajaj, Senator MSR, proposed a Resolution against the housing policy for Masters Students adopted by the Dean, Student Affairs. The text of the Resolution was as follows:

The Students’ Senate in its 2019-20/3rd Special Meeting, addressed the issues that the General Body members and Gymkhana Office bearers are facing with the function of the Dean, Students’ Affairs. The issues are as follows:

The Dean, Students’ Affairs had initiated the eviction of Masters students who have been enrolled for more than two years in the institute and giving them less preference, for being “degree extended”, and later classified to be “program extended” students in the Hall Management Committee meeting held on 16th August, 2019; whereas no such description can be found in the current PG manual.

The students believe that it is the SPGC in-particular and the Academic Senate in-general which are the bodies held responsible to interpret the technicalities pertaining to issues of academic nature. The act of simultaneous interpretation in contradiction to the references of PG manual by any other institute functionary or a committee is not authorized as per the mandate of SPGC and hence is a subversion of its assigned domain. The students are of the opinion that any policy that differentiates amongst its subjects on factors not backed by formal documentation or without approval by an appropriate authority must not be implemented by any institute functionary or a committee.

Lastly, the opinions of the President, Students’ Gymkhana have not been taken into account while taking decisions within the HMC, nor were the agendas of the students solicited prior to the meetings.

**The Students’ Senate, therefore, resolves that the overall conduct of the DoSA has been detrimental to the well-being and academic autonomy of Masters Students. The Students’ Senate feels that the DoSA has overstepped the mandate of his office several times, lacked regard for the welfare of students and undermined the authority of the Academic Senate. It is requested that the Academic Senate discuss the implications of the DoSA bypassing the Academic Senate in defining several PG programmes and discriminating against Masters students on such basis for housing on campus. These measures by DoSA and ADHA have created a deep mistrust towards the administration within the PG community and therefore the Students’ Senate requests the Academic Senate to take action to rectify these issues immediately.**

| **Item No.7** | To consider the updated Ratification lists for Students' Gymkhana |
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The Ratification list of Presidents’ Office was deferred to the next meeting due to unavailability of the list.

| **Item No. 8** | To consider the Interim Reports of the Gymkhana Review Committee (GRC) |
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The following Reports of the Gymkhana Review Committee (GRC) were presented on the floor of the Senate:

1. Council Review Report - The Report was accepted by the Senate with the following changes:
   * The Pre-Conduction Reports of the GC events need to have just the outlines for the event. Details regarding the event can be decided upon the council.
   * It was recommended that the Summer Fees taken for Gymkhana activities must not be levied given the fact that Gymkhana Fees has increased increasing the budget and spending capacity of various clubs. The Senate opined that not collecting fees for summer activities could hamper the finances of Clubs. It was finally decided that a minimum possible amount will be charged as Summer Fees.
   * It was recommended that the council shall not organise any GC activity 10 days before the midsem. The Senate was of the view that this will result in losing a free weekend before the midsem and the Senate voted upon the cap to be 7 days.
   * The report recommended President Students’ Gymkhana to be part of the Council Core Meetings of various councils and gave him the power to overrule any decision of the Council. A Senator raised an issue with this and the matter was forwarded to the RPC for deliberation.
2. Senate Review Report - The Report was accepted by the Senate with the following changes:
   * It was decided by the Senate that the Senators shall be given access to the mailing lists of their respective batches as they are the representatives of their batch.
   * The report recommended to revive the Senate Samachar by Vox Populi to make the General Body aware of the proceedings of the Senate. The senate opined that given that the Students’ Senate Office already has a secretary for Media and Publicity, the task should be delegated through the Office.
   * The report recommended that mid-term and end-term manifesto reviews of Senators to be conducted in UGSAC and PGSAC. The Senate opined that the manifesto reviews be subjective and not a basis to evaluate a Senator.

| **Item No. 9** | To consider the proposal for discontinuing formals in Gymkhana Activities |
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This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 10** | To consider a review of the efficacy of Counselling Service |
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A Senator asked the Senate review the working of the Counselling Service. There were issues raised about the casual attitude of the Counsellors towards medication. Students were medicated even in the cases in which there was no medication needed. Moreover, the Counselling Service

also has a very casual attitude towards the privacy of the students. The Senate constituted a 5 member sub-committee to look into the matter and talk to Counselling Service regarding the same. The constitution of the committee is as follows:

1. Mr. Akshay Bajaj
2. Ms Ramyata Sriniwas Pate
3. Mr. Rhythm Pathak
4. Mr. Abhishek Aryan
5. Mr. Shubham

The sub-committee would have Counselling Service members and a PG female member as special invitees.

| **Item No. 11** | To consider the effect of compulsory Summer Registration for Post Graduate Programs in IIT Kanpur |
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This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 12.** | To consider the proposal to stop unnecessarily long Senate Meetings |
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A Senator raised the issue to stop unnecessarily long meetings on the floor of the Senate. The issue was discussed and forwarded to RPC for deliberation.

| **Item No. 13.** | To consider the interim report of the Fact-Finding Committee constituted to look into the misconduct of Senators |
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This item was deferred to the next meeting due to unavailability of report..

| **Item No. 14.** | To consider the Pre-Conduction Report of the General Championship |
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The Pre-Conduction Report of the General Championship was presented on the floor of the Senate. Concerns were raised regarding restricting students of Y16 and earlier batches to participate from their parent hall only. A Senator pointed out that the imposing restriction will be unfair for the Girls because of their small number as compared to other pools. According to the earlier practice these senior students used to help the Girls in GC events which would not be possible now. The Senate decided to remove this clause along with the clause of minimum 50% of students from the pool would be required in a team for any group event.

| **Item No. 15.** | To consider the Post-Conduction report of Mid-term & By-Elections |
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This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 16.** | To consider the Minutes of Rules and Procedures Committee |
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The minutes of the following meetings of the RPC were accepted by the Senate:

* 3rd Meeting 2019-20
* 1st (Special) 2019-20

The following issues were sent to the RPC for consideration:

* The issue with shifting Questions and Remarks to the end of the Order of Business was forwarded to RPC for discussion.
* The UG Secretary, Academics and Career proposed to change the post of UG/PG Secretary, Academics and Career to General Secretary, UG/PG. This was also forwarded to RPC for discussion.
* Following the resignation of Mr. Shashwat and the impeachment of Mr Divyansh Verma, the Antaragni team recommended the name of Mr. Krishna to take up the responsibility of Festival Coordinator, Antaragni’19. The RPC was requested to opine on the nomenclature of the post to be given to Mr. Krishna.
* The nomenclature to be given to Tier 2 Hobby groups was forwarded to RPC for discussion.

Additional Agenda Items for the 3rd (Special) Meeting 2019-20

| **Item No. 17.** | To consider the Vision Document of Community Welfare Cell |
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This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 18.** | To consider the Pre-Conduction Report of Takneek 2019 |
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The Pre-Conduction Report of Takneek 2019 was presented on the floor of the Senate. Concerns were raised regarding the appointment of Overall Coordinators as one of the primary visions behind the post of Associate Heads to also organise Council events like Takneek. The General Secretary, Science and Technology opined that the Associate Heads must be involved in a more visionary role for the Council and the executive work must be given to Overall Coordinators. The Senate opined that if executive role is being given to these individuals then they must be ratified as Organisers.

Concerns were also raised for not including finances in the Pre-Conduction Report. The General Secretary, Science and Technology assured to send the updated Pre-Conduction Report with the finance details included over the mailing list.

| **Item No. 19** | To consider the proposal for Department Societies |
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This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 am with a vote of thanks to all the members.

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