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

**The 2019-20/3rd Meeting of the Students’ Senate was held on Monday, 29th July, 2019 in the Senate Hall, SAC. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Students’ Senate at 8:31 PM.**

| **S. no.** | **Name** | **Post** | **Signature** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Richeek Awasthi | Chairperson, Students’ Senate | Present |
| 2. | Rhythm Pathak | (Officiating) President, Students’ Gymkhana | Present |
| 3. | Jaspreet Singh | General Secretary, Games and Sports | Present as nominee |
| 4. | Chitral Gupta | (Officiating) General Secretary, Media and Culture | Present as nominee |
| 5. | Abhigyan Verma | General Secretary, Science and Technology | Present as nominee |
| 6 | Rahul Sethi | UG Secretary, Academics & Career | Present as nominee |
| 7. | Arun Kumar Agarwal | PG Secretary, Academics & Career | Present |
| 8. | Abhishek Aryan | (Officiating)Finance Convener | Absent with permission |
| 9. | Yash Maheshwari | Parliamentarian, Students’ Senate | Present |
| 10. | Nikunj Kothari | Convener, CoSHA | Present |
| 11. | Maharishi Kumar | BT/BS-MT/MS/MBA Y15 | Absent |
| 12. | Prakhar Ji Gupta | BT/BS-MT/MS/MBA Y15 | Absent |
| 13. | Anivesh Sahu | Senator, BT/BS Y16 | Absent |
| 14. | Parth Chhaparwal | Senator, BT/BS Y16 | Absent |
| 15. | Rhythm Pathak | Senator, BT/BS Y16 | Present |
| 16. | Vineet Kumar Singh | Senator, BT/BS Y16 | Present as |
| 17. | Saqib Mohammed | Senator, BT/BS Y17 | Present |
| 18 | Shashi Shekhar | Senator, BT/BS Y17 | Present |
| 19. | Vatsalya Tandon | Senator, BT/BS Y17 | Present as nominee |
| 20. | Vineet Shukla | Senator, BT/BS Y17 | Present as nominee |
| 21. | Ashutosh Bajpai | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present as nominee |
| 22. | Gurasheesh Singh | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present |
| 23. | Luvneesh Kumar | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present |
| 24. | Naman Biyani | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Present\* |
| 25. | Ramyata Sriniwas Pate | Senator, BT/BS Y18 | Absent |
| 26. | Akshay Bajaj | Senator, MSR | Present |
| 27. | Vishal Sharma | Senator, MSR | Present |
| 28. | Viswadeep Ojha | MBA, MDes & other 2 year programmes Y17 | Present |
| 29. | Suraj Sahab Jha | MBA, MDes & other 2 year programmes Y18 | Present |
| 30. | Anil Bansal | MSc (2-year) Y18 (including MSc-PhD Y18) | Present |
| 31. | Aditya Gupta | MTech 2 year Y18 | Present |
| 32. | Akshay Kumar | MTech 2 year Y18 | Present |
| 33. | Motilal Meher | MTech 2 year Y18 | Present |
| 34. | Soham De Roy | MTech 2 year Y18 | Absent |
| 35. | Aditi Jublie | PhD Y16 and earlier batches (including MSc-PhD Y14) | Present |
| 36. | Shivam Kumar Gautam | PhD Y16 and earlier batches (including MSc-PhD Y14) | Present |
| 37. | Gokhale Nachiket Aashish | PhD Y18 (including MSc-PhD Y16) | Present |
| 38. | Sourima Chakraborty | PhD Y18 (including MSc-PhD Y16) | Absent |

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 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. 2019-20/1st (Vacation) Meeting |
| --- | --- |

* The minutes of 2019-20/2nd Meeting were not completed and shall be itemized for the next meeting of the Student’s Senate.
* The minutes of the 2019-20/1st (Vacation) Meeting were presented and ratified on the floor of the Senate.

| **Item No. 2** | Announcements, Questions and Remarks, if any |
| --- | --- |

The following announcements were made and questions were raised on the floor of the Senate -

* The Chairperson, Students’ Senate informed the Senate that the Senate had granted a loan to the Antaragni’18 team which is due on 16th August, 2019 as the Senate was apprised of the fact that Antaragni 2018 was facing a deficit of ₹4.3 Lakh. The Senate acknowledged the fact that the sponsorship of around Rs. 5 Lakhs was not received by Antaragni’18 causing them to go into a deficit of 4.3 Lakhs corresponding to the bills of VH and Allied Facilities.   
  The Senate decided that the if the Antaragni’18 core team is unable to repay the amount of ₹4.3 Lakh by the deadline of 16th August, the mentioned amount would be added in the No Dues of members of the Core Team who haven’t graduated and are currently registered as students of IIT Kanpur.   
  Moreover, the Senate decided that a clause should be added in the application process for future Core Team Applications regarding the fact if any Festival runs into deficit, the deficit amount would be added into the No Dues of the Core Team Members.
* The President, Students’ Gymkhana informed the Senate that the Gymkhana Week is planned to be conducted in the UG Y19 Halls viz. Hall 13 and GHT from 28th August to 1st July.
* Mr. Arun Kumar Agarwal, PG Secretary, Academics & Career informed the Senate that he will be resigning from his post as he will be finishing his academic program by 20th August, 2019. The Senate opined that by-elections for the post of PG Secretary, Academics & Career shall be conducted during the midterm and by-elections of Students’ Gymkhana.
* A Senator requested an update on the proposal for friendship benches. The President Students’ Gymkhana informed the Senate that no formal committee has been formed regarding the matter and assured the Senate to present an update till next Senate meeting after having a discussion on the matter with Deputy Director and Dean of Infrastructure and Planning.
* A Senator requested the Senate to present an update on the proposal to increase the number of street lights on the campus. The President, Students’ Gymkhana informed the Senate that the Deputy Director and Dean of Infrastructure and Planning are reluctant about this proposal as IIT Kanpur already has the highest electricity consumption among the other IITs. The President, Students’ Gymkhana assured the Senate to come up with a solution for the matter soon.
* A Senator inquired about the awareness drive to be conducted in Halls regarding First Aid and Health Insurance. The President, Students’ Gymkhana assured the Senate to take up the matter in the next CoSHA meeting.
* A Senator inquired about the reason why Personal Health Insurance was discontinued. The President, Students’ Gymkhana was asked to present an update on the same.
* The Senate requested an update from the Modal Constitution Committee on the drafting of the Modal Constitution. The committee assured the Senate to present an update in the next Senate meeting.
* A Senator pointed out the issue of lack of supporting documents as attachments on listed agenda items, to which the Chair clarified that the agenda items which are lacking supporting item are requested over the email to be attached as regular items. And in case someone submits their agenda item after the deadline, that agenda item is listed as an additional items. It was further decided that if for the future meetings, if any agenda item’s supported item is not submitted, then it would be mentioned in the list of Agenda as “Not Submitted”.

| **Item No. 3** | To take note of decisions taken over the Mailing List |
| --- | --- |

There were concerns raised over the Hall Allocation Policy over the mailing list. The Chair informed the Senate that an Emergency CoSHA Meeting was called on 22nd July and the minutes of the Emergency meeting are to be discussed as a separate agenda item.

| **Item No. 4** | To report the actions taken on the decisions on the Students' Senate 2019-20 |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 5** | To consider the updated Ratification lists for Students' Gymkhana |
| --- | --- |

The Ratification lists for the following were presented on the floor of the Senate:

1. Games and Sports Council - Concerns were raised on the minimum CPI criteria not being satisfied by some of the names in the Ratification list and there were also some typographical errors in the list. The Senate didn’t accept the Ratification list and its was deferred back to the Games and Sports Council.
2. Media and Cultural Council - The (Officiating) General Secretary, Media and Culture presented the list for ratification and the same was accepted by the Senate.
3. Science and Technology Council - The report was presented by General Secretary Science and Technology and was accepted by the Senate,
4. Academics and Career Council - The Senate accepted the Ratification list for Academics and Career Council without any changes.
5. President's Office - Concerns were raised that the ratification list for President's Nominees to Various Committees didn’t specify which student was the nominee of which particular committee, and the general body won’t know who is on which committee. Hence the Senate didn’t accept the Ratification List and it was deferred back and it was asked that the next list of nominees shared by the President's Office for ratification should have mention of the particular committee.
6. Students' Senate Office - The Senate accepted the Ratification list for Students' Senate Office without any changes.

| **Item No. 6** | To consider the election of the members of the following standing committees and councils of the Students’ Senate: i. Finance Committee |
| --- | --- |

The elections for Finance Committee were held successfully and the following members were elected:

1. Mr. Yash Maheshwari, Senator BT/BS Y17
2. Mr. Shitij Singh, General Body Member
3. Mr. Bhavesh Saxena, General Body Member

| **Item No.7** | To consider the Post-Conduction Report of Techkriti '18 |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 8** | To consider the Interim Reports of the Gymkhana Review Committee (GRC) |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 9** | To consider the End Term Reports and Vision Documents of Cells |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 10** | To consider the post conduction report of Takneek 2018 |
| --- | --- |

The report was presented on the floor of the Senate and concerns were raised regarding the differing amounts of money spent by different pools. It was decided on the floor of the Senate that equal amounts should be taken up the pools. The report was passed without any changes.

| **Item No. 11** | To consider the post conduction report of Udghosh '18 |
| --- | --- |

The post conduction report of Udghosh '18 was presented on the floor of the Senate. A Senator raised the recommendation that instead of uploading the Finance Report, it should be uploaded as an Excel Sheet so that can go through the financial data more comprehensively.   
The Chair also informed the Senate that a lot of managers have presented grievances regarding their bill not being cleared by the Core Team of Gymkhana festivals. Hence, it was decided that the Student Bills are to be paid and cleared by the Core Team Members only and the Managers shouldn’t pay the bills on behalf of the Festivals.   
The Chair then informed the President to pass on these two recommendations of Senate to the COFA to implement them in all the Gymkhana Festivals.

| **Item No. 12.** | To consider the vision document for Academics and Career Council |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to the unavailability of the document.

| **Item No. 13.** | To consider the Expenditure Report of the amount allocated to teams under the Science and Technology |
| --- | --- |

Mr. Abhigyan Verma, General Secretary, Science and Technology informed the Senate verbally about the Expenditures of amounts allocated to teams under the Science and Technology

on the floor of the Senate. A Senator requested the Expenditure Report to be either presented in the Senate or to be sent over the mailing list, to which the General Secretary, Science and Technology assured the Senate that the report will be presented on the Senate mailing list within 24 hours.

| **Item No. 14.** | To consider the proposal for reformation of Departmental Societies |
| --- | --- |

The proposal for reformation of Departmental Societies was presented on the floor of the Senate. A Senator suggested that any student, irrespective of the department, must be allowed to be a part of any Departmental Society. The Senate directed the Academics and Career Council to float a feedback form for the report amongst the General Body Members and present the revised report on the floor of the Senate before presenting it in the UGSAC and PGSAC.

| **Item No. 15.** | To consider the Proposal to restructure the Ombudsgroup |
| --- | --- |

The Proposal to restructure the Ombudsgroup was presented on the floor of the Senate with seven recommendations. The following recommendations were accepted by the Senate:

* It is strongly recommended that the Chairperson/Convener of the committee should be a retired professor so that the group functions in a neutral manner.
* The Ombudsgroup should conduct various events to sensitize the community and should maintain an active liaison amongst the students, faculty members, and staff.
* It is recommended to the Counselling Services to have a session with the Ombudsperson during the orientation to make the students aware about the existence of such a group at the very initial stage.

| **Item No. 16.** | To consider a proposal to consider a Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for Differently-Abled Students in SPO exams. |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 17.** | To consider the proposal for discontinuing formals in Gymkhana Activities |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 18.** | To consider a review of the efficacy of Counselling Service |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 19** | To consider the effect of compulsory Summer Registration for Post Graduate Programs in IIT Kanpur |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 20.** | To consider the proposal to stop unnecessarily long Senate Meetings |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 21.** | To consider the Journalism Ethics Document for Vox Populi |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 22.** | To consider the interim report of the Fact-Finding Committee constituted to look into the misconduct of Senators |
| --- | --- |

The report was not presented as the Convener, Fact-Finding Committee was terminally ill and was not present on the Campus. So, he had been unable to call meetings of the Committee. The Senate decided to replace the Convener and Mr Richeek Awasthi, Chairperson, Students’ Senate was appointed as the new Convener of the Fact-Finding Committee.

| **Item No. 23.** | To consider the proposal to form the Rubik's Cube Club |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 24.** | To consider the Vision Documents of Festivals |
| --- | --- |

The Vision Documents of Festivals were presented on the floor of the Senate. The Chairperson Students’ Senate pointed out that the Vision Documents must be about the specific version of each Festival not in general. The Vision Documents were deferred back with the recommendation that the vision document of every year should be presented and not a general document.

| **Item No. 25.** | To consider the proposal by the Women's Cell for a relationship policy on Romantic or Sexual Relationships Between Individuals in Positions of Authority and Students/Employees of the Institute. |
| --- | --- |

The Students’ Senate considered the draft proposal by Womens’ Cell for a policy on Romantic or Sexual Relationships Between Individuals in Positions of Authority and Students/Employees of the Institute and the following observations were made, corresponding to different sections of the report:

* Preamble:
  + Reasons for the Policy- The Senate was of the unanimous opinion that the abuse of power/conflict of interest envisioned in the proposal need not necessarily be just in the case of romantic/sexual relationships, A stakeholder may be biased against a certain individual just on the virtue of knowing them.
  + Summary of the Policy - It was apprised that given that there are quite a few Postgraduate Students continuing their education as a Research Assistant, a position which is classifiable as a Project Staff, and there being considerable interaction with these students with UnderGraduate students, prohibiting them to be in a relationship with UnderGraduate Students can be re thought.
* Examples and Possible Consequences of Relationships Covered by the Policy: It was pointed out on the floor of the Senate that the Student Representatives of the Counselling Service cannot be labelled as counselors, as done in the Report, as the students are not the actual Counselors.
* Details of Policy to be Implemented:
  + Definitions for the Policy- The Senate also requested the Women’s Cell to give clarification on the term ‘elected office bearers of the Students Gymkhana’ used in the report. There are several posts in Students’ Gymkhana which are filled by individuals elected in some form, ie.. Senators elected by their respective batches, Senate Office Bearers elected by the Students’ Senate, Gymkhana Executives elected by the General Body. Not all these positions are in a position of authority at a level mentioned in the Report. The Senate requested clarification on the positions to be included in the scope of this policy. The Senate also sought clarification on the definition of a Romantic/Sexual Relationship, with terms like ‘reasonable boundaries of professionalism’ used in the policy, the Senate felt that the definition of a Romantic/Sexual Relationship was not clear and could be misinterpreted later.
  + Policy:
    1. Relationships with UG Students- The Senate requested the Patron, Students Gymkhana to clarify the cases under which this section of the policy comes into effect, considering the fact that a number of Research Assistants hired as Project Staff.
    2. Categories of Relationships Requiring Mandatory Disclosure- The Senate felt that given the “*non-academic authority or broad authority*” is a term open to interpretation, only students having the responsibilities in clause II(A).4 be required to declare relationships with other students. Given the concerns raised by the Senators on the privacy of this declaration, and an apprehension to take up these positions for the same reason, it was suggested that the possibility of having a General Declaration signed by students in all other positions of “*non-academic authority or broad authority*” can be explored.
    3. Disclosure of Romantic or Sexual Relationship- The Senate recommended that the confidentiality of all disclosures must be given prime importance, to avoid a breach of privacy. It was recommended that the disclosures should only be given to the Head, Women’s Cell and the Presiding Officer of the ICC.
    4. Recusal Plans by Authority Concerned- The Senate recommended that the recusals should be kept as confidential as possible and the privacy of the Stakeholders should be of paramount importance. A Senator suggested including a clause for protecting the right to privacy of stakeholders.
* **Bibliography -** A Senator noted that all the policies referred to in the Bibliography are centered around relationships between faculty and students. Relationships between students was not given a major focus. The Senate felt that given that the Student Office Bearers are in a representative role, rather than an authoritative role, there can be some relaxation in the policy for Student Office Bearers.

| **Item No. 26.** | To consider the Pre-Conduction Report of the General Championship |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to the unavailability of the report.

| **Item No. 27.** | To consider the minutes of the Councils of Students' Senate |
| --- | --- |

The minutes of the following meetings were presented on the floor of the Senate for ratification:

* 1st Special Meeting of CoFA(2019-20) - The minutes were presented by the Chairperson, CoFA and were accepted by the Senate.
* 1st Emergency Meeting of CoSHA - The draft minutes were presented on the floor of the Senate. Concerns were raised on the Hall Allocation Policy of Postgraduate students for the year 2019-20 in which 3rd year MSR students were considered degree extended. The Senate suggested that the Academic Senate should opine that the 3rd year MSR students are degree extended or not before forwarding the concern to HMC. The Senate suggested that there must be transparency between the data about the availability of rooms and the student admission data between the Counselling Service, CoSHA and HMC and hence it was asked from the CoSHA Convener that a new transparent mechanism be developed in order to improve the efficiency of the Hall Allocation Policy.  
  It was pointed out that the Hall Allocation Policy should be dynamic as well as more comprehensive and detailed, as the Senate found the present version of the Hall Allocation Policy lacking some information. The President, Students’ Gymkhana was asked to direct the Senate nominees to CoSHA to present this in the next meeting of CoSHA.

| **Item No. 28.** | To consider the proposal for the formation of a Psy-Phi Hobby Group |
| --- | --- |

The proposal for the formation of a Psy-Phi Hobby Group was presented on the floor of the Senate. The Senate directed the proposer to organise activities, maybe in collaboration with Science Coffee House and Book Club and depending on the participation in these, decision for the formation of a Psy-Phi Hobby Group shall be made.

| **Item No. 29.** | To Interview candidates for the post of Festival Coordinator, Techkriti'20 |
| --- | --- |

The following candidates were considered for the post of Festival Coordinator, Techkriti'20:

1. Mr. Vishal Kumar

The Senate accepted his nomination and appointed him the Festival Coordinator, Techkriti'20

| **Item No. 30.** | To consider the issue of Summer Stay faced by the Councils |
| --- | --- |

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to paucity of time.

| **Item No. 31.** | To consider the Pre-Conduction Report of Aagaz '19 |
| --- | --- |

The Pre-Conduction Report of Aagaz '19 was presented on the floor of the Senate. Concerns were raised as no nominations were called for the posts of Managers or House Captains. The General Secretary, Games and Sports clarified that Aagaz '19 is neither a GC event nor a replacement of Inferno. It is an event conducted by the Games and Sports Council. The report was accepted without any changes.

| **Item No. 32.** | To consider for Ratification the names of students for Inferno '19 |
| --- | --- |

The Ratification list for Inferno’19 was presented on the floor of the Senate and was accepted by the Senate without any changes.

| **Item No. 33.** | To consider the De-Ratification of Core Team Members from Councils |
| --- | --- |

The Chairperson, Students’ Senate directed the General Secretary, Science and Technology to discuss the De-Ratification of Mr. Faizan Siddiqui, Coordinator, Robotics Club in the Council Core Meeting and present the final decision on the floor of the Senate.   
The De-Ratification of Mr. Hrishikesh Dutta, Coordinator, Fine Arts Club and Mr. Pankaj Kumar, Coordinator, Hindi Sahitya Sabha from Media and Cultural Council Core Team was accepted by the Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 am with a vote of thanks to all the members.