

Interim report of the Gymkhana Review Committee (GRC)

The GRC has had several meetings as well as an open house to discuss issues pertaining to freshers' interaction, activities, and their schedule etc. In this regard the GRC has come up with a proposal for consideration regarding the gymkhana calendar having the following salient features.

- 1) Apart from the 5 day orientation period which is conducted every year for the incoming batch, there will be an "Extended Orientation Period". This will consist of several sessions conducted by a collaboration of the Counselling Service and the Students' Gymkhana, such as sessions regarding personality development, sessions regarding awareness about academics, student activities, research opportunities, departments etc. This will extend for a total period of ~16 days in total.
- 2) Until the Mid Semester examinations, all activities involving participation of first years will be restricted as far as possible to the days Monday to Thursday. These days will be used for conducting the activities regarding the "Extended Orientation Period". Activities regarding involvement of first years will be conducted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- 3) The period for any inter-hall festivals is proposed to be not more than 4 days. If introductory lectures or workshops are required for inter-hall festivals, then they too shall preferably not extend beyond the period of one weekend.
- 4) It is believed by the GRC that the calendar being proposed will involve far lesser direct involvement of the first yearites, and will ensure that the freshers will have sufficient time to get themselves acquainted with campus, understand the academic system, make themselves aware of the requirements for examinations in the Institute, etc. This would also promote a better culture among the first year students, and the GRC believes that this would ensure a change of culture in the incoming batches, and would also indirectly help in addressing other issues such as low attendance etc.

The calendar being proposed has been thought out by the GRC after several meetings of not only the GRC, but also several ad-hoc committees formed within the GRC, and an Open House discussion, where views were taken from several general body members. Meetings have also been held by the GRC along with the General Secretaries, and their opinion and wisdom has been added to help in the formulation of the calendar.

The calendar proposed by the GRC is attached along with this document.

The GRC is also working on several other issues, and will be submitting more interim reports in the future for the consideration of the senate.