



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR

STUDENTS' GYMKHANA

UG- STUDENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL

2021-22

The 1st Vacation Meeting of the council was scheduled at 9:00 PM, 12th December 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 PM, 12th December 2021.

The following members of the Council were present actively:

- Mr. Vedaant Sikka (President, Students' Gymkhana)
- Ms. Maryam Khan (Convener, UG-SAC)
- Mr. Utkarsh Gupta (General Secretary, Science & Technology Council)
- Ms. Shloka Patil (General Secretary, Academics and Career Council)
- Mr. Animesh Singh (Acting General Secretary, Games & Sports Council)
- Ms. Rishika Saraswat (Nominee to the Chairperson, Student's Senate)
- Mr. Saurav Suman (Senator, Y19)
- Mr. Parteek (Senator, Y20)

The following attendees were also present:

- Mr. Ghulam Farooqui
- Mr. Bidyut Roy
- Mr Prankansh Mishra

The agenda for the meeting was to constructively discuss the process and the team for reviewing the legislative members of the Students' Senate. The document which acted as a framework to be built upon after further modification was circulated to the senate list over mail.

The meeting initiated with the Convener, UG-SAC giving a detailed overview of the document which was circulated over the senate list along with the agenda. It consisted of a framework which was to be built upon, primarily housing the following information to be agreed upon-

- Constitution of the the reviewing panel
- Procedure to be followed
- Parameters for judging

Ms. Rishika Saraswat, the nominee to the Chairperson, Student's Senate suggested the following parameters to judge while reviewing a senator.

- Number of initiatives and accepted proposals
- Contribution to subcommittees and its individual initiatives
- Contribution to the ongoings in the campus for student welfare

- Taking up of additional posts in the Gymkhana as a senator

She concluded by exclaiming that the flexibility of adding new points should be given to the panel members.

Following this, Mr. Saurav Suman, Senator, BT-BS Y19 talked about the reviewing process suggesting that everybody including the GBM must be involved.

Then, Mr. Parteek, Senator BT-BS Y20 put forth his concern about the difficulty to judge proposals like the mental health proposal brought up this year in the Senate by the Chairperson, Student's Senate and Mr. Rohit Kejriwal, Senator, BT-BS Y19.

As an answer to this, the Ms. Shloka Patil, General Secretary, UG Academics and Career Council explained that it can be judged based on the impact it has brought, the amount of implementation completed.

Concluding this discussion about the parameters, the Convener, UG-SAC began the discussion on the composition of the reviewing panel.

Mr. Utkarsh, General Secretary, Science and Technology Council, commented on the last point of the reviewing panel, namely "Senators in batch senior to the Senator's batch who is being currently reviewed" saying that it wouldn't be feasible and appropriate to decide which seniors should be involved.

Ms. Shloka Patil, General Secretary, UG Academics and Career Council pointed out that the procedure should start in advance with the reports of the senators circulated to the reviewing panel beforehand, and the calling of meeting after that, with further comments on what she said by Mr. Vedaant Sikka, President, Students Gymkhana.

Following this, Mr. Saurav Suman, Senator, BT-BS Y19, Saurav suggested to remove the panel as a whole, and instead follow a process like the soapbox where the General Body Members will also be called.

On this, Mr. Vedaant Sikka, President, Students Gymkhana commented that this is not needed to call the GBM, as it would lead to a much tedious process. He expressed his further concerns on the matter that in case if the senator is reported not to be appropriate by the Reviewing Panel, the Chairperson, Student's Senate would send a mail to the Senate notifying the same. He also commented that the document to be submitted by the senators need not be of a single page, but should be kept brief. Further, he exclaims his concern on the point that in case we follow the method of including senior members in the reviewing panel, how could the same be applied for the senators of the senior most batches.

Mr. Utkarsh, General Secretary, Science and Technology Council, also agreed with this idea of removing the last point of the reviewing panel with support that the Senior most batch senators may not be the most experienced. Diverting the discussion to the case of a senator not being able to explain him/herself, he talked about the actions that could be taken like a warning or publicly deratified.

Following this, Mr. Vedaant Sikka, President, Students Gymkhana, suggested that one should finalise the panel first, specifically removing the last point, then decide on the warning. However, the most important discussion remains the parameters to judge.

In response to this unanimous vote against the last point, the Convener, UG-SAC removed the last point from the list of panelists.

Recontinuing his discussion, Mr. Vedaant Sikka, President, Students Gymkhana suggested that the Convener, UG-SAC must call a meeting for the senators to be given warning, which the panel feels.

Adding to his point, Mr. Utkarsh, General Secretary, Science and Technology Council advised to send the names of such senators on the senate list when announcing the meeting.

The Convener, UG-SAC in order to finalise the parameters, called for a final discussion to which Mr. Vedaant Sikka, President, Students Gymkhana responded that the senators may present something like the end term report which is in practice for the executives. The criterias given by Ms. Rishika Saraswat, the nominee to the Chairperson, Student's Senate can be included.

Following this, Mr. Saurav Suman, Senator, BT-BS Y19 reemphasized on how to judge based on the criterias given and what should be done as a warning.

To this, Mr. Utkarsh, General Secretary, Science and Technology Council suggested that one can calculate the scores using the responses to a google form floated for the same which could aid in gathering the extent of public involvement and the effectiveness of proposals.

Mr. Vedaant Sikka, President, Students Gymkhana suggested the entire procedure to be as follows: The senators will be required to present their report in a UG-SAC meeting, following which they'll be questioned by the panel first, succeeded by the floor being open to the General Body Members. The reviewing panel will vote if required. For their convenience, the end term report of the senators will be sent 24 hrs before the meeting along with the agenda items.

Mr. Prakansh Mishra, then suggested to exclude the Convener, UG-SAC from the voters, aligning with what happens in the CoFA. This was then decided to be modified after a discussion with the Chairperson, Student's Senate, and the President, Student's Gymkhana. Later after the meeting, on this topic it was discussed that the Convener, UG-SAC should be a member of the reviewing panel and voters. Convener, CoFA is from the GBM and is not an elected position, while UG-SAC convener is a senator elected by the GBM. Hence, CoFA is very different from the UG-SAC in this case. Since voting powers in the UG-SAC has not been defined in the constitution, instead of merely aligning it with a different council, one should focus on specific needs of the UG-SAC, the most important one being the Senator Review process.

Mr. Utkarsh, General Secretary, Science and Technology Council suggested that this process can be brought to action from this year itself.

Mr. Prakansh Mishra, reinitiated the discussion on what happens in the case of a warning given to the senator, to which Mr. Vedaant Sikka, President, Students Gymkhana suggested that deratifying a senator could be one, and insisted that further discussions be made on the same.

Mr. Prakansh Mishra suggested that one can forward it to the Students' Senate, and the other batch senators could vote, however Mr. Utkarsh, General Secretary, Science and Technology Council voted against this process stating that, a senator is elected by his/her own batch and hence cannot interfere in voting matters of other batches.

Mr. Vedaant Sikka, President, Students Gymkhana suggested that this should be decided after a talk with the Chairperson and the Parliamentarian, Students' Senate .

The Convener, UG-SAC, concluded the discussion by saying that this process is expected to hold true to what it's meant for, it should not be implemented for current batches, as they may give biased opinions based on their conflict of interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 10: 34 PM with the intention to meet again after discussion with the President and the Chairperson.