



**Students' Senate (2022-23)**  
**Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**  
**Sanidhya Rathore | Chairperson**



**The 2022-23/2<sup>nd</sup> (Special) Meeting of the Students' Senate was held on Sunday, 15th August 2022 in offline mode at the Senate Hall, New SAC. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Students' Senate at 9:00 PM.**

**Members in attendance:**

Sr. no.	Name	Post	Signature
1	Sanidhya Rathore	Chairperson, Students' Senate	Present
2	Rohit Kejriwal	President, Students' Gymkhana	Present
3	Som Vishwas Tambe	General Secretary, Science and Technology	Present
4	Ghanshyam Waindeshkar	General Secretary, Media and Culture	Present
5	Animesh Singh	General Secretary, Games and Sports	Present
6	Manit Ajmera	General Secretary (UG), Academics and Career	Present*
7	Prashant Kumar Mishra	Parliamentarian, Students' Senate	Present
8	Abhiraj Akhouri	Senator BT/BS Y21	Present
9	Kushagra Gupta	Senator BT/BS Y21	Absent



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10	Nitin Garhwal	Senator BT/BS Y21	Present
11	Prachi Choudhary	Senator BT/BS Y21	Present
12	Ritam Acharya	Senator BT/BS Y21	Present
13	Sahil Panjwani	Senator BT/BS Y21	Present
14	Sharvani Uday Jadhav	Senator BT/BS Y21	Present*
15	Srijan Kumar	Senator BT/BS Y21	Present
16	Kanhaiya Kumar	Senator BT/BS Y20	Absent
17	Kshiteesh Bharadwaj	Senator BT/BS Y20	Present
18	Harsh Ranjan	Senator BT/BS Y20	Present
19	Parteek	Senator BT/BS Y20	Present
20	Prem Milind Gujrathi	Senator BT/BS Y20	Present*
21	Shantanu Sirothia	Senator BT/BS Y20	Present*
22	Sheeshram Choudhary	Senator BT/BS Y20	Present



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23	Akash Kumar	Senator BT/BS Y19	Present
24	Akash Patel	Senator BT/BS Y19	Present
25	Avinash Vishwakarma	Senator BT/BS Y19	Present*

26	Ganta Srujit Reddy	Senator BT/BS Y19	Absent
27	Romit Mohanty	Senator BT/BS Y19	Absent
28	Utkarsh Jain	Senator BT/BS Y19	Present
29	Bhavesh Nehete	Senator MTech (2-year) Y21	Absent
30	Drumil Ashokbhai Bhalani	Senator MTech (2-year) Y21	Absent
31	Mohd Kashif	Senator MTech (2-year) Y21	Present
32	Shivam Saini	Senator MTech (2-year) Y21	Absent
33	Srikanta Panigrahi	Senator MTech (2-year) Y21	Present



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34	Harsh Mirani	Senator MSR	Present*
35	Khushbu Kishnani	Senator MSR	Present*
36	Akhil Singh	Senator MBA/MDes and other 2 year programmes Y21	Present
37	Ankul Kumar	Senator PhD Y19 and earlier batches	Present
38	Baban	Senator PhD Y19 and earlier batches	Present
39	Manmeet Kaur	Senator PhD Y19 and earlier batches	Absent
40	Neha Sharma	Senator PhD Y20 (Including MSc-PhD Y17)	Absent
41	Rijin Rajan	Senator PhD Y20 (Including MSc-PhD Y17)	Absent
42	Vijaya Mishra	Senator PhD Y20 (including MSc-PhD Y17)	Present
43	Aman Sharma	Senator PhD Y21 (including MSc-PhD Y18)	Absent

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



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The following agenda items were taken up for consideration:

Item No. 1	To confirm the Minutes of the 1st (Regular) Meeting of Students' Senate 2022-23
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The minutes were passed without any discrepancy.

Item No. 2	Recommendations of Gymkhana Awards Committee 2021-22
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- The Chairperson, Students' Senate presented the Senate the Recommendations of Gymkhana Awards Committee for the year 2021-22.
- The recommendations were noted by the Senate without any discrepancy.

Item No. 3	Pre-conduct report of Mid-term and By-Election
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The Chief Election officer presented the Pre-Conduct report of the Mid-term and By-Elections.

A senator asked for clarification regarding the selection criteria for the members of the Grievance Redressal Committee(GRC) and the Appellate Grievance Redressal Committee(AGRC). The President, Students' Gymkhana clarified that the Chairperson, Students' Senate is always a member of the committee. He further explained that the names are suggestion based. In case, there is an issue with any particular name, that could be addressed. The senator asked clarification upon why a particular member was included in the committee, which was later clarified by the Chairperson, Students' Senate. The President, Students' Gymkhana further stated that the set of possible options is large, thus for practical purposes the Senate can only discuss about inclusion of a particular member if someone has any contentions to that member.

A senator argued that the major area of contention in the Code of Conduct was regarding the definition of public places. The President, Students' Gymkhana clarified that a set of places are defined for campaigning officially. If the Election Commission doesn't know of the campaigning session, the content would be subjective. So, in a broader light, the mentioning of the public places clause in the Code of Conduct is an additional right given to a campaigner in their favour.

A senator asked for clarification if two clauses of the Code of Conduct contradict, then the violation in the case will not be punishable. The President, Students' Gymkhana clarified the same.

A senator raised apprehensions about the clash of a hall-level election with the general elections, to which the President, Students' Gymkhana requested the Chief Election Officer to look into the matter.



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A senator requested for clarification on section 4, clause 9 of the Code of Conduct, which refers to the prohibition of campaigning done room to room, saying that it can also mean that any one-to-one person talks can be considered a violation of this clause. To this, the Chief Election Officer responded that there are chances of anti-campaigning in such cases which the Election Commission cannot monitor. She further added that such actions create problems for the residents as there will be multiple people coming and campaigning in their rooms. The Parliamentarian raised a point that the clause is unnecessary as these issues are very subjective and also that there are many instances when monitoring cannot be done such as WhatsApp texting, but that doesn't mean that the use of WhatsApp is prohibited. The President, Students' Gymkhana responded to this by clarifying that WhatsApp was not allowed before the pandemic. Additionally, he said that such clauses are used as a blanket to safeguard the rights of the campaigners. He explained that removal of the clause will allow students to complain falsely about the candidates they do not prefer. The presence of this clause provides a demarcation that allows the Senate to have a fair idea of where it is a permissible election. The president concluded the argument by saying that the purpose of the Code of Conduct is to provide countermeasures, not counter suggestions to how to violate it.

Furthermore, a clarification on the definition of a closed room was asked. It was clarified that campaigning should be a public place. The Chairperson, Students' Senate also added that closed rooms also include rooms of clubs etc. An apprehension was raised about a General Body Member recording a candidate after inviting them themselves. The President, Students' Gymkhana stated that the clause was exactly for preventing false cases like these.

Furthermore, a senator argued about the possibility of a situation in which a student saves the proof of violation of the Code of Conduct by a candidate and only submits it to the EC on the last day of the campaigning period. To this, the President, Students' Gymkhana replied that the Election Commission will only take action after verifying the time of recording of the proof and taking the consent of all parties involved. The Chief Election Commissioner added that actions are only taken after a thorough investigation and interrogation. It was also told that keeping proof from the Election Commission is also a violation of the Code of Conduct and that the person submitting the proof late might also be penalised. The senator argued that the Election Commission should have countermeasures to prevent such cases and not just penalise the candidate like cancelling the nomination. On further discussion, The President, Students' Gymkhana added that cancellation of nomination requires a violation of high severity. The Chief Election Officer also added that in case a proof is submitted 10 days after a violation, the proof will be considered and further action will be taken if the candidate has a history of multiple violations. The Chairperson, Students' Senate clarified that proper investigation is done before penalising a candidate. The President, Students' Gymkhana also added that the Code of Conduct covers all kinds of possibilities and even corner cases like these.

A senator asked for clarification on section 4 clause 12 which states that a sympathiser of a candidate cannot physically campaign for them. After some discussion, the Chairperson requested the Chief Election Officer to remove the clause from the Code of Conduct.

A senator asked for clarification on the violations which are done before the implementation of the Code of Conduct. The President, Students' Gymkhana clarified that the Election Commission will take up the



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proof after it is deemed permissible. It was added that it is more about the severity of the violation than the status of implementation of the Code of Conduct providing various examples. It is mostly up to the Election Commission on how to deal with such violations. A senator added that there might be a possibility that the violation despite being done before the implementation of the Code of Conduct, may have implications on the voting day, which is why the Election Commission must handle such cases.

A senator asked for clarification on the use of social media in campaigning. The Chief Election Officer replied that the official handles of the Election Commission on Instagram and Facebook will be used for campaigning and that the Election Commission has yet to reconsider many things in this context. The Election Commission has yet to discuss this with the candidates per the gravity of campaigning and the issues faced.

A senator again raised concerns about penalising for cases before the implementation of Code of Conduct. After a rigorous discussion in the Senate, the President, Students' Gymkhana stated that the elections can only start after it is permitted by the Election Commission and starting early causes partiality and gives a strong preference to the first movers. Thus the violations before the implementation of the Code of Conduct are as important to address. President, Students' Gymkhana further clarified that in case of any violation, the candidate can reappeal to the AGRC and GRC. He further asked to keep a trust on the revered members of the committee like the Dean of Student Affairs.

The senator further asked about the minutes of the Senate meet involving impeachment of previous Chief Election Officer. The President Students' Gymkhana explained the technical error caused by zoom and the measures taken to extract the recording of the meetings. He further emphasised that the delay is caused due to an external company. He also ensured that on receiving the recording, minutes will be made available to the Senate.

Item No. 4	Elections: Council and Committee Conveners, Students' Senate 2022-23
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Elections for the post of Convener, Council of Festival Affairs (CoFA) 2022-2023 were held. The candidates presented their manifesto for the post, followed by questions from panel and General Body Members. This was followed by voting in which Akash Patel gathered majority of votes and got elected as the Convener, Council of Festival Affairs for the term 2022-23.

The Election for the Convener, Cells Affairs Committee (CAC) 2022-23 was held in the Students' Senate. The solo candidate Avinash Bansal presented his manifest, followed by questions from the panel and general body members. The Senate voted in favour of the candidate therefore Avinash Bansal was elected as the Convener, Cells Affairs Committee for the term 2022-23.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 am, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.



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