

## **Proposal for a remedial program for academically deficient students**

### **Problem:**

In the recent years, it has been observed that due to the various administrative changes introduced in JEE, IIT Kanpur admits a number of students who are not yet prepared for the academic curriculum offered by the institute in one or more of the following ways:

1. **Language Problem:** Students who come from boards in which the language of Instruction is not English are most severely plagued by this problem as the only language of instruction at IIT Kanpur is English. Besides offering ENG 112C offered as Compulsory HSS and English Conversation Classes offered by Counseling Service, no specific measures are taken to help the students and as the language plays a major part in understanding, such students understand close to nothing in the initial lectures which leads to very weak basics for the students
2. **Weak Knowledge of Core Subjects:** Due to the lowering of cut-offs to fill the seats in different categories, a considerable number of students who have very low score in some subjects are admitted and such students face a lot of problems in coping up with the curriculum.

A not so surprising observation, arising mostly because of various socio-economic factors, is that both the above problems are usually, not always through, seen together in students. Also, a large chunk of such students end up landing in AP/Warning/Termination. It is also worth mentioning that the degree to which these problems show an effect are more prevalent in certain courses than others.

### **Solution:**

We propose that a test of English, Mathematics and Physics be conducted in English Language to identify the students who are likely to face the problems. It is suggested that the syllabus and the corresponding cut-offs in this test be set as per the minimum proficiency requirements expected from a student in order to be able to attempt the first year courses. Further, we suggest that **only and only the students failing in all the three tests be taken into the remedial program**. This is because it is believed that the program should aim at providing the necessary help to only those students who are weak in all three subjects and thus likely to be unable to cope up with the regular program.

### **Details of the program:**

The tests for all the three subjects should be held during the Orientation program. The students failing in all 3 subjects shall be advised to take the remedial program. Under this program, the students shall go through the following scheme:

1. In 1<sup>st</sup> semester, the students will take the following courses:
  - TA 101 (9 credits)
  - CHM 101 (3 credits)
  - PE 101 (3 credits)

- ENG XYZ1 (11 credits) – Basic English required to communicate and understand lectures. As this does not require PhD level expertise in English, this may be taken by teacher(s) from outside the institute who specialize in teaching English at very basic level. Similar arrangements have been made for COM200 in one of the past semesters.
  - Basic Mathematics (till mid-semester exams)
  - Basic Physics (till mid-semester exams)
  - Initial lectures of MTH 101 (from mid-sem till end of semester)
  - Initial lectures of PHY 102 (from mid-sem till end of semester)
2. In 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, the students will take the following courses:
    - ENG XYZ2 (11 credits) – Slightly higher level English – Grammar, attempting answers in English etc. As for ENG XYZ1, this may also be taken by teacher(s) from outside the institute.
    - PE 102 (3 credits)
    - LIF 101 (6 credits)
    - CHM 102 (8 credits)
    - PHY 101 (3 credits)
    - MTH 101 (Remaining Lectures)
    - PHY 102 (Remaining Lectures)
  3. In Summers, the students will take the following courses:
    - MTH 102 (11 credits)
    - ESC 101 (14 credits)
  4. In 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, the students will take PHY 103<sup>1</sup>

Other details and salient features:

1. The students under remedial program shall not be subject to APEC rules at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester. From 2<sup>nd</sup> semester onwards, they shall be subject to APEC rules like the students regular program.
2. The maximum residency may be increased by 2 semesters for the students going through remedial program.
3. The evaluation for the 2 courses- MTH 101 and PHY 102- shall be spread across the first 2 semesters and a single grade shall be awarded based the cumulative performance.
4. ENG XYZ1 and ENG XYZ2 shall serve as the substitute for the 2 HSS Level 1 courses. This will also create an empty slot in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> semester for the remedial program students.

Note:

1. **Please note that the above proposal and details are only supposed to serve as a basic structure to build a complete program. We request that the proposal be considered in**

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<sup>1</sup> This is likely to cause a problem for students in BS Physics program as PHY 103 is a pre-requisite for PHY 224. However, PHY 224 can be done by these students in 5<sup>th</sup> semester and otherwise also, it has been observed that due to the backlogs, many academically deficient students are not able to take this course in 3<sup>rd</sup> semester

**detail by the institute administration and suitably modified to take care of the various administrative and academic issues. The institute might like to form a committee to finalize the details after taking in suggestions from all stake holders.**

2. In case the Students' Senate does not have any major objections, we request you to kindly provide an in-principle approval to the proposal right now. We wish to discuss it further in UGSAC and with some other stake-holders before finalizing the details. Once these details are finalized, we can circulate the proposal on Senate List for final comments before it is sent to the administration.

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