

## **Proposal regarding change in the selection criterion for the position of DUGC student members**

**Proposed By: Praveen Honhar, SUGC Student Nominee**

### **Motivation:**

- Over the past few years (at least five, maybe more) it has been a common occurrence that the positions of DUGC student members go uncontested during Gymkhana Elections. Even the positions that are contested rarely reach election stage (number of candidates  $\leq$  number of seats). It is also common knowledge that many of these student members only stand in the election upon multiple request from either UGSAC members or SUGC student nominees. Almost everything has been tried to remedy the situation including better election videos disseminating knowledge about these important positions, SOP boxes etc. but all of these methods have failed as the voter turnout remains almost non-existent. It is also true that the Institute has entrusted the responsibility of conducting these elections on the Students Gymkhana. Thus, I believe that we have the duty of informing the Institute about the problems with the current model of DUGC student members selection and propose suitable changes for the same.

### **Proposal:**

Given that almost everything else has failed, I believe that we should consider the possibility of requesting the Institute (Chairman, Senate, DoAA and all Heads) through the President, Students' Gymkhana to allow the selection criterion of these positions to be changed from election to nomination-based. The salient features of this proposal are:

- Nominations should be called once every year during the same time as the current elections are held. However, if there are any unfilled positions, subsequent renominations can be called at any time. Currently, if a position goes vacant, either the HoD nominates a student from the Department or it remains vacant throughout the year.
- The eligibility criterion for the nominations can be same as the extant criterion followed for all nominated positions by the Students' Senate. In addition, the candidate must be a student of the same Department as the position for which he is contesting.
- The final nominations should be decided by the Nominations Committee of the Students' Senate, preferably with the past DUGC student members of the Department and the SUGC student nominees. However, for the position of DUGC student nominee the Nominations Committee must make a call for nomination (that is the committee cannot appoint a person to this post without a call for nomination).
- A small problem with this method is that the nominating committee can never be a representation of all students of the Department, as is the norm presently. Therefore, I propose that every student of the Department must have the option of nominating himself or any other student of his Department for this position. This provision of nominating other students (of course subject to their subsequent consent) at least partially serves to express the opinion of the Department. After the initial nominations are received, a deadline can be given for withdrawing your own name before the final list of candidates is considered by the Nominations Committee.
- This proposal helps in three ways: One, positions can be filled whenever suitable candidates are available throughout the year; secondly the number of candidates who will be willing to go through a simple nomination interview will be definitely greater than the number of students willing to give their time to contesting elections and lastly, it reduces the burden on Students' Gymkhana to conduct elections for a position where even a single voter turnout is quite a good result.