



IIT Kanpur

STUDENTS' GYMKHANA GENERAL ELECTIONS

2016-17



VEDANT GOENKA

contesting for the post of

PRESIDENT STUDENTS' GYMKHANA

Proposed by

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VISION

INNOVATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSPARENCY

I envision the campus as a vibrant and dynamic ecosystem of vigilant students and active student bodies. It shall be a breeding ground for the enterprising community and be run by a responsive administration adorned with transparency.

MISSION

I aim to turn this campus into a hub for opportunities where students are engaged not just as benefactors but as active participants in deciding the course of action for enhancing this ecosystem.

GUIDING ACTION PLAN

Innovation - It will be central to every step in governance i.e. solution, creation and realization

Implementation - Innovative ideas and decisions taken shall be implemented with maximum efficiency

Transparency - Student participation and engagement to ensure transparency about implementation of innovative ideas. This shall induce a trust in the community about their participation reaching a meaningful end.



ACADEMICS

VISION

My vision is to boast of a modern, flexible, accommodative and an engaging academic system for IIT Kanpur which is scalable without any compromise in quality, which offers more incentives and is flexible enough to adapt each time. I envision an academic system that accommodates increasing number of students in classes, yet ensure an effective individual interaction which currently tutorials offer.

CURRENT STATUS

Insufficient seats to incorporate all in 'highly demanded electives', a course review system which is opaque to students, and a strong disconnect between the academia and the industries is our current academic system, which often fails to meet students' needs and interests.

STEP FORWARD

I propose the following to bring the above stated vision into existence and to give IIT Kanpur a revamped academic system.

FLIPPED CLASSROOMS

- Work towards **increase in the use of blended courses** (on lines of MSO201 this sem) and flipped classrooms. The regular lectures will be in form of videos and there will be contact hours where professors can focus on nitty-gritties which need live interaction
- This format for teaching shall **increase availability of classrooms** and also increase free time for professors to indulge in productive research activities with students

EASILY AVAILABLE OPEN ELECTIVES

- **Increase the capacity for OEs** which are in large demand (i.e. observe high rejection rates) and allot them larger lecture halls on priority
- Adapt highly demanded electives to 'flipped classroom format' to increase its capacity and solve the problem of availability of large classrooms is my solution to OEs



SET UP AN EXTENSIVE MOOC-CENTRE

- Such a center shall **host recording studios** for easy recording of video lectures. With larger number of courses being adapted to the MOOC format, this center will emerge as a need and optimize usage of resources.

IRON OUT PROBLEMS IN DOUBLE MAJORS

I propose the following to make it easy for students to opt and complete their degrees in time.

- **Make templates** (as for other programs) for most popularly chosen combinations in double major program so that students don't face problem managing courses of two departments
- **Formalize guidelines for course waivers** in cases where different departments have courses with overlapping syllabus, so that double major students don't have to do similar courses twice

EFFECTIVE COURSE REVIEW SYSTEM

- **Schedule a course review after mid-semester exams** for feedbacks to professors and for a timely improvement in his/her methods if needed
- **Formalize the corrective measures taken**, based on the course review and share them with students to make the system more student friendly

PROFESSORS OF PRACTICE

- Invite experienced individuals from the industry as professors, so as to diversify the academic culture in campus and improve the Industry-Academia collaboration
- It shall promote application-oriented research at IIT Kanpur
- Define a separate eligibility criteria for intake of professors of practice, so as to account for their vast industrial experience.

UNDERGRADUATE TA's

- Promote **appointment of undergraduate students as TA's** in (as practiced in CSE) as they can be better guides having done the course and also to give more incentives to students towards academic activities

RESEARCH PROJECT WEB

- An online portal where professors can **list research openings** and eligible students can be matched for productive research collaboration during summers and winter



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

VISION

Entrepreneurship has evolved from being a courageous endeavor to a career option. I envision Entrepreneurship to grow into an institute culture and a general approach towards life. With complete administrative support and cultivation of conducive environment, it shall be the pivot of interest in Innovation and Technology, Research and Development, and more than just a career option.

CURRENT STATUS

Through the work done by E-Cell, active faculty members and enthusiastic students, there is now an active entrepreneurial involvement in the student community. However, to take the Entrepreneurship Environment in the institute to next stage, a more integrative approach is needed.

STEP FORWARD

Following is the '2-point breakup' of my approach towards developing entrepreneurship in the institute:

PENETRATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE

- The committee shall **bring SnT Clubs into the campus entrepreneurship scene** & take the onus of integrating the efforts of technological enthusiasts with the enterprising student community
- This shall enable clubs to **act as incubation spaces and give them an entrepreneurial perspective**
- The committee shall be a part of President's Office and comprise of nominees from every SnT club, E-Cell and campus startups



DEVELOP A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL SUPPORT

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY

- The policy is being made with an aim to regularize student entrepreneurial activities
- It will extend various administrative supports like **sabbatical allowances and work-spaces** which are crucial for encouraging student entrepreneurship
- My prime focus will be to make this policy **all-encompassing and bring it into action**, so that our aspiring entrepreneurs can benefit immediately from them

ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- **Approved courses relating to entrepreneurship exist but are not on offer.** I aim to get these courses offered and impart entrepreneurial knowledge under a formal framework

ALUMNI SUPPORT

- Several sections of our alumni have expressed interest in investing into startups. **Utilize funds from '87 batch and iKan** on lines of PRIME'83
- Structure and devise a comprehensive plan to tap the resources alumni have to offer and consolidate them to **generate financial support**

INFRASTRUCTURE & CAMPUS FACILITIES

VISION

I plan to develop the campus in a manner such that it accommodates upcoming facilities and innovations, at the same time trying to beautify our campus and make it more refreshing and environmental friendly with general facilities to ease out everyday life.

CURRENT STATUS

We have a huge campus and ample of un-utilized and under-developed regions. I agree that we have some general facilities but even a little improvement with some added facilities can do wonders for our campus.



STEP FORWARD

BEAUTIFUL, REFRESHING CAMPUS

RECREATIONAL LAKE

- Currently, the oxidation pond is not well maintained but has the potential to be developed into a place of recreation.
- I intend to improve the face value of the pond by setting up garden lights, planting trees and other additions that may help with its beautification.

BENCHES IN ACADEMIC AREA

- Presently, apart from CCD, library and a few other places there is no place in the academic area where we can casually engage in our work.
- I propose to install regular benches and tables along with charging points in open areas to assist in a pleasing experience while still enjoying nature.

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY CAMPUS

We are all aware of environmental problems like pollution, greenhouse gases, lack of resources, etc. and though our campus already prohibits the use of motorized vehicles for students, I think we can go one step further and help make the campus even more eco-friendly.

COMPOST PIT AND BIOGAS PLANT

- The huge amounts of wastes generated on a daily basis in our halls can be used to generate valuable compost at a specified location in the institute.
- A Biogas plant shall process sewage waste into a usable resource and shall be placed at the same place.



GOVERNANCE

VISION

My vision is to make Campus Governance simple, transparent, hassle free and easy to understand for General Body Members and to improve it by adopting a solutions based approach.

CURRENT STATUS

A lot of procedures involve unnecessary loops and is inaccessible to the student community where students find it hard to track the processes in motion due to information not being easily accessible.

STEP FORWARD

CLUB FINANCES

Procedures in place involving drawing finances and bill clearance take up too much time and involve too many middlemen, which often means club coordinators have to invest their own money in club activities, which is reimbursed very late, or sometimes, not at all.

- **Easy advances-** Simplify the advance drawing process, especially for purchases that have to be carried out year after year
- **Direct Reimburses to Coordinator Accounts-** Remove the hold up of funds by ensuring that the bills clear directly into the accounts of club coordinator
- **Ease out bill clearing process-** Bills have to pass multiple desks before they're cleared by Institute authorities. Clearly laying out the process and enabling club coordinators to approach the different desks directly, making it easier for them to track their progress

FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MONITOR DORA FUNDS

- There is no central monitoring in Gymkhana of DORA funds allotted to projects which often leads to redistribution of funds between clubs
- Through the Finance Committee, the Gymkhana will centrally monitor the utilization of DORA funds and make them available on a requirement basis



GYMKHANA NOTICES TO CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS

- Gymkhana notifications should be issued to all individuals getting affected by a decision
- Form specific mailing lists to disseminate information to the next tier of concerned student authorities. This shall include club coordinators and festival core teams.

FESTIVAL QUOTA IN LHC ELECTRICITY USAGE

A new policy mandates festivals to pay for their extra electricity usage in LHC starting from 2016. I propose the following alternative

- Allocate LHC at Festival's disposal in a four-day package at subsidized electricity rates to ease out the burden on festival finances.

COMMON WEB TEMPLATE

- Common Web Templates should be provided by Gymkhana, so that there is uniformity in the web site of each Gymkhana body. This will ensure uniformity in Gymkhana club websites.

FESTIVAL REFORMS

Our flagship festivals can be made better by streamlining some laws and regulations. Some steps which can be taken to improve these are:

- **MoU deadlines** - Deadlines for different Memorandums of Understanding should be incorporated into the rules for festivals to reduce inefficiency.
- **Festival Office** - Allot New SAC 202 as Festival Office for all festivals and give it out in rotation to each festival.



HOSTEL AFFAIRS

VISION

I plan to adopt a problem solving approach so that existing student issues can be dealt with quickly and efficiently, enabling students to focus on their academic and campus life and minimizing discomfort

STEP FORWARD

HALL ALLOCATION POLICY

FIRST YEAR INTAKE IN ALL PG HALLS

- Change Hall Allocation Policy such that incoming first year Postgraduate students will be allocated among the Halls 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 in a manner that students don't have to shift in the middle of their program.
- This will ensure postgraduate students of Hall 11 enrolled in two-year programs will not have to undergo the hassles of shifting, leading to a better functioning of the hall.

SHIFTING STUDENTS FROM NRA TOWER TO HALL 4

Due to lack of infrastructure, a number of female students have to be accommodated in NRA tower which is not meant to house students.

- One of the blocks in Hall 4 can be converted to a girls' block (like Hall 8) which not only solves the problems of the students, but moves the campus towards a more progressive and liberal outlook.

MESSING

CENTRAL MESSING COMMITTEE

- As of now, student halls purchase groceries for messes independently which gives them little bargaining power which often forces them to purchase poorer quality stuff at high prices.
- Central Messing Committee will give Halls greater leverage in negotiating with vendors so that best possible prices can be arrived at and instances of cheating can be reduced.



ALUMNI RELATIONS

VISION

Expanding relations with alumni across professional and business domains apart from cultural ones and tapping these relations to benefit the general student in myriad ways to further strengthen the IITK brand. Building a dynamic relation with them across many platforms will hugely benefit our interests.

CURRENT STATUS

Our Alumni databases are not robust and need proper planning and verification to be a single reliable source for information. We also need to tap in our highly placed alumni to generate opportunities of various kind for our students.

STEP FORWARD

IITK MEDIA CELL

- Creating a media cell to centrally monitor all the major achievements and events related to IIT Kanpur Alumnus, Students and publishing them in various domains of media to further strengthen the brand of IIT Kanpur.

iKAN

- Using iKan which is a company with 1986 batch among its shareholders to generate opportunities for our entrepreneurs and students.

ALUMNI PROJECT FOR CLUBS & HALLS

- Alumni Projects and funding for our clubs and halls should be formalized to expand visibility of funding and philanthropic opportunities for our alumni.

IMPROVING ALUMNI DATABASE

- Right now the database updates as well as collection methods are unreliable and lack automation. I propose to use more advanced methods available to collect information of our alumni.



CAREER

VISION

Improving Career Opportunities for our students by following a multimodal approach to establishing connect with companies and institutions. Also improving the basic career skills of our student and improving the efficacy of our placement teams by making organizational changes.

CURRENT STATUS

Although our career opportunities are good, but we can make them a lot better by looking at the problems and improving the organization of our placement teams and career development teams.

STEP FORWARD

CDC (CAREER DEVELOPMENT CELL)

- Putting a 3 tier team in place at CDC composed of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students to expand its reach and visibility in the student community.

DPC (DEPARTMENT PLACEMENT COORDINATOR)

- Allowing 3rd years to be placement coordinators as 4th years also are themselves engaged in placement preparations.
- Putting faculty involvement in placement teams in a formalized framework to improve the effects faculty can have in making a company offer placements for our students. Right now it is in a loose framework so it is not as beneficial as it potentially can be.

MORE CORE COMPANIES IN INITIAL DAYS

- Allowing more core based companies in first days of the placement so that students have minimum chances of being placed out of core companies (if they are interested in them).

INTERSHIPS FOR 1ST YEAR STUDENTS

- Allowing internships for 1st years in campus startups by giving club support in training them for relevant profiles. Preparation time can be enhanced by organizing contacts between startup opportunities for 1st years, after the end of 1st semester.



CREDENTIALS

I am pro-active in a number of clubs in the campus and have worked with a lot of people in the process. These are some of the bodies I was actively involved with over the past 3 years:

- **Acting President**, Students' Gymkhana (June'15)
- **Overall Coordinator**, Entrepreneurship Cell (March'15-Present)
- **Parliamentarian**, Students' Senate (March'15-Present)
- **Senator** (Aug'13-March'14 , March'15-Present)
- **Secretary**, Students' Senate (March'14-March'15)
- **Presidential Core Team Member** (March '15 – Present)
- **Member**, Institute Innovation Council
- **Member**, Institute Environmental Advisory Committee
- **President's Nominee**, Academic Senate Meetings
- **President's Nominee**, Health Centre Users' Committee
- **Convener**, Committee to tackle the issue of lost bags in Library
- **Convener**, Committee to update the Appendices of the Constitution

NON-GYMKHANA BODIES

- **Volunteer**, Students' Placement Office (Dec'15)
- **Executive**, Media and Design, Alumni Contact Program (May'14 – July'14)
- **Student Guide** for Y14, Counselling Service

FESTIVALS

- **Principal Security Officer**, Antaragni'15
- **Executive**, Finance, Antaragni'14
- **Secretary**, Public Relations, Antaragni'13
- **Organizing Entrepreneurial Events** in Techkriti'16
- **Coordinator**, IDEAS, Techkriti'15
- **Junior Executive**, Finance, Techkriti'14
- **Festival Host**, Udghosh'15
- **Executive**, Finance, Udghosh'14
- **Secretary**, Hockey, Udghosh'13



CLUBS

- **Secretary**, Debate & Discussion Society (April'14-March'15)
- **Member**, Institute Debating Team; represented IITK in Antaragni'14 & Rendezvous'14
- **Secretary**, Business Club (April'14-March'15)
- **Secretary**, VYLC'14, Vivekananda Samiti

WORK DONE

- Attended **4 SUGC Meetings** as representative for Students' Senate Nominees
- Made **19 amendments** to the Students' Gymkhana Constitution as Parliamentarian, Students' Senate
- Reviewed the **Hall X Medical Dispensary** and ensured its continuation
- Represented IIT Kanpur in **Alumni Chapter Meet** at Pune
- Represented IIT Kanpur at **Start-up Master Class**, an IITK Alumni Association event at Bangalore
- Member, **Bill clearing for GC Committee**
- Member, Fact Finding Committee for **Vivekananda Samiti issues**
- Member, **Paperless Elections Committee**
- Member, Committee to look into **CPA for PG students**
- Member, **Cashless Campus Committee**

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Bronze**, Hockey, Udghosh'13
- **First Prize**, Parliamentary Debate, Galaxy'14
- **First Prize**, English Extemporaneous Events, Galaxy'14



Your valuable suggestions are invited.

Thank You!

Vedant Goenka

