

Interim Report of the Academic System Feedback Committee

In the 2012-13/9th Meeting of the Students' Senate, a committee was constituted to formulate student feedback regarding the new Academic System implemented for the batches UG Y11 onward as per the ARC recommendations. The constitution of the committee is as follows:

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| • Ankur Pandey | Student Member, SUGC |
| • Anurag Sahay | Student Member, SUGC |
| • Ashish Dabas | Senator, UG Y11 |
| • Sarthak Chandra (Chair) | General Body Member |
| • Srijan Shetty | Senator, UG Y11 |
| • Shouvik Sachdeva | Senator UG Y11 |

The committee met on 7th January, 13th January and 2nd February, 2013 and discussed the new Academic System. A survey was conducted among UG Y11 and UG Y12 students by the committee through the Students' Senate website to help formulate its recommendations. The following are the interim recommendations of the committee for immediate consideration.

1) Regarding Minors, Double Majors and Dual Degrees

Based on the results of the survey conducted among Y11 and Y12 students, it was found that 91% of the people had either an extreme lack of clarity, or just heard about the additional options of Minors, Dual Majors or Dual Degrees. It is strongly emphasized by the committee that the administration should promptly resolve the issues pertaining to the implementations of these, and we recommend the Senate to request the administration to sort out the issues relating to these by at most before the preregistration for the next semester with special priority to Minors.

This committee strongly believes that if the academic decisions pertaining to these are not taken by the relevant authorities **before the preregistration for the 2013-14/I semester** then it will **adversely affect** the academic programmes of the UG Y11 batch. In that semester students of every department will have an open elective, and it will be impossible for them to make an informed choice to plan out their academic programmes. In this regard the committee feels that a letter should be sent by the Convener to the Chairman, Senate, in consultation with the Students' Senate to speed up the process.

2) Regarding the Engineering Science programme

To the knowledge of the committee the Engineering Science programme has been discussed extensively and a model has been proposed. However there is a lack of general awareness about this programme. Furthermore it is unclear to the committee whether this programme will be offered to the UG Y11 batch at all, and if

it does when the admissions for the same shall be. In this regard the committee recommends that the above mentioned letter also contain a request for clarity regarding the same.

3) Regarding APs and Warnings

The committee feels that the complete removal of warnings was ill advised, since it has led to an apparent decrease of the gravity of the situation associated with being put on AP, to the extent that the current AP has lost its meaning. In this regard the committee recommends that the Students' Senate request the administration for a review of the current system.

4) Regarding equivalence of old UGRC and the new ARC courses

It has been noted by the committee that a large number of UG Y11 students are registered in courses under the old UGRC leading to some ambiguities. In this regard the committee feels that every course including the ones of the current semester should be offered under a dual numbering and credit valuation so that students of both the old UGRC and the new ARC can take them.

In this regard the committee also noted that several students of the UG Y11 batch have registered for science electives under the instruction that they would be used to satisfy their Science Option graduation criteria. However the committee was unable to find any Senate or SUGC minutes pertaining to this. Hence the committee feels that if this has not been discussed it should be taken up by the SUGC at the earliest and should be applicable from the current semester itself.

5) Regarding the lack of UG electives

The committee felt that there is an acute lack of UG electives of any kind (Open Electives, Science Electives, Department Electives etc.) being offered by most departments. This has led to several supposed elective slots having as little as one or two options for some students. The committee feels that this situation is unacceptable in a college like national repute like ours, and requests the Students' Senate to take this up with the administration.

6) Regarding the lack of "Courses of Study"

Until the year 2008 a physical document called "Courses of Study" was made available to every student to inform them of the various courses being offered by the institute. Since then there has been an extreme lack of clarity regarding the course content of most courses for students. The committee recommends that the Students' Senate endeavour to get this reinstated.

7) Regarding the credit valuation of some courses

As per the new ARC recommendations the number of credits of a course are supposed to represent, in order of magnitude, the number of hours spent in a week on that course. With regard to this the current formula is $3L + 2T + P + A$ where L is the number of scheduled lecture hours in a week, T is the number of scheduled tutorial hours in a week, P is the number of scheduled practical hours in a week and A is additional credit depending on the weight of the course. The committee feels that several courses, especially lab courses, that should have a non-zero A component are currently being offered with $A=0$. Examples of these include CS 251, CS 252 and ESc 201. The committee feels that the credit valuation of every such course should be looked into again by every DUGC, and recommends the Students' Senate to work for the same.

8) Regarding the weightage of mid semester and end semester examinations

The committee discussed the current scenario of continuous evaluation. The committee felt that there are several courses in which there is not sufficient continuous evaluation leading to extremely high weightages for the mid sems and end sems, often going up to 100%. The committee strongly disagrees with the situation. In a survey conducted by the committee, it was found that 43% of 406 students believed that most of the weightage is taken by the mid sems and end sems. Additionally 64% of the responses would prefer a more continuous system of evaluation. The committee feels that this puts undue stress on the students, especially during examination periods. To remedy this the committee recommends that a reasonable upper limit be placed on the maximum weightage of the mid semester and end semester examinations in any course.

9) Regarding ENG 112C

The committee believes that the current course ENG 112C does not serve its intended purpose. The committee reviewed the structure of the course ENG112C and came up with the following issues and recommendations:

- Someone who has passed the course should be able to speak proficiently and, more importantly, be able to comprehend speech. The committee feels that this is not the case currently.
- The committee believes that a course of this nature should have a stronger verbal component in order to address the above issue.

- The committee recommends that the course be reviewed with a panel consisting of at least one student member.

The committee request the Students' Senate take up these issues with the administration.

Sarthak Chandra
Chairman, Academic System Feedback Committee