



**Students' Senate (2015-16)**  
**Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**  
**Shubham Atreja | Chairperson**



**Minutes: 1<sup>st</sup> Emergency Meeting of the Students' Senate, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2015**

The 2015-16/1<sup>st</sup> (Emergency) Meeting of the Students' Senate (2015-16) was held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 in the Senate Hall, New SAC. It was called to order by the Chairperson, Students' Senate at 8:15 PM.

The Agenda items were taken up for consideration.

<b>Item No. 1</b>	Announcements and Remarks, if any
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There were no announcements or remarks.

<b>Item No. 2</b>	To consider the issues related to the report of the S-SAC submitted in the 2015-16/1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Academic Senate and the subsequent decision taken by the Academic Senate.
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The Chairperson informed the Senate that in the 2015-16/1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Academic Senate the Senate Students' Affairs Committee had submitted a report related to some incidents that occurred in the Hall Day of the Hall of Residence 2. The Chairperson then informed that the report was publicly available and as a result he started receiving comments from the General Body regarding the report and the various issues with the investigation process.

The President, Students' Gymkhana then explained the working of the investigative process to the Students' Senate and informed about the recommendations of the Women's Cell and the final decision taken by the Academic Senate.

The Senate noted that the incident was unfortunate and undesirable and condemned the issue on behalf of the general body. However, during the course of discussion, some procedural issues were raised related to this case.

The President, Student's Gymkhana pointed out that there was no proper student representation in the Women's Cell. The UG Girls representative was not invited to the meetings while the PG representative did not take active part in the process. The Senate felt that the representative had not carried out her responsibility properly and further directed the President, Students' Gymkhana, that a letter of reprimand be issued against her for a dereliction of her duties.



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The General body members then raised various issues regarding the investigative process of the Women's Cell and it was alleged that the statements of the students were not recorded properly during the deposition process. The Senate then noted that the students never got the proper chance to present themselves further as the S-SAC never carried out any investigation.

The student nominees to the Senate Students' Affairs Committee(S-SAC) informed that the issues raised by the students who were involved in the incident were never addressed by the S-SAC, despite informing the various authorities. Further, the original recommendations were changed by the Academic Senate without discussing all the details of the case or carrying out a new investigation. The Senate then felt that the decision taken on this issue is inconsistent with some of the previous decisions taken on such disciplinary issues. This may lead to apprehension among the student body and they may refrain from complaining against misdeeds as the punishments may not commensurate with the actual issue.

After the entire discussion, the Senate felt that the incident that occurred in the Hall Day should not have occurred and regretted the same on behalf of the entire student community. The Senate further felt that given the scale at which this event occurred there is a need for gender sensitization in the campus and the same should be addressed at a wider forum. However, given the concerns raised by the students, the Senate felt that there are some serious issues with the way the investigation was carried out and there is a strong need to address these issues. The President, Students' Gymkhana then proposed a resolution for the consideration of the Senate. The resolution was seconded by Sabyasachi Verma (Senator, UG Y12), Aishwarya Rai (President, GH Tower) and Abhimanyu Arora (Students' Senate Nominee, S-SAC).

The Senate discussed the resolution at length. After the discussion, a vote was held by show-of-hands, in which the Senate unanimously decided to adopt the resolution.

The Senate thereby adopted the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-16/1:**

“The Students' Senate expresses its discontent on the recent proceedings of the Institute bodies with regard to disciplinary matters concerning students. This decision of the Students' Senate comes in light of the decisions taken in the Senate



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on a case pertaining to a complaint to the Women's Cell by certain members of the students' general body. The complaint was investigated by the Women's Cell which submitted its report to the Senate Students' Affairs Committee (S-SAC). The S-SAC after due deliberations presented its recommendations to the Senate, in its 2015-16/1<sup>st</sup> Meeting. The student body feels that there were major inconsistencies with regard to the processes followed and the recommendations forwarded by the Institute bodies involved. The Students' Senate further feels that the lapses are not necessarily related to the stated case only, but are more general in nature.

The Students' Senate deliberated upon the concerns presented by its members and noted the following inconsistencies with respect to the proceedings which we wish to bring to the light of the Senate:

- 1) The UG Girls' representative (President, GH Tower, as mandated by the constitution of the Women's Cell) was never invited for any of the meetings of the Women's Cell. In addition to this, there were allegations, made by the students (who were investigated in this case) against the committee constituted by the Women's Cell about the lack of procedural fairness during investigation. The Students' Senate notes that relevant Institute authorities were made aware of these concerns; however, they were not duly addressed.
- 2) The Students' Senate further notes that the student representatives had pointed out to the Dean, Students' Affairs and Chairman, S-SAC about the allegations that were put forth. However, this information was never presented to the S-SAC when the report of the Women Cell was being discussed. The Chairman, S-SAC further did not mention the facts related to the case, in turn failing to provide the rationale behind the recommendations of S-SAC, when the Senate was deliberating on them.
- 3) The Students' Senate further notes that there is a general lack of scalability, consistency and clarity in deciding the punitive measures for students by the Senate. The Students' Senate is of the opinion that once all facts have been discussed in an appropriate Institute committee based upon which a level of punitive action is determined, it is counter-productive to change the recommendations or level of action at a bigger forum without discussing all



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the specific facts pertaining to the case first. We believe if there are concerns about the recommendations of S-SAC in the Senate, then either it should be referred back to the S-SAC or the case should be discussed in its entirety in the Senate before making a decision. We believe that this was not done in the present case. These lapses also lead to an additional problem of inconsistency in the punishments awarded for similar disciplinary matters by the Senate in the recent past. These practices have led to a total lack in clarity about the level of punishment that can be awarded to a student for a given disciplinary misconduct. The Students' Senate believes that till a codified manual for this purpose is not made available by the Senate to the students, it should exercise extra effort to make sure that the scalability, consistency and clarity in deciding such cases are maintained.

Taking into account the above, the Students' Senate, in its 2015-16/1st (Emergency) Meeting, believes that in future, this may lead to a situation where the students' general body starts feeling apprehensive about the way proceedings are carried out by the Institute bodies in disciplinary matters and may become reluctant to file complaints. Therefore the Students' Senate requests that appropriate steps should be taken by the Institute authorities to resolve these issues”

The Senate further decided that the above resolution shall be forwarded to the Chairperson, Academic Senate for consideration.

<b>Item No. 3</b>	Questions and Remarks, if any.
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There were no questions or remarks.

	Any other item, with the permission of the Chair
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No other item was introduced.

**The Meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson, Students' Senate at 3:30 AM.**



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**Attendance Record (Emergency)**

The attendance record is:

- Total Strength of the Senate : 46
- Total number of Senators present : 40
- Total number of Senators absent : 6

The detailed attendance record is as follows:

Sl.No.	Name	Post	Attendance
1	Shubham Atreja	Chairperson, Students' Senate	Present
2	Gautam Pratap Singh	President Students' Gymkhana	Present
3	Ashish Aggarwal	General Secretary, Cultural Council	Present
4	Chirag Jha	General Secretary, Science and Technology Council	Present
5	M. Surya Prakash	General Secretary, Games and Sports Council	Present
6	Prateek Mishra	General Secretary, Films and Media Council	Present
7	Anand Prakash Dwivedi	Senator, PhD	Present
8	Amarjit P. Kene	Senator, PhD	Present
9	Jitendra K. Katiyar	Senator, PhD	Present
10	Leeladhar Nagdeve	Senator, PhD	Present
11	Vikram Kumar	Senator, PhD	Present
12	Ashabari Mazumdar	Senator, PhD	Present
13	Sana Afrin	Senator, PhD	Present
14	Vimal Kumar	Senator, PhD	Present



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15	Neelakshi	Senator, PhD	Present
16	Shivanuj Shukla	Senator, MTech Y14	Present
17	Ishant Rao	Senator, MTech Y15	Present
18	Ropesh Goyal	Senator, MTech Y15	Absent
19	Supreme Jain	Senator, MTech Y15	Absent
20	Praharsh Patel	Senator, MSc (2 Year) Y15	Absent
21	Kshitij Sareen	Senator, MBA, MDes and Other Eq. Programmes Y14	Present
22	Himanshu Negi	Senator, MBA, MDes and Other Eq. Programmes Y15	Absent
23	Abhishek Singh	Senator, UG Y11 (5 Year)	Absent
24	Rishikesh Mishra	Senator, UG Y11 (5 Year)	Present^
25	Harsh Toshniwal	Senator, UG Y12	Absent
26	Navdeep Singh	Senator, UG Y12	Present
27	Rishabh Bansal	Senator, UG Y12	Present
28	Sabyasachi Verma	Senator, UG Y12	Present
29	Abhimanyu Yadav	Senator, UG Y13	Present
30	Ashutosh Ranka	Senator, UG Y13	Present
31	Sagar Rastogi	Senator, UG Y13	Present
32	Samyak Jain	Senator, UG Y13	Present
33	Sparsh	Senator, UG Y13	Present
34	Vedant Goenka	Senator, UG Y13	Present



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35	Ayushya Agarwal	Senator, UG Y14	Present
36	Gaurav Seth	Senator, UG Y14	Present
37	Kunal Kapila	Senator, UG Y14	Present
38	Nikhil Bansal	Senator, UG Y14	Present
39	Shubham Kumar Pandey	Senator, UG Y14	Present^
40	Simrat Singh	Senator, UG Y14	Present
41	Akarsh Gajbhiye	Senator, UG Y15	Present
42	Kshitij Jaiswal	Senator, UG Y15	Present^
43	Mugdha Arora	Senator, UG Y15	Present
44	Shivam Gupta	Senator, UG Y15	Present^
45	Siddhant Suhas Naik	Senator, UG Y15	Present^
46	Swastid Sharma	Senator, UG Y15	Present^