



Students' Senate (2014-15)
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

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Convener, PGSAC/ In-charge PG Academics



End-Term Report of PGSAC

1. Election of the Office-bearers of the Students' Senate (2014-15) has been carried out on 1st February 2014 for various posts. The name of the Convener, PGSAC/ In-charge PG Academics has been rectified in the 1st meeting of students' Senate on 30th March 2014.
2. Agendas have been called by the Convener, PGSAC/ In-charge PG Academics from all DPGC nominee and SPGC nominee to discuss it on the floor of PGSAC meeting. In addition, new PG manual have also been circulated through the PGSAC members. In principle, everybody agreed for the changes and modification done by the institute in the PG manual. So no meeting has been conducted to discuss this issue in PGSAC.
3. First PGSAC meeting has been called on 24th February 2015. General body member have come up with the agendas in mass. The meeting was successfully conducted in the presence of acting Chairperson, Students' Senate in Senate hall. The decisions regarding necessary action plan of PGSAC have been taken and few agendas has been forwarded to the floor Students' Senate for detailed discussion. The minutes of the 1st PGSAC meeting are attached along with this document in Annexure 1.

4. Recommendations:

A. The updated list of the DPGC and SPGC nominee should be provided to the Convener, PGSAC/ In-charge PG Academics as early as possible, as it will help him/her to conduct the PGSAC meeting on periodic intervals.

B. The report of the DPGC and SPGC meetings should be discussed on the floor of PGSAC meetings. The nominee should discuss the issues raised on departmental level and institute level in respective meeting to Convener, PGSAC/ In-charge PG Academics, so that important issues can be refocused in PGSAC and if agreed can be forwarded to Chairperson, Students' Senate for detailed discussion/rectification on the floor of Senate.

C. All the data related to termination and reinstatement should be provided to PGSAC, so that the discrepancies related to reinstatement can be lowered down.

D. During this tenure of Convener, PGSAC/ In-charge PG Academics, no members for the standing committee have been elected. Convener, PGSAC/ In-charge PG Academics recommends to Senate to allow members from general body to participates in the PGSAC committee, if standing committee does not forms.

E. There should be some amendment in the constitution regarding the submission of PGSAC report after every semester.

Annexure 1

Minutes: 1st PGSAC Meeting of the Students' Senate, 24th February, 2015

The 2014-15/ 1st PGSAC Meeting of the Students' Senate (2014-15) was held on Tuesday, 24th February, 2015 in the Senate Hall, New SAC. It was called to order by the Chairperson, Students' Senate at 8.45 PM.

The Agenda items were taken up for consideration.

Item No. 1	Discussion regarding the Increment in Research Scholarship for PG Students
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The members of PGSAC and the general body members present in the meeting discussed and deliberated upon the issue at length and decided to seek the below mentioned clarifications and requests from institute and MHRD respectively through Chairperson, Students' Senate.

Clarifications:

With reference to circular F.NO.17-2/2014-TS.I by MHRD dated 18th February 2015, PGSAC seeks following clarifications from the institute.

1. Refer to the table under point 2 in the circular. The “Existing Emoluments (Per Month)” column contains information about both the scholarship amount and the duration for which scholarship will be provided, but the “Revised Emoluments (Per Month)” column contains information only about the scholarship amount and is silent about the duration for which scholarship will be provided. The PGSAC requests for clarification about the duration for which the revised scholarship will be provided – whether for (a) 5 years, or, (b) different amounts for 1st & 2nd years and 3rd & 4th years as in existing emoluments.
2. There are different categories of PhD students in IITK, namely and not limiting to, (a) Ph.D. students with a postgraduate degree (M.E. / M.Tech. or equivalent), (b) Ph.D. students with undergraduate degree in engineering/technology (B.E./B.Tech. or equivalent), and, (c) Ph.D. students in arts and science departments with post graduate degree (M.Sc. / M.A. / M.Phil. or equivalent). Different categories of students receive different scholarships. The scholarships for students belonging to the same category also varies based on the agency which funds their scholarship, especially, for students in category (c), the scholarship given by MHRD is different from scholarship given by UGC/CSIR. The circular is not clear about the revision for the different categories of Ph.D. students and about the different types of funding agencies. The PGSAC requests for a clarification about the same.
3. The row with S.No. 02 in table under point 2 talks about “two years of research experience”. The meaning of this “research experience” is not clear and the PGSAC requests for a clarification regarding the same. The PGSAC recommended to Chairperson, Student's Senate, to seek the above mentioned

clarifications from the relevant authority(s) in IITK.

Requests:

PGSAC unanimously passed a resolution with following requests from MHRD.

1. In order to maintain parity among the students receiving scholarships from various government agencies, PGSAC requests that the hike in scholarship be implemented from 1st October 2014 instead of 1st February 2015 both for M.Tech. Students and all categories of Ph.D. students.

2. As per DST's Office Memorandum: SR/S9/Z-09T2012 dated 21st October 2014, the revision in scholarship is more than 55%. MHRD's circular F.NO.17-2/2014-TS.I dated 18th February 2015 is not clear about the increase in scholarship. PGSAC requests 55% increase in scholarship across the board for all categories of Ph.D. and M.Tech. Students.

PGSAC recommended to the Chairperson, Students' Senate, to send a letter to MHRD with above requests. Considering the seriousness of the issue, the Chairperson, Students' Senate, agreed to send the letter after approval from Students' Senate. PGSAC also requested the Chairperson, Students' Senate, to itemize this agenda in Students' Senate as early as possible.

Item No. 2	Increment in the stipend of the 3rd year onward Ph.D. students
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This agenda is addressed by the clarifications and requests in agenda 1.

Item No. 3	Master's degree to students in direct PhD programme
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The agenda was presented by Mr. Kedar Kulkarni. After discussions, the PGSAC requested the Chairperson, Students' Senate, to form a committee in Students' Senate to look into this agenda.

Item No. 4	DRA form
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The agenda was presented by Mr. Arun Karthik. Members present in PGSAC agreed with the concern about (a) students' time getting wasted for getting the DRA/TA forms signed, and, (b) stipends getting delayed due to delay in submission/processing of DRA/TA forms. Since the issue is not prevalent in all the departments and due to lack of clarity about the forum where this issue can be raised, the PGSAC recommended to the Convener, PGSAC, to communicate to all DPGC students

representatives to raise this issue in their respective departments if it is relevant for them. Members present also felt that there is no clarity about deduction in stipend. Currently the stipend is deducted because of two reasons, namely, (a) when the student fails to mark attendance for a minimum number of days (differs from department to department), and/or, (b) if the student's TA duty is not satisfactory. PGSAC recommended to the Convener, PGSAC, to request DPGC student representatives to raise this issue in their respective DPGCs and seek clarifications. PGSAC decided to discuss this further after gaining some clarity.

Item No. 5	HSS PhDs not having proper lab facilities
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Members present in the meeting agreed that students not having proper lab facilities is an important issue and this needs to be addressed. Since this issue is not relevant for all the departments, PGSAC recommended to the convener, PGSAC, to communicate to all DPGC student representatives to raise this issue in their respective DPGCs if it is relevant for them.

The meeting was called off at 10:45 PM by the acting Chairperson Students' Senate.

Attendance Record

The attendance record is:

- Total Strength of the PGSAC Meeting : 45
- Total number of PGSAC members present : 24
- Total number of PGSAC members absent : 21
- Absent without notification : 21
- Absent with permission : 0