



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



2015-16/7th Meeting of the Students' Senate

The 7th Meeting of the Students' Senate was held on Monday, 4th January, 2016 in the Senate Hall, New SAC. It was called to order by the Chairperson, Students' Senate at 6:45 PM.

The newly appointed Chairman, Board of Governors, Mr. R.C. Bhargava, who is also the Chairman, Maruti Udyog Ltd. addressed the Senate before the Agenda items were taken up. Various issues were discussed related to the proposed increase in the fees of the students, future collaborations between industries and academic institutions and the reasons for students preferring jobs in the non-core sector instead of instead of their core departments.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:15 pm.



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2015-16/7th (Adjourned) Meeting of the Students' Senate

The 7th Meeting of the Students' Senate was reconvened at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, 5th January, 2016 in the Senate Hall, New SAC.

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| Item No. 1 | To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings: i. 2015-16/6th Meeting ii. 2015-16/3rd Special Meeting iii. 2015-16/4th Special Meeting iv. 2015-16/5th Special Meeting |
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The minutes were not prepared and hence were not circulated. They will be presented for ratification in the next meeting.

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| Item No. 2 | Announcements and Remarks, if any |
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There were no announcements or remarks.

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| Item No. 3 | To note the decisions taken by the Senate over the mailing list. |
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The Senate had accepted the pre-conduction report of Melange'16 over the mailing list. The report was presented as a supporting document for the agenda items.

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| Item No. 4 | To consider the Action Taken Report of the Students' Senate. |
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The Agenda item was deferred to the next meeting

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| Item No. 5 | To consider the mid-term report of the President, Students' Gymkhana. |
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The President, Students' Gymkhana presented the mid-term report of the President's Office for the consideration of the Senate. The recommendations of the report were deliberated upon by the Senate. As per the first recommendation, the President Students' Gymkhana pointed out the following.

The next recommendation was regarding the restructuring of the COSHA and transferring it under the purview of the President instead of the Senate. The Senate opined that such a major restructuring cannot be a part of the recommendations as the Senators may need more time to form an opinion about the issue. The Senate further noted that the recommendation did not provide any details regarding the proposal and directed him to bring a more



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comprehensive proposal for this recommendation. With the above changes the report was accepted by the Senate.

After the mid-term report, the President then presented a detailed review of his manifesto which he had presented while contesting for the post of President, Students' Gymkhana. He pointed out all his proposals that have already been implemented or are in the pipeline. He further stated those proposals which could not be pursued, the practical issues that he faced and their future prospect.

The Senate further appreciated the work done by the President, Students' Gymkhana so far and his efforts to document all the major issues that were taken up by various bodies of the institute. The Senate also appreciated his efforts for presenting the review of his own manifesto to the Senate. The Senate noted that such efforts would lead to increased accountability of the Executives. While, the Senate shall not hold the Executives directly accountable for their manifesto, the Senate opined that the Executives in future shall be encouraged to carry this out as a practice.

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| Item No. 6 | To consider the mid-term report of the General Secretary, Cultural Council. |
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The General Secretary, Cultural Council presented the mid-term report for the consideration of the Senate. The report was accepted as presented.

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| Item No. 7 | To consider the request for deratification of the Head, Design, Techkriti'16, submitted by the Festival Coordinator, Techkriti'16. |
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The Senate deliberated on the request for deratification of the Head, Design, Techkriti'16, submitted by the Festival Coordinator, Techkriti'16. The Senate accepted the reasons presented, removed the Head, Design, Techkriti'16 from his position and directed the Chairperson, Students' Senate to call for re-nominations for this post.

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| Item No. 8 | To consider the opinion of the Rules and Procedures committee regarding the following Constitutional amendments: i. Merging the Films and Media Council and the Cultural Council into a single council ii. Changing the election procedure for the post of Senate office bearers iii. Updating the Eligibility Criteria for the various posts under the Students' Gymkhana. |
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The first proposed amendment regarding the merging of the Films and Media Council and the Cultural Council into a single council was deliberated upon by the Senate. The decisions that the respective councils made in their respective council meets were laid on the Senate floor. The Films and Media Council had rejected the proposal with 14 votes against 12 while the Cultural Council had accepted the proposal unanimously. The Chairperson, Students' Senate pointed out that the Senate shall reconsider its earlier stand on the proposal given that one of the Councils involved in the merger has voted against it. The General Secretary, Films and Media Council pointed out that while his personal opinion is still in favor of the merger, being the Chairperson of the Council, he is obliged to not support the proposal. The General Secretary and some other representatives from the Council pointed various implementation issues with proposal and other technicalities that have been overlooked so far. The Senate then rejected the proposed Constitutional amendment with only 4 votes in favor of the proposal.

The second proposed amendment regarding changing the election procedure for the post of Senate office bearers was accepted unanimously. The following changes were made to the Chapter II of the Constitution to reflect the amendment:

The article 2.03 was changed from

“The Senate shall comprise of:

a. The Executives, namely

- i. The President, Students' Gymkhana**
- ii. The General Secretary, Cultural**
- iii. The General Secretary, Films and Media**
- iv. The General Secretary, Games and Sports**
- v. The General Secretary, Science and Technology**

b. Senators representing every batch of students (as per 3.04 and 3.05). The number of Senators representing a batch shall be at the rate of one Senator for every 150 students in the batch, rounded up to the next integer.

c. UG/PG Girls Representative (in case no UG Girl or PG Girl Senator respectively has been otherwise elected).”

To

“The Senate shall comprise of:



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- a. **The Executives, namely**
 - i. **The President, Students' Gymkhana**
 - ii. **The General Secretary, Cultural**
 - iii. **The General Secretary, Films and Media**
 - iv. **The General Secretary, Games and Sports**
 - v. **The General Secretary, Science and Technology**
- b. **Senators representing every batch of students (as per 3.04 and 3.05). The number of Senators representing a batch shall be at the rate of one Senator for every 150 students in the batch, rounded up to the next integer.**
- c. **UG/PG Girls Representative (in case no UG Girl or PG Girl Senator respectively has been otherwise elected).**
- d. **The Chairperson, the Parliamentarian and the Finance Convener shall be ex-officio members of the Senate if they are not already so."**

Article 2.04 was changed from

"The Senate shall elect from amongst its non-executive members:

- a. **The Chairperson, Students' Senate;**
- b. **The Parliamentarian, Students' Senate;**
- c. **The Finance Convener, Students' Senate;**
- d. **The In-charge, Hostel Affairs;**
- e. **The In-charge, UG Academics; and**
- f. **The In-charge, PG Academics."**

To

"The Senate shall elect from amongst the non-executive members of the General Body:

- a. **The Chairperson, Students' Senate;**
- b. **The Parliamentarian, Students' Senate;**
- c. **The Finance Convener, Students' Senate;**
- d. **The In-charge, Hostel Affairs;**
- e. **The In-charge, UG Academics; and**
- f. **The In-charge, PG Academics."**

The article 2.07a was changed from



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a. Be elected by the Senate from amongst its non-executive members.

To

a. Be elected by the Senate from amongst the non-executive members of the General Body.

The article 2.12a was changed from

a. Be elected by the Senate from among its non-executive members.

To

a. Be elected by the Senate from among the non-executive members of the General Body.

The article 2.13a was changed from

a. Be elected by the Senate from among its non-executive members.

To

a. Be elected by the Senate from among the non-executive members of the General Body.

The article 3.11 was changed from

“The Chairperson shall be elected by the Senate from among the non-executive members of the Senate. The elections of these posts for the incoming Senate will be conducted by the Chairperson and Parliamentarian of the outgoing Senate in the following manner:

a. Each Senator and Executive shall cast one vote for one of the candidates. If only two candidates are contesting at any point, the vote of the President will be hidden, and shall be considered in case of a tie.

b. If a candidate gets more than half of the votes cast and is declared elected.

c. If not, the candidate(s) with the least votes gets eliminated.



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d. Each Senator and Executive shall once again cast votes for the continuing candidates, and this process will continue until Article 3.08

(d) occurs, or until all but one candidate (who shall be declared elected) are eliminated.

e. If a tie occurs as per Article 3.08 (a), the vote of the President will be counted to break the tie.”

To

“The Chairperson shall be elected by the Senate from among the non-executive members of the General Body. The elections of these posts for the incoming Senate will be conducted by the Chairperson and Parliamentarian of the outgoing Senate in the following manner:

a. Any Senator who wishes to contest may propose himself/herself. However, a General Body Member who wishes to contest must be proposed by one Senator and seconded by two Senators.

b. Each Senator and Executive shall cast one vote for one of the candidates. If only two candidates are contesting at any point, the vote of the President will be hidden, and shall be considered in case of a tie.

c. If a candidate gets more than half of the votes cast, he/she is declared elected.

d. If not, the candidate(s) with the least votes gets eliminated.

e. Each Senator and Executive shall once again cast votes for the continuing candidates, and this process will continue until Article 3.11 (b) occurs, or until all but one candidate (who shall be declared elected) are eliminated.

f. If a tie occurs as per Article 3.11 (a), the vote of the President will be counted to break the tie.”

The third proposed amendment, updating the eligibility criterion was unanimously accepted by the Senate. The Appendix VI of the Constitution was updated to reflect the amended Eligibility Criteria. The General Eligibility Criterion was changed from



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“For all elected and nominated posts of the Students’ Gymkhana except the posts of Students’ Senate Nominees, a General Body Member will be eligible to apply only if:

- i. He/she has not exceeded the normal duration of their academic programmes (for all students except for PhD students)**
- ii. He/she has not exceeded the maximum duration of their academic programmes as defined in the UG Manual and PG Manual of the Institute (for all students).**
- iii. He/she has written permission from his/her advisor (in case of PhD students who have exceeded normal duration or PhD students who are in an advanced stage in their thesis).**
- iv. He/she has not been placed on Academic Probation or Warning by the SUGC.**
- v. He/she has not been debarred from holding positions by any Standing Committee of the (academic) Senate (in particular by the SSAC).**
- vi. He/she has a CPI greater than: o 6.5 for UG students o 7.5 for PG students who have not completed their course-work o 7.0 for PG students who have completed their course-work”**

To

“For all elected and nominated posts of the Students’ Gymkhana except the posts of Students’ Senate Nominees, a General Body Member will be eligible to apply only if:

- i. He/she has not exceeded the normal duration of their academic programmes (for all students except for PhD students)**
- ii. He/she has not exceeded the maximum duration of their academic programmes as defined in the UG Manual and PG Manual of the Institute (for all students).**
- iii. He/she has written permission from his/her advisor (in case of PhD students who have exceeded normal duration or PhD students who are in an advanced stage in their thesis).**
- iv. He/she has not been placed on Academic Probation or Warning by the SUGC.**



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- v. He/she has not been debarred from holding positions by any Standing Committee of the (academic) Senate (in particular by the SSAC).
- vi. He/she has a CPI greater than:
 - o 6.5 for UG students
 - o 7.5 for PG students who have not completed their course-work
 - o 7.0 for PG students who have completed their course-work.
- vii. He/she has not accumulated backlogs of more than 25 credits in coursework in total or obtained an X in thesis credits in the past one year.

Further, he/she is expected to maintain a CPI greater than or equal to 6.0 (in case of UG) or a CPI greater than or equal to 7.00 (in case of PG) and satisfy the backlog criteria during his/her entire tenure failing which he/she shall cease to hold his/her post in the Gymkhana”

The Eligibility Criterion for Students' Senate Nominees was changed from:

“ For the post of Students' Senate Nominees, a General Body Member will be eligible to apply only if:

- i. He/she has not been placed on Academic Probation or Warning by the SUGC.
- ii. He/she has not been debarred from holding positions by any Standing Committee of the (academic) Senate (in particular by the SSAC).
- iii. He/she has a CPI greater than:
 - o 6.5 for UG students
 - o 7.5 for PG students who have not completed their course-work
 - o 7.0 for PG students who have completed their course-work”

TO

“For the post of Students' Senate Nominees, a General Body Member will be eligible to apply only if:

- i. He/she has written permission from his/her advisor (in case of PhD students who have exceeded normal duration or PhD students who are in an advanced stage in their thesis).
- ii. He/she has not been placed on Academic Probation or Warning by the SUGC.



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- iii. He/she has not been debarred from holding positions by any Standing Committee of the (academic) Senate (in particular by the SSAC).
- iv. He/she has a CPI greater than: o 6.5 for UG students o 7.5 for PG students who have not completed their course-work o 7.0 for PG students who have completed their course-work.
- v. He/she has not accumulated backlogs of more than 25 credits in coursework in total or obtained an X in thesis credits in the past one year.

Further, he/she is expected to maintain a CPI greater than or equal to 6.0 (in case of UG) or a CPI greater than or equal to 7.00 (in case of PG) and satisfy the backlog criteria during his/her entire tenure failing which he/she shall cease to hold his/her post as the Students' Senate nominees.”

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| Item No. 9 | To consider the pre-conduction report of the General Elections (2016). |
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Mr. Abhishek Tyagi, Chief Election Officer, presented the pre-conduction report for the consideration of the Senate. During the course of discussion, the Senate decide that the eligibility criterion shall not be applicable on those students who are proposing or seconding other candidates and thus directed the CEO to incorporate that change. The CEO pointed out that based on the recommendations in the post conduction report of General Elections'15, he has proposed that the candidates shall be liable for even the actions that have been carried out by them before the code of conduct is enforced. The Senate opined that such an action would ensure upholding of the spirit of General Elections and decided that the CEO shall have discretionary powers to determine if the particular action of the candidate is against the spirit of the Elections.

With the above changes the report was accepted by the Senate.

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| Item No. 10 | To consider a proposal regarding the implementation of Censure Motion. |
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The Agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

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| Item No. 11 | To consider a proposal regarding measures to improve the handling of the Finances of the Students' Gymkhana. |
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The Agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

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| Item No. 12 | To consider the proposal for the formation of a new hobby group for cycling activities under the Games and Sports Council. |
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The Agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

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| Item No. 13 | To consider for approval the updated Constitution of the Students' Gymkhana. |
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The updated Constitution and the Appendices were presented by the Chairperson, Students' Senate for the consideration of the Senate and the Senate unanimously accepted the updated versions.

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| Item No. 14 | To consider for ratification, the names for the Core Team of Impression'16 and some other posts under the Cultural Council. |
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The Agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

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| Item No. 15 | To consider the request for deratification of the Leaders of Discussion and Debate Society, Cultural Council 15-16. |
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The Senate deliberated upon the request for deratification of the leaders of Discussion and Debate Society, Cultural Council 15-16. The Senate accepted the reasons presented, and removed the Leaders of Discussion and Debate Society, Cultural Council from their position. The Senate also decided that the students shall not be allowed to mention any of their achievements/work carried out by them as the Leaders of the hobby group.

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| Item No. 16 | Questions and Remarks, if any. |
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- 1) A question was raised by Mr. Ashish Aggarwal, General Secretary, Cultural Secretary, regarding the mail sent by the Chairperson, Student's Senate questioning the President, Student's Gymkhana regarding the HEC elections in Hall 11.

The Senate questioned the Convener, COSHA on his involvement in the HEC elections and the mail that he sent to the warden-in charge of the hall of residence 11. The convener, COSHA was questioned on his authority to call for elections in Hall 11 and also on the impact that his actions may have had on the outcome of the General Elections 2016. The Senate asked the In-charge, Hostel Affairs to explain his role in the conduction of the elections.



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In his defense, the In-charge, Hostel Affairs provided a screenshot of an email which he had sent to the Warden in which he had requested for "immediate elections" in his capacity as Convener, COSHA but maintained that he had not expressed any intent of becoming the CEO. He also stated that it had been decided since July that the HEC elections would be in January, 2016 and that he had considered it his responsibility as Convener, COSHA to remind the warden-in-charge of conducting the elections. He further informed on the floor of the Senate that he had no role to play in the elections of Hall XI as a new CEO had been appointed. The Students' Senate reprimanded the actions of the Convener, COSHA through a censure motion and also formed a Fact Finding Committee about the issue to investigate further.

“The Senate censured the Incharge, Hostel Affairs for going out of his capacity and interfering in matters internal to the hostel without the express direction of any overseeing authority.”

The Senate opined that the actions even if taken deliberately by any other student could still have affected the General Elections'16. Thus, the Senate constituted a Fact Finding Committee to look into the matter and consider whether the actions were taken deliberately and the possible impact on the Elections. The Committee consisted of:

- 1) Mr. Anurag Sahay (Chair of the Committee)
- 2) Mr. Sabyasanchi Verma, Senator UG Y12
- 3) Mr. Ishan , Senator M.Tech Y15

The Fact Finding Committee was further directed to present its report before the commencement of the General Elections.

- 2) The Chairperson, Student's Senate remarked that he had received an email from a Senator which called for investigation into certain sensitive matters pertaining to a Students' Senate nominee to one of the standing committees of the Academic Senate. Keeping in mind the sensitivity of the issue, the Chairperson decided to call for a closed door meeting to discuss the issue.. The Senator clarified that the source of the information cannot be relied upon and hence, he had requested for further investigation. The matter was discussed at length by the Senate and once again given the sensitivity of the issue, the Senate opined that rather than having further deliberations on the issue, it should be forwarded to S-SAC to carry out the due investigation.



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| | Any other item, with the permission of the Chairperson. |
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| Item No. 17 | To consider the complaint regarding a recent video released by an independent group of students, against the spirit of the General Elections of the Students' Gymkhana. |
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The Chairperson, Students' Senate pointed out that he had received a complaint from a general body member regarding a certain video. The video featured three current Senators, all of whom had at some forum expressed their desires to contest for the post of President, Student's Gymkhana. It was pointed out that the content of the video seems to be biased towards these three candidates as any other candidate contemplating about contesting in the Elections may find this unfair and against the spirit of the elections. Further, the video was named as 'Election Special' and contained direct references to the Presidential Elections as well as the background of the prospective candidates, thereby having a significant potential to affect the electoral process and biasing it towards some particular candidates. The group of students who had released the video pointed out that they had released the video with the consent of the Chief Election Officer. However, The President, Student's Gymkhana pointed out that he himself had warned them about the content of the video and asked them to refrain from releasing the video and let the Senate opine on this issue. The Senate accepted that the content of the video was against the spirit of the elections and noted the fact that the students went on to release the video despite warnings from the President. The Senate also felt that the actions of the CEO do not align with the Senate's vision pertaining to a free and fair elections. The CEO however, accepted his mistake and tendered his resignation for the consideration of the Senate. However the Senate did not find his mistake severe enough and given various constraints, decided to reject his resignation unanimously. However, the President pointed out some action should be taken against the CEO and proposed a Censure motion against him. The Senate allowed the CEO to present his defence and he expressed that he will be more careful about such issues in the future. The Senate discussed the contents of the Censure motion and unanimously decided to censure the CEO for his actions.

'The Senate censured the Chief Election Officer for dereliction of his duty by not preventing the release of a video that could affect the General Election'



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The Senate then decided that the case of the students who had released the video shall be forwarded to S-SAC for further investigation. As for the students who had featured in the video, the Senate opined that the CEO shall take further action, if deemed fit, should any of them choose to contest in the General Elections.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 am by the Chairperson, Student's Senate.