

MANIFESTO

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Post: DUGC Student Nominee, B.S.B.E.

Motivation

As a student in the Dept. of Bio-sciences and Bio-engineering I have been greatly benefitted by the wonderful opportunities and resources offered by this institution. However, I believe that the department's potential has not been completely realised and that a few minor changes in the structure and policies of the department will truly augment its academic and non-academic offerings. To work towards this end, I would like to be the Student's Nominee to DUGC, B.S.B.E.

Mission and Vision

Apart from representing the undergraduate community of B.S.B.E. department in the matters of branch change, backlogs, minors, semester leaves etc. I propose to bring about the following changes in the department:

- **Reduce Redundancy in Courses**

The course structure according to New ARC has introduced a lot of redundancies in the course content of the first two years. We end up studying topics like basic genetics, biochemical techniques, cell molecular biology, to name a few, in a number of courses. This is primarily because of the poor structuring (we are needed to take up biotechnology before we do a course in molecular biology). I would work towards re-structuring of the course template so that the redundancy is reduced as much as possible.

- **Departmental Courses**

Our current template is such that just the basic courses are spread over six semesters. While students in other department begin taking six-level courses right in their fifth semester, we are encouraged to take only the third-level courses. Such delay in teaching basic topics generates common incompetency, debilitating our performance in interns and UGPs. I would try to restructure and re-organise the courses so that we gain the competency of taking higher level departmental electives right from fifth semester.

- Electives and ESOs

Most of us are unsatisfied by the enforcement of compulsory ESOs by the new ARC. Such enforcement only precludes us from taking the courses that we are interested in. I would work towards revoking these restrictive rules.

- UGPs

Choosing a UGP has been an extremely cumbersome task for Y11 this semester. Currently the department follows an extremely inconvenient method in which we ourselves have to identify and approach each faculty member and ask them if they would allow any project as UGP. Also, such a method restricts us to professors who have taught us courses before, hence delimiting our chances of identifying the project which interests us the most. I would ensure that a central official list is floated in which each professor mentions the details of the project that they would be offering, to make UGPs fair and available to all.

- iGEM

Participation in iGEM has been a major topic of discussion among the students in the department for the past two years. Perhaps the only thing forestalling the participation is effective communication between faculty and students. I would mediate effective communication between students and faculty so that this year we are able to send our proposal. Also, to resolve the unavailability of lab, I would suggest to the DUGC, restructuring of molecular biology and biochemistry lab so that the curriculum experiments themselves to the iGEM project and potentially identify interested pool of students.