



# STUDENTS' SENATE (2017-18)

## Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

### STUDENTS' GYMKHANA



#### Proposal to dissolve the General Affairs Council &

#### Reform the President's Office

*Proposed by: Rutuj Jugade, President, Students' Gymkhanas*

The Gymkhana currently comprises of Councils, Cells and Festivals in the executive wing. Executive Councils are the oldest structure of the Gymkhana and although their structures and working have been modified several times to adapt to changing times, they remain a representation of a collection of hobbies that can be brought under the umbrella of a single idea.

The General Affairs Council, in its present form caters to a very wide set of ideas and diverse activities. There isn't a single idea that can really encompass all the varied activities that it takes up. Hence, it does not seem to fit in with the other Executive councils.

The current composition of the General Affairs Council is:

1. President's nominees to various committees
2. Book Master(s) of the Gymkhana Library
3. Executive, Web of the Gymkhana
4. Other event managers (Eg: Nostalgia)

The major work taken up by this council is through the President's nominees. However, they are not independent of the President, in the manner that club coordinators are to their General Secretary. The nominees essentially take up the President's agendas at various committees in the Institute, whereas clubs take up their own initiatives in coordination with the General Secretary. Also, the other councils have some planned activities/events every year, whereas the nature of work of the nominees is more agenda and need based. Also, it is hard to imagine that the General Affairs Council shall need to conduct such annual planned events ever in the near future.

Book Master(s) handle a particular asset of the Gymkhana i.e. the Gymkhana Library. Their work too is very dissimilar to that of any club or hobby group, each of which generally provides a platform for students to collect and involve in a particular activity on campus.

Similarly other positions in the council also work at the discretion of the President. Hence, it is pretty clear that the working of the current structure is very different from that of other councils and in fact, very similar to that of an office, which is essentially a collection of people that work under a single authority to implement plans and carry out activities.



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A reformation of the General Affairs Council (GAC) into a more structured President's Office is thus being proposed. Previously, the Presidential Council existed, which comprised of several more bodies (or clubs) like the Book Club, Raktarpan, Prayas etc. all of which have either been reorganized into one or the other Cell, or reformed under the GAC. Hence the new structure being proposed is that of an office and not back to the old Presidential Council.

### Proposed new structure:

The President's Office would comprise of the following positions under him/her:

1. President's nominees to various Institute committees
2. Book Master(s)
3. Marketing Team for Gymkhana Sponsorship
4. Placement Preparation Team (*initiating this year, as an experiment*)
5. President's Junior Executive Team (JET)

The initial two are the same as in currently existing structure.

#### a) Marketing Team

The marketing team shall be responsible for the acquisition of external sponsorship to the Students' Gymkhana (as is defined in the proposal for External Sponsorship). It shall comprise of:

- **Chief Marketing Manager**, who shall head the team, and
- **Marketing Executives**, who shall assist the CME in carrying out the activities.

Each council/cell shall provide their own executives for marketing. These shall be appointed by the respective authority for that council/cell and not the President, Students' Gymkhana. They shall work in coordination with the CMM to reach out to potential sponsors, pitch proposals and finalize deals for their respective body. They shall not contact any body outside the Students' Gymkhana for this purpose without the prior approval from the CMM. This structure also makes it plainly obvious that the loss shall be the council's to bear if their executive(s) does not do justice to his position.

The CMM shall directly be appointed by the President, Students' Gymkhana. He/She shall be the coordinating authority in this marketing process, and shall ensure that all deals happen as per the Senate and Institute mandated protocols. He/She shall not be responsible for coming up with proposals on behalf of the councils/cells, but rather act as the intermediary that they should approach to



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acquire/realize their funding. The person at this position should ideally be one who has experience of marketing, and can be of help in terms of giving guidance and advice to the executives to be able to better pitch their ideas.

The guidelines related to marketing or sponsorship procurement that need to be followed by the Gymkhana shall be presented in a separate proposal.

b) Placement Preparation Team

The PPT is an initiative that I would like to start this year, as we at present do not have any body catering to this issue very effectively today.

This shall be an ad-hoc team of student volunteers who shall assist the SPO (or the CDC, once it takes over the responsibility of Placement Preparation from the SPO) in conducting placement preparation sessions for the students.

c) Junior Executive Team:

This shall be a pool of Junior Executives that assist the President in carrying out his/her executive tasks. They may additionally assist the President's nominees in their task too.