



STUDENTS' SENATE (2017-18) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur



STUDENTS' GYMKHANA

Proposal to reorganize the Academics and Research Cell

Philosophy behind the ARC

Often in the history of the Students' Gymkhana, we have felt the need for a body to be able to address an issue that is of prime importance to the students – their Academics. Curricular academics are of primary importance (though not restricted) to the UG students and research related activities of primary importance post-graduate and PhD students (again not restricted). International relations are of great importance to all students in general. And these three major activities are the founding ideas of the ARC.

Need for reorganization

Several structures have been tried in the past for such a body, but none have been able to work very effectively on the issue. The ARC was also such an idea, and to prevent it from failing like other models of the past, it is important to reorganize the body to ensure an efficient working.

Objectives of the ARC

Academics and Research Cell (ARC) acts as an interface between the Institute policy makers and the students on matters related to academic and research affairs. The Cell's major responsibility is to address the concerns of the students related to their academics and research work as well as improve existing or develop new policies and ensure their implementation for the same purpose. Policy changes in the academic structure of the curriculums of different programmes at IITK, promoting more and better quality of research collaborations and improving the international relations of the institute with its foreign counterparts are the major sectors of its work.

To achieve the above aim, the ARC shall:

- 1) Keep track of primary issues (related to Academics, Research and International Relation) being discussed in the Academics Senate or its sub-committees (SEPC, SUGC/SPGC, SCMDC), Departments and their committees/sub-committees (DPGCs/DUGCs) and help formulate a unanimous student opinion with regard to them.**
- 2) Work in close association with the Academic Affairs Division of the Institute to modify the existing programs, rules and regulations to create a better environment for teaching and learning.**
- 3) Come up with tools to understand and document the amount and level of research being done by students of this college at the undergraduate and graduate level separately and help in identifying underlying issues such as lack of infrastructure or other forms of inputs from the institute such as monetary help to attend conferences etc.**
- 4) Works in close association with the Office of International Relations of the Institute to promote international relations of the Institute with foreign institutions.**
- 5) Serve as a primary source for dissemination of authentic and up to date information for the entire student body.**



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6) Be responsible for bringing important agendas to the attention of the Students' Senate for either noting or discussion (as the case maybe) and be responsible to the Students' Senate for working to create a better environment for education and development.

Organization and Constitution

It is suggested that Academics and Research Cell have five wings (UG Academics Wing, PG Academics Wing, Research Wing, International Relations Wing and Creatives Wing). The wings shall each be headed by Coordinator(s) who shall be responsible for the working of their wing, and be directly appointed by the Senate, through a panel comprising of:

1. President, Students' Gymkhana
2. Chairperson, Students' Senate
3. Overall Coordinator(s)
4. Respective Coordinators (s) (*only in the case of coordinators*)

The overall composition of the Cell is as mentioned below:

1. Overall Coordinator(s)
2. Coordinator, UG Academics
3. Coordinator, PG Academics
4. Coordinator, Research
5. Coordinator, International Relations
6. Coordinator, Creatives
7. All student members in SUGC, SPGC, SCMDC and SEPC
8. All student members of all the DUGCs/DPGCs
9. Other members (Senior/Junior Executives) nominated by the OCs and ratified by the Senate

*Note: The vision of this cell, if achieved completely will involve a lot more work for the various coordinators than that is at present done by those at other coordinator positions. If at a later time such a level is achieved by the ARC, the name of the post may be modified to a **Head** (assuming that coordinators' work is unchanged.)*

Directives:

1. Overall Coordinator(s) shall be responsible to lead the ARC and be accountable for all affairs of the Cell to the Students' Senate, and in turn to the General Body of students.
2. Students' Senate shall appoint Coordinators(s), who shall be responsible to assist the Overall Coordinator(s) in the implementation of tasks related to their wing.
3. Overall Coordinators may nominate other members to the cell (executives etc.), who shall be ratified by the Senate.



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Structure:

Each wing (except creatives) in the ARC shall comprise of a Core Committee.

The Core Committee of the UG Academics Wing shall comprise of:

- Overall Coordinator (Chairman of the committee)
- Coordinator, UG Academics (Convener)
- Students' Senate nominee(s) to the SUGC
- UG Students' Senate nominee to the SEPC
- UG Students' Senate nominee(s) to the SCDMC

The Core Committee for the PG Academics Wing shall comprise of:

- 1 Overall Coordinator (Chairman of the committee)
- Coordinator, PG Academics (Convener)
- Students' Senate nominee(s) to the SPGC
- PG Students' Senate nominee to the SEPC
- PG Students' Senate nominee(s) to the SCDMC

The Core Committee of the Research Wing shall comprise of:

- Overall Coordinator (Chairman)
- Coordinator, Research (Convener)
- President, Students' Gymkhana
- Chairperson, Students' Senate
- Finance Convener

The Core Committee of the International Relations Wing shall comprise of:

- Overall Coordinator (Chairman)
- Coordinator, International Relations (Convener)
- President, Students' Gymkhana
- Chairperson, Students' Senate

The Coordinator, Creatives shall be an *ex-officio* special invitee to the meetings of all the Core Committees of the ARC.

Working Principles of the UG Academics Wing

The student members in the DUGC, as members of their respective departments, are generally more aware of their department's policies and functioning. Being students each of their departments, they are a good source for the collection and assimilation of students' opinion of each department.



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The SUGC is the committee where any and all items related to UG Academics is taken up and implementation of any policy, however noble in thought, is not possible without proper representation of the same in the SUGC.

Keeping the above in mind, the following guidelines have been proposed:

All student members of all the DUGCs shall be members of the UG Academics Wing. They shall all work under and report to the Coordinator, UG Academics, who shall be responsible for ensuring the same.

The Coordinator, UG shall serve as a bridge between the Core Committee, UG Academics (esp. SUGC student members) and the DUGC student members. It is being specifically emphasized here that the role of the Coordinator here becomes of extreme importance in this structure, as he is the sole link (structurally) between the SUGC and DUGC student members. Efficient implementation of policies requires a strong interaction between the students of these two bodies.

The Chairman and Convener of each Core Committee is directly appointed by the Senate, and hence shall be responsible to the Senate. The respective Chairman shall represent and directly report the Core Committee in the Senate.

It is proposed that the ARC also conduct activities (either during or after the Gymkhana Week) such as open discussion sessions to get more 1st year students aware about the academic policies and rules of the institute. These sessions are aimed both at making students more aware of the system as well as tapping those 1st year students both from the UG and the PG community who would be interested in contributing to these activities.

Ideation or creation of new policies or the review/modification of old ones shall be discussed in and taken up in the appropriate manner by the Core Committee. The DUGC student members shall be responsible for:

- Gathering of student opinion on matters of critical importance
- Spreading awareness about the academic policies, rules and regulations
- Helping students out with their templates, semester planning and course planning

The DUGC and SUGC Students' Senate nominees shall be responsible for pursuing the agendas allotted to them by the Core Committee in their respective committee (DUGC/SUGC).

The same guidelines as above for the UG Academics Wing shall apply to the PG Academics Wing too.

Working Principles of the Research Wing

At present, there is no Institute level body looking into the promotion of research activities on campus as a whole (unlike the SUGC/SPGC for academics). Hence, for now the major focus of this wing shall be to increase awareness about the variety of research activities going on in campus, and promote research as a field amongst the campus community.

At present, the major work of the Research Wing shall be:



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- **The organization of the Student Research Convention (SRC)**
The Coordinator, Research shall be the *ex-officio* Overall Manager of the SRC. He/She may appoint Senior and Junior Executives under him/her. Collectively this Wing shall be responsible for the organization, conduction and proper implementation of the SRC. The Overall Coordinator who is part of the Core Committee shall ensure the same.
- **The revival of PoWER**
PoWER was an avenue for students to gain invaluable research experience through industrial projects. The body has become inactive and the Research Wing shall take up the agenda of trying for its revival.
- **Formation of a complete research database**
There are several research projects and activities going on in campus. The Research wing shall take up the collation of information on all such projects happening in campus and organize them into a single database highlighting:
 - A list of professors and the current projects of each one
 - List of students under each professor (project-wise) and
 - Open positions/Vacancies available along with qualifications required for each vacancy.

Senior and Junior Executives in the Research Wing shall work under the Coordinator, Research.

The Overall Coordinator (chair of this core committee) and the Coordinator, Research shall be responsible for planning, organizing and conducting the activities of this wing. As a matter of special mention, the SRC shall be the responsibility of the Research Coordinator. He shall be accountable to the OC for this event (and all other activities of the wing), who in turn shall be responsible to the Senate.

Apart from these, the wing shall:

- Together with the appropriate body on campus, organize sessions to help and guide students in all aspects of research (career options, better publicity for their work etc.)
- Work closely with the Office of Research and Development to promote = and streamline activities related to research on campus

Working Principles of the International Relations Wing

The Associate Dean, International Relations (ADIR), with the assistance of the Office of International relations is the official body working towards improving the relations of IITK with its international counterparts. The International Relations Wing shall work along with the ADIR as a team representing students' opinion on this issue.

There are 4 major areas that are envisioned for the International Relations Wing:

- **Exchange programmes:** The IR Wing shall aim to increase the opportunities for semester exchanges available for the students of IITK.
- **Internships:** The IR Wing shall aim to increase the opportunities for internships (sponsored and exchanges) available for the students during the vacation period.



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- Career Opportunities in Academia: The IR Wing shall aim to increase the awareness amongst students of the opportunities available and the complete procedure of application for different students to pursue. They shall also try to increase the number of such opportunities through collaborative mechanisms with other Institutes. An additional agenda they may take up together with the CDC is to have an efficient network of students interested in pursuing their studies in universities abroad.
- Student Contact body for foreign students on campus: The IR Wing shall serve as a student point of contact for all foreign students on campus for all their programme related queries/clarifications.

The Coordinator, IR shall be responsible for all the activities related to as the student point of contact for all students. He/She may appoint Senior and Junior executives under him/her to assist in the implementation of plans and policies.

The Core Committee shall serve as an overseeing and overseeing body for all activities related to International Relations.

Working Principles of the Creatives Wing

The Creatives wing is a new addition to the ARC. The need was felt as there is a lot of content that needs to be properly presented for a better visibility outside the campus.

The Creatives wing shall work closely with all other wings and be responsible for the content editing and distribution of the ARC. All other wings shall coordinate with this one for their content related requirements.

The Coordinator shall be responsible for their activities. He/She may appoint Senior/Junior executives under him/her for carrying out the tasks of the wing.