

# **Proposal to reorganize the responsibilities of the SUGC and SPGC vis-à-vis the Office of Academic Affairs**

*Proposed by: Anurag Sahay (11141/11917141)*

The Office of Academic Affairs, under the Dean, Academic Affairs handles all matters relating to the academics of IIT Kanpur. It includes two Associate Deans (respectively UG Academics and PG Academics) and provides secretarial and official support to two standing committees of the Senate namely the Senate Undergraduate Committee (SUGC) and the Senate Postgraduate Committee (SPGC).

At present, due to the history of IIT Kanpur, the Office of Academic Affairs (that is, the Dean and Associate Deans) does not take any academic decision in the Institute. All such decisions are taken by the SUGC, the SPGC and the Senate as well as their respective Chairpersons, depending on the nature of the decision (for example, routine matters are approved by the Chairpersons of the SUGC and SPGC while special cases always go the committees. Furthermore, decisions such as termination and awarding of degrees which are treated with more formality nearly always go all the way up to the Senate before being officially implemented, except in special cases). This proposal is to change that by relegating some of the powers and responsibilities of the Chairpersons of the SUGC and the SPGC to their respective Associate Deans.

There are a number of decisions taken by the Chairpersons of the SUGC and SPGC which do not necessarily have too much academic content, and serve only to overburden the faculty member involved with unnecessary signatures and routine checks, despite the fact that the Chairpersons of these committees will often have more important pending work pertaining to policy decisions that are pushed onto a backburner due to the excessively large amount of day-to-day decisions of this sort that they have to take. To ease the load on them (and to increase the load on the ADUG and ADPG, who have a dearth of both responsibility and powers due to the novelty of their position and the uniqueness of IITK's academic structure which gives the Dean, Academic Affairs virtually zero academic responsibility, and hence removes the possibility of him delegating said responsibilities to his associates), it is proposed that such decisions shall instead be taken by the corresponding Associate Deans. A non-exhaustive list of decisions of this nature that can be transferred is as follows

- Approval of (Short) Leave
- Approval of Late Registration requests
- Approval of make-up examination requests

It is further proposed that the Associate Dean, UG Academics (respectively PG Academics) be made an *ex-officio* permanent member or special invitee to the SUGC (respectively SPGC), to provide a channel of communication between the Senate committees and the Dean's Office which is presently absent (one could even say actively discouraged) and to provide a mechanism by which the Senate committees could give context to their respective Associate Deans regarding policy matters, and how they affect the day-to-day decisions which shall be taken by them in this regard.

If the Students' Senate finds this proposal acceptable, it is requested that it be sent to the Dean, Academic Affairs for his opinion, with a request to forward it the Director & Chairman, Senate for further consideration.