

**Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
Office of Dean of Students' Affairs**

Recommendations of the Students' Governance Committee

The Committee was constituted as per decision of the Senate vide the notification no. DIR/17/93 dated April 7, 1993 and was reconstituted vide the notification no. DIR/47/94 dated September 16, 1994 for "critically examining the existing guidelines (written/conventions e.g. various Senate directives on Students' Governance, the Constitution of Students' Gymkhana etc.) regarding students' governance in its totality with a view to suggest whether the system requires complete overhauling or only some fine tuning". The Committee was also asked to suggest issues involved in fine tuning, if its findings were for the latter.

The Committee submitted its report in 1996/97 / 3rd meeting of the Senate held on 5.11.1996 for its consideration. The report of the Students' Governance Committee was accepted. However, the Senate desired that specific aspects of the report be brought back in the summarized manner for its approval. The Report submitted by the Committee focuses on the following issues related to problems related to Students' governance:

1. Eligibility for accepting Elected/Nominated posts of Students Gymkhana and Hall Executive Committees;
2. Participation in Short -Term Activities of Students Gymkhana;
3. Organization of Major Activities of Students Gymkhana;
4. Financial Discipline;
5. Senate Students Affairs Committee (SSAC);
6. Hall Management.

Eligibility for accepting Elected/Nominated posts of Students Gymkhana and Hall Executive Committees:

Annual elections for (i) various executive posts of Students' Gymkhana and Hall Executive Committees of various Halls of Residence and (ii) Senators of the Students' Senate are held for a one-year term. The Student Governance Committee recommends that the following categories of students, in view of the clear evidence that they are not able to do a proper time management of their schedule and are finding it difficult to cope up with the academic requirements of the Institute, shall not be eligible to contest for the elections;

- (a) who do not meet the requirement of guaranteed stay at the Institute as registered students for the one-year term of the Gymkhana for which the elections are being held;
- (b) who, from the date of their registration in the programme of study at the Institute, have completed the normal duration of the programme³ or shall be completing the normal duration of the programme during the one-year tenure of the post;

- (c) who have total backlogs accumulated at the rate of more than one per completed semester except those accumulated by the semester leave;
- (d) who are academically deficient, i.e. listed under the categories of (i) *warning* or (ii) *academic probation* (AP) in the semester in which the elections are being held;
- (e) who are debarred from participation in student activities on *disciplinary* grounds;
- (f) who have Cumulative Performance Index (CPI) lower than 6.0 (for UG students) or 7.0 (for PG students);
- (g) Ph.D students who are in the advanced stage of their thesis and permission to contest the elections has not been endorsed by the thesis supervisor.

Apart from the eligibility criteria mentioned above the following points shall be observed before conducting the annual general election of Students' Gymkhana:

1. The Chief Election Officer of Students' Gymkhana (appointed by Students' Senate) shall bring out, at the time of the announcement of Gymkhana elections, the salient details about the duties and responsibilities of various office bearers for the information of the General Body of the students,
2. The Chief Counsellor (Dean of Students' Affairs), after the finalization of the list of candidates by the Election Committee, shall convene a meeting of all the candidates to apprise about their role and responsibilities,
3. The incumbent office bearers shall prepare the Interim Report of their respective offices stating their achievements, plans under consideration, etc. And shall display the same on the notice boards of all Halls of Residence for the information of the General Body,
4. Each interested student filing the nomination for a given post shall be given a copy of the updated Constitution of Students' Gymkhana,
5. The act of making baseless and false statements shall be viewed as an act of indiscipline and shall be dealt with seriously.

Participation in Short -Term Activities:

Students organize various short-term co- and extra-curricular activities under the organization of Students' Gymkhana, Halls of Residence, professional societies of Academic Departments. Students Gymkhana also organizes short term activities such as Galaxy, Antaragni (both activities as cultural festivals), Udghosh (an inter-university sports festival) and Techkriti (an inter-university Technology festival) which require short-term involvement of many students. Finally many students represent the Institute in the Inter-IIT Meet. The Students Governance Committee recommends that

1. Academically deficient students (those on Warning and Academic Probation or those who have accumulated a large number of backlogs at a rate of > one per semester) are advised not to participate in activities which require dedicated time spanning over weeks.

2. Academically deficient students who are desirous to participate as (i) coordinators/ secretaries in the above mentioned Gymkhana/Hall/Departmental activities and (ii) competitive activities that require preparations of weeks shall seek a prior approval of the Dean of Students' Affairs/ Head, Counselling Service.

Organization of Major Activities of Students Gymkhana:

Activities like Galaxy, Antaragni, Udghosh and Techkriti (i) cover a wide range of activities spanning over 3-4 days, (ii) involve a high-budget and are self-financing, i.e. require the entire budget to be raised through sponsorships, (iii) require involvement of organizers over months, (iv) involve the arrangements of transportation, boarding/lodging, health care as well as security of several hundred student participants coming to the student from outside colleges and the institutes and (v) demand not only intensive involvement of several offices and units of the Institute but also the use of Institute resources. For the organization of such activities, the Students Governance Committee recommends that;

1. An Advisory and Coordination Committee (ACC) shall be constituted for each major activity. Each ACC shall comprise the following as members:

Dean of Students' Affairs
Faculty Counsellor of the respective Council
Treasurer of Students' Gymkhana
General Secretary of the Council
Festival Coordinator
President, Students' Gymkhana
Convener, Students Senate

Each ACC shall be free to co-opt other members and shall examine various proposals made by the Festival Coordinator including those of outside teams to be invited and the sponsors.

2. The ACC shall advise the council regarding terms and conditions of the sponsorships to be obtained from sponsors and the budget allocation of the festival and shall assist the Council for emergency management.
3. Each Gymkhana Council shall be required to prepare a Summary Report after the completion of the activity.

Financial Discipline:

Chapter VI of the Constitution of Students' Gymkhana provides Rules and Procedures for the Financial Management of Students' Gymkhana. In addition, circulars issued from the Dean of Students' Affairs are routinely used to control financial aspects of Students' Gymkhana.

Senate Students Affairs Committee (SSAC):


SSAC represents one of the unique system of students' governance at Institute. Students' Governance Committee recommends that

Wardens and HECs should try to resolve, if possible, minor issues at the level itself. However, in all such cases, the matter must be brought to the notice of the Chairman SSAC. Further, the stipulated punishments in all such cases should be in the nature of recommendations to SSAC. The Chairman SSAC may approve such actions and subsequently report the same to SSAC.

Hall Management:

Ordinance 9 and 11 spell out requirements of (i) governance of Halls of Residence and (ii) general conduct and discipline among students residing there. In addition, the Students Governance Committee recommends the following for Hall Management;

1. The Constitution of Hall of Residence V (March 1983) provides the details about general organization, organizational principles, elections for the Hall Council, nominations, duties and responsibilities of various Hall councils etc. All Halls of Residence should formulate their Constitution along the lines of that of Hall V.
2. The work load on the General Secretary, Mess is relatively high and duties are time consuming. The system of 2-3 Mess Secretaries having clearly defined domain of their responsibilities should be started.
3. The governance of messes in Halls of Residence may be made more effective by introducing one-day compulsory mess duty jointly by 2-3 residents every day.
4. Though students contribute financially towards mess establishment, there is a widespread feeling among students that they have no say in the appraisal of mess staff. Ways and means should be found out to incorporate the participation of mess secretaries in the same.


(Sanjeev Bhargava)

Dean of Students' Affairs

ules and
circulars
aspects