

Vox Populi IIT Kanpur

Mid-Term Report : 2018-19

Vox Populi has been pretty active during the initial phase of its tenure. We have diversified a lot in terms of our activities and are working forward to build the competency of the team across various avenues.

Some of the major highlights of the first part of the tenure were as follows:

Category	Count	Category	Count
Interviews	1	Internship Insight	13
Journalistic Reports	6	Campus Dialogue	1
Op-eds	1	News Share	6
Print Edition	1	Vox Walks	7
Insta- Reporting	18	Video	1
Workshops	2	'As we leave' series	7

De-ratification of an Editor

Aditya Jain (Roll No. 160048) was relieved of his duties as an Editor, Vox Populi on 30th September 2018. The primary reason for this decision was his lack of commitment and a shift in priorities.

Spring Print Edition

A 12-page print edition was published at the end of April 2018. 4000 copies were distributed amongst the students and faculty. This print edition had stories which carried out an in-depth analysis of the concerned issue. The quality of design was further levelled up. The following stories were published -

- Language Barrier on Campus
- Are Open Electives that Open
- PoR: Overhype or Mis-hype
- PhD Funding Crunch
- Travel Blog

Campus Dialogue

Campus Dialogue was envisioned as a platform for active discussion amongst students and various stakeholders (like faculty, administration and student representatives). The first campus dialogue was conducted on the issue of UG academics and was scheduled on Oct 1, 2018.

Prof Dheeraj Sanghi, Dept. of CSE and Prof Deepak Gupta, Dept of MSE were the faculty panellists while Ms. Vasundhara Rakesh (Students' Nominee to the SUGC), Mr. Pratyush Garg (UG Coordinator, Counselling Service) and Mr. Soumyadeep Datta (Chief Editor, Vox Populi) were the student panellists.

A wide range of topics was discussed in this session, namely, MOOCs and Flipped Classrooms in IITK, Termination of academic programme, Flexibility with regard to OEs and other issues.

There were three key learnings from our maiden campus dialogue:

- To reduce the number of topics to have a better in-depth discussion
- To have a more apposite set of panellists
- Further emphasis on publicity.

A suggestion to schedule the Campus Dialogue with other events on campus was suggested by members of GRC and we are considering it.

We intend to conduct *one* more Campus Dialogue in this tenure.

As We Leave Series

As we leave series was an initiative in which graduating students of IITK reflect back on their learnings, realizations and experiences during their stay on campus. The series was well received by our viewers. A total of 7 posts were published under this head with an attempt to cover as diverse a set of graduating students as possible.

Video

The video division was revamped this year with the team releasing the Freshers' Video during the 2018-19 I semester.

We are also working on a Research Series, in which posts will be published in form of videos. We intend to collaborate with the Media Centre for the same.

We are collaborating with the Antaragni to take video interviews of special guests.

Insta-Reports

The following issues were covered in this tenure:

- Ragging Decisions in Allahabad HC
- Welcome Y18
- Fire in Hall 13 Mess
- IITK Alumni Association Election Results
- Inter IIT Aquatics Meet Results
- Shanti Swarup Award winners
- Samsung IoT Lab Set-up
- Teachers Day Post
- Increase in Senator Nominations
- Health Insurance Policy
- IITK student achievements
- Suicide on Campus
- Appointment of New Director
- Applications of Circuit Simulation Software by Prof. YS Chauhan

Stories

A number of stories were published, namely,

- Story of IITK-KGMU
- Preparatory School: A brief Insight
- De-Addiction Clinic
- The Case of Branch Change
- A thought for tomorrow, let's be nice
- Interview with Dr Raja Raman
- The story of National Technology Day
- IITK: Home No More?

Vox Walks

7 posts were published under the flagship series of Vox Populi. This time the posts also had a focus on the issues faced by the IITK staff workers. The posts were well aligned with the vision of revealing stories that the campus community was not aware of. Overall the posts were well received and had positive feedback from our viewers.

Things in process

A lot of stories were initiated at the beginning of the semester and work is underway to publish the same. The list of stories is as follows:

- Opportunities in Core
- Mental Health on Campus

- A story of a drug addict
- Director's interview
- A satirical piece on financial mismanagement

A major reason for the discontinuity in output can be attributed to the fact that things are executed in batches.

Future Plans

Vox Populi team intends to focus more on the journalistic stories. A key reason why it was neglected was a shift in focus to diversify the activities. We intend to take up the following issues in the remaining part of the tenure. The list is not exhaustive and is only a broad estimate as per the present scenario.

- Research Series
- Interviewing guest speakers during Antaragni
- An article on the LGBTQ issue, in collaboration with Unmukt
- A second campus dialogue
- An editorial on casteism on campus
- Analysis of merger of FMC and Cultural Council
- Inter IIT Sports meet coverage
- Data-intensive pieces on Departmental Demographics and DoAA's Annual report on Grade Statistics

Increase in reach:

Vox Populi moved further towards '15k likes' milestone during the tenure and this marks a huge achievement for the page. Given that our primary mode of communication with our readers is through our Facebook page, this milestone gives us access to a larger audience. Starting with 11.8k likes, in our tenure the readership currently stands at 14.4k likes and counting.

Budget

Vox Populi was allocated a budget of Rs 70,000/- for the 2018-19 tenure. The following expenses have been incurred by Vox Populi till now.

Print Edition	: Rs 42,100/-
Campus Dialogue	: Rs 1,390/-
Domain Renewal	: Rs 4,670/-
Total	: Rs 48,160/-
Remaining	: Rs 21,840/-