



**Students' Senate (2015-16)**  
**Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**  
**Shubham Atreja | Chairperson**



**2015-16/5<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Students' Senate**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Students' Senate was held on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 in the Senate Hall, New SAC. It was called to order by the Chairperson, Students' Senate at 8:30 PM.

<b>Item No. 1</b>	To confirm the Minutes of the following meetings: i. 2015-16/6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting ii. 2015-16/3 <sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting iii. 2015-16/4 <sup>th</sup> Special Meeting
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The minutes were not prepared and hence were not circulated. They will be presented for ratification in the next meeting.

<b>Item No. 2</b>	Announcements and Remarks, if any
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The following announcements and remarks were admitted by the Chairperson:

- 1) The Foundation day of the institute was celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015. Mr. Pradeep Narayan was felicitated with the Satyendra K. Dubey Award. Various professors and alumni were inducted as Institute fellows.
- 2) An open house session of the Gymkhana was conducted in association with Vox Populi in which the mid-term reports of the Gymkhana Office Bearers were presented before the General Body Members followed by a question-answer round.
- 3) The 51<sup>st</sup> Inter-IIT Sports meet to be held at IIT Madras was called off due to severe flooding in Chennai.

<b>Item No. 3</b>	To consider the mid-term report of the Chairperson, Students' Senate.
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The Chairperson, Students' Senate presented the mid-term report for the consideration of the Senate. After much deliberations on the recommendations in the report, the Senate accepted the report as presented.

<b>Item No. 4</b>	To consider the mid-term report of the President, Students' Gymkhana.
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The President, Students' Gymkhana presented the mid-term report of the Presidential Council for the consideration of the Senate. After much deliberations the Senate accepted the report as presented.



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<b>Item No. 5</b>	To consider the mid-term report of the General Secretary, Cultural Council.
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The Agenda item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting.

<b>Item No. 6</b>	To consider the mid-term report of the General Secretary, Films and Media Council.
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The General Secretary, Films and Media Council presented the mid-term report for the consideration of the Senate. One of the recommendations in the report were regarding reincorporation of a Unified Design Team under the Students' Gymkhana. The Senate noted that such a body had existed under the Students' Gymkhana previously as well but was dissolved due to strong apprehensions from the Festival Teams as it adversely affected their working. As a result the Senate decided that the recommendation be first discussed in the joint meeting of COFA so as take the opinion of the Festival Teams into consideration. With this, the Senate accepted the report as presented.

<b>Item No. 7</b>	To consider the mid-term report of the Finance Convener, Students' Senate.
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The Finance Convener, Students' Senate presented the mid-term report for the consideration of the Senate. During the course of discussion, the Finance Convener pointed out that there is some discrepancy in the section covering the income of Students' Gymkhana and he shall submit the corrected version over the mailing list. Further, the Senate expressed serious concerns regarding the overshoot of some of the heads under the Science and Technology Council. However, since the General Secretary, Science and Technology Council was not present during the discussion, the Senate decided that a clarification be sought from the General Secretary regarding the overshoots in the next meeting. After much deliberation on the report and with the above caveats the Senate accepted the report.

The Senate also commended the work of the Finance Convener, Student's Senate in putting the finances of the Gymkhana online, thus taking a big step towards transparency.

<b>Item No. 8</b>	To consider the proposal regarding measures to improve the handling of the Finances of the Students' Gymkhana.
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The Agenda item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting.



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<b>Item No. 9</b>	To consider the proposal regarding the implementation of Censure Motion.
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The Agenda item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting.

<b>Item No. 10</b>	To consider a proposal to update the eligibility criteria for various posts under the Students' Gymkhana.
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Mr. Praveen Honhar, Students' Senate Nominee to the SUGC presented this item for the consideration of the Senate. Firstly, he proposed that under the Appendix- VI of the Constitution, the current eligibility criteria for the Students' Senate nominees should be updated to include a written permission the advisor, in case of students who have exceeded normal duration or students who are in an advanced stage in their thesis. The Senate noted that this will ensure uniformity in terms of the General Eligibility Criteria and the Eligibility Criteria for the Students' Senate Nominees.

He then pointed out that with the implementation of new ARC guidelines, the concept of a backlog has been redefined and thus there is a need to update the eligibility criteria for various posts under the Students' Gymkhana. He proposed that an additional criteria be added, that puts a maximum cap on the number of backlogs that can be accumulated in terms of the credits. During the course of discussion, it was pointed out that such a criteria should exist for both UG as well as PG students and further, it should be different for the two programs keeping in mind the respective guidelines as per the new ARC. The Senate then accepted that there is a need to update the eligibility criteria but could not decide the cap on the number of credits. The Senate then decided to refer this to the Rules and Procedures Committee and directed them to propose the Constitutional amendment for this proposal along with a suitable cap on the numbers.

Finally, he proposed that a procedure be laid down that ensures that all the students who are appointed at various posts under the Students' Gymkhana satisfy the eligibility criteria at all times. He further proposed that in case a student is found who doesn't satisfy the eligibility criteria, he/she shall be removed from the position and shall not be allowed to mention his/her achievements and work done. The proposal further included that under extreme cases, the Senate may further report the case to S-SAC for additional disciplinary actions. The Chairperson then pointed out that a procedure has already been accepted by the Senate which shall be sufficient to ensure that the rule is properly implemented. Keeping this in mind, the Senate accepted the proposal regarding the further action that needs to be taken



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and directed the Rules and Procedures Committee to propose a Constitutional Amendment for the same.

<b>Item No. 11</b>	To consider a proposal to update the membership of the Senate by introducing a new post.
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The Chairperson, Students' Senate presented this item for the consideration of the Senate. He pointed the reasons for updating the membership of the Senate, as stated in the proposal. The Senate noted that the proposed position is essentially legislative in nature, while the losing candidate in the Elections had contested for an Executive position. Thus, he cannot be automatically appointed to this new position, given the fundamental difference in the nature of the work. The Senate however, accepted the need for an opportunity through which such students may be able to contribute towards the working of the Students' Gymkhana. During the course of discussion, a separate proposal was put forth by a general body member. As per the proposal, any general body member shall be allowed to contest during the elections for the office bearers of the Students' Senate. While, a Senator can nominate himself/herself for the post, a general body member shall be proposed by at least one Senator and seconded by at least two Senators, so as to put some restrictions on the candidates and ensure proper representation. The Senate after much deliberation accepted this proposal and directed the Rules and Procedures Committee to look into the Constitutional validity of the proposal and present it in the next meeting.

<b>Item No. 12</b>	To consider the pre-conduction report of Melange(2015-16).
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Due to the paucity of time, the agenda item could not be considered in the meeting. However, the President pointed out that there may not be another Senate meeting before the scheduled start of Melange and thus requested that the Senate to accept the pre-conduction report over the mailing list as a special case. Keeping in mind the constraints involved, the Senate decided to defer this for the meeting and allowed the President to submit the report over the mailing list.

<b>Item No. 13</b>	To consider the proposal for the formation of a new hobby group for cycling activities under the Games and Sports Council.
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The Agenda item was deferred for consideration in the next meeting.

<b>Item No. 14</b>	Questions and Remarks, if any.
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There were no Questions and Remarks.



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	Any other item, with the permission of the Chair
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<b>Item No. 15</b>	To consider a proposal to merge the Films and Media Council and Cultural Council into a single council under the Students' Gymkhana.
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The President, Students' Gymkhana, General Secretary, Cultural Council and the General Secretary, Films and Media Council put forward their proposal to merge the Films and Media Council and the Cultural Council into a single council named 'Media and Cultural Council'.

The Senate deliberated long upon the need for such a merger and the impact that it would have on the existing clubs. After much discussion on the issue the Senate accepted the proposal in principle and decided to refer it to the Rules and Procedures Committee to look into the Constitutional amendments that would have to be made to facilitate such a merger. The Senate also opined that such a decision should not be taken in a hasty manner. The Senate, thus directed the two General Secretaries to further garner the opinions of their respective council members and also directed the Chairperson, Students' Senate to carry out an online review so that the general body is given another opportunity to present their opinions on the issue. All the opinions collected along with the proposed Constitutional amendment shall then be presented before the Senate in the next meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson, Student's Senate at 2:00 am.**