



Students' Senate
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Ankit Bhutani | Convener



Convener, Students' Senate
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S-SENATE/CONV/2012-13/42

To,
Chairman, Senate
IIT Kanpur

February 20, 2013

Subject: Regarding the delay in implementation of changes brought about by ARC

Dear Sir,

This is to bring to your kind notice the situation regarding delay in the implementation of the changes brought about by the ARC in the UG curriculum and the stand of the Students' Senate on the same. This issue was discussed in the 11th meeting of the Students' Senate, 2012-13 held on 3rd February, 2013 and I am presenting below a brief of the discussion that took place.

Starting from 2011, the institute started admitting students to the new academic system under which the students were promised a lot of flexibility and a vast variety of options like Minor, Double Major, and Engineering Science Option et cetera. However, due to the delay in the implementation, such options have either not been offered or the situation regarding them is extremely unclear to the students. Specifically, the following are of major concern and seem to require immediate attention:

- a) **Minors:** In general, a Y11 batch student has around 6 Open Electives. According to the ARC report, a student shall be required to take 3-4 courses, not from his/her own department, as open electives in order to obtain a particular minor. However, the list of minors and the courses required for obtaining a particular minor have not yet been approved by the Senate. Several UG Y11 students have had their 1st Open Elective in 2012-13/2nd semester and almost all the UG Y11 students shall have their 1st or 2nd Open Elective in 2013-14/1st semester. Considering this, if the list of minors and corresponding courses is not available by the start of pre-registration for the next semester, the students shall be forced to make uninformed choices with respect to



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open electives which might lead to a situation wherein very less or no students from the Y11 batch shall be able to complete the requirements for obtaining a minor. I would also like to point out here that a committee had been formed by the Chairman, Senate in order to finalize the minors, which was expected to submit its report till 15th January. However, to the best of our knowledge, the report has not yet been submitted. The Students' Senate felt that this issue requires immediate attention and prompt action on the part of the institute as it concerns the academics of as many of 820 students.

- b) **Engineering Science:** At the time of admission, the Y11 students were promised an option of a specialized Engineering Science Program to be offered as a Branch change option at the end of their 3rd semester i.e. 2012-13/2nd semester. However, no such option was provided to the Y11 students at the end of their 3rd semester. Further, the exact modalities for the program have not yet been approved by the Senate. If the same are not finalized before the deadline for branch change applications at the end of 2012-13/2nd semester, it seems highly improbable that the institute shall be able to offer this as a branch change option to Y11 batch students. The Students' Senate expressed its grave concern over the possibility of such a situation arising. Also, it was felt that since it is a commitment made by IIT Kanpur to the students at the time of JEE counseling, not being able to fulfill it now, may not reflect well on the part of the institute.
- c) **Double Major/Dual Degree:** Similar to the above 2 options, the modalities for the double major and dual degree (with BT/BS in one department and MT/MS in another) have also not been approved by the Senate. To the best of our knowledge, the report of the concerned committee has recently been submitted to Chairman, Senate. The Students' Senate requests that if possible, the same be taken up by the Senate as soon as possible so that the students of Y11 batch can get enough time to make an informed and well thought-out decision regarding these options.

The Students' Senate opines that ideally all these details should be finalized before offering admission to the students under a new system as it is only then, that the students can weigh out their options and make truly informed decisions at the time of choosing their branch and institute. Thus, the Students' Senate requests the Senate to kindly consider this while offering admissions to Y13 batch students.

Given the present situation, it is suggested that the details regarding minors and Engineering Science Program be finalized and made available to Y11 students sufficiently before the pre-registration for the next semester (2013-14/1st) is started and the details regarding double major and dual degree be finalized as early as possible so that the students can view all their options in totality and weight them out properly before opting for any one of them based on his/her interests.



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Considering the fact that these things are already running behind schedule, on behalf of the Students' Senate, I would request you to kindly look into the above mentioned issues on priority as it affects the academics and thus, the careers, of one full batch comprising of nearly 820 students.

I hope and request that the necessary action to rectify this situation be taken as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ankit Bhutani
Convener, Students' Senate

Copy to:

- (i) Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi
- (ii) Prof. Arbind Lal

(Dean, Academic Affairs)
(Chairman, SUGC)