



Students' Senate (2023-24)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Review Board | Minutes



The Students' Senate in its 5th (Special) Meeting 2023/24 constituted a Review Board as per existing procedures of the Senate to review contentions raised against Vox Populi.

The Board met on **1st February, 2024** via an online meeting in its first session.

The following members were **in attendance**:

Mr. Prashant Kumar Mishra	Chairperson, Students' Senate (Ex-officio Convener)
Mr. Dhwanit Balwani	President, Students' Gymkhana (Ex-officio Member)
Mr. Abhiraj Akhoury	Parliamentarian, Students' Senate (Ex-officio Member)
Ms. Sugandhaa Pandey	Senate Nominee
Mr. Rahul Jha	Senate Nominee

Additionally, the Board also invited the following people for their comments/clarification in its due proceedings:

1. Ms. Bhavya Sikarwar, Chief Editor, Vox Populi
2. Ms. Sanika Gumaste, Chief Editor, Vox Populi
3. Ms. Zainab Fatima, Editor, Vox Populi
4. Mr. Animesh Singh, General Secretary, Games & Sports 2022-23

The Board further referred to the following documents in its due proceedings:

1. Journalism Ethics & Standards Document (3rd revised)
2. [Contention Document raised by Mr. Animesh Singh](#)
3. [Vox Response Document](#)

The Convener called the meeting into order at **9.12 PM** with the agenda:

Item 1	To verify Contentions raised against the article "A Review of the 55th Inter-IIT Sports Meet" and suggest future course of action to the Senate.
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Contention 1: *“We tried contacting Animesh Singh, the then GenSec, multiple times but received no response.”*

The Board found out that two separate attempts have been made to contact Mr. Animesh Singh via WhatsApp by the Vox team. In lieu of the existing rules, the Board found that Vox has **satisfied clause B.5.2.1** of the Journalism Ethics & Standards Document

Contention 2: *“Similarly, the athletics team was not allotted gymslots, except the weightlifting team.”*

The Board found out that adequate measures had been taken by the DCLs and CLs to provide gymslots to the various teams, and hence found the statement to be inaccurate and in **violation of Clause B.3.5.**

Contention 3: *“Regarding the less budget allocated this year, the volleyball coach told us that, by talking to the other teams present at the inter-IIT, he learned that none of them experienced a budget issue.”*

The Board felt that a Sports Team Coach is not credible enough to cite budget-related information in the article, given the scope (all IITs teams) and hence found that the statement **violated clauses B.3.1 and B.3.5.**

The Board further decided to fact-check the information through relevant sources in its next meeting.

Contention 4: *“This unexpected underperformance raised concerns, especially when compared to the notably better performance of some newer IITs.”*

The Board found the statement to be misleading as in overall standings, no newer IIT performed better than IIT Kanpur. Further, it was noted that since the statement was in the starting paragraph of the article it further could mislead a reader. Hence, the **clauses B.2.3 and B.2.1** were found to be violated.

Contention 5: *“Anybody shouldn't take POR for the sake of placement; rather, they should be motivated towards doing something big. Things were in place this time, but the Student Representatives as a whole lacked the zeal to win the Inter IIT. ”*



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“A concern of quite a few team captains was that students take up the post of Deputy Contingent Leader(DCL) or GenSec just for the sake of having the Position Of Responsibility to write on their resume and not out of genuine interest. This leads to a lack of quality in the work delivered.”

The Board found repeated mention of the statement in the article and deliberately whether the statement is rooted from unfounded speculation, however with no affirmation.

The Board felt that **B.5.1 was violated** by the statements as they felt that the statements were highly opinionated and their repetitive mentions showed a lack of objectivity in themselves.

Further, the Board decided to receive comments from other stakeholders of Inter-IIT Sports Meet to verify if they have been approached by the Vox team for their inputs in the article. **The violation of B.5.2 and B.5.2.1 shall be decided then.**

Contention 6: *“The Ex-SPEC and GnS council was not providing us with these facilities..... [A coach regarding some facilities for teams]”*

The Board acknowledged that the Games & Sports Council is not supposed to spend its budget for Inter IIT preparation as per the Constitution of the Students' Gymkhana. Hence, it was found that the statement contained misinformation and **violated clause B.5.3.1.**

The meeting was adjourned at **11.30 PM** with a vote of thanks to all members.