



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



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S-SENATE/CHAIR/15-16/41

5th September, 2015

To,
Prof. Indranil Manna,
Chairman, Senate

Subject: Resolution adopted by the Students' Senate on 4th September, 2015

Dear Sir,

The 2015-16/1st (Emergency) Meeting of the Students' Senate was held on 4th September, 2015. In the meeting, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Students' Senate:

“The Students' Senate expresses its discontent on the recent proceedings of the Institute bodies with regard to disciplinary matters concerning students. This decision of the Students' Senate comes in light of the decisions taken in the Senate on a case pertaining to a complaint to the Women's Cell by certain members of the students' general body. The complaint was investigated by the Women's Cell which submitted its report to the Senate Students' Affairs Committee (S-SAC). The S-SAC after due deliberations presented its recommendations to the Senate, in its 2015-16/1st Meeting. The student body feels that there were major inconsistencies with regard to the processes followed and the recommendations forwarded by the Institute bodies involved. The Students' Senate further feels that the lapses are not necessarily related to the stated case only, but are more general in nature.

The Students' Senate deliberated upon the concerns presented by its members and noted the following inconsistencies with respect to the proceedings which we wish to bring to the light of the Senate:

- 1) The UG Girls' representative (President, GH Tower, as mandated by the constitution of the Women's Cell) was never invited for any of the meetings of the Women's Cell. In addition to this, there were allegations, made by the students (who were investigated in this case) against the committee constituted by the Women's Cell about the lack of procedural fairness during investigation. The Students' Senate notes that relevant Institute authorities were made aware of these concerns; however, they were not duly addressed.



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- 2) The Students' Senate further notes that the student representatives had pointed out to the Dean, Students' Affairs and Chairman, S-SAC about the allegations that were put forth. However, this information was never presented to the S-SAC when the report of the Women Cell was being discussed. The Chairman, S-SAC further did not mention the facts related to the case, in turn failing to provide the rationale behind the recommendations of S-SAC, when the Senate was deliberating on them.
- 3) The Students' Senate further notes that there is a general lack of scalability, consistency and clarity in deciding the punitive measures for students by the Senate. The Students' Senate is of the opinion that once all facts have been discussed in an appropriate Institute committee based upon which a level of punitive action is determined, it is counter-productive to change the recommendations or level of action at a bigger forum without discussing all the specific facts pertaining to the case first. We believe if there are concerns about the recommendations of S-SAC in the Senate, then either it should be referred back to the S-SAC or the case should be discussed in its entirety in the Senate before making a decision. We believe that this was not done in the present case. These lapses also lead to an additional problem of inconsistency in the punishments awarded for similar disciplinary matters by the Senate in the recent past. These practices have led to a total lack in clarity about the level of punishment that can be awarded to a student for a given disciplinary misconduct. The Students' Senate believes that till a codified manual for this purpose is not made available by the Senate to the students, it should exercise extra effort to make sure that the scalability, consistency and clarity in deciding such cases are maintained.

Taking into account the above, the Students' Senate, in its 2015-16/1st (Emergency) Meeting, believes that in future, this may lead to a situation where the students' general body starts feeling apprehensive about the way proceedings are carried out by the Institute bodies in disciplinary matters and may become reluctant to file complaints. Therefore the Students' Senate requests that appropriate steps should be taken by the Institute authorities to resolve these issues.”

We are forwarding this resolution to you for your information and necessary action.

Proposed by:

(Gautam Pratap Singh)
President, Students' Gymkhana



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Seconded by:

(Aishwaryaa Rai)
President, GH-Tower

(Abhimanyu Arora)
Students' Senate Nominee,
S-SAC

(Sabyasachi Verma)
Senator, UG Y12