

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI  
HAUZ KHAS, NEW DELHI 110 016**

**STUDENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

No. IITD/SAC/21/2013/ISTA-  
29/01/2013

Dated:

**Minutes of the General Body Meeting held on 31.10.2012**

The meeting was chaired by Prof. R. K. Shevgaonkar, Director, IIT Delhi. The meeting was convened to primarily discuss the Constitution Review of the Student Boards and their restructuring.

The following agenda points were discussed:

**1. Confirmation of the minutes of meeting held on 16.10.2012.**

**2. Restructuring of Boards & Constitution Review**

**1. Changes pertaining to all Boards:**

- The Cultural and Sports Secretaries of hostels are currently members of BHM even though their role and day-to-day activities befits their membership for BRCA and BSA respectively. The Council decided that for purposes of standing for elections to post of G Sec of respective boards, these hostel Secretaries would not need to file for waiver applications and would be naturally eligible.
- If any Secretary or G Sec is alleged (with proof) to be engaged in unfair conduct in the discharge of his duties, an enquiry panel (like that constituted in case of electoral disputes as mentioned in the constitution of the respective boards) will evaluate the allegations. If proved guilty, the POR holder must be removed from his position of responsibility and/or recommended to Disciplinary Committee by faculty In-charge of the Board. The General Secretaries further recommend that any such incident reported this year should also be dealt with this resolution to set the right precedent.
- The Waiver form for any Institute position of Secretary or General Secretary will be handled and scrutinized only by the Board Presidents (or the returning officer deputed for the elections). The outgoing General Secretary or Secretary may assist the returning officer in verification of eligibility requirements & credentials as claimed in the application form.
- Only an outgoing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year UG student (also 4<sup>th</sup> year Dual Degree) should be eligible to stand for election to post of General Secretary of any Board. There is no such requirement for PG students.
- No graduating student should be eligible to vote in an institute election except General Secretaries of the Boards recognized under SAC.

## **2. Changes pertaining to BRCA:**

- The General Secretary, BRCA was urged to discuss the issue of Club re-organisation, of how the electoral colleges would be formed for the 1<sup>st</sup> elections to the new clubs & whether mandatory panels comprising of senior students were necessary for each Club within the Board. The President & G Sec assured that they would discuss the above issues in their Board and after reaching a consensus, present the same to SAC in the next meeting.
- The SAC proposed that for clubs that were being formed by merger of 2 clubs (eg. Debating Club from EDLC & HS), all outgoing members of 2 contributing clubs should vote for new club with weightage of 0.5 to each vote; for clubs that are being split (eg. DnD) each outgoing member should have a vote of weightage 0.5 to each new club; and all incoming representatives to each new club get 1 vote each. It was stressed that the outgoing reps of each present club should have equal overall weightage for all the new clubs combined.
- With respect to the third issue, SAC's recommendation of making it mandatory for each club to have a panel (of senior non-graduating students, 4-5 in number, who have been actively involved in the club activities & can assist in quality control of the events) was rejected by the BRCA President.

## **3. Changes pertaining to BSA:**

- The General Secretary, BSW was urged to discuss within his Board the proposition of Deputy G Sec (or an elected ISC Institute Secretary) being ordained the primary responsibility of management of all Indoor Sports in light of some sports being transferred from ISC of BRCA to BSA so that these sports do not get neglected even if there are no Inter-IIT events in those sports. He assured that he would confirm the same by the next meeting.

## **4. Changes pertaining to BSW:**

- The General Secretary, BSW was urged to discuss the issue of removal of defunct positions of Secretaries and committees, of formation of a mandatory panel of senior students & of decision-making around the point policy. The President & G Sec assured that they would discuss the above issues in their Board and after reaching a consensus, present the same to SAC in the next meeting.
- SAC recommended that a panel of senior students (at least 5) be mandatorily constituted (within 15 days of start of odd semester) that could be selected by incoming G Sec, Secretaries & Board President with recommendations from outgoing G Sec. Additionally, some recommended members can be non-graduating outgoing G Sec and Secretaries. It was also recommended that each member of panel be agreeable to majority of BSW Reps.
- It was recommended that the point policy for each year be decided by the

team of G Sec, Secretaries and afore-mentioned panel and also that it must be released within 3 weeks of start of odd semester.

#### **5. Changes pertaining to SAC:**

- The following changes were approved & adopted by SAC in the meeting.
- Eligibility for SAC Rep among UG students: Only students moving into 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> year or 4<sup>th</sup> year (dual only) are eligible to contest for election to post of any representative in SAC. i.e. No Final year B.Tech/dual students.
- Term of PG & PhD Reps should start and end at end of even semester like all other representatives. It is the same currently in practice though otherwise in the constitution.
- Eligibility for post of G Sec, SAC: The candidate must have served as an elected SAC representative before year of election. The candidate may not have been elected as a representative in the immediate Council. Exceptional applications may be allowed subject to waiver approval.
- Electoral college for election of G Sec: It was agreed that in addition to all elected Incoming and Outgoing Council student members, Incoming and Outgoing General Secretaries and incoming House Secretaries (no other permanent invitees), all non-graduating students who have ever been a part of a previous council during their enrollment at IIT Delhi, will be eligible to vote provided he/she satisfied the requirements of being a representative (eg. CGPA 7 etc) at the end of his term as representative. This effectively gives a SAC representative an IIT-life-time membership of the electoral college for G Sec.
- Permanent Invitees: Nominees from NSS (1 G Sec), NSO (staff in-charge), NCC (staff in-charge), TnP (1 overall co-ordinator) & Mentorship Review Committee will be permanently invited to SAC meetings along with the House Secretaries.
- SAC Secretary to Committees nominated by G Sec: There are 2 such posts. It is proposed that only one such position would be sufficient to fulfill the role of monitoring student grievances collected from the web portal, representing students in setting up of eating outlets and other such special roles that arise through formation of non-statutory committees.

#### **6. Changes pertaining to BSP:**

- The debate continued from the last meeting. It was agreed by the council that there was an immediate need of a selected Technical Team that would provide technical support to Journalism team and constituent bodies of SAC as well as CAIC. The eligibility and composition of such a team was agreed upon as laid down in the Board Review Draft drawn up by the General Secretaries.

- In this meeting it was also largely agreed by the Council that the nature of Board's activities i.e. creative writing must not be competitive in nature as primary motivation for formation of BSP was to create a platform for students to express their thoughts and creativity. The President of BSP, Dr Stuti Khanna affirmed the opinion of majority of students that any student who writes for first time after coming to IIT will still write when encouraged once or twice and motivated by individual-based appreciation (like award to best contributor to each magazine or best fresher writer etc) because he would enjoy the first experience personally. The council also agreed that the above argument is validated by the fact that none of the IITs have a competitive inter-hostel student publishing boards. IIT Bombay, Kharagpur and Madras have flourishing non-competitive, student-elected or selected publishing boards.
- The harms of competitive nature were discussed. Earlier BSP Chief-editors asserted that Institute Research newsletters are neglected for publication because of the limited working force (representatives & secretaries) being mostly consumed in the inter-hostel race for points. It was observed however, that the present Journalism team (which is selected by a panel and not elected) has overcome some such limitations to publish relevant newsletters and the council members voiced that more such efforts were needed towards such publications that do not earn hostel points and that it could be possible only when there was no pressure of publishing magazines for hostel points. The council also noted the fact when pointed out by the President and Chief-editors that plagiarism has increased in the race to earn hostel points. The council agreed that difference in subjective nature of writing and objective nature of judging them through points creates rejection in students especially in the light of prevalence of perception among students that their article got rejected due to politics in earning points.
- The Director concluded the discussion by suggesting that the need for making activity of student publications non-competitive has been established and the alternate structure as proposed in Board Restructuring Draft by General Secretaries & attested by BSP President in the previous SAC meeting, looked like an ideal fit to replace the existing structure. He however, postponed the discussions on mode of selection or election of representatives in the new structure, to the next meeting.

( **Utkarsh Ohm** )  
General Secy., SAC

**All Members**

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