



## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Students held on 03.03.2014

The meeting of the Board of Students was held at 03:00 p.m., on 03.03.2014 at DoMS 103.

The following members were present:

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Prof. L. S. Ganesh	Dean (Students) and Chairman, BoS
2	Prof. K. Ramamurthy	Dean (Academic Courses)
3	Prof. K. P. Sudheer	Advisor (Sports)
4	Prof. Udayachandran Chakkingal	Advisor (Cultural)
5	Dr. Mahesh Panchagnula	Advisor (Co-curricular)
6	Prof. Babu Viswanathan	Advisor, TP&PR
7	Prof. M. S. Sivakumar	Chief Advisor, <i>mitr</i>
8	Lt. Col. (Retd.) Jayakumar	Deputy Registrar (Students)
9	Sree Satwik G	Speaker (SAC)
10	Deepak Johnson	Students General Secretary (SAC)
11	Damini Gandham	Secretary (Academic Affairs)
12	Oswald J Lobo	Secretary (Research Affairs)
13	Tanuj Jhunjunwala	Secretary (Co-curricular Affairs)
14	Kranthi Kumar T	Secretary (Hostel Affairs)
15	Mithun Joy Cherayil	Secretary (Sports)
16	Amruth Kumar Hegde	Secretary (Cultural Affairs, Lit.)
17	Jithin Sam Varghese	Secretary (Intl. Alumni Affairs)
18	Amala Bonnie	General Secretary, Sharavati Hostel
19	Santosh Daware	MS Engg. Councillor
20	Manikandan	PhD Engg. Councillor

**1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Students held on 01.03.2013.**

*The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Students held on 01.03.2013 were confirmed.*

**2. To consider the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of the Students Affairs Council (SAC) on electoral reforms.**

The SAC met in February 2014 and passed a resolution to adopt the Instant Run of Voting when there would be more than 3 candidates contesting for a particular post. In this method, each voter will have to give an order of preference for all the candidates. This method was chosen to ensure that all the votes would be counted.

The SAC also passed a resolution to adopt a reject button during the time of voting. This was to ensure that even the candidates who are elected unopposed, meet the electorate and gain their confidence. The criterion for rejection would be applicable only if more than 50% of the total votes are polled AND if more than 50% of the polled votes are "Reject" ones. In case of rejection, all the respective unopposed contestants will not be allowed to re-contest for the post and a fresh round of election will be initiated and held.

*The Board recommended that both the proposals be adopted in the coming elections.*

**3. To consider the proposal to review and revise the Students Affairs Council Constitution.**

The Chairman noted that the present Students Affairs Council Constitution was written more than 30 years ago (in 1980) when the student population was about 3,000. Now, with the student population growing to nearly 9,000 and also including very major changes in its composition (UG, PG, and Research Scholars; Male and Female; students in new programmes, etc.), it is imperative to review and rewrite the Constitution, keeping in mind the present demographics and related conditions.

*The Board resolved to constitute a committee to work on this proposal.*

**4. To consider the revision of Establishment-B charges.**

It was noted that at present all students are charged at a uniform rate of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) per semester as Est-B charges to meet specified expenses related to their respective hostels. It was noted that each hostel spends differently and it should be the prerogative of each hostel to decide on the Est-B charges.

*The Chairman pointed out that this matter comes under the preview of the Council of Wardens and will be taken up there.*

**5. To consider the proposal of allowing 2-wheeler parking and food delivery into the campus.**

The SAC had unanimously adopted a resolution in the meeting held on 02.03.2014 to discourage the use of motorized vehicles in campus and hence was not in favor of allowing a separate parking of 2-wheelers near the gates. This item was withdrawn from the agenda. Mr. Kranthi Kumar (HAS) however noted that students who work in CFI need to go outside the campus often to buy components for their projects and hence an arrangement needs to be made so that they do not waste time and experience hardships in commuting. The Chairman noted that a suitable alternate arrangement would be made.

The SAC had earlier recommended that food delivery from food outlets be allowed till the hostel gates. This was to ensure that students do not waste time waiting for the food delivery near the institute gates and also to prevent the attacks by monkeys while carrying food from the gate till the hostel.

*The Board noted that this issue needs to be discussed with other stakeholders like the Security Section, campus residents and Prakriti and hence deferred the matter to a later date.*

**6. To consider the proposal of reviewing the CGPA/Credit Requirements for representing IIT Madras in inter-Collegiate competitions and for holding positions of responsibility.**

The Dean (AC) expressed concerns about the inability of a few students representing IIT Madras at the inter-IIT sports meet to cope with their academic requirements. Some such current students had cleared hardly 25% of their overall credit requirements and were holding heavy backlogs.

*After a detailed deliberation the Board recommended the following.*

- a. A minimum of 6.5 CGPA in the preceding semester is required to represent IIT Madras in any sports meet approved by IIT Madras.*
- b. However, requests from students whose CGPA falls below 6.5 for representing IITM will be taken up by a Committee that will be formed consisting of the Dean (AC), Dean (Students), Chief Advisor, Mitr and the concerned academic Faculty Advisor.*
- c. This will be effective for the academic year starting August, 2015.*

*For students holding the positions of responsibility, the Board recommended that status quo of minimum 7.0 CGPA be maintained.*

**7. To consider the incentives and work specifications for students contributing officially and directly to the Institute.**

The SAC was of the opinion that the General Secretaries of the Hostels who have a lot of overlapping work with mitr volunteers should also be part of the mitr setup. Also, SAC felt that the mitr volunteers who are selected should be under the preview of the Students General Secretary, who plays a key role in dealing with any unfortunate incidents concerning students. Prof. Sivakumar (Chief Advisor (mitr)) explained the reason for not accommodating such a request because of the nature of work the mitr volunteers are involved in.

This issue was discussed in the backdrop of the Deans' Committee to recommend incentives, in the form of honorarium payments, to mitr student volunteers as per IC&SR norms.

*After a detailed deliberation the following was recommended:*

- a. The Students General Secretary and the Speaker (SAC) will be invitees to the Selection Committee of the mitr core team members.*
- b. They are welcome to share their evaluation of the mitr coordinators/volunteers with the Chief Advisor (mitr).*
- c. Additionally, SAC shall recommend a list of formal student positions along with their respective work descriptions that need to be associated with incentives in the form of honorarium payments as mentioned above. The sources of funds for the incentives will be determined by the Dean (Students) based on the work descriptions.*

**8. To report the creation of IIT Madras Students' Activities Trust.**

It is reported to the Board that a separate trust called "IIT Madras Students' Activities Trust" will be created to handle the transactions of the Shaastra and Saarang Accounts, and also other administrative and financial matters concerning all students' activities. This is to ensure greater effectiveness in establishing and operating the corresponding administrative and accounting systems. Prof. L S Ganesh informed that the proposal has been sent to the lawyer for review.

**9. To report the delay in the works by the Engineering Unit in the Hostel zone and to propose a new model of organization of the Engineering Unit and fumigation in the Hostel and Academic zones.**

The SAC reported to the Board that the civil and electrical works in the Hostel zone needed to be carried out at the desired pace. Works involving sanitation and hygiene needed to be accorded the highest priority and attention.

- a. *The Board recommends that sanitation in the Hostel zone be given the highest priority by the Engineering Unit.*
- b. *Regarding fumigation in the Hostel and Academic zones, the Board suggested that new alternatives be found to tackle the mosquito menace.*

**10. The Chairman reported the following matters.**

- a. The new ladies Hostel named *Sabarmathi*, will be inaugurated on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and occupancy is planned to be commenced from May 2014.
- b. The fully repaired and re-laid Skating Rink will be ready for use by the end of March 2014.
- c. The Students' Activity Center is being modified to create a new, large stage in the gallery area.
- d. The new construction project work at Quark is planned to be completed by mid-April, 2014.
- e. The fully reconstructed and renewed Swimming pool is ready and being used.
- f. The new boys' Hostel is scheduled to be ready for use by the end of August, 2014.
- g. The Stadium ground is being raised and leveled to be ready for use well before the inter-IIT Sports Meet scheduled to be hosted by our Institute in December 2015.
- h. The tenders for constructing the mini Students' Facilities Center (SFC) near the ladies Hostel have been publicized.

**11. To report the monkey menace in the Hostels and to propose suitable action.**

The SAC observed that the monkey menace had increased in the Hostels over the past few months and urged that suitable action be taken on a war footing. The Board could not come to a conclusion on how to tackle the menace effectively, but recommended that the current action of employing guards in the ladies' Hostel be continued and suggested an increase in their deployment.

**Tabled Items:**

**12. To propose an E-waste and chemical waste policy for the institute.**

The SAC proposed that a Policy for managing E-wastes and chemical wastes in our Institute be formulated. The Board was informed that a Committee has already been created and is working on the Policy.

**13. To report the performance of the Computer Center.**

It was reported by the SAC members that the Computer Center needed to improve its performance significantly, given the unsatisfactory status of services availability over the past couple of months. The Chairman suggested that a proper communication be sent to the Computer Center in this regard. If required, the matter could be escalated to a higher authority.

**14. To propose the digitization of the back volumes of archival journals.**

The matter will be referred to the Chairman (Library Advisory Committee).

**15. To propose the change in the name of "Gymkhana Fees" to "Co-curricular and Extracurricular fees"**

The point was proposed by Dr. Mahesh Panchangula, Advisor (Co-curricular). He noted that the funds taken under the "Gymkhana Fees" are being used for other co-curricular and extracurricular activities also, hence the suggested name change.

*The Board recommended the change in the item name from "Gymkhana Fees" to "Co-curricular and Extra-curricular fees."*

<<END of Minutes of the BoS Meeting held on 03 March, 2014.>>