

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI



MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF STUDENTS SENATE



DATE AND TIME: 11th August 2024 at 10:00 PM

The student senate meeting of the Gymkhana was held on 11th August 2024. The quorum was present throughout and the following members were present:

Anirudh Gupta, Vice President, Students' Gymkhana Council 2024-25	Chairman
Vivek Dond, General Secretary Hostel Affairs Board 2024-25	Member
P Aashrith Ram, General Secretary Technical Board 2024-25	Member
Shreyas Pimpalkar, General Secretary Sports Board 2024-25	Member
Geetanjay Manik, General Secretary, Students' Web Committee 2024-25	Member
Ujjawal Chhajer, General Secretary Students' Welfare Board 2024-25	Member
Akhilesh Gupta, General Secretary Cultural Board 2024-25	Member
Gadde Sri Ram Rishandra, Undergraduate Senator	Member
Malla Jaswanth, Undergraduate Senator	Member
Himanshu Raj, Undergraduate Senator	Member
Ponakala Hanuma Sai Krishna, Undergraduate Senator	Member
Varun Singh Rathore, Undergraduate Senator	Member
Mangal Singh Rathore, Undergraduate Senator	Member
Ayush Awasthi, Undergraduate Senator	Member
Amlan Jyoti Gogoi, Postgraduate Senator	Member
Prayag Raj Bhuyan, Postgraduate Senator	Member
Ms Priyanka Tripathi, Postgraduate Senator	Member
Om Samadhan Hande, Postgraduate Senator	Member
Ms Priyanka Tripathi, Postgraduate Senator	Member
Abhijeet, Postgraduate Senator	Member
Saurabh Pantawane, Postgraduate Senator	Member
Rashmi Gahlot, Postgraduate Senator	Member
Veeranki Devi Sai Sri, Girl Senator	Member
Bachina Komali, Girl Senator	Member
Chanchal, Girl Senator	Member

Absentees:

Urmi Gopalakrishnan, General Secretary Student-Alumni Interaction Linkage 2024-25	Member
---	--------

Table of Contents:

Item. No	Content
Item No. 01	Introduction by the Chairman, Students' Senate
Item No. 02	Follow-ups of the previous senate meeting.
Item No. 03	Agenda submission by boards and Senators
Item No. 04	Discussion on concerns of Campus Junta
Item No. 05	Discussion on proposals by Vice-President

Item No. 01

Introduction by the Chairman, Students' Senate

01/11/08/24

The Chairman of the Students' Senate called the meeting to order. After a few initial words of introduction and recalling the senate's motto, the senate proceedings commenced.

Item No. 02

Follow-ups of the previous senate meeting.

02/11/08/24

ITEM NO.	PROPOSAL	WORK ALLOTMENT	ACTION TAKEN
03/09/07/24-(i)	Maintenance of the Central Gym equipment.	GS Sports Board	GS Sports has assured that new equipment will be installed soon and many have already been replaced.
03/09/07/24-(ii)	The issue with reduced OneDrive Cloud Space for Students	Vice President	There is a proposal that if a club/acad. group needs more storage they can buy it by paying.
04/09/07/24-(1)	Accommodation Concerns for PhD Students in Their 5th Year	GS HAB	The General Secretary (GS) of the Hostel Affairs Board (HAB) has confirmed that PhD students will continue to stay in single rooms after their 5th year.
04/09/07/24-(2)	Need for Proper Washing Machines in Brahmaputra Hostel	GS HAB	Currently, discussions are underway with the wardens and HMC. A form will be circulated to take opinions from the residents on this matter
04/09/07/24-(3)	Introducing a Gymkhana PoR of Product Manager Lead in SWC	GS SWC & Vice President	A formal proposal for the same will be submitted to the Vice President, Students' Gymkhana Council.
04/09/07/24-(6)	To introduce the Hostel Lobby Welfare system for the mental well-being of students.	UG Senator	The proposer is in the process of making docs for the same.

Item No. 03

Agenda Submission by Boards and Senators:

03/11/08/24

1. Counselling Issues

Proposer: Ujjawal Chhajer, GS Welfare Board

- **Discussion:** The welfare secretary brought up issues related to counseling services. The discussion included the proposal for the formation of a separate committee for the lobby representative. Additionally, it was informed that the board is planning to organize a workshop on relationships in collaboration with SAIPAC. Psychometric tests will be made mandatory for first-year students.
- **Action:**
 - Formation of a committee for lobby representation.
 - Implementation of mandatory psychometric tests for first-year students.
 - Organization of the relationship workshop.

2. Food Court Improvement

Proposer: Food Subcommittee

- **Discussion:** The need for improvement in the food court facilities was raised. It was decided that this issue would be discussed further in the next meeting of the food subcommittee.
- **Action:**
 - Food subcommittee to discuss and propose improvements in the next meeting.

3. Increasing Awareness of Bus Locations

Proposer: Establishment Subcommittee

- **Discussion:** A proposal was made to increase awareness about exact boarding and dropping locations of the institute's buses near the airport and railway station. The provision of minibuses and the existing bus tracking service were also discussed.
- **Action:**
 - Increasing awareness about the exact boarding points of the institute's buses.
 - Consideration of minibuses as a transportation option.

4. Academic Cores - Right-Handed Desks/Chairs

Proposer: Academic Subcommittee

- **Discussion:** It was noted that only right-handed desks/chairs are available in the academic cores, which need to be replaced. A report on this matter is to be prepared.
- **Action:**
 - Preparation and submission of a report on replacing right-handed desks/chairs.

5. Power Sockets in Lecture Halls

Proposer: Academic Subcommittee

- **Discussion:** The issue of inadequate power sockets in lecture halls was raised. A report on the quantity of power sockets is to be prepared.
- **Action:**
 - Preparation and submission of a report on the number of power sockets required.

6. Issue of Stray Dogs on Campus

Proposer: Establishment subcommittee

- **Discussion:** The presence of stray dogs on campus was discussed as a threat to public safety due to the noise and potential danger they pose. A task force has been assigned to meet with the security section to discuss and finalize a solution.
- **Action:**
 - Task force to meet with the security section and report back with a proposed solution.

7. Issues with Washing Machines in Hostels

- **Discussion:** There are ongoing issues with washing machines in some hostels. The HAB is working diligently on addressing these issues.
- **Action:**
 - A tender was released, and the applications have been received from the vendors and are yet to be evaluated.

8. Issue of Substance Abuse

- **Discussion:** The issue of substance abuse, particularly over drinking, was discussed. It was agreed that there needs to be increased awareness and sensitization around this issue.
- **Action:**
 - Implementation of awareness campaigns on substance abuse.

9. Issue of Offline Registration

- **Discussion:** The need to change the current offline registration system to an online system was raised.
- **Action:**
 - Transition of the registration process from offline to online.

10. Issue of Mental Health Among Freshers

- **Discussion:** The welfare board secretary discussed the mental health issues among freshers, particularly focusing on preventing depression. Strategies for prevention were discussed.
- **Action:**
 - Implementation of mental health awareness programs targeting freshers.

11. Enrichment of Free Software Repository for Postgraduate Students

Proposer: Priyanka Tripathi, PG Senator

- **Discussion:** The need to enrich the free software repository at IIT Guwahati for postgraduate students was discussed. The Computer & Communication Centre currently provides access to various academic software, but more software, especially those essential for research, needs to be added. The issue was discussed with the Vice President, and it was agreed that feedback from PG students should be collected. The academic section, which handles the repositories, will be involved in updating the software.
- **Action:**
 - Collection of feedback from PG students regarding required software.
 - Coordination with the academic section for repository updates.

12. Summer Research Fellowship for PG Students

Proposer: Amlan Jyoti Gogoi, PG Senator

- **Discussion:** A meeting with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs UG was proposed to discuss the possibility of instituting a Summer Research Fellowship for postgraduate students, an idea that had been discussed among the senators earlier.
- **Action:**
 - Schedule and conduct a meeting with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs UG to explore the possibility of the Summer Research Fellowship.

13. Proposal for Additional Campus Bus Services

Proposer: Amlan Jyoti Gogoi, PG Senator

- **Discussion:** A proposal was made to provide additional campus bus services to other routes in Guwahati, including ISBT, Airport, and GS Road, either on a daily or weekly basis. The establishment subcommittee will oversee this concern.
- **Action:**
 - Establishment subcommittee to review and propose additional campus bus services.

14. Food Delivery to Hospitals

- **Discussion:** The provision of food delivery services to hospitals was discussed. It was agreed that the mess managers should be contacted to facilitate this service. The General Secretaries of hostels will be asked to email the students about this facility. Any issues that arise should be reported back to the Senate.
- **Action:**
 - Contact mess managers to arrange food delivery to hospitals.
 - General Secretaries of hostels to inform students via email about the service.
 - Report any issues related to this facility to the Senate.

Item No. 04

Discussion on concerns of Campus Junta

04/11/08/24

1. Swimming Pool Reopening

- **Discussion:** Concerns were raised regarding the closure of the swimming pool since November 30, 2023. The pool was expected to reopen in March, but students have not received any updates on the delay. The General Secretary (GS) Sports reviewed the issue and informed that the pool might reopen soon.
- **Action:**
 - GS Sports to provide a timeline for the reopening of the swimming pool.

2. Online Leave Portal

- **Discussion:** The online leave portal was designed to centralize the leave application process, but students still face delays due to the requirement of obtaining a physical signature from the Dissertation Committee Chair. The meeting discussed the need for a more efficient system that allows online approval by the Dissertation Committee Chair and Faculty Advisor, eliminating the need for physical signatures. The issue will be forwarded to the competent authority for consideration.
- **Action:**

- Forward the proposal for an improved online leave portal system to the competent authority.

3. Traffic Situation on Campus

- **Discussion:** The chaotic traffic situation on campus was highlighted as a significant safety concern. Issues include students not sticking to the left lane while cycling, motorists not wearing helmets, and noise disturbances caused by a specific green “Dominar” motorcycle with a modified silencer. The task force has been assigned to reach out to the Chief Security Officer to discuss a solution, and a mail will be sent to the security section.
- **Action:**
 - Task force to meet with the Chief Security Officer.
 - Mail to be sent to the security section regarding traffic safety concerns.

4. Curfew Regulations for PhD Students

- **Discussion:** The meeting discussed the appropriateness of applying the same curfew regulations to both undergraduate (UG) and PhD students, given that many PhD students are older and have different responsibilities. A proposal will be made to exempt PhD students from this restriction, allowing them unrestricted access to the campus from the main gate, although regular checks will continue.
- **Action:**
 - PG senators to draft and submit a proposal for curfew regulation adjustments for PhD students.

5. Inclusion of MBA Course in Scholarship Eligibility

- **Discussion:** The issue of including the MBA course in the list of eligible courses for institute scholarships was raised. Since the MBA program was introduced in 2022, the scholarship ordinance has not been updated to reflect this change. The issue had been discussed in the previous meeting, and it has been reported to the competent authority.
- **Action:**
 - Follow up with the competent authority for updates on including MBA in scholarship eligibility.

6. Update on Faculty Gate (Khoka Gate) Entry/Exit System

- **Discussion:** The GS SWC provided an update on the alternative options for hassle-free entry/exit at the Khoka gate. A system has been installed and is currently in the trial phase.
- **Action:**
 - Monitor the trial phase of the new entry/exit system at Khoka gate and provide feedback.

Item No. 05

Discussion on proposals by Vice-President

05/11/8/24

1. Formation of the waiting area and security office at the Main Gate

- **Proposal:** Security personnel are always present at the main gate so an office for the security personnel has become a need of the hour. Also, a waiting area with drinking water and washroom facilities should be constructed near the main entrance. The establishment subcommittee is to draft a document for this proposal.

- **Action:** Establishment subcommittee to prepare a proposal document.

2. E-Rickshaw Allocation for Hospital Visits

- **Proposal:** Allow e-rickshaws to visit hospitals outside the IITG campus. At least two e-rickshaws need to be allocated for this purpose. The GS Welfare will discuss the arrangement with the drivers, and the medical and establishment subcommittees will undertake this task.
- **Action:**
 - GS Welfare to discuss with e-rickshaw drivers.
 - Medical and establishment subcommittees to allocate and manage e-rickshaws.

3. Reserving Guest House Rooms for Students' Wards

- **Proposal:** Reserve rooms in the guest house for the wards of students. The establishment subcommittee will consult with the security section to identify and separate some rooms soon.
- **Action:** Establishment subcommittee to consult with security officers and reserve guest house rooms.

4. Formation of a reviewing committee for food outlets under the establishment section

- **Proposal:** Form a food review committee to regularly review food trucks and canteens across various cores. The food and establishment subcommittees will oversee this agenda, create monthly reports, and conduct random inspections to ensure food quality.
- **Action:**
 - Formation of a food review committee.
 - Monthly reporting and random inspections by the food and establishment subcommittees.

5. Building a Student Media Body

- **Proposal:** Work on establishing a student media body. This task has been undertaken by the GS Welfare, GS Cultural, one UG senator, and the VP.
- **Action:** Progress on building a student media body to be tracked by the assigned members.

6. Reducing the Interaction Ban with Freshers

- **Proposal:** Reduce the interaction ban with freshers from 3 months to 5 weeks, aligning with practices at other IITs. The rights and responsibilities subcommittees, along with one UG senator, will work on this task.
- **Action:** Rights and responsibilities subcommittees to draft a proposal for reducing the interaction ban.

7. Opening Hostel Terraces During Daytime

- **Proposal:** Reopen hostel terraces during the daytime, as substance abuse cases are less likely during this time. The GS HAB, GS of various hostels, and one UG senator will work on this, including the necessary fencing to increase boundary height. The implementation is expected within 20 days.
- **Action:**
 - GS HAB and GS of various hostels to coordinate for fencing and reopening hostel terraces.

8. Street Light Issues on Campus

- **Proposal:** Address street light issues on campus by presenting a detailed report on areas needing more lights and identifying those that are not functioning. The maintenance and establishment subcommittees are tasked with this, to be completed within 15 days.
- **Action:**
 - Maintenance and Establishment subcommittees to present a detailed report on street light issues.

9. Need for a Student Representative in IADC

- **Proposal:** Introduce a student representative in the Institute Academic Discipline Committee (IADC) to ensure students' perspectives are considered before imposing penalties. This will be discussed with GS SAB and GS Welfare, and one of them will be nominated by the VP once a final decision is made.
- **Action:**
 - Discussion with GS SAB and GS Welfare regarding the nomination of a student representative in IADC.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman wishing all the best to the senate members for their assigned tasks and agendas for the upcoming month.