



# Students' Senate Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

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Aditya Gupta | Convener



## **Minutes: Third Special Meeting of the Students' Senate 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting of the Students' Senate for the year 2011-12 was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm.

### **1. Announcements and Remarks.**

No announcements or remarks were made.

### **2. Discussion on the Proposed Changes in the Admission Procedure of IIT Kanpur and other Engineering Institutions in India**

The Convener, Students' Senate along with the President, Students' Gymkhana briefly outlined the course of events regarding the recent proposals to change the admission process of Engineering Institutions of India. This included a summary of the Ramasami Committee and its important recommendations, the most debated of which is the proposal for the inclusion of performance in board examinations as an admission criterion for the IIT's. They further informed the Senate that the Ramasami Committee report had been accepted by the IIT Council and that recent media reports suggested that it was possible that JEE would be replaced by a single admission test for all the Centrally Funded Technical Institutions in India and substantial weightage would be given to Board Marks in the new admission process.

Considering the above background, the Senate subsequently discussed at length the various aspects of the issue. Taking into account the discussion on the floor of the Senate it was agreed that:

1. The Ramasami committee aims to target certain problems in the current system including commercialized coaching classes, rural-urban and gender disparity, negligence of school education and increased stress on students etc.



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However, the report does not clearly mention how its recommendations would solve the problems they have outlined. Further, the Senate believed that most of these indicated problems would not be adequately addressed by the recommendations of the committee.

2. The normalization of the marks of lakhs of students from all over the country, belonging to over 30 different boards is a complex and non-trivial task. It is believed that any normalization might still be unfair on a significant number of students.
3. The conduction of Board Examinations in various parts of the country lacks the transparency, fairness and uniformity that is required. Corruption in the conduction of such examinations would be detrimental towards the reliability of the entire process. Moreover, the question of subjectivity and corruption cannot be eliminated by any amount of normalization.
4. Different Institutes may require different qualities amongst the students they desire. The purpose of an admission process should be to filter out the students that are desirable with respect to a particular institute. Therefore, each institution must have the freedom to decide its own admission process. Imposing a single admission criterion is a direct attempt to undermine the academic autonomy of the institutes.
5. Any decision of such magnitude should involve a widespread consultation with all stake holders. The Ramasami committee report mentions interaction with the faculty and students IIT's. In the 1st Special Meeting of the academic senate of IIT Kanpur, no professor admitted to have interacted with the committee. Similarly, nobody in the Students' Senate claimed to have any knowledge of communication between a student of IIT Kanpur and the committee. Based on this it can be said that the feedback taken was extremely limited. Further, on an issue with such widespread impact, feedback from 2000 people (as indicated by the report) hardly constitutes meaningful feedback from all the stake holders.

Based on the above points the following stand was taken on behalf of the student community:



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It is felt by the students of IIT Kanpur that the recommendations of the Ramasami Committee report do not adequately address the flaws that they propose to target. Rather, they may introduce issues related to transparency, fairness and uniformity in an established transparent system. Further, the method of implementation that is being followed does not seem to incorporate adequate feedback from the students and faculty of IIT Kanpur, who are the major stakeholders. Thus, the student community of IIT Kanpur is, in spirit, opposed to the proposed changes to the admission procedure of the IITs.

Subsequently, after the members of the Students' Senate were given an opportunity to express their views it was further decided by the Senate that:

- A forum shall be provided for all the students of the institute to express their opinion and discuss the issue further. Senior faculty members of the institute may also be invited to explain the various aspects of the issue.
- The stand of the Students Senate, based on the minutes of this meeting should be forwarded to the concerned authorities.

### **3. Questions and Remarks**

No questions or remarks were made.

### **4. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.**

No request for an additional item was received by the Convener, Students' Senate.

The meeting was adjourned by the Convener, Students' Senate at 9:56 pm.

Aditya Gupta  
Convener, Students' Senate



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**ATTENDANCE RECORD**

<b>S No.</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1	President, Students' Gymkhana	Sanchit Singhal	Present
2	General Secretary, Cultural Council	Shantanu Singh	Absent
3	General Secretary, Games and Sports Council	Anurag Agarwal	Present
4	General Secretary, Science and Technology Council	Abhinav Prateek	Present
5	General Secretary, Films and Media Council	Rohit Singh	Present
6	Convener, Students' Senate	Aditya Gupta	Present
7	Senator, UG Y7(5-year)	Arun Pratap Singh	Absent
8	Senator, UG Y7(5-year)	Mohit Sharma	Present
9	Senator, UG Y8	Kewal Dharamshi	Present
10	Senator, UG Y8	Lalit Garg	Absent
11	Senator, UG Y8	Priyam Sachan	Present
12	Senator, UG Y8	Robin C. Sharma	Absent
13	Senator, UG Y8	Rohan Sharma	Present
14	Senator, UG Y9	Abhay Jain	Present
15	Senator, UG Y9	Abhishek Saxena	Present
16	Senator, UG Y9	Ankit Bhutani	Present
17	Senator, UG Y9	Jyoti Gupta	Present
18	Senator, UG Y9	Pratik Moona	Present
19	Senator, UG Y9	Nirant Ramakuru	Absent
20	Senator, UG Y9	Vishal Kumar	Absent
21	Senator, UG 10	Abhiroop Bhatnagar	Present
22	Senator, UG 10	Himanshu Pandey	Present
23	Senator, UG 10	Priyank Jaini	Present
24	Senator, UG 10	Sanchit Khattar	Present
25	Senator, UG 10	Vaibhav Patni	Absent
26	Senator, UG 10	Vedant Khamesra	Present
27	Senator, UG 10	Vibhav Agarwal	Present
28	Senator, UG 10	Viraj Agnihotri	Present
29	Senator, UG 11	Abhilash Shukla	Absent
30	Senator, UG 11	Akash Chandra	Absent
32	Senator, UG 11	Ankur Atul Agarwal	Absent



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32	Senator, UG 11	Anurag Sahay	Present
33	Senator, UG 11	Iffat Siddiqui	Present
34	Senator, UG 11	Sarthak Chandra	Present
35	Senator, UG 11	Shouvik Sachdeva	Present
36	Senator, UG 11	Shreyansh Singh	Absent
37	Senator, M.Tech. 10	Russel Aziz	Absent
38	Senator, M.Tech. 10	A Krishna Phaneendra	Absent
39	Senator, M.Tech. 10	Kishore Vedavyasan	Present
40	Senator, M.Tech. 10	Manda Avinash	Present
41	Senator, M.Tech.11	Vamshi Krishna Ramagiri	Absent
42	Senator, M.Tech.11	Sandeep Kumar	Absent
43	Senator, M.Tech.11	Shamim Hasan	Absent
44	Senator, M.Tech.11	Arvind Kumar	Absent
45	Senator,Ph.D	Karthik Balasundaram	Absent
46	Senator,Ph.D	Abhinav R. Dehadrai	Present
47	Senator,Ph.D	Shyam Kumar	Absent
48	Senator,Ph.D	Anupam Soni	Absent
49	Senator,Ph.D	Kumar Gaurav	Absent
50	Senator,Ph.D	Venugopal Swami Punati	Absent
51	Senator,Ph.D	Ashish Bhateja	Absent
52	Senator,Ph.D	Ambuj Pandey	Absent
53	Senator, Ph.D	Rekha Raja	Absent
54	Senator, MBA + M.Des. + Other Equivalent Masters Program, Y10	Ankit Chugh	Absent
55	Senator, MBA + M.Des. + Other Equivalent Masters Program, Y11	Sunil Kumar	Absent