



Hall of Residence VIII

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur



Minutes of the 3rd Open HEC meeting

The meeting was convened in the TV room on 16th September, 2017 at 16:00 HRS and was chaired by the Warden-in-charge. The meeting was adjourned at 18:40 HRS. The attendance is attached.

Agenda 1: Electricity issue

Saurav Bhattacharjee & Shamik Ghosh

Even after raising the issue of unjustifiably high electricity bills that are now being paid by the residents, there has been absolutely nothing from the part of the institute higher authorities to solve and put an end to this long standing problem which is why there is a serious unrest among the hall residents. The President, Hall 8, had very recently sent a detailed mail to all the residents with documents and mail-communications with higher authorities to update them about the present status of the issue. The discussion went as follows:

- 1. Wardens' advice/say:** The mess warden and the new warden advised to contact all the hall presidents to garner their support in this issue as otherwise there will be no point in continuing this fight because the institute won't listen until unless this is everyone's issue. All halls have to be united in this issue. The proposal of individual sub meters won't move until unless all halls come together. The institute & student gymkhana is in a tortoise mode which is why all the halls have to work together rapidly for this to happen.

The warden-in-charge strongly supported both of their opinion saying that the present HEC has done a tremendous job in clearing out the long pending electricity dues of 8 months in 2.5 months only which has streamlined the payment process to a great extent; but even after that much of an effort and continuous discussion with the higher authorities, there is no progress in addressing the demands of the residents by at the institute level which is why it is becoming increasingly difficult to collect the bills at the hall level. He was vociferous in his opinion that we must not pay any further as we

have done more than what we could, now the ball is in the institute's court; what we have to do is to meet DoSA immediately and give him in writing sorts of problems why this kind of a situation is being created.

2. Residents' opinion / suggestions:

- Collect bills of all the hostels for the month of June and July and check if the same thing happened with all the hostels. As per the data, ask IWD for proper justification.
- Re-calculate the meter readings and get the calibration of the meters checked. The warden-in-charge informed the house that an institute level committee is looking into the very same matter.
- Residents suggested and supported not to collect the bill for the months of July and August unless and until a crystal clear clarification is given with proper justification for the jump in the bill from Rs. 96000 to almost Rs. 3 lakhs even when one block (I) was vacant (the changed bill signifies a whopping increase in consumption of almost 1-2 kWh per student per day! This is simply not justified.)
- The way in which the interest/fine of 12% was levied on the resident has set a very bad precedent about the way of pressurizing students for paying unjustified bill.
- The higher student bodies should make a resolution regarding the electricity issue as the most significant and problematic one in the institute right now.
- Alongside the letter to DoSA, a separate letter should also be submitted to take electricity meter reading and calibrate the meters in presence of the hall office in-charge and at least 1 HEC member. The confusion in collection of electricity bills should also be highlighted in the letter.
- Regarding the fast-approaching winter season, the President, Hall 8 asked if it is time to revise the usage of heater policy and the billing/charges to which a past HEC member suggested first to check the feasibility of implementation and consequently pros and cons of the policy which was in place during the last winter. As a part of implementation random checking by a group of residents itself across various blocks may be helpful. Also, the residents are to be made aware about the huge impact of geysers in electricity bill.

3. Immediate action plan:

- Meeting DoSA immediately and to brief him about the issues.

- Submit a detailed letter to DoSA regarding the same and take receiving (mentioning date of collection of electricity bills in hall, improper calculation and cloudy verification by IWD about the June and July electricity bill).

Agenda 2: Discussion about the present mess contractor

Saurav Bhattacharjee

As resolved in the 5th closed-door HEC meeting of the 2016-17 HEC, a monthly evaluation report is to be prepared by the mess committee and a quarter yearly survey will be floated (recent survey result was shown wherein out of 105 respondents, almost 75-80% vote went in favor of the present contractor). The suggestion/salient outcomes of the monthly evaluation report will be informed to the mess manager for further improvement.

Agenda 3: Discussion regarding priority DCF allocation list

Saurav Bhattacharjee

This agenda should not be discussed in the open HEC meeting and prepared priority DCF allocation list should be presented in the next open HEC meeting.

Agenda 4: Duty of various sub-committee members

Saurav Bhattacharjee

The President, Hall 8 raised the issue of sub-committee members being unresponsive to their assigned duty. For every sub-committee meeting, there must be a formal mail sent apriori with the agenda of the meeting to all the members. If any of the member finds it difficult to attend, he will respond to that very mail with valid reasons and if without any prior information, any committee member misses any committee meeting, he automatically loses all rights to ask/change/opine anything in regard to what happened or can anything that is decided in the meeting be changed or something that is decided is wrong (he can do that raising that as an agenda in the very next sub-committee meeting).

There has been some delay in circulating the minutes of the subsequent open mess meetings and it has been advised to the mess secretary that this kind of delay does not happen any further. Also, only after involving the general body members appointed in the open mess meetings for a specific duty, circulation of minutes should be done as otherwise there remains a confusion in the mind of the residents regarding validation of the minutes circulated.

Agenda 5: Feasibility of the proposals of celebrating hall day and saraswati puja in hall 8 next year.

Saurav Bhattacharjee

The house overwhelmingly voted against both the proposals due to following reasons:

- As a significant amount from HDF is being spent in the kind of celebrations like hall day, the hall can't afford it with weak HDF of hall 8.
- Celebration of religious festivals can surely be conducted in someone's or a group's personal capacity. But on the HEC's part raising funds inside the hall for a religious celebration is not commendable. The hall funds cannot be used for religious activity.

Agenda 6: Fine for not returning the guest room keys in time *Saurav Bhattacharjee*

Keeping some recent incidents in mind where some indentors were under the impression that the hall office staff is responsible to collect their guest room key by visiting them. This is clarified and asserted in the house that the indentor himself has to visit the hall office and return the guest room key within 09:30 HRS on the day of departure (the rules of the guest room have already been pasted in the guest blocks and also highlighted) failing which there will be an appropriate action initiated by the Warden-in-charge.

Regarding the issue of guest room, one more issue that was raised is to shift the G-block guest rooms to I-block as to have all the guest rooms in one single block altogether. The house deliberated that this will be a good move and hence, the maintenance secretary is advised to take this step up immediately.

Agenda 7: Arrangement of special ordinary room *Saurav Bhattacharjee*

The President, Hall 8 informed the house that the hall can afford and arrange a sort of special ordinary room with mattress. The general body members supported the issue in principle with the advice that the maintenance secretary should first do a detailed follow up of how the charges for the present rooms are being bifurcated (from DoSA) and then to come up with a detailed proposal with proper charge breakup of the special ordinary room.

Agenda 8: The issue of washermen *Saurav Bhattacharjee*

- The maintenance secretary is advised to do a hostel-wise comparison for the monthly salary/fee that the washermen get and then to come up with a revised pay structure.
- There is no need to fix a block for each washerman as there is absolutely no point in restricting a resident's choice to whom he will give his clothes to be washed. Also this creates a competitive environment amongst the washermen which is good in terms of performance required.

Agenda 9: Canteen issue

Arijit Saha

The Warden-in-charge, President & Canteen secretary, Hall 8 informed the house about the tendering process of the canteen that has recently taken place and the results of that has already been circulated to the hall janta. His requests were discussed as follows:

- **Regarding advising the new canteen owner to fix an upper credit limit-** The house clearly pointed out that the HEC can only advise this. Initially, during the first few months of the new canteen owner's service, the HEC as well as all the hall residents must remain very much vigilant in terms of quality of food, hygiene inside and outside the canteen premises, use of tobacco products near the canteen area, interaction of the canteen workers with the residents. The house suggested that a formal letter comprising all these direct main points should be given to the canteen owner. Also the advices of restricting the upper limit of credit for canteen services and a mess-like self-written register system for better transparency should be mentioned indirectly in that letter itself as this depends fully on the canteen owner if he can abide by that or not.
- **How can the space inside the canteen be used more efficiently?** *Arijit Saha*
The Wardens and one general body member suggested the canteen secretary to call a committee meeting immediately with the agenda of preparing a comprehensive proposal with sketches to IWD asking to reshape our canteen-kitchen area for a better and more efficient use of space inside the canteen as many times this shrunked space issue came up as an excuse resulting in a compromise with the quality of food and hygiene.
- The house also suggested the canteen secretary to advise the new canteen owner to try his level best to at least arrange dry and packed foods within a few days after the handover process is complete as the mid sem exams will be going on and the residents will be needing this much in the exam-period.

Any other issue with the permission of the chair:

1. **Consequences of parking cycles in NO PARKING zones:** The President, Hall 8 informed the house about the recent incidents some of which involved exchange of heated arguments among residents of the hall themselves regarding this long pending issue of parking bicycles in an inappropriate manner in places of NO-PARKING. The

house decided that if anybody's cycle is found to be parked in NO-PARKING zones, the cycle will immediately be chained up and locked and the resident will have to write an apology letter to the Warden-in-charge to get it freed and will also have to enrol his details (after showing his institute ID to the on duty security guard) in a separate register in the guard-table of the hall-gate.

- 2. Regarding implementing the last 15th August special messing system for all the thursday specials:** The house, especially the Wardens and GBM members appointed to check the BDMR calculation for the 15th August special messing, advised the mess secretary and the President to wait till the next special occasion; if the same thing can be done successfully, than this kind of an implementation can be thought of seriously after mess secretary comes up with a detailed proposal of the various aspects relating to that.
- 3. Timing of the open HEC and mess meetings:** The house advised that all the open meetings should be held on Saturday and Sunday afternoon or evening as it is convenient for the hall residents to attend the meeting.



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Annexure: Attendance list for the 3rd OHECM

Serial No.	Name	Designation
1	Prof. Krishanu Biswas	Warden-in-charge
2	Dr. Priyanka Ghosh	Mess Warden
3	Dr. Suparno Mukhopadhyay	Maintenance Warden
4	Saurav Bhattacharjee	President
5	Dipanjan Dey	Mess Secretary
6	Arijit Saha	Canteen Secretary
7	Prem Anand Murugan	Maintenance Secretary
8	M. Manoj Kumar	Sports Secretary
9	Abraham Benjamin B	Acting Accounts Secretary
10	Bhanu Teja Nalla	Nominee of Garden Secretary
11	Shailendra Kumar Rathore	Ex-President & GBM
12	Shamik Ghosh	Ex-Accounts secretary & GBM
13	Pritam Kumar Roy	Ex-Garden secretary & GBM

The reading room secretary (missed all three HEC meetings without any prior information) & computer room secretary (newly elected after by-elections) gave no prior information regarding their absence which was taken into notice. Also, the acting cultural secretary was not present in the meeting.