



Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, 600036

**Annual Report on Student Ethics & Constitution
Commission Activities**

Academic Year 2023-24

Prepared by:



Student Ethics and Constitution Commission
2023-24

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Introduction

The following document is a detailed report of the yearlong activities that were undertaken by SECC in the academic year 2023-24. From conducting various socio-political activities to spreading awareness about vigilant citizens, SECC has not left any stone unturned in making students of IIT Madras well versed with their fundamental rights and duties in the campus as well as outside campus.

Being the quasi-judicial body of the Student Government Structure of IIT Madras, multiple initiatives were undertaken by SECC to ensure that the organization changes with the changing times. With the multifold initiatives taken up by SECC 2023-24, students have come to know SECC in a more comprehensive manner, where multiple clarifications were received by SECC regarding the same. Simultaneously, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of cases that students have been filing to SECC to safeguard their constitutionally guaranteed rights. SECC 2023-24 has been very successful in gaining the trust of students, faculty and the IITM administration all throughout its tenure due to which the acceptance of the requests or instructions of SECC is always being accepted in the right spirit by all the stakeholders.

Moreover, SECC 2023-24 has been one of the most unique commission's which was able to witness very rare scenarios which no other commission has faced till date. The very beginning of the commission with only 2 commissioners and the usage of sanctions like suspension of the elected members are few of the actions that SECC 2023-24 has witnessed at various periods of time. For all the successful accomplishments of SECC 2023-24 I would like to thank our Former Faculty Advisor - Prof. Anup Kumar Bhandari & Incumbent Faculty Advisor - Prof. Anbarasu M. for their constant support and guidance.

SECC Cases

Case 1:- Improper composition of the Selection Committee for the post of Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS) Department Secretary 2023-24

The case concerns the improper composition of the Selection Committee for the position of Humanities & Social Sciences Department Secretary for 2023-24. The issue was raised when the outgoing Branch Councillor was included in the Selection Committee, while the elected Research Councillor was excluded. This violated Chapter VII, Section I, Clause V & Chapter VII, Section II, Clause X, Sub-Clause E of the Students' Constitution. These breaches occurred due to non-compliance with the HSS Department Charter, which clearly mandates the involvement of the outgoing Department Secretary, elected Branch Councillor, and elected Research Councillor in the Selection Committee. The SECC ruled that the Selection Committee must be reconstituted, involving both the currently elected Branch Councillor and elected Research Councillor; and the outgoing Department Secretary. The previous selection panel's decision was declared null and void, and the committee was instructed to apologize to the applicants and establish new evaluation criteria for the two existing applicants.

Date of Ruling: 5th May 2023

Case Duration:- 7 Days

Votes:- For = 2

Commissioners - Mr. Sushant Jaswal & Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap

Case 2 & 3:- 1st Contempt of Court initiated by SECC for overruling the Writ of Mandamus issued by the Student Ethics and Constitution Commission, IIT Madras by Team Pragati & Students' General Secretary (SGS).

Case 2 & 3:- 2nd Contempt of Court initiated by SECC for overruling the Writ of Mandamus issued by the Student Ethics and Constitution Commission, IIT Madras by Team Pragati & Students' General Secretary (SGS).

Team Pragati under the leadership of Student General Secretary (SGS) called for the application for the post of the Head of CAT Club. Even though it was known to the SGS that CAT Club had not been ratified by SLC under team Pragati and SECC subsequently issued a Writ of Mandamus and directed Team Pragati to halt the selection process. Team Pragati sent a mail to the General Student Body (GSB) asking the students to ignore the decisions of SECC. SGS is responsible to execute constitutional responsibilities but SGS has failed to do so by not tabling the CAT Club in SLC. SGS, under whom Team Pragati functions, is accountable for all the actions and was sanctioned along with the Cores. Team Pragati and SGS did not present any concrete reason for sending the mail in contrast to the Writ of Mandamus issued by SECC, which was a violation of a judicial order, which is an act of Contempt of Court.

For the verdict addressing the investigative hearing, SGS was suspended from his official position for the next 24 hours from the time the verdict was in public. All the Team Pragati Cores were given a disciplinary warning and directed to send a public apology.

Team Pragati Cores were requested to have better understanding within themselves as it was mentioned that some were not aware that they were going to send a mail to GSB violating the Writ of Mandamus. If any student or organization wants to challenge the orders issued by SECC, they are supposed to write to SECC directly as per the protocols mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Pragati Club is suggested to have a Faculty Advisor of their own who can guide Team Pragati & SGS in an appropriate manner.

For the verdict related to Contempt of Court proceedings, Team Pragati Cores were suspended from their official position for the next 24 hours from the time the verdict was made public. SECC believes that all the actions taken by Team Pragati were in consultation with SGS. So, SGS was given a disciplinary warning, and was directed to send a public apology for the 2nd Contempt of Court (28th May 2023). While the three heads of the Pragati Club were suspended for a period of 24 hours from their official capacity as part of the ruling for the 2nd Contempt of Court. The second contempt of court happened with respect to the AMC Club for which a GSB member had filed a complaint stating conflict of interests between AMC Club and a club under AAS.

Date of Ruling:- 2nd June 2023

Case Duration:- 60 Days

Votes:- For = 2

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal & Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap

Case 4:- Academic Mentorship Club under Pragati Club under Students' General Secretary in conflict with the Department Academic Mentorship Program under Career Development Cell under Academic Affairs Secretary

Team Pragati called for applications for the post of the Head of Academic Mentorship Cell (AMC). SECC Issued a Writ of Mandamus and convened an Investigative Hearing as SECC had received a complaint stating that there is a conflict between the interests of Academic Mentorship Club under Pragati Club under SGS and Department Academic Mentorship Program under Career Development Cell under AAS. As per the issued Writ of Mandamus, Pragati Club was directed to halt the selection procedure until further notice. The agenda document mentioning Team Pragati and AMC under it has been attached with the 3rd SLC meeting agenda points, but there is no evidence of it being passed in the MoM of 3rd SLC. As per former Academic Affairs Secretary (AAS), AMC was passed under his tenure. It was taken under the Career Development Cell (CDC), and renamed as Department Academic Mentorship Programme. SECC has found that the SGS rulebook mentions the Academic Buddies. As per the inputs of former SGS to the Writ of Mandamus, he stated that AMC, which runs academic buddy, was under Saathi and was shifted under Pragati. However, SECC found that there does not exist any evidence of the AMC being part of SAATHI or the shifting of the academic buddy program to Team Pragati. SECC concludes that AMC was not part of SAATHI, it was just Academic Buddies and the same was also not shifted to Team Pragati. Rolling out of applications was against the spirit of the Student's Constitution as the due procedure was violated. The dispute has been resolved with the updated rulebooks in the first SLC of 2023-24. Since the 1st SLC MoM dated June 18, 2023, the updated rulebook of SGS states that the AMC comes under the Pragati Club while the DAMP comes under the CDC under AAS.

Date of Ruling:- 17th July 2023

Case Duration:- 52 Days

Votes:- For = 2

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal & Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap

Case 5:- The arbitrary and unconstitutional removal of 2 ratified Disaster Management Committee (DMC) Cores by the Students' General Secretary (SGS) and the subsequent issuance of a Writ of Mandamus (First and Second) by the Student Ethics and Constitution Commission (SECC) against the arbitrary removal.

Two ratified DMC cores were arbitrarily removed as no submission of report or dissemination of official warning via mail was provided to the concerned cores as mentioned in the SGS Rulebook. Subsequently, a Writ of Mandamus was issued by SECC to freeze the activities and the team structure until further notice to ensure justice to the students who have been arbitrarily and unconstitutionally removed from their PoRs. SECC issued a Second Writ of Mandamus to unfreeze activities while maintaining the status quo in terms of team structure to ensure that other GSB members do not suffer because of the trial that SECC has taken up. The 3 major reasons provided by SGS for the removal of DMC cores were (i) DMC Cores were not communicating on the WA group where SGS was present and both these cores were not working for the development of the team, (ii) denial that the 2 Cores showed in terms of incorporating 3 students without the due process in the team, and (iii) having more than one Core Position in other teams. At the time of recruiting DMC cores, the eligibility criteria did not state anything about not having other Core position PoRs and there is no established rule for the same in the SGS rulebook. However, the Faculty Advisor, the former DoSt Sir, had instructed SGS and DMC Cores to abide by this reasoning and proposed that the core can remain a core of DMC if they resign from the other core position because handling more than one core position reduces the productivity of the student and the team. SECC concluded that SGS was to send a formal apology from his official mail ID to both the students for violating their fundamental rights of free speech and

expression, equality, personal liberty and privacy, right to seek information & access to healthcare (mental health). Not abiding by the 2nd Writ of Mandamus was considered as a Contempt of Court and mandated a disciplinary warning to the SGS. SGS was instructed to reinstate both the DMC Cores respectfully back to the team with immediate effect as the grounds of removal are unreasonable and lack evidence. All 3 DMC Cores were directed to release applications for coordinator positions among the GSB in order to incorporate the three new members to the team by following the due process. The Speaker was recommended to draft a policy mentioning the procedure in which a ratified member can be removed and to propose an amendment to the policies of Ratification mentioning that no student should hold more than one Core position at a time as the former DoST had suggested the same.

Date of Ruling:- 7th September 2023

Case Duration:- 29 Days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

Case 6:- The Saraswathi Hostel Council 2023-24 has been accused of being irresponsible for not conducting the Hostel General Body Meeting (GBM) appropriately on 12th September 2023 and in the same GBM the Sports Secretary was absent with no prior information to the Hostel Residents.

A complaint was sent to SECC by one of the residents of Saraswathi Hostel who had accused the Saraswathi Hostel Council 2023-24 of being irresponsible in conducting the Hostel General Body Meeting (GBM) on 12th September 2023 as well as accusing the Sports Secretary of Saraswathi Hostel for being not present in the meeting without prior information to the hostel residents. The members of the Hostel council arrived at the GBM (to discuss the Budget) 30 minutes later than the prescribed time without any communication, which created lots of confusion among the hostel residents who were present on time. Also, due to the absence of the sports secretary, the Hostel Council members and the Hostel residents couldn't discuss the Budget of the Hostel. SECC, through its investigations, found out that the whole case revolves around the idea of miscommunication and lack of communication between the hostel council members and hostel residents through official channels, and the unavailability of the Sports Secretary was due to some commitment/emergency. Thus, SECC passed a ruling stating that the Saraswathi Hostel Sports Secretary and Other Saraswathi Hostel Council members should be more proactive in informing the hostel residents about the actions and their availability.

Date of Ruling:- 7th October 2023

Case Duration:- 26 Days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

Case 7:- One of the SLC Secretariat members of 2022-23 has been accused of financial misappropriation by the 2022-23 SLC Speaker for not disbursing the train and flight ticket reimbursements to the students for the Parliament Trip that was conducted by SLC 2022-23.

The former SLC Speaker (2022-23) filed a complaint stating that he has not received the reimbursement of worth ₹26,000 (approx.) that he was entitled to receive within this month from one of the current SLC Secretariat members (2023-24) who was responsible for disbursing the reimbursement money among the students. A total of ₹45,000 (approx.) had to be reimbursed to the

students for the flight or train tickets that they had booked during the Parliament Trip from their own pockets. On investigating, SECC got to know that around 12 students have not received their reimbursement from the SLC Secretariat till date. The student who was responsible for disbursing the reimbursement money had some confusion and misunderstanding with the SLC Speaker (2022-23) due to which the member did not disburse any money to any GSB member. Further, the SLC Secretariat member could not do the required transactions for the past one month because of non-functioning of her bank account and UPI Id.

Finally, SECC checked all the proofs from the STACT Office and issued its verdict where SECC asked the SLC Secretariat member to pay a specific amount of reimbursements to 12 different students within the period of 2 weeks from the date of issue of the verdict.

Date of Ruling:- 24th October 2023

Case Duration:- 30 days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

Case 8:- SECC dealt with the various complaints received on the student's small forum about lack of transparency in the 2023 Parliament Trip Delegation selection procedure. SECC published an Investigative Report after the meticulous assessment and investigation.

GSB members raised concerns regarding the fairness in the selection procedure of the Delegation of the 2023 Parliament Trip. There has been no official communication from the Selection Panel (SLC Speaker, Public Policy Head - & SLC Secretariat Head -) to the GSB or to the applicants stating what are the selection criteria on the basis of which applications and interviews are being graded. Further, there was no official communication from the Selection Panel to the GSB or to the applicants regarding the marks distribution between application and interview procedure. The list of selected students for the 2023 Parliament Trip Delegation that was shared by the SLC Speaker had a bit of unclarity regarding selection of the GSB members and legislators. After the release of the list, certain GSB members raised concerns on which SECC took a *suo motu* cognisance as no concern or complaint was directly filed to SECC.

SECC instructs the SLC Speaker as well as the Selection Panel to be cautious from now on in informing the GSB or at least the applicants well in advance about the parameters or criteria on the basis of which the selection for Parliament Trip Delegation is going to be done. If any GSB member wants to seek clarification regarding his/her performance during the selection procedure of the Parliament Trip Delegation. He/she should write to the SLC Speaker for the required information. Further, any doubt related to the selection procedure of the Parliament Trip Delegation shall be clarified by the SLC Speaker or the Selection Panel personally to the GSB member, if any GSB member reaches out to them at official capacity. After considering the current scenario and all the possible alternatives, all the stakeholders in this case (SECC Chief Commissioner, SGS, RAS, HAS, DoST Sir & Former SLC Faculty Advisor) agree to the fact that for the time being the SLC Speaker shall go ahead with the selected Parliament Trip Delegation as per the plan and shall take the students whom he has mentioned in this Parliament Trip Delegation List.

SLC to frame policy on the transparent selection procedure of the Parliament Trip Delegation with due inputs from EC members, SECC, legislators, SLC Faculty Advisor and GSB members at the earliest. All the EC members, Clubs & Teams should inform the GSB or at least the applicants well in

advance about the parameters or criteria on the basis of which the selection for a particular post or a trip is being done.

Date of Ruling:- 22nd November 2023

Case Duration:- 5 days

Votes:- N/A

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal

Case 9:- Complaint against Executive Council Member for financial misappropriation and lack of transparency regarding the Temporary Advance in Cultural Sphere.

A Temporary Advance (TA) of ₹2,70,000 was taken from the STACT office for the Sangam events in December 2022, which was settled after 10 months. The complainant pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the amount listed related to the Culinary Club. The amount of ₹48,677.30 was listed under the title of 'Contingent-Moodi-Materials with a remark that it belonged to the Sangam Contingent. This has been called a discrepancy, according to the complainant as the Culinary Contingent did not participate in Mood-Indigo. The complainant had also raised concerns regarding the amounts listed under 'Miscellaneous - Sangam Debriefing. The amounts listed under 'Miscellaneous - Sangam Debriefing' for specific expenses were allegedly allocated for 'Team Dinner,' 'Team Lunch,' and 'Multiple meets across the semester'. According to the complainant, the events team was not given any treat, and there has been misuse of the funds of approximately ₹40,000. The complainant had also raised concerns regarding the bills under 'Gaming club equipment' and 'Contingent' and demanded their checking based on legitimate reasons and authenticity. The complainant also sought an explanation regarding the withdrawal of such a huge amount from the STACT office and the return of the leftover amount after 10 months. The complainant raised this issue of the late return of the leftover amount, throwing light on the fact that a couple of club convenors and the contingents have not received their reimbursements from last year. After accepting the complaint, SECC meticulously investigated the original bills and proofs submitted to the STACT office along with the records. Clarifications were sought from Finance Core 2023-2024 and in different Investigative Hearings.

Since, the accused failed to provide any evidence of the Team Treats that he had given during the months April-May 2023 of approximately ₹40,000. The commission concludes to the fact that the money allocated under 'Miscellaneous - Sangam Debriefing' has not been spent for the purpose that it was supposed to be, as there is no proof to substantiate that anyone from the Events Core 2022-23 or 2023-24 or Sangam Team has been given any sort of team treat from the aforementioned budget. The jurisdiction of SECC does not allow SECC to investigate deeper into the bills that have been submitted to the STACT Office concerning the 'Miscellaneous - Sangam Debriefing' budget. For further investigation the case was referred to a special committee Chaired by Prof. Anbarasu M. that was constituted by DoST Sir to address the issue

Date of Ruling:- 30th December 2023

Case Duration:- 72 days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

Case 10:- Discrepancy in the selection of the delegation among the Parliament Trip Delegate 2023 to meet the Honourable Education Minister of India, along with mismanagement of the allocated funds for the Parliament Trip.

The SLC Speaker on 19th December 2023 received a message from the Personal Assistant (PA) of the Honourable Education Minister of India on the request of the Director of IIT Madras Prof. V. Kamakoti that the students' delegation from IIT Madras should have a meeting with the Minister on 20th December 2023 at 5 PM. Since only 15 students were allowed to meet the Minister as per PA's orders, the SLC Speaker initially refused to meet the Minister. But later on the suggestion of the Parliament Trip Faculty Advisor Prof. Prof Murugaiyan A, the SLC Speaker was asked to choose 2 Executive Council members other than himself and select random students from the Parliament Delegation to ensure representation of all departments of IIT Madras. The SLC Speaker accordingly selected I&AR and RAS from EC members, and chose a couple of Parliament Trip organizing committee members; and a handful of legislators/GSB members from various departments to ensure diverse representation of the IIT Madras.

The SLC Speaker is directed to issue an apology letter to the Parliament Trip Delegation 2023, copying to the SLC Faculty Advisor and the Student Ethics and Constitution Commission (SECC), acknowledging the inconveniences caused to the delegates by the random selection process. The SLC Speaker is mandated to present a detailed financial audit of the Parliament Trip 2023 to the SLC once all transactions are cleared from the STACT Office. This measure aims to enhance transparency and accountability in financial matters related to SLC events.

The SLC Speaker is advised to follow an impartial and transparent procedure in the selection of the Parliament Trip delegates for all the activities throughout the trip, as all the delegates have equal rights to avail the benefits of the trip. So the arrangements and selections should be made accordingly. SECC believes that the given incident and the selection procedure could have been handled in a better manner by employing various ad hoc measures for selection, the procedure employed by the SLC Speaker was ambiguous and led to the confusion and denial of opportunity to the other delegates who were not included in the visit. Considering this, the SLC Speaker is advised to be more proactive and diligent and opt for a consensus-based solution when such situations arise.

Date of Ruling:- 19th January 2024

Case Duration:- 31 days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

Case 11:- Candidates contesting for various positions in Students' General Elections 2024 have been found using 'General Secretary' Canva Pro account which is only accessible to the students who are currently holding some Position of Responsibility (PoR) under Students' General Secretary for the purpose of designing manifestos or feasibility report for personal uses instead of using the accounts primarily for Students' Government Associated Organisations (SGAOs) outreach and publicity. This particular case deals with General Secretary Canva Pro Account, though there have been other institute funded Canva Pro Accounts as well which have been used for designing either 1 or 2 election documents and those cases are dealt by SEC directly. In short, using gymkhana funds to create election documents (manifesto & feasibility report) by particular candidates is against the spirit of free and fair elections.

Mr. Alpha wrote a mail to SEC Chief Election Commissioner stating that there are certain candidates who are contesting for various legislative positions and have been using 'institute machinery' to design and draft election documents (manifesto & feasibility report). By the term Institute Machinery the complainant meant that the candidates are using Canva Pro Account which is being bought using Gymkhana Funds by various Executive Council members for their respective SGAOs to use it for designing posters for their team related publicity and outreach measures and not for personal/non-organisational uses of GSB members. As per the Annexure I, Model Code of Conduct, General Guidelines of Election Manual 2024 - 'All students and candidates shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras.' Such an act is in direct conflict with the very spirit of democracy as well as the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras which believes in free and fair elections where all the candidates are contesting elections on a level playing field. Few days later, he wrote a complaint to SEC stating the same issue with addition to the fact that there has been collusion among the candidates contesting for legislator positions, as the candidates are using exact manifestos and feasibility reports irrespective of their departments or hostels. As per request, SEC decided to keep Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap (HS21H049) out of the investigation.

Both the complainants emphasized over the Metadata Information which discloses information related to the software that is being used to design the election documents as well as the account that is being used to draft the same. From intense examination of all the manifestos of various candidates who are contesting for different legislator positions across the institute it came to SEC's notice that around 9 candidates have used 'General Secretary' Canva Pro Account.

The students who were found guilty were accordingly punished by SECC and the following recommendations were given. The SECC recommends that the Executive Council secretaries closely monitor all activities conducted within the accounts they oversee, particularly those funded by Gymkhana funds. This recommendation stems from above-mentioned incidents where activities were carried out without the knowledge of the Students' General Secretary and Co-Curricular Affairs Secretary. All the Independent Student Bodies's (ISB) Heads are requested to kindly keep close watch over their mail IDs so that candidates do not use the same for non-organisational purposes.

Date of Ruling:- 4th March 2024

Case Duration:- 5 days

Votes:- For = 2

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal & Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

Case 12:- A student filed a complaint against Team Raftar for not having a transparent and fair recruitment process for the upcoming new team.

As part of the PoR Charter, the student's concern was reported to the CFI Head and Team Raftar to seek clarification. As the complainant had raised a concern which SECC Commissioners felt could be solved by mediation as the complainant was seeking clarification regarding him not being selected. He doubted the selection process but was seeking a response from the selection committee which he was unable to get earlier. In response to the same, SECC facilitated a platform where the complainant and the selection committee clarified each other's doubt and both of them were satisfied with the decision that was taken by the selection committee. Therefore the case ended through a mere process of mediation which served justice to all the stakeholders.

Date of Ruling:- 3rd April 2024

Case Duration:- 2 days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

Case 13:- The agenda was to resolve the differences and issues between the two secretaries because of the recent event, 'Kahanikaar,' that was part of the E-Summit and was held on 8th March 2024.

From the investigation SECC has concluded that the issue arose because of a miscommunication between two secretaries, the Co-Curricular Affairs Secretary Mr. Nithin and the International and Alumni Relations Secretary Mr.Ujjaval. Hence both Secretaries are advised to have better communication related to such matters and are recommended to advise their upcoming secretaries about the same for a seamless upcoming tenure. SECC concludes that there is no copyright issue involved in having the events with the same name as long as the Secretaries and the teams stick to their domains. Therefore, SECC does not find any problem with the use of the name Kahanikaar by the E-Cell Team for their engagement activity which they conducted during E-Summit.

Regarding the incident that happened in the Himalaya Lawns which involved the IITM TV Head and that led to the defamation of the Team E-Cell and hence IIT Madras as the event was witnessed by numerous outsiders. The students involved are advised to use proper channels of communication and grievance redressal. Students shall abstain from doing any act/comment that is detrimental to the prestige of this eminent institution of which we are part of. As this entire incident related to the Event Kahanikaar has created confusion among the General Student Body and some alumni. The Co-curricular Affairs Secretary is directed to send a public mail mentioning the event Kahanikaar that was conducted on 8th March 2024 by E-Cell which is under the CoCAS sphere. This event is different from the event that IITM TV under the I&AR Sphere usually conducts. This mail shall be first sent to SECC for scrutiny, after receiving approval from SECC it can be sent to GSB. The clarification mail shall be sent to GSB before 16th April 2024, 5:00 PM.

Date of Ruling:- 12th April 2024

Case Duration:- 33 days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

SECC Initiatives

SECC Inner Circle

SECC Chief Commissioner - Mr. Sushant Jaswal had come up with this naive idea of forming an SECC Inner Circle which comprises all the former Commissioners of IIT Madras. The WhatsApp group was formed for the exchange of ideas and opinions that the incumbent Commissioners can have from the former commissioners because every commission had a very unique experience and not every detail of any incident can be jotted in any report. Therefore, networking and connecting with the IITM alumni who have integral connections with SECC is one step forward in keeping all the commissioners together and their ideas alive for a long period of time. Date:- 21st April 2023

SECC & SEC WhatsApp Channels

To increase the means of publicity and outreach for the activities that SECC or SEC does all throughout the academic year. WhatsApp is a quick mode of communication with the students as around 150+ GSB members are following the SECC WA Channel. While 250+ GSB members have joined the SEC WA Channel. Both of them have been very helpful in spreading quick words among the students about the events and tasks of SECC & SEC.

Complaint Tab on InstiSpace App

SECC in collaboration with the Centre for Innovation (CFI) introduced a tab in the InstiSpace App which is widely used by the students of IIT Madras especially Freshers so that SECC becomes one step more easily approachable without defying the existing set up of filing a complaint. The mechanism behind InstiSpace App Complaint Tab is that the student when she files a complaint, an automatic mail generates from her smail ID which is sent to SECC's mail ID. This way, in a very small period of time and with few steps one can easily file a complaint and seek justice from SECC without facing any issue. Date:- 11th June 2023

Freshie Orientation

SECC had conducted a Freshie Orientation session where students were informed about the existing Student Government Structure of IIT Madras and the role that SECC plays in achieving good governance. Simultaneously the session also addressed the political rights that the freshers should practice as the ISS Special Elections & Freshers' Elections 2023 were approaching. The students were periodically briefed about their rights and duties through various forums in order to give equal level playing field for them to represent their ideas in the student government structure of IIT Madras. Date:- 9th August 2023, Venue:- CLT

Liberty Through Lens

SECC organized a dynamic event on the occasion of the independence day dedicated to getting photos that relate with the notion of liberty for students. This aimed to equip student candidates with the knowledge and skills required to effectively use photography on social media to engage and connect with their fellow students. The "Candidates' Social Media Photography Event" conducted by the SECC was a commendable initiative that enabled leveraging the power of visual communication in our campaign for a memorable IITM independence day. This initiative was one of the initiatives to make us visible in the digital sphere, ultimately contributing to a more engaged and informed student body. Date:- 12th August 2023.

Constitutional Monitoring & Operations Head part of Hearings

With the rising number of cases that SECC Commissioners had to deal with, it is quintessential that SECC Commissioners should solely focus on their job of conducting investigative hearings and CMOH assists them in drafting the Minutes of the Meeting (MoM). To ensure that the confidentiality of the cases are maintained, the CMOH is asked to take the Oath of Secrecy as mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of SECC. With the joint consensus of all the three commissioners, the incumbent CMOH was allowed to be part of all the hearings and draft the MoMs for the same. Date:- 15th August 2023

India Quiz Event By SECC in Collaboration with the Quiz Club

This event was organized on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day of India, with the primary objective of promoting political literacy, and encouraging a better understanding of not only India's democratic and electoral processes but also its heritage and culture. The "India Quiz Event" conducted by the SECC was a commendable effort to enhance political literacy among election candidates and the general public. The event aimed to foster better-informed political leaders and citizens. Furthermore, the event demonstrated the SECC's commitment to promoting political education and awareness. It is expected that such initiatives will contribute to a more informed and engaged citizenry, ultimately strengthening India's democracy. Date:- 18th August 2023 & Venue:- CRC 201.

MiTR & Wellness Centre Documents in SECC Documents

With the rising awareness about mental wellbeing, SECC introduced an initiative wherein, the document containing the verdict or minutes of the meeting of a case should have a separate template talking about the ways in which a student can approach the wellness center of IIT Madras. Considering that the cases with which SECC deals are very tiring and draining for students, it is crucial that SECC shows them the right path at a time when they are vulnerable to mental health issues like depression, self-doubt and so on. With the dissolution of the MiTR, SECC had reintroduced the Wellness Centre template in the month of January 2024. Date:- 20th October 2023

Vigilance Week with SECC

During Vigilance Awareness Week, observed from October 30th to November 5th, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) emphasized the importance of honesty and transparency in our daily lives. SECC strongly encouraged all students to uphold integrity and ethics by taking the Integrity Pledge, administered by the CVC, and earning the Certificate of Commitment. The CVC, as India's apex governmental body, promotes integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration, playing a pivotal role in fighting corruption. This week provided an opportunity to recognize the CVC's efforts in promoting accountability and ethical conduct. Students were encouraged to lodge complaints through the CVC's Complaint Portal. Let's reflect on these values and contribute to creating a more responsible and vigilant student community. Date:- 2nd November 2023

Bridging Divide:- A Social Campaign event in Collaboration with Enactus & iVIL

In a collaborative effort, SECC organized a comprehensive Social Campaign Event on Bridging the Income Divide. This event was designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills required for effective visualization of the problem of the widening income disparities. Numerous stalls and fun events were on display to make the students' experience better. "Bridging Divides" conducted by the enabled students to gain knowledge about ethical, local and transparent local production through the goodies provided and the knowledge imparted. Date:- 7th November 2023, Venue:- Himalaya Foyer Area

First SECC Newsletter

We announced the launch of the inaugural newsletter by the Student Ethics and Constitution Commission (SECC) at IIT Madras. The newsletter represented our commitment to keeping the student body informed about important cases, events, and initiatives undertaken by the SECC. It marked the beginning of a new chapter in our efforts to enhance communication and engagement between us and the General Student Body (GSB). The newsletter aimed not only to serve as a source of information but also to foster a sense of justice and equity within our campus. The latest newsletter by Team SECC was shared, providing insights into our endeavors. If you had any feedback or suggestions, we encouraged you to reach out to us at secc@smail.iitm.ac.in. Additionally, we were excited to announce that a novel website for SECC would soon be accessible. In the upcoming days, the second Newsletter is also going to be released. Date:- 11th November 2023

Constitution Day Celebration at IIT Madras

SECC celebrated Constitution Day on November 28, 2023, in honor of India's rich constitutional heritage. The event featured a lecture by Smt. Laxmi Priya, IAS, on Constitutional Values and Fundamentals of the Indian Constitution, held at the Central Lecture Theatre (CLT) at 10:00 am. Attendees engaged in various activities, including a collective reading of the Preamble to the Constitution, emphasizing the importance of Constitutional values. An Online Quiz on "Loktantra ki janani" was also organized, providing participants with an opportunity to test their knowledge of constitutional principles. Participants were encouraged to visit the online platform <https://readpreamble.nic.in> to read the Preamble and receive certificates. Sharing their certificates on Instagram and tagging @reachiitm and @secc gave them a chance to win exciting rewards. The event was a testament to the commitment of IITM and SECC to uphold and celebrate the principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution, fostering a culture of democratic values and civic engagement among the student community.

Ethical Code Drafting Committee

SECC took a significant step in upholding ethical standards and nurturing a positive learning environment by establishing a committee to draft the Student's Ethical Code of Conduct. This initiative aimed to provide a guiding framework for SECC's long-term mission. Active participation and commitment to integrity and responsibility were key criteria for committee members. Their responsibilities included collaborating to outline the principles and guidelines, providing insights based on experiences, and actively contributing to discussions. Chaired by Karthik Kurimindla, SECC Coordinator, the committee worked diligently to develop a comprehensive and inclusive code. The call for participation was met with enthusiasm, and members were invited to express their interest and share relevant experiences or ideas. *The initiative concluded successfully*, thanks to the dedication and contributions of all involved, marking a significant milestone in SECC's ongoing commitment to ethical excellence and student welfare. Date:- 20th December 2023

Republic Day Poster Making Competition

SECC proudly presented the Republic Day Poster Making Competition!

Participants were invited to unleash their creativity and blend colors in this exciting event. The theme revolved around celebrating the unity in diversity of the sovereign republic of India by highlighting the heritage of the constituent states, inspired by the Republic Day tableaux. Date:- 18th January 2024

DOST RESEARCHERS ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE (DOST-ROPE)

SECC Chief Commissioner had conducted a brief orientation session for the researchers who had recently joined IIT Madras. The session was conducted in a similar manner like it was being conducted for the UG Freshers but in a bit more brief manner. The session encompassed from briefing the research scholars about their constitutional rights to the elections that IITM was going to witness in the upcoming months in the form of SGE 2024. Date:- 22nd January 2024, Venue:- SAC

Proposal of Constitutional Amendments

This year, SECC had proposed several Constitutional Amendments in collaboration with teams like Vannam & MiTR. The idea behind doing the same is to make the Students' Constitution progressive and inclusive in all terms. With the changing times, the constitution should also be amended so that it addresses the new age concerns and safeguards the rights of the students from the upcoming generations. Grammatical changes to the introduction of new fundamental freedoms like right to grievance redressal have been proposed by SECC 2023-24 in the SLC. Further, actions on the same is still under discussion. Date:- 22nd January 2024

Republic Day Movie Time - Roja

Reflecting on our recent initiative, SECC is delighted to acknowledge the success of our Republic Day celebration! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us for the screening of the national award-winning film, "Roja," directed by Mani Ratnam. On January 25th, the Central Lecture Theatre (CLT) came alive with the vibrant spirit of patriotism as we immersed ourselves in the rich cultural tapestry depicted in the film. The event was a testament to the unity and diversity that define our nation. Date: 25th January 2024

Release of the PoR Charter

The PoR Charter has been compiled and released by SECC to ensure transparency and fair recruitment process for any Position of Responsibility (PoR). It is quintessential that the applicants are well versed with the recruitment process and are vigilant enough to voice their opinions to the correct authority if they are doubtful about the same. Date: 28th January 2024.

Following are the guidelines that all the applicants and teams should abide by while adhering to PoR Charter -

1. The PoR Charter aims to achieve the following objectives -
 - A) **One stop solution to access recruitment process information** about all the Student Government Associated Organisation (SGAO) PoRs in a handy manner.
 - B) **No need to revisit multiple rulebooks** of various student government officials to access information about the PoR recruitment process.
 - C) To **maintain and ensure transparency in the PoR recruitment process by empowering**

the General Student Body (GSB) with the PoR Charter.

D) On finding discrepancy between the PoR Charter and the ongoing recruitment process, **GSB members can approach SECC anytime to seek justice.**

E) PoR Charter aims to foster **better standard of living among the GSB members by cherishing meritocracy and negating nepotism & favoritism.**

2. As per **Chapter V, Section III, Clause IV, Sub-Clause C of the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras, SECC has the authority to interpret all legislations** that have been passed into laws. Since rulebooks are one such part of legislations that have been passed in the SLC over the period of time, SECC has interpreted the recruitment procedure mentioned in the rulebooks in the following PoR Charter.
3. The PoR Charter draws its existence from the Rulebooks of the Executive Council (EC) Members, Rulebooks of the Constitutional bodies and the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras which has been passed by SLC. **In no way there can be/should be any contradiction between PoR Charter and its sources of information.** If there is any contradiction then the Rulebooks/Students' Constitution of IIT Madras shall always prevail.
4. The authority to amend the PoR Charter shall solely lie with SECC. **The execution of the PoR Charter shall be the joint responsibility of the EC, FAC, GSB, SECC, SLC & T5E.**
5. GSB members are requested and encouraged to reach out to **SECC by mailing SECC on its official mail ID if any of the SGAOs or student government officials do not follow the PoR Charter diligently.**

Updated RoP Document

SECC 2023-24 has taken the proactive initiative to update the existing Rules of Procedure (RoP), aiming to make it more comprehensive and accessible to all members of the student community. In response to valuable feedback, we've refined the RoP to provide clearer elaborations and interpretations of previously vague terms and sentences. Additionally, we've expanded the avenues for seeking redressal to ensure that every concern is addressed promptly and effectively. We're excited to introduce these enhancements and remain dedicated to continuously improving our services to better serve you. Date:- 20th February 2024

SECC Team Structure

Dr. Anbarasu M.		SECC Faculty Advisor	8085645649
Sushant Jaswal	HS20H043	Chief Commissioner	7042107876
Tejaswini Jagtap	HS21H049	Commissioner	9022188751
Meenakshi Anoop	HS21H031	Commissioner	9778714164
Utkarsh Upadhyay	HS21H059	Constitutional Monitoring & Operations Head	9569526695

Kinshuk Kandpal	HS22H030	Events Head	7978648572
Karem Pooja Chandra	ME21B086	Design Head	7286998644
Karthik Kurimindla	NA22B009	Coordinator (Events)	9573520026
Kaushik Raja	HS22H028	Coordinator (Events)	9342281739
Pranay Kumar	HS22H043	Coordinator (Design) (Resigned on 27th January 2024)	8292105542
Trivikram Satharasi	AE20B053	Coordinator (Design) (Joined on 27th January 2024)	7975381849
Nithin	ME21B108	Coordinator (Design)	9989793462
Souvik Pal	CE21S400	Coordinator (Constitutional Monitoring)	8145831742