

**Indian Institute of Technology
Senate Scholarships and Prizes Committee**

Minutes of SSPC Meeting-1 (2015-16)

Meeting Date: 27 October 2015

Members Present: Dr. A. R. Harish, Dr. Ashu Jain, Dr. Debopam Das, Dr. Mini Chandran, Dr. Arnab Bhattacharya, Dr. Indra Shekhar Sen, Mr. Anand Prakash Dwivedi, Mr. Samyak Jain and Mr. Mohammad Ashraf.

Item 1: MCM criteria for 1st year Undergraduate students

Since the first year undergraduate (UG) students do not have a CPI, their common JEE-AIR or marks obtained will be used for ranking. SC/ST students are not to be compared with the GN/OBC students. The data on JEE-AIR and marks will be obtained from the JEE office.

Item 2: MCM criteria for other UG students

The routine procedure will be followed for ranking of the students other than those in the first year of various UG programs. Any student with CPI > 6.0 and Total Family Income (TFI) < 6.0 lakh is eligible for MCM. The SC/ST students are not to be compared with the GN/OBC students. The ranking of the 'eligible' students in each batch may be done in one of the two ways depending on whether the emphasis is on 'merit' or 'means'. In 'merit-centric' method, ranking of the 'eligible students' is done using merit (i.e. CPI), and if two students are tied then 'lower' TFI is used for breaking the tie. In 'means-centric' method, ranking of the 'eligible' students is done using 'low' TFI, and if two students are tied then CPI may be used for breaking the tie. In an unlikely event when two or more students are still tied, the award may be split among them. The procedure to be followed for preparing the ranking of eligible students is presented in Annexure-1.

Item 3: To consider the proposal for institution of "Sengupta Scholarship"

SSPC received a request from the DORA office to institute Sengupta Scholarship. The scholarship will be given to an M. Tech. student in Civil Engineering Department with specialization in Structural Engineering. The value of the scholarship will be Rs. 3,500 per month for 10 months for supporting contingency expenses for equipment, books, and other miscellaneous items for carrying out research. The scholarship will be based on means-centric MCM criteria. The SSPC discussed the proposal and decided to recommend the same to be sent to Senate for approval.

Item 4: To consider the proposal for institution of "1989 Batch Award for Student Tutors"

SSPC received a request from the DORA office to institute 1989 Batch Award for Student Tutors. The award is meant for the best student tutor in 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year UG program for assisting faculty in teaching courses. The value of the award is a cash prize of Rs. 50,000 and a certificate. Also, as per the wish of the 1989 batch, Dr. Amber Habib from the 1989 batch would be included in the selection committee for the award.

The proposal was discussed in detail and it was felt that it may not be possible to institute this award in its present form. We do not have student tutors in their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year UG program. There are some UG student tutors who are in final year of their dual-degree program that too mainly in the CSE Department. As such, the sample size for this award will be extremely small. It was suggested that since we have several student tutors in post-graduate (PG) program in various departments, it may be a good idea to extend the scope of the award to include PG students. It was also opined that there are student tutors helping juniors as academic mentors not necessarily assisting faculty in teaching a course.

After detailed deliberations, it was decided to seek Donor's feedback through DORA office on the following: (a) whether the scope of the award can be extended to include PG students, (b) whether the scope of the award can be extended to include academic mentors.

Item 5: Issues in INSPIRE Fellowship

It was informed that the DST has sought clarification on some issues related to the INSPIRE fellowship e.g. why the number of students selected for INSPIRE fellowship has increased. The SSPC will communicate with DST to clarify on such issues. It was decided that the feedback received and the guidelines for INSPIRE fellowship will be followed.

Item 6: Applications after deadline

It was decided that, in general, applications submitted after deadline will not be considered. However, for genuine cases involving medical emergency or other such valid reason(s), applications submitted after the deadline may be considered on a case to case basis.

Item 7: Routine matters

The decision on routine matters will be taken by Chairperson, SSPC and ratified in a subsequent meeting. On urgent issues, feedback of SSPC members will be sought over e-mail, if required.

Item 8: Any other item with the permission of the chair

1. It was discussed that the new SSPC manual is under consideration of the Senate for approval. It was pointed out that there may be some ambiguities/inconsistencies in certain type of awards and their application/selection process. For example, an award meant for an M. Tech. student for overall performance, should both two-year M. Tech. and Dual-Degree students be considered? The amount of time spent for the two cases (2 year v/s 5 years) is different, which may lead to unfair comparisons. Such type of awards must be identified and Senate guidelines should be sought. Sometimes, a student does not wish to apply for an award himself/herself. On the other hand, some students may not want a particular award but may have been nominated without consent. Such feelings should be respected and accounted for during the application/selection process. Dr. Debopam Das was requested to identify such awards/issues that need further discussion in SSPC and Senate guidelines.

2. It was decided to put the SSPC manual (after approval by the Academic Senate) on intranet for making information about various types of awards, scholarships, fellowships, their eligibility criteria, etc. to the students, faculty, and all others concerned.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all present.



Ashu Jain
Chairman, SSPC

Annexure-1

MCM Criteria

1. To be given to 25% of students enrolled in each batch, out of which 20% are reserved for SC/ST. Unutilized scholarships are transferrable to GN/OBC and/or other batches.
2. A student who has a CPI ≥ 6.0 and total family income < 6.0 lakh is eligible.
3. The student must NOT have an 'F' grade during the last two regular semesters.

MCM Ranking Procedure (Merit-Centric)

1. A batch-wise list of all eligible applicants is compiled with students under SC/ST category kept at the top of the list. The merit criteria will be CPI up to at-least two digits after decimal. Means criteria will be Total Family Income (TFI).
2. For each batch, the students under SC/ST category are sorted, first as per CPI and then as per TFI. Similarly, the students under GN/OBC categories are also sorted using CPI-TFI criteria independent of students under SC/ST category.
3. If two students have identical CPI, the student with lower TFI is placed higher in the ranking list. If both CPI and TFI are identical, the student with higher SPI in the preceding semester is placed higher in the ranking list.
4. If 'N' is the number of students enrolled in a batch then the number of MCM scholarships to be given out is $0.25N$. If the number of students under SC/ST category in a batch under consideration for MCM $> (0.2)*(0.25)*N$ (or $0.05N$), then the top $0.05N$ students under SC/ST category are awarded MCM. On the other hand, if the number of students under SC/ST category in a batch under consideration for MCM $\leq 0.05N$, then all the students under SC/ST category are awarded MCM.
5. The remaining scholarships are awarded to GN/OBC as per the ranking list prepared above (item 2 and 3).

MCM Ranking Procedure (Means-Centric)

The procedure is same as above. The only difference is that the list of applicants is sorted first as per TFI and then as per CPI. In an unlikely event when two or more students are still tied, the award may be split among them.