

# **PVP SIDDHARTHA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

(Autonomous)

## **STUDENTS' HANDBOOK ON CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

### **1. PREAMBLE**

This Handbook indicates the standard procedures and practices of PVP Siddhartha Institute of Technology for the students enrolled to pursue varied courses. All students are informed that it is incumbent upon them to abide by this Code of Ethics and Conduct and the rights, responsibilities including the restrictions flowing from it. The Institute endeavours to enforce this Code to pioneer and administer a student's discipline process to be egalitarian, conscientious, effectual and expeditious; and providing a system to promote student growth through individual and collective responsibility. All Students are requested to be well conversant with this Code.

### **2. JURISDICTION**

- 2.1 The Institute shall have the jurisdiction over the conduct of the students associated /enrolled with the Institute and to take cognizance of all acts of misconduct including incidents of ragging or otherwise which are taking place on the Institute campus or in connection with the Institute related activities and functions.
- 2.2 Institute may also exercise jurisdiction over conduct which occurs off-campus violating the ideal student conduct and discipline as laid down in this Policy and other regulations, as if the conduct has occurred on campus which shall include
  - a) Physical assault, threats of violence, sexual harassment or conduct that threatens the health or safety of any person including other students of the Institute.
  - b) Possession or use of weapons, explosives, or destructive devices off-campus
  - c) Manufacture, sale, distribution or consumption of prohibited drugs, alcohol etc.
  - d) Conduct which has a negative impact or constitutes a nuisance to members of the surrounding off-campus community.

### **3. ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

- 3.1 This Code shall apply to all kinds of conduct of students that occurs on the Institute premises including in Institute sponsored activities, functions hosted by other recognized student organizations and any off-campus conduct that has or may have serious consequences or adverse impact on the Institute's Interests or reputation.

- 3.2 At the time of admission, each student must sign a statement accepting the Code and by giving an undertaking that
- a) he/she shall be regular and must complete his/her studies in the Institute.
  - b) In the event, a student is forced to discontinue studies for any legitimate reason, such a student may be relieved from the Institute subject to written consent of the Heads.
  - c) As a result of such relieving, the student shall be required to clear pending hostel / mess dues and if a student had joined the Institute on a scholarship, the said grant shall be revoked.
- 3.3 Institute believes in promoting a safe and efficient climate by enforcing behavioural standards. All students must uphold academic integrity, respect all persons and their rights and property and safety of others; etc.
- 3.4 All students must deter from indulging in any and all forms of misconduct including partaking in any activity off-campus which can affect the Institute's interests and reputation substantially. The various forms of misconduct include:
- a. Any act of discrimination (physical or verbal conduct) based on an individual's gender, caste, race, religion or religious beliefs, colour, region, language, disability, or sexual orientation, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, gender identity, etc.
  - b. Intentionally damaging or destroying Institute property or property of other students and/or faculty members.
  - c. Any disruptive activity in a class room or in an event sponsored by the Institute.
  - d. Unable to produce the identity card, issued by the Institute, or refusing to produce it on demand by campus security guards
- 3.5 Participating in activities including
- 3.5.1 Organizing meetings and processions without permission from the Institute.
  - 3.5.2 Unauthorized possession, carrying or use of any weapon, ammunition, explosives, or potential weapons, fireworks, contrary to law or policy.
  - 3.5.3 Unauthorized possession or use of harmful chemicals and banned drugs.
  - 3.5.4 Smoking on the campus of the Institute.
  - 3.5.5 Possessing, Consuming, distributing, selling of alcohol in the Institute and/or throwing empty bottles on the campus of the Institute.
  - 3.5.6 Rash driving on the campus that may cause any inconvenience to others
  - 3.5.7 Theft or unauthorized access to others resources
- 3.6 Students are expected to use the social media carefully and responsibly. They cannot post derogatory comments about other individuals from the Institute on the social media or indulging in any such related activities having grave ramifications on the reputation of the Institute.

#### **4 SUSPENSION/ EXPULSION**

If there is a case against a student for a possible breach of code of conduct, then a committee will be formed to recommend a suitable disciplinary action who shall inquire into the alleged violation and accordingly suggest the action to be taken against the said student. The committee may meet with the student to ascertain the misconduct and suggest one or more of the following disciplinary actions based on the nature of misconduct.

- 4.1 Indicating that the action of the said delinquent student was in violation of the Code and any further acts of misconduct shall result in severe disciplinary action.
- 4.2 For a specified period of time to be extended if need be. However, any future misconduct along with failure to comply with any conditions imposed may lead to severe disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.
- 4.3 Expulsion of a student from the Institute permanently. Indicating prohibition from entering the Institute premises or participating in any student related activities or campus residences etc.
- 4.4 A student may be suspended for a specified period of time which will entail prohibition on participating in student related activities, classes, programs etc.

#### **5 APPEAL:** If the delinquent student is aggrieved by the imposition of any of the aforementioned penalties, he/she may appeal to the Principal. The Principal may decide on one of the following:

- 5.1 Accept the recommendation of the committee and impose the punishment as suggested by the Committee or modify and impose any of the punishments as stipulated in this Code, Or
  - 5.2 Refer the case back to the committee for reconsideration.
- In any case the Principal's decision is final and binding in all the cases where there is a possible misconduct by a student.

#### **6 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As a premier institution for advanced scientific and technological research and education, the Institute values academic integrity and is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic Integrity encompasses honesty and responsibility and awareness relating to ethical standards for the conduct of research and scholarship.

- a. The principles of academic integrity require that a student, properly acknowledges and cites use of the ideas, results, material or words of others.
- b. Properly acknowledges all contributors to a given piece of work.
- c. Makes sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- d. Obtains all data or results by ethical means and reports them accurately without

- suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- e. Use proper methodology for experiments and computational work. Accurately describe and compile data.
  - f. Carefully record and save primary and secondary data such as original pictures, instrument data readouts, laboratory notebooks, and computer folders.
  - g. Ensure robust reproducibility and statistical analysis of experiments and simulations.
  - h. Laboratory records should be well maintained.
  - i. Give due credit to previous reports, methods, computer programs, etc. with appropriate citations. Material taken from your own published work should also be cited; as mentioned above, it will be considered self-plagiarism otherwise.

## **7. ANTI-RAGGING**

The Institute has a coherent and an effective anti-ragging policy in place which is based on the 'UGC Regulation *on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009*. The UGC Regulations have been framed in view of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to prevent and prohibit ragging in all Indian Educational Institutions and Colleges. The said UGC Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Institute and the students are requested kindly to

### **7.1 Ragging constitutes one or more of the following acts:**

- a) any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness any student;
- b) indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any other student;
- c) asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such a student;
- d) any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any student;
- e) exploiting the services of a student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students;
- f) any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a student by other students;
- g) any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: sexual abuse, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person;
- h) any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, post, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to any other student ;
- i) any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of any other student with

or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any other student.

## **7.2 ANTI-RAGGING COMMITTEE:**

The Anti-Ragging Committee, as constituted by the Principal and headed by students affairs advisors shall examine all complaints of anti-ragging and come out with recommendation based on the nature of the incident. The committee shall be headed by students affairs advisors, and can have as its members, the Heads, Student Counselors, Faculty Advisors, Chairperson of the concerned Department.

## **7.3 ANTI-RAGGING SQUAD**

To render assistance to students, an Anti-Ragging Squad, which is a smaller body, has also been constituted consisting of various members of the campus community. The said Squad shall keep a vigil on ragging incidents taking place in the community and undertake patrolling functions. Students may note that the Squad is active and alert at all times and are empowered to inspect places of potential ragging, and also make surprise raids in hostels and other hotspots in the Institute. The Squad can also investigate incidents of ragging and make recommendations to the Anti-Ragging Committee and shall work under the guidance of the Anti-Ragging Committee.

## **7.4 A student found guilty by the committee will attract one or more of the following punishments, as imposed by the Anti-Ragging Committee:**

- a) Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
- b) Withholding/ withdrawing scholarship/ fellowship and other benefits.
- c) Debarring from appearing in any test/ examination or other evaluation process.
- d) Withholding results.
- e) Suspension/ expulsion from the hostels and mess.
- f) Cancellation of admission.
- g) Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.
- h) If need be, in view of the intensity of the act of ragging committed, a First Information Report (FIR) shall be filed by the Institute with the local police authorities.

The Anti-Ragging Committee of the Institute shall take appropriate decision, including imposition of punishment, depending on the facts and circumstances of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging.

## **8. STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Any student of the Institute aggrieved by any acts of sexual harassment, misconduct or ragging as defined and summarised hereinabove can approach the

Student Grievance Redressal cell at the Institute. Further, any student who is aware of any violations must report the same to the Cell. The Cell shall consist of members as appointed by the Director. Said grievance must be in writing and should be made within 60 days from the day of the alleged violation. The Cell shall take cognizance of the grievance and inform the Committee formed to enforce this Code or the Internal Complaints Committee, in cases of any sexual harassment complaints.

## **9. STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE:**

As Students are members of the Institute campus, they have a substantial interest in the governance of the Institute. The Code, policies and the varied procedures laid down herein intends that the principle of student involvement in governance in both administrative and academic areas is essential and it is pivotal that Students must be, at all junctures, be encouraged to put forth their views and advice, for an informed decision making. Student Participation is encouraged and must be strengthened through the involvement of students in all levels. Therefore, all students who are a part of the Institute and who are going to be enrolled in the Institute are advised to uphold the policy and inform the Institute of any violations and assist individually and collectively to improve the quality and effectiveness of this Code and appended policies.

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