

# THE CLUB SPACE

## Acads Council: To Bid or not to bid?

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As the term 4 draws to an end, PGP2s, aka tuchcha(i)s, prepare for yet another round of elective bidding. With all possible combinations of courses being thought of, students have started anticipating the corresponding schedule, peer groups and most importantly, the “term chillness” level. The

The Academic Council works closely with the administration to ensure a fair and hassle-free course allocation experience in all 3 terms of PGP 2.

preparation for the ultimate battle, including bugging the super tuchcha (i)s, evaluating the courses, and creating an optimized strategy, is a pretty challenging task in itself. While some claim to have become expert in mastering the system, a few are still anxious about the process, and are waiting for the judgment day.

Coming on to one of the important questions-What exactly is an ideal course? The answer to that, as we always say in UPO classes is, “it depends”. While for some students (the

batch Alok Naths), the best courses are the ones with an appealing subject matter and great scope of learning; for mortals, they are the ones that aid in placements or have less work-load. From a bird’s eye view, we can say that the ‘order-winner’ for a course varies a lot from student to student, ranging from availability of free time for projects or extra-curriculars, opportunity to study with certain faculty members, or value addition on transcript for future opportunities. As always, the preparations did lead to the emergence of a few courses with huge demand among the students, like DVDM by Prof. Kavitha Ranganathan, ERI by Prof. Neharika Vohra, SM by Prof. Arindam Banerjee, IBDR by Prof. Anurag Agarwal, and PTFD by Prof. Navdeep Mathur.

As they say, even the best laid plans are subject to the whims of the law credited to Mr. Murphy. The bidding process gives us an opportunity to witness the brilliant minds of the nation’s best B-School put to use for the most devious tactics. At the initial stages of the first round, we see people being benign, bidding 1 or 2 points here and there. The game gets really interesting as the half-an-hour deadline approaches, and people start bidding big chunk of their points to block their must-have courses. A few smart ones, however, wait till the last second to suddenly bid extravagantly, using a tactic popularly called ‘Sniping.’ With 400 different minds

battling the system, the clock, and each other, the situation ends up being random enough to give everyone an equal chance. In the end, while some people are happy with their courses, others still have the opportunity to try their luck in the next round, which is nothing but a rinse and repeat. The second Round is finally followed by the wait listing round, where a few are doomed to pin their last hopes.

The development, testing and maintenance of the interface has been done by our PGP’12 alumnus Mr. Anil Kumar Vishwanadhula. Being a significant upgrade to 400 users from 50, it helps ensuring a smooth elective allocation process.

Overall, most students emerge pretty satisfied from the process. While it teaches the crucial MBA “fundas” of game theory, resource allocation and decision making, dynamic bidding is in its own unique way is also a fun-filled experience. As the years go by, it shows all signs of becoming another cherished WIMWI tradition.

