**5.3.2 Presence of Student Council and its activities for institutional development and student welfare.**

HBNI believes that participative decision making can be a significant factor in Institute’s success. By motivating the students in active participation in decision making, the Institute runs more efficiently and is more effective at achieving its objectives and goals. Accordingly, as part of good practices followed by HBNI, students are involved in various decision making processes of the CIs and OCC of HBNI and find representation in various committees set up the CIs/OCC.

The unique aspect of HBNI is that students of HBNI are spread over ten different Constituent Institutions and one Off-campus Centre. Also, a significant fraction of HBNI students (approx. one third) are Ph.D students, who receive individual attention through the Doctoral Committees. Therefore, involvement of students in various activities varies from CI to CI depending upon the profile of the students and the academic programs run in the respective CI/OCC.

In IGCAR, the Complaints Committee constituted by Director to look into issues of sexual harassment has two representatives from students. A dedicated committee with students’ representatives has been set up to deal with matters related to students belonging to SC&ST. The anti-ragging committee also has representative from students as a member.

Similarly, at other CIs, Internal Complaints Committee (Gender Bias Redressal), the Advisory Committees for Guest house / hostel, Library Committee, Official Language Implementation Committee, Sports / Gym Committee, Canteen Menu Committee, Cultural Committee etc. have representation from students. In several CIs, for example RRCAT, some of the facilities associated with students are managed exclusively by the students themselves, eg. the mess facility, library facility provided in the hostel, gymnasium, sports facilities, etc. are managed by the respective committees comprising of students.

In some of the CIs, student participation is also encouraged in the teaching activities. IMSc operates a Pilot Programme on “Teaching Assistantship” with active participation of the Post- Doctoral Fellows and Students of the Institute in teaching activities in order to provide them opportunity to improve their Teaching skills. The students also participate in organizing special events along with their mentors. For example, the prestigious Annual Outreach Event of the Institute “Science at Sabha” featuring talks on science for the general public, in which over a thousand participants take part, sees the active participation of the students in the organizational aspects. Research scholars similarly participate in organising conferences in the CIs/OCC. In other CIs (eg.IGCAR, SINP), research scholars are also encouraged to exhibit their talents by bringing out Research Scholar’s magazine. Research scholars are also encouraged to organise exclusive meet of Research Scholars on particular themes. For example, at IGCAR and ACTREC/TMC, research scholars take the complete responsibility for planning and organisation of scientific meeting of research scholars. Research scholars in SINP also organize annual programmes like blood donation camps and tree plantation. At NISER, student representatives are present in several bodies including Academic Council.