INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE
203, B T Road, Kolkata – 700 108

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 61ST MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 02 DECEMBER 2015 AT 2.30 P.M. AT PLATINUM JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

The following members were present:

Sl.	Name	Sl.	Name
1	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	17	Rudra P. Sarkar
2	Pradipta Bandyopadhyay	18	Smarajit Bose
3	Nityananda Sarkar	19	Sasthi C. Ghosh
4	Tarun Kabiraj	20	Banasri Basu
5	C.A. Murthy	21	Preeti Parashar
6	Ashish Ghosh	22	Debashish Goswami
7	M.Z. Anis	23	Subhamoy Maitra
8	Rajat Kumar De	24	Amitava Bandyopadhyay
9	Indranil Mukhopadhyay	25	B.P. Sinha
10	S.M. Srivastava	26	Dipti P. Mukherjee
11	Saurabh Ghosh	27	Bhabatosh Chanda
12	Antar Bandyopadhyay	28	Swapan K. Parui
13	Sandip Das	29	Gopal K. Basak
14	Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya	30	Pabitra Pal Choudhury
15	Subhas C. Nandy	31	Bhargab B. Bhattacharya
16	Mahuya Datta		

The following members attended the meeting through video conferencing:

Sl.	Name	Sl.	Name
1	Siva Athreya	7	
2	A.R.D. Prasad	8	
3	Devika P. Maddali	9	
4	Jaydeb Sarkar	10	
5	B.S. Daya Sagar	11	
6	Somnath Ray	12	

Agenda Item 1. Confirmation of the proceedings of the 60th meeting of the Academic Council held on 22/23 January, 2015 and the Special meeting of the Academic Council held on 8th July, 2015.

The proceedings of the 60th and the special meeting of the Academic council were circulated and few minor corrections were suggested which have been incorporated. **The proceedings were confirmed.**

Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay pointed out certain anomalies in the M Stat Programme Brochure under the new syllabus. A Committee was proposed by him to look into the anomalies of all student brochures and formulate a common brochure.

It was resolved by the Academic Council to constitute a Brochure committee with Prof. Saurabh Ghosh as the Chair and Prof Antar Bandyopadhyay as Convener to look into possible anomalies in the student brochures and update all existing brochures. Other members would be finalised by the Chair & Convener in consultation with the Dean of Studies and the Director.

Agenda Item 2. Matters arising out of the 60th and the special meeting of the Academic Council held on 22/23 January 2015 and 8th July 2015.

The Dean of Studies reported that not much progress was made since the last meeting and progress on two committees was listed for discussion under Agenda Item 4.

Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay raised his concern on the non-availability of 45th Academic Council proceedings including valuable information like pass-fail rules online. He suggested that a designated officer say an Associate Dean be made responsible for periodic uploading of important information like rules and regulations, important decisions, summary of reports etc.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the Dean's website would be updated and maintained on a regular basis.

The Dean of Studies updated the Academic Council members on the progress of various Committees.

Regarding the Committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 51st meeting under Agenda No. 6, to review the syllabi of the B. Stat. (Hons.) and M. Stat. Programme, the Dean of Studies stated that with the new syllabus

already in place, the Committee was working on updating the student brochure.

Regarding the Committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 54th meeting under Agenda No. 8 to look into the matter related to formulation of Rules for JRF courses including the syllabus and Pass/Fail for the Courses, the Dean of Studies informed that the Committee was practically defunct and required to be reconstituted. The members urged the Dean of Studies to reconstitute the Committee and additionally task it to finalise a uniform rule for evaluating all JRF courses including those students who were registered outside.

Regarding the Committee on the proposal for review of modalities for Award of best Ph.D. thesis of the Institute across all disciplines every year the Dean of Studies stated that the committee had not made any progress and may have to be reconstituted.

Regarding the committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 56th meeting under Agenda No. 6 to suggest the salient features of a possible Institutional Policy regarding mentally/physically ill students and their academic (as well as campus) responsibilities, the Dean of Studies informed that work by the Committee was under progress and its report was tentatively scheduled for submission by 31st March, 2016. The Dean of Studies also informed the members of the Academic Council that an appeal made by one such student having a psychological problem would be considered as a Miscellaneous Agenda Item.

The Dean of Studies reported that the committee to review the course structure for the second semester of the M. Tech. (CS) programme had been reconstituted. The committee had to start its work from scratch in the absence of any details of work done by the previous committee.

Regarding the Committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 58th meeting under Agenda No. 11 to formulate a policy to deal with appeals made by the students on special circumstances, the Dean of Studies informed that the report submitted by the committee would be discussed under Agenda No. 4.

Regarding the Committee to review the proposal of M. Tech. (CS) programme at ISI, Chennai, the Dean of Studies informed that the committee has been reconstituted recently and work is under progress.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Results of B Stat/B Math/M Stat/M Math/ MS(QE)/M Tech (CS)/M Tech (QR&OR)/MS(LIS)/PhD/ Certificate/PG Diploma Course etc.

The Dean of Studies informed all members of the Academic Council regarding the results of students in various programmes including the number of Ph Ds to be awarded.

Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay enquired about the reasons for discontinuing the practice of placing the excerpts of review report of Ph D thesis before the Academic Council. He urged the members to consider reintroducing this practice. Some members felt that this may delay the results and undermine the role of the Ph D-D Sc Committee.

After much deliberation it was resolved by the Academic Council that since the members had access to the review reports of the external experts/Ph D-D Sc Committee, the placement of the same in the Academic Council does not need to be reintroduced.

Agenda Item 4. Consideration of reports of the Committees on (1) Appeals made by the students on special circumstances and (2) PGDBA rules and regulations.

The Dean of Studies requested the Convener of the Committee on student's appeals on special circumstances, Prof. Debashish Goswami, to brief the members of the Academic Council on the report by the committee.

Prof. Goswami elaborated on the salient features of the report submitted by the committee and highlighted the role of the Teachers' Committee and the Academic Council and their timeframes for decisions on appeals.

It was felt that the earlier report was not adequately circulated amongst all faculty members and as such should be circulated once again.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the report be circulated once again amongst all faculty members by the Dean's office. Suggestions and feedback received within one/two weeks would be considered by the committee before finalisation of the report.

The Dean of Studies requested Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay to brief the members on the report by the committee on PGDBA rules and regulations.

Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay informed the members that the committee met three times and finalised its report covering the eligibility and admission criteria, academic curriculum and various rules and regulations. He stated that the limit for the total number of students seeking admission to PGDBA course was fixed at 50 with a status quo on the eligibility criterion as 10+2+4 pending the court verdict and the applicability of the National Reservation Policy. He apprised the members of certain anomalies in the academic curriculum which had been removed by the committee.

One of the members wanted a ceiling on the number of students being admitted to the PGDBA course. The Dean of Studies reiterated that adequate classroom facility was available for catering to an enhanced strength of up to 60 students. Prof. Subhamoy Maitra clarified that adequate hostel accommodation was also available to cater for the additional strength.

Agenda Item 5. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. ARD Prasad et al regarding revision of MS (LIS) Syllabus.

Prof. ARD Prasad informed the members that the present MS (LIS) syllabus which was being followed for last eight years required a revision. He requested the members to constitute a committee to formulate a new syllabus.

The Academic Council resolved to constitute a committee with Prof. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee as the Chairman and Prof. Devika P. Madalli as the convener. Other members, including external expert, if necessary, could be finalised by the Chair & Convener in consultation with the Dean of Studies and the Director.

Agenda Item 6. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. Rahul Roy et al for a new two years' Master Degree Programme in Statistics.

The Dean of Studies requested Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay to elaborate on the proposal.

Prof. Bandyopadhyay stressed on the need to start a two years Master Degree programme in Statistics. He elaborated on the proposal to include students from mathematics and engineering discipline background in addition to those with statistics background. On a query from a member he mentioned that the selection test will have basic mathematics and no questions on statistics to rule out any undue advantage to students from

the statistics background. He requested the members to constitute a committee to look into the details of the proposal and its feasibility.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that a committee with Prof. Arup Bose as the Chair and Prof. Deepayan Sarkar as the Convener be constituted for this purpose and other members could be finalised by the Chair & Convener in consultation with the Dean of Studies and the Director.

Agenda Item 7. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. B. Chanda et al for a 4 year Bachelor Degree course in Computer Science.

The Director commented that this needs careful consideration given that we are not being able to attract good students to our M Tech (CS) programme.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that a following committee be constituted to look into all aspects of the proposal, including feasibility and curriculum.
- **Prof. Nikhil R Pal (Chair)**
- **Prof. Sandip Das (Convener)**
- **Prof. Bhargab B Bhattacharya**

Agenda Item 8. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. Sandip Das et al on structure of M. Tech (CS) course.

The Dean of Studies informed the members that a committee had been constituted by the Academic Council in it 60th meeting under Agenda No. 3 with the following members:
- Prof. C.A. Murthy (Chairman)
- Prof. Bhargab Bikram Bhattacharya
- Prof. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee
- Prog. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
- Prof. Subhamoy Maitra

It was resolved by the Academic Council to reconstitute the above committee and substitute the Director with another member.

Agenda Item 9. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. S. Ponnusamy et al regarding introduction of a Certificate Course on Business Analytics in collaboration with SAS Corporation.

The Dean of Studies requested Prof. Amitava Bandyopadhyay to elaborate on the proposal in the absence of Prof. S. Ponnusamy.

Prof. Bandyopadhyay informed the members about the proposal to start a part-time Certificate Course jointly with SAS Corporation for professionals on payment of approx. Rs. 7.0 lakhs as fees. The short course would be conducted over thirty weekends of six to seven months and deal with extracting data from social media and its utilisation.

Certain members pointed out the shortage of faculty members at ISI, Chennai and wanted to know whether they would be able to take on the additional load of teaching this course. Apprehensions were also raised on running a course of payment of fees and tie-up with the private industry on a monetary basis.

Prof. Somnath Ray clarified that certificate courses are being successfully run at ISI, Bangalore during weekends for last 45 years. The Director also pointed out regarding tie up with TCS at ISI, North East Centre, Tezpur and reiterated that payment of fees was being proposed as the course was meant for professionals.

Prof. Amitava Bandyopadhyay reiterated that the course and interaction with SAS would also benefit the ISI faculty and that there was nothing against such a tie up in the Memorandum of Association and the Bye-laws. He requested the Academic Council to form a committee to look into the proposal including the design, course curriculum and assess the requirement and availability of faculty for running the course.

It was resolved by the Academic Council to address various issues like financial remuneration to the faculty, fee structure for students, faculty strength and other modalities of the certificate course by constituting a committee with the following members:
- Prof. Debasis Sengupta (Chairman)
- Prof. Amit Biswas (Convener)
- Prof. Mahuya Dutta
- Prof. Amitava Bandyopadhyay
- Prof. Bharat Ramaswamy
- Prof. Mohana Delampady

Agenda Item 10. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. Ritabrata Munshi et al on a modification of M Math syllabus.

The members deliberated on the proposal. Most of the members felt that there was no change required in the syllabus. Further 'Number Theory' was already a compulsory subject in M Math Programme and a change could be considered only if there was a need to review the syllabus.

It was resolved by the Academic Council to reject the proposal at this stage.

Agenda Item 11. Consideration of a proposal by Dr. Jaydeb Sarkar et al regarding reconsideration of admission procedure for CSIR/NBHM fellow to SMU.

Prof Siva Athreya explained that there was a need to have a clear cut rule for admission of JRFs in Mathematics through CSIR/NBHM.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that since this issue had already been discussed in the 60th Academic Council and no action had been initiated since then, it is enough at this stage to reiterate the action proposed in the 60th Academic Council and this proposal need not be considered now.

Agenda Item 12. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. Siva Athreya et al regarding modification of rules on cheating in examination.

Prof. Siva Athreya stressed on the need for a clear and uniform rule against cheating by students in examinations which should be easy to implement. He informed the members regarding the disparity in disciplinary action against students across different programmes. He suggested that a student be awarded zero marks in the first instance of cheating and expulsion for a repeat offence i.e, the second time. He reiterated that this was a disciplinary issue and not a curriculum issue and required to be implemented uniformly across all programmes.

Certain members raised the issue of implementing such a rule. The Dean of Studies clarified that in the first instance of an offence the subject teacher would award "Zero" for any examination the student was taking and inform the Dean's Office. Once the same student was involved in cheating the second time the Dean's Office would initiate disciplinary action and expel the student.

The Academic Council accepted the proposal and resolved to implement it for new admissions and task the Brochure Committee to clearly stipulate and frame the rules for uniformity across all programmes.

Agenda Item 13. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. Sunanda Bagchi et al for modification of supplementary examination rule: Section 2.3 in B Stat/B Math courses.

There was a proposal to remove the restriction on the maximum marks that could be scored in a supplementary examination which was fixed at 60% presently.

The members felt that the cap on the maximum score acted as a deterrent and should remain.

The Academic Council resolved to reject this proposal.

Agenda Item 14. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. C. A. Murthy et al regarding introduction of subject titled 'Machine Learning' for M Tech (CS) – II yr.

Prof. C.A. Murthy elaborated on the proposal of introducing a course on 'Machine Learning' which was a long pending request from the students of M Tech (CS). He mentioned that presently 'Pattern Recognition and Image Processing' which was a course in the third semester was proposed to be replaced by two different courses viz, 'Pattern Recognition' (and renamed as 'Machine Learning – I') of 50 lectures in the third semester and 'Machine Learning – II' of 50 lectures in the fourth semester. 'Image Processing' and 'Advance Image Processing' could be included in third and fourth semester respectively. Prof. C. A. Murthy requested the members to constitute a committee to look into this proposal.

The Academic Council resolved to constitute a committee consisting of Prof. Bhabatosh Chanda and Prof. Swapan K. Parui to work out the feasibility and implementation details of the proposal.

Agenda Item 15. Miscellaneous.

(a) Consideration of an application made by Mr. Sirshendu Dam (M Math Student).

Prof. Shiva Athreya informed the members regarding Mr. Sirshendu Dam, a M Math Student who was suffering from a stress related psychiatric condition and was unable to appear for examinations as per schedule. The student had sought permission to appear in four examinations in December at his own pace.

The members deliberated on this issue and decided that until the committee constituted for this purpose finalised its report this case be dealt based on the recommendations of a doctor/psychiatrist.

The Academic Council empowered the Dean of Studies to take a decision in this case based on the recommendation of a psychiatrist.

(b) Consideration of a proposal by Prof. Saurabh Ghosh to formulate a uniform policy for review of answerscripts by students.

Prof. Saurabh Ghosh informed members regarding the instructions from Deans' Office to return answer scripts back to students. He requested the Dean of Studies to formulate a uniform policy with definite timelines for review of answer sheets by students.

The Academic Council resolved to await the report by the Appeals Committee and its recommendations before formulating a policy for review of answer scripts by students.

The Academic Council expressed its thanks to the members of different committees which submitted their reports and all members for their suggestions and valuable contribution.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

<div align="right">

Sd/-
**Director &
Chairman, Academic Council**

</div>