



INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

203 B.T. Road, Kolkata 700108

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 62nd MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON JULY 11, 2016,
AND OCTOBER 5, 2016 IN THE PLATINUM JUBELEE AUDITORIUM, ISI KOLKATA**

The following members were present on July 11, 2016:

1	Bhargab B. Bhattacharya	12	Smarajit Bose
2	Pradipta Bandyopadhyay	13	Pabitra Pal Choudhury
3	Amita Majumder	14	Sandip Das
4	Probal Dasgupta	The following members from outlying centres were present through VC system.	
5	Alok Goswami		
6	Md. Zafar Anis	15	TSSRK Rao
7	Amartya K. Dutta	16	Somnath Ray
8	Rana Barua	17	ARD Prasad
9	Pabitra Banik	18	S Ponnusamy
10	Sabyasachi Bhattacharya	19	Isha Dewan
11	Arijit Chakrabarti	20	Abhay Bhatt

The following members were present on October 5, 2016:

1	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	32	Ashish Ghosh
2	Amita Pal	33	Nabanita Das
3	Amita Majumder	34	Debrup Chakraborty
4	Prasun Das	35	Sandip Das
5	Pradipta Bandyopadhyay	The following members from outlying centres were present through VC system.	
6	Mahuya Dutta		
7	S.M. Srivastava	36	Siva Athreya
8	Guruprasad Kar	37	Mohan Delampady
9	Preeti Parashar	38	TSSRK Rao
10	Banasri Basu	39	Rajarama Bhat
11	Alok Goswami	40	R. Srikanthan
12	Mridul Nandi	41	Somnath Ray
13	Susmita Sur-Kolay	42	BS Daya Sagar
14	Biswabrata Pradhan	43	ARD Prasad
15	Parthasarathi Ghosh	44	Ashim Roy Chaudhary
16	Barun Mukhopadhyay	45	EV Gijo
17	C.A. Murthy	46	Arunava Sen
18	Arup Bose	47	Chetan Ghate
19	Partha Majumder	48	Abhay G. Bhat
20	Rajat K. De	49	Isha Dewan
21	Indranil Mukhopadhyay	50	Arup K. Pal
22	Rajat Subhra Hazra	51	Anish Sarkar
23	Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya	52	Antar Bandyopadhyay
24	Rudra P. Sarkar	53	SM Subhani
25	P. Pal Choudhury	54	S.Ponnusamy
26	Bhabatosh Chanda		
27	Subhas C. Nandy		
28	Ayanendranath Basu		
29	Saurabh Ghosh		
30	Smarajit Bose		
31	Anup Dewanji		

Agenda items 3, 4 and 6 were deliberated upon on the July 11. Thereafter the meeting was adjourned and was reconvened on the 5th of October. The rest of the agenda items were discussed on that day.

On the 5th of October, before discussion on the agenda items began, the Dean of Studies, at the request of the Chairperson, reported to the AC about the receipt of an Audit Query (no. 45, dated March 28, 2016) that had been received by the then Dean of Studies, Prof. Pradipta Bandyopadhyay, from the Accounts Section on March 28, 2016, regarding “excess payment of fellowships amounting to Rs. 27.99 lakhs”. The query presented “facts and figures” supporting this and sought “justification for allowing higher rate of fellowship, that too without Ministry’s approval”. The query had gone unanswered for several months, so the issue became an Audit Para in the Inspection Report of the Government Auditors, and the Accounts department sent another request for reply by e-mail on July 26, 2016 to Prof. Bandyopadhyay. The term of the latter ended soon after (in September) without any reply being sent. When the new Dean took charge and the issue was brought to her notice, she formed a team to go through relevant documents in order to prepare a response, which was still in the process of drafting a reply. The Chairperson informed that she would also be reporting the matter in the forthcoming Council meeting on the 14th of October, 2016.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of the 61st and Special meetings of the Academic Council held on 02 December, 2015 and 18 February, 2016 respectively.

The proceedings of the 61st and the special meeting of the Academic council were confirmed as circulated.

Agenda Item 2: Matter arising out of the Special meeting of the AC held on Feb 18, 2016

Some of the members present expressed disapproval of the inordinate delay in circulating ATR and the adjournment of the 62nd meeting for such a long period (85 days). The Dean expressed apologies and promised to circulate the ATR as soon as feasible.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of some proposals from the B.Stat Syllabus Review Committee

The Dean requested Prof. Alok Goswami to brief the AC members about the proposals, who informed that the modifications were essentially minor changes based on feedback from faculty members. Prof. Guruprasad Kar was given the responsibility of designing and submitting a new syllabus for the optional course Physics III.

Resolution: The following modifications proposed in the B.Stat. syllabus were accepted:

- 1. Introduction of "Differential Equations" as a compulsory course in the 4th semester.**
- 2. Modification of the syllabi of "Analysis I-III" by removal of the Differential Equations content from those courses.**
- 3. Reduction of the number of Elective courses from three to two to accommodate "Differential Equations" as a compulsory course,**
- 4. Listed changes in the syllabi of "Statistical Methods I-IV".**
- 5. Listed changes in the syllabus of "Linear Statistical Models".**

6. **Listed changes in the syllabus of "Probability I-III".**
7. **Listed changes in the syllabus of "Introduction to Markov chains" and renaming of the course as "Introduction to Stochastic Processes".**
8. **The semester-wise organization of the courses, in particular, moving "Design and Analysis of Algorithms" to the 5th semester from the 6th semester.**
9. **The two electives are to be offered in the 3rd and 4th semesters.**
10. **"Physics I" and "Microeconomics" are to be offered in the 3rd semester, while "Physics II" and "Macroeconomics" are to be offered in the 4th semester. The semester-wise distribution of the other four electives may be decided every academic year based on resources and student preferences.**
11. **The optional courses "Resampling Techniques" and "Percolation processes" are withdrawn.**
12. **Introduction of a new optional course in Mathematics on Classical and Quantum Mechanics (name and syllabus not decided yet).**

Agenda Item 4: Consideration of some proposals from the M.Stat. Syllabus Review Committee

Again Prof. Alok Goswami explained the salient features of the proposals, highlighting the lack of uniformity in the evaluation of M.Stat. projects and the need to ensure uniform evaluation. Prof. TSSRK Rao also requested that uniform guidelines be formulated for project work. Prof. Amita Majumder made suggestions about the evaluation process of projects based on different components.

Resolution: The following changes proposed were accepted:

1. **The Brochure Committee to rectify the few inadvertent English mistakes in the write-up on description of "Project".**
2. **the Dean should form a "Project Committee" every year, which will be responsible for evaluation of all the M.Stat. projects in that academic year. The said committee may, if it feels so, co-opt other members for individual projects.**
3. **The following minor change in the organization of the courses for the "Finance" track of Applied Statistics specialization: "Quantitative Finance" to be offered in the first semester and "Financial Econometrics" in the second semester.**
4. **The addition of the following two courses to the list of Optional courses for M.Stat . 2nd year:**
 - i. **Special topics in Finance**
 - ii. **Special topics in Economics**

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of a proposal to confer Ph.D. degree in Physics

Prof. Banasri Basu, on behalf of the proposers from PAMU, explained the need and justification for having such a programme in ISI, citing reasons like registration problem in the University of Calcutta, increased availability of scholars through externally-funded projects, consistency with respect to Article 2.2 of the Memorandum of Association (MOA) of the Institute along with eligibility of JRF. Ph.D. degrees in Mathematics are already being awarded by the Institute so PAMU research fellows working in Applied Mathematics related areas can submit their theses to ISI. However, PAMU research fellows working in Physics are being denied this opportunity. The Chairperson suggested examination of the proposal in the light of the MOA of the Institute. Prof. Mahuya Dutta

proposed further review of the proposal by external experts (Physicists) on the basis of evaluation of some of the theses produced by PAMU research fellows. Prof. Basu highlighted the quality and volume of Ph.D. theses already produced by PAMU research fellows. and the scholars are well connected with jobs/ post-doc prospects. There were a few suggestions about conferring such a degree in selected areas of Physics like Statistical Physics, Mathematical Physics, Quantum Physics, and so on. Prof. Susmita Sur-Kolay suggested amendment of the ISI Act, if necessary, for the inclusion of other disciplines within the Ph.D programme of the Institute. TSS, ISI Bangalore also suggested PhD degree in DRTC through this spectrum in future.

Resolution: Invitation of proposals from other units for conferring of Ph.D. degrees by ISI in disciplines other than the existing ones, and formation of a committee with Chairperson from outside the institute to examine the feasibility of all such proposals including the current one (for Physics).

Agenda Item 6: Regulation of projects done by MSQE – II Year students

Prof. Amita Majumder explained the issue presented in the proposal to the members present. Based on the ensuing discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution: The following deviation from the regulation was approved *post facto*, with the stricture that this is never cited as a precedent and that preventive measures be taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of this problem:

Opting for “Project” in the second semester of the 2nd year, without having opted for “Project/Thesis” in the 1st semester of the 2nd year, which is a pre-requisite for the former as per the revised curriculum.

Agenda Item 7: Consideration of a proposal for change in M.Tech. (CS) programme

Deferred to the next meeting on account of the absence of the proposers.

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of a proposal for coursework structure for Ph.D. students under RFAC, BSD

This proposal was deferred to a later AC meeting as the Biological Sciences Division expressed a wish to re-examine the proposal.

Agenda Item 9: Inclusion of new research courses for JRF in Economics

Prof. Amita Majumder presented the proposal, highlighting the need for the two research courses.

Resolution: The proposal by Prof. Abhirup Sarkar and Dr. Samarjit Das of ERU to offer new Research Courses titled 'Special Topics in Political Economy' and 'Regression with Cross-Sectional Dependence', respectively, to the JRFs of ERU, as per the syllabus provided, was accepted.

Agenda Item 10: Admission Reform

Members pointed out the procedural lapse in making this as an agenda item, since the proposal was in the form of an email from the Associate Dean to the Dean of Studies, and not in the stipulated format, with the signature of three AC members as per regulations. With exception granted, not to be cited as a precedent, Prof. Krishnendu Mukhopadhyay highlighted the need for structural changes in the admission process that were mentioned in the proposal. Prof. Alok Goswami was of the opinion that this was an academic administration issue and did not come within the purview of the AC. Others were not very much in favour of having 2nd round of test. The Chairperson highlighted the confusion that arises among applicants due to absence of clarity in the eligibility criteria of many of the programmes, and suggested that the prospectus/brochure revision committees look into the issue and resolve the issue.

Resolution: It was resolved that a committee should be formed to evaluate such proposals for changes in the admission process.

Agenda Item 11: Revised eligibility conditions for JRF in Mathematics

The proposers, citing instances of other institutions, suggested adding engineering degrees (B.E./B.Tech) as eligibility criteria to the existing ones, since engineering students tend to have a strong mathematical background. Some members expressed the apprehension that such diversity in eligibility conditions might become a handicap to the Ph.D. as far as future employment prospects are concerned.

Resolution: It was resolved that a committee should be formed with the following members to examine this proposal as well as the eligibility conditions of all programmes conducted by ISI:

Prof. Alok Goswami (Chairman)
Prof. Bhabatosh Chanda
Prof. Mahuya Datta
Prof. Siva Athreya
Prof. Abhay G. Bhat
Prof. Arup Pal

The Dean of Studies was authorized to accept the recommendations of this committee after circulation.

Agenda Item 12: Consideration of a proposal for change in Pass-fail rules

The proposers, as members of the Brochure Committee, expressed concern about the subjectivity inherent in the pass-fail rules related to allowing a student to repeat a year in the form of the so-called approval of the teachers' committee in this regard, and the suggested counselling of the student concerned. They found these rules to be ambiguous and sought a resolution of the same by requesting the AC to recommend one of two possible interpretations listed in their proposal. The general

opinion was that objective criteria should be applied in all such cases and these rules should be uniform across all programmes.

Resolution: The Brochure Committee was advised to apply the following interpretation:

A student should be allowed to repeat a year as long as he/she satisfies the academic requirements as prescribed in the pass-fail rules and the approval by the Teachers' Committee in this regard is only a formal requirement.

Agenda Item 13: Consideration of a proposal on hostel and other facilities for students

The need for adequate hostel facilities for students, as highlighted in this proposal, was well-supported and suggestions were made to review these facilities for all programmes across centres.

Resolution: It was resolved that the availability of such facilities should be taken into account when taking a decision regarding conducting any programme at any of the centres.

Agenda Item 14: Consideration of the report of the committee constituted vide no. D.O./2016/205 dated 31 March, 2016: One Semester Course on Management, Analysis and Interpretation of Official Data

Deferred to the next meeting on account of the absence of the proposers.

Agenda Item 15: Consideration of a proposal on structure and guideline for M.Math. project

At the very outset, Dr. Antar Bandyopadhyay pointed out that, as per documents available, the M.Math. syllabus currently being followed has not formally approved by all statutory bodies of the Institute, and this serious issue should be addressed before the proposal was discussed. In view of this, the proposal was deferred to the next AC meeting.

Resolution: It was resolved that a one-man committee consisting of Prof. Partha P. Majumder be formed to examine whether the syllabi currently prescribed for all programmes have the ratification of all statutory bodies of the Institute, and to make recommendations based on the findings.

Agenda Item 16: Consideration of a proposal received from National Security Council to conduct a dedicated M.Tech. programme in Cryptology and Security at R.C. Bose Centre

It was generally felt that the proposal was too sketchy, containing no information at all about the structure of the proposed programme.

Resolution: The proposers should be requested to place a more detailed proposal for consideration in the next AC meeting.

Sd/-

Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay

Director

and

Chairperson, Academic Council