INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 64th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE INSTITUTE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 AND OCTOBER 04, 2017 AT KOLKATA

Members/ invitees Attending the Meeting on September 12, 2017			
Ser. No.	Name	Ser. No.	Name
1	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	27	Subhamoy Maitra
2	Amita Pal	28	Subhas Chandra Nandy
3	Amlan Banerjee	29	Subir Ghosh
4	Antar Bandyopadhyay	30	Supratik Pal
5	Arup K. Das	31	Susmita Sur-Kolay
6	Banasri Basu	32	Tarun Kabiraj
7	Bimal K. Roy	Attending via video-conferencing from other centres	
8	Dhurjati P. Sengupta	33	Abhay G Bhatt
9	Dipti Prasad Mukherjee	34	Amit K Biswas
10	Guruprasad Kar	35	ARD Prasad
11	Indranil Mukhopadhyay	36	Arup K. Pal
12	Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya	37	Ashim R. Chaudhary
13	Mahuya Datta	38	BSD DayaSagar
14	Md. Zafar Anis	39	E Gijo
15	Mridul Nandi	40	E Somanathan
16	Nabanita Das	41	Mohan Delampady
17	Nandini Das	42	Rajarama Bhat
18	Nityananda Sarkar	43	Ramesh Sreekantan
19	Partha Sarathi Ghosh	44	S. Ponnusamy
20	Prasun Das	45	Siva Athreya
21	Preeti Parashar	46	Somnath Ray
22	Probal Dasgupta	47	Sujata Ghosh
23	Rajat Subhra Hazra	48	Surajit Pal
24	Sandip Das	49	T S S R K Rao
25	Saurabh Ghosh	50	U H Acharya
26	Smarajit Bose		

Members/ invitees Attending the Meeting on October 04, 2017			
Ser. No.	Name	Ser. No.	Name
1	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	28	Preeti Parashar
2	Amita Pal	29	Probal Dasgupta
3	Amita Majumder	30	Rajat Kumar De
4	Amlan Banerjee	31	Rajat Subhra Hazra
5	Antar Bandyopadhyay	32	S. M. Srivastava
6	Arup K. Das	33	Sandip Das
7	Ashish Ghosh	34	Saurabh Ghosh

8	Banasri Basu	35	Smarajit Bose
9	Bhabatosh Chanda	36	Subhamoy Maitra
10	Bimal K. Roy	37	Subhas Chandra Nandy
11	Biswabrata Pradhan	38	Subir Ghosh
12	Dhurjati P. Sengupta	39	Supratik Pal
13	Dilip Saha	40	Susmita Sur-Kolay
14	Dipti Prasad Mukherjee	41	Swagato Kumar Ray
15	Goutam Mukherjee	42	Tarun Kabiraj
16	Guruprasad Kar	**Attending via Video-conferencing from other Centres**	
17	Indranil Mukhopadhyay	1	Abhay G Bhatt
18	Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya	2	Antar Bandyopadhyay
19	Mahuya Datta	3	Arunava Sen
20	Md. Zafar Anis	4	Arup K Pal
21	Mridul Nandi	5	B S Dayasagar
22	Nabanita Das	6	B V R Bhat
23	Nandini Das	7	E Sommanathan
24	Nityananda Sarkar	8	Mohana Delampady
25	Partha Sarathi Ghosh	9	S Ponnusamy
26	Pradipta Bandyopadhyay	10	T S S R K Rao
27	Prasun Das		

Note: *Agenda items 1-4, 6-8, 13-14 and 20 were discussed in the meeting on September 12, 2017. The remaining items are on the agenda of the adjourned meeting. Item no 5 was discussed and, based on the discussion an updated version of the document (being circulated) has been submitted by the committee for further consideration.*

Agenda Item 1: **Confirmation of the proceedings of the 63rd meeting of the Academic Council held on December 6, 2016, and January 11, 2017, and special AC meetings held on February 10, 2017 and March 15, 2017**

The proceedings of the aforementioned meetings of the Academic council were confirmed as circulated.

Agenda Item 2: **Matters arising out of the 63rd AC meeting**

Dr. Rajat Subhra Hazra pointed out that the reported action taken for agenda item no. 29 of the 63rd AC was incomplete since it did not mention that the report of the committee concerned was approved by the AC. The action taken report was accepted as circulated, subject to the inclusion of the omission pointed out.

Agenda Item 3: **Consideration for *post-facto* approval of the report of the committee formed (by office order no. DO/2017/155 dated March 31, 2017) on the recommendation of the AC in its special meeting held on March 15, 2017, and a report on the implementation of the policy recommended by the committee for admission in 2017**

Dr. Prasun Das, Associate Dean, Admissions, presented the salient features of the report on the implementation of the admission policy recommended by the committee by office order no. DO/2017/155 dated March 31, 2017. Dr. Rajat Subhra Hazra pointed out that the circulated report of the committee was incomplete as a page containing a dissent note by a member, Prof. Guru Prasad Kar, was missing. He also

wanted to know why suggestions were not sought from selection committees regarding the number of seats. He was assured by the Dean of Studies that the incomplete report circulated was due to an oversight, and the complete version would be circulated at the earliest. Prof. Madhura Swaminathan felt that the intake from reserved categories had not been satisfactory, and that for disciplines with large intake of JRFs, reservation of seats should be done. Following considerable discussion on the modalities for selection of JRFs and their placement in various divisions, the Dean of Studies assured the members present that the various suggestions would be given due consideration and appropriate measures would be adopted. Dr. Hazra pointed out that several recommendations of the committee formed by Office Order No. D.O./2016/225 of April 7, 2016) regarding transparency related to admission were not implemented this year, and wanted these issues to be properly resolved and recorded in 2018. Dr. Indranil Mukhopadhyay expressed reservation regarding the proposed use of pen instead of pencil by candidates taking MCQ-based tests on OMR sheets from 2018, to which Prof. Mahuya Datta responded saying that this practice was now universally accepted.

Resolution: It was resolved that the reports should be accepted, subject to the inclusion of the missing page of the report of the committee.

Agenda Item 4:   Consideration of a proposal for an M.Tech. programme in Cryptology and Security at the R.C. Bose Centre of Cryptology and Security

The Director explained the background for this agenda item, mentioning that, though this issue had been placed and discussed in an earlier AC meeting, and committees had been formed to take it forward, Mr. Gulshan Rai, the Chairman of the BoM of the RCBCCS had conveyed to her the underlying urgency, in view of the great need for such a programme in the present scenario. Prof. Bimal Roy pointed out that, according to the EFC document of the Institute, such a programme can be started. Prof. Nabanita Das pointed out that the committees formed by the earlier AC have recommended the programme as a track of the existing M.Tech. programme. The Director opined that a separate programme was the need of the day. Prof. Susmita Sur-Kolay advised against rushing into any decision, there being no conflict in having it as a separate track, and cautioned about the possibility of having to discontinue a separate programme in such a specific area if the demand for it tapers off. Prof. Saurabh Ghosh wanted to know whether starting such a programme required a change in the Indian Statistical Institute Act, to which both the Director and Prof. Roy responded in the negative. Prof. Krishnendu Mukhopadhyay suggested that a feasibility study should be conducted before starting such a programme. He also wanted to know what were the overlaps between ISI and RCBCCS, since he was concerned about the resources needed for the programme, given the current classroom and hostel crunch in ISI. The Director clarified that the RCBCCS is an integral part of ISI; it differs from other centres in that it was created at the behest of the Government of India, and expressed the opinion that the current shortage of classrooms and hostel accommodation should ease by January, 2018. Prof. Mukhopadhyay opined that any academic programme should be conducted by the Dean's Office and that the demand for resources needed for existing programmes should be met. In this context, the Director informed the members present that eight faculty positions have been approved for RCBCCS. Prof. Mahuya Datta wanted to know whether ISI can use the infrastructure of RCBCCS, if the latter is an integral part of ISI. The Director clarified that this is indeed possible, with the consent of the Head of the RCBCCS. Responding to a query from Prof. Sur-Kolay regarding the mode of admission for this programme, Prof. Roy said that it would be conducted by the Dean's Office along lines similar to that for other programmes. Since Government officers may be interested in participating, as pointed out by Prof. Subhamoy Maitra, Prof. Roy opined that the policy followed for sponsored candidates could be applied in such cases. Responding to a query by the Director, Prof. Maitra clarified that only a few of the courses in the proposed programme are new and it should be possible to start it in 2018. Prof. Mukhopadhyay expressed reservations about this, while Prof. Smarajit Bose wanted to know that, if ISI norms

are to be followed, then why should this programme not be formulated as a specialization of the existing M.Tech.(CS) programme. Prof. Maitra reiterated that the Government of India is asking for a separate programme, to which Prof. Bose responded by reminding all that the Institute has academic autonomy and cannot be dictated to. After considerable discussion for and against the issue, the Director proposed that a committee consisting of Profs. Roy, Sur-Kolay, Maitra, Mukhopadhyay and Rana Barua would be formed to discuss the issue and recommend a solution that should be reported to the next AC meeting, which was unanimously accepted.

Resolution: A committee consisting of Profs. Roy, Sur-Kolay, Maitra, Mukhopadhyay and Rana Barua would be formed to discuss the issue and recommend a solution that should be reported to the next AC meeting.

Agenda Item 5:   Consideration of the report of the committee formed by office order no. DS/2016-17/010 dated April 7, 2016, for updating the Students' brochures of all academic programmes, incorporating new pass-fail rules and removing anomalies, if any.

Dr. Antar Bandyopadhyay, the convener of the committee, who attended the meeting by invitation, presented the salient features of the document being prepared. He highlighted the fact that rules and regulations were being delinked from the syllabi of the programmes. The new brochures will have two parts: Part I will contain general information as well as rules and regulations, and would be generally common to all programmes, whereas Part II will contain detailed syllabi and hence will differ from programme to programme. The Dean of Studies can make changes in Part I from time to time to incorporate recommendations of the AC. Part I is ready except for a few issues that needs to be resolved by the AC, while Part II is expected to be ready soon and will be circulated for comments.

Among the anomalies that needed resolution, the first one related to the conditions governing the final results for almost all Masters' programmes (excluding M.Tech.(QROR), which do not form an exhaustive list. The committee proposed that the remaining cases (which were put in the Pass category in the M.Tech.(QROR) brochure) could be considered to have passed with no division. In any case, whatever the AC recommends in this regard should be uniformly applicable across programmes. The second issue related to the number of backpapers that can be taken. The current rules which are provisionally in force till the updated brochures are published, is silent on this issue, leading the committee to conclude that guidelines provided in the earlier brochures should prevail. However, the committee had reservations regarding the maximum number of backpapers in the second year of the M.Tech.(QROR) programme, which was 2, and hence less than that for the other Masters' programmes. The committee could not find any documents to support this choice.

As far as the first issue was concerned, after some discussion, it was generally felt that all cases not covered by the existing rules should be put in the Second Division, provided the aggregate score was at least 45%.

Regarding the second issue, Prof. Siva Athreya pointed out that there is a similar issue with the MS(QMS) programme. Various suggestions were made regarding the ceiling, proposing it to be some fraction of the total number of courses., like $1/2$ or $1/3$. The Director suggested a ceiling of 2 for both M.Tech.(QROR) and MS(QMS), which was accepted.

Regarding other parts of the document, Prof. Arunava Sen felt that Section 4.5, regarding the Director of the Institute, seemed out of place in the document and should be dropped. Dr. Bandyopadhyay felt that students should be aware of these facts, the Director suggested a resolution to the issue by providing shorter, academically relevant descriptions regarding the roles of the Director and the Dean of Studies.

Resolution: The proposed structure of the Brochures, consisting of Parts I and II, was approved, empowering the Dean of Studies to make changes in Part I from time to time to incorporate recommendations of the AC. The proposed Part I was accepted subject to the following modifications:

The committee should incorporate the recommendations regarding (i) putting all students of Masters' programmes who satisfy the criteria for passing but do not qualify for the First Division with Distinction as well as the First Division, into the Second Division; (ii) guidelines provided in the earlier brochures regarding the maximum number of backpapers that can be taken, should prevail, with a ceiling of 2 for the second year of both M.Tech.(QROR) and MS(QMS) programmes; (iii) providing shorter, academically relevant descriptions regarding the roles of the Director and the Dean of Studies in Section 4.

The committee was requested to report the changes in the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Approval of list of successful candidates to be awarded degrees/diplomas/prizes in B.Stat./ B.Math./ M.Stat./ M.Math./ MS(QE)/ M.Tech.(CS)/ M.Tech.(QR&OR)/ MS(LIS)/ MS(QMS)/ PhD/ PGDCA/ PGDSMA in the next Convocation

It was suggested that an earlier practice of providing a summary of reports and reviews of Ph.D. theses to the Academic Council and Council be revived. This suggestion was welcomed and accepted. It was also suggested that the list of successful candidates of the PGDBA programme should also be presented for ratification by the AC. This too was accepted. The circulated lists were approved.

Resolution: The lists of successful candidates to be awarded degree/diplomas/prizes in B.Stat./ B.Math./ M.Stat./ M.Math./ MS(QE)/ M.Tech.(CS)/ M.Tech.(QR&OR)/ MS(LIS)/ MS(QMS)/ PhD/ PGDCA/ PGDSMA in next Convocation that were previously circulated, were approved. The list of successful candidates of the PGDBA programme should also be presented to the AC for its approval. A summary of reports and reviews of doctoral theses of candidates to be awarded Ph.D. degrees should also be presented to the AC.

Agenda Item 7: Consideration of a proposal for instituting an award in the memory of the late Sanghamitra Das for the best student in the MSQE programme, replacing the existing ISIAA-Mrs. M.R. Iyer Award

The proposal was approved as presented.

Resolution: An award would be instituted in the memory of the late Sanghamitra Das for the best student in the MSQE programme, replacing the existing ISIAA-Mrs. M.R. Iyer Award.

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of the report of a committee constituted by office order no. DS/2017-18/0001 dated April 5, 2017, for recommending ways of facilitating the running of academic programmes at centres (of the Institute) that have an insufficient number of faculty members

Prof. Saurabh Ghosh, the convener of the committee, presented the highlights of the recommendations of the committee. He mentioned that the committee visited the ISI Chennai Centre, which has an insufficient number of faculty members. The committee was informed that possibly and MoU exists between ISI and the Chennai Mathematical Institute regarding teaching, under which remuneration need not be paid to faculty from one institute for teaching in the other. Such an MoU, if it still exists, should be exploited to tackle the problem of shortage of faculty. In addition, faculty from other centres should be utilized. Simply holding classes with the help of video-conferencing is not sufficient. Contact hours should be arranged at least once a month. Prof. TSSRK Rao, the Chairman of the committee, said that similar recommendations also hold for the proposed M.S. programme in Theoretical Computer Science at Chennai. Various members emphasized the need for high-quality and more extensive video-conferencing facilities between centres in this regard, particularly since administrative meetings are also being held increasingly through VC. Dr. Prasun Das wanted to know about the status at other centres too, pointing out that ISI Chennai already had 13 faculty members, and they should be engaged before faculty from other centres/ institutes are called in. On behalf of ISI North-east Centre, Prof. Nityananda Sarkar reported the current strength there is sufficient as far as the existing PGDSMA programme is concerned, but may not be enough if new programmes are started. Though visiting scientists were teaching the PGDSMA courses, one member of the faculty of ISI Kolkata has been assigned as a mentor to each for supervision.

Resolution: The recommendations of the committee were accepted.

Agenda Item 9: Consideration of the report of a committee constituted by office order no. DS/2016-17/0700(AC) dated November 21, 2016, to examine whether the course structures of all the academic programmes being conducted currently by the Institute have been ratified by the statutory bodies of the Institute, and to make appropriate recommendations

Deferred.

Agenda Item 10: Consideration of a proposal for formulation of uniform rules across all degree programmes related to projects, stipends, etc.

 Although a few members felt that uniform rules were not always desirable as far as the academic programmes of the institute were concerned, it was generally agreed that uniformity in procedures of evaluation of projects would be acceptable. It was decided that a committee would be formed with Prof. Amita Majumder as the chairperson and representatives of all programmes to formulate necessary rules for removing anomalies related to evaluation of projects, payment of stipends, and other issues, if any.

Resolution: It was resolved that a committee would be formed with Prof. Amita Majumder as the chairperson and representatives of all programmes as members, to formulate necessary rules for removing anomalies related to evaluation of projects, payment of stipends, and other issues, if any.

Agenda Item 11: Consideration of the syllabus of an optional course on Quantum Physics being offered in the second semester of the third year of the B.Stat. programme

After some discussion, the syllabus was approved, with the clarification (from the proposer of the syllabus, Prof. Guru Prasad Kar) that the Physics I and II elective courses offered in the second year of the B.Stat. programme would be pre-requisites for this course.

Resolution: The proposed syllabus for the optional course in Quantum Physics, being offered in the second semester of the third year of the B.Stat. programme, was approved with Physics I and II elective courses (offered in the second year of the programme) as pre-requisites.

Agenda Item 12:   Consideration of a proposal on structure and guideline for M.Math. project

In view of the discussion under agenda item no. 10, it was decided that this proposal would be forwarded to the committee to be formed as resolved, for its consideration and as a guideline while framing uniform rules related to evaluation of projects across programmes. The proposer, Prof. Mahuya Datta, expressed some reservations regarding this but was assured by the Dean of Studies that the terms of reference of the said committee would be carefully phrased to ensure that the concerns being addressed in this proposal are adequately covered. Prof. Datta suggested that Profs. Siva Athreya and Mausumi Bose be included in the committee. Prof. TSSRK Rao proposed the name of Dr. Maneesh Kumar in place of Prof. Athreya. It was decided that representatives for each degree programme would be members of this committee.

Resolution: It was resolved that this proposal would be referred to the committee recommended by the AC in connection with agenda item no. 10 to serve as a guideline for formulation of rules related to evaluation of projects. The committee would also include Prof. Mausumi Bose and Dr. Maneesh Kumar.

Agenda Item 13: Consideration of a proposal for measures to ensure smooth conduct of mid-semestral and semestral examinations

There was extensive discussion on the various measures proposed for ensuring smooth conduct of mid-semestral and semestral examinations, with many members, particularly from other centres, expressing reservations. However, it was generally agreed that the issue that this proposal addresses is applicable only to Kolkata, in view of the relatively larger number of programmes being conducted here and, as such, the centres should not be expected to implement the proposed measures. It was also generally accepted that such measures are necessary for logistic reasons. However, it was resolved that, since the conduct of examinations is entirely an administrative matter and does not require the approval of the AC, the Dean of Studies can take appropriate measures to ensure smooth conduct of mid-semestral and semestral examinations at ISI Kolkata.

Resolution: It was resolved that, since the conduct of examinations is entirely an administrative matter, the Dean of Studies can take appropriate measures to ensure smooth conduct of mid-semestral and semestral examinations at ISI Kolkata.

Agenda Item 14:   Consideration of the report of a committee constituted by office order no. DS/2015-16/0650 dated November 19, 2015, to look into the feasibility and other aspects of a proposal on a two-year M.Sc. (by research) programme in Theoretical Computer Science at the ISI Chennai Centre

The convener of the committee, Dr. Sujata Ghosh, who was invited to attend the meeting in order to present the report, highlighted the salient features of the recommendations of the committee, mainly that the proposed programme was indeed feasible. Dr. Rajat Subhra Hazra pointed out that there were exactly five faculty members available at ISI Chennai for teaching five courses, and expressed the opinion that it was too much to expect them to teach as well as supervise research work of students. Prof. Ponnusamy suggested that MoUs may be signed for joint supervision of research by faculty members from other Institutes. The chairperson of the committee, Prof. Susmita Sur Kolay pointed out that since the proposal was for an M.Sc. (by research) programme, dissertations are important in terms of evaluation. Dr. Hazra wondered whether the committee had considered the impact of starting this programme on the existing M.Stat. first year programme being conducted in ISI Chennai. Prof. Saurabh Ghosh too was concerned about possible infringement on courses in the M.Stat. programme that are normally taught by Computer Science faculty at ISI Chennai. Prof. Ponnusamy opined that the recommendations of the committee constituted by office order no. DS/2017-18/0001 dated April 5, 2017, which were discussed earlier under agenda item no. 8, should also be applicable in this case. Dr. Sujata Ghosh pointed out that Master's theses could be jointly supervised by faculty members from other centres of ISI. After some more discussion on whether ISI Chennai would be able to run both programmes successfully with its limited resources, the Director expressed the opinion that the proposed programme should be initiated and problems that crop up could be sorted out as and when they arise. Work on construction of the campus at Chennai was in full swing and meaningful academic programmes were required. Prof. Sur Kolay highlighted the fact that the committee had only looked at academic feasibility and availability of resources was not considered. Prof. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee stressed the need for specifying eligibility conditions clearly, as well as the duration of the programme. It was ultimately resolved that the recommendation of the committee regarding academic feasibility be accepted, since the academic content matches the focus of the Indian Statistical Institute. However, the logistics of running the proposed programme concurrently with the existing M.Stat. programme needed to be scrutinized. For this, the Head of the ISI Chennai Centre was requested to submit a report on the concurrent feasibility of the two programmes within one month to the Dean of Studies, so that it could be discussed in the next AC meeting.

Resolution: It was resolved that the recommendation of the committee regarding academic feasibility of the proposed M.Sc. (by research) programme in Theoretical Computer Science at the ISI Chennai Centre be accepted, since the academic content matches the focus of the Indian Statistical Institute. For ascertaining the logistics of running the proposed programme concurrently with the existing M.Stat. programme, the Head of the ISI Chennai Centre was requested to submit a report on the concurrent (logistic) feasibility of the two programmes within one month to the Dean of Studies, so that it could be discussed in the next AC meeting.

Agenda Item 15:   Consideration of the report of the committee constituted vide office order no. DO/2016/654 dated December 2, 2016 to evaluate proposals and examine the feasibility of conferring PhD degrees in Physics and other disciplines existing in the institute.

Prof. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee, the convener of the committee, presented an overview of the recommendations of the committee, which had accepted in principle proposals for conferring by ISI of Ph.D. degrees in the Physical and Earth Sciences as well as the Biological Sciences. There was considerable discussion on recommendation no. 6, regarding discontinuation of the practice of mentioning the area of specialization in the Ph.D. certificate, as an implementation issue. Prof. Mukherjee said that this was in view of the ISI act which clearly specified only five areas in which Ph.D. degrees would be awarded by ISI. As such, a mention of

the new areas may seem inappropriate. Moreover, the committee had also examined Ph.D. certificates from a few IITs and found no mention of discipline. Profs. Goutam Mukherjee and TSSRK Rao were of the opinion that since the practice had been introduced at some point, the reason for doing so should be determined before doing away with it.   Prof. Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya was concerned that Ph.D. awardees from disciplines other than Statistics could get adversely affected if the practice was discontinued. Therefore, the ISI Act may need to be amended before Ph.D. degrees start getting awarded in disciplines not mentioned therein. Prof. Banasri Basu also provided the information that Jadavpur University does not mention area of research in the Ph.D. degree certificates it issues, like the IITs. Several members were in favour of amending the ISI Act, mainly because areas like Physics could never be considered to be related to Statistics, as stipulated in the Act. Prof. Abhay Bhatt suggested a slightly different interpretation of the Act whereby award in the proposed areas could be easily justified. Prof. Nityananda Sarkar urged the members to take a broader, more pragmatic view of the issue, mainly because research areas are not compartmentalized. Many of these have existed in ISI for a long time, and research fellowships are awarded in such areas by ISI. However, recipients of these fellowships are finding it increasingly difficult to register in other universities in the light of changing UGC norms. They should, therefore, be allowed to register for Ph.D. in ISI. Prof. Dipti Mukherjee reiterated that the committee only recommends the award of Ph.D. degrees in the new areas and the respective Ph.D.-D.Sc. Committees can determine the modalities. It was generally felt that while the underlying academic issue was acceptable, the associated legal aspects were unresolved and needed further consideration. Dr. Hazra cautioned against the possibility that the award of Ph.D. degrees in Physics, etc. could lead to a need for Masters' programmes in these areas, given that ISI has undergraduate/postgraduate programmes in areas in which it already awards Ph.D. degrees. It was also noted that the new Ph.D.-D.Sc. Committees, being statutory bodies must be formed by the Council.

Resolution: It was resolved that the committee's recommendations regarding award of Ph.D. degrees in the Physical and Earth Sciences as well as the Biological Sciences by ISI be accepted, with the exception of point no. 6 which recommends discontinuation of the practice of mentioning the area of specialization in the Ph.D. certificate.

Agenda Item 16:   Consideration of the report of the committee constituted vide office order nos. DS/2016-17/0701(AC) dated November 21, 2016, and DS/2016/17/0706(AC) dated November 22, 2016, to deliberate and make recommendations on a proposal for reforms in the admission procedure followed by the Institute

 Prof. Rajat De, the convener of the committee, presented the salient features of the recommendations related to admissions made by the committee. Responding to the recommendations, Dr. Prasun Das, Associate Dean (Admissions), addressed each point individually and informed the members present that most of the concerns had been addressed during admission in 2017, and those that could not be, would be taken care of in time for admission in 2018. Prof. Smarajit Bose appreciated the fact that the Action Taken Report was presented at the same time as the report, and pointed out that this occurred since the report had been submitted to the Dean of Studies well before the admission process started in 2017, and hence the recommendations were already known to the latter. Prof. Susmita Sur-Kolay stressed the need for organizing admission tests for JRF programmes twice a year and, to begin with, the Institute could consider holding this once a year but at a much earlier date, say, in November-December like most other institutions. This could make a noticeable difference since candidates need timely assurance regarding their selection, in the absence of which they accept offers from other institutions that are received earlier. There was some discussion on the pros and cons of this issue, and it was ultimately agreed that the suggestion should be given consideration since most of the issues involved are administrative in nature and can be resolved by the Dean of Studies and the Selection Test Coordination Committee. A committee may be constituted to look into this if some AC

members come up with a fresh proposal in this regard, in the light of past data related to admission of JRF candidates. The Dean of Studies was requested to circulated this data among AC members.

Resolution: It was resolved that the suggestion to conduct admission test for JRF candidates at an earlier date should be given consideration since most of the associated issues are administrative in nature and can be resolved by the Dean of Studies and the Selection Test Coordination Committee. A committee may be constituted to look into this if some AC members come up with a fresh proposal in this regard, in the light of past data related to admission of JRF candidates. The Dean of Studies was requested to circulated this data among AC members.

Agenda Item 17:   Consideration of a proposal from the RFAC of the Applied Statistics Division for research courses in Statistics and Computer Science as requirement for registration to the respective PhD programmes

Deferred to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 18:   Consideration of a proposal for a one-semester dissertation/project in the final semester of the MSQE programme

Prof. Tarun Kabiraj, on behalf of the proposers, described the issue underlying the proposal. After some discussion and clarifications related to projects and dissertations in the MSQE programme, it was resolved that a student who does not opt to do a project in the third semester of the programme can be allowed to do so in the fourth semester.

Resolution: It was resolved that an MSQE student who does not opt to do a project in the third semester of the programme can be allowed to do so in the fourth semester.

Agenda Item 19:   Consideration of a proposal for a new undergraduate programme in Quantitative Economics in the North-east Centre of the Institute.

On behalf of the proposers, Prof. Nityananda Sarkar presented the salient features of the proposed programme. Prof. Sur-Kolay lauded the proposed programme as the first such programme in the country. However, she was concerned about future prospects of students who would pass out with a BSQE degree, particularly problems faced when seeking admission in postgraduate programmes other than MSQE. Dr. Hazra had reservations regarding the sustainability of the programme. Prof. Sarkar clarified that it would be started only after sufficient faculty positions are made available in the ISI NE Centre. Prof. Mahuya Datta reminded members present of past experience, namely, the difficulty of finding faculty for the ISI NE Centre. Prof. Mukhopadhyaya felt that since recruitment takes time, a structured proposal should be discussed only after faculty positions are sanctioned. Prof. Sur-Kolay was supportive of the proposal, and felt that work on design of the curriculum could start without waiting for sanction of posts. While Prof. Smarajit Bose supported this, Dr. Hazra was skeptical of the utility of this exercise of starting from a hypothetical position. The Director gave assurance of focused recruitment. It was ultimately decided that a committee would be formed to work out the details of the proposed programme, with members suggested by the Professor in-charge of the Social Sciences Division, Prof. Nityananda Sarkar and the Dean of Studies.

Resolution: It was resolved that a committee would be formed to work out the details of the proposed programme, with members suggested by the Professor in-charge of the Social Sciences Division, Prof. Nityananda Sarkar and the Dean of Studies.

Agenda Item 20: Consideration of a proposal for an elective course on Foundations of Cyber-Physical Systems in the M.Tech. programme in Computer Science.

It was noted that the proposed syllabus was already approved by experts in the area. The Director noted that one of the opinions was that the scope of the syllabus was too broad, to which Prof. Mukhopadhyaya responded, saying that it could be covered reasonably in the time-frame of a semester. The proposed syllabus was approved.

Resolution: The proposal for an elective course on Foundations of Cyber-Physical Systems in the M.Tech. programme in Computer Science was approved.

Agenda Item 21: Consideration of a proposal to extend the recently-announced enhanced research fellowship of Rs 70,000 to 2000 researchers doing their PhDs in IITs or IISc, as a part of the Prime Minister's research fellowship scheme, to 50 meritorious researchers of the Indian Statistical Institute.

Deferred.

Agenda Item 22: Consideration of the report of the committee constituted vide office order no. DS/2017-18/0004 dated April 5, 2017, to examine the feasibility of the proposed M.Tech. programme in Cryptology and Security

It was decided that the recommendations of this committee should be forwarded for further consideration to the committee to be formed as recommended by the AC after discussion on Agenda Item no. 4.

Resolution: The recommendations of this committee should be forwarded for further consideration to the committee to be formed as recommended by the AC after discussion on Agenda Item no. 4.

Agenda Item 23: Miscellaneous

(i) In response to a request received by the Director from Dr. Arijit Bishnu regarding allowing a Ramanujan fellow to act as a co-supervisor of two ISI research fellows along with him, the Director requested the Dean of Studies to seek the approval of the AC regarding the issue of inclusion of Ramanujan/INSPIRE faculty and similar post-doctoral fellows as co-supervisors of ISI research fellows along with regular faculty of the Institute. When placed before the AC as a Miscellaneous agenda item, it was unanimously accepted.
Recommendation: It was resolved that Ramanujan/INSPIRE faculty and similar post-doctoral fellows could act as co-supervisors of ISI research fellows along with regular faculty of the Institute.

(ii) *Reporting on Agenda Item no. 5 (in the adjourned meeting):* Dr. Antar Bandyopadhyay, the convener of the committee, who attended the meeting by invitation, reported that all the recommendations made by the AC regarding this item had been incorporated into Part I of the brochures.

(iii) *Reporting regarding Agenda Item no. 14 (in the adjourned meeting)*: In conclusion of the discussion on this item on September 12, for ascertaining the logistics of running the proposed programme concurrently with the existing M.Stat. programme, the Head of the ISI Chennai Centre had been requested to submit a report on the concurrent (logistic) feasibility of the two programmes within one month to the Dean of Studies, so that it could be discussed in the next AC meeting. This report was received before the adjourned meeting and hence circulated for consideration therein.

It was pointed out the report sent by the Chennai centre in this regard was an 'interim report' and that the teaching load of 2.5 courses per faculty in a single semester was too heavy. Moreover, the report completely ignored the additional load of supervising dissertation of students in the second year of the proposed program. It was felt that further deliberation is required and full report should be presented in the next AC.

(iv) *Consideration of the recommendations of a committee formed by office order no. DS/2016-17/0897 dated March 31, 2017, regarding a proposal for formation of discipline-wise RFACs rather than Division-wise RFACs, in respect of disciplines for which both JRF Admission Committees and PhD/DSc Committees are constituted:*

Recommendation: It was resolved that the committee's recommendation regarding the formation of a single RFAC for JRF (CS) be accepted in principle. The Dean of Studies should convene a meeting of all concerned faculty to discuss the modalities.

Sd/-
Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
Director, Indian Statistical Institute &
Chairperson, Academic Council