

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



80th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Date: June 23, 2023

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Member Present			
1	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	15	Sandip Das
2	Gopal Krishna Basak	16	Preeti Parashar
3	Dhurjati Prasad Sengupta	17	Mandar Mitra
4	Biswabrata Pradhan	18	Susmita Sur-Kolay
5	Rajat Kumar De	19	Debasis Sengupta
6	Dipti Prasad Mukherjee	20	Partha Sarathi Mukherjee
7	Anuj Bhowmik	21	ALN Murthy
8	Abhik Ghosh	22	Pabitra Banik
9	Mohan Delampady	23	BS Daya Sagar
10	G Murali Rao	24	Mrinal Kanti Das
11	Sushmita Mitra	25	Arijit Chakrabarty
12	E V Gijo	26	Pradip Bhattacharyya
13	Kishor Satpathy	27	Tridip Ray
14	Ayanendranath Basu	28	Smarajit Bose

ADJOURNED MEETING OF 80TH ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Date: June 30, 2023

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Member Present			
1	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	11	Anup Dewanji
2	Gopal Krishna Basak	12	Debasis Sengupta
3	Sumitra Purkayastha	13	Dipti Prasad Mukherjee
4	Rajat Kumar De	14	BS Daya Sagar
5	Antar Bandyopadhyay	15	Boby John
6	Mausumi Bose	16	Smarajit Bose
7	Mathew C Francis	17	Abhik Ghosh
8	G. Ravindran	18	Dibakar Ghosh
9	Biswabrata Pradhan	19	Partha Sarathi Mukherjee
10	Susmita Sur-Kolay		

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

203 B.T. Road. Kolkata 700108



PROCEEDINGS OF 80TH MEETING OF
THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL (AC) OF THE INSTITUTE
ON JUNE 23, 2023 (3:00 PM) & JUNE 30, 2023 (2:30 PM)

VENUE: CSSC VIDEO CONFERENCE ROOM, ISI, KOLKATA

PHASE I, JUNE 23, 2023 (3:00 PM)

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of the Academic Council of the Institute

Professor Sanghamitra Bandyopdhyay, Chair of AC, welcomed the members to the 80th meeting of the Academic Council, and asked the Dean to take up the agenda items for discussion and decision. Dean took up the agenda items one by one.

2. REPORTING MATTERS

Agenda Item 2.2: Commencement of Quantitative Techniques in Geosciences at GSU, ISI Kolkata from May 2024

Prof. Dhurjati Sengupta informed the AC that due to shortage of faculty members and also because of field work undertaken by faculty members during November, 2023 till March, 2024, they will not be able to offer the *Three Month Certificate Course in Quantitative Techniques in Geosciences* until May, 2024. This situation exists, he added, even after removing two modules from the proposed course curriculum. The Chair observed that planning of the course has already taken a long time, and that it will lose significance if it takes another long stretch of time to start the course. She suggested starting the course as early as possible (maybe from sometime in September or October, 2023). The Dean of Studies also suggested organizing a workshop on some topics hoping that this will lead to interest about this course. The Chair also asked Prof. Dhurjati Sengupta to discuss with colleagues and find a possible way-out to start the course as early as possible.

3. FOR DISCUSSION & DECISIONS

3.1 Student matters

Agenda Item 3.1.A: Proposal for resuming studies of Ankit Kumar, a M.Tech. CS student admitted in 2022

Discussion: Dean of Studies requested Prof. Mandar Mitra to present this case before the AC. Prof. Mitra communicated the following.

- Ankit Kumar is an M. Tech CS student admitted in 2022. He was irregular in his attendance in 1st semester and did not appear at the end semester exam due to reasons related to his health (as advised by our Institute's RMO, Psychiatrist and other doctors to stay at home for extended treatment).
- He has appealed to the Mentor Committee so that he may be allowed to continue as a student in the M. Tech. (CS) programme from Semester I starting in 2023.
- The Students' Brochure does not contain any specific clause which may enable us to address this situation. In view of this, AC may decide over the following.

(1) Can Ankit resume his studies from the upcoming semester?

(2) If allowed to resume his studies, will he be eligible for full/partial stipend for any of the semesters that he spends in the programme, subject to a maximum of three more (as stipulated in the M. Tech. (CS) Students' Brochure)?

(3) If allowed to resume his studies, will he be allowed to stay in the hostel?

Prof. Mitra also suggested that the student may take up to a maximum of three years for completion. Moreover, after completion of Second year the student will not be eligible for stipends, contingency grants or hostel facilities. Prof. Susmita Sur-Kolay and other AC members also added that since he joined the programme in 2022 he should have to finish the programme by 2025 and this must be intimated to him. Discussion on hostel facility and stipend also took place in the meeting.

Decision: The AC decided to let Ankit Kumar start the course (M. Tech. (CS), 1st Year) from Semester I of the academic session 2023-2024. It was also decided that (1) he has to complete the programme by July 2025, (2) he will be allowed hostel facility, (3) he will not receive stipend in the first semester in case he has already received the same in the first year of the academic session 2022-2023 (to be checked by Dean's office), and (4) after taking into consideration his performance in the following semester he may be granted stipend from the next semester as per rule. He was also advised to go for medical check-up at regular intervals and also to get in touch with the Mentor Committee.

Agenda Item 3.1.B: Prayer of Nikhil Bhardwaj (M. Stat. 2nd year) for extension of dates of compulsory backpaper exam on medical ground

Discussion: The Dean of Studies informed the AC members that the respective Teachers' Committee decided on his plea to allow him to appear for the backpaper examination as he could not appear for the same due to medical reasons.

Decision: The AC endorsed the decision of the Teachers' Committee.

Agenda Item 3.1.C: Prayer of Arka Bikash Ghosh for resuming his studies in M. Stat. programme

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the case before the AC members. The Dean informed that Arka Bikash Ghosh was promoted from B. Stat. to M. Stat. in 2021. He is repeating M. Stat 1st year in 2022-23. Arka has a history of suffering from Social Anxiety and several other related ailments. He has remained under treatment since December 2018 till date. In the year 2022, he appeared for the semester examinations but could not succeed due to medical reasons. As instructed by the then Dean of Studies (Officiating), he appeared at the backpaper exams in the month of January 2023 but again failed due to lack of academic preparation caused by his illness. He is now appealing to allow him to repeat the M. Stat first year, and this has been recommended by his psychiatrist as well. Prof. Partha Sarathi Mukherjee raised doubt if it will necessarily be good for him if he is given a chance to repeat. He (i.e., Prof. Mukherjee) observed that in case of a failure in the second repeat year Arka will lose three years. The Dean informed the AC that he was a student of the B. Stat. programme and graduated with 60% marks, and without any repeat. The Chair remarked that since the psychiatrist had recommended that he be given an opportunity to continue studies, and this will help him in recovering early, it is better that the Institute takes note of. Prof. Sur-Kolay also expressed the same view. Prof. Preeti Parashar said that she has seen Arka roaming alone in the campus. The Dean and Prof. Debasis Sengupta quoted the student's plea where he himself declared that he withdrew himself from any kind of social interaction and even from his widowed mother. The Dean also discussed about providing hostel facilities to him as he is from Arambagh which is not close to the Institute. The Chair said that as he (i.e., Arka) has not asked for hostel facility in his application, the Dean may decide if and when he comes with such a request. Prof. Rajat K. De wanted to know whether he is or will be receiving a stipend. To this query, the Dean responded that as per rule he did not receive any stipend in the repeat year and would not receive in the next repeat year as well.

Decision: The AC, taking Doctor's written advice into consideration, decided to treat this as an exceptional case and allow Arka Bikash Ghosh to repeat M. Stat. 1st year. It was also decided that (1) he will not receive stipend in the repeat year, and (2) Dean may decide about hostel facilities if the student requests accommodation. He was also advised to go for medical check-up at regular intervals.

Agenda Item 3.1.D: Prayer of Shreyan Saha (B. Math. 2nd year repeat) to appear at backpaper exam of 3rd semester after completion of 4th semester

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the appeal before AC members and also informed that Shreyan Saha is a second year B. Math. repeat student. He appeared at the 3rd semester exam. He was confident about not having a compulsory backpaper and went to his hometown after the exams were over. But he ended up getting two compulsory backpapers (in the courses *Discrete Mathematics* and *Statistics*). At the time of backpaper exam, he was not at Bangalore and it was not possible for him to

return because of non-availability of train tickets and higher rate of flight tickets. After he returned to Bangalore campus, he was asked to leave the course. However, he pleaded his case to the Associate Dean and requested to allow him to continue the course and appear at two backpapers before the end of the 4th semester. The Associate Dean gave him the permission to continue the semester and he also did well (overall 62.4%) in the 4th semester. Prof. B.S. Daya Sagar added that the marks of the 4th semester are not of Shreyan Saha but of some other student. Prof. Mohan Delampady also confirmed that the marks in his course *Introduction to Linear Models and Regression*, as mentioned in the submitted mark-sheet, is also not correct.

Decision: While considering the prayer of Shreyan Saha, the AC decided that a clarification be obtained about whether the mark-sheet had been issued by the office of the Associate Dean of ISIBC or been obtained by some unfair means. This is because, as Prof. B.S. Daya Sagar had informed, the mark-sheet submitted by Shreyan Saha, bearing Shreyan's name and the signature of the Associate Dean of ISIBC was not of Shreyan but of some other student. If after obtaining the clarification it is found that the said mark-sheet was not issued by the office of the Associate Dean of ISIBC, then he (Shreyan Saha) will be asked to discontinue the programme.

Agenda Item 3.1.E: Proposal for reconsideration of the supplementary mid-term exam of Saptashwa Baisya (B. Stat. 1st year)

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the proposal of Prof. Kiranmoy Das (Class teacher of B. Stat. 1st year) before AC members. He informed that Saptashwa Baisya is a student of B. Stat. 1st year. He could not appear at mid-semester exam as he was suffering from Dengue fever. He was advised not to appear at the exam by the Doctor but he came to the venue of the exam. Due to his high fever, the class teacher and the then invigilator advised him to not to write the test and go home, and sit for the exam after recovery. He appeared at the supplementary exam as per rules and did very well. However, according to our rule only at most 60% can be considered. The Class Teacher and other teachers recommended consideration of the actual marks scored instead of 60% as a special case.

Decision: The AC, after taking into consideration views/recommendations of the Class Teacher and other teachers, decided to treat the supplementary mid-semester examination of Saptashwa Baisya as a regular examination and not cap his secured marks by 60% since the invigilating teacher had stopped Saptashwa Baisya from taking the exam. It was decided that this should not be treated as precedence since in this case it is the teacher, engaged in invigilation during the examination, who advised the student to leave the venue of the examination because of his high fever, return to his residence and sit for the examinations after recovery.

Agenda Item 3.1.F: Proposal for supplementary of Backpaper of Soumava Mondal (B. Stat.)

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the plea of Soumava Mondal (B. Stat. 2nd year) before the AC members and informed that he is repeating B. Stat. 2nd year (2022-23). He had been suffering from acute hypertension, bronchial asthma and anxiety related neurological disorders even before he was admitted to the Institute.

Soumava has consulted our doctors. They have found his blood pressure to be very high and have attributed this to anxiety. Soumava has also been seen by our doctor/counsellor and been prescribed both medicine and stress management. Unfortunately, he has continued with only the medicine to put BP under control but not the prescribed anti-depressant and stress management. He could not manage his anxiety and could not do well in exams. The Dean also informed that he (i.e., Soumava) has not informed his parents about his repeating a year. After persuasion by the Dean's Office and help of his friends, his parents could be informed (in the middle of June 2023) about his health and about the repeat. After this, Soumava consulted the doctor/psychiatrist and started medication under supervision of his parents. As per observations by the doctor, if he started medication much earlier (October 2022) improvement might have been seen. Prof. Debasis Sengupta remarked that the student had met him and said that he is studying sincerely but this is not reflected in his marks. The Chair remarked that he might be looking for some extra care/guidance for his academic activities. The Chair also expressed her concern at the growing number of cases coming to the AC for relaxation of rules. She remarked that the pass/fail rules of the Institute needs a relook so as to relax, to the extent reasonable, this high pressure situation.

Decision: The AC, taking the views of doctor/counseling psychologist into consideration, decided that if they recommend that it would be better for Soumava Mondal to take another examination—as a chance to continue his study, and that in the event of failure he will be able to accept it, only then he will be allowed to appear for supplementary back-paper examination. The teacher concerned would be requested to set the question paper. In the event of his (i.e., of the teacher) disagreement, in view of the fact that he has already taken trouble in setting necessary questions papers, the Dean may find some other appropriate person to set the question paper.

Agenda Item 3.1.G: PhD Registration of Pritam Bhattacharjee after due date

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the case of Pritam Bhattacharjee before the AC members and informed them that Pritam had joined ACMU as JRF in August 2019. The pandemic (COVID) broke out in April 2020 and evaluation was done online. Pritam was promoted to 2nd year as per policy. From summer 2020, Pritam started working informally with Dr. Arijit Ghosh (ACMU). However, he did not find this tenable and in 2021 he asked for transfer to ECSU to work under the supervision of Prof. Swagatam Das which was subsequently granted. About a week prior to his 2nd year evaluation, he developed a severe mental problem as a consequence of which he could not appear at the evaluation exam. This resulted in the discontinuation of his fellowship. Pritam started consulting Dr. Santanu Goswami (consultant psychiatrist at ISI). Prof. Das expressed his unwillingness to supervise him as he was unsure if Pritam would be able to cope with the stress. After recovery, Pritam started looking for a supervisor and completed his coursework requirements in March 2022. He also started working with Prof. Mridul Nandi and Prof. Bimal Roy under whom he was formally assigned by the then Dean of Studies in September 2022. Pritam then applied for registration in November 2022. The PhD/DSc committee is in favour of granting

registration to Pritam but they are not sure whether they are empowered to grant registration to Pritam.

Decision: The AC decided to allow registration of Pritam Bhattacharjee for PhD degree of the Institute as an exceptional case. It was decided that he should be informed that (1) validity of the registration will be five years, i.e., thesis needs to be submitted within 5 years from the date of registration and (2) his fellowship will be reinstated but can be awarded only till the end of 6 years from the date of his joining the Institute. The Chair also advised the Dean to incorporate appropriate changes at relevant places in the PhD/DSc rules, so that it empowers the PhD/DSc committee to do the needful.

3.2 Syllabus and Course Structures

Agenda Item 3.2.A: Review of M.S.(QMS) Syllabus

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented before the AC members a proposal to review the syllabus of the M.S.(QMS) programme and consider changing its name. It is mentioned in the proposal that, started in 2014, the M.S.(QMS) programme has been doing well since then and placement is also good. Members submitting the proposal suggested some points for modifying the syllabus as well as the name of the programme. The following were noted.

- 1 This programme was initiated primarily to develop professionals in Quality Management who will work primarily in the manufacturing sector.
- 2 Over the years, students graduating from this programme have not been getting any placement from the manufacturing sector, and almost 100% of the placements are happening in the Service and Analytics sector.

Therefore, some of the courses being offered are found not particularly relevant to the kind of requirements/expectations in the country at present. So with a view to being updated with time, it was opined that the need for a modification of the syllabus, and also possibly the name (maybe *MS in Quality Management and Data Science*) is very much the requirement of the day. Moreover, it was mentioned in the proposal that alumni graduating from this programme had given their feedback to update the syllabus and content of the course keeping in mind the job market.

Decision: The AC decided to form a committee to review the syllabus of the M.S.(QMS) programme and consider changing its name with Dr. E.V. Gijo as Chairperson and Dr. Sujeet Kumar Singh as Convenor.

Agenda Item 3.2.B: Review of course structure and syllabus of M.Tech. (QROR) programme

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented before the AC members a proposal to review the M.Tech. (QROR) syllabus. It was noted in the proposal that the syllabus of this course was revised in 2015 and so it is necessary to have a relook at the syllabus

with the purpose of keeping pace with the contemporary requirements. Moreover, the need to try to bridge the gap between the documented syllabus and its execution through appropriate teaching and mentoring was emphasized there.

Decision: The AC decided to form a committee to review the M. Tech. (QROR) syllabus with Dr. Prasun Das as Chairperson and Dr. Susanta Gauri as Convenor.

Agenda Item 3.2.C: Proposal to review M.S.(QE) courses and student brochure

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented before the AC members a proposal to review the M.S.(QE) courses and relevant matters of the Student Brochure. It is mentioned in the proposal that the existing faculty members of Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and Economic Research Unit (ERU) have the capacity to offer the number of new elective courses for M.S.(QE) students. The proposal is about formation of a committee which can look into

- 1 updating the list of elective courses for M.S.(QE),
- 2 updating the student brochure, and
- 3 considering any other changes in M.S.(QE) course structure.

Decision: The AC decided to form a committee to review the M.S.(QE) courses and relevant matters of the Student Brochure, with Prof. Tridip Ray as Chairperson and Prof. Debasis Mishra as Convenor.

Agenda Item 3.2.D: Splitting *Weak Convergence and Empirical Processes* into two separate courses taught in M. Stat. 2nd year

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented before the AC members a proposal of splitting the course *Weak Convergence and Empirical Processes* into two separate courses. He mentioned that the course *Weak Convergence and Empirical Processes* was introduced in 2015 to M. Stat. 2nd year curriculum. It was introduced as a compulsory course for the Theoretical Statistics specialization and the Probability specialization. The content of the course consists of detailed development of the theory of weak convergence (WC), from Prohorov's theorem to Donsker's theorem. In addition, the course includes the theory of empirical processes (EP) much of which is unrelated to the topics of WC. It can be said from the experience of several teachers who have taught the course in the recent past that the syllabus is too big to be covered in a single course. The WC part is more relevant for Probability whereas EP is of importance to Theoretical Statistics. It takes about three quarters of the semester to cover WC, and then there is very little time to do justice to the EP part. In view of this, the proposers are recommending to split the course into the following two separate courses.

- 1 Weak Convergence of Probability Measures (which should be compulsory for Probability specialization),

2 Empirical Process Theory (which should be compulsory for Theoretical Statistics specialization).

The Chair suggested that considering shortage of teachers both the courses should not be made compulsory.

Decision: The AC decided to form a committee to work out the details of splitting the course Weak Convergence and Empirical Processes into two separate courses and come up with relevant syllabi of the two courses, with Prof. Arup Bose as Chairperson and Dr. Soumendu Sunder Mukherjee as Convenor.

Agenda Item 3.2.E: Modification in the mode of conducting the non-credit course on National and International Statistical Systems, offered in the first year of the M. Stat. programme

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the proposal before the AC members. He stated that currently (as per the information contained in the M. Stat. Brochure in effect now), this non-credit course is offered in between the first and the second semesters of M. Stat. 1st year in collaboration with the National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) under the Central Statistical Office, New Delhi. The duration of this course is eight days and comprises 40 hours of lectures on Official Statistics. The manner in which this course is being conducted currently is giving rise to various undesirable issues. The foremost of these is that the utility and importance of this course is underemphasized in the perception of the students. To eliminate these issues, it is proposed that this course be conducted like any other non-credit course at ISI, as outlined below.

- A teacher is designated for this course separately at whichever locations M. Stat. 1st year classes are held, who will coordinate the teaching of this course in consultation with the designated nodal person from NSSTA, and will take care of the logistics involved, including scheduling of the classes, arrangements for accommodation, honorarium, etc. of Guest Faculty from NSSTA as required, and so on.
- Classes are spread over the entire semester and are held in a hybrid mode (i.e., a teacher teaching students in Kolkata would also be teaching students in Delhi through VC at the same time) so that material can be exactly same and more importantly resource persons can be pooled from both the places (i.e., Kolkata and Delhi) and evaluation can also be done at the same scale, while the number of classes remains same as before, i.e., same as that for any full-semester course including evaluation.
- Mid-semester and end-semester evaluation is conducted as per schedule announced in the Academic Calendar.

The Chair made a suggestion that this course can be conducted in both Kolkata and Delhi for respective students, i.e., Kolkata students of Kolkata will go to NSSO Kolkata and students of Delhi will go to CSO Delhi for practical understanding via discussion with MOS&PI. Prof. Biswabrata Pradhan observed that availability of teachers of NSSTA throughout the semester should be kept in mind. Both the Dean and the Chair jointly said that local coordinator Prof. Alope Kar may be asked to coordinate with NSSTA teachers and run the training throughout the semester. Prof. Susmita Sur-

Kolay also said that as it is going to be a non-credit course, detailed syllabus may come to AC for discussion. The Chair remarked that this course has been running very smoothly since several years in the past, with collaboration with NSSTA. So, she observed, the course content should not be modified. Prof. Pradhan and Prof. Sur-Kolay suggested that it should be clearly mentioned that in which semester the course will be offered.

Decision: The AC decided that the proposal should come to AC again with a detailed plan of conducting the course.

3.3 Policy/Guideline Matters

Agenda Item 3.3.A: UGC guideline regarding Redressal of Grievances of Students and proposal for formation of mentor committee

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the relevant guideline of UGC before the AC members and discussed its implementation at our Institute. He said that as per the guideline we need to form a Student Grievance Redressal Committee which will look after all types of grievances of students. Besides this we have to fix an Ombudsman person (like retired Judge or Retired Prof.) for a period of 3 years or until she/he attains the age of seventy. She/he will look after the cases that are not satisfied by the Grievance Committee. For conducting the hearings, the Ombudsman person shall be paid a sitting fee, per diem, in accordance with the norms fixed by the respective institution. In addition, she/he shall be eligible for reimbursement of the expenditure incurred on conveyance.

Decision: The AC decided that Students' Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC) needs to be formed as soon as possible following the guidelines of UGC. The committees for Kolkata, Delhi and Bangalore will be separate. SGRC of Kolkata will look after grievances of the students of Kolkata, Giridih and Tezpur. SGRC of Delhi will look after grievances of the students of Delhi. SGRC of Bangalore will look after grievances of students of Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai. SGRC of Kolkata will be formed with Prof. Tapas Samanta as Chair and Prof. Sumitra Purkayastha as a member. Other members will be chosen by the Dean of Studies after consultation with the Chair of the committee. Head, Delhi Centre and Head, Bangalore Centre will form the above committee in their centres in consultation with the Chair of the AC. The Institute will also search for suitable ombudsperson(s) as suggested in the UGC guidelines.

There was no specific discussion on the formation of the Mentor Committee proposed here assuming that it would be taken together with the Student Welfare Committee as proposed in Agenda item 3.3.C (*Proposal to form a committee to look after basic facilities for boarders*).

Agenda Item 3.3.B: Resuming discussion about the decision for exploring parallel channel of admission to the M. Tech. (CS & CrS) and JRF programmes in areas where ISI can award degrees especially to consider entry to JRF (Channel 1) through GATE and JEST scores and interviews

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the case before the AC members. Prof. Susmita Sur-Kolay and Prof. Debasis Sengupta added that this agenda was placed at the 76th meeting of the AC and was resolved that the general recommendations of the

Parallel Channel Committee would be considered later. However, this matter was not visited in the subsequent meetings of the AC. Prof. Sur-Kolay said that the Parallel Channel Committee had suggested that for admission to JRF there would be three channels of admission.

- 1 **Channel 0:** Only interviews may be conducted for our own Master degree students (M. Tech. (CS & CrS), M. Math., M. Stat., MS (QE), M. Tech. (QROR), MS (QMS)) based on certain criteria. After the outbreak of Covid, the examinations were held online. However, from 2022 all the exams were held offline. So this can be exercised.
- 2 **Channel 1:** There will be admission tests (written and interview) for any eligible applicant aspiring for ISI research fellowships, and those who have scores in GATE, JEST above certain cut-off may appear for only interviews like IISc.
- 3 **Channel 2:** There will be separate admission tests (written of different duration and interview) for any eligible applicant who has qualified a national level eligibility test such as CSIR-UGC-NET, NBHM, etc. and will be receiving a research fellowship from external funding agencies.

Channel 1 is also applicable for M. Tech. (CS) admission. PLPs and DST-INSPIRE fellows should come through Channel 1 in order to register for PhD in ISI.

Decision: The AC decided that Channels 1 & 2 may resume for JRF(CS) applicants and if any other discipline wants, they can adopt the policy.

The meeting was adjourned at this point and was resumed on June 30, 2023.

PHASE II, JUNE 30, 2023 (2:30 PM)

In the beginning of the meeting, the Chair informed the AC that Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay has made comments on the decisions of the AC on "Student Matters" (Agenda items 3.1.A to 3.1.F) taken in its meeting held on June 23, 2023 and also the "Re-visit the pass fail issue" (Agenda item 3.4.A).

Discussion: Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay had conveyed his dissenting views on the decisions of the AC on Student Matters (Agenda items 3.1.A to 3.1.F). Referring to an earlier decision of an AC resolution taken in 2010 and the Students' Brochure (*Teachers' Committee*, Item 4.2, page 6, *Part I, General Information, Rules and Regulations for The Bachelors and the Masters Degree Programmes (including the M.Tech. Programmes), Effective from 2017 - 2018 Academic Year*) he

had pointed out that it was written in the AC resolution and also in the Brochure that every academic decision of a student should come through the Teachers' Committee of the respective programme. In the case of Ankit Kumar (Agenda Item 3.1.A), it came through the Mentor Committee not Teachers' Committee. For Arka Bikash Ghosh (Agenda Item 3.1.C), who was asked to discontinue by the Teachers' Committee, AC has discussed and deliberated the case affirmatively.

In the case of Soumava Mandal (Agenda Item 3.1.F), Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay referred to Item 5.5.5 of the Students' Brochure (*Supplementary Examination*, Item 5.5.5, pages 11-12, *Part I, General Information, Rules and Regulations for The Bachelors and the Masters Degree Programmes (including the M.Tech. Programmes), Effective from 2017 - 2018 Academic Year*) and said that the appeal of the student who has come to AC should have come through the Teachers' Committee and whatever the recommendation of the Teachers' Committee is, positive or negative, should have been on record. The Dean of Studies informed the AC that he (i.e., The Dean) had received only two recommendations related to this appeal -- one positive and one negative. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay also said that "supplementary backpaper" is not the actual expression to be used in this context because in our institute the expression "supplementary examination" is used when one has not appeared at the exam. After discussion on this issue, the AC could not immediately come up with an alternative name for the exam and requested the Dean of Studies to find a suitable name to be used for the exam.

In the case of Saptashwa Baisya (Agenda Item 3.1.E), Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay said that the decision is a contradiction to a resolution of the 63rd meeting of AC. He also mentioned that in the past a proposal presented before the AC for allowing a maximum score of 100% in supplementary mid-semester examination that year for students affected by the Dengue outbreak was turned down. The Chair drew attention to the fact that it was accepted as the student came to sit for the exam but the teacher concerned asked the student to go home. The AC shared the responsibility of the teacher in this exceptional case, as things cannot be undone now.

There has been a sudden rise of mental health cases in the Institute observed within a year of starting the classes after Covid pandemic which has devastated the world during 2020 to 2022. The spurt in mental issues in the post-covid times perhaps forced the AC to take a more lenient view than usual. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay noted his objection in all of them.

Decisions: All the decisions taken earlier (for Agenda items 3.1.A to 3.1.F) remained unchanged, except that the AC requested the Dean to find a suitable name to be used in place of "supplementary backpaper" (in Agenda item 3.1.F).

3.3 Policy/Guideline matters

Agenda Item 3.3.C: Proposal to form a committee to look after basic facilities for boarders

This item was supposed to be taken together with the Mentor Committee proposal which was part of Agenda Item 3.3.A. The Dean feels it is absolutely essential given the situation of the students and their facilities. It needs to be discussed in detail.

Agenda Item 3.3.D: PGDAS Course

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the format of the certificate for the PGDAS programme before the AC for discussion. The AC accepted the format. The Dean further informed that *Coursera* now wants to offer Basic Statistics and Basic Probability as stand-alone courses for reasons of more accessibility. The syllabi of these two courses are taken from PGDAS syllabus which has already been approved by the AC long back. *Coursera* submitted a format of certificate which they are proposing to be given after completion of these two stand-alone courses. Members observed that it may have implications for other programmes as well and so this proposal needs to be deliberated by the Committee for PGDAS.

Decision: The AC approved the format of the certificate for the PGDAS programme and decided that it may be given in the Convocation of the Institute. The certificate for the stand-alone courses (prepared by ISI and *Coursera*) as proposed by *Coursera* was not accepted by the AC.

Agenda Item 3.3.E: M.Stat. Project

Discussion: The Dean of studies said that the project is a very important part of the M. Stat programme. Increasing number of students are taking the *Applied Statistics* specialization where the project is mandatory. A good number of faculty members will retire in the very near future. So, it is becoming and will be very difficult to form a three-member committee for each student to evaluate project proposals. Some members of the AC commented that instead of getting each project evaluated by a separate committee, the work of evaluation can be done by a few (about five or six) committees. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay suggested that the Dean may form five committees, one for students with specialization *Theoretical Statistics* or *Probability* if they are doing the project as non-compulsory and four committees for four tracks under the specialization *Applied Statistics* (*Biostatistics*, *Computational Statistics*, *Actuarial Statistics* and *Finance*).

Decision: The AC decided that a central committee will be formed. This committee will divide the projects into a few groups and also form corresponding sub-committees for evaluation.

Agenda Item 3.3.F: Discussion/reporting regarding the delay in submitting marks of examinations

Discussion: The Dean of Studies reported that teachers are not submitting marks on time and as a consequence students are suffering. Moreover, this is leading to delay in beginning the semesters, he further added.

Decision: The AC decided that to begin with, the teacher concerned be intimated/warned to submit his/her marks on time as otherwise the students would suffer and beginning the next semester will be delayed. If this happens repeatedly for a particular teacher, then the Dean may recommend appropriate action to the Director.

Agenda Item 3.3.G: Steps needed to stop malpractices in examinations

Discussion: The Dean of Studies said that students are making written complaints about malpractices in the examinations. He further said that his office arranges to display seating

arrangements for every exam, but sometimes students do not follow them and invigilators are not forcing them to follow.

Decision: The AC decided that the Dean of Studies will prepare an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) consisting of the relevant instructions and circulate it to every invigilator so that they know what they are expected to do.

3.4 Miscellaneous

Agenda Item 3.4.A: Re-visit pass / fail issue

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the case before the AC members. It was noted that in the recent past the Institute has seen several instances of students appealing decisions of discontinuance of academic programs as per the extant stringent pass-fail rules. The pandemic seems to have exacerbated the problem. It seems that the time is appropriate to re-visit our existing pass/fail rules. While discussing this issue, the Dean referred to an appeal of a student who got less than 35% in the third year of B. Stat. programme. The appeal from the student was for consideration of repeating a year. However, the Dean noted that the existing rule is not allowing him to repeat a year. He also said that the meeting of the Teachers' Committee was held only a couple of days before the AC meeting. Hence, he added, that the appeal could not be included in the agenda circulated to the AC members. The Chair agreed that the pass/fail rules should be re-visited to give more opportunities for a student to complete the academic programme. She suggested that a committee may be constituted for this purpose. Prof. Debasis Sengupta and Prof. Susmita Sur-Kolay also asked if the pass/fail rules change will be applicable retrospectively. The AC decided that the rules will be applied prospectively. The Dean suggested that initially a four-member committee be formed which, in turn, may suggest names of other members to be included in the committee. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay put forth a suggestion to include at least one member representing each programme.

Decision: The AC decided to form a committee to revisit the existing pass/fail rules with Prof. Anup Dewanji as Chair and Prof. Susmita Sur-Kolay as a member. This committee will include at least one member representing each programme and will submit its report within three months. Further, it was decided that every student who was admitted during the pandemic years and might have to leave this in 2023 due to existing pass/fail rules may be allowed to repeat a year because of the unprecedented stress of the pandemic. It was further resolved that student(s) should be informed about this decision for repeat and if they agree then they may be allowed to repeat without stipend and hostel facility only for the coming academic year (2023-24). Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay expressed his dissent on this decision.

Following an observation of Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay, AC requested Prof. Smarajit Bose, Prof. Debasis Sengupta, Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay and Dr. Abhik Ghosh (and maybe others who would be able) to make appropriate immediate amendments to the Brochure this year.

Agenda Item 3.4.B: Discussion regarding (4+1) course tenure as per National Education Policy

Discussion: The Chair suggested that this issue needs time. It may be deliberated in the next AC meeting, she added.

Decision: The AC decided to discuss this in its next meeting.

Agenda Item 3.4.C: (With permission of the Chair) Change of PGDBA course name

Discussion: The Dean of Studies informed that during the last meeting of the Apex Committee for the PGDBA programme, a discussion about changing the name of the (PGDBA) programme took place. At the beginning of this programme, the three institutes associated with this tri-institute programme agreed with the name *Post Graduate Diploma in Business Analytics*, but now the Council of each Institute should ratify changing the name of the programme to *Masters in Business Analytics* (MBAn).

Decision: The AC approved renaming the PGDBA programme as *Masters in Business Analytics* (MBAn).

Note: The name is presently not being changed.

Sd/-

Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
Director, ISI and
Chair, Academic Council

Sd/-

Gopal Krishna Basak
Dean of Studies and
Convener, Academic Council

