

Indian Statistical Institute

203, B.T Road, Kolkata – 700 108



81st Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: November 22, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

VENUE: CSSC VIDEO CONFERENCE ROOM, ISI, KOLKATA

Member Present			
1	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	22	Mohan Delampady
2	Abhik Ghosh	23	Ravindran Gomatam
3	Pradipta Maji	24	Dhurjati Sengupta
4	Rajat Kumar De	25	Ramakrishnan Balakrishnan
5	Anisur Rahman Molla	26	Pradip Bhattacharyya
6	Sabyasachi Karati	27	BS Daya Sagar
7	Amartya Kumar Dutta	28	Antar Bandyopadhyay
8	Sumitra Purkayastha	29	Amita Pal
9	Arijit Chakrabarty	30	Anish Sarkar
10	Susmita Sur-Kolay	31	Partha Sarathi Chakraborty
11	Swagato Kumar Ray	32	GMRao
12	Mahuya Dutta	33	Suresh Nayak
13	Biswabrata Pradhan	34	Arnab Chakraborty
14	Mandar Mitra	35	SM Subhani
15	Anuj Bhowmik	36	Ansuman Banerjee
16	Dipti Prasad Mukherjee	37	Isha Dewan
17	Neena Gupta	38	ipad (unknown)
18	Mrinal Kanti Das	39	Swagata Nandi
19	Kishor Satpathy	40	Surajit Pal
20	Samarjit Das	41	Gopal Krishna Basak
21	Parthasarathi Ghosh		

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

2.1 Action Taken Report for the 80th Academic Council

Dean of studies presented the Action Taken Report before the AC members. Everything, except agenda item 3.3.B, was confirmed. Members of the Committee for Parallel Channel Entry along with others have expressed different view points and had a long deliberation regarding entry through channel 'o'. Members also expressed that for entry through channel 2, written exam may not be compulsory.

Decisions.: The AC recommended that the Committee for Parallel Channel Entry to include a few more members who have expressed concerns regarding this issue and the entry through Channel 'o' to be discussed thoroughly and come back to AC with their report in 2 to 3 weeks time. Further the AC recommended to change "There will be separate admission tests" to "There may be separate admission tests" in the description of Channel 2 in the Agenda item 3.3.B of 80th AC final report.

3. For Discussion and Decisions.

A. Approval of the lists of successful candidates to be awarded degrees/diplomas of PhD (as on date), M.Stat., M.Math., M.S.(QE), M.S.(QMS), M.S.(LIS), M.Tech.(CS), M.Tech.(CrS), M.Tech.(QR&OR), B.Stat., B.Math., PGDSMA, PGDARSMA and PGDAS.

Discussion: Dean of Studies presented the list of successful candidates to be awarded degrees/diplomas of PhD (as on date) M.Stat., M.Math., M.S.(QE), M.S.(QMS), M.S. (LIS) M.Tech.(CS), M.Tech.(CrS), M.Tech.(QR&OR), B.Stat., B.Math, PGDSMA, PGDARSMA and PGDAS before the AC members. He has also reported Ritam Dey's (repeated B.Stat. 3rd yr.) case, in the original 3rd year he got 66 in a non credit course (Random Graphs) which was not offered in the repeat year. He then asked whether Ritam Dey may be allowed to keep the marks (66) of Random Graphs as the non- credit course in the marksheet.

Decision: The AC approved the list of successful candidates and allowed Ritam Dey to keep Random Graphs course as the non credit course in the marksheet with 66 marks.

B. About PGDBA programme related:

i) Approval of list of successful candidates (prepared by IIT Kharagpur) to be awarded degrees/diplomas.

ii) Approval of MoU between ISI, IIMC and IIT-KGP.

Discussion: i) Dean of Studies requested the PGDBA coordinator Dr. Anisur Rahman Molla to present the list of successful candidates (prepared by IIT Kharagpur) to be awarded degrees/diplomas in PGDBA.

Decision: The AC approved the list of successful candidates to be awarded degrees/diplomas in PGDBA.

Discussion ii) Dean of Studies requested Dr. Anisur Rahman Molla to present the MoU between ISI, IIMC and IIT-KGP before the AC members for ratification. Dr. Molla presented the MoU before the AC members and he said that the apex committee had a meeting and agreed to sign a MoU among the three Institutes.

Decision: The AC ratified the MoU.

C. Prayer of Pranoy S Varma (M.Math. 1st yr.) for a leave of absence of academic year 2023-24.

Discussion: Dean of Studies presented the Prayer of Pranoy S Varma (M.Math. 1st yr. ISI, Bengaluru) before the AC members and asked Prof. Suresh Nayak to brief the matter. Prof. Nayak said, he is one of the teachers of Pranoy and for a project discussion Pranoy came in contact with him but after one week he stopped attending classes due to his mental illness which had been continuing from February 2021. He is continuing his treatment with external doctors as he had been doing in the past. Pranoy wants to take a break during this academic year and wants to start a fresh from the next academic year (2024-25) Semester I.

Decision: The AC recommended that Pranoy's case should be certified by an internal psychiatrist or a general physician of ISI. If needed, he can consult the Psychiatrist of ISI Kolkata. Based on the recommendation, the Dean of Studies is authorised to take the decision whether he starts a fresh in the next academic session (2024-25).

D. Prayer of Kaustav Mallik (B.Stat. 3rd year) for not taking the mid-sem supplementary exam on Design and Analysis of Algorithms due to medical grounds.

Discussion: Dean of Studies presented the Prayer of Koustav Mallik (B.Stat. 3rd year) for not taking mid-sem supplementary exam on Design and Analysis of Algorithms due to medical grounds. He explained that Koustav has 60% blindness and was suffering from other neurological issues. Due to that he could not attend a few mid-sem exams. Then, as per rule, supplementary exams were arranged. However, again due to medical issues he could not appear in Design and Analysis of Algorithms (since after entering into the exam hall, he felt uneasy and sick). In this case teacher's committee could not take the decision or did not want to take the decision as they thought it will become a precedence for other students of his class. Thus it has been brought to the AC. The AC members deliberated on the issue and felt this could be treated as an exception.

Decision: The AC felt that, as Koustav is exceptionally ill, this case may be treated as a special case and permit him to appear for a re-supplementary exam. However, this decision should not be considered as precedence to deal with any other case.

E. Agenda for discontinuing the interviews in the admission of B.Stat and B.Math programmes.

Discussion: Dean of Studies requested the proposers to place this issue before the AC members. One of the proposers, Dr. Arijit Chakrabarty, briefed the matter before the AC members and said that the benefits of the interviews are questionable in view of the upper bound on the weight that can be put on interviews. Moreover, it has been observed that there was no significant difference between the set of students who ranked high in the written test and that based on composite score considering the interview as well. Prof. Biswabrata Pradhan commented that interview was not playing a significant role for admission to other master degree programmes also. Prof. Suresh Nayak also shared his as well as other Bangalore faculty members' views to do away with Interviews. Dr. Abhik Ghosh also commented that if the 25% cap stays then interview does not have much added value.

Decision: The AC recommended that, as there was not much impact of interview in the admission process, it be withdrawn from admission in the undergraduate programmes and the matter can be reviewed after 2-3 years.

F. JRF intake by some TASU faculty members (under PESD) from other divisions (specifically from CCSD and BSD).

Discussion: Dean of Studies requested the Head of ISI Northeast Centre Prof. Balakrishnan to present the case. Prof. Balakrishnan presented the case before AC members for the members of TASU of ISINE, that despite the presence of the Unit for several years no research fellows were allocated from the Institute. Since the interests of the faculty members of TASU are diverse and the number of them is small, it would not make sense to make a selection committee for admissions. Thus they request to have their research scholars through, (i) CCSD and (ii) BSD. The AC

members deliberated on the issue and agreed to one JRF through Computer Science and one JRF through Biological Sciences admission.

Decision: The AC approved the allocation of 2 JRFs (one through CCSD and one through BSD) subject to the students' preference to join the research programmes at TASU at ISINE.

G. Introducing Causal Inference: Methods & Applications as a new course in M.S.(QE) programme.

Discussion: Dean of Studies presented the agenda on introducing "Causal Inference: Methods & Applications" in M.S.(QE) Kolkata programme. Dr. Debayan Pakrashi would be the teacher of this new optional course if it is offered. The proposed course along with its syllabus etc, has already been reviewed by external experts.

Decision: The AC decided to allow introducing "Causal Inference: Methods & Applications" for M.S.(QE) students in ISI Kolkata. The Chair added that this should not cause any difficulty in teaching the core courses and external faculty members cannot be hired because a teacher gets engaged in teaching this course.

H. Introducing Econophysics as a new course in M.S.(QE).

Discussion: Dean of Studies presented the agenda on introducing "Econophysics" as a new course in M.S.(QE). Prof. Samarjit Das along with two other AC members argued the importance of introducing "Econophysics". In reply to a query Dr. Anuj Bhaumik clarified that Monipushpak Mitra and Raju Maity can teach Econophysics. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay enquired about whether Econophysics taught as a regular course in any University or Institute as a subject. Prof. Samarjit Das responded that in many universities in Europe, Canada and Japan Econophysics is being taught. He also presented the strong recommendations that has been received for this course. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay pointed out about the lack of prerequisites of the course. It was clarified that no prerequisite was required for this course.

Decision: The AC recommended introducing Econophysics for M.S.(QE) students. The Chair reiterated that regular teachers of ISI should teach the course and no external faculty members can be engaged for teaching this course. Moreover, external faculty members should not be engaged to teach another course as a regular teacher gets engaged in teaching this course.

I. Increasing the number of seats in M.S.(QE) programme (Kolkata).

Discussion: Dr. Anuj Bhowmik and Prof. Samarjit Das presented the agenda of increasing the number of seats in M.S.(QE) programme. Prof. Das elaborated as M.S.(QE) in Kolkata is admitting only 15 or 16 students some optional courses have only one or two students. The proposal is to increase the strength to 40 or 45 from the present 21. The Chair expressed concern that in ISI Kolkata there is already several infrastructural issues and also the increased financial liability of increasing seats. The Dean of Studies explained that the increased seat can be accommodated in the existing class room and will not pose any further infrastructural issues. However the point of increased amount of financial liability due to stipend may need to be thought about. The Chair clarified that while it is important to increase the number of students, the same needs to be done without increasing the financial liabilities of the Institute. So an appropriate admission policy needs to be formulated.

Decision: The AC decided not to increase the number of seats at present. The Chair wanted a policy for increasing the number of students without extra financial liability on the Institute.

J. Discussion on feasibility committee report on the (4+1) year multi-centre degree programme

Discussion: Dean of Studies presented feasibility committee report and the proceedings before the AC members. The Infrastructure issues were resolved as confirmed by the Centre Heads for the new programme to commence from 2024. However, members expressed concern about human resources specially in statistics and emphasised on the need for recruitment in Statistics. After some deliberations the Dean of Studies presented an actual teaching allocations of all the programmes showing the relevant deficiencies in the respective programmes. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay and others emphasised that existing long standing programmes should not suffer due to starting of the fully paid programme. The Dean clarified that in the first one or two years there should not be any issue in providing the human resources, as indicated in the teaching allocation. The Chair expressed that in the meantime more faculty recruitment in the field of Statistics is expected in addition to a number of recruitment already completed.

Decision: The AC decided to commence the new (4+1) multi centre programme from 2024-2025 academic year. The Dean and the Chair assured that allocation of teachers in the long-standing programme will have priority over allocation of the new multi-centre programme. The AC requested the Dean of Studies to start the process to begin the new multi-center programme.

K. Proposal for availing the facility of National Academic Depository of marksheets and certificates initiated by Government of India to ensure that there is no tampering of the content and for safe retrieval.

Discussion: Dean of Studies presented this agenda with some documents in support of National Academic Depository System of GoI (sent from ISIBC) before the AC.

Decision: The AC agreed with the proposal and suggested the Dean of Studies to go ahead and start the implementation process with the help of administration.

L. Prospectus review for admission 2024

Discussion: There was no separate discussion on this issue. Dean of Studies referred to several agenda items on which the discussions were held and the decisions were made in the meeting. The Dean requested the prospectus committee to consider inclusion of relevant matters out of them following the decision taken by the AC.

Decision: The AC recommended to include all relevant matters in the prospectus that have been recommended/decided in this meeting earlier by the AC.

M. Discussion about internal revenue generation.

Discussion: There was no discussion on this issue as there was not enough time.

Decision: The AC decided to bring it back in the next meeting.

4. Pending Matters:

A. Discussion regarding the transformation of our (3+2) year courses to (4+1) year courses as per National Education Policy.

Discussion: There was not much discussion on this issue but the Chair said this may have to be done. Therefore a committee may be formed that may propose the steps to be followed to adopt to the NEP.

Decision: The AC recommended that a committee may be formed to come up with a proposal on this issue and bring it back to the AC.

B. Proposal to form a committee to look after about basic facilities for boarder and part of point no. 3.3.A of 80th AC meeting.

Discussion: Dean of Studies informed about the recent problems with the students facilities which everybody was aware of and emphasised the need for the formation of cohort based committee which will facilitate the students throughout the programme.

Decision: The AC agreed to form such cohort based committees and requested the Dean of Studies to form the same.

5. Miscellaneous:

A. Prayer of Sourav Sadhukhan (M.Math. 1st yr.) for a leave of absence of academic year 2023-24.

Discussion: Dean of Studies presented the appeal of Sourav Sadhukhan (M.Math. 1st yr. from ISI Kolkata) along with Pranoy S. Verma (M. Math 1st yr. from ISIBC) before the AC members. The Dean briefed that due to medical issues Sourav has applied for medical leave of absence for the academic year 2023-24 and wanted to continue in 2024-25 as a fresh student. He is under treatment of Dr. Santanu Goswami (psychiatric consultant of ISI Kolkata). Dr. Goswami, in consultation with the ISIK RMO, has written a letter stating that Sourav Sadhukhan suffered academically and mentally from 2011, He has emphasised that Sourav is trying to overcome the stress and has been persistently continuing his studies and suggested that if ISI rule permits, his prayer may be granted. The Chair and the AC members deliberated on this issue in the light of the discussion done for the Pranoy S. Verma and decided that the appeal be allowed.

Decision: The AC decided to grant Sourav Sadhukhan leave of absence for the academic year 2023-24 as requested by him and to allow him to start in the semester I of the academic year 2024-25 as a fresh student.

B. Any other issue(s) with the permission of the Chair.

There was no further issues to be discussed. The meeting closed with the note that the Dean of Studies may act in accordance with the AC recommendations on all the matters that are urgent and time bound.

Sd/-

Gopal Krishna Basak

Dean of Studies, ISI

and

Convener of the AC

Sd/-

Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay

Director, ISI

and

Chair of the AC