

Indian Statistical Institute
203, B.T Road, Kolkata – 700 108



85th Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: August 28, 2025

Time: 2.00 p.m.

VENUE: CSSC VIDEO CONFERENCE ROOM, ISI, KOLKATA

Member Present			
1	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	6	Ansuman Banerjee
2	Biswabrata Pradhan	7	Sujata Ghosh
3	Rajat Kumar De	8	Mridu Prabal Goswami
4	Suparna Mandal Biswas	9	Partha Sarathi Chakraborty
5	Nandini Das	10	Sandip Mitra
6	Kaustav Kundu	11	Surajit Pal
7	Tanmay Sen	12	Rudra P Sarkar
8	Susanta Kr. Gauri	13	Smarajit Bose
9	Prasun Das	14	Debashish Goswami
10	Swapna Rana	15	Anish Sarkar
11	Pradipta Maji	16	Sumitra Purkayastha
12	Dipti Prasad Mukherjee	17	A L N Murthy
13	Sourav Chakraborty	18	Neena Gupta
14	Tridib Kr. Mondal	19	Ashish Ghosh
15	Krishnendu Mukhopadhyay	20	Garimella Murali Rao
16	Ambarish Chattopadhyay	21	Debapriya Sengupta
17	Mridul Nandi	22	Abhishek Mukherjee
18	Paramita Das	23	Mrinal Kanti Das
19	Arijit Chakraborty	24	SM Subhani
20	Arijit Bishnu	25	Saroj Kumar Meher
21	Mahuya Datta	26	Debashis Paul
22	Raghunath Chatterjee	27	Sarbani Palit
23	Amartya Kumar Dutta	28	Gopal Krishna Basak
24	Debasis Sengupta	29	Subir Ghosh
25	Kajori Banerjee	30	Arup K Das
26	Sandip Das	31	Boby John
27	Sasthi C Ghosh	32	Yogeshwaran D
28	Anil K Ghosh	33	Sourav Chakraborty
29	Guruprasad Kar	34	Mandar Mitra
Following Member Participate Virtually		35	Abhishek Mukherjee
1	E V Gijo	36	Ranjan Sett
2	Jagadish	37	Antar Bandyopadhyay
3	BS Daya Sagar	38	Swagato Ray
4	Sujeet Kumar Singh	39	Partha Sarathi Chakraborty
5	M. Krishnamurthy	40	Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya

1. Opening Remarks by the chairperson of the Academic Council

Professor Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Chairperson, welcomed the members to the 84th meeting of the Academic Council.

2. Confirmation of the proceedings of the 83rd meeting of the Academic Council.

Resolution: Proceedings of the 84th Meeting of the AC were confirmed.

4.1 Consideration of the report of the Feasibility Committee on introducing M.Math programme at ISI, Delhi.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies placed the matter before the AC and informed that the proposal to introduce the M.Math. programme at the ISI Delhi Centre was placed in the 83rd Meeting of the AC. It was resolved that the proposal should be examined by the Feasibility Committee. The proposal to introduce the M.Math. programme at ISI Delhi was subsequently placed before the Committee for its views.

The Feasibility Committee recommended the following:

- (i) The requirement of an adequate number of faculty members to run the M.Math. programme every even year at ISI Delhi, in addition to the M.Stat. (NB-stream) and BSDS programmes, is met.
- (ii) Some of the courses may be taught by faculty members from other Centres of the Institute, provided that the required infrastructure is made available by the respective Centre.
- (iii) No more than 30 candidates should be assigned to the Delhi Centre for the M.Math. programme, as the Centre can accommodate a maximum of 30 students in one classroom.

Overall, the Committee recommended instituting the M.Math. programme at the ISI Delhi Centre in every even year.

One AC member pointed out that the Feasibility Committee should have more members from ISI Delhi, as they are in a better position to assess feasibility. Several AC members commented that, since the Head and the Associate Dean of the Delhi Centre are already on the Committee, its composition is adequate for examining feasibility. Members further noted that, as the report was circulated only recently, they did not have sufficient time to review it. The Chair advised the members to go through the report and suggested that the Chairman or the Convener may brief the AC about its contents.

Prof. Rajat Kumar De (Chairman of the Feasibility Committee) informed that the Committee examined two major aspects: adequacy of teaching resources and infrastructural support. Regarding teaching resources, the Head of the Delhi Centre and the Associate Dean confirmed that sufficient faculty members are available to run the programme. Regarding infrastructural support, they stated that one dedicated classroom with a capacity of 30 students is available. Concerning hostel facilities, they confirmed that outstation students would be given priority.

Prof. Deepayan Sarkar added that the Feasibility Committee was expected to examine infrastructural feasibility, which it had already done. The Chair read from the report that only one room had been allotted for the M.Math. programme. In response, Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay noted that the Delhi Centre has additional rooms where smaller classes may

be conducted. Prof. Krishnendu Mukhopadhyay shared his experience regarding BSDS classes and requested that the feasibility issues be examined carefully.

Resolution: It was resolved that one week's time be given to the AC members for submitting their views, comments and concerns to the chair of the Feasibility Committee. The Committee will then have two weeks' time to address to those comments. The proposal of instituting M. Math programme may then be accepted based on the recommendation of the Feasibility Committee.

4.2 Consideration of the report of the committee chaired by Dr. Prasun Das on review of course structure and syllabus of M.Tech. (QROR) programme.

The Dean of Studies requested Dr. Prasun Das to present the matter before the AC. Dr. Das pointed out that the course structure, curriculum, and methods of instruction have been continually reviewed and updated, taking into consideration feedback from ISI M.Tech. (QROR) alumni, faculty members, and representatives from industry. The endeavour has been to adequately address emerging complexities arising from the changing needs of industry and the development of new methodologies.

The current revision aims to address several changes that have occurred in the recent past due to significant advancements in technology and the evolving business environment. The Committee has proposed renaming a few courses, dropping certain elective subjects, introducing new courses, revising and updating the content of several courses, switching some subjects between semesters, and reorganizing some elective courses. Changes have also been proposed in the use of statistical software (R/Python) in statistics-related courses and in the evaluation system for the Summer Internship, Dissertation, and Industry Projects.

The course structure in the First Semester of First Year remains the same as in 2014; although the content has been updated, the subjects remain unchanged. In the second semester of first year, the following changes are proposed for the Engineering and Statistics streams: *Elements of Stochastic Processes* has been renamed *Stochastic Processes*; *Regression and Time Series Analyses* has been introduced in place of *SQC*; and *Industrial Engineering and Management* has been renamed *Industrial Engineering and Supply Chain Management*.

In the first semester of second year, several changes have been proposed in the electives: *Advanced SQC*, *Applied Stochastic Processes*, *Time Series Modeling*, and *Software Engineering* have been removed, while *Machine Learning*, *Industrial Experimentation*, and *Quantitative Finance* have been introduced. In the second semester of second year, the Summer Internship will continue to carry 100 marks as before, but significant changes have been proposed for the 400-mark component. Previously, the requirement permitted *Dissertation and/or Project*; it is now proposed to be *Dissertation or Project*.

Dr. Das further suggested that a comprehensive review of this type of programme should be undertaken every five years.

Members noted that, as the report was circulated only recently, they did not have sufficient time to review it. More time to be given to comment on the syllabus review report. The Chair advised the members to go through the report and send their views directly to the Chair of the syllabus review committee.

Resolution: It was resolved that a two-week time be given to the AC members to review the entire syllabus and communicate their comments/views directly to the Chairperson of the Syllabus Review Committee. The Committee will then have an additional two-week period to

address those comments/views. The revised version may then be accepted for implementation.

4.3 Consideration of the report of the committee chaired by Dr. E. V. Gijo on review and revision of syllabus and course structure of MS (QMS) programme.

The Dean of Studies requested Dr. Gijo to present the report before the AC. Dr. Gijo stated that, since the curriculum was originally developed in 2009, there has been a need to update the programme in line with the latest developments in the field. The Dean of Studies added that, as decided in the 80th Meeting of the AC, the Committee was also asked to consider the possibility of renaming the MS (QMS) programme.

Dr. Gijo reported that the Committee had thoroughly reviewed the existing course framework and syllabus, taking into account emerging academic and professional requirements. In accordance with the recommendations of the Fourth Review Committee regarding potential collaboration with MSMEs, an elective course on MSMEs has been introduced in Semester II. Further, in response to evolving industry needs, the Committee proposed renaming the programme as **Master of Science in Quality Management and Business Analytics (MS-QMBA)** to better reflect its updated scope and relevance.

The proposed changes in the syllabus are as follows:

- The proposed semester score for Semester I of First Year will be **500** instead of **600**.
- *Statistics for Decision Making I* will be offered to all students except those with a Statistics degree, and *Foundations of Industrial Engineering* will be offered only to students with a Statistics degree.
- *Probability, Quality Management I*, and *Business Analytics I* have been modified/added in Semester I.
- In Semester II, *Statistical Quality Control, Applied Regression and Time Series Analysis, Reliability*, and *Business Analytics II* have been added or modified.
- The proposed semester scores for Semesters III and IV are **500** and **400**, respectively.
- *Multivariate Analysis, Operations Research II*, and *Quality Management II* have been added or revised in Semesters III and IV.
- The *Dissertation* will carry **100 marks** (January to February; 8 weeks), and the *Project/Dissertation* will carry **300 marks** (March to June; 16 weeks).
- *Supply Chain and Operations Management, Foundations of MSME: Practices and Management, Advanced Optimization Techniques, Survival Analysis*, and *Advanced Business Analytics* will be offered as Electives I and II.

Members noted that, as the report was circulated only recently, they did not have sufficient time to review it. More time to be given to comment on the syllabus review report. The Chair advised the members to go through the report and send their views directly to the Chair of the syllabus review committee.

Resolution: It was resolved that a two-week time be given to the AC members to review the entire syllabus and communicate their comments/views directly to the Chairperson of the Syllabus Review Committee. The Committee will then have an additional two-week period to address those comments/views. The revised report may then be accepted for implementation.

4.4 Consideration of a proposal of introducing Post Graduate Diploma Course on Statistical and Computational Genomics for Biomedical Research and Applications.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies requested Prof. Raghunath Chatterjee to present the proposal. Prof. Chatterjee stated that this is a proposal for a one-year Postgraduate Diploma in *Statistical and Computational Genomics for Biomedical Research and Applications*.

He explained that biomedical genomics facilitates a deeper understanding of the genetic basis of diseases, leading to improved diagnostics, targeted therapies, a greater capacity for disease prevention, and the development of treatment and prevention strategies tailored to an individual's genetic makeup. However, this field requires several statistical tools and computational skills to analyse large and complex genomic datasets and to identify genetic variations linked to diseases.

Prof. Chatterjee informed the AC that the Committee had also defined the eligibility criteria, selection criteria, and basic feasibility framework. The proposers designed the course structures for Semesters I and II, and Prof. Chatterjee also discussed the proposed arrangements for faculty and guest faculty.

The proposed course fee per semester is ₹30,000 for General category candidates and ₹15,000 for SC/ST/OBC/EWS candidates. The Dean of Studies commented that the academic fee is quite high. Prof. Chatterjee explained that this is primarily due to infrastructure development; once the necessary infrastructure is in place, the fee may be reduced. He further added that the proposal had been sent to several industries for feedback, and many of them expressed enthusiasm about participating in the programme. Many academicians also commented that this is an important and timely proposal and suggested certain modifications to the course structure.

It was discussed that the proposal should be placed before the Feasibility Committee for its views. A Syllabus Review Committee should also review the syllabus of the proposed programme.

Resolution: It was decided that, in principle, the proposal be approved, subject to clearance by the Feasibility Committee. It was further decided that the Syllabus Evaluation Committee should review the proposed syllabus. The Syllabus Evaluation Committee be constituted with the following members Prof. Pradipta Maji (Chair), Prof. Raghunath Chatterjee (convener), and Dr. Soham Sarkar, Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya, Dr. Malay Bhattacharyya and Prof. Partha Pratim Majumder and External expert as members.

4.5 Consideration of a proposal for reinstatement of Junior Research Fellowship in Demography in the Population Studies Unit, ISI, Kolkata.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies requested Dr. Kajori Banerjee to elaborate on the proposal before the AC. Dr. Banerjee stated that she wished to propose the reinstatement and continuation of the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) position in Demography at the Population Studies Unit (PSU). She further informed the AC that the last advertisement for this position had been issued in 2009, and since then, no decision had been taken in any of the AC meetings to discontinue the JRF position in Demography.

Dr. Banerjee emphasized that this prolonged absence of JRF intakes has, in effect, restricted PSU's ability to cultivate and mentor young researchers in a discipline that is central to ISI's mandate of promoting the application of Statistics for human welfare and national development.

The Chair suggested that one or two positions from the existing sanctioned JRF programmes may be allotted to the Population Studies Unit (PSU). The Chair also noted that externally funded scholars are welcome and that wide publicity may be given for such advertisements.

Resolution: The proposal of reinstating JRF in Demography not accepted. However, one or two positions from the existing sanctioned JRF programmes may be allotted

to the Population Studies Unit (PSU). Externally funded scholars are welcome, and that wide publicity may be given for such advertisements.

4.6 Consideration of a proposal for incorporation of three new modules in the PhD coursework of Geology.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented before the AC the proposal to incorporate three new modules in the PhD coursework in Geology, as suggested by Dr. Arkoprovo Biswas, Near-Surface Exploration Geophysics (CC: GGE5G), Solid Earth Geophysics and Planetary Interiors (CC: GGE6G), Field Work (CC: GGE4C). The Dean of Studies further clarified that these are not new courses. Dr. Tridib Kumar Mondal also clarified that all the courses already exist and that only new modules are to be introduced.

Resolution: It was resolved that the proposed modules may be incorporated after external reviews.

4.7 Consideration of a proposal of incorporating a research course “Optimization Research Methods” in the coursework for PhD in QROR programme.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the proposal for offering *Optimization Research Methods* as a PhD-level course. Dr. Prasun Das opined that this is a research-oriented course intended for scholars working in the area of optimization. Dr. Sujeet Kumar Singh briefed the AC on the existing courses in the M.Tech. (QROR) and M.S. (QMS) programmes. The Chair suggested that the proposal be reviewed further and should clearly highlight how research students will benefit additionally from this programme, rather than by attending a master’s-level course. The revised proposal may then be brought back to the AC.

Resolution: It was resolved that the proposal needs to be reviewed, highlighting how research students will gain additional knowledge from this programme that they would not obtain by attending one of the master’s-level courses. The revised proposal should then be brought back to the AC.

4.8 Consideration of a proposal of incorporating a research course “Methodological Foundations of Supply Chain Research” in the coursework for PhD in QROR programme.

Discussion: Dr. Prasun Das presented the proposal before the AC. Dr. Das stated that supply chain is an important research area of the division, among others, but there is no specialised course offered by the division for PhD students. This creates a gap between the research requirements and the students’ current knowledge in the subject area. To bridge this gap, the course *Methodological Foundations of Supply Chain Research* has been proposed as a PhD-level course. Dr. Das further added that the earlier course was *Industrial Engineering and Management*. While some components of supply chain have been included for the master’s degree students, the proposed research course is entirely dedicated to supply chain research and management.

Resolution: The Chair referred the proposal back to the proposers for a review of the rationalization in terms of course allocation and requested them to bring it back to the AC.

4.9 Consideration of proposal of floating a PhD level course on “Reinforcement Learning for Optimization” in the coursework for PhD in QROR programme.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the proposal. It was discussed that the topic should be sufficiently broad and that the proposal should be reviewed thoroughly. The revised proposal should be placed before the Academic Council for consideration.

Resolution: It was decided that the topic should be sufficiently broad and that the proposal should be reviewed by external reviewer. The revised proposal should be placed before the Academic Council for consideration.

4.10 Consideration of a proposal of introducing the course “Introductory Causal Inference” under Special Topics in Statistics to be offered in the second Semester of M. Stat II Year (2025-2026) by Dr. Ambarish Chattopadhyay.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the matter before the AC and stated that the course *Introductory Causal Inference*, under *Special Topics in Statistics*, is proposed to be offered in the second semester of the M.Stat second year. At present, no course on causal inference is offered to M.Stat students. The Dean of Studies further informed that some faculty members have reviewed the proposal and their comments are positive.

Resolution: It was resolved that the proposed course “*Introductory Causal Inference*” be reviewed by external reviewers. The revised syllabus will then be offered in the second semester of M. Stat II Year (2025-2026). It may also be offered jointly with the M.S. (QE) programme.

4.11 Incorporation of “Environment Education” course across all undergraduate programmes as per the UGC guidelines and as requested by the nodal ministry.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies informed the members that the nodal Ministry has requested ISI to take necessary action for the incorporation of the Environment Education course as per UGC guidelines. The UGC has communicated to the Ministry that, in alignment with the Honorable Supreme Court’s directive and the objectives outlined in the NEP 2020, it has been actively promoting the integration of Environment Education into undergraduate programmes across all HEIs. The Dean of Studies further stated that, as we are planning for NEP implementation, a committee chaired by Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay should examine this matter and submit a report. The Dean of Studies, in agreement with Prof. Bandyopadhyay, also noted that the Institute cannot incorporate this course within the existing structure.

Resolution: It was resolved that the proposal be placed to the NEP committee.

4.12 Deciding a mechanism for assigning research scholars as Teaching Assistants (TAs).

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the proposal before the Academic Council (AC) and apprised the members that research scholars are currently assigned as TAs to different courses by the Dean of Studies or the Associate Dean, based on the requirements received from the instructors. It is mandatory to assign TAs to the courses of the BSDS and PGDAS programmes. However, there is no mandated mechanism for allocating TAs to courses.

Therefore, a mechanism for allocating research scholars as TAs to the various courses of the academic programmes needs to be decided.

Prof. Mahuya Datta suggested that scholars may be appointed as TAs only after obtaining the consent of the RFAC and the Supervisor, since they (RFAC/Supervisor) are responsible for monitoring the scholars' research progress. Prof. Datta further noted that the number of hours scholars teach should be taken into account and should not exceed four hours per week, as they also have research responsibilities. Prof. Debasis Goswami agreed with Prof. Datta's argument. Prof. Datta also pointed out that in the BSDS programme the load exceeds four hours; however, Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay clarified that it consists of three hours of teaching and one hour of tutorial.

The Chair stated that a mechanism must first be established for assigning research scholars as teaching assistants (TAs) for various courses of all programmes. The Dean of Studies / Associate Dean will allocate TAs (not exceeding four hours per week), informing the concerned supervisor and the RFAC. For the BSDS programme, further discussion with the BSDS teachers will be required to identify an appropriate solution whether TAs need to attend the classes. The Dean of Studies added that a written mechanism specifying class size requirements should be in place so that the allocation of TAs is predefined. The Chair, in agreement with the Dean of Studies, further stated that first-year JRFs and scholars who are on the verge of submitting their thesis may be excluded from TA duties.

Decision: It was resolved Dean of Studies /Associate Dean will allocate TAs (not exceeding four hours per week), informing the concerned supervisor and the RFAC. For BSDS programme, further discussion with the BSDS teachers will be required to decide whether TAs need to attend the classes.

4.13 Period of enrolment of students into the respective Academic programmes of the Institute.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies presented the proposal before the AC. It was proposed that the dates of enrolment and completion be specified for all academic programmes. An academic year consists of two semesters: the first semester (July to December) and the second semester (January to June). While the programme start date may be the class commencement date, the programme end date requires clarification—whether it should be the date of the last examination of the semester, the last backpaper examination, or 30 June. Some programmes may also include an internship or training component assigned to a semester but scheduled during other months of the calendar year. Therefore, it is necessary to determine the period of enrolment for students in the respective academic programmes of the Institute.

Resolution: It was resolved that a committee will be constituted, with Prof. Amartya Dutta as Chair, to determine the period of enrolment in academic programmes.

4.14 Introduction of tuition and other appropriate fees in all academic programmes of the Institute as agreed by the Council based on the recommendation of 4th ISI Review Committee.

Discussion: The Chair requested the Chairperson of the Committee, Prof. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee, to present the report before the AC. Prof. Mukherjee elaborated on the proposed fee structure for the programmes. A few members sought clarification regarding the background of the formation of the Committee. The Chair informed the Council had accepted the recommendation of the Fourth

Review Committee to introduce tuition fees in the academic programmes of the Institute. Accordingly the committee was constituted to make recommendations.

Much discussion ensued among the members. Some of the members opined that the agenda had been circulated only a day before the meeting and that adequate time should have been provided to comment on this agenda item. The Chair then decided that the members would be given three weeks to submit their comments in writing to the Dean of Studies, which will then be compiled and submitted to the Council.

Resolution: The members of the Academic Council will be given three weeks time to submit written comments to the Dean of Studies and the Director on this proposal. The comments will be compiled and conveyed to the Council.

4.15 Attendance requirement for promotion and awarding degree.

Discussion: The Dean of Studies apprised the AC that a student is eligible for promotion to the subsequent year, provided that his/her conduct is satisfactory. A student is awarded the respective degree in a category if his/her conduct is satisfactory and he/she has passed all academic years. It was noted that not attending classes amounts to unsatisfactory conduct. The existing rule is silent on the minimum attendance requirement necessary for a student to meet the satisfactory conduct criterion concerning attendance. Therefore, it is necessary to specify the minimum attendance requirement for promotion and the award of degrees. Some members opined that such a rule may be removed from the general regulations; however, no concrete decision was made in this regard. It was decided that a committee would be formed to examine this matter.

Resolution: It was resolved that a committee be formed to frame a rule specifying the attendance requirements for promotion and the award of degrees.

Sd/-

Biswabrata Pradhan
Dean of Studies, ISI
and
Convener of the AC

Sd/-

Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
Director, ISI
and
Chair of the AC