

January 06, 2020

Minutes of the 2019 3/8th Meeting of the Senate held on November 08, 2019, at IISER Berhampur

The meeting (2019 3/8th) of the Senate, IISER Berhampur was held in the Board Room of IISER Berhampur Transit Campus at 11:00 AM on November 08, 2019 and the following members were present:

1. Prof. K V R Chary, Director, Chairperson, Senate
2. Prof. Yogendra Sharma, Dept. of Biological Sciences
3. Prof. Surendra Nath Mishra, Dept. of Physical Sciences
4. Prof. Chebrolu Pulla Rao, IIT Tirupati
5. Prof. Srinivas V, TIFR Mumbai
6. Sri B Venu Gopala Reddy, MD& CEO Coastal Local Area Bank
7. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak, Coordinator Academic Affairs
8. Dr. Malay Kumar Rana, Coordinator, R&D
9. Dr. Rohit Soni, Coordinator, Student Affairs
10. Dr. Md. Nasim, Warden Boys Hostel
11. Dr. Ritabrata Sengupta, FIC Dept. of Mathematical Sciences
12. Prof. Achanta Venugopal, TIFR Mumbai (through skype)
13. Brig P C Vyas, Registrar & Secretary, Senate (ex-officio)

Special Invitees:

1. Dr. Thirupathi Barla, Convener, DUGC Chemical Sciences
2. Dr. Santanu Bhattacharya, Convener, DPGC, Chemical Sciences
3. Dr. Jose Sebastian, Convener, DPGC, Biological Sciences
4. Dr. Kasi Viswanadham G, Convener, DUGC, Mathematical Sciences
5. Mr. Iwin K Joseph, Senate Student representative

1 An overview by the Chairperson, Senate, if any.

The Chairperson, Senate welcomed all the members present at the 8th Meeting of the Senate, IISER Berhampur. This was the first meeting after the reconstitution of the Senate. The Chairperson thanked all the outgoing Senate members and expressed his gratitude for their contributions and an overview report on the Institute was presented. The Senate was briefed on the activities of IISER Berhampur in the recent past, which included a short movie on the Master Plan of the permanent campus of IISER Berhampur under construction and the same was taken on record with a note of appreciation. The Chairperson shared with the members about the appointment of Professor Yogendra Sharma as Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and that he is entrusted with the responsibility of officiating as Dean of Faculty Affairs.

Further, he shared about the appointment of Professor Surendra Nath Mishra as Professor in the Department of Physical Sciences and that he is entrusted with dual responsibility of officiating as Dean of Academic Affairs and Dean of Research and Development and that Professor Mishra would take the charge of conducting the proceedings of the Senate from the next meeting. The Chairperson then requested Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak, Coordinator of Academic Affairs to conduct further proceedings.

2 Confirmation of the minutes of 2019-2/7th Meeting of the Senate held on May 28, 2019.

The Senate resolved to confirm Minutes of the 2019-2/7th Meeting of the Senate held on May 28, 2019 as circulated and placed on the table for confirmation, in absence of any comments from members.

3 To consider the Action Taken Report on the decisions of 2019-2/7th Meeting of the Senate held on May 28, 2019.

The Senate resolved to take on record, the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 2019-2/7th Meeting of the Senate held on May 28, 2019, with a note of appreciation. It was observed that the Agenda point no. 9 of the previous meeting is still pending and action taken report on the same may be submitted to the Chair at the earliest.

4 To report the number of students admitted into BS-MS and Ph.D. programmes during August-2019.

The Senate noted the number of students admitted into BS-MS and Ph.D. programmes during this academic year that started from August 01, 2019.

5 To report the number of students withdrawn from the programmes of BS-MS & Ph.D. since the last Senate meeting.

The Senate noted the number of BS-MS and PhD students withdrawn from respective programmes since the last Senate meeting.

Action: In future, it has been decided to record the "reasons for leaving" from each candidate. Further, a feedback form needs to be prepared and the feedback is collected from the withdrawing students.

6 To ratify the grades/results of re-Examination held in July-2019

The Senate resolved to ratify re-examination results held in July-2019

7 To report the list of visiting faculty for 2019-20 Semester-1

The Senate noted the course-wise list of visiting faculties for the 2019-20 Semester-1. It has been decided to mention the affiliation of each visiting faculty (if any) and the updated list is enclosed as an annexure (Annexure I) to these minutes.

To a query raised by a member, Chairperson mentioned that the faculty recruitment is being done stringently with a focus on the quality and fortunately, we are able to attract distinguished visiting and adjunct professors to teach all the registered courses to date.

To ratify the introduction of "Error Analysis Course" in 3rd semester of BS-MS programme.

8 The Senate resolved to ratify introduction of "Error Analysis" course for the 3rd and 4th year BS-MS students as an essential course substituting EES-201 during the odd semester of 2019-20.

This course will be given for 2018 & 2019 batch students during the odd semester of 2020-21. Thereafter, this course will be offered as an essential course to all BS-MS students in their 3rd semester. The course will be identified as IDC-201 (Inter-disciplinary course).

- 9 **To ratify the introduction of new Biology courses BIO-314 and BIO-418 to be floated from the next semester.**

The DUGC/DPGC Convener and HoD of the Dept. of Biological Sciences submitted two new courses and their contents (BIO-314 & BIO-418) for review and approval by the Senate.

Prof. T.R. Rao explained the importance of these new courses (BIO-314: Biostatistics and Experimental Design; BIO-418: Advanced Evolutionary Biology) and Senate resolved to ratify the introduction of these new courses from the next semester.

- 10 **To ratify the 'Department specific guide assignment policy' and 'semester wise department specific timeline' for PhD programme adopted by the Department of Chemical Sciences.**

The Coordinator of Academic Affairs placed the Department specific guide assignment policy' and 'Semester wise department specific timeline' for PhD programme adopted by the Department of Chemical Sciences before the Senate and requested Dr. Santanu Bhattacharyya to discuss the agenda point.

The following are the suggestions received from the members after discussion at length:

(i) Under the description of VII-X semester regarding research work, the necessity of "one publication in UGC approved peer reviewed journal" may be relaxed by not stressing on "UGC-approved" rather a publication in any of the peer reviewed journal would sound better practically.

Accordingly, Department of Chemical Sciences has submitted a revised document by incorporating the said changes and enclosed as an annexure (**Annexure II**) to these minutes.

- 11 **To ratify Department specific guidelines for PhD programme proposed by the Department of Mathematical Sciences.**

The Coordinator of Academic Affairs placed the Department specific guidelines for PhD programme proposed by the Department of Mathematical Sciences. The Senate resolved to ratify the same after discussion at length.

- 12 **To ratify the postponement of CHM-453 course to the next semester and introduction of a New Semester Project in the Department of Chemical Sciences.**

The Coordinator Academic Affairs placed the agenda item before the Senate regarding the postponement of CHM-453 (Nano-Chemistry) course to the next semester (January-2020). The Chairperson informed the Senate that Prof. Challa Vijay Kumar's visit has been rescheduled due to travel issues.

The Coordinator of Academic Affairs also placed the "introduction of a New Semester Project and its guidelines proposed by the Department of Chemical Sciences".

The Senate resolved to ratify the same.

- 13 **To discuss and consider the proposal to declare MTH-307 as 'Open Elective' for all batches students.**

The Senate resolved to ratify the proposal to declare "MTH-307: Programming and Data Structure" course as an Open elective for major students of all batches.

Further, it was decided that any course offered to 3rd, 4th or 5th year may be made possible to open to the respective batches, if needed as per the policy of individual Department and the same should be intimated to the DoAA well before the start of the classes.

- 14 **To ratify the introduction of new course "MTH-101: Introduction to Mathematics" and renaming of the existing course code "MTH-101: Calculus of One variable" to MTH-102**

Coordinator of Academic Affairs placed the agenda item and the Chairperson introduced the logistics of the introduction of a new course MTH-101 (Introduction to Mathematics) and renaming of the existing course code MTH-101 (Calculus of One variable) to MTH-102 and the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

DUGC Convener, Dept. of Mathematics shared with the Senate that this modification in course is done to ease the difficulty faced by the students who did not have mathematics as a subject at +2 level.

The members felt the need to explore introducing a new course in Biology (Introduction to Biology) to ease the difficulty faced by the students who did not have Biology as a subject at +2 level.

The students not willing to take the basic courses in Mathematics and Biology have to appear in a Zero test and obtain a score of minimum 90% to skip these basic courses in Mathematics or Biology. Logistics for implementing the same will be planned and placed before the Senate in the next meeting.

- 15 To discuss and consider the proposal to offer a project (6 credits) for the 8th semester students who are enrolled for a minor degree in Mathematics.**

Coordinator of Academic Affairs placed the proposal to offer a project (6 credits) submitted by the Dept. of Mathematics for the 8th semester students, who are enrolled for a minor degree in Mathematics.

This provision is already present in the BS-MS manual and the project evaluation procedure will remain same as of the major project or as per the Department policy. The same policy will be applicable to other Departments, if needed.

- 16 To discuss 5th year project rules, regulations and evaluation of external projects proposed by the Department of Physical Sciences.**

Coordinator of Academic Affairs reported that this agenda item proposed by the Dept. of Physical Sciences may be made applicable to all other Departments too as similar requests have been made by the students of other departments.

After a thorough discussion and evaluating the pros and cons of the proposal, the following is the outcome accepted by the Senate:

- (i) Students may be allowed to proceed to other Institutes for conducting their 5th year project work subject to the approval from DUGC/HoD.
- (ii) The approval from the Institute where the student is willing to carry out the project may be taken with a mutual agreement on fees, required credits of research work/publications, patents, evaluation of the work, etc.
- (iii) One of the faculties from the respective Department should act as co-guide to monitor the progress of the work on a quarterly basis. The review of the external projects will be carried out and the report is submitted. The student may be given a chance to select the co-guide with the approval of DUGC/HoD.
- (vi) If the student is unable to complete the project within the tenure, she/he can carry on the project during the following year, subject to a maximum tenure of 7 years for attaining BS-MS Dual Degree.
- (vii) This will not entail any financial obligation on the Institute in respect of any kind of user charges/fees to be paid by the student to the host institute. Also, there won't be any relaxation in the semester registration fees to be paid by the student.
- (viii) Evaluation process: The co-guide may review the student's work every three months and the student may attend in person or through skype (skype preferred). During December, the student has to attend in person for meeting/seminar on the work carried out.
- (ix) During the month of December, each student has to attend a 12 h course on HSS-503/504 scheduled to be held at IISER Berhampur.
- (x) The final evaluation at the end of the even semester will be held at IISER Berhampur as per Institute's policy and the student has to appear in person along with the Guide (in person or on skype).

- 17 To discuss and consider modification of course contents of EES 102 and EES 202 courses.**

Coordinator of Academic Affairs placed before the Senate the proposal of the modifications in EES courses (EES 102: Introduction to Earth Science" and "EES 202: Introduction to Environmental Sciences).

As an expert of EES, Prof. T.R. Rao was requested to provide his view and he reported the Senate that modifying these courses would ease the burden on students, as also there is no Dept. of EES with regular faculty to take care of these courses. The modified courses would meet the mandatory requirement of pursuing EES courses as per the mandate of IISER Berhampur and Gol. This has been discussed and approved in 3rd IAAC meeting held on July 29, 2019.

The Senate resolved to ratify the same after discussion at length.

- 18 To discuss the minimum CPI required for IISER students to apply for PhD programme in IISER Berhampur.**

Coordinator of Academic Affairs placed the request made by many faculty and students regarding the eligibility criterion (CPI=7.0) for applying PhD at IISER Berhampur.

The Senate discussed the present CPI requirement of 7.0 and decided to recommend the eligibility criterion to be 6.0 to take care of the percentage avoiding anomaly among different Departments.

Also, the essential degree requirement like MS in the respective subject may be changed to MS in any branch of Science to attract interdisciplinary research-oriented candidates. The Department may submit its view (the detailed eligibility criteria) in this regard for placing before the next Senate meeting before its implementation.

The Senate resolved to ratify the eligibility for Ph.D. admission with CPI 6.0 or equivalent to 60% using the conversion formula.

19 To discuss and consider the model of redesigned Answer Script format.

The Senate resolved to ratify the redesigned answer script format and will be printed as and when the existing stationery gets exhausted.

20 To ratify proforma for 'course revision' and 'new course submission'.

The Senate resolved to ratify the proposed 'course revision' and 'new course submission' formats with the following corrections:

(i) The "Recommendations of external experts/ Senate members/Subject experts" should be there after the recommendation of DUGC/DPGC Convener/HoD.

The Chairperson Senate will decide whether to go for an external experts' recommendations based on the requirement. Accordingly, a revised proforma is placed as an annexure (**Annexure-III**) with these minutes.

21 To discuss and adopt the proposed disciplinary actions for various acts of academic malpractices.

The Senate resolved to ratify the proposed disciplinary actions proposed by the Coordinator Academic Affairs based on IISER Bhopal's practice.

22 Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

(a) Discussion on the suspension of mid-semester break and exams:

It has been discussed that conducting mid-semester exams and giving mid-semester break is reducing the effective teaching time available within a semester. After an extensive discussion, it has been decided to suspend Mid-Semester recess from the next semester onwards. Further, the Senate resolved to restrict the mid-semester examination duration to 1 h from the existing 2 h.

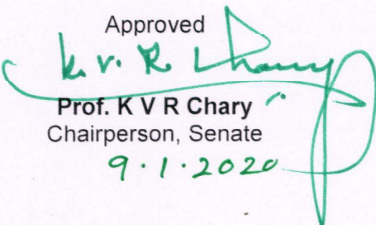
(b) Adopting double grading system to BS-MS students:

Currently, IISER Berhampur is following grades like O=10, A=10, B=8, C=6... But student representative and also most of the members felt that the grading system should have some intermediate grades between O & A, 8 & 10 etc., so as to ascertain the grades effectively. The Senate recommended that it can be adopted from August- 2020 batch, as it will not be feasible to implement the new system for the existing batch students. *Logistics for implementing the same will be planned and placed before the Senate in the next meeting.*

(c) Introduction of BIO-419 and BIO-420 new courses to be floated by Dept. of Biological Sciences from next semester has been placed as an agenda with the permission of the Chair. After considering the inputs submitted by DPGC Convener/HoD, the Senate resolved to ratify the introduction of new courses whose course contents are enclosed as annexure (**Annexure IV**) with these minutes.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.


Brig P.C Vyas
Registrar & Secretary, Senate

Approved

Prof. K V R Chary
Chairperson, Senate
9.1.2020