

Minutes of the 2022-2/16th Meeting of the Senate of IISER Berhampur

The 2022-2/16th meeting of the Senate of IISER Berhampur was held in hybrid mode at 04:00 PM on Friday, November 04, 2022.

The following members were present:

• Professor Yogendra Sharma, Director	Chairperson
• Professor Surendra Nath Mishra, HoD Dept of Physics, Mathematics	Member
• Dr. Sulakshana P Mukherjee, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs	Member
• Professor P. Radha Krishna, Professor, NIT Warangal	Member
• Professor Challa Vijaya Kumar, University of Connecticut, USA	Member
• Professor C. S. Rajan, Ashoka University, New Delhi	Member
• Sri. V. Jaganmohan, Ex-C&MD of Kakatiya Grameena Bank, Vijayawada	Member
• Dr. Prabhat Singh, Coordinator Student Affairs, IISER Berhampur	Member
• Dr. Ruthrotha Selvi Bharathavikru, Warden, Girls' Hostel, IISER Berhampur	Member
• Sri B. J. Acharyulu, Acting Registrar & Secretary, Senate (ex-officio)	Non-Member

The following members could not attend the meeting due to pre-occupation and were granted leave of absence:

- Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Director, Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar
- Professor Bedangadas Mohanty, NISER Bhubaneswar
- Sri. Sandeep Ranade Software Engineer, Hindustani Classical Vocalist
- Professor Achanta Venugopal, Director, NPL, New Delhi

The following attended the meeting as special invitees:

- Professor Joydip Mukhopadhyay, Professor, Dept. of EES
- Dr. Santanu Bhattacharya, Convener, DPGC, Chemical Sciences
- Dr. Jose Sebastian, Convener, DPGC, Biological Sciences
- Dr. Ujjal Kumar Dey, Convener, DUGC, Physical Sciences
- Dr. Thirupathi Barla, Convener, DUGC, Chemical Sciences
- Dr. Amiya Kumar Mondal, Convener, DPGC, Mathematical Sciences
- Dr. Pabitra Barik, Convener, DUGC, Mathematical Sciences
- Dr. Victor Mukherjee, Convener, DPGC, Physical Sciences

The Secretary, Senate welcomed the members and requested the Chairperson, Senate to present the overview report.

Senate 15**Agenda Items and Resolution**

Item No.

1. Overview Report by the Chairperson, Senate, IISER Berhampur.

At the outset, the Chairperson, Senate welcomed the members present at the 16th Meeting of the Senate. The Senate observed one-minute silence in the memory & honour of former Chairperson/ founder Director Late Prof K V R Chary who left for his heavenly abode on September 30, 2022.

The Chairperson introduced Prof Joydip Mukhopadhyay who joined as Professor in EES to the Senate and then presented his overview report briefing the activities of IISER Berhampur in the recent past (Appendix-I) and the Senate made a note of it.

The Chairperson then requested Dr. Sulakshana P Mukherjee, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs to take up the agenda items.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of 2022-1/15th meeting of the Senate.

The minutes of the previous Senate meeting were circulated to all members and no comments were received from any member. The Senate resolved to confirm the Minutes of the 2022-1/15th Meeting of the Senate held on June 23, 2022, as circulated and placed on the table for confirmation.

3. **Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 2022-1/15th Meeting of the Senate.**

The Senate resolved to take on record, the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 2022-1/15th Meeting of the Senate held on June 23, 2022, with a note of appreciation.

4. **To ratify Academic Calendar-2023.**

Prof. Sulakshana P Mukherjee, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs placed the draft academic calendar-2023 before the Senate. The idea of resuming mid-sem recess has been discussed at length and after deliberations and suggestions from the external members, it has been decided to announce mid-semester vacation during "Holi" festival and as the teaching time got shrunk, the end semester exams were recommended to be held in the first week of May. The Senate resolved to ratify the academic calendar with the proposed changes for January-2023 semester. The schedule for August-2023 shall be discussed in the next Senate meeting.

5. **To ratify the revised fee structure of BS-MS 2022 batch.**

Prof. Sulakshana P Mukherjee placed the revised fee structure applicable for BS-MS 2022 batch and the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

6. **Introduction of new courses:**

The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs placed the agenda of following new courses proposed by various departments and the Senate after much deliberation and discussion at length, resolved to approve the same:

- a) A new course on "*Physics of the strongly interacting matter produced in relativistic heavy ion collisions*" proposed by the Dept. of Physical Sciences.
- b) A new course on "*Spintronics: Fundamentals and Applications*" proposed by the Dept. of Physical Sciences.
- c) A new course on "*Electronics 1 Fundamentals and Analog Electronics*" proposed by the Dept. of Engineering Physics.
- d) A new course on "*Electronics 2 Digital Electronics*" proposed by the Dept. of Engineering Physics.
- e) Two new courses on "*MATLAB and Python*" in the Dept. of Computer Sciences.
- f) A new course on "*Antibody Engineering and Vaccine production*" proposed by the Dept. of Biological Sciences.
- g) A new course on "*Applications of Genetic Engineering and Genome Editing*" proposed by the Dept. of Biological Sciences.
- h) A new course on "*Structure guided drug discovery*" proposed by the Dept. of Biological Sciences.
- i) A new course DS 202: Information for Science and Technology proposed by Dept. of Computer and Data Sciences.

Revision of courses:

The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs placed the agenda for revision/ change in course code/ title of the following courses and highlighted the need for changes proposed in comparison with the previous ones. The Senate resolved to ratify the same without any comments.

- a) BIO 101 Introduction to Biological Sciences
- b) BIO 102 Biochemical and Cellular basis of Life
- c) BIO 103 General Biology Laboratory I
- d) BIO 202 Molecular Biology and Developmental Biology
- e) BIO 203 General Biology Laboratory III
- f) BIO 204 General Biology Laboratory IV

7. **To discuss and ratify the restructuring of various course codes proposed by Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences.**

Dr. Sulakshana P Mukherjee, placed the agenda of restructuring course codes of EES and Prof Joydip Mukhopadhyay explained the proposed changes in brief. The Senate made a note of it and resolved to ratify the same.

8. **To discuss the proposal of carrying out coursework of 2nd year integrated PhD students from Dept. of Mathematical Sciences at NISER Bhubaneswar.**

Dr. Sulakshana P Mukherjee, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs placed the agenda and Dr. Amiya Mondal, DPGC Mathematical Sciences added the need to send iPhD students to NISER for coursework. The Senate resolved to ratify the same with an instruction note to the Director's Office for communicating with the NISER authorities in getting the request approved. The idea of signing an MoU with NISER Bhubaneswar in getting assistance for coursework was also discussed. It has been further decided that a similar facility can also be considered for other departments based on the requirement.

9. **To discuss the proposal to recruit Teaching Assistants for core courses.**

Dr. Sulakshana P Mukherjee, Associate Dean Academic Affairs placed the agenda and the Chairperson explained the indispensable need to aid instructors of 1st & 2nd year courses whose strength is around 200. All the members supported the proposal and the Senate resolved to ratify the recruitment of five Teaching Assistants, one for each department at a monthly remuneration of Rs. 20,000/- The institute, however, will not have any liability of such recruiters either for continuation or for absorption whatsoever.

10. **To discuss the proposal to resume the following rules that were temporarily suspended during the online teaching:**

- a) **Re-examination fees (Rs. 1000/- per course) to be collected from the students.**

The Senate resolved to ratify resuming the re-exam fees w.e.f July-2023 session.

- b) **Payment of honorarium (Rs. 5000/- per course) to the faculty for conducting re-examination.**

The Chairperson stated that only the visiting faculty will be paid honorarium for conducting re-exam but not the regular faculty. The Senate made a note of it.

- c) **Late penalty of Rs. 1000/- imposed on semester registration fee payment beyond the last date.**

The proposal was put on hold for the time being by considering the financial conditions of many parents. The UG representative also requested for waiving of the late penalty and the Senate agreed to continue suspending the imposition of the late penalty.

11. **To discuss the proposal for revision of internship charges.**

Dr. Sulakshana P Mukherjee, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs placed the agenda and the Senate resolved to ratify the revised internship charges as proposed, w.e.f Winter-2022.

12. **Any other items with the permission of the Chair.**

- (a) **Request made by a student of 2021 batch for fee waiver:**

Shri B J Acharyulu, Acting Registrar informed the Senate that Ms. Namrata Kumari has submitted a request letter stating that because of her parent's poor financial condition she cannot pay semester registration fees. The members discussed and felt that no way her fees can be waived off unless a welfare scheme funded by endowments is formed to consider such requests duly recommended by the Senate. However, the Senate suggested constituting a Committee which can consider such cases of each batch and

recommends only one most deserving student for waiver. That is, only one student will get benefitted from each batch.

(b) Discussion with UG Senate Representative:

- (i) *Uniform MS project credits across disciplines:* Mr. Advait Menon requested the Senate to revise the project credits of Mathematics & Physics from 32 to 36 at par with Biology & Chemistry. The DUGC/DPGC/HoD of Mathematics and Physics departments did not support the proposal and felt that the existing credits are reasonable and no need to revise now.
- (ii) To suspend minimum credit requirements per semester: Mr. Advait Menon requested that the minimum credits requirement criteria imposed by every department for every semester may be suspended allowing the student to credit the courses of their choice based on the total requirement of getting BSMS degree. The proposal was not welcomed by all the departments and was dropped.

(c) Discussion with PhD Representative:

Mr. Somnath Kale has requested for a foreign travel grant to the PhD students who go abroad for attending international conferences/ paper presentation. The Chairperson informed that the institute cannot fund such travels and such students may apply for assistance from CSIR/SERB etc.,

(d) Announcement of PMRF selections:

Dr. Sulakshana P Mukherjee, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs announced the names of three PhD students of the institute who have been selected for PMRF fellowship on lateral entry and the Senate congratulated them and extended their heartfelt wishes.

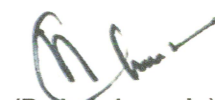
- (i) Mr. Sayan Pal, Dept. of Chemical Sciences
(ii) Ms. Chhanda Debnath, Dept. of Chemical Sciences
(iii) Mr. Indra Kumar Banerjee, Dept. of Physical Sciences

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Approved



(Prof Yogendra Sharma)
Director & Chairperson, Senate



(B. J. Acharyulu)

Acting Registrar & Secretary, Senate

कार्यवाहक, कुलसचिव
Acting Registrar
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IISER Berhampur

