

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE
Proceedings of the 51st Academic Council Meeting
26th October 2010

The meeting was held at 10.00 A.M. in the New Auditorium. The following members were present :

1	Bimal Roy	19	Bholanath Ghosh	37	Sushmita Mitra
2	B. P. Sinha	20	Tarun Kabiraj	38	Sambhunath Biswas
3	Aditya Bagchi	21	Ayanendranath Basu	39	Bidyut Roy
4	M. Z. Anis	22	Manoranjan Pal	40	Debasis Sengupta
5	Arup Ranjan Mukhopadhyay	23	Indranil Mukhopadhyay	41	B. B. Bhattacharya
6	Amitava Bandyopadhyay	24	Saurabh Ghosh	42	S. K. Bhandari
7	Shyam Sundar Handa	25	Antar Bandyopadhyay	43	I. K. Ramachandran
8	B. S. Mazumder	26	Smarajit Bose	44	S. C. Bagchi
9	Amita Majumder	27	Debashish Goswami	45	N. Sarkar
10	Jayasree Dattagupta	28	S. M. Srivastava	46	B. B. Chaudhuri
11	Susmita Sur-Kolay	29	S. Maitra	47	G. K. Basak
12	B. V. Rajarama Bhat	30	Parthasarathi Ghosh	48	Anup Majumder
13	N. S. N. Sastry	31	Rana Barua	49	Arni S. R. Srinivasa Rao
14	Palash Sarkar	32	Barnana Roy	50	P.S.S.N.V.P Rao
15	Satya Ranjan Chakravarty	33	Guruprasad Kar	51	Goutam Mukherjee
16	Atanu Biswas	34	Arijit Bishnu	52	Barun Mukhopadhyay
17	Amita Pal	35	Dilip Saha	53	Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya
18	Priyadarshi Banerjee	36	Anup Dewanji		

Agenda Item 1 : Confirmation of the proceedings of the 50th Academic Council meeting held on 31st May 2010.

Prof. Palash Sarkar disagreed with the line “After long deliberation, in principle”, in Page 2, Agenda Item 3 of the minutes. After some discussions it was decided that the following text should be recorded as the resolution of Agenda Item 3 :

Prof. P. P. Majumder, Chairman of the Committee formed to study the possible revisions in the existing Ph.D/D.Sc. rules, explained the salient features of the proposal.

Suggestions for some minor changes on the issues like : organizing test for candidates mentioned in Section B under procedure for registration; waiver of such tests for candidates with M.E./M. Tech./ M. Phil degrees etc. would be forwarded to the committee for its consideration. The final proposal would be circulated among AC members.

Agenda Item 2 : Matters arising out at the 50th A. C. meeting held on 31st May 2010.

Director informed the AC that the approval from the Ministry regarding the increase of stipends of the Research Fellows of the Institute was expected before Diwali.

Agenda Item 3 : Approval of results of B. Stat./B.Math. /M. Stat./ M.Math./M.S.(QE)/M.Tech.(CS)/M.Tech.(QROR)/MLI/ Ph.D. etc.

The AC approved the award of degrees, associateship, certificates and prizes to the students as per the list circulated among the AC members, to be conferred in the 45th Convocation of the institute to be held in January 2011. The AC authorized the Director to approve any recommendation for Ph.D/D.Sc. from appropriate Ph.D./D.Sc. committee, which may come till the Convocation.

Agenda Item 4 : Discussion on proposed new Ph.D. Registration & Thesis Submission Rules.

Prof. Alok Goswami gave the background information on the issue. Several members took part in the discussion. Norms followed by UGC, CSIR and some other universities like Jadavpur University, University of Kolkata, BESU etc. were also discussed. Finally the following were resolved:

- a) Any candidate applying for registration at ISI must clear either the JRF selection test in the respective discipline, or a written test followed by an interview conducted by the respective RFAC.
- b) Every candidate must also satisfy the course requirements as proposed by the respective RFAC. However, the RFAC may waive all or some of the courses based on the performance of the candidate in a comprehensive written examination to be conducted by the RFAC. The structure of the comprehensive examination would be finalized later.

Existing research scholars of the Institute would have the option to continue to be covered under the existing rules or the new rules.

Dr. Anup Majumdar requested that the requirements should be waived for existing ISI employees. Director while turning down the request, said that each specific case may be considered individually.

Agenda Item 5 : Consideration of the report submitted by the committee constituted by the 49th AC meeting for registration at outside Institute/University.

Dr. Aditya Bagchi reported the steps taken by the committee. It was decided that the committee should continue its efforts to expedite the matters and try to use personal contacts to get responses from the individual departments of the outside universities.

Agenda Item 6 : Discussion about the review of the syllabi of the B. Stat. (Hons.) and M. Stat. program.

A committee consisting of the following members was constituted to review jointly the B. Stat. (Hons.) and M. Stat. syllabi.

A. Goswami (Chairman)
Arijit Chakrabarti (Convener)
Isha Dewan
Antar Bandyopadhyay
Saurav Ghosh
Tapas Samanta
Mousumi Bose
Anil Ghosh
Debasis Sengupta
Mohan Delampady
Guruprasad Kar
S. M. Srivastava
Sandip Das
Arijit Bishnu
Amita Majumdar
Amitava Bandyopadhyay
B. Suri
Jishnu Biswas
Pradipta Bandyopadhyay
Goutam Mukherjee.

The committee was requested to submit its report as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 7 : To Consider a proposal by Dr. Antar Bandyopadhyay and others to reintroduce teaching evaluation by the students of a course.

It was decided that teaching evaluation by the students in each course would be re-introduced. A committee consisting of the following members was constituted to suggest methods for collecting the feedbacks as well as methods for analyzing them :

Dean of Studies (Chairman)
Mandar Mitra (Convener)
Debasis Sengupta
Rana Barua
Satya Ranjan Charabarti
S. C. Bagchi
Jishnu Biswas
Arup Pal

The Dean of Studies was authorized to appoint committees for analyzing these feedbacks for taking appropriate action.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion on institution of new awards by the Institute.

Director proposed that a new award “R. C. Bose Memorial Award” to be instituted for the best Ph.D. thesis of ISI across all disciplines. The award would be funded by the Institute.

Prof. Alok Goswami informed the AC about the various new medals and scholarships proposed by different people, as follows :

1. Usri Gangopadhyay Memorial Medal.

Submitted Proposal : Best B. Stat. Female Student.

Committee’s View : Agreed subject to the student obtaining Distinction.

2. “Grand Open Computing Projects” Cash Award proposed by Jambunathan K.

Submitted Proposal : Best M-Tech. (CS) Dissertation satisfying the technical criteria

Committee’s View: the background and the feasibility of the award need to be studied in consultation with the M. Tech. (CS) Dissertation Committee.

3. Maya Mitra Memorial Medal.

Submitted Proposal : Best Woman Student of ISI.

Committee’s View : it may be difficult to choose a uniform criterion across all degree programmes. An alternative suggestion is to award it to the Best Doctoral Thesis by a Woman Candidate in ISI. It will perhaps make more sense if simultaneously the institute offers and award every year for the best doctoral thesis submitted for a Ph.D. degree in ISI. The committee noted that while there are different awards for all other degree students in ISI, no such award exists for Ph.D. degree students.

4. Sita Handa Memorial Medal

Submitted Proposal : Best M. Stat. student in the Delhi Centre.

Committee’s View : This may not be sustainable. An alternative suggestion is to award it to the best Non-B. Stat. Stream M. Stat. student across all centres.

5. IXIA Scholarship

Submitted Proposal : Enhanced scholarship of Rs. 10000 per month to the best M. Tech. (CS) 2nd year student based on his/her performance in the 1st year, subject to at least 75% composite marks.

Committee’s View : Agreed

6. Mukul Chaudhuri Memorial Scholarship

Submitted Proposal: Scholarship to outstanding female students in the undergraduate programme

Committee’s View : Since the endowment is of amount 6 lakhs, two scholarships comprising a lump sum Cash Award of 18000 rupees/year be instituted : (i) the best female student in the second year of an undergraduate course based on the performance of the first year; and (ii) the best female student in the third year of an undergraduate course based on the performance of the second year.

7. Nikhilesh Bhattacharya Memorial Gold Medal

Submitted Proposal : Student adjudged to have performed best in *Statistics* in the B. Stat. programme.

Committee's View : Agreed ; the suggestion is to award it to the student obtaining the maximum total score in the third year of the B. Stat. programme.

8. J. M. Sengupta Memorial Medal (existing award)

Submitted Proposal : Outstanding B. Stat. student

Committee's View : Since there is insufficient balance in the endowment to sustain the award, the suggestion is to combine it with the Mrs. M. R. Iyer Memorial Medal awarded to the topper of the B. Stat. programme. Currently, the award is jointly supported by Mrs. M. R. Iyer Memorial funds. The suggestion is to delink ISIAA from the award to reduce its financial burden and rename the award as Mrs. M. R. Iyer-J. M. Sengupta Memorial Medal. This is subject to ratification by the ISIAA General Body.

9. D. Basu Memorial Gold Medal.

Submitted Proposal : Outstanding B. Stat. student.

Committee's View : Agreed, in order to distinguish this award from Mrs. M. R. Iyer Memorial Medal, the suggestion is to use a criterion similar to the P.C.M. award for the most outstanding M. Stat. student. It should be based on a seminar delivered by a selected group of students.

The AC decided that the proposal by Mr. Jambunathan K was unacceptable in its present form. Regarding Nikhilesh Bhattacharya Gold medal the AC recommended that the medal be awarded to the student obtaining maximum total score in all core courses in Statistics during the B. Stat. (Hons.) programme. The committee's views were accepted for all other proposals.

It was also recommended that all new awards should have an endowment of at least 1.75 lakhs to sustain the cost of a Gold Medal from the interest accrued.

Agenda Item 9 : Consideration of a letter by Dr. R. K. Bhandari, Director, Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre regarding academic collaboration

The proposal was accepted in principle.

Agenda Item 10 : Consider the prayer by Mr. Dushyant Potalia as directed by Hon'ble Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

Academic council discussed the case of Sri Dushyanta Potalia. Since a mention was made that whereas Sri Potalia was not allowed to repeat but Sri Sagnik Palmal and Sri Riddhi Pratim Ghosh were allowed to repeat the course, AC compared their performances. The marks of these students in the five courses in the concerned semesters are given below:

Dushyant Potalia : 46/ 22/ 45/41/32 → average score of 37.20%

Sagnik Palmal : 79/64/31/81/77 → average score of 66.40%

Riddhi Pratim Ghosh : 62/59/27/68/65 → average score of 56.20%

Clearly, Sri Dushyanta Potalia's performance was quite poor in absolute terms as well as compared to other two students' scores. His aggregate percentage was 37.20% (far below 45%) and he failed, i.e., scored less than 35% in two subjects.

The institute maintains a very high standard which is internationally acclaimed. Still the institute has recently revised its pass-fail rule by allowing those students whose aggregate is at least 60% and has scored less than 35% in one subject only to take another test to improve the score upto 35% in the subject he has failed. A student who still fails to score at least 35% in the subject is then discontinued from the course.

In view of the above facts, the academic council resolved that Sri Dushyant Potalia will not be allowed to join the course.

Agenda Item 11 : Consideration of a letter by Dr. Debashish Goswami and others regarding how to handle requests by students for making an exception to the existing rules.

Prof. Alok Goswami, one of the signatories, expressed his dissatisfaction at the way sometimes students appeal for special favours from the AC without going through the concerned Teachers' Committee. After some discussion it was agreed that a mechanism should always exist to consider such appeals by students. However, the AC would take into consideration the views expressed by the concerned Teachers' Committee on that appeal, before coming to a decision.

Agenda Item 12 : Introduction of two new courses at the upcoming North-East centre of the institute at Tezpur.

It was resolved that only the one-year post-graduate diploma course on Statistical Methods with Applications will be introduced at this moment at the North-East Centre. The corresponding syllabus and the associated rules were approved.

Agenda Item 13 : Reviewing the Pass/Fail/Repeat/Stipend rules in different courses of the Institute. Introducing uniform policies for the above as well as credit/non-credit courses in any programme.

A committee was constituted with the following members to formulate uniform rules for Pass/Fail/Repeat/Stipend as well as Credit/Non-credit courses.

P.S.S.N.V.P Rao (Chairman)
Debashish Goswami (Convener)
S. C. Bagchi
Rajaram Bhat
Antar Bandyopadhyay
Anup Majumdar
Bhargab Bikram Bhattacharya
Nityananda Sarkar

Agenda Item 14 : Miscellaneous

- a) Consideration of proposal by the Registrar of the Bengal Engineering and Science University to recognize the M.Sc. degree in Food Processing and Nutrition Science offered by BESU as equivalent with other Universities. (Annexure- 9)

The AC expressed that the issue has no relevance for the Institute.

- b) The Dean described the enormous workload on the chair of the Dean of Studies. He suggested that three positions of Associate Deans be created to look after. a) Examinations b) Students Affairs and c) AC and Admissions. The suggestion was approved to be sent to the Council for its approval. It was added that all three of them alongwith the Course-in-Charges of Delhi and Bangalore Centres should be made members of the AC.
- c) It was decided that a research fellow can not be assigned to a faculty member, if he/she has less than 3 years of service left.
- d) Director proposed that the Institute should consider the possibility of conferring D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) to Late Dr. Subhas Mukhopadhyay for his contribution to medical science. A committee was formed with the following members to consider this proposal.

A. Bagchi (Chairman)
Anup Dewanji (Convener)
Partha Pratim Majumdar
Amita Majumdar