

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE
203, B T Road, Kolkata – 700 108



DRFAT PROCEEDINGS OF THE
60th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
HELD ON 22-23 JANUARY 2015
AT PLATINUM JUBLEE AUDITORIUM, ISI

The following members were present:

Sl. No.	N A M E	Sl. No.	N A M E
1	Prof. Bimal K. Roy	23	Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
2	Prof. Pradipta Bandyopadhyay	24	Smarajit Bose
3	C. A. Murthy	25	Indranil Mukhopadhyay
4	Dipti Prasad Mukherjee	26	Rajat Kumar De
5	Ashish Ghosh	27	Antar Bandyopadhyay
6	Nityananda Sarkar	28	Sasthi Charan Ghosh
7	K. K. Chowdhury	29	Nabanita Das
8	Alok Goswami	30	Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya
9	Jaydeb Sarkar	31	Sandip Das
10	Indraneel Dasgupta	32	Amitava Bandyopadhyay
11	Madhura Swaminathan	33	Ranjan Sett
12	Debashish Goswami	34	Subhas Chandra Nandy
13	Subir Kumar Bhandari	35	Premananda Bharati
14	Guruprasad Kar	36	Manoranjan Pal
15	Pulakesh Maiti	37	Sumitra Purkayastha
16	Nikhil Ranjan Pal	38	S. M. Subhani
17	Subir Ghosh	39	Bhabatosh Chanda
18	Banasri Basu	40	Ashis SenGupta
19	Anup Dewanji	41	Rana Barua
20	Mausumi Bose	42	Joydev Chattopadhyay
21	Amita Majumder	43	Somnath Ray
22	Nachiketa Chattopadhyay	44	Tapas Samanta

Following members were present through video conferencing:

- 45. Prof. Isha Dewan, Delhi
- 46. Prof. Anish Sarkar, Delhi
- 47. Prof. Abhay G Bhatt, Delhi
- 48. Prof. N. S. N Sastry, Bangalore
- 49. Prof. Rajarama Bhatt, Bangalore
- 50. Prof. Mohan Delampady, Bangalore
- 51. Prof. S. Ponnusamy, Chennai
- 52. Prof. Rituparna Sen, Chennai
- 53. Prof. G Murali Rao, Hyderabad

Agenda Item 1. Confirmation of the proceedings of the 59th meeting of the Academic Council, held on 1st September, 2014.

The proceedings of the 59th meeting of the Academic Council, held on 1st September, 2014, as circulated, were confirmed.

Agenda Item 2. Matters arising out of the 59th meeting of the Academic Council held on 01 September 2014.

The actions taken on the matters that arose out of the 59th meeting of the Academic Council were duly reported.

Agenda Item 3. Status reports on various extant committees by the Dean of Studies.

Dean of Studies reported the status on various extant Committees starting with two Committees which were constituted by the Academic Council in its 59th meeting under Agenda No. 12. The Committee on Information Retrieval had submitted its report and the course has been included in the M. Tech. (CS) Second Year from the current semester while the other committee on Cognitive Science has not yet submitted its report. Prof Sumitra Purkayastha, a member of the committee, informed that the committee is working on it and it will need two more weeks for the submission of the report.

Regarding the committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 58th meeting under Agenda No. 11 to formulate a policy to deal with appeals made by the students on special circumstances, the Dean of Studies informed that the interim report of the committee has been submitted. The Director suggested to circulate the interim report to the members and requested the members to send

their respective view to Prof Debashish Goswami for finalization of the same.

Regarding the committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 57th meeting under Agenda No. 6 relating to change of course structure for the second semester of the M Tech (CS) programme, the Dean of Studies informed that the Academic Council in its 59th meeting decided to reconstitute the committee with Prof C A Murthy as Chairman but the full committee has not yet been formed. Prof. Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya urged to get a committee immediately in order to increase the pace of the work. Finally, the committee was constituted with the following members:

- Prof. C. A. Murthy (Chairman)
- Prof. Bhargab Bikram Bhattacharya
- Prof. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee
- Prof. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
- Prof. Subhamoy Maitra

Regarding the committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 56th meeting under Agenda No. 6 to suggest the salient features of a possible Institutional Policy regarding mentally/physically ill students and their academic (as well as campus) responsibilities, one of the committee members, Prof Isha Dewan informed that the committee was trying to get the Govt. of India policy in this regard but so far not yet received. The Dean of Studies stressed the importance of having such a policy at the earliest. The Director suggested the committee should formulate the policy of its own and may seek the opinion of the members to finalize the same.

Dean of Studies reported that two Committees which were constituted by the Academic Council in its 55th meeting under Agenda No. 10 and 11 respectively. Regarding the committee on proposal for “conducting another written test instead of interview in selection of B Math (Hons), and B Stat (Hons), it was informed that the committee could not converge into a consensus decision and hence, not given any suggestion. The Director urged for the convergence and suggested that the Chairman and Dean of Studies would

meet the committee once again in order to make final call in this regard.

Regarding the other committee on the proposal for review of modalities for Award of best Ph D thesis of the Institute across all disciplines every year, Prof. Alok Goswami informed that there was no Chairman and Convener of the Committee and hence, meeting could not be held. Then Director suggested that the Dean of Studies be the Chairman and Prof B V Rajarama Bhatt be the Convener of the Committee with Prof Satya P Das is no longer there. The house accepted the same.

Regarding the committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 54th meeting under Agenda No. 8 to look into the matter related to formulation of Rules for JRF Courses including the syllabus Pass/Fail for the courses, the Dean of Studies informed that the Committee has recently co-opted Prof. Indraneel Dasgupta as a Member but not yet finalized the report. It was urged by the members that the report be placed in the next Academic Council meeting.

Regarding the committee constituted by the Academic Council in its 51st meeting under Agenda No. 6, to review the syllabi of the B Stat (Hons) and M Stat programme, the Dean of Studies stated that the matter may be discussed under the main Agenda Item No. 4 as the committee has already submitted its interim report.

Agenda Item 4. Interim report on the B Stat-M Stat curriculum.

Prof. Alok Goswami informed that the committee had submitted its report on B Stat (Hons) syllabus three years back and the same was approved by the Academic Council in its 54th Meeting held on 23rd March 2012 and introduced in the B Stat (Hons) curriculum accordingly. Regarding M Stat programme, he informed that the committee has been working for the last two and half years and would take couple of month's time more to submit the final report. He further informed that the first year curriculum of the M Stat programme has been completed while the work on the Second Year is in progress. For the First Year curriculum, the committee has decided to continue with the existing system of running two streams i.e. B Stream and NB Stream. The B Stream would be for students who

will be directly promoted to the M Stat programme from B Stat programme of the Institute while the NB-Stream will be for those who will get fresh admission to the M Stat programme through selection test and interview. Regarding Second Year curriculum, he informed that the committee in its interim report outlined a tentative list of courses. He stated that the committee has decided not to continue with the existing several specializations and instead, to offer three specializations like Probability, Theoretical Statistics and Applied Statistics. He added that the Applied Statistics specialization will have various Tracks catering to different specific application areas like Biostatistics, Computational Statistics, Finance and Actuarial Statistics. He also referred to the tentative list of courses for the M Stat (Second Year) as outlined by the committee in its interim report.

Prof. Anup Dewanji expressed his apprehension as to why only three specializations have been taken into account instead of existing several specializations and felt that this change seems to complicate the course structure. Prof. Alok Goswami clarified by saying that earlier, we had many specializations but over the year various application areas have been emerged like Biostatistics, Actuarial Sciences etc. After a thread bare discussion, it was decided that the M Stat (First Year) curriculum be accepted and M Stat (Second Year) curriculum be placed in the next Academic Council Meeting for further consideration. In the mean time, the Director suggested that the interim report of the committee be circulated among all the members and their comments/views be discussed in the next Academic Council Meeting.

The committee also proposed the abolition of the compulsory non-credit CSO training course for M Stat students. This proposal was rejected by the AC. However, the committee was asked to recommend changes in the time and duration of the course.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the M Stat (First Year) curriculum be accepted and the final report on M Stat (Second Year) curriculum be placed by the committee in the next Academic Council Meeting for further consideration and necessary approval.

Agenda Item 5. Consideration of the report of the committee setup by the AC for JRF in Development Studies offered at the Bangalore Centre and the revised proposal by Prof Madhura Swaminathan in response to the report.

The Dean of Studies informed that the committee set up by the Academic Council has submitted the revised proposal on the same and urged for deliberation by the members. The Director requested Prof Indraneel Dasgupta, a member of the committee, to put his thought on the issue. Prof. Dasgupta explained that the revised course structures have addressed all the major issues raised by the External Experts and now Academic Council has to decide on the same. The Dean of Studies informed that applying to the Mysore University for affiliation is ruled out as they are asking for fees which ISI cannot pay. Other Universities are being explored for the same. The Director suggested to accept proposal of the committee subject to finding out a suitable University who will confer the Degree in Development Studies. Prof. Madhura Swaminathan suggested to explore the possibilities of getting Tata Institute of Social Sciences, School of Development Studies on the board to affiliate the course. The Director suggested that the Dean of Studies be authorised to take administrative decision in this regard.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the revised course structures as placed by the committee for the Junior Fellowship programme in Development Studies be accepted and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai or any other Universities be explored for affiliating the course.

It was further resolved that the Dean of Studies be authorised to take the administrative decision in this regard.

Agenda Item 6. Consideration of the syllabus of the joint PG Diploma in Business Analytics by ISI Kolkata, IIT Kharagpur and IIM Kolkata.

The Director referred to the discussion the Academic Council had in the last meeting held on 01 September 2014 and the acceptance of the same by the Academic Council in principle. He further informed that Prof. Debsis Sengupta,

Amitava Bandyopadhyay and himself have formulated and presented the course structure for the Post Graduate Diploma in Business Analytics to be jointly offered by ISI Kolkata, IIT, Kharagpur and IIM, Kolkata. He felt that some minor changes may be needed and requested the Academic Council to entrust him and Dean of Studies to do the same. He further informed that Academic Council of IIT, Kharagpur and IIM, Kolkata have not yet met but expected to meet shortly. One of the members enquired as to how the joint degree would be awarded in the Convocation. It was clarified that the degree would be awarded in rotation in every three years.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the syllabus for the Joint PG Diploma in Business Analytics by ISI Kolkata, IIT Kharagpur and IIM Kolkata be accepted and minor changes, if any, be entrusted to the Director and Dean of Studies.

Agenda Item 7. Consideration of a proposal by Dr. Jaydev Sarkar et al on the procedure of admission of JRFs in Mathematics through CSIR/NBHM.

Dr. Jaydev Sarkar emphasized the need of a clear cut rule for admission of JRFs in Mathematics through CSIR/NBHM. He felt that the existing procedure is not very clear and it creates confusion among the CSIR/NBHM holders. He referred the entrance test held in Bangalore in December 2014 and stated that some students have the idea that if someone fails in ISI Admission Test cannot appear in such entrance test. The Director agreed to the fact that such procedures should be clearly documented in the website and requested Prof. Mausumi Bose to put some light on the issue. Prof. Bose stated that earlier there was a committee with herself in the chair and the committee had submitted the report. According to that report, she said, CSIR/NBHM fellows need not appear at the Institute Entrance Test as they have already qualified through the written test conducted by CSIR/NBHM but have to appear for the interviews for selection. Dr. Jaydev Sarkar felt that only after a written test, interview should be followed for admission of the outside JRFs. The Director suggested that let the Dean of Studies dig out the report submitted by the committee and circulate the same among the members for

their comments and place the same before the next academic council. He also advised once the report is finalized, the procedure should be clearly advertised in the Institute website.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the Dean of Studies would circulate the report on the procedure of admission of JRFs in Mathematics through CSIR/NBHM, submitted by the Committee under the chairpersonship of Prof. Mausumi Bose, among the members for their comments and the same be placed in the next Academic Council meeting for finalization and circulation of the procedure of the same through the Institute Website.

Agenda Item 8. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. S. Ponnusamy et al for a 2-year Master of Science (by research) programme in Theoretical Computer Science.

The Director stated that the matter needs an extensive deliberations by a properly constituted committee before placing the proposal to the Academic Council. Prof. Alok Goswami felt that the members of the Academic Council should hear from Prof. S. Ponnusamy as to why this new course is needed to be introduced. Prof. Ponnusamy stated the course is designed to provide a mathematics based research training in Computer Science to motivate them enough to take up research carrier in Theoretical Computer Science and related disciplines upon successful completion of the course. He also stated that a few interested colleagues are there in Chennai Centre and they felt that this new course would pave way to the growth of the centre. After some exchange of views, the Director finally suggested that a Committee be constituted with Prof. S. C. Nandy as Chairman and he, in consultation with the Dean of Studies, would nominate the rest of the members of the committee in order to see the feasibility of introducing a 2-year Master of Science (by research) programme in Theoretical Computer Science. The Academic Council accepted the suggestion of the Director.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that a committee be constituted with S. C. Nandy as the Chairman and he, in consultation with the Dean of

Studies, would nominate the rest of the members of the committee, in order to see the feasibility of introducing a 2-year Master of Science (by research) programme in Theoretical Computer Science.

Agenda Item 9. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. S. Ponnusamy et al explore the possibilities of increasing the intake in B Math/B Stat/M Stat and M Math programmes.

The Director requested Prof. S. Ponnusamy to put forward the proposal before the house and Prof. Ponnusamy stated that the proposal has been designed in order to explore the possibility of attracting more students in B Stat/B Math/M Stat and M Math programmes of the Institute. He proposed that the students selected for Inspire programme of DST and KVPY may be interviewed along with the students selected through ISI written test for admission to B Stat/M Stat programmes while another possibility could be to interview high rank students from IIT JEE mathematics tests. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay disagreed with the proposal for bypassing the ISI written test for the selected students of Inspire programme of DST, KVPY and IIT JEE. Prof. Alok Goswami also stated that traditionally ISI entrance test for B Stat students are of a different type and mere training could not help the students for getting success in such examinations. He also pointed out that although a training centre exists in Kolkata in the name of Ramanujam but being in the B Stat Committee, he assured that the Institute is designing the Test in such a manner so that such training does not help much. Hence, he advocated not to take IIT JEE holders who are prepared based on the training imparted by various centres across the country. Prof. Anish Sarkar pointed out that Ramanujam Training Centre has a success rate of 40% and hence, clearly defeating our basic design of the examination.

Prof. N. S. N. Sastry, Prof. Sourav Ghosh, Prof. S. C. Nandy, Prof. Mausumi Bose, Shri Somnath Ray and Prof. Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya also joined in the deliberations for a while. Finally, the Director stressed the importance of having more deliberations in this regard through a committee as proposed by Shri Somnath Ray. He suggested that a two member committee be constituted

with Prof. Rajarama Bhatt and Prof. Debashis Goswami and the committee should come out with an extensive report and place the same in the next academic council meeting. He also added that they can co-opt any member in the committee if they think so.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that a committee be constituted with Prof. Rajarama Bhatt and Debashis Goswami to prepare a consolidated report to explore the possibilities of increasing student intake in B Stat/B Math/ M Stat and M Math programmes of the Institute. It was further resolved that the committee be authorized to co-opt any members, if they deem fit, for preparing the report and the same be placed in the next Academic Council Meeting.

Agenda Item 10. Consideration of proposal by Shri Somnath Ray et al for minor changes in the semester-wise sequencing of topics of MS(QMS) course.

The members took note of the minor changes in the semester-wise sequencing of the topics of MS(QMS) course as proposed. The Chairman felt that such minor changes are acceptable but he put on record that when the course was started, it was assured that the course would be run by the concerned unit with their own people and not by hiring outside people. Hence, he strongly urged to run the course by the respective unit within their own available resources. The house accepted the same.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the proposal for minor changes in the semester wise sequencing of topics of MS(QMS) course be accepted and the course should be run by the concerned unit within their own available resources.

Agenda Item 11. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. Mahuya Datta et al for reporting of the committees formed by the Academic Council.

The members took note of the proposal regarding timely reporting of the committees constituted by the Academic Council. Though the Dean of Studies currently presents the status report of all extant committees to the AC, the proposers wanted that the Chairman of each committee

whose report is pending should inform the AC of the status of the work starting from the following meeting when the committee was formed. The Director suggested that the Dean of Studies would handle the matter in order to keep the process in a proper shape.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the Dean of Studies would take necessary steps and handle the matter in order to avoid inordinate delay of reporting by the Committees constituted by Academic Council.

Agenda Item 12. Consideration of a proposal by Prof. Mahuya Datta et al for proper maintenance of the Dean's website.

The Director requested Prof. Debashis Goswami to elaborate on the proposal and Prof. Goswami mentioned that the website maintained by the Dean of Studies is seriously out of date and lacks important information, which, he felt, is in violation of Academic Council resolution taken in its 54th meeting under Agenda Item No. 2. He opined that such lack of updated information has caused inconvenience to the students and teachers as a whole. Prof. Antar Bandyopadhyay cited the fact that a committee, in which he was a member, had submitted a report on Pass-Fail issue to the Academic Council and it was duly accepted about four years back but it was not put online even now. As a result, he felt, most of the students and teachers do not know about the Pass-Fail rules, which, according to him, is a serious lapse. The Director suggested that the Dean of Studies should take necessary action to update the Dean's website i.e. www.isical.ac.in/~deanweb.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that the Dean of Studies would take necessary action to maintain and update the Dean's website www.isical.ac.in/~deanweb on a regular basis in order to avoid such inconvenience of the students and faculty.

Agenda Item 13. Consideration of a proposal by Dr. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay et al for certificate courses in Management, Analysis and Interpretation of Office Data: basic, standard and advanced level.

The Director stated that earlier ISI used to offer a one semester course on Statistical Methods, but it was

discontinued more than a decade back. He added that on the request of the Government, RC Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security has started a one semester course on Cryptology and Data Security to cater to the needs of the Government officials from various sectors of defence. He informed that the Government has also requested him to explore the possibility of offering a one semester course on Statistical Methods for the Government officials and that's why Dr. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay, Head, SOSU has put a proposal before the Academic Council in this regard on his request. He further suggested that the Academic Council may accept the proposal in principle and constitute a committee to formulate the final syllabus of the course for further consideration of the Academic Council in its next meeting. He proposed that Prof. Anup Dewanji be the Chairman of the Committee while Dr. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay as the Convener. After a brief discussion, he suggested that Prof. Isha Dewan, Prof. Mausumi Bose and Dr. Amit Biswas be the other members of the Committee. The house accepted the same.

It was resolved by the Academic Council that a committee be constituted with the following members to formulate the syllabus of the proposed one semester course on Management, Analysis and Interpretation of Office Data: Basic Standard and Advanced Level:

- **Prof. Anup Dewanji, Chairman**
- **Prof. Isha Dewan, Member**
- **Prof. Mausumi Bose, Member**
- **Dr. Amit Biswas, Member**
- **Dr. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay, Convener**

It was further resolved that the Committee would submit the report before the next Academic Council meeting.

Agenda Item 14. Miscellaneous

The Director made a general reporting regarding the teaching commitments of the faculty members and expressed his concern in this regard. He informed that Finance Secretary has categorically stated that when the Institute is enjoying the higher pay scale, retirement age

etc. for the faculty, they should have teaching assignment at least at a minimum level in order to contribute to the nation. He recalled that the issue had been discussed with the Dean of Studies, Prof.-In-Charges and also in the Council meeting of the Institute. So, he emphasized the need for designing the courses and engaging the teachers in an effective manner. He further informed that ISI PPEC has proposed that the Institute should increase its student intake by 10% every year, to achieve a 50% increase over the next 5 years.

He requested the faculty member to keep this scenario in mind and put their respective contribution in this regard to satisfy the Government.

Prof Smarajit Bose raised the issue of attendance and asked the AC what ISI should do with students whose attendance as well as performance was poor.

The AC expressed its thanks to the members of the committees which submitted their reports.

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



**Dean of Studies
for
Director &
Chairman, Academic Council**