

**DHIRUBHAI AMBANI INSTITUTE OF
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
Gandhinagar**

**MINUTES OF THE
THIRTYFIRST MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

The 31st meeting of the Academic Council was held on 15th November, 2018. The following members were present:

1. Prof K.S. Dasgupta, Chairman
2. Shri Tapan Misra
3. Prof Naresh Jotwani
4. Prof Sanjay Srivastava
5. Prof Binita Desai
6. Prof Suman Mitra
7. Prof Sanjeev Gupta
8. Shri Soman Nair, Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to Prof Surendra Prasad, Prof David Koilpillai, Shri K Narayan, and Shri Suresh Rangachar.

Item No. 1

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19th January, 2018

The Council accepted the comments received from Prof Sanjay Srivastava on NAAC accreditation grading recorded in the minutes. It was decided to reword the sentence appearing in Item No. 2, second paragraph of the minutes as follows:

'The Council noted the result and opined that the Institute should aim at obtaining the highest NAAC accreditation grade in future which is now A++.'

With the above changes, the Council confirmed the minutes.

Item No. 2

To note the actions taken on the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17th January, 2017

The Council noted actions taken on the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January, 2017.

Item No. 3

To reconsider the total credit requirements for B.Tech (ICT) and B.Tech (ICT) with minor in CS Programs to become eligible for Graduation

The Dean (AP) briefed the Council that the majority of B. Tech students at the end of the 7th semester are getting their final placements with pre-placement internships which are treated as final year projects. At the end of the 7th semester, it has been observed that a good number of students of B. Tech (ICT) and B. Tech (Hons) in ICT with minor in CS programs are unable to obtain the stipulated total credits of 152 and 170 respectively to graduate and therefore, the proposal for nominal reduction in credit requirements. One of the reasons in shortfall of credits noticed is that the number of technical electives offered with 4 credits for the students to take is limited.

The Council advised to review the technical electives offered after obtaining feedback from the students and ascertain whether they are in conformity with the latest and emerging technologies and industry-relevant. The Council opined that the technical electives, if offered without Laboratory and Tutorial components, may not help the students to learn the course effectively.

The Council advised the Dean (AP) to refer the proposal to the faculty, obtain their recommendations and then place the appropriate proposal before the Council.

Item 4

To approve the proposal to partner with Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu, Kashmir to offer MTech Computer Science program

The Director placed before the Council the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between DA-IICT and IIT Jammu for academic collaboration. He briefed the Council on the meeting he and the Dean (AP) had with the Director, IIT Jammu and the decision taken to jointly design and offer an M. Tech Program in Computer Science (CS) with two specializations, i.e., in Data Science (DS) and Information Security (IS) from the academic year 2019-20 with an initial batch size of 40 students selected on national basis.

The Council noted the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and approved DA-IICT partnering with IIT Jammu in offering the program. The Council also noted the administrative arrangements suggested in conducting the program as follows:

- IIT Jammu shall conduct the entire admission process following the eligibility conditions, admission process and procedures set forth by them and admit the students from the academic year 2019-20. DA-IICT will participate in the final selection of students.

- The first semester courses will be offered by IIT Jammu at Jammu Campus whereas second semester onwards (course work in second semester compulsorily and thesis work in third and fourth semesters, if opted by the students), DA-IICT will enrol and host the students. The courses to be offered in the second semester, and their design and structure shall be decided in consultation with IIT Jammu prior to beginning of the semester/academic year.
- The examinations and evaluation of the second semester studies shall be conducted on the existing DA-IICT pattern. The credits and grades of students shall be computed in accordance with the academic regulations of IIT Jammu. The credits earned by the students at DA-IICT shall be transferred to IIT Jammu to complete the total required credits for the Degree. Official transcripts to the students reflecting the credits and grades attained by the students during their studies at DA-IICT shall be issued by IIT Jammu with a noting in the transcripts that the credits transferred are from DA-IICT.
- The students, during their second, third and fourth semester studies at DA-IICT, shall be subject to the academic and disciplinary rules and regulations of DA-IICT. Where applicable, DA-IICT shall periodically inform IIT Jammu the academic progress and performance of the students.
- The Students enrolled will continue as candidates for Degrees at IIT Jammu and will not be candidates for Degrees at DA-IICT.
- IIT Jammu shall collect the approved tuition fees of three semesters (second, third and fourth) and remit to DA-IICT the total tuition fee computed based on the number of students enrolled at DA-IICT.
- DA-IICT shall provide hostel accommodation on campus to the students on twin-sharing basis for which the hostel rent and electricity charges at the rate as applicable to Indian students of DA-IICT, from time to time, shall be applicable to IIT Jammu students.
- The Dean (Academic Programs) will be the coordinator at DA-IICT who will serve as the contact person, being responsible for arrangements associated with the conduct of classes, course offering, student stay and ensuring that necessary support and guidance are extended to the students. IIT Jammu will be advised to appoint a coordinator.
- The program will be reviewed jointly by IIT Jammu and DA-IICT from time to time for necessary improvements and changes.

Item No. 5

To note additions to faculty

The Council noted that the following faculty members have joined the Institute recently:

- 1) Dr Anjan Ghosh
- 2) Dr Pankaj Kumar
- 3) Dr Bakul Goel

4) Dr Srimanta Mantal

The following additional items were discussed with the permission of the Chair.

Item No.6(a)

To consider launching an integrated MSc in Mathematics and Computing Program

The Director informed the Council on the proposal to launch an integrated MSc Program in Mathematics and Computing. He stated that a Committee of four faculty members with Prof V. Sunitha as Convenor has been formed to study the feasibility of launching the program. The Committee has prepared a preliminary report and with the permission of the Council, he invited Prof Sunitha to present the findings of the Committee before the Council.

Prof Sunitha briefed the Council that the Committee studied various integrated programs offered by national Institutes and Universities in the country. The Committee found that majority of these programs are in Mathematics, Mathematical Sciences and Computer Science and some of them a combination of Statistics and Mathematics and Computing and Financial Engineering. She had briefed as follows:

- The Program will be a 5 year dual Degree in Mathematics and Computing (MnC) with implicit specialisation tracks in Data Science, Mathematical Biology, Mathematical Finance and Network Science.
- Admission is planned through JEE (Advanced), Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KPVY), Mathematics/Informatics Olympiad, DA-IICT Aptitude Test with certain number of seats reserved for each test.
- Curriculum will be designed to enable the students to take Graduate Aptitude Test (GATE) in Mathematics/Computer Science, JRF/NET in Mathematical Sciences.
- The curriculum structure suggested is with core courses in Mathematics, Computing, Humanities and Social Sciences combined with summer training, a summer research internship, a bachelor and a master thesis.
- As far as faculty requirements are concerned, it was stated that at least four faculty members in the areas of Mathematics and Computing are required in each year totalling involvement of 19 faculty members by the end of the fourth year of the program.
- There are ample opportunities for summer internships, research fellowships and other supplementing and networking opportunities. The graduates can look forward to career opportunities in banks, insurance companies, financial institutions, biomedical and pharmaceutical industries, consulting firms, software industry, telecom industry etc.
- Intake may be 40 students in the first batch.
- Planned to hold brainstorming sessions with academia and Industry.

- The Committee is examining the duration of the program, exit options, infrastructural requirements, manpower, and financial implications of the program.

The Council noted the briefing and accorded its approval to proceed with the plan to design and launch the program.

Prof Sunitha, with the permission of the Chair, withdrew from the meeting.

Item No. 7(b)

To consider the curriculum review of M Des (Communication Design) Program

The Director briefed the Council that the objective of the review of M. Des (CD) Program is to augment it as one of the leading programs of the Institute. He stated that in spite of being a well-designed program with excellent faculty input, the program is unable to attract adequate number of students. In order to find out the reasons, we have constituted an internal Committee with Prof Binita Desai as Convenor. Prof S Balram, Director, DJ Academy of Design, Coimbatore was invited as an external expert; he visited the Institute on 16th April, 2018 and participated in the review of the program.

At the Invitation of the Director, Prof Binita Desai, summarised the recommendations of the Committee as follows:

- Replace the existing semester system with modular system. This will involve deciding on credits to be assigned to each of the course, time tabling and course load.
- Eliminate Object Oriented Programming and Writing and Presentation Skills.
- In the first semester, introduce Image Sound Text and Design History Courses.
- Re-introduce Photography, Video and Thematic Seminar as independent courses.
- Move Information Design Course to the first semester, interaction design course to the second semester and web design course to the third semester.
- Total credits to be acquired for graduation be changed from 61 to 80.
- Consider revising the program duration from 2 years to 2 ½ years.

The Council examined the recommendations in detail and suggested to (a) streamline the course structure, (b) assess the impact of revising the program to 2½ years (c) continue to offer the course on Writing and Presentation Skills as this is one of the important courses for a PG Program; and (d) examine having sequential teaching which will help to strengthen research interest in students.

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

