



**Minutes of the 13th Senate Meeting of IIIT-D held on 13th October 2010,
at 3.30 PM in Conference Room, Library Building, IIIT Delhi**

Following members were present:

- Prof. Pankaj Jalote - Chairman
- Dr. Veena Bansal - Faculty for student affairs
- Dr. K. K. Biswas - Member (from IITD)
- Dr. Somitra Sanadhya - Member
- Dr. Amarjeet Singh - Member
- Dr. Vikram Goyal - Member
- Dr. Ponnurangam Kumaraguru - Member
- Dr. Ashwani Kansal - Registrar

Special invitees:

- Dr. Saket Srivastava - Faculty, IIIT-D
- Dr. Vinayak Naik - Faculty, IIIT-D
- Dr. Vijay Vaishnavi - Faculty, IIIT-D

Members present through Audio Conferencing:

- Mr. Saugat Sen - Member
- Mr. C. Anantaram - Member
- Mr. Rajat Moona - Member

13.0 Opening remarks of Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all the members to the meeting. The members who could not attend the meeting were granted leave of absence.

13.1 Confirmation of minutes of the 12th Senate meeting.

As there were no comments from anyone, the minutes were confirmed.

13.2 Review of PG Manual with Ordinances and Regulations

Presentation of the earlier approved PG Manual as ordinances and regulations was approved. Some of the changes that was specifically discussed, and agreed by all:

(1) Change of criteria for minimum credit requirement in MTech (both thesis and non-thesis) will now be 48, as has been discussed earlier.

(2) Policy on students leaving in mid semester.

(3) Discussion on comprehensive examination for PhD students.

It was pointed out by some members that the PG manual should also contain something about code of conduct, and on IP policy. It was agreed that these are good topics to add in the manual, particularly the code of conduct, and this will be done in due course.

13.3 Review of M Tech (CS) as Regulations

Presentation of the earlier approved MTech(CS) program as in form of regulations was approved.

13.4 Guidelines for sponsored Phd program

While in principle the Senate agreed with the idea that a sponsored candidate be allowed to do an equivalent amount of work as a TA does elsewhere, there were concerns about ensuring that the limits are maintained. It was agreed that in all sponsored cases we must clearly articulate the requirements so the both the candidate and the sponsoring organization are in agreement.

13.5 Opening MTech program officially, and allowing MTech (IS) people to opt for MTech without specialization

It was agreed that since the MTech program itself has been earlier approved by the Senate, it may also be put in execution, and the current students in the MTech program, while they were admitted for Information Security specialization, may be allowed to opt for MTech without specialization also.

13.6 M Tech students migrating to Phd Program

This is already allowed in the PG manual.

13.7 Eligibility criteria for appearing in IIIT-D admission test.

There was a lively discussion about changing the eligibility criteria. While members generally supported the idea of bringing in diversity in inputs, there were concerns if people without, for example, physics in their class XII will be able to cope with some courses, particularly when the ECE program starts. It was clarified that when ECE starts, if needed, Senate can put a restriction that only those with Physics in XII can opt for that stream.

Finally, it was agreed that since no data is available, and that many countries work with only Maths in XII as the eligibility requirement, the eligibility requirement for appearing in the admission test for IIIT-D, BTech be changed to “80% or above in Maths, and 80% or above overall”.

13.8 Having a small essay in the admission test

Many members raised concerns about having an essay. Some of the concerns were; there is no clear need for it particularly since there is a comprehension part in the test, its importance is not clear, and students are supposed to have done it in class XII anyway, how will the answers be evaluated.

There were suggestions on having zero weightage for these questions and not disclosing this to the students, as GRE does. It was felt that this may become unfair to some students who may spend much more time than needed and hence have less time for other questions.

It was finally agreed that such an exam can be administered soon after students join and when they are still fresh, and the performance on that be used to judge the usefulness of such a test.

13.9 Awards / Recognitions at graduation.

There was agreement on the Chancellor’s Gold Medal. While it was agreed that having an "All round medal" is desirable, its criteria was discussed. Suggestions included having separate medal for each

criteria rather than having a single medal by clubbing all the criteria together. It was also debated if we need to ask the students for certificates for evaluation parameters. It was debated if we give out separate medals for each then we may end up giving too many awards (hence devaluing them).

It was decided that as of now we can keep it to only three awards and as we expand we can have multiple awards later on.

It was also agreed that any student should be able to nominate any student, including him/her self, as long as they have 8.0 GPA.

There was a discussion on including “research” as one of the parameters, as we are a research-led Institute. While it was agreed that research should be emphasized, it was felt that there should be separate awards for recognizing research (like a yearly “best paper” award). Till such awards are instituted, research may be included as a factor for evaluation.

For outstanding BTP, it was suggested, and agreed, that the project must have a minimum 'A' grade to be eligible for this award. It was also suggested that an external committee should evaluate the nominations (or other faculty with external evaluators minus the BTP supervisor).

13.10 Policies for a PG student leaving in the middle of the semester

13.11 Any other matter – Awards for MTech at Graduation time

This item was proposed and then discussed. It was agreed that it is desirable to have awards for MTech also. However, it was agreed that equivalent to “Chancellor’s medal” is not desirable as they do very few courses in the Institute. Various suggestions were give (e.g. 'Best Initiative' award, 'Best academic performance' award, etc.) It was finally agreed that that we should have a "Best Thesis for MTech" award. There should be no minimum GPA requirement for this.
