

Minutes of the 17th AAC meeting held at 2.30 PM on 26th January 2022 through Google meet

Following members/special invitees were present:

Prof. Anuradha Sharma – Chairperson
Prof. Pushpendra Singh – DoAA
Prof. M S Hashmi - Chair-PG Affairs
Dr. Sumit Darak - Chair-UG Affairs
Dr. Debajyoti Bera
Dr. Rahul Purandare
Dr. Saket Anand
Dr. Sujay Deb
Dr. Kiriti Kanjilal
Dr. Debika Banerjee
Dr. Grace Eden
Dr. Ganesh Bagler
Dr. K. Sriram
Mr. K P Singh –Academic In-Charge
Mr. Ashutosh Brahma - Deputy Manager (Academics)
Mr. Navneet Agarwal –Vice President (Student Senate)
Ms. Nisha Narwal - Assistant Manager (Academics)

At the outset, Prof. Anuradha Sharma (AAC Chair) welcomed all members/special invitees to the AAC meeting. Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up for discussion and the following decisions/recommendations were made:

Item 1. The [minutes of the 16th AAC meeting held on 19th January 2022](#) were confirmed.

Action: NA

Item 2. Reporting Items:

Following courses were discussed over email and are approved:

1. To consider assigning ECE codes to Computer Vision, Deep Learning and Statistical Machine learning

We have received a request from the Department of ECE to consider the courses entitled Computer Vision (CV), Deep Learning (DL) and Statistical Machine Learning (SML) towards 32 department credits for B.Tech. (ECE) students, who have completed any of these courses in their last 4 semesters. Note that the course titled Computer Vision (CV) is already being offered with an ECE code.

(i) The department also recommended assigning two ECE codes, ECE356 and ECE556, to Statistical machine learning (SML), which is currently being offered with a CSE code only.

(ii) The department also recommended considering Deep Learning towards 32 department credits without assigning an ECE code.

The AAC accepted the above recommendation of the Department of ECE and also suggested assigning an ECE code to the Deep Learning course as well.

ii. To consider additional courses - PIS & DIS in the semester IV slot (HCI/TOC) for B.Tech. 2019 Batch.

We have received a request from the Department of CSE to consider the courses entitled [Prototyping Interactive Systems](#) (PIS) - DES206 and [Design of Interactive Systems](#) (DIS) - DES205 as additional courses in Semester IV slot [Human Computer Interaction/TOC]# for the 2019 batch.

The AAC accepted the above recommendation of the CSE department and recommended it to the Senate for approval.

iii. The Department of CSE also recommended adding the course entitled “Network and System Security II (CSE554)” to the list of courses for M.Tech with a specialization in Information Security.

The AAC accepted the above recommendation of the Department of CSE.

Item 3. In the 13th AAC meeting, a list of companies proposed by the departments was approved for the Industrial Doctoral program. During the discussion, AAC members from the Department of CSE suggested adding the following names to the list:
1. Google 2. Microsoft 3. IBM 4. CISCO 5. Facebook 6. Apple 7. Siemens 8. Persistent Systems 9. Adobe Research 10. Verisk Analytics 11. ABB Robotics

The AAC suggested sharing names of these companies with the Department of CSE for any further comments.

The Department of CSE has proposed adding the following companies to the list:

United healthcare group (Optum)

Qualcomm
CDAC R&D.
TCS R&D
GS1 India
Microsoft India
Google India
Adobe India

IBM Research
IBM India
Microsoft Research
VMware

Also, please find here the [link](#) wherein all proposed companies are listed for reference. The AAC was requested to deliberate on this.

The AAC recommended adding the above companies to the list. The AAC also suggested sending reminders to the other departments which have not yet sent any such list.

Action: Academic Department

Item 4. To review the guidelines for non-degree/visiting candidates to attend regular courses offered at IIIT-Delhi

In the 15th AAC meeting held on September 30, 2021, the AAC Chair apprised the members of a recent request received from the Department of ECE about offering a course to industry folks. It was noted that currently, we have a provision for this, where a candidate pays Rs. 8000/- per credit along with Rs.5000/- as security. But a formal approach may be adopted to regularize the process. During the discussion, it was suggested that this fee amount should be in accordance with the B.Tech. fee. Currently, the institute charges a fee of Rs. 10,000/- (approx.) per credit from the B.Tech. students (the annual fee for the BTech program is approximately Rs. 4 lakhs and the B.Tech. students are required to do 20 credits per semester). The AAC recommended a fee of Rs. 10,000/- per credit and a refundable security deposit of Rs.10,000/-. This fee will get automatically revised if there is a revision in the B.Tech. fee. This will be adopted for all professional candidates, i.e., non-degree visiting students and industry folks. A transcript will be issued to all registered candidates in a format similar to that of the transcripts issued to our regular students. Mr. K. P. Singh mentioned that we already have guidelines for the registration of professional candidates. The AAC desired to review these guidelines in the upcoming AAC meeting.

In the 17th meeting, the AAC discussed existing guidelines for Professional Candidates Registration (PCR) in regular courses at IIIT-Delhi. It was noted that as per the existing guidelines, a Certificate of satisfactory completion of a course will be issued to only those candidates who have received at least a 'C-' grade in the course. However, according to our metric, the letter grade 'C' is equivalent to satisfactory performance, so the AAC recommended issuing this certificate to only those candidates who have received at least a 'C' grade (instead of a 'C-' grade) in the course. The AAC also recommended issuing a transcript mentioning the name of the course, the number of credits and the grade received to all the registered candidates after completion of the course. The AAC had already recommended a fee revision in the 15th meeting. Except for the above-mentioned points, the AAC agreed with the remaining guidelines.

The revised rules for Professional Candidates Registration (PCR) are placed as [Appendix I](#) for approval of the Senate and the Finance Committee.

Arising out of the discussion, the AAC recommended that henceforth, the cases of Professional candidates will be dealt with by the Academic Section. The advertisement for the course(s) will be made through the website and social media. Besides, wherever necessary, the academic section will seek support from the Placement and Alumni divisions. The list of companies prepared for the Industrial Doctoral Program should also be used for publicity purposes.

Action: To Senate/Finance Committee

Item 5. Minor Updates in B.Tech. CSSS Regulations.

The document is placed as [Appendix-II](#).

Dr. Kirti Kanjilal presented this item and informed that there are some minor updates in BTech (CSSS) regulations for having more clarity for CSSS students of 2018 and before batches, and for CSSS students from the 2019 batch onwards.

The current CSSS regulation document which is available on the website doesn't clearly mention the core / compulsory courses, which is creating confusion amongst the student community.

From 2019 onwards, there are two ways in which a CSSS student can graduate, one is that they can take only 28 SSH credits in the last two years and the second option is that they can take only Economics courses, which means they will get a Major in Economics.

He informed that for batches of 2018 and before, Microeconomics was the compulsory course and from the 2019 batch onwards, the core / compulsory course has now been changed to Convex Optimization.

Also, from 2019 onwards, students can either graduate with a CSSS degree or a CSSS degree with a Major in Economics. More clarifications are added to the already approved document, which is available on the website.

After detailed deliberations, the AAC sought clarification for the term "Compulsory course" used in the document and suggested defining the term "Compulsory course" as a footnote in the document. Dr. Kiriti was requested to incorporate the changes in the document before uploading it to the website.

Action: Department of SSH/Dr. Kiriti Kanjilal

Item 6. To consider a proposal for the MTech CB Dual degree program and discuss its regulations.

The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), in its 17th meeting held on January 26, 2022, considered a proposal for starting a Dual Degree program in M.Tech. (Computational Biology). Dr. Ganesh Bagler and Dr. K. Sriram presented and explained the salient features of the proposal, and answered the

queries. After detailed deliberations, the AAC agreed to the proposed regulations with minor changes, placed as [Appendix III](#) and recommended the same for approval of the Senate.

Action: To Senate

Item 7. To review the guidelines for the Doctoral Dissertation Award

While recommending various awards and medals for the 10th convocation, the Senate in its 52nd meeting held on 4.10.2021, had advised the AAC to have a relook at the guidelines for the Doctoral Dissertation Award. Accordingly, the AAC, in its 16th meeting held on January 19, 2022 and 17th meeting held on January 26, 2022, discussed the existing guidelines in detail. During the course of discussions, it was felt necessary to make some reasonable changes in the format to get the feedback from the external examiners. In the 17th AAC meeting, the AAC Chair apprised the members of the processes being followed by ACM, IBM and IITD for selecting the PhD theses. She also apprised the members of the criteria being followed at IIT Kanpur for selecting the **Outstanding Ph.D. thesis Award** and **Ph.D. thesis of the Year Award**. After detailed deliberations, the AAC recommended the following criteria for selecting the students for the award in the forthcoming convocation:

- a. All three external examiners should have rated the thesis in category 'A' in the initial review.
- b. The form seeking recommendations from external examiners should clearly mention our expectations from the thesis.
- c. The Academic Section will approach the concerned external examiners after the thesis defense (Viva-voce) with a request whether he/she would recommend the thesis for the Doctoral Dissertation Award. The examiner with a positive recommendation will also be requested to briefly highlight the strengths of the thesis and a justification for recommending the thesis.
- d. If more than 10% of the students become eligible for the award, then the criteria may be reviewed after the next convocation.

The AAC desired the Academic Section to prepare a note along with the form for consideration in the next AAC.

Action: Academic Section

Item 8. To discuss timelines for the Ph.D. comprehensive exam.

The Chair PGC apprised the members that many Ph.D. students are in their fourth and fifth year, but they are yet to complete their Comprehensive Exam. He suggested that there should be a mechanism to ensure that the students pass their Core Comprehensive exam within 2 years of joining. After detailed deliberations, the AAC recommended the following:

- The Core Comprehensive exam can be done after 2 years and not before 3 semesters. It was further added that the PhD coursework and a certain number of research credits should be completed before appearing in the Core Comprehensive exam.

- The DoAA apprised the AAC members that a new proposal to increase the stipend of Ph.D. students is under discussion. He suggested that the increased amount will only be applicable when a student has completed the core comprehensive exam.
- It was also suggested that the TAsip waiver can be availed only after the successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

The Chair PG Affairs informed that detailed updated guidelines for the comprehensive exam will be prepared in consultation with DOAA and will be circulated among AAC members.

Action: Chair PG Affairs/Academic Section

Item 9. Delinking financial penalties from the academic warning in the case of Ph.D. students.

The Chair PG Affairs presented this item and apprised the members of the background. The AAC discussed the matter in detail and recommended that there should not be any financial penalty because of academic warnings in the case of Ph.D. students.

The AAC Chair also added that Ph.D. students who are on Institute fellowship are getting stipends at a reduced rate in their 5th year. She suggested that all Ph.D. students should get a full stipend in their fifth year as well.

The DoAA also suggested that top-ups should be allowed. The sources of top-ups could be PDA (IRD or institute), project funding, or any other funds available to the advisors. The amount of top-up and when and who to give a top-up will be solely decided by the advisor. The AAC members agreed to it.

The Chair PG Affairs also raised a concern about the delay in Annual reviews and suggested that there should be a proper system for Annual reviews. The AAC Chair suggested issuing an Academic Warning to the student who has not appeared in the Annual Review. The PGC Chair suggested that annual reviews should be tied with the regular monsoon and winter semesters. So, depending on the date of admission, the annual review can be held at the end of the Monsoon or Winter Semester. The grade of the annual review must be submitted by the moderation date of the respective semesters.

If a student fails to complete the Annual Review, he/she will not be allowed to register for courses next semester and he/she will be put on academic warning.

The Chair PG Affairs informed the AAC that detailed updated guidelines, on a similar line with the comprehensive exam, will be prepared in consultation with DOAA and will be circulated among AAC members.

Action: Chair PG Affairs/Academic Section

**Item 10. ORF for externally funded PhD students
- Repurposing ORF grant during COVID**

- TAship responsibilities and timings

The current guideline is [shared here for reference.](#)

The DoAA presented this item and informed the members of a request received to repurpose the ORF amount since PhD students are not able to travel abroad due to COVID. After detailed deliberations, it was concluded that repurposing the ORF grant will defeat its purpose.

It was also clarified that the student who comes back after availing of ORF has to do two TAships.

Action: Academic Section

Item 11. Course credit requirements for Mr. Vishal Kumar as per current Ph.D. regulations.

It was noted that this student has done B.Tech. and M.Sc. in Computer Science (from Cochin University of Science & Technology). During the course of discussions, it was felt that the PhD coursework requirement for such students should be the same as that for PhD students admitted with an M.Tech. degree. The AAC recommended 16 credits of PhD coursework for students admitted with 4 years of B.Tech. and 2 years of M.Sc.

Action: To Senate/Academic Section

Item 12. To discuss the existing provision of taking IP/IS for B.Tech. students. The current regulation states the following:

“A student may take “Independent Project” or “Independent Study” or “Undergraduate Research” courses for 1, 2, or 4 credits in a semester. No more than 8 of these credits can count towards the credit requirements of the degree. Only students with satisfactory CGPA (at least 7.5) or with a strong interest in some area (the faculty advisor to determine this) and with a CGPA of at least 7.0 can take these courses.”

[Here](#) are a few statistics from the previous semester for reference.

The DoAA apprised the members of the background and informed them that there is a CGPA requirement for doing IP/IS in the B.Tech program, but there is no CGPA requirement for doing BTP. The AAC members deliberated on the matter and felt that IP / IS may give a hands-on experience to students. It may also boost the confidence of the students who are not able to perform well in the regular courses. In view of this, the AAC recommended that there should not be a CGPA requirement for doing IP/IS, and that the CGPA bar should be removed from the Academic year 2022-2023.

Action: To Senate

<p>Item 13.</p>	<p><i>During the discussion of Item no. 4 in the 15th AAC meeting, Dr. Kiriti suggested allowing IIIT-Delhi students to attend classes at the Institutes/Universities without any MoU. The Institute already has a policy to allow students to do credits outside the Institute. However, there are no proper guidelines for the transfer of credits. Currently, it is being done on a case-by-case basis. The B.Tech guidelines for the same are as follows:</i></p> <p><i>Deferred</i></p>
<p>Item 14.</p>	<p>M.Tech. online courses through IP/IS.</p> <p><i>Deferred</i></p>
<p>Item 15.</p>	<p>To discuss the policy of M.Tech. and Ph.D. theses submission in the Library and making theses public and the inclusion of TRs (Technical Report).</p> <p><i>Deferred</i></p>
<p>Item 16.</p>	<p>To frame a policy for a course name change.</p> <p><i>Deferred</i></p>
<p>The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and by the Chairperson</p>	
