

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) held on July 18, 2020 at 11.00 AM via Google meet

Following members were present:

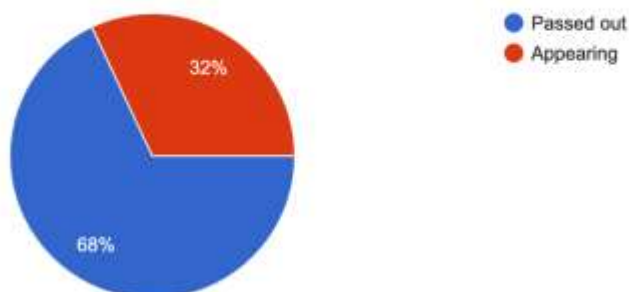
1. Dr. Anuradha Sharma - Chairperson
2. Prof. Pushpendra Singh - DoAA
3. Dr. Sriram K
4. Dr Ganesh Bagler
5. Dr. Debajyoti Bera
6. Dr. Kiriti Kanjilal
7. Dr. Debika Banerjee
8. Dr. Sujay Deb
9. Dr. Sumit Darak – Chair, UG Affairs
10. Dr. Rahul Purandare
11. Dr Tanmoy Chakraborty (Special Invitee)
12. Dr. Ashok Kumar Solanki – Registrar (Special Invitee)
13. Mr. K. P. Singh –Academic In-Charge (Special Invitee)
14. Ms. Sheetu Ahuja – Manager (Academics) (Special Invitee)
15. Ms. Priti Patel - AM(Academics) (Special Invitee)
16. Mr. Ashutosh Brahma- AM(Academics) (Special Invitee)

At the outset, the Dean of Academic Affairs (DOAA) welcomed the members and special invitees to the 1st meeting of the AAC. He initiated the discussion with the information that many of the Universities have not conducted their examinations, whereas the University Grants Commission (UGC) wants all universities to complete their examinations by the end of September 2020. He also informed that many of the candidates who have been selected by IIITD may take leave (even long leave) to go to their colleges to appear in the examinations.

Thereafter, Mr. Ashutosh Brahma presented the outcome of the survey done to collect information from the candidates. The survey details are as follows:

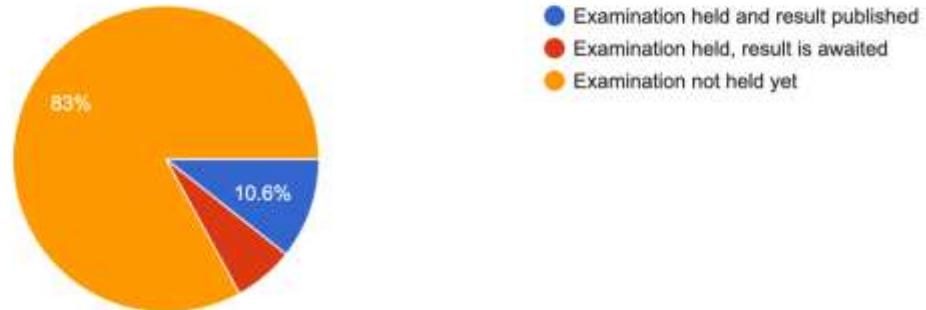
Qualifying degree status?

147 responses



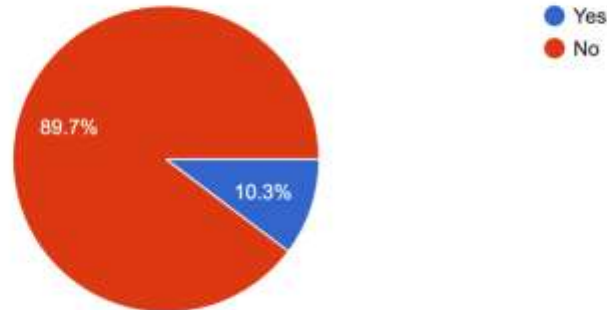
What is the final semester exam status?

47 responses



Are Examination dates announced?

39 responses



The above situation is an indicative of the following two possibilities: 1. Admitted candidates might have already appeared in their university examinations before joining IIIT D and therefore join with no past liability, and 2. Admitted candidates may not have completed their university examinations before joining IIITD and therefore would ask for leave from IIITD to complete their pending examinations.

Though the classes are online, they would also be performing TA duties which may be affected due to them going on leave. To overcome the above situation, it will be necessary to manage the TAship with a limited number of TAs, therefore TA allocation should be done keeping this in mind. Besides this, the instructors must be requested to cooperate with such students.

After a detailed discussion, it was recommended that PG classes would start from 20th August 2020 (with UG classes of 2nd year onwards). The instructors would have flexibility to set their own pace without compromising the quality of teaching. In the same light, continuous evaluation should be encouraged rather than mid-sem and end-sem exams. It was also decided that instructors should record all online lectures and share with the students. Towards this, DOAA informed that an action has been initiated to purchase zoom/lark/slack licences for the instructors. Wherever necessary, extra classes should be arranged to help the students who missed the classes.

DOAA was requested to communicate the messages to the instructors and the students about the conduct of classes from time to time.

It was also recommended to conduct a Core comprehensive examination after March 2021 for all the core UG and PG courses that are conducted in the online mode and the students should be required to obtain the 'S' grade. In case a student fails in the core comprehensive examination, then he/she should be asked to appear in the core comprehensive examination again and obtain the 'S' grade. DOAA was requested to prepare necessary guidelines to conduct Core comprehensive examinations for UG and PG programs and take an approval of the Senate.

All students will be informed in advance about the proctored examination to be conducted when the campus opens. The criteria and guidelines to conduct the exam will be decided in consultation with the faculty so that the program objectives are achieved.

Status of Ph.D. admissions

Ms. Priti Patel presented the status of regular Ph.D. admission as under:

46 PhD admission offers were made under the April 2020 admission cycle. Out of 46 students, 34 students have accepted the admission offer and out of these 34 students, there were 20 students who are in their final year of UG/ PG degrees.

Following challenges were observed in the joining of new PhD students:

1. Students who are on their own fellowship and are yet to complete their qualifying degrees, in the event of their joining PhD program, the external funding agency will not release their fellowships until they clear their qualifying degrees. In this case, these students may become a financial liability on the Institute part.
2. How will their attendance be monitored?

After a brief discussion on the matter, the following is decided:

1 . Students having their own fellowships may be allowed to join the PhD program. However, their fellowship will start only when they will attain the eligibility for start of their own fellowships. This information should be shared with students prior to their joining.

2 . A PhD student, whose qualifying degree is yet to be completed, may be allowed to join under a project position. In case of his/ her non-fulfilment of the eligibility criteria post his/ her result declaration, the TA/RAs hip component earned by the student will not be recovered (i.e. 50% of fellowship), and the remaining 50% amount received as stipend would be recovered. However, in this case, a prior consent from the advisor should be taken before the joining of the student.

All new PhD students will be assigned faculty mentors (not necessarily a future advisor). The student will have the full freedom to choose their advisor as per existing rules and inform the academic section.

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