

Minutes of the 40th meeting of the PGC held on 28th August 2019, 3.00 PM, Meeting Room, 5th Floor, New Academic Building, IIT Delhi

Following were present:

1. Dr. A.V. Subramanyam- Chairman
2. Dr. Anubha Gupta
3. Dr. Mayank Vatsa
4. Dr. Sriram K
5. Dr. Sumit Darak
6. Dr. Anuradha Sharma
7. Dr. Aasim Khan
8. Dr. Aman Parnami
9. Dr. Sneha Saurabh
10. Dr. Ganesh Bagler
11. Dr. Tanmoy Chakravarty
12. Ms. Sheetu Ahuja - Manager (Academics)
13. Ms. Priti Patel - AM(Academics)

At the outset, Chair PGC welcomed all the members/special invitees to the meeting. Thereafter the agenda items were taken up for discussions and the following decisions/recommendation were made.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 39th meeting of the PGC held on 15th July, 2019.
2. **To discuss about ORF guidelines.**
PGC discussed in detail regarding the criteria for evaluation of ORF application. After the discussion, PGC has noted that since ORF grant involves financial implications as well, there is a necessity for getting the evaluation done through a subcommittee of PGC. PGC has recommended that the current process of evaluation of an ORF application through a sub-committee of PGC shall continue.

Action to be taken : No action.

3. **To discuss about whether we should have internal examiners for Ph.D. Thesis evaluation.**

Current guidelines, for Ph.D. thesis evaluation, allow a provision for utmost one internal examiner for thesis evaluation. PGC discussed about the existing practice of Ph.D. thesis evaluation across Indian & Foreign Institutes/ Universities. PGC also noted that so far 39 PhDs have been gradated and in past we have not faced any issue in getting external examiner for thesis evaluation. On the other hand, having an internal examiner may also have some valid points such as – monitoring committee members evaluating the student may have a comprehensive understanding of the student' progress year-on-year. However, PGC does not see an urgency of having the provision of internal examiner for thesis evaluation process. Considering above, the PGC has recommended removing the provision for internal examiners from the guidelines.

Action to be taken : Item will be forwarded to the Senate for consideration.

4. **What elective courses can be taken up by the M.Tech. degree students? Should there be any courses including non-tech courses or shall there be some guidelines? (M.Tech. Students are allowed to take 300 & 400 level courses; 4 cr in case of thesis & 8 cr. in case of without thesis**

option. So, this is to clarify whether M.Tech. students can take non-tech course as well within this.)

Chair PGC apprised the members, that as per current practice the matter is handled on case-by-case basis, with approval of Chair PGC. After brief discussion, PGC has recommended that since now we have Departments, the same should be first shared with respective Departments for their feedback. Departments may consider sharing a list of courses to be allowed for this purpose, may consider whether Program coordinator can approve such requests or an alternative provision.

Action to be taken : Item to be forwarded to Departments, having M.Tech. program.

5. Review of Refresher courses and two core courses.
Deferred.

6. Whether PG students are allowed to repeat a course?
Deferred.

7. To discuss regarding inviting (or not) non-PGC member faculty (essentially all faculty) to PGC meetings.

DoAA apprised the members of the background of the above item. In order to bring more transparency in the functionality of the PGC body, the following is recommended:

- Agenda of the PGC will be shared with all faculty members before the PGC meeting
- Faculty may give their inputs on the agenda items, to the Department representative in PGC to be further taken up in the PGC meeting.
- The minutes of meeting will also be shared with all faculty members.

Action to be taken:

- To be forwarded to UGC for discussion.

8. To discuss about revised guidelines of PhD(Mathematics).
Deferred.

9. To re-visit the timelines for Comprehensive exam of PhD students. Also to discuss regarding, PhD yearly review post comprehensive (whether reviews post comprehensive useful or not and can be optional or removed).

Chair PGC apprised the members about the current practice of sending email reminder to the students with copy to the advisor, who are due for their comprehensive exam. PGC noted that the timeline mentioned in the regulations are only expected timelines and there may be reasons of non-completion of comprehensive exam within the specified timeline. In view of this, the practice of sending reminders from Admin will be changed to notifications. The format of notification will be re-visited and modified with suggestion of Chair PGC.

Action to be taken : Notification format to be discussed and modified.

10. To discuss regarding change of advisor request of Ms. Ravneet Chawla.

Chair PGC has apprised the members about the case of change of advisor for Ms. Ravneet Chawla, PhD scholar w.e.f. Jan 2016 (who is presently on semester leave for the duration of Monsoon

2019). Chair PGC has also informed the PGC that inputs have been sought from Ravneet. However, as she is on leave, there is no regular communication with Ravneet. Considering the fact that she is on leave at present, PGC has recommended that the matter be re-initiated on her joining back the Institute, as specified under the approved guidelines of “Change of advisor at late stage”.

Action to be taken : To inform the student and respective advisor about the above recommendation of PGC.

11. To discuss the minor updates in the MTech-AI program, as recommended by CAI:

- i. **Add math courses (Probability & Statistics, Linear Algebra) to the required refresher courses for new M.Tech. CS+AI students.**
- ii. **Add Data Science (currently, offered by Debarka) to the regular elective bucket.**
- iii. **Advanced Intelligent Systems (currently offered by Anantram) to be included in core AI Elective.**
- iv. **We do not seem to have anyone ready to teach Theory of ML (TML) and Probabilistic Graphical Models (PGM) on a regular basis. With this uncertainty, it may make sense to move these two courses from core AI elective to regular AI elective.**
- v. **Name of Image Analysis is changed to Digital Image Processing, but our documents still refers to IA. We should also change it to DIP.**

Dr. Maynak Vatsa apprised the members of the background of the above item and the proposal as stated above. After brief discussion, PGC has approved the proposal.

Action to be taken :

- Point(i), to be taken to Senate for approval.
- Point (ii) to (v), necessary updation in website content, to be done by Academic Section.

12. To discuss regarding allowing financial support from Institute travel budget to both faculty and a PhD scholar for a same paper under a same conference.

Chair PGC apprised the members about not allowing Institute Travel budget to a PhD scholar in the event the concerned advisor is also travelling for the presentation of same paper.

PGC is of the view that this practice had been adopted with a view to optimize the Institute funds in a better way. However, one of the member’ expressed his views that this guidelines should be re-discussed, considering the fact that the travel objective of a faculty and a PhD scholar is different. After brief discussion, PGC has recommended that the item should be forwarded to all departments for their feedback.

Action to be taken : Item to be forwarded to Departments.

13. To review the guidelines for award of “Gold Medal for Excellent Academic Performance” to MTech Students.

Background: Whether PhD students taking MTech on the way are to be considered for this award or not.

Deferred.

14. Any other item with permission of Chair PGC.

