

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

**MINUTES OF THE
TWENTY NINTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

The 29th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 17th January, 2017 at DA-IICT. The following members were present:

1. Prof R Nagaraj, Chairman
2. Prof Surendra Prasad
3. Prof David Koilpillai
4. Prof Naresh Jotwani
5. Prof Sanjay Srivastava
6. Prof Suman Mitra
7. Prof Sanjeev Gupta
8. Shri Soman Nair, Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to Shri K Narayan, Shri Suresh Rangachar, Shri Tapan Misra and Prof Binita Desai.

The Chairman informed the Council that Dr G Athithan, Distinguished Scientist and Director General, Defence Research & Development Organisation, Government of India and Prof Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Director, Indian Statistical Institute are the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively for the Convocation to be held on 21st January, 2017. The Council noted the same.

The Chairman also informed the Council that Prof Anish Mathuria ceased to be a member of the Council on expiry of his term of appointment as Dean (R&D) and in his place; Prof Sanjeev Gupta took over as Dean (R&D) and he became a member of the Council. The Council welcomed his membership. The Council recalled the contributions of Prof Mathuria to the deliberations of the Council and recorded its appreciation to him.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Professors Manik Lal Das and Minal Binse have made presentations before the Council on the curriculum revision of M. Tech (ICT) and appraisal of M.Sc (IT) Programs respectively.

Item No. 1

**To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council
held on 10th June, 2016**

The Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting held 10th June, 2016.



Item No. 2

To note the actions taken on the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th June, 2016

The Council noted the actions taken on the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2016. It was brought to the notice of the Council that on an enquiry, it was found that the Appeal Committee of NAAC has decided on our appeal against the accreditation result and the decision is pending for approval by the Executive Committee of NAAC.

Item No. 3

To amend Clause 2(5)(c) of the Academic Requirements for Post Graduate Programs

The Dean briefed the Council that the purpose of amending Clause 2(5)(c) of the Regulations on Academic Requirements for Post Graduate Programs is to grant an opportunity to PhD Scholars to improve their CPI for them to advance for appearing in the comprehensive examination. He stated that those Scholars who acquire CPI of 7.00 and above at the end of the course work can only appear for the comprehensive examination. There are rare cases of Scholars falling short of acquiring CPI 7.00 and by providing them an opportunity to substitute/replace one course, they may be able to acquire CPI 7.00 and move for comprehensive examination. The Council opined that CPI 7.00 is generally not considered as high threshold for the PhD Scholars to become eligible for comprehensive examination in national institutions. However, the Council approved the amendment of the Regulation by adopting the following resolution:

“RESOLVED THAT Clause 2(5)(c) of the Regulations on Academic Requirements for Post Graduate Programs be and is hereby amended to read the rules as follows with immediate effect:

Clause 2(5)(c)

A student getting a DD or DE grade in a course may substitute it by another course provided his/her CPI is less than the prescribed minimum for getting the degree for which he/she is registered and the student is allowed to continue in the program. For PhD students, replacement/substitution by another course is allowed; subject to his/her CPI is less than the prescribed minimum requirement for PhD [comprehensive examination.”

Item No. 4

To note the status on curriculum review of M Tech (ICT) Program and approve revision of curriculum

The Chairman briefed the Council on the status on review of curriculum of M Tech (ICT) Program. He stated that the current curriculum is excessively focused as a result the number of aspirants applying for admission to the program has been declining for the last few years. The program is currently offered in thesis mode with an objective to prepare the graduates for a career in research and academics and it has been noticed that after they go through the program the majority of them seek



employment in Industry. The program offered six specializations resulting in class sizes of 9-15 students and the Institute finds it difficult to arrange the required number of electives. The review of curriculum also has fallen due to changing technologies, industry needs and keeping in view of the aspirations of graduates.

The Chairman informed the Council that the review was carried out by a Committee with external experts, consultations with research institutions and industry. The Review Committee's recommendations have also been deliberated and approved by the Board of Studies at its meeting held on 16th January, 2017. Thereafter, he invited Prof Maniklal Das, Convenor of the Review Committee to present the findings of the Committee before the Council.

Prof Das briefed in detail the review process adopted by the Committee and stated that the Committee collected feedback from various stakeholders, followed by discussions with specialized faculty groups and the whole faculty. The entire process has gone through extensive deliberations on inputs and suggestions provided by stakeholders. He highlighted the following:

- The restructured Program will be offered in two modes -- project and thesis modes. The student will exercise this option at the time of admission.
- The curriculum will not have explicit specialization. The first semester courses will provide basic foundation in ICT and will be common to all students. This is expected to bring them on par with one another and prepare them to choose courses/research in the subsequent semesters.
- In the second semester onwards students will be given choice-based core and elective courses in interdisciplinary domains and then project/thesis by which a student can show breadth in domain knowledge in ICT and robust skills in preferred areas/specializations.
- The revised curriculum will incorporate lab components in some courses with latest technologies and tools, which will strengthen students' skills with practical knowledge.
- The curriculum structure will have compulsory foundation courses in the beginning followed by group core termed as domain knowledge in ICT and electives in ICT and finally either a Thesis spread over in third and fourth semesters or an Industry Project. The restructured curriculum will have 60 credits compared to the present curriculum of 48 credits.

The Council advised the Committee to evolve a method to determine the learning outcome while finalizing the revised curriculum. The Council also advised that the Institute should draw up a plan to administer the internship part of the program effectively by guiding the students to draw up an internship plan, vetting the plan by the faculty, assigning the faculty mentors, generating structured thematic internship projects from industry with industry mentorship arrangements and continuous performance review during the internship. The Council noted the status and accorded its approval for the Committee to proceed with its work.

The Chairman informed the Council that the planned intake is 30 students in thesis mode and 50 in project mode for the academic year 2017-18. He also stated that the students opting for thesis mode may be considered for teaching assistantship @



Rs.12,400/- per month and out of the students opting for industry internship, 10% of the class may be considered for teaching assistantship.

Item No. 5

To note the status on appraisal of MSc (IT) Programme and approve proposed changes

The Chairman briefed the Council that a five member Committee comprising of an external member with Prof. Minal Bhise as Convenor has conducted an appraisal of the MSc (IT) Program. He stated that the objective of the appraisal was (a) to identify the knowledge areas required for the curriculum, map courses objectives with program objectives and align sequences of courses to tune with the industry needs.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Prof. Bhise presented the process of appraisal before the Council and summarized as follows:

- The feedback received from students, faculty and Placement Committee indicated that Programming, Data Structures, Algorithm and Communication Skills are the areas to be prioritized and strengthened.
- The core courses, Operating Systems and Computer Organization will be moved to technical electives.
- The System Programming, 'C' Programming and Web Programming will be added as Core courses.
- The core courses, Computer Networks and Software Engineering that are relevant for placement will be brought forward from third to second semester.
- The core course 'Enterprise Computing' is being redesigned based on industry needs.
- Course contents for Programming, Systems Programming and Web Programming are being developed.
- The elective courses, Cloud Computing, E-Commerce and Big Data Analytics are being restructured.
- The course on Communication skills will be made more effective by having small classes. It is planned to introduce project presentation by the students to improve their presentation skills.
- Exclusive elective courses will be designed and offered to M.Sc (IT) students
- Robust admission test will be designed and administered to ensure the entry of talented and deserving students.

The Council noted the steps taken in restructuring the MSc (IT) Program and approved offering the restructured program from the academic year 2017-18

Item No. 6

To note the discontinuation of MSc (ICT-ARD) Programme

The Council noted the decision taken by the Board of Governors at its meeting held on 11th November, 2016 to discontinue the MSc (ICT-ARD) Program based on the reviews conducted by the Expert Committees and the Academic Council.



Item No. 7

To note the special courses offered by the faculty of Nanyang Technical University, Singapore, Missouri University of Science & Technology, USA and Goa Institute of Management, Goa

The Council noted the following:

- Nanyang Technical University (NTU), Singapore has included DA-IICT as one of the Indian Institutions for the NTU-India Connect Research Internship Program.
- Professors N Sundararajan and S Suresh, faculty members, NTU and Dr. Jagannathan Sarangapani, Rutledge Emerson Distinguished Professor, Missouri University Of Science & Technology, USA have conducted a technical elective course titled 'Selected Topic in Neural Networks and their Applications' to the BTech students of 2013 and 2014 batches and MTech students during the last summer semester and winter holidays.
- Prof Nitin Upadhyay, Goa Institute of Management offered a special course on 'Computational Data Science' to the BTech (ICT), MTech and MSc (IT) students during the last winter holidays.

Item No. 8

To note the proposal to organize an International Workshop on Cyber-Physical Systems

The Council noted the proposal and commented that the Cyber-Physical System is a new area and adequate care be taken in selecting national and international experts for inclusion in the panel. The Council suggested approaching IIT Kanpur, IIIT Hyderabad and IISc Bengaluru to identify experts.

Item No. 9

To note the brief on faculty research and entrepreneurship

The Council noted the status on research, publications and entrepreneurship of faculty as on 31st December, 2016 as details placed before the meeting.

Item No. 10

To approve and recommend to the Board the award of Degrees to the students who have completed their academic requirements

The Council resolved to recommend to the Board of Governors the award of Degrees to the twelfth batch of BTech (ICT), thirteenth batch of MTech (ICT) and MSc (IT), twelfth batch of MSc (ICT-ARD), ninth batch of MDes (CD) and PhD Scholars who have successfully completed their studies during the academic year 2015-16 numbering 349 students whose names appear in the list placed before the meeting, at the forthcoming Convocation to be held on 21st January, 2017."

The Council also resolved to recommend to the Board of Governors to approve award of President's Gold Medals to the following students at the forthcoming Convocation to be held on 21st January, 2017:



Sr No	Student Id	Student Name	CPI	Program
1	201201133	DEVANSHU JAIN	9.79	BTech (ICT)
2	201411005	PARIKH SAGAR SAMIRBHAI	9.44	MTech (ICT)
3	201411019	THAKKAR DEVANG JAYANTILAL	9.44	MTech (ICT)
4	201412006	SOUNAK BANERJEE	9.39	MSc (IT)
5	201413005	MAHENDRA KUMAR YADAV	8.23	MSc (ICT-ARD)
6	201414001	RIDDHI MEHTA	8.23	MDes (CD)

Item No. 11

To approve the Academic Calendar 2017-18

The Council approved the Academic Calendar for the academic year 2017-18 as placed before the meeting.

Item No. 12

To note additions to faculty

The Council noted that the following faculty members have joined the Institute during the last three months:

- 1) Dr Arnab Kumar Ray, Associate Professor
- 2) Dr Yash Agrawal, Assistant Professor
- 3) Dr Rajendra Mitharwal, Assistant Professor

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

K.S. Dasgupta

