

August 24, 2020

Minutes of the 2020-2/10th Meeting of the Senate of IISER Berhampur held on August 07, 2020

The meeting (2020-2/10th) of the Senate, IISER Berhampur was held through **Google Meet** at 11:00 AM on August 07, 2020 and the following members were present:

- Prof. KVR Chary, Director, Chairperson, Senate
- Prof. Yogendra Sharma, Deputy Director
- Prof. Surendra Nath Mishra, Dean, Academic Affairs
- Sri B. Venu Gopala Reddy, Ex-Visiting Professor, NIBM, Pune
- Prof. Pasla Dinakar, Associate Professor, IIT Bhubaneswar
- Prof. Harapriya Mohapatra, NISER Bhubaneswar
- Prof. Chebrolu Pulla Rao, IIT Tirupati
- Prof. Achanta Venugopal, TIFR Mumbai
- Prof. Saroj Kumar Nayak, IIT Bhubaneswar
- Prof. Srinivas V, TIFR Mumbai
- Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak, FIC, Dept. of Chemical Sciences
- Dr. Sandeep Chatterjee, FIC, Dept. of Physical Sciences
- Dr. Ritabrata Sengupta, FIC, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences
- Dr. Rohit Soni, Coordinator, Student Affairs
- Dr. Bodhisatta Nandy, FIC, Dept. of Biological Sciences
- Dr. Md. Nasim, Asst. Professor, Warden, Boys' Hostel
- Brig PC Vyas, Registrar & Secretary, Senate (ex-officio)

The following members could not attend the meeting and were granted leave of absence:

- Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty, NISER Bhubaneswar
- Prof. Radhakrishnan Jaikumar, TIFR Mumbai

Special Invitees who attended the meeting:

- Dr. Thirupathi Barla, Convener, DUGC Chemical Sciences
- Dr. Santanu Bhattacharya, Convener, DPGC, Chemical Sciences
- Dr. Jose Sebastian, Convener, DPGC, Biological Sciences
- Dr. Kasi Viswanadham G, Convener, DUGC, Mathematical Sciences
- Dr. Senthil Raani K S, Convener, DPGC, Mathematical Sciences
- Mr. Iwin K Joseph, 16029, BS-MS Senate Student representative
- Mr. Tribhuban Parida, 1820502, Ph.D. Senate Student representative

Registrar welcomed the members and requested the Chairperson, Senate for further proceedings.

1. Overview Report by the Chairperson, Senate, IISER Berhampur.

The Chairperson, Senate welcomed the members present at the 10th Meeting of the Senate, IISER Berhampur. He briefed the Senate on the activities of IISER Berhampur (Appendix-I) in the recent past and briefed on the prevailing situation in the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He shared that following various directives of the Government of India and Government of Odisha, several instructions and office orders have been issued from time-to-time to limit contact between people, as a preventive measure of any possible spread of the virus. The Chairperson reported that the work-force on permanent campus construction site before the announcement of the Lockdown 1.0 was on an average 650-700. After 38 days of restarting the construction works on April 21, 2020, the available work-force on site was 193 personnel, which has been slowly, steadily and cautiously ramped up to 520. He reported that the Community Centre, Commercial Complex, Health Care Centre, and Dining Hall are expected to be completed by the end of May 2021. The Academic-cum-Administrative Block, Boys Hostel 1 and Girls Hostel are expected to be completed by the end of July 2021 and

efforts are still on for the 2021 batch students to start their academic activity directly on the permanent campus.

The Chairperson then requested Prof. S N Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs to conduct further proceedings and the Dean requested Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak to conduct the same.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of 2020-1/9th Meeting of the Senate.

The Senate resolved to confirm Minutes of the 2020-1/9th Meeting of the Senate held on March 16, 2020 as circulated and placed on the table for confirmation, in absence of any comments from members.

3. Action Taken Report on the decisions of 2020-1/9th Meeting of the Senate.

The Senate resolved to take on record, the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 2020-1/9th Meeting of the Senate held on March 16, 2020, with a note of appreciation. Further, it was reported to the Senate that Agenda item No. 21 regarding fee hike has been withdrawn following MHRD's instructions and the old fee structure restored. Also, the Agenda item No. 24 on offering minor degree in EES and CS courses is yet to be implemented.

4. To report on the number of students withdrawn from BS-MS & Ph.D. programmes since the last Senate meeting.

The Senate noted the number of BS-MS and PhD students withdrawn from respective programmes since the last Senate meeting. It is appreciated that no BS-MS student has withdrawn from the programme and only one PhD student has withdrawn in the recent past.

5. To ratify the grades/results of 2019-20 Semester-2 End-Semester examinations.

The Senate resolved to ratify the grades and results of 2019-20 Even-Semester examinations held online during July-2020 and the evaluation method adopted was presented before the Senate as Appendix-II.

6. To discuss the fee structure of integrated PhD programme starting from this academic year.

The Chairperson announced that the institute is starting the integrated PhD programme from 2020-21 Semester-1 and admissions are in progress. He presented the overview of the iPhD programme and stated that the iPhD students will be paid Rs. 12,000/- pm scholarship for the first two years and at the rate of PhD fellowship from third year by the institute and the Senate made a note of it. The detailed fee structure of iPhD programme is presented to the Senate as Appendix-III.

7. To discuss the semester registration fee payable by the new/existing students in view of COVID-19 pandemic and the online teaching.

The Chairperson informed the Senate that after considering several requests from the students for decreasing semester registration fee in view of economic crisis arising due to the pandemic, some items of the fee structure are waived/ decreased and the revised BS-MS fee structure is placed before the Senate as Appendix-III. The Senate appreciated the resolution and ratified the same.

8. To discuss whether to collect re-examination fee (of Rs. 1,000/- per course) from the students this year and honorarium payable to faculty (of Rs. 5,000/- per course) for conducting re-examination.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate and there were varied opinions and after in-length discussion, it has been decided not to collect re-examination fee from the students and the faculty's honorarium for conducting re-examination will be the same. There was a proposal of donating the honorarium amount to the institute's endowment fund and the Senate appreciated it.

9. To discuss the proposal for revision of Biological Sciences courses BIO-101, 102, 201, and 202.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate and requested Dr. Bodhisatta Nandy to explain the necessity for revising the said courses. Dr. Nandy informed that it would help students in majoring Biology and the revised courses are easy to understand. Dr. Harapriya Mohapatra sought clarification on the SS (Self-Study) hours and Dr. Nandy explained the same. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak pointed out that the SS hours should be as per the BS-MS manual and the Senate resolved to ratify the same with suggested corrections in SS hours.

10. To discuss the proposal of introduction of two new elective courses on Population ecology and Ecosystem ecology replacing a compulsory course on Ecology (BIO 414).

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate and requested Dr. Bodhisatta Nandy to explain the new courses and after discussion, the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

11. To discuss the proposal of change in the Biology minor credit/course requirement.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate and Dr. Bodhisatta Nandy explained the proposal while clarifying all the comments raised by the members. After in length discussion, the Chairperson, Senate stated that this issue can be discussed in all FICs or any other academic meeting and final call be taken then.

12. To discuss the proposal of renaming of the Open Elective course Biomolecular NMR to BIO-417 "Fundamentals of NMR spectroscopy".

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda and the Chairperson, Senate informed that the renaming of the course is to attract students from physics and chemistry departments too. The Senate resolved to ratify the same.

13. To discuss the proposal for minor modifications in the syllabus of MTH-202.

"Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate. The Faculty in Charge - Department of Mathematical Sciences (FIC Mathematics), explained the necessity for modifications of the course for better time management. It was pointed out by the Convenor DUGC, and FIC Mathematics that the section omitted in the proposed modification is Ordinary Differential Equations, which has already been taught in the course "Mathematical Methods in Physics" offered for the first semester students, as well as in all the physics courses, and as such there is no need to repeat it in Mathematics department. As a reply from a question from Prof V. Srinivas, FIC Mathematics informed further that a dedicated course, titled Ordinary Differential Equations (MTH 306) is taught in the sixth semester for the mathematics major students, which other students can be allowed to audit/credit as per standard procedure. Prof. V. Srinivas agreed with the explanation. The proposal has been accepted by the Senate for implementation from the upcoming semesters."

14. To discuss the course codes for reading courses offered by Dept. of Mathematics to 5th year students.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate and after discussion, the course codes MTH-598 and MTH-599 were proposed for the reading courses and the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

15. To discuss the proposal of introduction of an interdisciplinary Ph.D. clause by expanding the Ph.D. admission criteria.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed before the Senate the proposal of allowing students having qualification in one subject to carry out PhD in the other. As an example, he mentioned that as of now the Physics graduate is allowed to register under PhD programme in only Physical Sciences department but if allowed for interdisciplinary research, students say from Physics can register in PhD from Chemistry/ Biology/ Mathematics, and vice-versa, provided that their research interest and suitable thesis supervisor matches. The Chairperson in a reply to the query regarding the course work in which subject such students are supposed to do, elucidated that the courses which are relevant/ useful to the research work without restrictions should be allowed to be carried out. After wide discussion, most of the members appreciated the proposal and in principle approved but a committee is proposed to be formed to look after the logistics for implementing the same effectively. The Chairperson added that promoting interdisciplinary research is the main aim of IISER Berhampur.

16. To discuss the proposal for restructuring CHM-325 (Mathematical Methods for Chemist) course.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak, FIC Dept. of Chemical Sciences placed this agenda before the Senate and presented the changes adopted and the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

17. To discuss the proposal for modifying CHM- 322 (Principles of Quantum Chemistry) course.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak, FIC Dept. of Chemical Sciences placed this agenda before the Senate and presented the changes adopted and the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

18. To discuss the proposal for revisiting prerequisites of the course CHM 625 Biophysical Chemistry).

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak, FIC Dept. of Chemical Sciences placed this agenda before the Senate and explained the changes made and the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

19. To discuss and approve the course codes of Inter Disciplinary Courses (IDC) and the course contents.

The Chairperson announced that the IISER Berhampur has started interdisciplinary courses on Data Science and one of the courses will be taught in the coming semester. These two courses are assigned the course code, viz., IDC-301/302 for BSMS students and IDC-601/602 for Ph.D. students and the Senate resolved to ratify the proposed course codes of the same. IDC-301/IDC-601 is the prerequisite for IDC-302/IDC-602.

20. To discuss the proposal of relaxing HSS 503/504 (Law Relating to Intellectual Property and Patents) from mandatory course to an Open Elective for 5th year BS-MS Biology-major students.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate and informed that this course is mandatory to all as per the BSMS manual. Dr. Bodhisatta Nandy, FIC, Dept. of Biological Sciences differed with the mandatory clause and proposed to make it as open elective such that only interested students can credit the course. After discussion at length, most of the members realized the importance of the course and suggested to continue as mandatory course for BSMS curriculum. However, the flexibility shall be given to students to enroll this compulsory course from their 4th to 5th year anytime whenever this course is given. The Chairperson suggested offering in the 4th year itself for 2017 batch to avoid burden in the 5th year and 2016 batch can pursue the same online.

21. To discuss the proposal for exempting PhD students of Biological Sciences from crediting IDC 603/604 (Error analysis) as mandatory course and modification in IDC 603/604 course content in favor of Biology background students.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate and both FICs of Dept. of Biological Sciences. The Dept. of Biological Sciences has proposed for exempting the Ph.D. students of Biological Sciences from crediting IDC 603/604 (Error analysis) as mandatory course those who have already credited Bio 623 (Biostatistics) course and IDC 603/604 course should be re-adjusted to make it a basic course, considering that many Biology PhD students do not have Mathematics after their 10th or 12th standard exam. On the other hand, the FICs of Mathematical Sciences expressed that this course may not be required for mathematics Ph.D. students. After discussion at length, it was decided that for the Department of Biological Sciences the course may be exempted for those who have already credited Bio 623 (Biostatistics) course and for rest students except mathematics Ph.D. students it remained as compulsory course. The Senate resolved to ratify the same.

22. To ratify the proposed course codes CHM 801 and CHM 802 for the 'research works' (6 credit courses) by PhD students of Dept. of Chemical Sciences.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pathak placed this agenda before the Senate and proposed the course codes for research works carried out by PhD students. The FICs of the other departments also agreed to adopt the same coding (PHY-801/802; BIO-801/802 and MTH-801/802) and the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

23. To discuss the various issues submitted by Student Senate Representative on behalf of BS-MS students.

The student Senate Representative-UG, Mr. Iwin K Joseph placed the agenda before the Senate and after discussion, the following are the resolutions ratified by the Senate:

(i) Students are allowed to improve their grades by appearing in re-exam but limited to only two courses per semester per programme and the student must have appeared for the course in the whole semester. Grade card will not show any tag against the grade of the improved course. The 4th year students are allowed to improve the courses in their 1st and 2nd years as well. For such courses, the attendance is not mandatory and the detailed guidelines on improvement exams will be prepared and circulated soon by the Academic Office.

(ii) The time for submission of project report by 5th year students need not be extended as requested, since it is the students who may lose time for further studies/ career.

(iii) Career Guidance Cell although not yet established, the Chairperson assured the best support to the students in this regard.

(iv) A few components of the user charges are waived for the 2020-21 Sem-1 considering the economic crisis arising due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the revised fee structure is already ratified under agenda item No. 7

(v) The Chairperson agreed to the request made by students for payment of the semester registration fee in three instalments and the details are mentioned in the Appendix- III

(vi) Internet data pack recharge/ reimbursement to those who were not provided with JioFi device by the institute will be provided to BSMS students.

24. Any other agenda with the permission of the Chair.

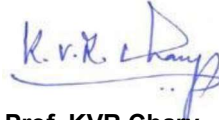
The Ph.D. student representative requested to allow the experimentalists group of Ph.D. students to join the Institute back at the earliest and the Senate Chairperson informed that the Institute is bound to follow the Government's orders and further all the possible ways are being explored to bring back the Ph.D. Students as and when situation favors.

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



Brig PC Vyas
Registrar & Secretary, Senate

Approved



Prof. KVR Chary
Director & Chairperson, Senate