

Minutes of the 2022-1/15th Meeting of the Senate of IISER Berhampur

The 2022-1/15th meeting of the Senate of IISER Berhampur was held in hybrid mode at 11:00 AM on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

The following members were present:

• Professor K. V. R. Chary, Director	Chairperson
• Professor Yogendra Sharma, Deputy Director	Member
• Professor Surendra Nath Mishra, Dean, Academic Affairs	Member
• Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Director, Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar	Member
• Professor P. Radha Krishna, Professor, NIT Warangal	Member
• Professor Bedangadas Mohanty, NISER Bhubaneswar	Member
• Professor Achanta Venugopal, Director, NPL, New Delhi	Member
• Professor Challa Vijaya Kumar, University of Connecticut, USA	Member
• Professor C. S. Rajan, Ashoka University, New Delhi	Member
• Sri. Sandeep Ranade Software Engineer, Hindustani Classical Vocalist	Member
• Dr. Prabhat Singh, Coordinator Student Affairs, IISER Berhampur	Member
• Dr. Ruthrotha Selvi Bharathavikru, Warden, Girls' Hostel, IISER Berhampur	Member
• Sri B. J. Acharyulu, Acting Registrar & Secretary, Senate (ex-officio)	Non-Member

The following members could not attend the meeting due to pre-occupation and were granted leave of absence:

- Sri. V. Jaganmohan, Ex-C&MD of Kakatiya Grameena Bank, Vijayawada
- Professor Radhakrishnan Jaikumar, TIFR Mumbai.

The following attended the meeting as special invitees:

- Dr. Santanu Bhattacharya, Convener, DPGC, Chemical Sciences
- Dr. Ujjal Kumar Dey, Convener, DUGC, Physical Sciences
- Dr. Amiya Kumar Mondal, Convener, DPGC, Mathematical Sciences
- Dr. Pabitra Barik, Convener, DUGC, Mathematical Sciences

The Secretary, Senate welcomed the members and requested the Chairperson, Senate to present the overview report.

Senate 15**Agenda Items and Resolution**

Item No.

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

At the outset, the Chairperson, Senate welcomed the members present at the 15th Meeting of the Senate and presented his overview report briefing the activities of IISER Berhampur in the recent past (Appendix-I).

The Chairperson presented the details of the Wellness Programme that is being carried out at IISER Berhampur. On a pilot basis, the students of BS-MS 2020 batch have been screened and given access to Digital Health Card. By noticing the benefits of early diagnosis of several health issues beforehand, the Chairperson announced that this facility will be extended to other batch students, PhD, iPhDs, PDRFs and staff too in the coming days.

Dr. Sanghamitra Pati inquired whether the institute followed WHO standards stratification of Iron deficiency and wanted to know the method that has been used to detect anaemia. Dr. Blessymol Varghese, Medical officer replied that RBC indices are used for the same and Dr. Sanghamitra Pati suggested to conduct Serum Ferritin tests as there is no benefit in giving Iron supplements if the Ferritin reserves are good. Further, Dr. Pati mentioned that Haemoglobinopathy analysis can be done in collaboration with RMRC Bhubaneswar as they are actively doing research on Sickle Cell Anaemia. The Senate gratefully appreciated the proposal and would consider as per the need.



Sri. Sandeep Ranade commented that similar analysis of mental health of the students could also be made along with physical health as it is equally important for a stable life. The Senate welcomed the idea.

The Chairperson then requested Prof. S N Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs to take up the agenda items.

2. **Confirmation of the minutes of the 2021-3/14th Meeting of the Senate.**

The Senate noted that the minutes were circulated to all members and received no comments from any members and therefore resolved to confirm Minutes of the 2021-3/14th Meeting of the Senate held on December 07, 2021, as circulated and placed on the table for confirmation.

3. **Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 2021-3/14th Meeting of the Senate.**

The Senate resolved to take on record, the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 2021-3/14th Meeting of the Senate held on December 07, 2021, with a note of appreciation.

4. **To ratify the January-2022 semester results.**

Prof S N Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs placed the agenda before the Senate as attached the results of January-2022 semester of all batches. The Senate resolved to ratify the same.

5. **To ratify the results of 2022 pass outs to be graduated in the 2nd Convocation and winners of proficiency medals.**

Prof S N Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs placed the results of 62 students before the Senate the list of graduating this year and the Senate resolved to ratify the same. Further, he informed that winners of various excellency medals is not yet finalized and will be shared later.

6. **To declare the SRS of the faculty who scored 4.5 and above.**

The Chairperson expressed his dissatisfaction that the students' response to feedback session was very poor and because of that healthy and comparable scores are not being generated. He mentioned that despite several reminders, the students are not actively participating and asked the other members to suggest a better way out to overcome this.

Prof Challa Vijay Kumar and Prof Bedangadas Mohanty opined that submission of feedback has to be linked with End-Sem exams and next semester registration that may bring seriousness in the students. Also, the idea of collecting the feedback in a closed room just before the end-sem exam has also been discussed.

Prof C S Rajan expressed his views that rather than approaching with punitive steps, the students may be offered snacks or light refreshments and then ask for submitting SRS which may be encouraging.

After discussion at length and taking into consideration several suggestions from the members, it has been resolved that the SRS has to be made mandatory and some extra points may be given to those who participate in the survey as an encouragement.

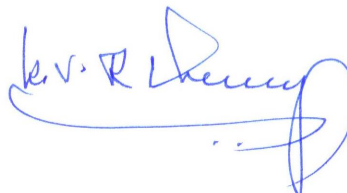
7. **Introduction of new courses:**

The Senate resolved to approve the introduction of the following new courses:

a) ***A new course on "Gene Silencing and Epigenetics in Yeasts and Fungi" proposed by the Dept. of Biological Sciences:***

Prof S N Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs placed the agenda item before the Senate and Dr. R. Selvi detailed the structure & content of the proposed course and informed the Senate that it is an advanced course specially designed for PhD students and interested integrated PhD students can pursue as well. The Senate resolved to ratify the same.

b) ***A new course on "Defects in Materials" proposed by the Dept. of Physical Sciences:***



The Dean Academic Affairs placed the agenda item before the Senate and Dr. Ujjal Dey on behalf of the Department of Physical Sciences detailed the course content of the proposed course. Although it has been proposed to offer this course as a department elective, the Chairperson Senate pointed out that as per NEP-2020, all electives should be floated as Open Electives. Prof Achanta Venugopal mentioned that the proposed course content is very vast and quite ambiguous if the whole syllabus can be covered in one semester time. Dr. Ujjal Dey informed that the same will be conveyed to the course proposer Dr. Rohit Soni to come up with an explanation in this regard.

- c) **A new course on “Piezoelectric Material Fundamentals and Applications” proposed by the Dept. of Physical Sciences.**

Prof S N Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs placed the agenda item before the Senate and requested Dr. Ujjal Dey to elaborate the proposed course. Dr. Ujjal Dey mentioned that this course can be offered to BS-MS majors, iPhDs and PhDs. Prof Challa Vijay Kumar inquired how the students of graduate level and PhD level are graded- whether uniformly done or is there any distinguished way to award grades. Prof S N Mishra informed that although there is no specific system to differentiate BS-MS and PhDs while awarding grades, the instructor is however free to set different benchmarks. Prof Bedangadas Mohanty said that knowledge of PG students of IISERs/NISER can be comparable and equally competitive with the 1st year students of PhD who might have completed their PG from other Universities.

Prof Achanta Venugopal commented that it is fourth elective that is being proposed by Dr. Rohit Soni and all the courses are almost difference with no relativity. It may be taken care that the instructor is not burdened too much with multiple number of courses to teach. Dr. Ujjal Dey responded that these courses placed for Senate approval will be offered in different semesters depending on the requirement and feasibility. The Senate resolved to ratify the same.

Revision of courses:

The Dean Academic Affairs placed the agenda for revision/ change in course code/ title of the following courses and highlighted the need for changes proposed in comparison with the previous ones. After discussion, the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

- a) BIO 404 “Fundamentals of Neurobiology”
b) BIO-201 “Introduction to genetics and Evolution”

Renaming of courses:

The Dean Academic Affairs proposed the swapping of the course codes of the following two courses so as to offer the said courses in 2nd and 3rd semesters respectively. Nothing except the course codes are changed and the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

PHY-102 “Waves and Introductory Optics” to “Electromagnetism”
&
PHY-201 “Electromagnetism” to “Waves and Introductory Optics”

8. **To ratify the revision of monthly fellowship paid to the 1st and 2nd year integrated PhD students.**

Prof S N Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs informed the Senate that the monthly fellowship paid to 1st and 2nd year integrated PhD students has been revised in accordance with the Ministry of Education orders and the Senate made a note of it.

9. **To discuss and ratify the extension of tenure of the PhD students with institute fellowship beyond 5 years.**

Prof S N Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs placed the proposal of extension of tenure of PhD students with Institute fellowship beyond 5 years to another 6 months highlighting the fact that students have lost valuable time during lockdown imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He further clarified that the maximum residency period for completing PhD degree will remain unchanged. The members seconded the proposal and the Senate resolved to ratify the proposal of fellowship extension to the 2017 admitted PhD students with full amount of fellowship.

10. **Any other items with the permission of the Chair.**

(a) 4-year BS programme in Engineering Biology:

The Chairperson Senate announced the proposal of introducing a 4-year BS programme in Engineering Biology from this academic year in line with the recommendations of the NEP-2020. The Chairperson added that the curriculum for the first two years will be same as that of BS-MS programme and the students can choose to pursue 4-year BS Degree before start of their 3rd year. After completion of the 4-year BS degree, students can obtain a MS degree in Engineering Biology by doing a project-based thesis work for one more year.

The Chairperson then requested Dr. R Selvi to take over the agenda and provide details of the programme to the Senate. Dr. Selvi mentioned that this programme imparts high-end practical experience and hands-on training to the students without much moving out of the mainstream basic courses in par with the BS-MS programme.

Prof Challa Vijay Kumar suggested to include a topic on "Biomaterials" in the course content. The Chairperson Senate and Dean Academic Affairs requested all the members to go through the course content and provide valuable suggestions/ comments for improving it to one of the attractive programmes.

After discussion at length, the Senate resolved to ratify the same.

(b) Discussion with PhD Senate Representative:

- (i) PhD Representative requested to consider extension of PhD tenure with fellowship for externally funded students as is being given to the Institute fellowship students for 6 months. The Chairperson Senate said this cannot be done due to several limitations.
- (ii) The PhD representative proposed to have a foreign travel scheme facilitating PhD students to visit abroad for attending international seminar/ conference/ paper presentation etc. The Chairperson advised to apply to DST, CSIR for financial support under their schemes and such funded students can meet the rest amount from their contingency. If any further assistance is required, that will be considered on a case-to case basis.

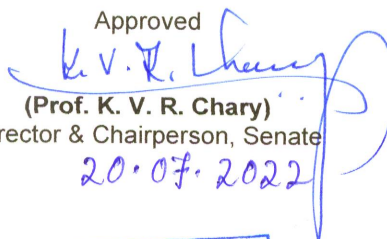
Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(B. J. Acharyulu)

Acting Registrar & Secretary, Senate

Approved



(Prof. K. V. R. Chary)

Director & Chairperson, Senate

20.07.2022

