DHIRUBHAI AMBANI INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, GANDHINAGAR

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH APRIL 2024

The 38th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 12th April 2024 in the Board Room of the Director's Office.

The following members were present.

1. Professor Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, Chairman
2. Professor Maniklal Das, Dean of Faculty and Member
3. Professor Prabir K Biswas, Member (through VC)
4. Professor Tapan Mishra, Member (through VC)
5. Shri Pavitar Singh, Member (through VC)
6. Professor Bhaskar Chaudhury, Dean of Academic Programmes and Member
7. Professor Sanjay Srivastava, Member
8. Professor Sunitha V., Member
9. Professor Yash Vasavada, Dean of Research and Invitee to the Council
10. Professor Abhishek Jindal, Invitee
11. Siddharth Swaminarayan, Non-member Secretary to the Council

Leave of absence:

1. Professor Ranjan Bose, Member

The Chairman welcomed all the members and gave an overview of the agenda items to be discussed in the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1

To confirm the minutes of the 37th meeting of the Council held on 19th January 2024

The Council confirmed the minutes of the 37th meeting of the Council.

Agenda Item No. 2

Consideration of the recommendations of a Committee appointed for the proposed Restructuring of the Academic Governance

The Director set up a Committee to review and propose changes to the existing academic governance model for greater decentralization of powers and responsibilities.

Professor Sanjay Srivastava, Convener of the said Committee and a member of the Council, made a presentation with a background note that the Institute has grown and

diversified its program offerings; it was felt that the decision-making processes were getting stretched. Thus, a need was felt to thoroughly re-examine the existing structures and propose changes to bring faculty participation and decentralized decision-making. While the Committee's other recommendations are still fine-tuned, the report is on creating faculty clusters aligned with conventional academic domains and a soft-departmental structure (called Area).

The Council deliberated on the proposal. After incorporating the suggestions of the members and a few details in the report, the Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee and requested the Director to implement them. The final document of the report, as approved by the Council, is attached as Annexure I.

Agenda Item No. 3

Consideration of the recommendations of the Committee appointed for the review of the PhD Programme at DA IICT.

Convener of the above-referred Committee and a member of the Council, Professor Sunitha V., briefed the Council that the Director constituted the Committee for a comprehensive review of the Ph.D. program to identify the probable causes for the decrease in applications and admissions over the last few years, as well as other academic concerns like allocation of supervisor, coursework, self-study course, comprehensive examination, etc., and suggest corrective measures to address the concerns. Professor Sunitha V made a detailed presentation before the Council, highlighting the concerns and the recommendations made by the said Committee. It was clarified that no changes have been proposed in the existing processes and policies related to the Ph.D. Program, except for the following matters discussed in the meeting.

The Council perused all the concerns and gave its feedback on some of the Committee's recommendations. Following are the suggested action points to be considered for implementation.

i)   In the part-time category of the applicants, there are two further categories. One category of candidates is the sponsored candidates from the organizations having MoU/ Agreement with the Institute, and the other is the external candidates from the organizations not having MoU/Agreement with the Institute. The Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee to introduce a system by which both the categories of the part-time candidates will be required to interact with the prospective supervisors about the area of the candidate's research problem/statement and submit a letter of recommendation (at the time of applying for admission) from the prospective supervisor about the suitability/compatibility of the supervisor with the research area of the candidate. Sponsored category candidates shall continue to submit a no-objection certificate from the sponsoring organization at the time of applying, as per the existing norms.

For external part-time candidates, a minimum of two years of relevant experience will be introduced as one of the eligibility criteria for applying.

ii) The Council accepted the proposal to waive the entrance examination condition for all part-time candidates, whether they are sponsored or external.

iii) Concerning the full-time candidates, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee to waive the requirement of candidates to appear in the entrance examination if they fulfill any of the following conditions.

a) Valid GATE/NET qualification (no condition of the minimum score of 500, etc.)

b) Awarded with the MS by RESEARCH of an IIT/IISc/IIIT.

c) Awarded with an MTech from DA-IICT with 8.0 and above CPI.

d) Selected for DST-INSPIRE/NBHM/JEST/PMRF/USG/CSIR/Visweshvaraya PhD Scholarship.

iv) Existing provisions for allocating a Supervisor, only after clearing the comprehensive examination, are to be replaced by the allocation of a (prospective) Supervisor at the time of admissions for the part-time candidates. The full-time scholars will find the Supervisor only after Semester I but before appearing for the comprehensive examination's Part II (literature survey).

v) With respect to the existing condition of the Course Work is to be completed before appearing for the Comprehensive Examination (same condition for part-time as well as full-time candidates), the Council accepted the proposal of the Committee for separate conditions for the part-time and full-time candidates, as per the following details.

a) For part-time scholars, course credit requirements shall be compulsory and continued without strictly adhering to the minimum attendance requirements. They will complete all coursework before registering for the Synopsis. They should register for at least three courses at the 5XX and/or 7XX level during Semester I. Courses at 1XX, 2XX, 3XX, or 6XX shall not be counted towards course credit requirements.

b) For the full-time scholars, they will be required to complete at least two 'Area' level Core courses at the Graduate level for Semester I (which shall be offered in a modular format with multiple instructors), as suggested by the Area Committee (in place of courses suggested by the Mentors). They will complete all coursework before registering for the Synopsis. They should register for at least three courses at the 5XX

and/or 7XX level during Semester I. Courses at 1XX, 2XX, 3XX, or 6XX shall not be counted towards course credit requirements.

vi) In the existing system, a scholar can do self-study course/s in any semester. The Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that a Ph.D. scholar cannot take any self-study course in the first semester. The scholar cannot register for multiple self-study courses under the same faculty. It was further clarified during the discussion that the two self-study courses are as per the prescribed credit requirements, but a scholar can do more than two self-study courses for knowledge enhancement.

vii) For the Comprehensive Examination for the part-time scholars, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee to replace the existing written examination with the new requirement of proposing a Research Problem/Statement by the scholar to be approved by the Research Committee which the Evaluation Committee will, later on, evaluate with a maximum limit of two attempts to clear it. The first attempt shall be semester II at the earliest.

Concerning the Comprehensive Examination for the full-time scholars, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that part 1, i.e., the written examination part, will consist of two Core Courses based on the syllabus-contents of the Area Core, and part II, i.e., Literature Survey Examination will be by a presentation open to public and the Evaluation Committee. The scholar must clear both the parts satisfactorily, with a maximum limit of two attempts for each part.

Agenda Item No.4

Ratification of a decision by the Director, on behalf of the Council, on the duration of the Ph.D. Fellowship and the stipend amount.

The Council ratified the decision taken by the Director to pay the per month Ph.D. Fellowship with effect from April 2024, an amount of Rs. 35,000/ for the first two years, by replacing the existing two slabs of the Fellowship of Rs. 28,000/ for the first year and Rs. 31,000/ after the passing of comprehensive examination for the second and third year.

It was clarified that for the first two years, the Ph.D. scholar will get a fellowship of Rs. 35,000/- per month (without the condition of passing the comprehensive examination), and from the third year and up to the fifth year, the scholar will be paid the Fellowship of Rs. 40,000/ per month.

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