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

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

The 39th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 30th August 2024.
The following members were present.

1. Professor Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, Chairman
2. Dr. Sukumar Nandi, Member, through VC
3. Professor Prabir K Biswas, Member, through VC
4. Dr. Madhavan Mukund, Member, through VC
5. Professor Maniklal Das, Member
6. Professor Bhaskar Chaudhury, Member
7. Professor Madhumita Mazumdar, Member
8. Professor Anish Mathuria, Member
9. Professor Yash Vasavada, Dean of Research, Invitee
10. Professor Arpit Rana, Coordinator MSc Data Science Program, Invitee
11. Professor Abhishek Jindal, Coordinator PhD Program, Invitee
12. Siddharth Swaminarayan, Non- Member Secretary

Leave of absence:

1. Shri Pavitar Singh, Member

The Chairman welcomed all the members to the newly constituted academic council and all the members introduced themselves.

**Agenda Item No. 1**
**To confirm the minutes of the 38th meeting of the Council held on 12th April 2024**

The Council was briefed on the actions taken in the minutes of the last meeting, and the Council confirmed the meeting minutes.

**Agenda Item No. 2**
**Academic Calendar for the academic year 2024-25**

The Council was briefed on the status of new admissions and the Autumn Semester 2024 commencement dates for the returning and newly admitted students. The Council noted the detailed academic calendar for 2024-25.

**Agenda Item No. 3**

**Ratification of the following decisions the Director took on behalf of the Council**

i)   Revised curriculum of the M.Sc. Data Science program and academic requirements applicable from the academic year 2024-25

Professor Arpit Rana presented the detailed process adopted to revise the existing M.Sc. Data Science Program thoroughly and presented a comparative analysis of the

semester-wise earlier course curriculum structure/academic requirements and the new curriculum to the Council.

The Council appreciated the elaborate and required process undertaken to review the existing curriculum structure of the program by the comparative study of the structures of similar programs conducted by reputed national and international institutions, taking feedback from the external subject experts/academia, industry experts, alumni and studying job descriptions of the target job roles, etc. The Council approved the revised curriculum with the following observations to look into.

a) In the proposed changes in the first-semester course Statistical Methods, proposed (complete) removal of the Lab in R and replacing it with the Lab in Python, the Council was of the opinion that it will be advisable to continue with the basic inputs in R program so that the students will have minimum basic knowledge of the R program also.
   On the above suggestion, it was agreed upon that basic teaching in the R program should be included in a workshop mode.

b) It was also observed that it will be challenging to cope (by the students) to study five lab courses in one semester (semester II).
   Based on this suggestion, it was agreed upon that this particular change be reviewed after implementing it in one or two batches.

(Action to be taken by PG Convenor and Course Coordinator MSc Data Science)

ii)   Minor additions to the PhD guidelines approved in the Council's last meeting and matter reporting.

Professor Abhishek Jindal, Coordinator PhD program, presented the proposal and first discussed the following points:

**Matter Reporting:**

1. Relaxation of the course-work provisions for the Autumn-Semester (AY 24-25) and its ratification by AC:

In the current semester, most Areas could not offer the two area-level core courses as envisaged in the revised PhD proposal (applicable from AY24-25). Each Area adopted different mechanisms to address this issue as a temporary solution, and the courses were offered to PhD students accordingly. These solutions are intended only for Autumn Semester 24-25.

2. Based on the existing (AY2019-2024) and revised PhD guidelines (AY 24-25 onwards), a course registered by a Part-Time student is characterized as either online (via MOOC courses) or on-campus (offered by a faculty member in the running semester).

Subsequently, he briefed the Council and explained the necessity of making minor additions to the revised PhD guidelines (applicable from AY 24-25) approved by the Council in its last meeting.

**Minor Additions:**

1. Regular PhD candidates are allowed to take a maximum of one MOOC to fulfil their minimum course credit requirements throughout the entire PhD program (this MOOC should be the Research Methodology course).
2. A timeline is established for the appointment of PhD supervisors and the completion of Comprehensive Exam Part II in Semester II. This ensures that students begin earning research credits by engaging in research work under the PhD supervisor starting from Semester III.
3. For full-time PhD students, Part II of the comprehensive exam will now consist of a literature survey presentation combined with a tentative research proposal defence. Previously, only a literature survey was required for full-time students, while part-time students were expected to defend a research proposal. This brings the part-II of the comprehensive exam for the full-time and part-time at par.
4. Faculty members who teach PhD level core courses in a specific area will serve on the Comprehensive Exam Part I committees of that area. These committees should be set-up by the areas by the end of the first semester of the enrolment of the students.

The Council noted the proposed item-wise minor additions and approved the same with a condition to circulate these to all the Area-Coordinators with a request to give their feedback on these minor additions after discussing in the area. After considering the compilation of the feedback from the Area Coordinators, with the approval of the Director, the proposed changes are to be implemented.

( _Note: The above solutions were intended only for this semester._)

(Action to be taken by the Coordinator of the PhD Programme and Dean of Academic Programmes)

**Agenda Item No. 4**

**Any other matter with the permission of the Chair**

The Council noted that the following two faculty members resigned during the last quarter, and no new faculty have joined.

      i)      Professor Manish Kumar Gupta
     ii)      Professor Lavneet Singh

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