

Office of the Dean Academics
Minutes of the Third meeting of
Postgraduate Curriculum Review Committee

February 6, 2013

The third meeting of the Postgraduate Curriculum Review Committee (PG-CRC) was held in the Board room at 1100 hrs on February 5, 2013. The following members were present:

(Italics indicate inability to attend).

Prof. Anurag Sharma, Prof. Bhim Singh, *Prof. Naveen Garg*, Prof. B. Bhattacharjee, *Dr. B.P. Patel*, Prof. P.M.V. Subbarao, Prof. V.K. Jain, Prof. D.T. Shahani, Prof. M.G. Dastidar, Prof. Maithili Sharan, Dr. Shalini Gupta, Dr. Pritha Chandra, Prof. D. Ravi Kumar, Prof. Joby Joseph, Prof. M.R. Ravi.

The following items were discussed.

1. Confirmation of minutes of first meeting dated 11.1.13

Minutes of the previous meeting dated January 11, 2013 were discussed in detail. It was felt by members that while the minutes captured the details correctly, they did not clearly convey the spirit of the discussion about making PG courses more intensive in terms of student work input. All the related matters were re-discussed in this meeting once again. It was decided to make **the minutes of this meeting supersede the minutes of the previous meeting**, and confirm the two together. The items of minutes of the previous meeting are recorded in the spirit of the discussions of the current meeting below.

2. Discussion on structure of PG courses in the new curriculum.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the structure of the **PG courses** in the new curriculum. The following were recommended:

Quoted from the minutes of meeting 1: "The course structure of PG courses, as of now, is very similar to that of UG courses. It was proposed that the PG students should do fewer courses of greater intensity and larger quantum of self-study in a semester. The suggestion to include separate credits for self-study was discussed. Also, the structure of PG courses should provide for adaptation of students in view of the varying abilities of the incoming students. The overall credit structure of the PG programs should be decided with this background."

In this light, the committee recommended that the course structure should ensure that PG students develop the ability to learn a substantial amount of course material on their own, and the faculty work load for this should not substantially increase. With this in mind, the following were recommended by the committee:

- i. Self-study component should be explicitly defined in the course structure using L-T-P-S numbering in place of L-T-P of UG courses.
- ii. The self-study component could be used in various ways to make the PG students work on their own. Some examples:
 - a) A part of the study material for the course could be identified and announced, which would be part of examination / evaluation but would not be covered in lectures.
 - b) Study from prescribed study material which is undergraduate / pre-requisite to understanding of the current course.
 - c) Watching NPTEL and other such educational videos for material not being covered in lectures.
- iii. It was recommended that the self-study component should be evaluated by a common evaluation such as a written examination, with a weightage commensurate with the number of credits assigned to the self study (S) component of the course.
- iv. A minimum of 6 credits out of the 60 credits of an M.Tech. Programme should be allotted to self-study component. The Departments could decide which courses (Core, elective, etc) should have this component.

3. Discussion on the structure of the M.Tech. Programmes:

A detailed discussion was also held about the structure of **M.Tech. Programme** in the revised curriculum. The following recommendations were made:

- i. There should be fewer courses per semester in the PG programme, each course demanding substantially more effort compared to the present structure, as detailed above.
- ii. Two types of Masters' programmes were recommended: One course-work oriented programme and the other Research / Project oriented programme. Only students with a certain minimum level of academic accomplishment in the first two semesters (CGPA of 7.5 or above) would be allowed to register for the one-year long (18 credits) project in the III semester, while the others would need to do additional course work, and would be allowed to register for only a shorter project (6 credits) in their III or IV semester.
- iii. The following semester-wise distribution of courses was recommended:
Project / Research Oriented programme:
 I and II semesters: typically 3-4 courses, with total credits of 16-18 credits in each semester.
 III semester: 6 credits of project Part I + some minimal course work to make 12 credits.
 IV semester: 12 credits project Part II.
Coursework oriented programme:
 I and II semesters: typically 3-4 courses, with total credits of 16-18 credits in each semester.
 III and IV semesters: course work for 12 credits **OR** 6 credits of project + some minimal course work to make 12 credits.
- iv. The projects should be deemed completed only when all the work is logically complete, and not when the time period is over. They must be periodically evaluated. In the evaluation done in May, an assessment of the progress must be made, and only such projects showing good progress should be allowed to carry on to completion. The others should be given a fail grade, leading to extension of M.Tech degree by another semester. In the extended semester, the student can opt for re-registering the project or registering for courses to complete the credits.
- v. Students whose projects need an additional period for completion should be provided encouragement for the good work by allowing extension of stay and assistantship if feasible. Those with fail grade should not be extended these privileges.
- vi. Pass grade in the project should be B grade, and grade should only be awarded on logical completion of the project work.

The meeting ended with thanks to all the members.

Comments on the above minutes should be sent to the undersigned within one week of circulation of these minutes.

M.R. Ravi
Associate Dean Academic (Curriculum)
and Convener, PG-CRC.