

Office of the Dean Academics

Minutes of the Seventh meeting of Postgraduate Curriculum Review Committee

August 28, 2014

The seventh meeting of the Postgraduate Curriculum Review Committee (PG-CRC) was held in the Board Room at 4 p.m. on August 27, 2014. The following members were present:

(Italics indicate inability to attend).

Prof. Anurag Sharma, Prof. T.C. Kandpal, *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 sixth meeting dated 1.4.14:** The minutes were confirmed without modifications.
- 2. Credit structure of the M.Tech. programmes under new curriculum:** The senate had recently resolved the following in a special meeting:
 - 1. An M.Tech. Programmes would have at least 48 PG credits. This may include project credits up to 24 in the form of mini, minor and major projects. The projects would be evaluated in terms of normal letter grades.*
 - 2. A programme may increase credit requirements by up to 6 credits either as PG credits or in the form of bridge courses. Thus the credits for a programme could go up to 54.*
 - 3. For a project to qualify as an M.Tech. Dissertation, the minimum credits associated with the project should be 18.*

The senate also desired that the pedagogy for the PG courses should be distinctly different from those for the UG courses and should therefore encourage self-study and should involve term papers, presentations, assignments, etc. However, the nature and the form of these components could be discipline specific. Therefore, Departments/ Centres are urged to discuss this matter and evolve their policy for implementation.

Keeping in view the above resolution, the committee discussed the credit structure, project credits, etc., and arrived at the following recommendations:

- 1.** Each M.Tech. Programme should have a minimum of 24 core credits. It was decided to impose no other restrictions on the credit structure, leaving the discretion to the Departments / Centres / Schools.
 - 2.** All project credits need not necessarily be part of core. Each Department should evolve a criterion to identify those students who would qualify to do a project with higher number of credits that would qualify it to be M.Tech. Dissertation. One possible criterion could be the grade earned by the student in the project component that is part of the programme core.
 - 3.** A mention of whether or not a student has a Dissertation as part of his M.Tech. Programme could be made in the final transcript.
 - 4.** The registration limits of credits per semester for full-time M.Tech students should be from 9 to 18 credits and for part-time M.Tech. students these limits should be 3-18 credits.
- 3. Admitting students in both semesters:** It was decided that the Departments/ Centres / Schools be given an advisory to facilitate admissions to M.Tech. Programmes in both semesters, in view of the vacant seats in M.Tech. Programmes owing to attrition. The scheduling of M.Tech. courses be so decided as to facilitate this.
- 4. Self-study (involving term papers, presentations, assignments, etc.) component in PG courses:** It was observed that in view of the fact that the senate resolution recommends an average load of 12 credits per semester, the work expected from a student per credit comes out to be 4 hours per week. This is higher than the currently prevailing 3 hours per week per credit for 700 and 800 level

courses, thus indicating that every credit in M.Tech. programmes should involve substantially higher work input on the part of students. It was pointed out that presently even the 3 hrs per week per credit work load for students is not ensured in all courses. The committee discussed the necessity to communicate this fact to all students and faculty. The following methods were suggested:

1. Expected additional effort of student per credit in each course could be documented in the course template
 2. Explicit mention of the expected efforts per credit in the courses of study booklet and other web resources providing academic information.
 3. No M.Tech. course should devote time to covering undergraduate material with the reason that the selected students do not have adequate background: such expectation of background for each course should be clearly informed to the selected students through a webpage for each M.Tech. programme. Departments may make use of TAs in preparation and maintenance of such websites.
- 5. Pre-requisites / Not allowed for conditions for UG students taking PG courses:** It was decided that the Departments / Centres / Schools preparing templates for PG courses be advised to ensure that the entries corresponding to “pre-requisites” and “not-allowed for” on the course template are carefully and correctly filled, clearly indicating these requirements for UG and PG students aspiring for the course.
- 6. Issues pertaining to UG students opting for the M.Tech. programmes with advance standing:** It was decided to defer discussion on this item to a future meeting.
- 7. Any other item with the permission of the chair:** No other item was discussed under this agenda item.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair. Comments on these minutes, if any, may kindly be sent to the undersigned before September 5, 2014. On the basis of the confirmed minutes, a new concept paper would be drafted and placed for discussion in the next meeting of the PG-CRC.

T.C. Kandpal
Associate Dean Academics (PG Research)