

## Office of the Dean Academics

### Minutes of the first meeting of Undergraduate Curriculum Implementation Committee

September 10, 2012

The first meeting of the Undergraduate Curriculum Implementation Committee (UCIC) was held in the Senate room at 1530 hrs on September 5, 2012. The following members were present:

(Italics indicate inability to attend).

Prof. Anurag Sharma, Prof. Santanu Chaudhury, *Prof. S. R. Kale*, Prof. Sanjeev Sanghi,, Dr. Atul Narang, , *Dr. Shantanu Roy*, Dr. N. D. Kurur, Prof. B. Bhattacharjee, Prof. Anshul Kumar, Prof. S. D. Joshi, Prof. Ambuj Sagar, *Dr. Seema Sharma*, Dr. S. Dharamraja, Prof. T.R. Sreekrishnan, Prof. R. Chattopadhyay, Prof. D. Ravi Kumar, Prof. Joby Joseph, *Dr. D. Sundar*, Dr. A. S. Rathore, Dr. G.S. Benipal, Dr. Subodh Kumar, Prof. G. S. Visweswaran, *Dr. N. Chatterjee*, Prof. Sangeeta Kohli, Prof. P. Srivastava, Prof. Manjeet Jassal, Prof. M.R. Ravi.

At the outset, the Dean Academics welcomed all the members of the committee. Prof. Santanu Chaudhury made a presentation of the concept paper on revision of UG curriculum approved by the Senate to initiate the discussion. Being the first meeting, the discussion was in free format, to evolve a clear agenda for the implementation of the curriculum and prioritize issues that are time-bound. The following is a list of issues that emerged:

1. The committee does not have a member from the School of Biological Sciences, which is required to offer a core course in the new curriculum. It was decided to include a member from SBS in the committee.
2. Other points that were flagged during the discussion:
  - a) In view of the Senate decision to do away with tutorials in courses with higher than 200 level, and in view of the revision in credit structure, a re-look and rationalization of the tutorial credits in all courses is necessary.
  - b) Courses in various categories that cater to students across the programmes, such as Basic Sciences, Engineering Arts and Sciences, Humanities, Environment, etc. need participation from all Departments that have the expertise to offer such courses, so that few Departments do not get overloaded with teaching such courses.
  - c) Several suggestions were offered about the courses in the Programme-linked BS/EA-ES category: such as Thermodynamics, Material Science, Instrumentation etc. as courses needed essentially for all branches of Engineering.
  - d) Issue of dwindling student motivation was also discussed: it was noted that while pedagogy is a factor, it is also required to put in place necessary checks and balances on the teaching – learning process.
  - e) It was also pointed out that the Committee should issue a note of clarification on the concept paper that the flexibility in number of credits in the range of 145-155 is for the Departments to fix their requirements, and not for the students to work with.
  - f) Since the 15 credits of non-graded core component is completely new in this curriculum, dedicated sessions to discuss this is essential. It may be desirable to constitute a sub-committee to discuss this issue and come up with recommendations that can be finalized by the entire committee.

It was decided that each of these issues should be focussed on in the discussions of the committee in the future meetings systematically.

3. It was observed that the new curriculum offers adequate flexibility in the undergraduate curriculum to students, by offering opportunities of Departmental Specializations,

Interdisciplinary Specializations and Minor Areas. In view of the Departmental Specialization credits, the committee felt that it may be desirable for each Undergraduate degree awarding Department to consider offering a single programme, and avail of the flexibility to give varying flavours to the degree.

4. In view of the fact that JEE 2013 is likely to be advertised for in October 2012, it was decided that the topmost priority in terms of time-bound activities of the committee is the need for Departments to decide on the changes to the existing programmes. Since it was decided by the senate to discontinue Integrated M.Tech programme and replace it with Dual Degree programme, Mathematics Department has to resolve regarding the changes related to this in their faculty board. In view of the discussion on this matter in the Senate, all Departments that offer the Dual degree programme could take a fresh look at the programme and decide whether to continue offering a five-year programme at entry (JEE) level or to offer a four-year programme with option to convert it to a B.Tech – M.Tech or a B.Tech – M.S. (R) or Ph.D. combination based on student performance upto the end of third year: an option approved by the Senate recently. It was recommended that a note be sent to all Departments on an urgent basis seeking inputs within two weeks from their faculty boards on the following:

**To Undergraduate Degree Awarding Departments:**

1. What are the degree programmes that they would like to offer at entry level (JEE)?
  - i. Would they want to offer only 4-year B.Tech. Programmes, with option for M.Tech / M.S (R) admission at the end of third year?
  - ii. Would they want to offer a Dual Degree programme at entry level itself?
  - iii. Departments offering more than one UG programme: Would they want to consolidate their programmes into fewer or a single programme?
2. In each case, what would be the minimum and maximum number of students they would like to admit, keeping in view that the total number (851) for IIT Delhi cannot be changed?
5. Since the concept paper has a common first year curriculum with 22 credits of Basic Science courses and 18 credits of EA-ES courses, it is essential to have a broad outline of what these courses would contain, in order for the Departments to decide on the other courses in these categories they would include in the programme related credits.

**To Departments offering the Basic Science Core courses / EA-ES core courses for I year students:**

1. What would be the broad outline of the first year core course(s) your Department proposes to offer?
2. What would be the tentative contents of other courses that your Department would offer in the programme related credits bouquet?
6. Subsequently, with the above information, the committee could meet in about three weeks' time and send its conclusions on the JEE-level admission programmes and number of seats to the Senate for approval, besides discussing on the other issues.

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, UCIC.