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Minutes of Meeting

26th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL



HOMI BHABHA NATIONAL INSTITUTE

(A Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, MHRD & an Aided Institution of the DAE, Govt. of India)

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MINUTES OF 26th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

The following members were present during the meeting held on 10th December 2020 (10.00 am):

Prof. P.R. Vasudeva Rao, Vice Chancellor	Chairman
Prof. P.D. Naik, Dean, HBNI	
Prof. A.K. Mohanty, Director, BARC	
Prof. A. K. Bhaduri, Director, IGCAR	
Shri Debashis Das, Director, RRCAT	
Dr. Sumit Som, Director, VECC	
Prof. Gautam Bhattacharyya, Director, SINP	
Sh. Shashank Chaturvedi, Director, IPR	
Prof. S.M. Yusuf, Director, IoP, Convenor BoS (Phy. Sci.), & Dean Student Affairs, BARC	
Prof. V. Arvind, Director, IMSc	
Prof. Pinaki Majumdar, Director HRI	
Dr. R.A. Badwe, Director, TMC	
Prof. Sudhakar Panda, Director, NISER	
Prof. E.D. Jemmis, Professor, IISc, Bangalore	
Prof. Indranil Manna, Vice Chancellor, BITS Ranchi & Professor, IITKharagpur	
Prof. J.B. Udgaonkar, Director, IISER, Pune	
Prof. B. Venkatraman, IGCAR	
Prof. V. Kain, OS, MP&CD, & Dean Academic, Engg. Science Stream-I, BARC	
Prof. S. Kannan, Convenor, BoS (Chemical Sciences)	
Prof. A.P. Tiwari, Convenor, BoS (Engineering Sciences)	
Prof. R.B. Grover, Convenor, BoS (Applied Systems Analysis)	
Prof. S.D. Banavali, Convenor, BoS Medical & Health Sciences, & Dean, TMC	
Prof. (Mrs.) Prasanna Venkatraman, Convenor, BoS (Life Sciences)	
Prof. Meena Mahajan, Convenor, BoS (Mathematical Sciences)	
Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty, Convenor, BoS Integrated Masters Programme	
Dr. Chandrasekar, Registrar	Secretary

The following invitees were present

Prof. B.K. Dutta, Institute Chair Professor, HBNI
 Prof. B.S. Tomar, Institute Chair Professor, HBNI
 Prof. D.K. Maity, Assoc. Dean, HBNI
 Prof. A.K. Dureja, Assoc. Dean, HBNI
 Prof. Saibal Basu, Assoc. Dean, HBNI
 Prof. A.K. Bhattacharjee, Dean Academic, Engg. Sciences Stream-II, BARC
 Prof. Tapan Kumar Ghanty, Dean Academic, Chemical Sciences, BARC
 Prof. (Ms.) Hema Rajaram, Dean Academic, Life Sci., BARC
 Prof. R. Rajaraman, Dean Academic, Physical Sciences, IGCAR
 Prof. Anish Kumar, Dean Academic, Engineering Sciences, IGCAR
 Prof. Vidhya Sunderajan, Dean, Student Affairs, IGCAR
 Prof. CVS Brahmananda Rao, Dean Academic, Chemical Sciences, IGCAR
 Prof. Arup Banerjee, Dean Academic, RRCAT
 Prof. C.P. Paul, Dean Student Affairs, RRCAT
 Prof. Parnika Das, Dean Academic, Physical Sciences, VECC

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Prof. Prasanna, Convenor, BoS Life Sciences highlighted that ACTREC is engaged in important research projects of high impact. Scientists are selected based on their extensive post-doc experience from institutions/ Universities from abroad. Such scientists are recruited at SO (D) level at TMC. Hence it takes more than 3 years as per rules to achieve next level and they lose more than 3 golden years of guiding and engaging student during this period. Hence it is appropriate for HBNI to consider faculty positions to such scientists as also followed in DBT-INSPIRE fellowships, and by UGC.

Prof. Yusuf, Director, IoP reiterated that HBNI faculty are engaged in unique research projects of DAE and they are positioned at a different level with quality criterions set up by the respective BoS following the statutory guidelines and some of the criteria are more stringent than the minimum as prescribed by the UGC. Several of faculty applications even meeting the minimum prescribed guidelines were not considered since there were not quality publications or evidence-based research accomplished in their credentials.

Prof. Gautam Bhattacharya, Director SINP also supported the fact that faculty in CIs/ OCC are recruited following such regulations as approved by DAE. Sh. Das, Director RRCAT also mentioned that HBNI's guidelines and levels should not be compromised and it was also significant to note that R&D units are engaged in high level of research to keep pace with their research requirements.

Prof. Prasanna conceded that there should not be any dilution in the standards, and it was only pointed out that that even though scientists are recruited at SO/D level by TMC, they have extensive research experience and capacity to guide Ph.D students. Some of them come with fellowships given by CSIR/DBT/DST which specifically permit them to guide Ph.D students.

Prof. Rahul Siddhartan, Dean Life Sciences, IMSc pointed that in CIs other than DAE R&D units, candidates apply for faculty positions as given in the advertisement with the requisite qualifications and experience and taken in the levels given. HBNI also bestows title following its due procedure as also recommended by the BoS.

Prof. A.P. Tiwari, Convenor BoS Engineering Sciences said that scientists/ faculty having the minimum qualifications and experience but not meeting some requirements e.g., scientific grade equivalent, scope exist to be inducted as technical advisor and they can also guide students for MTech, MPhil, MSc Engg.

Chairman also pointed that the BoS has the powers to recommend exceptional cases based on the research output, independent research experience and capacity to guide research fellows,

The Committee concluded that the decisions of the Academic Council, also approved by CoM, were appropriate and shall be binding on all CIs/OCC. However, in the specific cases proposed by TMC, it was decided that TMC can propose a one-time exception for the excellent candidates recruited at SO/D level.

M2.A2.2 Nomenclature for PhD Programmes – proposals from CIs and OCC

Prof. Naik briefed the Council about various programmes offered by the CIs. It was also informed that CIs offer programmes with specializations as per the mandates of the CIs. HBNI has reported 32 programmes to NAAC following the UGC norms and regulations. Degrees are

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awarded only for the approved nomenclature of the programs. Information was sought from the CIs for addition of new programmes in the programmes being offered by HBNI. The addition programme to be added may be due to introduction of the various new programmes at CIs/OCC and also due to de-clubbing of some ongoing programmes for consideration as independent programmes. In the case of IMSc, for example, PhD programs with a specialization in Computational Biology, Theoretical Computer Science and Theoretical Physics are offered under the names of the generic programmes, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Physics, respectively.

Prof. Rahul, IMSc mentioned that the present system of offering the degree is meeting the needs of CI.

Prof. Naik explained the need to introduce the new programmes to indicate the degree offered, and where no proposal is received for the new programme names, the degrees will be offered under the generic programme name. Prof. Meena Mahajan suggested that internal discussion at IMSc is required concerning the subject matter and she will inform the outcome of IMSc to HBNI central office for the needful.

Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty, Convenor BoS Integrated Masters Programme presented a proposal for introduction of new specializations in PhD programmes:

- (a) PhD Computer Sciences (to be offered through BoS Mathematical Sciences)
- (b) PhD Humanities & Social Sciences (to be offered through BoS Applied Systems Analysis)
- (c) PhD Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences (to be offered through BoS Physical Sciences)
- (d) PhD Earth Sciences (to be offered through BoS Physical Sciences)
- (e) PhD Planetary Sciences (to be offered through BoS Physical Sciences)

Prof. Jemmis applauded about the specializations that are needed in the present trend of economic growth and development. However, he mentioned that too narrow specialization is not required and PhD in Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences, PhD Earth Sciences and PhD Planetary Sciences may be considered under the generic programme name PhD in Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Prof. Sudhakar Panda remarked that Govt. of India has independent departments of Earth Sciences, Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences and Planetary Sciences and that was the basis for the proposed specializations. The Council was also informed that students are joining in the current academic year, which will begin in January 2021 and over a period of next 5 years, the institute will have a total of 5 faculty members in each discipline to meet the academic requirements.

Prof. Yusuf added that the programme structure presented by Prof. Bedangdas is as per the requirements, and the BoS was fully satisfied with the programme demands and requirements.

Prof. RB Grover further added that the programmes of HBNI should not be too tightly focussed, and should integrate several disciplines at the level of PhD, a concept unique to HBNI.

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Prof. Udgoankar remarked that specialization with Earth and Climate Science is a better option, however, the option should be given to the CIs/OCC taking into account the faculty availability and needs of the sector.

Director SINP indicated an option of looking at Geosciences, which is more generic and could include earth, planets, climate and related areas.

Director IGCAR mentioned that PhD specialization should not be made so much narrow, as the students may not find employment in the related areas. Also, if the thesis title is given in the Degree Certificate, it would provide the broader details of the skill areas relevant to the study of the researcher.

Prof. Grover also remarked that the name of the degrees along with disciplines should be broad and the title of the thesis being there should meet any requirement of students to seek employment in specialized and related areas as well.

The Council noted the inputs from members and opined that the three new additional programmes namely, PhD (Computer Sciences) (to be offered through BoS - Mathematical Sciences, PhD (Humanities & Social Sciences) (to be offered through BoS - Applied Systems Analysis and PhD (Earth & Planetary Sciences) (to be offered through the BoS - Physical Sciences may be included in the list of programmes offered by HBNI.

The updated programme list as approved by the Council is given in *Annexure-2*.

M2.A2.3 Declaring Academic Year for HBNI: August to July each year

The Council was informed about the 32 academic programs being offered at HBNI in variety of areas and programmes include PhD, Int. PhD, MPhil, Integrated - MSc, MSc, MTech, MD, DM, MCh and Post Graduate Diploma, in various disciplines/ specialisations.

The council was also informed the dates of the starting of these programs vary as per the academic session in the respective CIs/ OCC following the admission process. Presently, the designated academic year term is the financial year, i.e., April to March. Although the academic year has helped for the smooth preparation of Annual Reports, however, this has resulted in awkward situations, e.g., one-year academic program starting in an academic year and completing in next academic year. Considering this aspect and the fact that a large number of the programs start from 1st August, it is proposed that August to July may be designated as the academic year, starting from the academic year 20-21.

Prof. Banavali, Convenor Medical & Health Sciences and Dean Academic, TMC informed that medical programmes begin from June each year and programmes such as DM/ MD, students are admitted in May and programme begin in June, while MSc begins from 1st August. Therefore, the academic year from August to July is an ideal option.

Prof. A.K. Bhaduri, Director IGCAR endorsed the proposal of declaring the academic year from August to July each year.

Council approved the proposal for declaring the academic year from August to July each year. This shall come into effect from the year 2020-21. The Council noted that for the period

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of April 2020 to August 2020, the academic and related activities undertaken in the period will be reported appropriately.

M2.A2.4 Annual Registration of PhD students (online using Anuvidhya portal)

The Council was informed that in order to streamline the progress of all PhD students, a scheme for annual re-registration of all PhD students shall be introduced as mandatory every year. They shall upload their annual progress report of the Doctoral Committee, inform about the publications etc. online. There shall be NO fee payment. It was informed that this scheme will ensure discipline in the progress of students.

Director, NISER briefed that students undertake annual registration at NISER. This has enabled to review the progress in terms of examination and thesis works for PhD students. Issues of Anuvidhya was also discussed informing that students are some-times not able to upload the information. Prof. Vani, IMSc also mentioned about the technical glitches.

It was clarified that students were sent e-mail using the Anuvidhya and they were to register using the given e-mail and date of birth being the password. There may be mismatch in one of them. It was assured, that in the initial phase, such glitches will be addressed individually and sorted out. Prof. Bedangadas mentioned that in case one ID is given to the Dean, the issues at the institute level can be sorted out.

Members endorsed the proposal for online reporting of annual progress. The Council endorsed the views of the members and approved annual registration as mandatory for the PhD programmes. The annual registration will follow the guidelines as in **Annexure 3**.

M2.A2.5 Online enrolment of students other than PhD programmes

The Council was informed that an online system of enrolment of students for other programmes using Anuvidhya has been enabled. This scheme has ensured accuracy of inputs such as student name and their particulars. The council was informed that students of all programmes of study will enrol online in the format available through Anuvidhya.

The Council was informed that CIs/ OCC upon seeking admission shall fill-in online application, the Central Office will provisionally assign enrolment number to such students.

The Council approved online enrolment of all students admitted to various programmes of study in the CIs/ OCC. The online enrolment of students other than PhD will follow the guidelines as in **Annexure 4**.

M2.A2.6 Discussion on the Format of proposal for introduction of New Programmes and Courses

Prof. Naik briefed the committee about the format prepared by HBNI for proposing new programmes and courses by CIs/OCC towards evolving a common, systematic and comprehensive approach towards consideration of new courses and programs, also considering the requirements of NAAC & UGC. The proposed format is given in **Annexure 5**. The proposed format will be circulated to all Deans in the CIs/ OCC for consideration and will be also available on HBNI website.