

Minutes of the 26th School Board Meeting

The 26th School Board meeting of SOCIS was held on September 28, 2007. The following members attended the meeting:

1. Prof. Manohar Lal, Director, SOCIS	Chairman
2. Prof. Om Vikas, Ex-Director, IITM, Gwalior	Member
3. Prof. M. Balakrishnan, IIT, Delhi	Member
4. Prof. A.R. Khan, SOSS, IGNOU	Member
5. Dr. G. Venkatesh, CEO, SASKEM	Member
6. Sh. Shashi Bhushan, SOCIS, IGNOU	Member
7. Sh. V.V. Subrahmanyam, SOCIS, IGNOU	Member
8. Sh. M.P. Mishra, SOCIS, IGNOU	Member
9. Sh. Naveen Kumar, SOCIS, IGNOU	Member
10. Sh. Sudhansh Sharma, SOCIS, IGNOU	Special Invitee
11. Sh. A.M.M. Rao, JD, Computer Division	Special Invitee

Prof. Y.N. Srikant, Prof. A.K. Pujari, Prof. Gayatri Kansal, Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Dr. Kamal Vagarecha could not attend the meeting.

Item No. 26.1 Confirmation of the minutes of 25th School Board meeting held on June 1, 2007

26.1.1 *As no comments were received from any member on the Minutes of the 25th meeting of the School Board, these minutes were confirmed.*

Item No. 26.2 To consider Phase-I form for Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) in Computer Science.

25.2.1 Prof. Manohar Lal explained the need for introducing the M.Phil programme in Computer Science.

25.2.2 *The Board considered and approved the Phase-I form of M.Phil in Computer Science programme, making the following suggestions for the consideration of the expert committee in respect of matters relating to the eligibility criteria and the syllabus:*

- For M.Phil programme, there should not be any course material in the form of SIM. Otherwise, the purpose of the programme being a research degree programme will be defeated.
- Depending on the educational background of a student of the program, course work will be prescribed by the School/Concerned Faculty.
- The concerned Guide for an M.Phil student should suggest references for relevant articles, research papers, standard textbooks etc. in the areas of specialization.
- An M.Phil student should be made to search, collect and learn on his/her own self within the parameters of the syllabus and as suggested by the

guide. For the students of the program, we may do away with the academic counseling sessions.

- Some expert lectures may be recorded and relayed through EDUSAT relating to the topics including Research Methodology in Computer Science.
- In respect of the eligibility of a candidate for admission to the M.Phil programme, the requirement of 3 years of experience, as suggested in the proposal, may be relaxed in case of a candidate with MCA/M.Tech in CS/IT and M.SC (Computer Science/IT)
- For others (i.e., non Computer Science /IT background candidates), however, two years of relevant experience should be required for admission to M.Phil Programme.

Item No. 26.3 To consider Phase-I form for Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Computer Science.

26.3.1 Prof. Manohar Lal explained the need for introducing the M.Phil programme in Computer Science.

26.3.2 *The Board strongly approved the Phase-I form and made the following suggestions/recommendations for consideration of the expert committee in respect of matters relating to the eligibility criteria and the syllabus:*

- In respect of the eligibility requirements to the program, it was suggested that a candidate from discipline other than Computer Science/Information Technology, should be required to give a seminar or tangible proof in terms of publications and/or software developed in order to support their candidature for Ph.D in Computer Science.
- Candidates with the MCA/M.Tech/M.Phil/M.Sc in Computer Science/IT with 5 years of teaching experience may be exempted from doing course work.
- It was recommended that experts from outside IGNOU, with requisite qualifications, who may be from academia or industry, should be allowed as co-guides. The name of such an expert may be suggested by a student already admitted or to be admitted, and, on approval by the competent authority, such an expert, if willing, will become a co-guide for the student.
- Measures for scalability of registration of the candidates to the program, may be considered, later on.

Item No. 26.4 To consider Phase-I form for Diploma in Web Technologies and Multimedia (DIWTM)

26.4.1 Sh. Shashi Bhushan explained the need for introducing the DIT programme in Computer Science

26.4.2 *Board members appreciated the idea and approved Phase I form of DIT with the following suggestions:*

It was suggested that the framework of DIWTM program should be development in a modular way so that DIWTM may become an extension of CIT. Further, DIWTM students should be allowed credit transfer/exemption for the courses done during DIWTM, for pursuing BCA or some other relevant programmes.

Item No. 26.5 To consider Phase-0 form for Bachelor in Computer Applications (BCA)

26.5.1 In view of the fact that many of the BCA courses were developed about 8 to 9 years back, there is a need to upgrade/revise courses in accordance with the emerging trends/technologies. Further, IGNOU offers BCA/MCA as an integrated programme. Also, keeping in view of the fact that the MCA (Revised) programme has already been on offer from Jan. 05 onwards, it is essential to revise BCA programme also.

26.5.2 *BCA Phase 0 form was considered and approved with the following suggestions:*

- The programme should be planned well in advance in respect of matters relating to whether the programme
 - (i) is to be semester based or annual,
 - (ii) will be having its first semester in January/July session or both.
- Further, it was suggested that the BCA should be designed is a modular way so that, if possible, after the completion of each of the first year and second year of BCA programme, a certificate/diploma may be awarded in order to enhance the employability.
- Also, the members felt in respect of the delivery of computer programmes in general, activation of SCs/PSCs etc. should be monitored more rigorously w.r.t the facilities required, infrastructure and software.
- Further, Prof. Om Vikas, former Director, IIIT&M, Gwalior, suggested that the School should think of courses/programmes in multilingual computing, which seem to have good scope in future in view of the fact that most of the facilities for e-Government, e-Learning, e-Health etc. are being planned in regional language also. Also, it was suggested a meeting of Experts or a Workshop in this respect might be organized to discuss various issues in this regard.

Item No. 26.6 Master's Degree programme in Information Technology Law and Security in collaboration with the School of Law

26.6.1 Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Director, School of Law explained the need of the programme and also mentioned about the programmes on offer will be on offer from School of Law.

26.6.2

The members approved and appreciated the collaborative proposal of SOL and SOCIS to offer the programme with the following suggestions:

- One of the Schools must be identified as house-in school for the programme to take various administrative activities.
- The collaborative programmes may be thought of three categories:
 - a) General awareness
 - b) Technical / Trouble shooting level
 - c) Design, Development and projects based
- In case of designing Master's Degree programme, the following three aspects may be kept in mind:
 - i) Technology
 - ii) Management
 - iii) Policy
- In this respect, a direct dialog with DIT, MICT, NIC etc may be initiated. Also, Joint Secretary, HRD and Joint Secretary, Law may be involved to expedite the process of designing the programme.
- For students with different background in either of Computer Science and Law may be offered options of bridge courses in order to compensate deficiency of knowledge in the other area. Such courses may be planned jointly by the Schools.
- In this respect, inputs from International agencies/bodies involved in policymaking should also be incorporated.
- The syllabus and curriculum should be finalized by calling an expert committee meeting.

Item No. 26.7 Proposal to reduce pass percentage to 40% from 50% as exists now for all the courses of MCA (Revised) and BCA programmes of SOCIS.

26.7.1

The members approved the proposal that the pass percentage should be made 40% for all courses of various computer programmes and for auxiliary courses like CS-60 and MTE-03 etc. currently running or to be launched in future. However, for MCA (Old Programme), the pass percentage remains the same as earlier.

Item No. 26.8 Related issues to conduct term end practical examination for CS-68, CS-69/BCS-061 and CS-74.

26.8.1 The programme coordinators of BCA informed the members that in the 20th School Board of SOCIS followed by 32nd Academic Council approval, it was decided that there would be one practical examination, covering the practical components of CS-68, CS-69

and Cs-74 for the BCA students who were registered in July 2005 or afterwards. Thus, this approval comes into effect from June 2008 Term End Practical Examinations onwards.

In this regards, in view of the practical difficulties mentioned below, the School has the following observations regarding the conduct of this practical examination.

Conducting of a combined practical examination for these courses, may lead to the problems including:

- i. Separation of marks
- ii. Keeping track of attendance for separate practical sessions for combined examination (for example CS-68 and Cs-69 practical sessions need separate 75% attendance to appear in exam).
- iii. Conducting examination in sixth semester for a course(s) taught in fifth semester.

Keeping in view of the above facts, the school proposes that:

1. There should be a separate practical examination for each of CS-68, CS-69/BCS-061, CS-74 courses.
2. The practical examination of these proposed practical papers to be conducted in their respective semesters, as is done for other BCA practical papers.
3. This proposal should be implemented, the students admitted in July 2005, from June 2008 Term End Practical examination onwards only and not for the students of earlier batches.

28.8.2 *The item was discussed and the members approved the proposals given by the school.*

Item No. 26.9: To consider and approve the list of evaluators, moderators, Examiners, project evaluators and paper setters for various courses/programmes of SOCIS.

26.9.1 The Chairman placed the list of paper evaluators, paper setters, moderators for the consideration and approval of the School Board.

26.9.2 *The Board considered and authorized the Chairman to add the list of evaluators, moderators, examiners, project evaluators and paper setters for various programmes of the School presented in the meeting.*

Item No. 26.10: Any other item with the permission of the chair:

The following issues were discussed under this item:

Item No. 26.10.1: The proposal from PowailLabs for Launching of “*Certified VLSI Professional*” programme

The Director (SOCIS) explained the background of the above item, and briefed the members about the discussion on the issue in the earlier School Board meeting held on June 01, 2007.

After thorough discussion, the members, particularly the external experts, expressed that before launching the programme; the University should take into consideration the following relevant facts:

- VLSI, in general, is a strongly specialized program, which does not have big scope in Indian context.
- Further, proprietary tools, as proposed by PowailLabs in their program, may not be suggested for such a kind of programme, specially in view of the fact that, in this respect, a number of open source software are also available.
- Prof. Om Vikas, till recently, and now retired, Director IIIT&M Gwalior, told the members that even M. Tech students of their VLSI programme were not be able to get suitable employment after completing the programme. The scope for employment of candidates with Diploma/Certificate in VLSI appears to be still less.
- The expenditure incurred in establishing VLSI laboratories will be very high. Before launching the programme, the issue of Return on Investment (ROI) should also be taken into consideration by the University.

Item No. 26.10.2: Identification of specific computer courses relevant to other final year Bachelor's degree programmes of IGNOU

Prof. A.R. Khan suggested that SOCIS may prepare some Computer Science/Information Technology based courses for the students of final year of Bachelor's degree programmes of the University, so as to enhance employability of these students. The computers courses to be developed may be relevant to the programme specific.

Item No. 26.10.3: Email (*enclosed*) from Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia regarding the admission to the students of BCA of IGNOU to BIT of QUT.

The enclosed email was received from QUT regarding the credit transfer and semester exemption for the BCA students of IGNOU taking or desirous of taking admission to the BIT of QUT.

The matter was discussed and members agreed to the offer by QUT of credit transfer of semester exemption for BCA students of IGNOU, subject to the condition that credit transfer/semester exemption only be on equitable and mutual basis to both the parties for the respective programmes.

In this respect, IGNOU, for its computer programmes, provides credit transfer/exemption on case to case basis for the students who have finished one or more semester from other Universities, and who haven't received the degree programme of IGNOU. This rule may be applied to those students also, who for

some reasons, discontinue some relevant programmes for foreign Universities, including QUT, Australia.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair

(Prof. Manohar Lal)
Chairman, School Board,
SOCIS