

Minutes of the 30th meeting of the School Board of School of Computer and Information Sciences IGNOU

The 30th meeting of School of Computer and Information Sciences was held at 10:30 a.m. on May 29, 2010 (Saturday), in Block 'C', New Academic Complex, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068.

The following members of the School Board were present:

Prof K Srivathsan, PVC, IGNOU	(Special Invitee)
Prof Manohar Lal, Director, SOCIS,	Chairman)
Prof S. Arun Kumar, Prof IIT Delhi	(Member)
Prof Om Vikas, Former Director IIIT, Gwalior	(Member)
Prof Chandan Singh, Punjabi University, Patiala	(Member)
Mr. Dheeraj Prasad, (Microsoft)	(Special Invitee)
Sh Shashi Bhuhan, SOCIS, IGNOU	(Member)
Sh Akshay Kumar, SOCIS, IGNOU	(Member)
Sh P V Suresh, SOCIS, IGNOU	(Member)
Sh M P Mishra, SOCIS, IGNOU	(Member)

Item No. 30.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 29th meeting of School Board of SOCIS held on 20.6.2009.

Discussion:

Director (SOCIS) informed the members that the minutes of 29th meeting were duly circulated to its members and no comments were received on the minutes.

Decision:

Since no comments were received, the School Board approved the minutes of the 29th meeting of School Board of SOCIS held on 20.6.2009.

Item No. 30.2 Launch of B.Sc. (IT) in Networking Engineering stream and Software Engineering stream in partnership with NIIT for international students and approval of Phase-1, Phase-2 and Phase-3 forms.

Discussion:

The Programme Coordinators of the B. Sc. (IT) in Network Engineering and Software Engineering informed the School Board about the salient features of the programme. These are:

- This is a Joint programme of IGNOU and NIIT.
- This programme has been designed with industry perspective of certain International markets.
- The programme is to be delivered in initially six countries where NIIT has a good presence and has studied the market well.
- The programme focus is on employability, therefore, the distribution of courses over the three years period has been designed keeping in view of the needs and employability skills training such that skills become useful and usable in that country.

Some suggestions and discussion on those proposal of SOCIS:

- The members suggested that the two programmes should have common first year which may form the core curriculum and skills may be given in the later year. However, the programme coordinator informed the group that since every year has a skill/ certification, therefore, the core curriculum has been distributed over the three years.
- It was also suggested that in the future designs, the course names may not include the name of any programming language.
- Members welcomed the idea of introducing the Maths course in the final year as this may not dispel the student in the very first year.
- It was felt that the logical sequencing of courses like operating system may precede database design or the core issues of operating systems like concurrency may be taught before database design.
- It was suggested that the programme may open up certain higher learning options for the students, therefore, in the future higher end degree programmes may be considered.
- The programme may employ collaborative and constructivist approaches involving peer to peer learning. The ODTTEL may be used to strengthen the community driven learning.
- It was suggested that if possible the cloud computing approach may be exploited for this programme over a period of time.
- Overall the scope of the programme is very different and constraints on this programme in various countries in which it is being launched will be different. Therefore, School board felt that the programme may be scheduled as per the need of the countries provided the relationships of various courses (pre-requisites, co-requisites etc.) are maintained.
- It was also suggested to include the possible fee structure and complete the form in all respect.

Decision:

The Phase I, Phase II and Phase III forms were passed with the suggestions, given above.

Item No. 30.3 Reporting item in respect of considering MTE-03 course similar to any other courses of BCA programme.

Discussion:

Director (SOCIS) informed the members about the decision of the Vice Chancellor to allow the MTE-03 course similar to any other course of BCA programme, in the sense that MTE-03 registration also will also be valid, like any other course of BCA, for whole validity period of student in BCA programme. It was suggested that school may find if MTE-03 is part of CS-60 course of BCA. If it is found to be part of CS-60, then the students who have passed the CS-60 examination may be exempted from MTE-03.

It was suggested to replace MTE-03 with some other basic course on Mathematics. On this, BCA coordinator informed that the BCA programme is under revision and this proposal have been already considered for the proposed revised BCA.

It was also proposed to explore if the Microsoft Maths Worksheet Generator may be used to help students of IGNOU for maths courses.

Decision:

The School Board ratified proposed change.

Item No. 30.4 Launching of Face to Face On-campus mode of delivery of MCA Programme.

Discussion:

Director (SOCIS) informed the members about the proposal of launching of PG programme in face to face mode.

It was suggested that MCA may be launched in face to face mode as it will help in improving the MCA curriculum and support for MCA programme. However, the members suggested that a Master in Technology (M. Tech.) through research leading to PhD may be better option for the face to face mode. This will facilitate the research culture in the school. The experience of teaching various M Tech courses will encourage faculty and student teams to relook the contents of MCA. This M. Tech programme should also aim at developing teaching methodology and research methodology to the students so that they may be employed as teaching faculty in Computer Science.

Decision:

The School Board suggested that the School may launch Master of Technology (M. Tech.) programme by research leading to PhD. This programme may need approval of AICTE.

Item No. 30.5 Recommendation/Approval of names of Experts as Ph.D Research Guides for candidates to be admitted to Ph.D programme of SOCIS.

And

Item No. 30.6 Recommendation/Approval of names of candidates for admission to Ph.D programme of SOCIS.

Discussion:

These two items were discussed together. A written document and copies of relevant documents were given to each member of the School Board. Further, the Director (SOCIS) also elaborated in detail to the members about the process of admission that was followed by the SOCIS for admission of the candidates for the PhD programme. He informed that the complete process has the approval of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor including the names of the expert and the process of selection of the candidates. He also informed that the guides of the candidates meet the requisite criteria of the University. As per recommendations of the Doctoral/Expert Committee members, candidates have been asked to undertake credits, these courses will be selected by the candidates from the courses offered by SOCIS, IGNOU for Ph.D students, from time to time, on the recommendations of the guides.

It was proposed that serving teachers of the SOCIS, IGNOU may be allowed to take admission to PhD programme directly and should be exempted from coursework as they have been duly selected by the University for the Teaching Job. Also since faculty is involved in the development of courses, they should be exempted from undertaking course work.

It was suggested by the Chairman that the UGC norms may be invoked for the research degree programmes.

Decision:

The School Board recommended the list of guides and candidates for admission.

The school board recommended that the serving permanent teacher of the university and, in particular that of the SOCIS, IGNOU may be admitted to the PhD programme directly by submitting the research proposal.

Item No. 30.7 Any other item with the permission of the chair.

- (i) Proposal for Launching NPTEL based Courses: Prof. K.R. Srivathsan, PVC, proposed SOCIS should launch NPTEL based courses for teachers of various universities. It was proposed that teachers may be asked to share about their teaching experiences.
- (ii) Equivalence of MSc (Computer Science) and MCA: A student has requested the same as her job require such equivalence. It was suggested by the School Board to ask the student to approach AIU for the same.
- (iii) Digital Literacy Programme (DLC) of Microsoft was recommended as one of the eligibility condition for the Certificate in Information Technology (CIT) programme of IGNOU.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.