
MINUTES OF THE 39TH MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SCHOOL OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES IGNOU, HELD ON October 4, 2013

The 39th meeting of the School Board of School of Computer and Information Sciences was held on **October 4, 2013** (Friday) at 11:00 a.m., in the Conference Room, SOMS, Block 'C', New Academic Complex, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068.

The following members were present:

1. Sh. Shashi Bhushan, Director, SOCIS, IGNOU	Chairman
2. Prof. M.N. Doja, Jamia Millia Islamia University	External Member
3. Prof. Sonajharia Minz, Jawahar Lal Nehru University	External Member
4. Prof. Deo Prakash Vidyarthi, Jawahar Lal Nehru University	External Member
5. Prof. Nawal Kishor, SOMS, IGNOU	Member
6. Dr. Manoj Kulshreshtha, SOET, IGNOU	Member
7. Dr. P.V.Suresh, SOCIS, IGNOU	Member
8. Sh V.V.Subrahmanyam, SOCIS, IGNOU	Member
9. Sh. M P Mishra, SOCIS, IGNOU	Member

Special Invitees

1. Prof. Narayan Prasad, Director, Research Unit.
2. Prof. Manohar Lal, SOCIS, IGNOU
3. Dr. Naveen Kumar, SOCIS, IGNOU
3. Dr. Sudhansh Sharma, SOCIS, IGNOU

Prof. S.K.Basu, BHU, Varanasi, Prof. Uma Kanjilal, SOSS, Dr. S.K.Yadav, SOA, and Sh Akshay Kumar, SOCIS, could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, Director welcomed the members and thanked for sparing their valuable time for making it convenient to attend the meeting and also briefed the members about the activities of the School as follows:

- The School conducted one week extensive workshop/ contact programme for Ph.D students.
- Conducted timely semester end examination for Ph.d students.
- The second workshop is tentatively scheduled for November, 2013.
- The School is also in the process of setting up a Computer Lab for Ph.d students and faculty members of other disciplines of the University. School already purchased Qualnet and is in the process of purchasing MATLAB.
- Conducted meetings of several courses design committees.

The following agenda items were taken up:

Item No. 39.1 **To confirm the minutes of 38th School Board Meeting of School of Computer & Information Sciences held on April 18, 2013 and to note the action taken.**

Discussion The Chairman informed that the minutes of the 38th meeting of School Board of SOCIS held on April 18, 2013 were duly circulated by incorporating all comments received to the members of the School Board. As no further comments were received, the minutes and the action taken report were placed before the School Board for confirmation.

Decision The Board noted the action taken report and confirmed the minutes of the 38th School Board Meeting of SOCIS.

Item No. 39.2 **To approve the minutes of the 5th Doctoral Committee meeting held on 22nd August, 2013 at 11:30 AM**

Discussion The minutes of the 5th Doctoral Committee meeting held on 22nd August, 2013 were circulated to the members. The copy of the Minutes was placed along with comments before the Board for consideration and recommendation.

Decision (i) **Offer of Elective courses (Item No. 5.5):** The members suggested that while preparing the list of the elective courses for Ph.D., there is no need to mention the names of the Course Coordinators or Ph.D, supervisors. Therefore, the column where the faculty names are mentioned may be deleted.

(ii) It was also suggested that efforts should be made to optimize the number of elective courses offered by the School keeping in the view of the workload in managing a large number of courses.

(iii) The Chairman is authorized to finalize the list of electives in consultation with the faculty/supervisor. The tentative list of courses is enclosed as Appendix -1.

A Tentative list of Elective Courses under different streams on offer *

* Every course will be of 4 credits.

Sr.No.	Name of the Course	Course Codes
1	Software Testing	
2	Requirement & Estimation Techniques	
3	Cellular & Mobile Communications	
4	Computer Network	(RSE-016)
5	Evolutionary Techniques	
6	E-Learning	
7	Object Oriented Technology	
8	Internet & Web Technology	
9	Security and Cryptography	
10	Theory of Computation	
11	Software Engineering	
12	Emerging trends in Computer Networks	

(iv) Evaluation of Ph.D thesis (Item No. 5.4): A letter containing detailed comments given to the three candidates namely Ms. Nidhi Chopra, Mr. Rajiv Singh, and Ms. Sangeeta Kakoty, during Pre-Ph.D seminar held on 27th January, 2012 for incorporating it in the final thesis alongwith the Board's decision to be sent by their Research Guide Prof. Manohar Lal to all the candidates with a copy to Director, SOCIS and Director, Research Unit.

(v) **Allocation of Internal Supervisor to Sh. Rajneesh Kumar:** Sh. Shashi Bhushan expressed his inability to guide Rajneesh Kumar, a Ph.D candidate of January, 2013. The matter will be placed before the next Doctoral Committee.

With the above, the Minutes of the 5th Doctoral Committee were approved by the School Board.

Item No. 39.3

To consider and recommend the Phase-I form of M.Phil programme in Computer Science

Discussion

M.Phil Programme is a research-oriented master's degree programme that will act as a springboard for the students to pursue later their Ph.D programme. It provides higher-level knowledge, skills and experience to enable the students to build their research and educational career. It also allows the students to upgrade educational qualifications in computer science and hence, to seek promotion in their respective careers. In fact, M.Phil programme, in addition to enhancing the level of the knowledge, also prepares the philosophical and intellectual framework of the students, necessary to explore wide spectrum of research fields and carry out in-depth studies in a given area. Additionally, while pursuing M.Phil programme, the students acquire skills of constructing meaningful hypotheses from systematic study of any domain of their interests. This programme gives the students and opportunity to apply their research and communication skills to enhance quality of their teaching and thereby providing excellent learning experiences to the students in their institution. A degree in M.Phil widens employment opportunities in teaching and research in various government and non-government institutions/organizations. There is a scarcity of quality of teachers in the field of IT. The main thrust of the programme will be to increase the number of good quality teachers and researchers in computer science discipline. M.Phil. programme is proposed to be offered as independent programme.

The M.Phil programme of Computer Science was approved by all the statutory bodies in the year 2009. However, the programme was not launched . Now the School wants to launch the programme.

Phase Form –I was placed before the School Board for consideration and recommendation.

Decision

Phase-I Form for the launch of M.Phil programme in Computer Science was considered and recommended by the School Board with an advice to do need-based analysis for the programme.

Item No 39.4 **To invite suggestions for launching of skilled-based certificate/ diploma in Computer Applications**

Discussion Keeping in view of decreasing enrolments for in MCA, BCA and CIT programmes the matter was placed for deliberation/discussion and suggestions to make suitable recommendation(s) for future course of action by the School to launch various skilled based certificate/diploma programme.

Decision The Board appreciated the initiative taken by the school to launch skilled-based certificate/ diploma in the field of Computer Science/Applications. In this regard, it was suggested that the relevant information from agencies like FICCI and National Skills Development Agency websites may be collected which are engaged in such type of certificates and diploma programmes and the necessary action may be taken to launch these programmes by the School.

Item No. 39.5 **Proposal to offer MCS-034(Software Engineering) of MCA in e-learning mode (Virtual Class) in addition to existing ODL mode through e-Gyankosh**

Discussion Dr.P.V.Suresh explained to the School Board that it is hereby proposed to offer MCS-034 (Software Engineering) of MCA in e-learning mode (Virtual Class) in addition to existing ODL mode through e-Gyankosh.

Lectures can be delivered using Adobe Connect. A maximum number of 50 learners can be present in the Virtual Classroom. The number will increase as IGNOU acquires additional licenses of Adobe Connect. It is expected that the interactions of learners with Course Coordinator through Adobe Connect will be higher in number in comparison with teleconferencing mode as features of Adobe Connect will enable rich interactions between Course Coordinator and Learners.

The advantage of using LMS enabling authentication for learners is that SLMs of MCS-034 will be accessible only to registered learners to the respective course by virtue of their registration to the respective semester or re-admission to MCS-034.

The proposal may be treated as an experiment as no course of SOCIS is offered through Virtual Class as on date. Also, the time to complete the process may depend on the time it takes to receive student data from SED/SRD and communicating the user names and passwords to the learners.

Decision 1. It was noted that SOCIS is providing online support through Blog, Twitter and Yahoo Groups to the students of BCA.

2) School Board appreciated and recommended the proposal to offer MCS-034 in e-learning mode in addition to the ODL mode.

3) The School Board further recommended that SOCIS should offer similar support for some more courses in other programmes in addition to MCS-034

Item No. 39.6

To Consider and recommend the Recognition of B.Sc (IT) of Kuvempu University (KU) offered in collaboration with NIIT and Universal Educational Trust (UET) for MCA admission.

Discussion

The Kuvempu University has approached IGNOU to recognize its B.Sc (IT) for admission in IGNOU MCA programme. The SOCIS school council held on 08.01.2013, examined whole issue thoroughly and recommended that *“The B.Sc (IT) programme offered directly from Kuvempu University may only be considered for granting admission to MCA first semester. However, B.Sc (IT) programme offered by Kuvempu University in collaboration with any third party may not be considered equivalent to B.Sc (IT) or BCA. The B.Sc (ITIM) of Kuvempu University also may not be considered equivalent to B.Sc (IT) or BCA.”*

Subsequently, the matter was placed in IGNOU equivalence committee held on 28.06.2013 and the equivalence committee resolved to refer back the matter to SOCIS School Board to re-examine the issue.

The School Board deliberated on the issue and considered the following:

- (i) The criteria for taking admission to IGNOU MCA programme is any graduate from any stream.
- (ii) ***The Kuvempu University (KU)*** is established in 1987 by an Act of Karnataka Sate Legislature.

Decision

The School Board recommended that, *“any graduate from Kuvempu University (KU) or any other such universities should be considered for admission to IGNOU MCA Programme.” Further, the equivalence of the said programme to any programme of IGNOU (B.Sc.IT or BCA) may be sent to Equivalence Committee, IGNOU.*

Item No. 39.7

To consider and recommend award of MCA degree to those students who have studied Mathematics at graduation level and cleared all the 31 courses of MCA.

Discussion

There are approximately 60 MCA students who have successfully completed all the credit requirement of MCA (31 courses of MCA) programme and also have studied Maths at Graduation level.

But their MCA degree is held up due to non- successful completion of CS-60 course, as they have taken admission under the then eligibility criteria *“Graduate from a recognized University. However, the students who have not pursued Mathematics as, a distinct subject at 10 + 2 are required to pursue and pass the CS-60 course concurrently.”*

Meanwhile from July, 2013 session, SOCIS has modified its eligibility criteria for MCA admission *“Any Bachelor’s degree of minimum 3 (three) year duration from recognized University” AND “Mathematics as one of the subject at 10 + 2 level or graduation level; else the student is required to pursue and pass the BCS-012 course concurrently with MCA”.*

As per this criteria, those students who have studied mathematics at 10 +2 or at Graduation level need not pursue any other course (any math course), along with MCA. Therefore on taking fresh admission, these 60 students will have the option of credit transfer for **all the 31 course** of MCA, thus, completing MCA without even appearing/passing a single examination. Besides, as per the rules and regulations of internal credit transfer on seeking fresh admission (like any other new candidate), a student is required to remain on the rolls of the university for a minimum period of one year in order to become eligible for the award of degree under his/her Enrol.#. Thus such students are required to pay the 1st semester fee (**Rs.9000/-**) plus the credit transfer fee @Rs.400/- per course (31 X 400 = **Rs.12,400/-**). In nutshell there is no academic activity for the award of degree under his/her new Enrol.#, hence it may attracts criticism from the general public.

SOCIS proposed that the students who have completed all the 31 courses of MCA and have studied Mathematics at graduation level should be awarded MCA degree under the same Enrolment Number allotted to them subject to the condition that they have completed all 31 courses, except CS-60, within the prescribed maximum duration including the extended duration of 2 years; provided they fulfill the revised eligibility criteria. However, those students who have already taken fresh admission and applied for credit transfer, their case will not be re-opened for refund of fee.

Decision

The School Board deliberated on the issue and recommended that, *“the students who have completed all the 31 courses of MCA and have studied Mathematics at graduation level should be awarded MCA degree under the same Enrolment Number allotted to them subject to the condition that, (i) they have completed all 31 courses, except CS-60, within the prescribed maximum duration or readmission period. (ii) No fee will be refunded to those students who took fresh admission to MCA*

Item No. 39.8

To permit unsuccessful BCA (Pre-Revised) students who exhausted maximum period for completion of BCA and did not apply for re-admission to appear in December, 2013 TEE.

Discussion

Dr. P.V.Suresh informed the School Board that the students of BCA(Pre-Revised) who applied for re-admission but could not successfully complete all courses of BCA(Pre-Revised) were given two chances to appear in June, 2013 TEE and December, 2013 TEE. However, such chances were given only to those students who requested IGNOU for more time. IGNOU has been receiving representations from students who did not apply for re-admission but exhausted maximum duration without completing all requisite courses of BCA(Pre-Revised).

Hence, it is herewith proposed to give one chance to appear in December, 2013 TEE for all the students who exhausted maximum duration but did / did not apply for re-admission for consideration and recommendation of the school board.

Students may be given additional opportunity. Though two chances were given earlier, those chances were given only to those students who requested for extra time. However, there may be students who do not know about the two chances and hence did not approach the University. Considering these facts, the Board made the following recommendation:

Decision

All students of BCA(Pre-Revised) who did not complete the programme successfully and exhausted maximum duration or re-admission period should be given an additional 2 years from the date of notification to complete the unsuccessful courses of BCA(Pre-Revised). All eligible students should be communicated individually.

Those students of BCA (Pre-Revised) who completed maximum duration but did not apply for re-admission and are unsuccessful should pay the re-admission fee as applicable to avail the extra two years granted.

Item No. 39.9 **To consider and recommend the names of question paper setters for MCA and BCA (Revised).**

Discussion The list of Paper Setters for various courses of MCA & BCA (Revised) was placed for consideration and approval of the School Board as Annexure-39.9.1.

Decision The Board considered and recommended the names of question paper-setters for various courses of MCA & BCA (Revised) programmes of SOCIS and it was decided to put up the recommendation of the School Board to Vice-Chancellor for approval.

Item No. 39.10 **To consider and recommend the names of Term End Examinations Answer Script Evaluators for MCA, BCA & CIT Programmes**

Discussion The list of Term End Examinations Answer Script Evaluators for various courses of MCA, BCA & CIT Programmes was placed for consideration and approval of the School Board as Annexure-39.10.1.

Decision The Board considered and recommended the names of TEE Answer Script Evaluators for various courses of MCA, BCA & CIT programmes of SOCIS and it was decided to put up the recommendation of the School Board to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for approval.

Item No. 39.11 **To consider and recommend the names of Project Evaluators for MCA & BCA Programmes**

Discussion The list of project evaluators for project courses of BCA &MCA was placed for consideration and approval of the School Board as Annexure-39.11.1.

Decision The Board considered and recommended the names of Project evaluators for project courses of BCA & MCA programmes of SOCIS and it was decided to put up the recommendation of the School Board to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for approval.

Item No.39.12 **To consider and recommend the names of course writer (s), editor(s) and content editor (s) for BCA (Revised)**

Discussion The list of course-writers, editors and content editors for various courses of BCA (Revised) programmes was placed for consideration and approval of the School Board as Annexure 39.12.1.

Decision The Board considered and recommended the names of course writers, editors, and content editors for various courses of BCA(Revised) and it was

decided to put up the recommendation of the School Board to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for approval.

Item No. 39.13 To consider and recommend the names of Moderators for MCA, BCA & CIT Programmes

Discussion The list of Moderators for various courses of MCA, BCA & CIT programmes was placed for consideration of the School Board as Annexure 39.13.1.

Decision The Board considered and recommended the names of Moderators for various courses of MCA, BCA & CIT programmes and it was decided to put up the recommendation of the Board to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for approval

Any Other Items with the permission of the Chair

Item No. 1 To recommend the names for Expert Committee Meetings for elective courses for Ph.D.

Discussion Ph.D Students from Category A and B are required to take some elective courses. The School is in the process of finalizing the list for finalizing the syllabus of each course. The list of experts was placed for consideration and recommendation of the School Board as Annexure 39.14.1.

Decision The Board considered and recommended the name of expert committee for finalizing the syllabus of elective courses from the list as Annexure 39.14.1

Item No. 2 To recommend the names of Experts for evaluation of Ph.D. Thesis of RTAs.

Discussion Prof. Manohar Lal submitted a list of the Evaluators for evaluation of Ph.D. Thesis submitted by RTAs.

Decision The names of experts for evaluating Ph.D thesis were read out to the members. The members recommended the list of evaluators for evaluating Ph.D thesis of

1. Ms. Nidhi Chopra
2. Mr. Rajeev Singh
3. Ms. Sangeeta Kakoty

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Shashi Bhushan)