

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM
Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the Academic Council

Venue: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Amritanagar
Coimbatore 641 112

Date: 21.03.2015
Day : Saturday
Time: 11.00 AM

The following members of the Academic Council were present:

1. Dr. P Venkat Rangan, Vice Chancellor
2. Dr. S Krishnamoorthy, Registrar
3. Prof. C Parameswaran, Director - CIR
4. Dr. Bipin Nair (Dean, School of Biotechnology)
5. Dr. Shantikumar V Nair (Dean, Research)
6. Dr. Sasangan Ramanathan (Dean, Engineering)
7. Dr. Krishnashree Achuthan (Chair, PGP)
8. Dr. Balakrishnan Shankar (Associate Dean, Aamritapuri)
9. Dr. R Dhandapani (Controller of Examinations)
10. Br. Sankara Chaitanya (School of Ayurveda)
11. Dr. U Krishnakumar (Director, School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi)
12. Dr. K Sankaran (Principal, School of Engineering, Amritapuri)
13. Dr. P Prathapan Nair (Principal, School of Medicine)
14. Dr. R. Balagopal Varma (Principal, School of Dentistry)
15. Prof. K T Moly (College of Nursing)
16. Dr. M Sabitha (Principal, School of Pharmacy)
17. Prof. Vidya Pai (Principal, School of Arts & Sciences, Mysore)
18. Dr. M Savitha Pande (Principal, School of Education)

1. Dr. V M Nandakumaran, Chairman, Dept. of Physics, has represented for Dr. C Gopinathan Pillai (Principal, School of Arts & Sciences, Amritapuri)

Br. Abhayamrita Chaitanya, Dr. Prem Nair, Dr. V S Somanath, Br.Sudeep, Br. Dhanrja, Br. Sunil Dharmapal, Dr. C R Muthukrishnan, Dr. A H Kalro, Dr. V Radhakrishnan, Dr. Bharat Jayaraman, Dr. Vasudevan Nampoothiri, Dr. P Sridhar, Prof. S G Rakesh and Dr. Sriram Devanathan could not attend the meeting and had informed in advance. Leave of absence was granted to them.

Dr. Raghu Raman, Chairperson, ASB attended the meeting as special invitee.

The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chancellor Dr. P Venkat Rangan.

The meeting began with a prayer. The Vice Chancellor extended a warm welcome to all the members of the Academic Council.

The appreciation for the sincere efforts and cooperation of all the Schools, during the NAAC inspection was recorded.

22.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Academic Council held on 26.07.2014.

Resolved to confirm the Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Academic Council held on 26.07.2014.

22.2 Reports on the actions taken / academic progress

22.2.1 Highlight of reports of the Deans / Principals of the Constituent Institutions.

The reports received from the Deans / Principals were noted and taken on record.

22.2.2 Reports of Heads of Schools about research publications by PG Students.

This was followed by a discussion. It was clarified that writing a research paper and submitting it to a Scopus listed Journal or Conference proceedings is the responsibility of the student. The supervisor, who will be the co-author will handle all correspondences about the paper and has the responsibility to get it accepted for publication

22.3 New Academic Programmes

22.3.1 Considered the proposal recommended by CPGP to start 2 year MA programme in English Language & Literature at School of Arts & Sciences, Amritapuri from the academic year 2015-16 with an intake of 25 students.

Resolved to approve starting of a 2 year MA programme in English Language & Literature at School of Arts & Sciences, Amritapuri from the academic year 2015-16 with an intake of 25 students. These students will join the 7th semester of the 5 year integrated MA programme in English.

22.3.2 Considered the proposal recommended by CPGP to start a PG programmes M.Sc. Computer Science, specializing in System Administration and Networking at School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi & Mysore from the academic year 2015-16.

Resolved to approve starting a two year Post Graduate programme M.Sc. Computer Science in System Administration and Networking in place of M.Sc. in Computer Science at Amrita School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi & Mysore campuses from the academic year 2015-16.

Submission of Research paper is mandatory for the award of the degree

22.3.3 Considered the proposal recommended by CPGP to start the following PG programmes at School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi from the academic year 2015-16.

- i) M.Sc. Mathematics - intake 30
- ii) M.Phil Commerce and Management - Duration 1 Year, Intake - 25
- iii) M.Phil Visual Media and Communication - Duration 1 Year, Intake – 25
- iv) M.Phil English Language & Literature – Duration 1 year, Intake - 25

Resolved to approve starting of the above programmes at Amrita School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi from the academic year 2015-16.

Acceptance of at least one Research Publication in a Scopus listed journal is mandatory for the award of M.Phil degree. For the M.Sc. programme, submission of Research paper is mandatory for the award of the degree.

22.3.4 Considered the proposal recommended by CPGP to start Three-year B.Com (Taxation and Finance) degree programme, at School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi from the academic year 2015-16 with an intake of 40 students.

Resolved to approve starting of Three-year B.Com (Taxation and Finance) degree programme, at School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi from the academic year 2015-16 with an intake of 60 students.

22.3.5. Considered the proposal recommended by CPGP to start Five Year Integrated MCA programme, with an exit option at the end of three years with BCA degree at School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi from the academic year 2015-16 with an intake of 60 students.

Resolved to approve starting of a Five Year Integrated MCA programme, with an exit option at the end of three years with BCA degree at School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi from the academic year 2015-16 with an intake of 60 students.

22.3.6 Considered the proposal to start ONE Year Post DM Fellowship in Therapeutic Endoscopy in Amrita School of Medicine, Kochi, from the academic year 2015-16, with an intake of one candidate in every six months.

Resolved to approve starting ONE Year Post DM Fellowship in Therapeutic Endoscopy in Amrita School of Medicine, Kochi, from the academic year 2015-16, with an intake of ONE candidate in EVERY SIX Months.

22.3.7 Considered the proposal to enhance one seat in each of the following programmes at School of Medicine, Kochi.

- i) B.Sc. Anesthesia Technology - from six to seven
- ii) B.Sc. Neuro Electro Physiology – from five to six

Resolved to approve to increase one seat each in the following programmes at School of Medicine, Kochi, from 2015-16 batch.

- i) B.Sc. Anesthesia Technology - from six to seven**
- ii) B.Sc. Neuro Electro Physiology – from five to six**

22.3.8 Considered the proposal to start a M.Tech. programme in Automotive Electronics at Amrita School of Engineering,

This was agreed to in principle. The detailed curriculum and syllabus is to be submitted well in time to the University level CPGP, which will forward its recommendation to the Academic Council, for its proposed meeting planned in May 2015.

22.4 Regulations of the academic programmes:

22.4.1 Considered the proposal recommended by CPGP, to drop ‘c’ from the current rule on remedial option for the failed M.Tech. students (Rule II.5) :

- a. Weightage for PG courses are:
50% Internals + 50% Final Exam
- b. If they have failed in final exam, then option to repeat it the following semester may be given.
- c. If they fail in Internals, then they will have to repeat the course.

The modified rule will be applicable from 2014 admission batch onwards.

Resolved to approve the following remedial option for the failed M.Tech. students to be implemented from 2014 batch onwards.

a. If a student has failed in end-semester exam, then option to repeat it in the following semester will be given.

22.4.2 Considered the proposal that for the M.Tech programme the ‘Research paper should have received acceptance’ can be waived this year subject to:

- a) Paper Submissions to Journals (or)
- b) Paper Submissions to Highly Reputed Conferences (Category A from the Department list)

Resolved to approve the following option for the M.Tech programme from this year.

- a) Paper Submission to Scopus listed Journals (or)**
- b) Paper Submissions to Highly Reputed Conferences (Category A from the Department list)**

The concerned Faculty supervisor who will be co-author, will be responsible for acceptance of the paper in a Scopus listed journal / conference proceedings.

This is effective from 2013-15 batch onwards.

22.4.3 Considered the following recommendations of CPGP to improve the Ph.D. programmes :

1. Registration of Thesis Credits

A Ph.D. student required 60 research credits towards earning of the degree.

A Ph.D. student may start earning thesis credits as soon as his thesis topic has been finalized and approved by the Doctoral Committee.

The thesis topic can be finalized any time after the student registers for PhD and therefore students can start earning thesis credits any semester in the PhD program. In other words, thesis credits can also be earned prior to completion of comprehensive and qualifying examinations.

Following norms will be adhered to while registering for thesis credits

- 1) 5 credits per semester, if the student has limited time working towards their research due to course work and/or other reasons.
- 2) 10 credits per semester, if the student is pursuing research at the normal pace.
- 3) 15 credits per semester, where in student's has made extra effort towards their research and thesis or dissertation.

If there is satisfactory progress, the student gets an O grade for all the credits registered. If it is not satisfactory, an I grade is given. An I grade is not permitted for two consecutive semesters. If an I grade is given in one semester, it should be made up the next semester.

2. Guidelines for PhD Guides

- a. PhD or equivalent (MD or MS);

- b. Have three good papers, with at least one as first author (UGC requires at least one journal paper for a PhD);
- c. One year research experience after PhD (waived for "senior" faculty)

- d. A first-time PhD advisor can have a senior person on the committee as a Co-Advisor.

(Senior Faculty that have received fresh PhDs: They have taught and/or guided PG students for many years, and have publications requirement listed above)

- 3. Introduction of PG Courses in Summer
 - a. PhD Level courses will be offered in the summer and start May 2015.
 - b. PhD students are allowed to take courses over all three terms (i.e. Odd, Summer and Even terms) towards completion of the required course credits.
 - c. Courses for Ph.D. students to be offered in Summer to assist with completion of Course Credits

Resolved to approve the above modification to regulations of the Ph.D. programmes.

This will have immediate effect.

22.4.4 Considered approval to modify the following regulations of MBA programme at School of Business, Coimbatore and at Department of Management in other campuses.

- i) to drop Master Thesis (6 credits) and instead
- ii) Addition of Elective (3 credits) + Independent Study Course (3 credits)

Resolved to approve the above with the modification that MBA students will have an option of (i) or (ii).

It is mandatory that they should satisfy;

- a) **Paper Submission to Scopus listed Journals (or)**
- b) **Paper Submissions to Highly Reputed Conferences (Category A from the Department list)**

This is effective from 2013-15 batch of MBA onwards.

22.4.5 Considered approval of CUGP's recommendation for the following modification in the Rules / Regulations for B.tech. programme.

1. Students can register for the higher semester courses as long as the pre-requisite conditions are met (all batches).
2. 50% internal requirement clause of reappearance is removed. All students are eligible for re-appearance regardless of their internal (all batches).
3. Internal split up was changed to 15:15:20 from 2014 batch onwards.
4. **Paper Submission** : Besides the prescribed minimum CGPA requirement, it is mandatory for the B.Tech students to submit a paper in Scopus indexed journal / conference in order to be awarded B.Tech. with distinction. The paper should be co-authored with a faculty of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, satisfying all the requirements for paper submission (plagiarism check and the required approvals prior to submission).

Resolved to approve the above modifications. This will have immediate effect.

22.4.6 Considered approval for the modification in the rules / Regulations that PG Arts & Science students have to submit a paper in Scopus indexed journal / conference proceedings as part of the requirement to be awarded a degree. The paper has to be co-authored with the faculty supervisor of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.

Resolved to approve the above modification. This will have immediate effect.

22.5 Curriculum and Syllabi

22.5.1 Considered approval of the recommendation of CPGP for the New Elective courses in the M.Sc. programmes at School of Biotechnology, Amritapuri from the academic year 2015 batch onwards.

Resolved to approve the following New Elective courses in the M.Sc. programmes at School of Biotechnology, Amritapuri from the academic year 2015 batch onwards.

- i) **Cancer Biology (BIO464) : 3 credits**
- ii) **Phage Biology (BIO465) : 3 credits**
- iii) **Cell Signaling (BIO466) : 3 credits**

22.5.2 Considered approval of the recommendation of CPGP to introduce Foreign Languages as Electives from 2015 admissions at School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi.

Resolved to approve introducing Foreign Languages as Electives from 2015 admissions at School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi.

22.5.3 Considered approval of the recommendation of CPGP for new elective courses during the academic year 2015-16.

Resolved to approve the following new elective courses at the School of Engineering, subject to the approval of syllabus by the Academic Council.

School of Engineering:

CS743	Evolutionary Computation (M.Tech.)	3-0-0-3
SN710	Offensive Security (M.Tech)	0-0-1-1
CL801	Materials and Processes for Polymer Composites (Ph.D)	4-0-0-4

22.5.4 Considered approval of new electives for PhD scholars in the Dept. of Communication & Commerce from the academic year 2015-16.

Dept. of Communication

CJ802	Mass Communication Research Methods	4-0-0-4
CJ803	Ethics of Journalism	4-0-0-4
CJ804	Media and Cultural Theory	4-0-0-4

Department of Commerce

CM801	Women Entrepreneurship Development	4-0-0-4
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Detailed syllabus and references for the above proposed courses to be submitted to the CPGP for its recommendation to the Academic Council, at its next meeting, planned in May 2015.

22.5.5 Considered approval to introduce Foundation courses for Ph.D. candidates in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.

It was explained that a foundation course in Mathematics is compulsory for all Ph.D. programmes, but its contents may vary from programme to programme, depending on its requirements. The purpose is to develop in Scholars an ability for quantitative and logical analysis, wherever it is relevant. This may be a pre-requisite to the Research methodology course.

22.5.6 Considered approval of revision of syllabus for Master of Hospital Administration programme at Amrita School of Medicine, Kochi from the academic year 2015-16. This was approved by CPGP (Health Sciences).

Since the item was received in the last moment, the details could not be circulated. This can be taken up in the next meeting of the Academic Council, planned in May 2015.

22.5.7 Considered approval of revision of Syllabus for B.Pharm programme at Amrita School of Pharmacy from the academic year 2015-16. This was approved by CPGP (Health Sciences).

Since the item was received in the last moment, the details could not be circulated. This can be taken up in the next meeting of the Academic Council, planned in May 2015.

22.6 Other Items

22.6.1 Approval of 2013-14 AQAR

Resolved to approve the AQAR for the year 2013-14, subject to modification, if any proposed by any of the Schools during the next two weeks.

22.6.2 Considered the recommendation of the committee consisting of Dr. K. Sankaran & Dr. Balakrishnan Shankar for the award of Grace Marks / Attendance to the students who are participated and won Medals / Awards in Arts, Sports, Technical events, Seva activities etc...

Resolved to approve the recommendation of the above committee. A uniform procedure for implementation across all campuses will be issued by the office of the Vice Chancellor.

22.6.3 *The School of Education, Mysore has been permitted to convert the One year B.Ed. programme into a 2 year B.Ed. programme as mandated by NCTE. The detailed curriculum and syllabus with the recommendation of the Board of studies is to be presented in the next meeting of the Academic Council, in may 2015, through the CUGP*

22.6.4 *A note on starting Centres of Excellence in the Departments of Management at Amritapuri & Bangalore were received in the last moment. The departments are requested to submit a detailed proposal to CPGP for its recommendation, so that the Academic Council can consider the same. Dr. Shantikumar Nair was requested to prepare a set of norms to be satisfied by all Centres of Excellence in Research of our University.*

The meeting ended with the chanting of the Shanthi Mantra.



Dr. S Krishnamoorthy
Registrar & Secretary, Academic Council

