

Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Guwahati
Minutes of Departmental Faculty Meeting (No. 66/2021: March 3rd, 2021)

Opening Remarks

Department faculty meeting headed by the Head of the Department (Prof S. Senthilvelan) was held in online mode on March 3rd, 2020 at 5:00 PM. A total of 38 faculty members (Prof. S. Bag, Prof. A. Banerjee, Prof. S. Basireddy, Prof. D. N. Basu, Prof. P. Biswas, Prof. A. Dalal, Prof. M. Das, Prof. A. De, Prof. S. K. Dwivedy, Prof. S. S. Gautum, Prof. S. M. Hazarika, Prof. Shrikrishna N. Joshi, Prof. K. Kalita, Prof. S. Kanagraj, Prof. S. Kapil, Prof. S. K. Kakoty (on DD duty), Prof. P. Khanikar, Prof. K. S. R. Krishna Murthy, Prof. V. Kulkarni (on JEE duty), Prof. B. Kumar, Prof. P. Kumari, Prof. G. Madhusudhana Prof. T. K. Mankodi, Prof. P. Mondal, Prof. N. Muthu, Prof. P. Muthukumar, Prof. A. Nandy, Prof. G. R. Narayan, Prof. S. Pal, Prof. S. Panda, Prof. B. Panda, Prof. M. Pandey, Prof. U. K. Saha, Prof. N. Sahoo, Prof. S. Senthilvelan, Prof. D. Sharma, Prof. A. Soti, Prof. R. Tiwari) were in attendance.

Approval of Faculty Meeting (No. 65/2020: February 3rd, 2020)

Minutes of the previous faculty meeting dated February 3rd, 2020 were approved by the members.

Agenda

1. Prof. Senthilvelan proposed that financial support to PhD students who complete fellowship period (2yrs at Rs. 31000 + 3yrs (4yrs for ST/SC candidates) at Rs. 35000) from the department fund should be granted under extraordinary situations only. Several members supported the proposal but suggested that genuine candidates should get financial support beyond the fellowship period. Prof. K.S.R. Krishna Murthy was of the opinion that the current system should be continued since no Ph.D. student will extend Ph.D. term for financial support. Prof. Nelson Muthu enquired if the proposal was applicable to current students and further opined that new rules should apply from the next batch. Prof. Atanu Banerjee suggested that the new rule should be relaxed keeping the Covid pandemic in mind. The members agreed to delay this proposition for six months.
2. Prof. S. Senthilvelan on behalf of the department expressed sincere gratitude to Dr Rajesh Kanna, Ph.D. scholar (2007) for the financial support of Rs 60,000 towards ME-DPF.
3. Prof. S. Senthilvelan requested members to send their opinions to DPPC on the CCD guidelines on long term internship during the regular semester.
4. Prof. S. Senthilvelan thanked members for their support in the core course allocation process for the upcoming two semesters (Jul-Dec 2021 and Jan-April 2022). Also, it was reiterated that courses of other centres/departments will not be counted as course load for a faculty. The process followed by the Fluid and Thermal group to first discuss the course allocation in smaller group and then come to consensus was appreciated. Further, coordinators of the other groups were requested to adopt a similar process. Prof. Senthilvelan specially thanked Prof. P. S. Robi, Prof. S. M. Hazarika and Prof. S. N. Joshi for agreeing to opt unallocated core courses. Prof. Tapan Mankodi and Prof. Arup Nandy were requested to compile and send the final core course allocation at the earliest.
5. Prof. Swarup Bag on behalf of DPPC presented the updated report on the proposal of Executive TA (Please refer to Point 2, Minutes of the Department Faculty Meeting held on

February 3rd, 2021) for the following subjects: ME101 Engineering Mechanics, ME542 Numerical Analysis, CE101 Engineering Drawing and ME502 Engineering Computing Lab (15 TAs per semester). Prof. K.S.R. Krishna Murthy suggested to add Machine Drawing to the list of subjects. Prof. P.S. Robi opined that students should atleast work for one year before availing the benefits of the scheme. The members agreed with the content of the report. TA coordinators were requested to initiate the process at the earliest to implement the same.

6. Prof. P. Muthukumar and Prof. S. Kanagraj presented a preliminary report on the modalities for allocating additional PhD. student to PIs for conducting projects (Please refer to Point 6, Minutes of the Department Faculty Meeting held on February 3rd, 2021). It is proposed that project with allocated funds for manpower be considered for additional Ph.D. students. A maximum of two additional students can work with a faculty member on separate projects. Allocation of additional Ph.D. candidates to project PIs will only commence after three months once the registered students have exhausted possibility of working with other faculty members. This clause was recommended in order to help the newly joined faculties. To which, Prof. Manas Das argued that since students opt for courses according to their Ph.D. thesis, the three month time will be a disadvantage to both the student and to the supervisor. Prof. Senthilvelan pointed out that minimum number of PhD students to be allocated to projects cannot be set. Prof K.S.R. Krishna Murthy and Prof Manas Das pointed out that there is no difference between the members who are having a project and those who are not having a project since the funding is provided by the institute. Prof P. S. Robi enquired about the statistics about the number of students who joined and not allocated supervisor due to the quota issue. It is decided to continue the existing practice of Ph.D. allocation without any change.

7. Prof. Senthilvelan requested members to give their inputs to DFAC on the shortlisting criteria for faculty appointment.

8. Prof. Deepak Sharma updated the details of the IP allocation to the department. In total, 354 IP addresses (73 Personal, 14 PDA/PDF, 66 Department, 179 Project and 22 Institute) are currently in use. Further details will be presented in the next department meeting.

9. Prof. D. N. Basu on behalf of a three member committee (Prof. S. Senthilvelan, Prof. S. M. Hazarika and Prof. D. N. Basu) reported that two students each were recommended for Direct (Harshal Srivastava (206103112) and Abhishek Parida (206103101), total eligible candidates : 2) and Lateral (Atul Singh Rajput (196103009) and Nadaf Arman Mohaddin (196103017), total eligible candidates : 10) Entry for PMRF scholarships. On a separate note, committee members noted that, Mr. Abhishek Parida, despite being an M.Tech. From IIT Guwahati itself (graduated in 2020) and hence eligible for course waiver, has registered for 4 courses in the ongoing semester. Out of those, he is repeating the courses Convective Heat Transfer (ME 522) and Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (ME 621), without taking any prior approval from DPPC. While there is no written code that he has violated, it is against the ethical practice followed in the department, and the committee reports the same to the house.

10. Prof. Atul Soti on behalf of three member committee (Prof. Deepak Sharma, Prof. D. N. Basu and Prof. Atul Soti) presented modalities of PG/CAD lab desktop allocation to department research scholars. It was proposed that the department should purchase desktop periodically. The desktops will be assigned to faculty members to support their Ph.D. stu-

dents in their research work. PG/CAD lab will maintain a record of computational resource available with the faculties and preference in allocation of desktop will be given to members having fewer number of desktops for their students. The allocation will be done after the comprehensive examination. It will be the responsibility of the faculty member to handover the desktop on completion of student's thesis work. Prof. P.S. Robi enquired about the condition of the desktop to which Prof. Deepak Sharma replied that most of the desktop marked for allocation are used ones and a few will be purchased from the department fund. Over the next few years, the older PCs will be scrapped and replaced with the newer ones. Prof. D. N. Basu added that the new desktop purchased will not be a high-ended workstation but basic computers sufficient for routine research activities. Prof. Nelson Muthu opined that the allocation should be on the basis of needs of a Ph.D. student instead of faculty member. Also, Prof. Muthu suggested to put a cap of maximum 6 desktops allocated to one faculty member. The house agreed with the allocation policy in general.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with vote of thanks.