
**THE NELSON MANDELA AFRICAN INSTITUTION OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

STUDENTS' ORGANIZATION (NM-AIST-SO)

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE

Tel: +255 272 555 070
Mobile Phone: +255 745459038
Fax: +255 272 555 071
E-mail : students.org@nm-aist.ac.tz



Tengeru
P.O. Box 447 Arusha
Website: www.nm-aist.ac.tz
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**SCHOOL OF COMPUTATIONAL AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING (CoCSE)**

30th CoCSE SCHOOL BOARD – 5th JULY 2022

MATTERS FROM STUDENTS

The following were the matters that were presented to the school board:

1. Semester Examination Results.
2. Group project course for EMoS Programme
3. Assessment for Graduate Seminar, Outreach and Internship, and Research Methods and Communication
4. The issue about Project Report Defense
5. Thesis/dissertation/project report writing
6. Courses Outline
7. Master's Dissertation/Thesis/Project Examination
8. Issue of internet and electric facilities in classes.

Development of the above matters:

1. Semester Examination Results

The students are requesting the release of semester results before the beginning of the following semester because some students get some challenges when they request funds from their sponsors. Also, some sponsors need the results and progress reports before they give the funds to the students.

2. Group Project Course for EMoS Programme

The EMoS students have requested clarifications on how the above-mentioned course is assessed.

3. Assessment for Graduate Seminar, Outreach and Internship, and Research Methods and Communication

According to the ACADEMIC REGULATIONS which stipulated how the graduate seminar is conducted and assessed. The students especially EMoS Programme have requested the guidelines on how the graduate seminar for them is conducted and assessed.

In addition, the EMoS students were asking about the criteria of assessment for the Outreach and Internship course and Research Methods and Communication because there is no outline for those courses.

4. The issue about Project Report Defense

The EMoS students were complaining about how during the final defense the examiners examined their works as research works but according to the students' understanding and also according to the Academic Regulations, the EMoS programme is coursework and project so the students were asking why the projects were assessed as research works.

5. Thesis/dissertation/project report writing

The students are requesting the LaTeX template for thesis/dissertation/project report writing.

6. Courses Outline

The students found that there is no outline for the courses they are taking in their programme. So, they requested to provide the course outline for all courses and if it is possible to be available in the NM-AIST Repository.

7. Master's Dissertation/Thesis/Project Examination

- The EMoS Cohort 3 students were asking about the deadline for submitting the Final Project Report because the deadline is not there in the Almanac.
- Also, the Cohort 9 students were complaining about why there was a delay for their final defense hence they submit their project report in December 2021 and January 2022.

8. Issue of internet and electric facilities in classes

- In the Wing block, there is a poor internet connection
- Some projector cables are not good which makes the display to be poor.
- Electric sockets in classes are not working

Responses from the School Board

The following were the responses from the school board concerning the raised matters.

1. Semester Examination Results

The school board realized that they haven't power over the release of results before the board meeting because the school must follow the almanac. The board suggested that the issue can be addressed in Senate Meeting by NM-AIST SO.

2. Group Project Course for EMoS Programme

The School Board **CLARIFIED** how the Group Project Course for the EMoS programme is assessed:

- The prototype is assessed as CA,
- Group project report and Presentation are assessed as UE

3. Assessment for Graduate Seminar, Outreach and Internship, and Research Methods and Communication

The school board **REALIZED** that most EMoS students didn't attend the **Graduate Seminar** especially when it is physical. So, the EMoS students have been alerted and requested to attend regularly the Graduate Seminar.

Note that the graduate seminar is for all students, so the students who are in the research phase or internship phase are supposed to present their progress during the graduate seminar, but EMoS students are not participating in that. And note that it is a student who must notify the school when he/she is available for presenting his/her progress.

The **Outreach and Internship Course** is assessed by considering the following:

- Outreach Report
- Final Project Proposal
- Logbooks

So, EMoS students are requesting to submit all those documents on time.

The school board found that EMoS Cohort 3 didn't take the **CCSE 6001 Research Methods and Communication Course** during the BuSH sessions for any reason. So, the school decided to make follow up on that issue to see why the students didn't take that course, if the school will find that is not their fault, the school will arrange some sessions for them.

4. The issue about Project Report Defense

The school board discussed and found that the problem is that most students don't attend the graduate seminar and there they can find all questions and answers that can help them. Also, the school knew that the students got the titles for their projects based on the challenges the companies had. So, the students were requested not only to focus on the simple solution the company want but try to find the added value for the proposed solution.

5. Thesis/dissertation/project report writing

The LaTeX template is available, if someone wants it can find the Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Efraim Kosia, or NM-AIST SO requesting it to be available for all students.

6. Courses Outline

The course outline is given by the Lecturer who will teach the course and it is given at the beginning of the course. If you want the Lecturer starts to teach without providing the outline, the students are allowed to ask him/her for the outline.

7. Master's Dissertation/Thesis/Project Examination

- The submission of the final project for EMoS Cohort 3 students is not there in the Almanac but the students can keep the information given by the outreach and internship coordinators who said the deadline is at the end of December 2022. Also, if they finish before they are allowed to submit their project report.
- For Cohort 9 students, their defense was delayed because of many factors. The first factor was the external examiners who didn't provide on-time their examination reports. Another factor came from the internal examiners. So, the school tried to push them to examine on time and the school continue to make follow up on that issue.

8. Issue of internet and electric facilities in classes

The issue of internet and electric facilities in classes is the issue to be sent to Senate.

OTHER ISSUES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND AOB

1. G.P.A Calculation

In the 29th School Board Meeting, we raised the issue of G.P.A calculation. So, the school has got more clarification from the IRC department on the G.P.A computation formula and how the two tables are related. Therefore, since the establishment of NM-AIST in 2014/2015 the G.P.A computational formula was based on the raw marks, and from 2015/2016 to 2019/2020 the computational shifted from the raw marks to the graded points. Again from 2020/2021 to the present, the G.P.A turned from graded points to raw marks again and this is the one adopted to the present.

2. Assessment for Prototype in Final Project Report

The School Board **INFORMED** members that an evaluation of the prototype is done simultaneously with that of the oral presentation items, although it is not among the items to be evaluated in the evaluation form, still it is also evaluated. It is 100% evaluated.

It was therefore **DIRECTED** that an evaluation form should be reviewed so that the prototype item should be included.

3. New Masters and PhD Programmes

The school board **INFORMED** members that four (04) CoCSE programmes curricula (of which two are for Masters and two for PhD) have been accredited by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) since February 2022.

The accredited Master's programmes are **Master in Applied Mathematics and Computational Science (M-AMCS)** and **Master of Information and Communication Systems Engineering (M-ICSEn)**.

The accredited PhD programmes are **PhD in Applied Mathematics and Computational Science (PhD AMCS)** and **PhD in Information and Communication Systems Engineering (PhD ICSEn)**.

The above-accredited programmes will be officially starting their operation in the next academic year, 2022/2023.

4. DAAD In-country/In-region Scholarships

The school board **INFORMED** members that the School of CoCSE got the new scholarship from DAAD through CENIT@EA. The scholarship will begin in January 2024 but the Centre is trying to discuss with DAAD to see if it can begin in the 2022/2023 Academic Year.

5. Supplementary Examination for students who failed the 3rd sitting

According to the Academic Regulations, *A student pursuing Master's/PhD by coursework and dissertation/thesis/project who fails in any supplementary examination may be allowed to repeat the failed course(s) within the registration period but shall not be allowed to graduate without passing the failed course(s).* But, when the student failed again in the 3rd sitting, the regulations are quite on that. The school Board **DIRECTED** to STLC the students who failed the 3rd sitting to allow them to sit for the supplementary examination, and also revise the academic regulations on that issue.

6. The 8th NM-AIST Graduation Ceremony

The school board **INFORMED** members that only **THREE MASTERS STUDENTS** have met the graduation criteria. After seeing that the school had a small number of students who met the criteria, the school board decided to direct STLC the request of extension for the submission of **ERROR-FREE HARDBOUND COPIES** to give the chance for graduation for all students who are in the error-free stage.

The school board members realized that some students wrote their dissertation/project report without following the **Writing Regulations** which cause a long process during the error-free. Therefore, all students who are in the error-free stage but whose dissertation/project report still has more formatting issues, are required to contact **Mr. Zacharie Niyonzima (School Representative)** (Phone number: 0745459038, or Email: niyonzimaz@nm-aist.ac.tz) for guidance on how to solve those formatting issues.



Mr. Zacharie Niyonzima (MSc. EMoS)

School Representative – CoCSE