

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Minutes of the IAC meeting held on 11th May, 2011

Time & Venue: 05.00 PM; FB-212

Following members were present:

Prof. S G Dhande, Prof. V Chandrasekhar, Prof. A.K. Chaturvedi, Prof. Partha Chakraborty, Prof. Manindra Agarwal, Sri Sanjeev S Kashalkar, Prof. S Kamle, Prof. R Sankaramakrishnan, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Prof. R.N. Mukherjee, Prof. H Karnick, Prof. S Qureshi, Prof. L Krishnana, Prof. P M Dixit, Prof. Kamal K Kar, Prof. Neeraj Mishra, Prof. B V Phani, Prof. V Ravishankar, Prof. K Deb, Mr. Sanchit Singhal, Prof. Zakir Hossain, Dr. V D Shrivastava

At the outset, the IAC Chairman welcomed all the members. The minutes of the last IAC meeting held on April 19th 2011 were approved by the IAC members.

Methodology for placement into HAG scale for Professors:

Extensive discussion was held to define the criteria for placing the professors into HAG scale. It was stressed that HAG is not a promotion and it is the financial upgradation. Forty percent of the eligible professors will be placed in the HAG scale. However, the discussion revolved around the criteria to select the eligible professors. The opinion of individual departments were asked. Although many departments agreed that it should be based on merit, the individual departments differed in the criteria for evaluating the professors. The general agreement was there should be a filter and all eligible professors should pass through this filter in the first stage. It was suggested that seniority can be applied in the next stage. Individual departments can forward the list of eligible professors through its DFAC and then this can be displayed according to the seniority level. DFAC may use merit to filter the eligible professors.

Construction of new Lecture Hall Complex:

A proposal from the DOAA and his committee along with the current status of the discussions as per the mail from SE, IWD was circulated by DOAA to all the IAC members requesting for comments from each Department. These were presented in the meeting. The DOAA apprised the IAC members the situation institute will face in the coming semester. It is expected that in addition to the 840 new UG students, there will be students from the preparatory courses and those who have backlogs. With classrooms required for two batches: 1st and 2nd years, there is an urgent need to increase the number of large class-rooms.

The decision on the number and size of class-rooms to be constructed is intimately connected to the (largest) size of the class that the community feel is ideal.

Model 1: The entire batch (of 850+) is taught in one big room. It was pointed out that with constraints on the field of vision for a student located at the far end of a room, and the related eye contact of the Instructor and student, L7 is really the largest room that we should have.

Also, in an ideal situation, core courses should be offered every semester. This will help students clear their backlogs and will reflect the true spirit of a credit based system. In fact, Physics courses are already being offered in this manner. Therefore, it is not desirable to follow this model of offering a course to the entire class.

Model 2: Split the batch in two halves. This leads to a batch size of 400-450. At present the only room that can accommodate this number of students is L-7. Therefore, we would require another room that can house at least 450 students. Presently, classes are conducted in a modified form of this model. They are split as 525+325. L-16/L-17 can accommodate 325. For continuing with Model 2 (with equal section size) only one additional room with capacity like L7 is required; two are not needed. Incidentally, ARC has proposed Model 2.

Model 3: The batch is split into four sections. That way the class size is roughly 225-250. This would increase the number of Instructors that are required. However, the class is expected to be more interactive and the coordination load on the Instructor in charge will be lower. Also, it might offer flexibility in terms of scheduling. With this model, the room size can be smaller and the newer Lecture Rooms may be of the size 300-325 (similar to L16/L17).

IAC members opined on these models. Several members supported Model 3.

Taking all aspects into account, it was resolved that the Institute should plan for one room with capacity 600 and two rooms with capacity 350. It was further pointed out that in the past the lecture rooms for planned for a certain capacity. However, we ended up losing several seats to audio-video space etc. The new plans should be comprehensive so that the capacity available is not less than what is desired. Also, the design should be such that the students located in the far end of the hall should be able to see the blackboard as well the Instructor clearly.

As an interim measure, to conduct classes, with the available resource it was suggested that we may consider holding classes up to 8PM. The Heads were requested to consult their colleagues in their departments.

Student accommodation issues:

Members were informed about the possibility of I semester Masters and Ph. D. students going for double seating. Chairman, IAC updated the status of new twin tower SBRA construction. First three floors of one tower are likely to be available soon. It was mentioned that total of 180 beds will be available beyond Hall-6 and GH. For those M. Tech students who stay beyond four semesters, they will have to stay in Type V houses.

Fund-raising over the next 10 years:

DRPG made a presentation about the fund-raising efforts in the institute. He informed the members that Rs. 400 crores are needed for space expansion. For the infrastructure development, a minimum of Rs. 1200 crores is absolute minimum required in the next 10 years. It was pointed out that institute raised Rs. 95 crores over the last 17 years from non-governmental funds. Our efforts in the next five years should be to raise Rs. 30 crores on average for the next 10 years through non-governmental funds. DRPG suggested to create large

research proposals and the initiatives must come from the individual departments. It was also suggested that the "Department Excellence Fund" must be established in each department. The individual departments were asked to put up their space requirement (Faculty space, lab space and service space) in their web sites. DRPG was requested to send the ppt presentation to all IAC members.

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Convener, IAC

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