

Department of Computer Science and Engineering
National Institute of Technology Calicut
NIT Campus (PO), Calicut-673601, India

DCC Meeting Minutes

Date:10/01/2024

Time: 12:00 PM

Venue: CSED Seminar Hall

Agenda Items:

1. Ratification of the minutes of the DCC meeting held on 21/11/2023
2. Action Taken Action Pending Report of the last DCC meeting
3. Approval of Internship for MCA final year students
4. Assignment of TA Duties to First Year/Sem PhD Students
5. MTech and PhD Fellowship
6. Request from PhD students to modify the Discrete Structures syllabus for the Comprehensive Examination
7. Supervision of Project Phase 1 for M.Tech AI-DA Students
8. Request from M.Tech First Year Representative on Workload

The DCC meeting commenced at 12:00 PM in the CSED Seminar Hall. The Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting. Additionally, the Head of the Department (HOD) introduced Dr. Aswin Jacob, Dr P Muneeswaran, and Dr Swetha, the newly appointed assistant professors in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), and welcomed them to their first DCC meeting. Afterwards, Dr. Aswin Jacob, Dr P Muneeswaran, and Dr Swetha briefly introduced themselves providing some background information to the DCC members.

Agenda Item 1: Ratification of the minutes of the DCC meeting held on 21/11/2023

DCC ratified the minutes of the last DCC meeting dated 21/11/2023

Agenda Item 2: Action Taken Action Pending Report of the last DCC meeting

Action Taken: Decision on PG Research Methodology (ZZ6001E) course and B Tech EI course were communicated to DAO.

Action Pending : Decision MTech and PhD Stipend

Agenda Item 3: Approval of Internship for MCA final year students

Dr Jay Prakash, Faculty Advisor of S6 MCA students, presented the requests from 13 MCA students (Annexure I), asking for permission to do an internship in the industry and DCC granted the permission to forward the requests to the concerned higher authorities. The DCC also specified that the decision of continuing the S5 MCA project is left to the Project Guide.


31/01/24

Agenda Item 4: Assignment of TA Duties to First Year/Sem PhD Students

In the wake of increase in core lab strength and decrease in the Ph.D scholars in the department CSED-TT-Committee presented a proposal to allocate TA duty for Ph.D scholars (with scholarship) who are undergoing coursework in their first year. DCC approved the proposal after a brief discussion.

Agenda Item 5: MTech and PhD Fellowship

Dr. Vinod Pathari proposed a revision in the fellowship system for M.Tech students, suggesting a pro-rata deduction based on their absence from TA duties. Currently, the MTech TAs are required to request Loss of Pay (LOP) for a single day if they miss a lab session. This loophole allows a student to accumulate a fellowship for 25 days by taking LOP for 5 days (on the days in which lab session is present), without fulfilling any TA responsibilities, thereby defeating the purpose(refer note) of the fellowship.

To address this issue and align the fellowship with TAship responsibilities, the proposed solution is to deduct the fellowship on a pro-rata basis for any absence. For instance, if a student misses 1 out of 5 TA duties in a month, they would incur a deduction of one-fifth of their stipend. The decision regarding leave of absence, including medical reasons, can be delegated to the faculty-in-charge of the specific TA duty. The faculty member may consider factors such as the gravity and genuineness of the reason, as well as the TA's willingness to compensate earlier or later.

After a detailed discussion, DCC resolved to recommend the proposal to be forwarded to BoAC for further discussion.

Note:

AICTE guidelines concerned with the above issue:

1. It will be obligatory for every post-graduate student to undertake 8 to 10 hours (per week) of work related to teaching and research activities as assigned to him / her by the Institute. This could include tutorials, laboratory classes, development and maintenance of laboratories, assistance in research and development activities undertaken by faculty members, maintenance and operation of Computers and other central facilities, assistance in library, etc.
2. The Scholarship **will be granted to the student on a monthly basis subject to the satisfactory academic performance and adherence to University/Institute norms/rules and regulations as applicable from time to time, certified by the Head of the Institute and obligatory work as per item above.**

S. Pathari
31/01/24

Agenda Item 6: Request from PhD students to modify the Discrete Structures Syllabus for the Comprehensive Examination

The PhD Coordinator brought forth a request (Annexure II) submitted by PhD scholars to revise the Discrete Structure syllabus (Annexure III) by excluding the Algebra section (highlighted in the Annexure) from the comprehensive exam. The rationale behind this request was that the excluded portions are specifically relevant to a particular research area.

Following a concise deliberation, DCC sanctioned the proposal. Additionally, the DCC suggested that the omitted algebra components could be incorporated into the research segment of the comprehensive syllabus based on the individual student's research area whenever and wherever it is applicable.

Agenda Item 7: Supervision of Project Phase 1 for M.Tech AI-DA Students

Prof. Abdul Nazeer K A, Programme Coordinator of M.Tech AIDA presented the issue of non availability of suitable supervisors for the M.Tech students belonging to M.Tech AI-DA programme. This is due to faculty members specializing in Data Science and Machine Learning having already reached the maximum capacity of 2 (approved earlier by the DCC for the Final Year M.Tech Project) with M.Tech CS and IS students. DCC observed the following points in this regard: (i) the current cap of 2 was decided earlier by the DCC for the final year M.Tech Project (ii) Project Phases 1, 2 and 3 & 4 can be undertaken independently as well (need not necessarily be continuous) (iii) Project Phases 1 and 2 carry only 2 and 3 credits respectively.

A proposal to increase the cap on the number of M.Tech students that a faculty member can supervise during project phases 1 and 2 was put forward.

After a detailed discussion, DCC recommended that the current policy of limiting the count of students of an admission year at a time to two shall continue to hold. However for the purpose of applying cap, self-sponsored students shall be excluded from the count.

Agenda Item 8: Request from M.Tech First Year Representative on Workload

Representatives of M.Tech first year presented the issue of overwhelming workload stemming from 6 courses, project phase 1 and teaching assistant (TA) responsibilities (Calculation of projected workload is given in Annexure IV). A request (Annexure V) was put forth to limit the scope of the project phase 1 to a simple literature survey to identify the problem to work on or an equivalent work for 2 credits, considering the fact that the outside hours for the Project Phase 1 is 6 hours (L T P O C is 0 0 0 6 2) and to limit the TA duties to the evaluation on the day of the lab session.

Handwritten signature and date:
31/01/24

The DCC acknowledged the representatives' concerns about the excessive workload and found their request valid. Consequently, the DCC decided that TA duties of first-year M.Tech students should be strictly restricted to the lab hours.

The DCC meeting ended at 01:00 PM on 10/01/2024.

J. Vasu
31/01/24

Internship Requests:

S. No	Name	Roll	Institute Email	Mentor's Name	Company	Duration	Start date - End date
1	Mayank Mewar	M210678CA	mayank_m210678ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Sudarshan Chakraborty	KLA	6 months	9 Jan 2024 - 28 June 2024
2	Komal Gupta	M210703CA	komal_m210703ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Pranesh Das	IBM	6 months	11 Jan 2024 - 10 July 2024
3	Sankhanil Nayek	M210708CA	sankhanil_m210708ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Jay Prakash	Carl Zeiss	6 months	04 Jan 2024 - 03 July 2024
4	Joel Lalrinnunga Ralte	M210694CA	joel_m210694ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Pranesh Das	Carl Zeiss	6 months	04 Jan 2024 - 03 July 2024
5	Tejal Saraswat	M210697CA	tejal_m210697ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Nirmal Kumar Boran	IBM	6 months	11 Jan 2024-20 July 2024
6	Arjun Nandlal Bhardwaj	M210683CA	arjun_m210683ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr Pranesh Das	Aryaka Networks	6 months	8 Jan 2024 - 31 July 2024
7	Mukesh Patel	M210705CA	mukesh_m210705ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Jay Prakash	Haloping	6 months	1 JAN 2024 - 30 JUN 2024
8	Vatsala Hemdan	M210660CA	vatsala_m210660ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Sudarshan Chakraborty	SAP labs	6 months	16 JAN 2024-5 July 2024
9	Gaurav Gupta	M210693CA	gaurav_m210693ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Gopa Kumar G	Carl Zeiss	6 months	04 Jan 2024 - 03 July 2024
10	KARAN SACHINKUMAR SATISH	M210687CA	karan_m210687ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Manjusha K	Deloitte	6 months	16 JAN- 19 JULY
11	Nupur Bhagat	M210658CA	nupur_m210658ca@nitc.ac.in	...	Deloitte	6 months	16 JAN- 19 JULY
12	Anuj Singh Kushwaha	M210661CA	anuj_m210661ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Jayaraj P B	Deloitte	6 months	16 JAN- 19 JULY
13	Mohit Burnwal	M210689CA	mohit_m210689ca@nitc.ac.in	Dr. Santosh Kumar Behera	Deloitte	6 months	16 JAN - 19 JULY



Coordinator PhD Csed <coordinatorphdcsed@nitc.ac.in>

Request for Removal of Topics from the Syllabus of Comprehensive written examination

LASHMA K <lashma_p220096cs@nitc.ac.in>

Thu, Jan 4, 2024 at 1:12 PM

To: Coordinator PhD Csed <coordinatorphdcsed@nitc.ac.in>

Cc: JASITHA P <jasitha_p210050cs@nitc.ac.in>, BINUJOSE A <binujose_p200050cs@nitc.ac.in>

Dear Sir

I am writing to you on behalf of all the students who are going to take the Comprehensive written examination in January 2024 to respectfully request the reconsideration of certain topics included in the syllabus of Discrete mathematics for the upcoming test.

After discussions within our batch, we have identified the following topics that we would like to request for removal from the test syllabus:

Algebra: Groups, Lagrange's theorem, Subgroups, Cyclic subgroups.

We humbly request a reconsideration of the test syllabus, taking into account our suggestion to remove the aforementioned topics.

Thank you,

Regards

Lashma K

PhD scholar

CSED, NITC

DISCRETE MATHEMATICS:

Combinatorics: Basic counting arguments, Permutations and Combinations, Recurrence relations.

Graph Theory: Elementary properties of graphs, Paths, Cycles, Trees, Connectivity, Matchings, Euler tours in a graph.

Discrete Probability: Discrete probability spaces, Events, Conditional probability, Bayes Theorem, Independent events, Random Variables, Expected value.

Algebra: Groups, Lagrange's theorem, Subgroups, Cyclic subgroups.

Logic and Set Theory: Boolean logic, Basic set theory.

Semester II

Sl. No.	Course Code	Course Title	L	T	P	O	Credits	Category
1.	CS6302E	Theoretical Foundations of Machine Learning	3	1	0	8	4	PC
2.	CS6296E	Project Phase-1	0	0	0	6	2	PC
3.		Programme Elective 2	3	0	0	6	3	PE
4.		Programme Elective 3	3	0	0	6	3	PE
5.		Programme Elective 4	3	0	0	6	3	PE
6.		Programme Elective 5	3	0	0	6	3	PE
7.		Programme Elective 6	3	0	0	6	3	PE
Total							21	--

Semester III

Total lecture/tutorial hrs = 19

Total outside working hrs = 44

Total hr spent on academics = 63

Lab hrs spent as TA = 3

Total = 63 + 3 = 67

67 hr + Time spent on Theory assistance to faculty + Time spent on preparing for lab TA work

Easily over 70 hrs per week

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Kozhikode, Kerala - 673601

Respected HOD CSED,

We trust this letter finds you well. We are writing to express our concerns regarding the current workload that students in our department are experiencing, and we have a few suggestions that we believe could contribute to a more balanced and supportive learning environment.

As the department already knows, we are currently working with 6 subjects, TA duty and Project phase-1. Looking at the time we are putting in and what we will be supposed to put in in coming months, we are and will hardly get any time to prepare for our placements. We provide you with some suggestions that can decrease the workload and provide a balanced curriculum.

Firstly, We suggest re-evaluating the structure of the project phase-1. Specifically, we request to restrict the scope of Project Phase-1 to a simpler literature survey or topic familiarization for students who have already chosen a topic under the guidance of Ph.D. mentors. This adjustment would not only streamline the initial stages of the project but also allow students to delve deeper into their chosen areas of interest from the outset.

Secondly, We'd like to address the workload associated with Teaching Assistant (TA) duties. We propose that the preparation of questions and tutorials for labs in TA duty be reconsidered. Instead of burdening PG students with this responsibility, it could be managed more effectively by Ph.D. students or experienced seniors. This adjustment would not only reduce the workload for us but also provide us more time to prepare for our placements.

We appreciate your consideration of these proposals and are open to discussing them further at your convenience. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

M23 CS/IS/AIDA