

IGNOU SOCIS

Minutes of the 54th Meeting of School Board of School of Computer & Information Sciences (SOCIS)

The 54th Meeting of School Board of SOCIS was held on Nov 16th, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. through virtual mode.

The following members were present in the meeting:

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| 1. Prof. P. V. Suresh, Director, SOCIS | - Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. Alok Singh , University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad | - External Member |
| 3. Prof. D .K. Tayal, IGDTUW, Delhi | - External Member |
| 4. Prof. Vishal Bhatnagar, NSUT (East Campus), New Delhi | - External Member |
| 5. Prof. D.S. Kushwaha, MNNIT ,Allahabad | - External Member |
| 6. Sh. Venugopal, General Manager, Sify Technologies, Noida | - External Member |
| 7. Prof. Smita Chaturvedi, SOH, IGNOU | - Member |
| 8. Prof. Nehal A. Farooquee, SOEDS, IGNOU | - Member |
| 9. Dr. P. Vijayakumar Associate Professor, SOA, IGNOU | - Member |
| 10. Dr. Kakoli Gogoi, Assistant Professor, SOS, IGNOU | - Member |
| 11. Prof. V.V. Subrahmanyam, SOCIS | - Member |
| 12. Dr. Akshay Kumar, Associate Professor, SOCIS | - Member |
| 13. Dr. M.P. Mishra, Associate Professor, SOCIS | - Member |
| 14. Dr. Sudhansh Sharma, Assistant Professor, SOCIS | - Member |
| 15. Dr. Manish Kumar, Assistant Professor, SOCIS | - Special Invitee |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed and thanked all the new external members and other members of School Board for sparing their valuable time for making it convenient to attend the meeting. He made a brief presentation on ODL paradigm as well as academic activities of SOCIS. He also presented the Enrollment figures to various programmes of SOCIS for July, 2021 session. School Board noted the improvement in Enrollments for July, 2021 session in comparison to July, 2020 session. It was also mentioned that SOCIS is currently revising its MCA and PGDCA programmes, and also offering 3 courses of CIT on SWAYAM. The Chairperson also shared the best practices of SOCIS as well as its future plans. It was also mentioned that BCA is one of the programmes that is being offered to GOAL (Guyana Academy of Online Learning). Also, some of the companies where SOCIS learners / alumni are working are mentioned. The presentation also covered the information about academic collaborations of SOCIS. The Chairperson also informed the School Board that the competent authority approved the proposal to offer BCA programme in online mode after the last School Board approved it. The Chairperson also briefed about various developments that took place since last meeting of School Board. Then, the agenda was taken up for discussion.

Item No. 54.1 To confirm the Minutes of the 53rd Meeting of School Board of School of Computer & Information Sciences (SOCIS) held on Sep 10th, 2021.

Discussion The Minutes of the 53rd Meeting of School Board of SOCIS held on Sep 10th, 2021 were circulated among members/participants for their comments/suggestions. No comments/suggestions were received after the last circulation. The Minutes were placed before the Board for confirmation.

Decision The School Board confirmed the Minutes (Annexure - 54.1.1) of the 53rd Meeting of School Board of SOCIS held on Sep 10th, 2021.

Item No. 54.2 Action Taken Report on the Minutes of 53rd Meeting of School Board of SOCIS.

Action Taken Report as given below was submitted for consideration of the Board.

Item No.	Details	Action Taken
Item No. 53.1	Minutes of the 52 nd Meeting of School Board of School of Computer & Information Sciences (SOCIS) held on Feb 18 th , 2021.	Minutes confirmed.
Item No. 53.2	Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 51 st Meeting of School Board of SOCIS.	School Board noted the Action Taken Report.
Item No. 53.3	To co-opt the external members for School Board of SOCIS under clause (2) (e) of Statute 10 A.	The co-opted members were approved by the Competent Authority and were notified by ACD
Item No. 53.4	To consider offering Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) programme in online mode from January, 2022 session onwards for approval.	Online Programme Approval Form (OPAF) for BCA was further approved by the Competent Authority and shall be offered from January, 2022 session.
Item No.53.5	To consider Content Editors and Course Writers for courses of MCA_NEW programme for approval.	The approved list by School Board was updated as suggested by Hon. PVC Prof.Uma Kanjilal. Further, the updated list was approved by the Competent Authority.
Item No.53.6	To consider the panel of Question Paper Setters and Moderators for various courses of SOCIS programmes.	The approved panel by School Board was updated as suggested by Hon. PVC Prof.Uma Kanjilal. Further, the updated list was approved by the Competent Authority. The list of question paper setters was sent to SED for necessary action.

Item No. 53.7	To consider the criteria for Evaluators of the courses of PGDCA_NEW for approval.	The criteria approved by School Board was further approved by the Competent Authority. It was sent to SED for necessary action.
Item No. 53.8	To consider the experts for developing videos of BCS-012 course for BCA(ONLINE) to be offered by SOCIS from January 2022 session onwards for approval.	The approved list of experts was sent to competent authority for approval.
Item No. 53.9	To consider TEE answer sheet Evaluators for various courses of SOCIS programmes for approval.	The approved list by the School Board was updated as suggested by Hon. PVC Prof.Uma Kanjilal. Further, the updated list was approved by the Competent Authority and was sent to Student Evaluation Division (SED) for necessary action.
Item No. 53.10.1	To consider Subject matter Experts (for development of video) for BCS-011: Computer Basics and PC Software and Video Reviewer for BCS-011 and CIT-002(online) programmes.	The approved list of experts was sent to the Competent Authority for approval.
Item No. 53.10.2	To report the approval of Eligibility Conditions for admission to MCA (2 years programme) by School Board of SOCIS by circulation.	School Board noted the approval of Eligibility Conditions for admission to MCA (2 years duration) by School Board of SOCIS by circulation.

Discussion: It was suggested that even though no action needs to be taken on any item, henceforth, the same can be mentioned in Action Taken Report.

Decision: School Board noted the action taken report.

Item No. 54.3 **To consider the Minutes of the 38th Meeting of the Doctoral Research Committee (DRC) of School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS) held on Sep 21st, 2021 for approval.**

Discussion The Minutes of the 38th Meeting of the Doctoral Research Committee (DRC) of School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS) held on Sep 21st, 2021 were circulated among members/participants for their comments/suggestions. No comments/suggestions were received. The Minutes were placed before the Board for consideration and approval.

Decision The School Board considered and approved the Minutes (Annexure - 54.3.1) of the 38th Meeting of Doctoral Research Committee (DRC) of School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS) held on Sep 21st, 2021.

Item No. 54.4 To consider the revised eligibility criteria for admission to MCA_New (2 years duration) from January 2022 admission cycle for approval.

Discussion The MCA Programme Coordinator informed the members that with reference to communication of AICTE (Annexure-54.4.1) dated July 3rd, 2020 vide which the duration of MCA was reduced from 3 years to 2 years as well as eligibility conditions for admission to MCA were changed. Consequently, the duration of MCA offered by SOCIS was also reduced and eligibility conditions were updated (Annexure-54.4.2). However, many central universities including JNU etc. started offering MCA (2 years) after IGNOU. A Faculty meeting was held on August 9th, 2021 (Item No.2 Minutes attached as Annexure-54.4.3) in which the eligibility conditions of MCA_NEW were reviewed afresh keeping in view of updated eligibility conditions of Central Universities and of AICTE. After reviewing, the eligibility conditions of MCA_NEW were revised.

The following proposed eligibility conditions for admission to MCA (2 years duration) (Programme Code: MCA_NEW) were placed for approval of School Board of SOCIS:

Passed BCA / B.Sc (Computer Science/IT) / Bachelor Degree in Computer Science and Engineering or Equivalent with at least 50% marks in the Bachelor's degree (45% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category)

OR

Any Bachelor's degree of minimum 3 (three) years duration from a recognized University with at least 50% marks in the Bachelor's degree (45% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category) AND Mathematics as one of the subject at 10+2 level or graduation level. In addition, these students are required to take admission and successfully complete two bridge courses, namely, MCS-201 (Programming in C and Python) & MCS-208 (Data Structures and Algorithm) of IGNOU along with Master of Computer Applications (MCA) programme.

OR

Any Bachelor's degree of minimum 3 (three) years duration from a recognized University with at least 50% marks in the Bachelor's degree (45% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category) AND have successfully completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications(PGDCA) or equivalent of IGNOU or any recognized University. Such students should also register for BCS-012 (Basic Mathematics) and successfully complete it.

It was also informed by the MCA Programme Coordinator that the proposed eligibility criteria are already approved by the School Board by circulation. The same were recorded in the Minutes of the 53rd Meeting of the School Board.

The proposal was thoroughly discussed by School Board. It was felt that the first two clauses are in order and are in accordance with AICTE prescribed eligibility conditions.

Decision (1) School Board approved the following eligibility conditions for admission to MCA_NEW (2 years duration) from January, 2022 session onwards:

Passed BCA / B.Sc (Computer Science/IT) / Bachelor Degree in Computer Science and Engineering or Equivalent with at least 50% marks in the Bachelor's degree (45% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category)

OR

Any Bachelor's degree of minimum 3 (three) years duration from a recognized University with at least 50% marks (45% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category) AND Mathematics as one of the subject at 10+2 level or graduation level. In addition, these students are required to register and successfully complete two bridge courses, namely, MCS-201 (Programming in C and Python) & MCS-208 (Data Structures and Algorithm) of IGNOU along with Master of Computer Applications (MCA) programme.

(2) A communication to AICTE needs to be sent seeking clarification about the requirement of at least 50% marks to persons who passed BCA / B.Sc (Computer Science/IT) / Bachelor Degree in Computer Science and Engineering or Equivalent as its unclear in the AICTE communication.

(3) A communication to AICTE needs to be sent seeking permission to add the following eligibility condition also to pursue MCA_NEW. School may update it while sending communication to AICTE:

Any Bachelor's degree of minimum 3 (three) years duration from a recognized University with at least 50% marks in the Bachelor's degree (45% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category) AND have successfully completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA) of IGNOU or equivalent from any recognized University. Such students should also register for BCS-012 (Basic Mathematics) and successfully complete it.

Item No.54.5 To consider the Course Writers/ Content Editors/ Language Editors/ for various courses of MCA_New for approval.

Discussion The MCA Programme Coordinator placed the lists of Content Editors, Course Writers and Language Editors for the courses of MCA_NEW programme (Annexure 54.5.1) before School Board for consideration and approval.

Decision After deliberations, the School Board considered and approved the proposed lists of Content Editors, Course Writers and Language Editors for the courses of MCA_NEW programme (Annexure 54.5.1).

Item No.54.6 **To consider Course Writers/ Content Editors/ Moderators/ Language Editors for various courses of PGDCA_New for approval.**

Discussion The list of Language Editors for courses of PGDCA_NEW programme (Annexure 54.6.1) was submitted for consideration and approval of the School Board.

Decision The School Board considered and approved the proposed list of Language Editors for all the courses of PGDCA_NEW programme (Annexure 54.6.1).

Item No. 54.7 **To consider Question Paper Setters/Moderators and TEE answer sheet Evaluators for various courses of SOCIS programmes for approval.**

Discussion The lists of Question Paper Setters and Moderators for various courses of SOCIS programmes (Annexure 54.7.1) were placed before School Board for consideration and approval.

Decision After deliberations, the School Board considered and approved the lists of Question Paper Setters and Moderators for various courses of SOCIS programmes (Annexure 54.7.1).

Item No. 54.8 **To report about the internship guidelines of AICTE for suggestions of School Board of SOCIS.**

Discussion The Chairperson informed the members that AICTE has notified guidelines for internship (Annexure-54.8.1). Suggestions were invited from members.

Decision As per AICTE, Internship is an important component of Bachelor of Technology programmes, which is of four years duration. AICTE has provided detailed guidelines for the Internship for those programmes. Members noted that the MCA programme duration is of 2 years and the June and December months are used for examination. Following are the suggestions given by various members related to internship:

- Internship is a good tool for industry collaboration. Most of the industry has standard internship programmes and the selected students are given stipend during the internship.
- As the MCA programme is of 2 years duration and there is no gap between the semesters for Internship, the only possible chance is to consider project course (12 credits) versus Internship.

- IGNOU has two types of students – working professionals and fresh graduates. The working professionals do not require any Internship, as they are already working in the industry. Therefore, internship should not be made compulsory.
- Students may be encouraged to do Internships, however they should not replace project work, as the evaluation of project work is very comprehensive, whereas the industry mostly signs a non-disclosure agreement with the student, which does not allow them to share details. Thus, in general, internship may not replace the project work.
- IGNOU may wait till AICTE provides specific guidelines for the Internships related to MCA programme.

Item No. 54.9 To seek suggestions from School Board on implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) by SOCIS.

Discussion It was informed by the Chairperson that suggestions are invited from the members to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) (Annexure-54.9.1) effectively.

Decision The following was suggested by the members of the School Board:

- The SOCIS should plan for multiple entry and exit in BCA programme only.
- The fourth year of BCA programme may not be feasible, as most of the courses of BCA programme are oriented toward Computer applications.
- BCA is a specialized programme, therefore adding fourth year may not add value to BCA.
- School may consider credit transfer for the students of other Universities.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all.

(Prof. P.V. Suresh)
Chairperson