

Report of ARC implementation review committee

In the 1st Special Meeting of the Students' Senate (2016-17), a 5-member subcommittee was constituted to look at the implementation of the ARC recommendations, in terms of their impact, usefulness and virulence with the following composition:

- Mr. Rutuj Jugade (Senator UG Y14)
- Mr. Anurag Sahay (General Body Member)
- Mr. Praveen Honhar (SUGC Student Nominee)
- Mr. Shubham Atreja (Chairperson, Students' Senate 2015-16)
- Mr. Kunal Kapila (SUGC Student Nominee)

The committee met on 11th April 2016, Monday at 7:00 PM in the Hall 1 reading room.

The mandate of the committee was to:

- Review the implementation of ARC recommendations
- Suggest changes, if any

The committee deliberated upon various aspects of the ARC implementation.

The following are the recommendations of the committee:

1. Minors

The committee strongly believed that the introduction of the Minors programme in the undergraduate curriculum was a welcome change that has helped foster student interests in disciplines outside their department. However, the committee felt that the Minors programme could be improved, and suggests the following changes:

- a. At present, the HSS department only offers Minors in the English discipline. The committee feels that it would be easiest for the HSS department to offer more Minors (at least one in each discipline) due to the fact that the department offers most of its UG courses to students of other departments anyway. The existing courses that are offered yearly as HSS I and HSS II are the best candidates for inclusion in such Minors, as these courses would not result in an increased load on the department.
- b. Interdisciplinary minors should be offered. The Senate should form a committee to formulate an exhaustive list of all possible interdisciplinary minors possible and identify professors who will be willing to offer courses under those minors.
- c. The committee felt that there should be more evaluation involved in obtaining a Minor: at present, a student will get a Minor even if they get a D in all their Minor courses. The committee feels that there should be a minimum requirement on the performance index for Minor courses - weighted by their credits, the committee feels that the minimum

performance should be a 7.0. If a student is not able to obtain that performance, they may do other courses in the Minor basket to reach that index.

2. Dual degree

- a. At present, Dual Degree students are treated as UG students until the end of their 7th semester, after which they are treated as PG students. From that point onward, they are governed by the PG manual instead of the UG manual, however the SUGC/DUGC continues to be the signing authority on all matters. This creates confusion in terms of which rules are applicable on these students at what times, which is undesirable - in particular, this is due to the confusion about the applicability of the UG manual over the PG manual - at times, the UG manual rule is applied, while at other times the PG manual rule is applied. The committee feels that this situation needs remedying, and proposes that a new manual be created for Dual Degree programmes. The programmes shall continue to be governed by the SUGC, and the Dual Degree programme will merely cite the relevant passages from the UG manual and PG manual. In case there is a special rule that is applicable on Dual Degree students that is not applicable on UGs or PGs, this rule may also be included in this manual. This would remove the confusion about jurisdiction that currently exists.
- b. Category B programmes:
The committee felt that departments must reconsider their decision of allowing a student of any other department to obtain a master in their respective department. If not, they should formulate a restricted set of departments, whose students will be allowed to pursue masters in their department. The members of the committee also felt that CSE and EE should also relook into their earlier decision of not allowing students of other departments to pursue a Masters in their department, and should offer Bachelors - Masters programme in at least each other's department.
- c. The members of the committee also analysed the various departmental templates for the Category B programme and felt that the suggested templated by the following departments cannot be completed in 5 years because of too many UG pre requisites:
 - i. Aerospace Engineering
 - ii. Biological Science and Bioengineering
 - iii. ChemistryThe committee also felt that if the departments decide to decrease the number of seats in the Bachelors Masters Dual Degree category B programme, they should increase the corresponding number of seats in the double major programme.

3. Engineering Science programme

The committee discussed upon the Engineering Science programme and came to the conclusion that the programme was not successful, and hence it should be removed from the books.

4. Elective courses

The committee felt that there is an acute lack of UG electives (especially Open Electives) being

offered by most departments. Each year, around $850 \times 6 = 5100$ OE seats are required. Thus the Institute should offer at least 8000 OE seats every year, which is same as about 4000 OE seats every semester. This load should be appropriately divided among all departments, based on Faculty Strength and core course teaching load on them. The committee feels that the Core Curriculum Committee (CCC) is the ideal committee to look into this division of course load.

Additionally, at least 75% of these courses should not have any pre requisites, because having pre requisites would discourage cross department courses, which would result in students being forced to take DEs in their OE slots. It is further proposed that a mechanism should be evolved whereby every instructor will inform the UG office through the DUGC convener on the number of OE students he/she intends to take in the course before pre registration, along with the policy by which he/she will be selecting students. The sum of all these numbers over all courses in a department should exceed the minimum OE seats that the department has to offer as stipulated by the CCC.

Also, department core courses which have less than 200 ordinary registrants from the department should offer at least 10% of their seats as OE seats, as these courses tend to be prerequisites for 600 level OE courses in spirit if not on paper.

5. Courses of Study

Until the year 2008 a physical document called "Courses of Study" was made available to every student to inform them of the various courses being offered by the institute. Since then there has been an extreme lack of clarity regarding the course content of most courses for students. The committee believes that an updated "Courses of Study" should be published as soon as possible.

In addition, the committee was appreciative of the fact that all Students admitted through JEE Advanced are admitted into 4 year programmes, and the way the Minor programme and the Undergraduate Projects have been implemented.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The committee requests the Students' Senate to take up these recommendations with the institute authorities.

Kunal Kapila