To consider a proposal to **rename the UGP courses for easier credit mapping**

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Background:

The institute provides students with the opportunity to enroll for Undergraduate Project (UGP) courses. As per the current system, students can undertake their UGP with professors of their parent department as well as other departments. If students choose to work under a professor from a different department, they are required to find a co-supervisor from their parent department, who works in coordination with the DUGC Convener (of the parent department) and the supervisor to oversee the project work. These UGP courses can be counted as either Departmental Electives (DE) or Open Electives (OE) credits. At the time of graduation, the UG office counts the credits for the students to ensure that they satisfy the graduation criteria, particularly that the category-wise credits (OE, DE, ESO) are fulfilled.

Some departments differentiate OE and DE credits by assigning different UGP codes for OE and DE credits. For instance, MSE497A is offered in the odd semester and is counted in DE credits whereas MSE398A is offered in the even semester which is counted in OE credits. This system restricts students' choice to allocate credits based on the semester in which they undertake their UGP, as an MSE student who pursues a UGP with a professor of their department in the even semester can only get it counted in OE credits, even though works around core principles of their own department.

Also, there is no mechanism to distinguish if an optional UGP will count towards DE or OE credits, leading to potential misuse. Students pursue UGPs undertaken under professors from outside their department and the UG office may inadvertently count them in DE credits, which is incorrect in principle.

Proposed Solution:

To address these issues, it is proposed that every optional UGP course be replaced by two distinct UGP courses for easy identification. Suffix D would mean the course would substitute a Department Elective (DE) course while Suffix O would imply the course would count towards Open Elective (OE) credits. During registration, the DUGC Convener would ensure that students register for the appropriate course code.

For instance, let's consider the current course code MSE498 for UGP-4 in the MSE department. The proposal entails offering two separate courses with codes MSE498D and

MSE498O. Here, "MSE498D" signifies that the course is taken to fulfill DE credit requirements, while "MSE498O" indicates that it is intended for OE credit fulfillment. This would ensure that the UGP taken up as an OE would not be counted towards DE credits at the time of graduation, however, a UGP taken towards fulfilling DE credits can be counted towards OE credits if the need arises.

This approach would bring clarity and ensure accurate credit mapping for students across all departments. Furthermore, it is suggested that a central form be made for applying to a UGP across all departments which would facilitate a smoother application process.