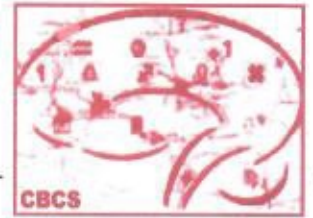




Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences
व्यवहारिक एवं संज्ञानात्मक विज्ञान केन्द्र



Bhoomika R. Kar
Professor & Head
भूमिका आर० कर
प्रोफेसर एवं अध्यक्ष

Ref. No./पत्रांक सं०: CBCS/सी०बी०सी०एस०/ 2 / 761 / 20 22
Date/दिनांक: 16.09.2022

Prof. Sangita Srivastava
Vice Chancellor
University of Allahabad
Prayagraj



Dear Madam,

This is to say that the 15th meeting (online/offline mode) of the Advisory Committee of the Centre, chaired by Prof. Ashish Khare, Department of Electronics and Communication, UoA was held on July 28, 2022. Mr. Rajiv Gupta, Deputy Registrar (Accounts) as nominee of the Finance Officer and Major Harsh Kumar, nominee of the Registrar, UoA attended the meeting. Please find enclosed the Minutes of the meeting for your kind approval.

Thanking you.

Sincerely Yours,

(Bhoomika R. Kar)

Prof. Bhoomika R. Kar
Professor & Head
Centre of Behavioural and
Cognitive Sciences
University of Allahabad

Approved
21/12/2022
Vice-Chancellor
University of Allahabad



Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences University of Allahabad

Minutes of the 15th Advisory Committee meeting held in hybrid mode (online/offline) on July 28, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Members Present:

Prof. Ashish Khare, Department of Electronics and Communication, AU, Chair (on behalf of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AU)
Prof. Manas K. Mandal, IIT Kharagpur
Prof. Nandini C. Singh, NBRC, Manesar, Haryana and MGEIP, UNESCO, New Delhi
Prof. Narayanan Srinivasan, Head, Department of Cognitive Science, IIT Kanpur
Prof. Achla Raina, Department of HSS, IIT Kanpur
Prof. K. P. Singh, Department of Zoology, AU
Dr. Supriya Ray, Faculty CBCS, AU
Prof. Bhoomika R. Kar, Head, CBCS, AU & Convenor
Mr. Rajeev Gupta (nominee of the Finance Officer, UoA as a special invitee)
Major Harsh Kumar (nominee of the Registrar, UoA as a special invitee)

Prof. Manju Mehta, Former Professor, AIIMS New Delhi (UGC Nominee) could not join the meeting.

Welcome

Prof. Bhoomika R. Kar, Head CBCS, welcomed Prof. Ashish Khare as the Chair of the meeting and other members of the Advisory Committee.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Fourteenth Advisory Committee Meeting

The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the Fourteenth Advisory Committee meeting held on July 28, 2022.

Item No. 2: Action Taken Report

Prof. Bhoomika R. Kar presented the action taken report on the decisions taken by the Advisory Committee in its fourteenth meeting held on October 22, 2021.

Prof. Kar apprised the Committee with the following:

Doctoral Program

Admission (2021)

Head, CBCS apprised the Committee that the Combined Research Entrance Test (CRET) of the University of Allahabad, 2021 was held on May 29, 2022 (delay due to the pandemic). Three candidates qualified for Level II (interview). Interviews were held on July 25, 2022. All three candidates were selected for admission to the PhD program in Cognitive Science at CBCS.

RC

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- The budget proposal of the Centre was presented in the **Finance Committee meeting** held in February 2022 but the issue remained unresolved. The matter was again placed as a Table agenda (in response to a letter from the Ministry) in the Finance Committee meeting held on May 2, 2022 but was deferred to the next meeting expected to be held soon.
- **Letter from the Finance Officer, AU** (No. FO/279/2022, February 2, 2022) requesting for approval to move the Centre to the maintenance grant (including student fellowships) of the University was sent to the UGC (Annexure-'E'). However, UGC's response to this letter is awaited.

Item No. 3: Doctoral and Master Programs

Doctoral Program

Fellowship to doctoral students

The Committee found the non-payment of fellowship to PhD students of the Centre for the past 1 year and 10 months (October 2020 to current) as a very unfair situation, although they are students of the University like any other student in any of the Departments/Centres of the University.

The Committee strongly recommended that the student fellowships be released immediately with effect from October 1, 2020, given the Centre has an Independent status and is a permanent unit of the University in the Central University Act (An Act of the Parliament) since 2005. Also, the **Statute XXVII 1.f (Part II Sec-1, page no. 86-87) of the Ordinance of the University** mentions that "All institutes and Independent Centres of the University are entitled to receive plan and nonplan grants from the University or UGC" and that "The functioning of the Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences shall be subject to the provisions in Ordinance XXVII" (Part II, Sec-1, page no. 108) (see Annexure-A). Moreover, PhD students of the Centre are enrolled through the Combined Research Entrance Test (CRET) of the University as per University norms; they are regular students of the University and are therefore entitled to receive the CRET fellowship given to all the students enrolled through CRET in the University Departments/Centres.

Masters' Program

Admission

The Committee noted that CBCS has been getting very good students from across the country and from very good institutions like Delhi University, Ferguson college, Pune, St Xavier's College, Mumbai, Christ University, Bangalore and the like. Therefore, the Centre would like to continue with the COGJET exam jointly organized with IIT Delhi and IIIT Hyderabad. The reason why it has worked well so far is that it is held in February every year. There is a possibility that COGJET exam may discontinue from 2023. The Committee recommended that in such case, CBCS should hold the All India Written Test for admission to the Master's program at CBCS as it used to do earlier before COGJET. The Committee also noted that inclusion of GATE score for admission to the Master's program has also helped in getting good students.

Course Structure

The Committee noted that the faculty of the Centre met on June 30, 2022 to discuss the course structure, teaching and experience with the modifications made in the last semester.

The Committee noted the concern regarding the core course on **Perception and Attention** that was implemented in the 2nd Semester (January to May, 2022). Head, CBCS mentioned that based on the feedback from faculty and students integrating perception and attention did not

work well because the volume of topics is large. The Committee discussed the proposal of the Centre to again get back to the earlier structure with Perception as the core course and Attention as an elective and recommended that the course content be restructured such that it is more based on the theoretical principles of perception and attention that can be integrated. The Committee suggested that a meeting may be held to design the course and Prof. Narayanan Srinivasan volunteered to help with this as he has taught both the courses for many years.

The Committee considered the proposal that the core course on **Introduction to Cognition be modified as Foundations of Cognitive Science** (see syllabus in Annexure 'B') (taught in the first semester) and to move the course on Philosophy of mind as an elective. The Committee welcomed the idea of having a core course on Foundations of Cognitive Science. However, the Committee emphasized that the Course on Philosophy of Mind should continue to be offered as the core course, given that philosophy of mind is at the primary foundation of cognitive science. The Committee also suggested that the syllabus for Foundations of Cognitive Science and Perception and Attention be developed with an external expert.

The Committee also approved the revised list of electives considering the expertise/specializations of the new faculty (see Annexure 'C').

Fee structure

Given that the UGC grant given to the Centre has expired in October 2020 and the Centre is yet to be included in the regular budget of the University, the Centre needs to take initiative to become self-reliant to an extent keeping the focus on academics (teaching and research). The Committee in principle agreed that the Centre should consider an increment in fee given the state-of-the-art lab and library facilities at CBCS to become more self-reliant and to enable the academic activities at the Centre.

The Committee reviewed the proposed fee structure with breakup of components and rationale for regular and sponsored/paid seats. The Committee recommended that the fee structure (see Annexure 'D') for regular students could be implemented from the next academic session 2023-24. The Committee recommended that the University Fee be deposited by the students directly via the online portal of the University. The remaining amount (per semester fee and caution money) be paid via demand draft/bank transfer to the Centre and the fee collected be deposited in the CBCS general development fund, which could be used for lab maintenance, invited lectures, participant payment for experiments and research/academic activities. The University dues be transferred as per the norms of the University. The Committee resolved that the proposed fee structure for regular students be pre-audited by finance office and registry, UoA and then submitted to the University for approval.

Two sponsored seats were proposed for candidates from the industry interested in having a foundation in Cognitive Science and may need options like a 6 months part time certificate course/one-year diploma or 2 years Master's degree. The Committee recommended that the Centre should develop a detailed plan for full time and part time courses for the sponsored seats proposed by the Centre and accordingly determine the fee structure for the same. In addition, the Centre should decide upon some criteria for admission to the program even for a sponsored/paid seat.

The Committee also suggested that the professional fee (on a pro rata basis) from the sponsored candidates could be used to invite professionals as mentors (relevant from the perspective of applications of cognitive science in the Industry) to take some modules in the program. The Centre may also invite one member from the industry (sponsoring firm) as the mentor with some honorarium. This will enhance the interest for the program in the industry and will strengthen the

The UGC had called an online meeting with all the coordinators, Finance officers and Registrars of the Universities with CPEPA programs on May 30, 2022. Head, CBCS attended the meeting (online) with the Finance Officer, UoA. On UGC's request for certain documents, Head CBCS and Accounts Assistant, CBCS visited UGC for this purpose and also met the Secretary, UGC, Joint Secretary, Central Universities, and Financial Advisor, UGC to discuss the issues related to the Centre and to request to provide a directive to the University for the Centre's inclusion in the regular budget in response to the letter sent from the University to the UGC in February, 2022.



(Prof. Ashish Khare)
Chair, Advisory Committee, CBCS



(Prof Bhoomika R. Kar)
Head, CBCS, AU

Prof. Bhoomika R. Kar
Professor & Head
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