

Department of Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology
Minutes of the Departmental Faculty Board Meeting
(DFB-01/2022-2023)

21/09/2022

The second meeting of the *Departmental Faculty Board* for the academic session 2022-2023 was held on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022** at **3:00 PM** in the Committee Room of the Department.

The following members were present:

Prof. Ritu Kulshreshtha, Chairperson
Prof. Durai Sundar, Member
Prof. T.R. Sreekrishnan, Member
Prof. K.J. Mukherjee, Member
Prof. Atul Narang, Member
Prof. Shilpi Sharma, Member
Prof. Preeti Srivastava, Member
Prof. Lucinda E. Doyle, Member
Prof. Ishaan Gupta, Member
Prof. Kumari Priti Sinha, Member
Prof. Ravikrishnan Elangovan, Convener

Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of DFB meeting held on 9th September 2022

The minutes of the meeting was confirmed with the following amendments

- *Prof Lucinda E Doyle was appointed as Convener, DRC*
- *Prof Ashish Mishra was appointed co-incharge of Instrumentation lab*
- *Reconstitution of the Write-off committee with Prof Sundar D as the Chairman*

Action: Ratified minutes (Annexure 1) to be uploaded in the DBEB website.

Item 2: Discussion on the report of the Sub-Committee constituted to look into the proposed changes in the PhD Comprehensive Exam format.

The Written Comprehensive Paper-1 and Paper-2 exams will be replaced by a single Written Comprehensive exam to test the synthesis of academic training received by the students. The student must pass both the proposed new written comprehensive and the oral comprehensive exam with at least 50% marks in each for passing.

Format for written Comprehensive exam:

An Interdisciplinary research article will be critically analyzed and summarized by the student. The article will cover both engineering and molecular biology principles that is published in an Interdisciplinary journal such as Science. The paper will be chosen by the Supervisor. The paper will not be related to the Supervisor's own research or student's PhD research question. The paper will be given to the student for one week and the following questions will be answered in a written format in a comprehensive exam conducted one week after giving the paper. This will be followed by a student presentation on the same day receiving the paper. Each student will discuss their answers in a 15 minute presentation to the DFB for evaluation. The evaluation will be conducted in the third week of January and the third week of August each year.

Scope of written exam and presentation questions:

- *identify the research gaps*
- *explaining research methodology*
- *describing a figure panel in the paper*
- *analyzing results by discussing its weaknesses and strengths*

- proposing future directions

All Ph.D. students of the department must complete the following 13 core credit courses

1. BBL771 Microbial Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
2. BBL772 Data Analytics and Informatics for Biotechnology
3. BBL773 Applied Mathematics for Biochemical Engineering
4. BBL737 Instrumentation and Analytical Methods in Bioengineering

The remaining credit requirements will be extrapolated with elective courses as per the Institute requirements.

Action: For 2021 entry students, written comprehensive exam will be conducted by the second half of October. (Action: PhD coordinator to fix a date in consultation with all faculty).

Item 3: Consideration of a new elective course titled 'Electromicrobiology and Bioelectrochemical Systems' developed by Prof. Lucinda Elizabeth Doyle

After a detailed discussion on the topic, DFB approved the course to be forwarded to DR, PG section for further processing. (Annexure 2)

Item 4: Financial allocation for 2022-23 and requisition for 2023-24 year

DFB reviewed and approved the financial allocation of FY 2022-23 (Annexure 3) and budget requirements for FY 2023-24 (Annexure 4).

Action: Faculty involved in the purchase from budget (FY 2022-2023) are urged to make the necessary PFC to complete the purchase before November 2022.

Item 5: Any other items.

Potential DFB meeting dates for the remainder of the semester.

1. Mid-term BTP/MTP evaluation is 30th Sep or 1st Oct
2. Class committee meeting 17-20th Oct
3. Final project evaluation 28th November 2022
4. Grades moderation meeting 6th December 2022

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



**Ravikrishnan Elangovan,
DFB Convener**

Distribution: *All Faculty (by email)*