

Department of Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology
Minutes of the Departmental Faculty Board Meeting
(DFB-02/2024-2025)

06/11/2024

The second meeting of the *Departmental Faculty Board* for the academic session 2024-2025 was held on **Thursday, October 24th, 2024** at **03:00 PM** in the Committee Room of the Department.

The following members were present:

Prof. Ritu Kulshreshtha, Chairperson
Prof. Prashant Mishra
Prof. Sunil Nath
Prof. Atul Narang
Prof. Preeti Srivastava
Prof. Ashish Misra
Prof. Lucinda Doyle
Prof. Kumari Priti Sinha
Prof. Anjan Roy
Prof. Jatin Panwar
Prof. Amit Das, Convener

Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 1st DFB meeting held on August 21st, 2024

*The minutes of previous meeting (DFB-01 of 2024-25) held on **August 21st, 2024** were confirmed as circulated.*

As matters arising, HOD apprised the DFB that the faculty offices are ready in 99c – HOD requested all faculty to visit and confirm the respective offices are OK for handover.

Item 2: Proposed course list for the next semester

Proposed course list as shared by Prof Lucinda was discussed by the DFB. An important point of discussion was offering enough departmental elective courses so that all students of the final year UG batch gets required 10 DE credits. According the slots of the courses are adjusted. Prof Lucinda also mentioned that during the class committee meetings held recently the concerned batch of students were informed that Prof. Shilpi's 1 credit course being offered in the current semester would count to the DE credits. Therefore, those taking that 1 credit course should not register for Prof. Zia's 4 credit course BBL742 next semester which has a cap of 30. This will help other students to register and allow the entire batch to reach exactly 10 credits (instead of needing to do 12).

The proposed course list is attached as annexure-1.

Item 3: Class committee meeting minutes/feedback

DFB discussed the feedbacks received from individual class committees comprising of representatives from the respective batch and provided specific comments as listed below. No feedback was received from the UG class of 2024. In the meeting with PG students, feedback was received only from MTech students. The DFB comments regarding all the individual meeting feedback are listed below in orange.

1. Class of 2021

- a. Request for attendance criteria of to be reduced to 50% due to late-night placement exams (particularly for BBL731, BBL733, BBL737).**

DFB suggested that the 75% policy remains in place as it was announced in the beginning of the semester by the HOD.

- b. Would like more DE's to be floated (esp. 1 credit); some students requesting AI/ML related courses similar to chemical department.**

DFB noted that discussion on item 2 addresses this concern with DE related issue for final year students. As for the request regarding more DE's, the DFB suggested that the seven DE's being floated is based on the curriculum requirement of the UG program. DFB discussed the options regarding fulfilment of a limited number of DE credits via elective courses offered by other academic units such as KSBS, CBME, and so on. DFB suggested that this can be considered as part of the new curriculum.

- c. Student suggestion to include more mathematical courses in our curriculum like MTL106.**

No specific comment.

- d. Request for floating of BBP332P (for ~1 student) and CLL110 (for ~10 students), as self-study or regular course.**

BBP332P is a lab course which may not be offered as self-study. Regarding CLL110, DFB suggested the HOD to discuss this with the course coordinator from chemical engineering department.

2. Class of 2022

- a. Students had internship seasons, during which regular tests, interviews, and evaluations took place. Hence, they request that the attendance criteria be relaxed to 60%.**

DFB recommended to maintain the 75% policy announced in the beginning of the semester by the HOD.

- b. More mathematically-oriented components should be added to the curriculum (such as numerical methods). If possible, courses more focused on computational biology and bioinformatics should be introduced.**

DFB noted that the current UG curriculum already contains several courses having mathematical components. However, additional courses or components may be considered as part of the new curriculum.

- c. Students request that professors assist the OCS in reaching out to relevant core companies through their industry contacts.**

DFB noted that the newly constructed nucleus team should work as a bridge between the faculty and the students to resolve such concerns and attempt to enhance presence of core companies during placements.

- d. Students also requested an active program for research internships in their labs, especially for second-year students.**

DFB had no specific comment.

- e. BBL231: Please consider increasing the weightage of the term paper in the course (it is currently 5 marks).**

DFB noted that this is down to the coordinator to fix such policies.

3. Class of 2022

- a. BBL131 - Biochemistry.**

- i. 50-70 slides per lecture**
- ii. 500 slides for mid-sem**
- iii. The pace of teaching is fast**

DFB discussed these issues with the course coordinator Prof Lucinda who clarified that the course material per lecture is designed according to 1.5 hour duration for a slot B course. Prof Lucinda, however, mentioned that she would reduce the pace of teaching.

- b. BBL132 – Microbiology**

- i. Syllabus is large. No notes were provided.**
- ii. Questions outside the topics taught in class, have to refer book , so reading the whole chapter becomes overwhelming, we suggest providing a sub-section**
- iii. 250 pages of reading material for mid-sem.**

DFB discussed these issues would be forwarded to the course coordinator Prof Shilpi.

- c. BBL133 - Mass and Energy**

- i. Coverage of theory requires more support. Students finding difficult to solve the problems**
- ii. In the mid Sem exam 10 marks question was wrong. Students invested a lot of time in it, and then some cut the solution they did & got penalized**
- iii. Attendance policy clarity is required**

DFB suggested that the course coordinator Prof Priti may recheck the copies of concerned students to clarify this point to the concerned students. DFB suggested that the 75% policy should remain in place as it was announced in the beginning of the semester.

- d. Other courses-**

- i. SBL100 – Introduction to Biology - Classes are at 8 am, any possible attendance relaxation**

- ii. *Chemical /CLL100 (transport phenomena) - Separate classes for biotech students are more beneficial and are welcome*
- iii. *Material/MLL100 – Introduction to material science - All good*

No specific comment.

e. Departmental concern -

- i. *Slot F should be free in 4th Semester! CLL231 (fluid system)*
- ii. *COL106 – Data structure (a major prereq for minor)*
- iii. *Management minor area (other interested minor area)*

No specific comment.

4. MTech feedback

a. Criteria for MTP Marks Allocation

- *Report Formatting and Content Clarity: Proper organization and presentation of the report will be evaluated.*
- *Expression of Subject Matter: The ability to clearly and effectively communicate the research topic, including performance in the Q&A session.*
- *Amount of Work Done: Evaluation based on the actual work completed during the MTP.*

The MTP coordinator clarified that these parameters are already considered for MTP evaluation.

- b. It was also informed by the course coordinator that the MTP marks currently visible in the portal are not the final grades. The final grade will be awarded after the end-semester evaluation, where the marks will be normalized. The mid-term evaluation will carry a weightage of 30%, while the end-semester evaluation will have a weightage of 70%. Additionally, the final MTP presentation (MTP 2) in May will include external examiners as part of the assessment.**

No specific comment.

c. Flexibility for M.Tech 2nd Year Students

- *A discussion was held regarding providing flexibility to M.Tech 2nd-year students, allowing them not to complete all courses in the third semester. It was noted that the third semester becomes very hectic due to coursework, MTP commitments, and placement activities.*

DFB discussed this requested flexibility and pointed out that the current organization of courses follows the institute guidelines for MTech programs which requires the fourth semester to not have any courses but focus only on the research project.

d. Preponing MTP Dates

- *A suggestion was made to pre-pone the MTP deadlines, but after discussion with the batchmates, the majority rejected the idea.*

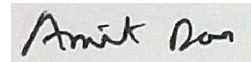
No specific comment.

e. Industry Visit for Students

- ***Students requested to allow them to choose and contact the company they want to visit for the upcoming student industry visit. The selection of the company will be discussed and finalized soon.***

DFB suggested that the MTP coordinator may coordinate with the newly constructed DFB nucleus team which should help the selection of companies for industry visit.

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



**Amit Das,
DFB Convener**

Annexure #1

Courses to be floated in Semester II, 2024-2025

Available caps*: 30 / 60 / 90 / 150 / 300

*deviations require justification to Institute (e.g. to accommodate lab capacity)

Departmental Core Courses (DC)

B.Tech

SI	Course Number	Course Title	L - T - P Structure			Credits	Course Coordinator	Slot	Cap
			L	T	P				
1	BBL431	Bioprocess Technology	2	0	0	2	AM	E	90
2	BBL432	Fluid Solid Systems	2	0	0	2	KPS	H	90
3	BBL433	Enzyme Science and Engineering	3	0	2	4	RE	D	90
4	BBL434	Bioinformatics	2	0	2	3	IG	F	90
5	BBQ301	Seminar Course – I	0	0	2	1	SN	P	30
6	BBQ302	Seminar Course – II	0	0	2	1	SN	P	30
7	BBD452	Major Project Part 2 (BB1)	0	0	16	8	KPS	Q	30

M.Tech

8	BBL774	Biomolecular Engineering	3	0	2	4	PS	D	60
9	BBL775	Bioreaction Engineering	3	0	3	4.5	AN	B	60
10	BBL731	Bioseparation Engineering	3	0	3	4.5	KJM	F	60
11	BBD856	Major Project Part 2 (BEM)	0	0	24	12	AR	Q	60

ELECTIVES

12	BBL736	Dynamics of Microbial Systems	3	0	0	3	AR	J	60
13	BBL742	Biological waste treatment	3	0	2	4	ZAS	AB	30
14	BBL342	Physical and chemical properties of biomolecules	2	1	0	3	AD	H	60
15	BBL752	Microbial Ecology	3	0	0	3	SS	J	60
16	BBL757	Electromicrobiology and Bioelectrochemical Systems	3	0	0	3	LED	AB	60
17	BBL747	Bionanotechnology	3	0	0	3	PM	B	60
18	BBL746	Current Topics in Biochemical Engineering & Biotechnology	3	0	0	3	JP	H	60

MSR/PhD Courses

SI	Course Number	Course Title	L - T - P Structure			Credits	Course Coordinator	Slot	Cap
			L	T	P				
19	BBD895	Major Project	0	0	72	36	LED	Q	60