

Department of Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology

(DRC-3/2024-25)

22 Oct 2024

DRC Meeting No.3/2024-25 was held on 18 October 2024 in the DBEB Committee Room at 3.30 pm. The following members were present:

Prof. Shilpi Sharma (Chairperson)
Prof. Ritu Kulshreshtha
Prof. Preeti Srivastava
Prof. Kumari Priti Sinha
Prof. Anjan Roy
Prof. Amit Das
Prof. Lucinda Doyle (Convenor)

Agenda Items

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the DRC for the session 2024-25 held on 17 Sep 2024.
It was noted that the Plan of Work items (Agenda Item No. 5) were for ratification. The minutes were otherwise confirmed as circulated.
2. Matters arising from the minutes of Meeting No. 2/2024-25.
None.
3. RETA applications.
Two RETA applications were received and discussed. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to forward the applications of both students:

Asheemita Bagchi (2020BEZ8513)
Nidhi Nitin Patil (2019BEZ8669)

(Though the existing minimum criteria for the Department stipulate two first-author research articles as a minimum, the applications are being forwarded as exceptional cases due to each student's patent application.)

For future applications, the Committee decided to revise the departmental policy to consist of the following minimum criteria in order to take account of patents:

- (i) The applicant must have availed Research Scholar Travel Award (RSTA).
- (ii) The applicant must have at least one original research article as first author, and a paper/patent.
- (iii) The papers should be either in journals with Impact factor ≥ 2 , or in recognised Society journals.

4. December Ph.D. selections.

It was decided to hold the Ph.D. selections for Semester 2, 24-25, on December 9th and 10th 2024.

Action:

DRC Convenor to collect project proposals from faculty.

Prof. Preeti Srivastava to coordinate the setting of the Bioscience question paper.

Prof. Kumari Priti Sinha to coordinate the setting of the Biochemical Engineering question paper.

PhD coordinator to book the exam hall.

5. Student requests:

- a. Request of Palistha Tuladhar (2020BEZ8568) to convert from Ph.D. to M.S.(R) programme.

The Committee discussed the request. Based on the supervisor's approval, the Committee approved the request, and recommended an SRC meeting be arranged shortly.

6. Matters for ratification

- a. Request of Khushi Chouhan (2023BEZ8390) for Ex-India leave from 17 – 25 Oct 2024 to attend AMR-Educate, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromso, Norway.

The Committee approved the request.

- b. Request of Triveni Shelki ((2022BEZ8352) for Ex-India leave from 17 – 25 Oct 2024 to attend AMR-Educate, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromso, Norway.

The Committee approved the request.

- c. Request of Mahenaz Haneef (2020BEZ8517) to utilise Ph.D. contingency fund to attend Short Term Course on Quantitative Data Analysis and Interpretation Using SPSS, CEP, IIT Kharagpur, 15 – 24 Sep 2024.

The Committee approved the request.

- d. Request of Sonali Sharma (2022BEZ8510) to attend 5th International Conference on Contemporary Antimicrobial Research 2024 organized by Research & Development Cell, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya, India, 8 – 10 Dec 2024 and to utilise Ph.D. contingency fund for the same.

The Committee approved the request.

- e. Pass grade awarded to Aswini S. (2024BEM2575) for mini-project conducted under the supervision of Prof. Ishaan Gupta.

The Committee has noted this.

- f. Project proposals submitted by faculty members.

S. No.	Project Name	Investigator	Funding Agency
1.	Bioprospecting of	Prof. Ritu Kulshreshtha (PI)	DBT (<i>not</i>

	<i>Momordica cochinchinensis</i> Lour. Spreng. for novel anti-cancer bioactive compounds	Dr. Manjusha Verma (NBPGR) (co-PI) Dr Sneha Murmu, ICAR-IASRI (co-PI)	submitted)
2.	Development of molecularly imprinted polymers and OECT-based point-of-care device for selective oral cancer biomarker detection	Prof. Prashant Mishra (co-PI) Dr. Akshay Moudgil (PI) Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Jodhpur, Prof. Shree Prakash Tiwari (Co-PI) Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Jodhpur, Karwar 342030, Jodhpur	DST
3.	Microbial bioremediation of heavy metals and simultaneous synthesis of biocompatible quantum dots for bioimaging and biosensing applications	Prof. Prashant Mishra (PI) Prof. S.K. Khare, Director IISER Kolkata and Prof. IITD (co-PI)	DST
4.	Spin-Selective Electrode Materials for Enhanced Microbial Electron Transfer in Bioelectrochemical Systems	Prof. Lucinda Doyle (PI) Prof. Rahul Mishra (CARE) (co-PI)	DST

The above projects were circulated to members. As no comments were received, the projects were forwarded to the concerned authorities, and the item was ratified. The PI of Project No. 1 notified the Committee that the proposal was not submitted to the funding agency.

7. Synopsis of the Ph.D. thesis titled "Molecular basis of asphaltene biotransformation by a microbial consortium" submitted by Nidhi Nitin Patil (2019BEZ8669) (Supervisor: PS) Based on the recommendation of SRC, the Committee approved the synopsis. The Committee also approved the panel of Examiners and authorised the Chairperson to forward the same to Dean (Academics).

Action: Supervisor to submit two hard copies of synopsis and one copy of the synopsis submission form to the Departmental Office for signature of DRC Chairperson. Supervisors are also to forward a soft copy of the same (signed copy of synopsis submission form), DRC minutes and synopsis to PG section (pg_eval@admin.iitd.ac.in) with a copy to DRC Chairperson.

8. Comprehensive Exam Results

The Ph.D. comprehensive exams were conducted successfully on Oct 17th and 18th. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to release the results once the marks become available.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair. The next DRC meeting is tentatively scheduled for 18th/19th November 2024.



Lucinda E. Doyle
DRC Convenor