10, Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj,
New Delhi 110070

51st MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY FIRST MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 28 APRIL 2022 AT 11.00 A.M.

PRESENT

The following members of the Academic Council attended the meeting:

Members	Special Invitees
Professor Prateek Sharma, Chairperson	Dr Vidhi Madaan Chadda
Mr Manoj Chugh	
Professor Vivek Suneja	
Professor Shaleen Singhal	
Professor Anandita Singh	
Professor Ramakrishnan Sitaraman	
Professor Vinay Shankar Prasad Sinha	
Professor Nandan Nawn	
Dr Sudipta Chatterjee	
Dr Naqui Anwer	
Dr Sukanya Das	
Dr Sapan Thapar	
Dr Chaithanya Madhurantakam	
Dr Anu Rani Sharma	
Dr Montu Bose	
Dr Chander Kumar Singh	
Dr Seema Sangita, Controller of Examination	
Mr Kamal Sharma, Secretary	

Professor T C Kandpal, Professor Arun Kharat, Mr Rajesh Ayapilla, Mr Rahul Mittal and Professor Arun Kansal could not attend the meeting.

Prof Prateek Sharma welcomed the Academic Council members and introduced Prof. Ramakrishnan Sitaraman, who has been appointed as new Dean (Academic), before requesting the Registrar to take up the agenda items.

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Item No.1: **To confirm the minutes of the Fiftieth Meeting of the Academic Council held on 08 January 2022**. The Registrar informed that minutes of the Fiftieth Meeting of the Academic Council, held on 08 January 2022, were circulated to the members and no comments have been received. Hence, the Council might confirm the minutes.

TS/AC/51.1.1 The Council resolved that the minutes of the 50th Academic Council Meeting held on 08 January 2022 be confirmed.

Item No. 2: **To consider and approve validity of PhD course work for TERI SAS doctoral students who are reapplying to the PhD programme.** The Dean (Academic) informed the members that if a doctoral student of TERI SAS whose registration gets terminated due to any reason have to reapply for doctoral programme as a fresh candidate, and if such an admitted student asks for exemption of certain courses based on already earned credits, then this exemption may be granted by the SRC only for such courses, which have been completed within the last five years and in which a minimum B grade has been earned. This will be not withstanding any other rule of the deemed university which allows validity of earned credits for a period of five years from the date of earning the credit. However, the research proposal defence has to be conducted afresh. After discussion it was agreed by the members to allow the exemption subject to prevailing TERI SAS regulations.

TS/AC/51.2.1 The Academic Council resolved to approve the validity of PhD course work for TERI SAS doctoral students who are reapplying to the PhD programme subject to prevailing TERI SAS regulations.

Item No. 3: **To consider and approve degree specific elective (Choice Based Credit System) and open electives**. The Dean (Academic) informed that in order to formalize the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), which the TERI SAS is already following in most of its academic programmes, it was proposed that the academic curriculum for each programme be structured along the following format:-

Programme Core   (already exists)
Programme Elective (already exists)
Open Elective   (Any course offered by a degree programme at TERI SAS other than the one in which a student is enrolled)

The Programme Core and Elective will define the minimum credits required to earn the degree. However, the student may be allowed to take any Elective,

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defined as Open Elective course of academic programmes over and above the minimum credits as defined by Programme Core and Programme Electives. However, there will be a separate transcript for Open Elective(s) and the grades and the credits earned will not be counted towards total CGPA. Pre-requisite will not apply in case of Open Elective(s). All other provisions for regular course will be applicable to Open Elective as well.

Mr Manoj Chugh suggested that students should be given some incentive and may be one elective course could be added for total CGPA or some other threshold should be defined to encourage students. Other members were also in agreement with Mr Chugh's suggestion for providing some incentive to the students. Members were also of the view that proper differentiation be provided between Open Electives and others. It was also suggested that Electives should be defined beforehand. After detailed discussion. the Vice Chancellor stated that we will look into the comments and suggestion of the members and come up with a fresh proposal in the next meeting so that it could be implemented before the start of the new academic session.

TS/AC/51.3.1 The Academic Council after detailed discussion recommended that a fresh proposal be presented in the next meeting for consideration and approval.

Item No. 4: **To approve portability of PhD course work in Research and Publication Ethics across institutions.** Dean (Academic) referred to the University Grants Commission D.O. No.F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE) dated December 2019 and stated a standardised syllabus for the Research and Publications Ethics course is specified in the syllabus. The relevant Department Research Committee (DRC) has to approve application of course after scrutinizing the actual course contents based on the documentation provided by the student. The UGC letter is attached as **Enclosure 1**. He further requested the Council to approve portability of PhD course work in Research and Publication Ethics across institutions as far as the course offered in other institutions covers the topics covered in the UGC syllabus.

TS/AC/51.4.1 The Academic Council approved portability of PhD course work in Research and Publication Ethics across institutions as far as the course offered at other institutions covers the topics covered the UGC syllabus after the approval of the relevant DRC at TERI SAS.

Item No. 5: **To approve BVoc as qualification for all programmes subject to respective MPEC approval. The** Dean (Academic) informed that the matter of recognising BVoc as a degree eligible for various academic programmes

offered by the TERI SAS was discussed in the Heads & Deans Meeting. It was decided that the various undergraduates BVoc programmes which are relevant to various academic programmes of the TERI SAS may be considered eligible. Based on the students application, it was decided that MPEC will take the final decision to ascertain the eligibility of specific BVoc programme for entering the selection process in their respective programmes.

TS/AC/51.5.1 The Academic Council approved BVoc as qualification for all programmes, subject to MPEC approval.

Item No. 6: **To approve recommencement of LLM programme**. The Chairperson informed that the LLM programme was discontinued from the 2021-22 academic session as per the decision taken in the Academic Council Meeting held on 17 July 2021 (TS/AC/49.7.1). Subsequent to that TERI SAS has been receiving requests from the Alumni and prospective students to recommence the LLM programme. The matter was deliberated in the Executive Committee meeting and detailed analysis was carried out in this regards. After due deliberation it was decided to restart the LLM programme from the new academic session.

TS/AC/51.6.1 The Academic Council approved recommencement of LLM programme from the new academic session.

Item No. 7: **Exemption of certain categories of course from the improvement examination.** The grade improvement examination policy was approved in the 48 Academic Council Meeting held on 16 July 2020 (TS/AC/48.9.1). However, it is proposed that improvement examination will not be permitted in the following categories of assessments:
(a) group activity
(b) field work
(c) practicum, laboratory components of courses
(d) laboratory-based courses
(e) independent study
(f) minor and major projects.

It is also proposed that students who are applying for improvement examinations for courses other than the courses mentioned above are required to apply after payment of the stipulated improvement examination fee.

TS/AC/51.7.1 The Academic Council approved exemption of abovementioned categories of course from the improvement examination.

Item No. 8:   Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

The Registrar informed the Academic Council that in the 42nd Board of Management meeting held on 25 March 2022, the Board approved the formation of Department of Biotechnology at TERI SAS. The Chairperson further stated that suggestions have been made by the Director General, TERI; Chancellor, TERI SAS; TERI Governing Council and Trustees, TERI SAS, to strengthen ties between TERI and TERI SAS. Thus, there was a need to formalise mechanisms through which the existing and future collaborations between the two institutions can be strengthened. Towards that end, Department of Biotechnology at TERI SAS is formed that will have a combined strength of TERI SAS faculty members as core faculty and TERI professionals as Adjunct faculty. In future this can be used as template for establishing similar synergies between other Departments of TERI SAS and Divisions of TERI.

The members noted the matter.

There being no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 1255 hours.

Sd/
Kamal Sharma
Registrar (Acting)

Enclosures:-
Enclosure 1.   UGC circular with regard to Research and Publication Ethics (RPE) course

Distribution:-
Electronic Copy:
1. Vice Chancellor, TERI School of Advanced Studies
2. All members of Academic Council
3. Website

Printed Copy: Registrar Office

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D.O.No.F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE)   December, 2019

Respected Sir/Madam,

University Grants Commission in its 543rd meeting held on 9th August, 2019 approved two Credit Courses for awareness about publication ethics and publication misconducts entitled **"Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)"** to be made compulsory for all Ph.D. students for pre-registration course work (**attached as Annexure**).

In view of the above, you are requested to ensure that the above two Credit courses may be made compulsory for all Ph.D. students for pre-registration course work undertaken in your University from the forthcoming academic session.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Rajnish Jain)

TO THE VICE-CHANCELLORS OF ALL UNIVERSITIES

Course Title:

- **Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)**-Course for awareness about the publication ethics and publication misconducts.

Course Level:

- 2 Credit course (30 hrs.)

Eligibility:

- M.Phil., Ph.D. students and interested faculty members (It will be made available to post graduate students at later date)

Fees:

- As per University Rules

Faculty:

- Interdisciplinary Studies

Qualifications of faculty members of the course:

- Ph.D. in relevant subject areas having more than 10 years' of teaching experience

About the course

Course Code: CPE- RPE

Overview
- This course has total 6 units focusing on basics of philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity, publication ethics. Hands-on-sessions are designed to identify research misconduct and predatory publications. Indexing and citation databases, open access publications, research metrics (citations, h-index, Impact Factor, etc.) and plagiarism tools will be introduced in this course.

Pedagogy:

- Class room teaching, guest lectures, group discussions, and practical sessions.

Evaluation

- Continuous assessment will be done through tutorials, assignments, quizzes, and group discussions. Weightage will be given for active participation. Final written examination will be conducted at the end of the course.

Course structure

- The course comprises of six modules listed in table below. Each module has 4-5 units.

Modules	Unit title	Teaching hours
Theory		
RPE 01	Philosophy and Ethics	4
RPE 02	Scientific Conduct	4
RPE 03	Publication Ethics	7
Practice		
RPE 04	Open Access Publishing	4
RPE 05	Publication Misconduct	4
RPE 06	Databases and Research Metrics	7
	Total	**30**

Syllabus in detail

THEORY

- ### RPE 01: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (3 hrs.)

  1. Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
  2. Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions

- ### RPE 02: SCIENTIFICCONDUCT (5hrs.)

  1. Ethics with respect to science and research
  2. Intellectual honesty and research integrity
  3. Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism (FFP)
  4. Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
  5. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

- ### RPE 03: PUBLICATION ETHICS (7 hrs.)

  1. Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance
  2. Best practices / standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc.
  3. Conflicts of interest
  4. Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
  5. Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
  6. Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
  7. Predatory publishers and journals

PRACTICE

- ### RPE 04: OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING(4 hrs.)

1. Open access publications and initiatives
2. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
4. Journal finder / journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.

- **RPE 05: PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT (4hrs.)**

  ### A. Group Discussions (2 hrs.)

    1. Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
    2. Conflicts of interest
    3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

  ### B. Software tools (2 hrs.)

  Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source software tools

- **RPE 06: DATABASES AND RESEARCH METRICS (7hrs.)**

  ### A. Databases (4 hrs.)
    1. Indexing databases
    2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus, etc.

  ### B. Research Metrics (3 hrs.)
    1. Impact Factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score
    2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics

References

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