COEP Technological University

(A Unitary Public University of Govt. of Maharashtra)
Wellesley Road, Shivajinagar, PUNE- 411 005

Minutes of 4th Academic Council Meeting

The 4th Academic Council Meeting of COEP Technological University was held on 4th May 2024 at 11.00 am onwards at S. L. Kirloskar Auditorium of Bhau Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, COEP Technological University Pune. The following members were present for the meeting:

	The following members were present in-person for the meeting:	
1.	Prof. S. G. Bhirud	Chairman
2.	Prof. S. S. Mohite	Member
3.	Dr. (Mrs.) Vahida Attar	Member
4.	Dr. P. P. Bartakke	Member
5.	Dr. S. A. Meshram	Member
6.	Prof. P. A. Sadgir	Member
7.	Prof. P. M. Raval	Member
8.	Dr. S. S. Anasane	Member
9.	Dr. (Mrs.) Manisha Kulthe	Member
10.	Dr. R. T. Ugale	Member
11.	Dr. (Mrs.) Vibha Vyas	Member
12.	Dr. P.K. Deshmukh	Member
13.	Dr. M. R. Shindikar	Member
14.	Dr. (Mrs.) V. S. Rajguru	Member
15.	Dr. R. A. Patil	Member
16.	Dr. (Mrs.) N. V. Shinde	Member
17.	Prof. (Mrs.) Jibi Abraham	Member
18.	Dr. S. P. Mahajan	Member
19.	Dr. S. S. Ohol	Member
20.	Dr. Ajay Bhattu	Member
21.	Dr. Harish Gadade	Member
22.	Prof. M. J. Sabale	Member
23.	Dr. P. D. Shendge	Member
24.	Dr. Mrunalini S. Phalak	Member
25.	Dr. (Mrs.) Gayatri Vyas	Member
26.	Dr. (Mrs.) Y.V. Haribhakta	Invitee
27.	Prof. N. B. Dhokey	Invitee
28.	Dr. Mohan Khond	Invitee
29.	Dr. Archana Thosar	Invitee
30.	Dr. A. D. Mudbidri	Invitee
31.	Dr. (Mrs.) K. A. Moghe	Invitee
32.	Dr. R. N. Ladhwe	Invitee
33.	Prof. K. A. Patil	Invitee

34.	Prof. N. C. Shivprakash	External Member
35.	Dr. B. N. Chaudhari	External Member
36.	Dr. Sachin Lodhe	External Member
37.	Dr. Amit Hogadi	External Member
38.	Prof. Ashok Kumar Pandey (online)	External Member
39.	Prof. Asim Tiwari (online)	External Member
40.	Dr. Ulhas Naik (online)	External Member
41.	Dr. D. N. Sonawane	Member Secretary
Members granted leave of absence:		
42.	Dr. N. K. Chougule	Member
43.	Prof. M. R. Nandgaonkar	Member
44.	Dr. G. V. Lakhekar	Member
45.	Dr. Biplab Banerjee	External Member
46.	Dr. Mukund Kale	External Member
47.	Mr. Shankar. C. Deshpande	External Member
48.	Dr. Uday Khedekar	External Member
49.	Prof. Satish Ogale	External Member
50.	Prof. Dr. Mayank Mathur	External Member
51.	Prof Deepankar Chaudhary	External Member
52.	Dr. D. V. Jadhav	External Member

At the outset Dr. D. N. Sanavane, Registrar COEP Tech welcomed all the members. Prof. Sunil Bhirud VC and Chairman Academic Council informed the members that COEP Tech is regarded as a role model by other technical institutions throughout the state, therefore, designing and developing an NEP2020 compliant curriculum, the University holds the responsibility to create a syllabus with a holistic approach, setting the highest standards and staying ahead of Government recommendations. He further appealed the members to discuss and deliberate in the purview of following points.

- Approval of the NEP2020 compliant syllabus for the Second Year B.Tech. and Planning programs.

- Explore diverse approaches for flexible learning, including blended learning, multiple entry and exit options, and credit transfer schemes for both in-house and external students, to be implemented in the near future.

- Introducing Apprentice Embedded Degree Programs in the Management faculty.

- Introducing Blended Learning / Online programs.

Agenda 4.1: Confirmation of Minutes and Action Taken Report (ATR) on the resolutions/decisions of the 3rd Academic Council Meeting held on 20th December 2023.

Dr. D. N. Sonawane, Registrar and Member Secretary of the Academic Council placed the minutes of the 3rd Academic Council Meeting held on 20th December 2023 for the confirmation. He also presented the ATR on the decisions made to the Academic Council members. He clarified the queries raised by the Academic Council members on the ATR and the minutes of the meeting were approved unanimously by the members.

Resolution (AC-4.1): The members **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the Minutes and Action Taken Report of the 3rd meeting of the Academic Council held on 23rd December 2023.
Agenda 4.2: Approval for the proposed Academic Calendar for the A.Y. 2024-25.

Dr. Sandeep Meshram, Convenor of the Deans Committee, presented the Academic Calendar for AY 2024-25. He informed that this calendar is applicable to all the students except all the students of Engineering, Planning, and Management programs admitted in first year during AY2024-25.

Some of the key points of the Ay 2024-25 Academic Calendar are:
- The days allocated for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities viz. Mindspark, Gathering, Regatta, PSF, Zehaveand I2I have been suitably adjusted to minimize hindrances in ongoing academics.
- The extracurricular activities viz. Gathering, PSF, Zest and I2I are scheduled between vacation period of the students, i.e. December 17th, 2024, to January 4th, 2025.
- Dedicated sessions and days have been allocated for the activities of the Training and Placement Cell.
- End semester exams (ESE) of laboratory courses are scheduled within one week after ESE of theory courses.
- Instruction delivery in the form flipped classroom mode is introduced on every 1st,3rd and 5th Saturdays wherein students may approach respective faculty for clarifications and further guidance.
- Two-hour afternoon slot in a week is reserved for arranging expert lectures.

Suggestions provided by the members are as follows:
- Prof. Sunil Bhirud recommended organizing activities and educational programs to commemorate events like Science Day, Environmental Day, and similar occasions.
- Prof. Shivprakash recommended that internal faculty, rather than external examiners, should evaluate all practical exams.

Resolution (AC-4.2): The members **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the proposed Academic Calendar for the AY. 2024-25 with the given suggestions/recommendations by the AC members. The Academic Council authorized Chairman Academic Council to update/modify the Academic Callender depending on requirements.

Agenda 4.3: Approval for the amendments in the PhD rules and doctoral committee.
Prof. N. B. Dhoke, Director, Board of RIIL presented the amendments to be made in the existing Ph.D. rules and composition of the doctoral committee, recommended by RIIL board for approval of the Academic council.

- **Composition of Doctoral Committee (DC)**

Sr No	Member of DC	Existing Provision	Proposed Composition
1	Chairperson	Yes	HOD (Associate Professor or Professor having recognition as PhD guide from the respective School) Otherwise, Dean / Associate Professor or Professor nominated by Dean.
2	Supervisor	Yes	Yes
3	Co-Supervisor (if required)	Yes	Yes
4	Domain Expert-1	Faculty with Ph.D. degree	Faculty who is recognized PhD guide from respective school.
5	Domain Expert-2 (Optional)	Optional	Faculty with PhD from respective or other relevant school.
6	Expert from outside of the University	Any one from Academia/ Industry	Professor/Associate Professor from Institute of National Importance, preferably within 100 NIRF ranking. **OR** Expert with Master's degree having relevant domain expertise and research experience from a reputed R&D organization / National Lab /Industry preferably nearby/ well connected locations with at least 15 years of experience

- **Minimum Publications Criterion either 'a' or 'b' as listed in option column of following table.**

Existing Rules for the Award of PhD degree	Option	Recommendation for the award of PhD degree
One Journal paper publication in reputed journal (SCI/WoS) and Presentation of two international Conferences papers	a	i. Two Journal publications (Q1/Q2/Q3), with at least one from SCI/ WoS indexed and the other from SCI/WoS/Scopus indexed. **OR** i. One publication in SCI/WoS/Scopus indexed (Q1/Q2/Q3) and one granted patent (India/US) **and** ii. One International Conference of High repute and held periodically with enough iterations
		OR
	b	Three Journal paper publications (Q1/Q2/Q3), with at least one from SCI/WoS indexed and the other two from SCI/WoS/Scopus indexed.

- **Recommendations for Recognition as a PhD. Guide (for supervisor who is Retired/ on Lien/ Deputation to Govt organization)**
  - All supervisors who are retired, on Lien, on deputation to Government organization will continue to guide on going PhD students till the completion of his/her PhD. The candidate may be assigned Co-guide if requested by these Guides. In case of any dispute the matter may be resolved by HoD and placed before RRC to assign new Guide and in that case the guide shall be informed the decision.
  - PhD guides will not be paid any honorarium for discharging their duties of guiding students and visiting university for review of PhD work.

- **Transfer of PhD. Students registered before 21stJune 2022**
  - The University proposes to transfer approximately 100+ PhD students who are still registered with SPPU after the grant of State University status to COEP on 21st June 2022 to gain academic and ranking benefits.

- **PhD admissions and Selection process**
  - COEP Tech shall conduct RPET in the upcoming PhD admission process.
  - Either a valid Gate score or Qualified RPET score (above 50%) is to be used as a criterion to become eligible for interview process only.
  - The interview process solely be used to select candidates for PhD admissions.
  - Candidates will be interviewed by a panel of experts and PhD guides.
  - Candidates should obtain passing marks of 50% minimum in the interviews to become eligible for admissions.

- **Updating PhD Vacancies of Guides**
  - After Doctoral committee recommendation to submit the thesis (after successful presentation of pre-synopsis) vacancies against such candidates will be automatically created for the PhD guide and offered in subsequent PhD admissions.

- **Termination/cancellation of PhD admission**
  - PhD students absent for two successive progress or unsatisfactory progress, nonpayment of fees for last two years will be automatically cancelled /terminated without informing to the student. The process of termination shall be initiated by the respective guide and the department.
  - PhD guides need to ensure generating notices of progress seminars of such candidates every six months and submit absent report.
  - Two consecutive non-satisfactory reports or absentee in presentation shall trigger the cancellation process.

- **University PhD Fellowships**
  - The matter of providing PhD fellowship was discussed. It was decided to take the decision to provide PhD fellowship based on the availability of funds.

- **Eligibility Criteria for Recognition as PhD. Guide for Industry Personnel**
  - Experienced experts from Industry/Corporate/R & D Organizations/Public Sector Companies with Ph.D. degree
    - Relevant minimum experience of 10 years in the R & D department or equivalent
    - Contribution such as Publications/ Granted patents in any visible form/ Transferred Technology/ Commercialized Product: Minimum 05

Resolution (AC-4.3): Academic council members discussed, deliberated, and **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the above amendments made in the PhD rules and composition of the Doctoral Committee. These amendments will be applicable and effective from January 2024.

Agenda 4.4: Approval on the proposed structure and syllabus of the PG courses for working professionals as: "M. Tech Automotive Systems" proposed by School of Electrical and Communication Engineering-Department of Instrumentation and Control.

Dr. Sonawane presented the proposed structure and syllabus of the PG programme "M. Tech. in Automotive Systems" for working professionals. He informed M/s. Hella Automotive Pvt. Ltd. has already committed enrolling 10 students per year for the next three years and signed an MOU in this regard. The fees for this program will be Rs. 3.0 lakhs per year.

Dr. Sonawane put forth the following key highlights of the programme:
- This program will be supported by M/s. Hella Automotive Pvt. Ltd and few other Automotive Industries, and University of Applied Sciences Hamm Lippstadt, Germany.
- The batch size will be 30 students (Only Working Professionals with two years of relevant experience)
- Students will complete first Two semesters (i.e. One Year) at COEP Tech, Pune and selected 05 students will undertake the internship cum project in next two semesters at University of Applied Sciences Hamm Lippstadt, Germany without any financial liability on the University. Remaining students will either undertake internship cum project in Automotive Industries in and around Pune or complete the project work in-house.
- Encourage regular interaction with Automotive industries and the experts from Automotive Industries as well as from University of Applied Sciences Hamm Lippstadt, Germany

Prof. Sunil Bhirud further added that there are many more interested industries who are approaching the University to start such degree programs for their employees, and therefore urged the departments to propose new programs, taking into account the demand of potential students and the programs' sustainability.

Resolution (AC-4.4): Academic council deliberated and **RESOLVED to APPROVED** the proposed structure and syllabus of "M. Tech in Automotive Systems".

Agenda 4.5: To approve "Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (AEDP) in Bachelor of Business Administration-Banking Financial Services and Insurance (BBA-BFSI) and Bachelor of Business Administration-Logistics (BBA-Logistics) under the

National Initiative for Skill Integrated Higher Education (NISHE) in the Department of Management.

Prof. Mudbidri, Professor of Practice at the Department of Management Studies informed the house that the department is willing to participate in Apprentice Embedded Degree Programs (AEDP), in view of MOU signed by the Department of Higher and Technical Education (DHTE) & CRISP (Centre for Research in schemes & policies) under the aegis of National Initiative for Skill Integrated Higher Education (NISHE).

Under the said initiative, the department will be offering two UG degree programmes; Bachelor of Business Administration-Banking Financial Services and Insurance (BBA-BFSI) and Bachelor of Business Administration-Logistics (BBA-Logistics).

He outlined the key highlights of the said initiative which are as follows:

- AEDP's are designed by integrating skillset into the curriculum as recommended by sector skill counsel.
- Enable students to gain hands on experience & learn on the job training through & also earn while learn.
- First two years of the programme covers academics and mandatory apprenticeship in the final year.

He further presented the academic structure, fee structure and course module for both the UG programmes and presented the sustainable model for operating the two new bachelor's programs.

Prof. B. N. Chaudhari inquired about the motivation behind participating in AEDP and initiating two new bachelor's programs in Management at a premier Technological University. In response Dr. Mudbidri informed that these programs will provide:
- Opportunity to offer sector specific MBA programmes, potentially evolving into Integrated MBA programmes in near future.
- Feeder to PG programmes in Management faculty
- Expansion of brand recognition
- Collaboration with prestigious university
- Participate in all activities & establish it's brand image

Prof. Mudbidri also informed that after obtaining BoG approval University will convey its consent to the Department of Higher and Technical Education (DHTE) and proceed with the admission process in accordance with government guidelines.

<u>**Resolution (AC-4.5):**</u> Academic council **NOTED** and **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the proposal to admit students in AEDP.

Agenda 4.6: FY BTech (NEP Compliant) result and proposing revised examination and evaluation scheme for approval.

Dr. Yashodhara Haribhakta, Director Board of Examination and Evaluation presented department / programme wise semester-1 result analysis following a NEP2020 compliant course structure. This analysis was conducted prior to any re-examinations. The result analysis raised serious concerns as failure rate (students with at least one backlog) is high although meritorious students are admitted to the first year. Failure in the courses will adversely affect the placements as 'no backlog' is the basic eligibility criteria for most of the companies coming for campus hiring.

In response to the alarming situation, council members recommended to immediately constitute a committee to address the following issues and propose remedial measures to improve the situation:
- Conduct a subject-wise result analysis to determine if the integration of courses is contributing to an increase in backlogs.
- External audit of exam papers to assess their difficulty levels and identify any issues with question paper settings.
- Review students' feedback of teachers for subjects with the highest failure rates etc.
- Review of the assessment method and other factors impacting the outcomes.

The members also made the following recommendations to enhance students' performance in the examinations:
- Failure of even hardworking and intelligent students indicates that there are some fundamental issues with the question papers and these issues should be addressed urgently as the failure certainly impacts the psychology of those students who are intelligent and hardworking.
- Incorporate moderation of the question papers before the examinations.
- No separate passing in theory and practical component of integrated courses.
- To guide and expose teachers for setting up balanced Question papers.
- Undertake deliberation and discussion at various level and come up with a robust assessment model. The rights to approve the proposed assessment model are given to the Vice Chancellor and will be presented for ratification in the next Academic Council meeting.
- The grade awarded, for each course registered by the student, should reflect the overall proficiency acquired by the student in that course. However, it is observed that the absolute passing criteria of 40 out of 100, exercised for the semester- I evaluation has resulted in a skewed distribution instead of standard normal distribution. In view of this, the grading scheme should be reviewed, and necessary amendments should be made to ensure normal distribution.
- The grading has to be relative, done separately for each course by the course instructor or the coordinator of the course in consultation with the Head of the Department and the DUPC/DPPC.

- AA should be the highest grade, while DD is the lowest passing grade. FF indicates failure in the course. The grade IC means that the course is incomplete. Depending on whether the course is mandatory or not, the student will have to repeat or substitute for the course and complete it.
- Lower Bound (LB) of DD grade is proposed as per the following guidelines:

  i. For Median/2 $\leq$ 30, LB is 30
  ii. For 30 < Median/2 $\leq$ 40, LB is Median/2
  iii. For Median/2 > 40, LB is 40

- Results of only those students who have scored nonzero marks in ESE should be considered for evaluating the Median.

Further, Dr. Prashant Bartakke, Dean, School of Electrical and Communication Engineering proposed the revised examination and evaluation scheme giving the rationale for proposing the change. The revised scheme now includes following suggestive pattern with minor variations permitted based on the nature of courses like PCC, PEC, HSSM etc.:
- Theory: Mid-Semester-Examination (30%), Teachers' Assessment (10%), End-Semester Examination (60%)
- Laboratory: Continuous-Internal-Evaluation (50%), and End-Semester-Examination (50%)

Resolution (AC-4.6): Academic council members deliberated on the result analysis and **RESOLVED** to submit a revised evaluation model incorporating the above recommendations. The Academic Council authorised chairman Academic Council to approve the amendments in assessment model, examination, and evaluation scheme, which will be ratified in the next Academic Council meeting.

Agenda 4.7: Approval for the NEP Complaint academic structure and syllabus of Second Year (SY) B. Tech. and First Year (FY) M. Tech. programs.

The Heads of the respective Departments presented the NEP Complaint academic structure and syllabus of Second Year (SY) B. Tech. programs to be offered to regular and lateral entry students and First Year (FY) M. Tech. PG programs in the following order.

Prof. Sunil Bhirud urged all HoDs to define the academic structure appropriately, incorporating hands-on training and lab sessions wherever necessary along with the theory component, as the current course structure will remain in place until the next curriculum revision cycle.

Prof. Sunil Bhirud, Prof. Shivaprakash, and Prof. B. N. Chaudhari further made the following recommendations to the departments for designing a holistic and student centric curriculum structure:
- Use model curricula and guidelines from regulatory bodies as a basis to craft a robust, forward-thinking curriculum.

- Reduce the number of lectures by incorporating more MOOCs, online courses, and self-learning opportunities to alleviate student stress.
- Have some fundamental courses in semester 3 to facilitate the lateral entry students to cope up with the curriculum.
- Ensure that core courses are not compromised while determining credit requirements.
- Explore options for offering courses in online or hybrid mode to leverage best faculty and address infrastructural limitations.

Additionally, Prof. Sunil Bhirud, proposed to establish a separate school dedicated to offering multidisciplinary programs focused on AI, ML, Robotics and multidisciplinary courses.

- The Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering has proposed the change in the nomenclature of the existing M. Tech programme Signal Processing (Intake of 18) to "AI ML for Signal Processing and Communication" while keeping the same intake.
- The department of Mechanical Engineering has proposed a PG Diploma course in "Product Lifecycle Management (PLM)" to be launched from the coming AY. 2024-25.
- The Department of Manufacturing Engineering and Industrial Management is offering one year Post graduate Diploma in "Integrated Product Design and Development". The dept. proposed to change the mode of conduct of the program in hybrid mode (Online-Offline) so that working professionals from industry may be accommodated in the course.
- To enhance the PG admission, the department proposed to adopt the eligibility criteria for admission to MTech in Materials Engineering and Process Metallurgy in line with the AICTE guidelines. In view of this, it was suggested that MSc. Physics and MSc. Chemistry candidates with valid GATE score in any parent discipline should also be made eligible for PG admission as per the merit. The revised eligibility matrix is as follows:

Sr. No.	Course Name	UG Eligibility	GATE Eligibility	Intake Capacity	Non Sponsored	Sponsored
1.	M. Tech Metallurgy and Material Engineering Specialization: **Materials Engineering**	Any relevant branch of Engineering or M.Sc Physics or M.Sc Chemistry	Metallurgical Engineering (MT) / Aerospace Engineering (AE) / Chemical Engineering (CH) / Petroleum Engineering (PE) / Production and Industrial Engineering (PI) / Mechanical Engineering (ME) / Engineering Sciences (XE) / Physics (PH) / Chemistry (CY)	18	14	4
2.	M. Tech Metallurgy and Material Engineering Specialization:	Any relevant branch of Engineering or M.Sc Physics or	Metallurgical Engineering (MT) / Aerospace Engineering (AE) / Chemical Engineering (CH) / Petroleum Engineering (PE) / Production and Industrial	18	14	4

Process Metallurgy	M.Sc Chemistry	Engineering (PI) / Mechanical Engineering (ME) / Engineering Sciences (XE) / Physics (PH) / Chemistry (CY)			

Resolution (AC-4.7): Academic council **NOTED** the NEP Complaint academic structure and syllabus of SY. B.Tech. for regular and lateral entry students and FY. MTech. programs presented by all the HODs and **RESOLVED** to make the necessary amendments in the curriculum structure inculcating the necessary recommendations given by the Academic Council members.

Agenda 4.8: Reporting Items

Following items were presented for ratification by the Academic Council

4.8.1   List of MOU's signed after 3rd Academic Council meeting.

Dr. Sonawane presented the list of MOUs that the University has signed with different Institutes and Organizations post the 3rd Academic Council meeting held on 20th December 2023.

Sr No	Collaborators	Objective
1	University of Kansas USA	Faculty and student exchange
2	AGH Public University Poland	Research, faculty, and student exchange
3	RWTH Aachen University Germany	Research, faculty, and student exchange
4	University of Birmingham UK	Research

4.8.2   Minutes of 2nd meeting of Fees Fixation Committee

Dr. Sonawane presented the Minutes of the 2nd meeting of Fees Fixation Committee to the house.

4.8.3   ′ Minutes of RRC meeting of respective School.

Resolution (AC-4.8): Academic council members **NOTED** and **RATIFIED** all the above items.

Agenda 4.9: Any other points with the permission of the Chair

The Research Recognition Committee (RRC) of the respective Schools has recommended following PhD supervisors.

Name of the School	
School of Civil Engineering and Planning	1. Dr. N. M. Mohite
School of Electrical and Communication Engineering	1. Dr. Yogita Vaidya
	1. Dr. Pankaj Tasgaonkar
School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering	1. Dr. U. V. Pise

	2.	Dr. J. S. Karajgikar
	3.	Dr. A. M. More
	4.	Dr. M. G. Kulthe
School of Computational Sciences	1.	Dr. Souvik Barat
	2.	Dr. Amit D. Joshi
	3.	Dr. Sunil Bhirud

Resolution (AC-4.9): Academic council **NOTED** and **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the PhD supervisors.

Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Member Secretary
(Registrar)

Chairman
(Vice Chancellor)