

9. School of Mathematical Sciences of NISER also organized an Advanced School-cum-Conference on Current Topics in Number Theory during 30 November-06 December 2018.
10. The First Alumni Meet of NISER was held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Dr. Arindam Ghosh of SCS was requested to take this forward as the Convener of the event and a total of 18 students attended this event along with the final year students who would be graduating in 2019. The day started with academic event wherein Prof. T. K. Chandrashekar, Prof. J. Maharana spoke about NISER history followed by a popular science lecture by Prof. V. Chandrasekhar. One alumnus from each school was also invited to give a 15 min talk on their experience at NISER.
11. Inter IISER-NISER Sports MEET (IISM-2018) was held from 15-20 December 2018. Over one thousand participants from all the IISERs, NISER, IISc and UMDA-CEBS took part in this annual event.

*The Academic Council noted the report of Chairman, Academic Council.*

<b>Item No. 3</b>	<b>To table action taken report on the decision of</b> (i) <b>2017-18/2nd Academic Council meeting held on 29.05.2018.</b> (ii) <b>Earlier meetings, if any</b>
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The status report on actions taken on the Minutes of the 2017-18/2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 29.05.2018 and earlier minutes of the Academic Council ~~meeting were placed for the perusal of the members of Academic Council.~~ Also FIG, Academic Affairs presented the ATR before the Council. The following suggestions were given:

1. On Item No. 11 of AC minutes (29.05.2018) at Sl. No.4 of the ATR, AC suggested to expedite the matter at HBNI to include NISER as well as other units of DAE in PMRF Scheme of MHRD.
2. On Item 28(D) of AC minutes (29.05.2018) at Sl. No.12 of the ATR, AC suggested the following:
  - a) Prof. T. K. Chandrashekar opined that as PM had emphasized that NISER is at par with IISERs in science education, the provision adopted in IISERs may be followed in NISER as well to award B.Sc. degree for students discontinuing from Int. M.Sc. programme at end of 5<sup>th</sup> year and above.
  - b) Prof. Amol Dighe supported the opinion of Prof. Chandrashekar and suggested to write to HBNI on this effect after framing required exit policy at the institute level.

*The Academic Council noted the action taken report with the above suggestions.*

<b>Item No. 4</b>	<b>To consider and approve introduction of one new elective course in the School of Biological Sciences.</b>
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Course Title: **Translational Control in Biology**  
 Credits: **4 (45 lectures, 10 Tutorials)**  
 Course Code: **B563 (M.Sc.) / B762 (Ph.D.)**  
 Prerequisite: **Molecular Biology (B304) for M.Sc.**  
 Proposed semester: **9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> for M.Sc. / Ph.D.**

*Asst*

Instructor: **Dr. Pankaj V. Alone & Dr. Tirumala K Choudhury**

The above new course was deliberated in the UGCI meeting held on 27 August 2018 and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018. UGCI recommended introduction of the above new course in the School of Biological Sciences. Details of the course and the minutes of the UGCI meeting were circulated for reference of the AC members.

*The Academic Council considered and approved introduction of the new elective course, "Translational Control in Biology" in the School of Biological Sciences with the following suggestions:*

1. For all the common courses meant for both M.Sc. and Ph.D. students with different course codes, the evaluation in all such courses should be done separately for M.Sc. and Ph.D. students.
2. For Ph.D. students, some extra evaluation process like seminar etc. may be adopted.

<b>Item No.5</b>	<b>To consider and approve the proposal of Issue of Certificate of Equivalence to the students of Life Sciences (Int. M.Sc.) upon Programme Completion.</b>
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It has been observed that the students graduating from the School of Biological sciences with Int. M.Sc. degree in Life Sciences are not being considered by many of the State Public Service Commissions for the post of Assistant Professor in Botany/Zoology. The issue was deliberated in the Academic Council meeting dated 5th June, 2017 and the council had suggested to form a committee of the experts to give its view. Accordingly, a committee was formed comprising Prof. B. Ravindran, Emeritus Scientist, Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Prof. M.C. Dash, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University, Prof. A. Srinivasan, Chairperson, School of Chemical Sciences, NISER and Dr. Harapriya Mohapatra, FIC (AA), NISER. The meeting of the expert committee was held on 11th April, 2018. The minutes/suggestions of the committee was circulated for further deliberation in the council. The Academic Council deliberated on the designed format of the certificate as per the recommendation of the committee.

*The Academic Council considered the proposal of issue of Certificate of Equivalence to the students of Life Sciences (Int. M.Sc.) upon Programme Completion with minor changes in the content. Academic Council authorised the Chairman, AC to approve the final version of the certificate.*

<b>Item No.6</b>	<b>To consider and approve the proposal of offering 'Minor' for the students of 5 Year Int. M.Sc. Programme.</b>
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For the students from 2014 batch onwards, NISER is offering 'Minor' in the curriculum of the 5yr Integrated M.Sc. programme. The documents related to Minor in different Schools were circulated to all the members for reference. As the final degree is being provided by HBNI and there is no provision in the said degree to mention 'Minor' of a student and the 2014 batch students shall graduate in the month of June, 2019, necessary mechanisms may be devised to reflect the Minor of the students in the transcript as well as in the final degree certificate. Present and Proposed format of degree certificate and transcripts were circulated for reference of the members of the AC.

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