Academic Audit
Dept of Computer Engineering and Information Technology, College of Engineering, Pune

This academic audit report is prepared on the basis of the "Academic Report AY 2019-2020: Department of Computer Engineering and Information Technology, College of Engineering, Pune". Due to onging COVID-19 pandemic, a physical meeting could not be held. Here we summarize some of the key observations and recommendations.

Currently, there is only one undergraduate programme, B.Tech in Computer Engineering with intake strength 120. Further, Honours and Minor certification schemes have been introduced. The minor certification option is available to students from other departments. The current requirement for this certification is that the student must have completed pre-specified four courses (one course per semester) in the last four semesters. It was felt that this restriction 'to the last four semesters' is unnecessary and it is recommended to remove this. A student interested in pursuing a minor may start taking the specified four courses, subject to pre-requisites, starting from the third semester itself. This will give interested students enough time to explore several options such as a) do more advanced level courses, b) apply the CE knowledge they have learned in their projects during the last year or c) keep the last semester(s) free to explore industrial interactions through projects etc.

Another recommendation is that for honours certification, more courses should be made available (the current list has four courses and one must do all of them to be eligible for honours certification). Of course, all this will mean increased demand for the infrastructure (classrooms, lab, computing resources etc).

The current faculty strength is 38 (8 are PhDs). The number of faculty pursuing PhDs (16) has increased significantly in the recent years and this is a very welcome change. In comparison, the shortage of good technical staff (currently only 3 lab assistants have suitable technical qualifications) is a serious matter of concern.

The curriculum structure has been recently revised (academic year 2015-19) and is made up-to-date keeping the guidelines from ACM, IEEE and AICTE in mind. The overall contents of the syllabus are satisfactory (DUPC periodically undertakes the exercise of revision).

It was observed that the dept has close associations with various industries in and around Pune. This has helped in many ways such as organizing special lectures/short-courses by industry experts, summer-internships/projects for students etc. The report also highlights several achievements of the students and activities and events conducted by the department. The students-result statistics and placement statistics of recent years are also encouraging.

It is heartening to note that in recent years the faculty of the dept have made conscious efforts to improve the quality of research publications. They have been publishing their work in international conferences and journals. It is recommended that some standard well known rankings such as CORE be used in selecting the conferences and journals for publication. Further, a better area-wise organization of the publication list along-with the standard ranking of the venues is desirable and strongly recommended.

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