



Department of Microbiology
University of Delhi South Campus

Action taken
following
Students' Experience Survey

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

March-April 2018

Following the Student Experience Survey Report (April 2018) a meeting was convened between the Faculty members and the M.Sc. students to further discuss their opinions on various parameters and to confer upon and decide what action may be taken. The following were decided after extensive deliberations among all:

Regarding content of syllabi of the courses: In keeping with the needs and demands of the students of today, the syllabus is being revised and the Master's Course moved into the Choice Based Credit System, with students being offered Core Courses as well as Electives. This would give students more flexibility in the courses they wished to study and would give them the option of taking courses from other Departments within the FIAS as well. The design of the new syllabus is being created after taking into consideration the views of multiple stakeholders including students, alumni, and prospective employers from the corporate sector.

Regarding Internal Assessment and experience with the evaluation process: The students were in favour of more quizzes, and at least one mid-term/class test per paper. It was decided that students would give no more than one presentation for a single paper. Further, all internal assessment marks including those given for assignments and presentations would be disclosed to the students to make the process of evaluation more transparent.

To promote stimulation for innovative thinking: It was decided that students would be asked to tackle problem-solving questions regularly in the classroom. The classes could be made more lively by holding debates on some topics. The students appreciated the concept of a Microbiology-based crossword once a month, an initiative that has recently taken off. It was also decided that an Ideathon Competition could be held once a year to stimulate innovative thinking.

Regarding opportunities to participate in seminars and workshops: It was decided to invite guest speakers to the Department to give research talks more frequently. Further, the faculty members encouraged the students to take up internships/ participate in workshops during the summer and winter breaks.

With respect to opportunities in the Department for research and experience with research environment: The faculty members encouraged the students to be more interactive with the Ph.D scholars and invited the students to watch the Ph.D scholars at work. The students were also encouraged to attend the Work Presentations given by Ph.D. scholars every month to familiarize themselves with the ongoing research in the Department. Considering the students' request for more diverse areas of research, the faculty noted that currently the areas covered by the different laboratories are diverse and include the molecular epidemiology of *Yersinia*, the isolation and characterization of industrially important enzymes, the production of recombinant molecules of therapeutic importance, the DNA biology of the

protozoan *Leishmania*, and the molecular bases of viral cancers. It was noted that the faculty members are initiating research into emerging areas such as microbial genomics, anti-microbial resistance diagnostics, and microbial transcriptomics. In hiring new faculty members it was decided to seek faculty whose areas of research do not overlap, so as to create a broader and more diverse research base.

With respect to cocurricular activities: The students have requested for more cultural activities. In keeping with this request it was decided that from the coming session onwards, one day in the year will be dedicated as “Microbiology Day” for quiz competitions, just-a-minute talk competitions, cultural programmes, and games. The events would all be organized by the students of the Master’s programme. One member of the Faculty would serve as co-ordinator of the event.

Regarding functioning of a placement cell within the Department: As students are requesting for improvement in placement facilities, it was decided that instead of calling companies for placement only in the fourth semester, they would be asked to deliver counseling sessions to students in the second semester as well. This would educate the students on career options open to them in the industry sector. It was also decided to try and involve more companies in the placement drive.

With respect to the development of IT skills: A course on Computational Biology is being introduced in the revised syllabus to bring the students up to date with the latest tools available for biological research.

With respect to the development of critical thinking skills: It was decided that students would be asked to tackle problem-solving questions regularly in the classroom. Furthermore, the faculty members encouraged the students to attend the Journal Club meetings held once a month where Ph.D. scholars present and critically analyze the data in a recent research paper published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

Regarding the development of teamwork and collaborative skills: It was decided that each of the two M.Sc. classrooms would be provided with a Bulletin Board. Two students will take charge for the contents to be put up every month, by rotation. The contents to be put up would be contributed by the entire class. This would foster a spirit of self-governance and self-reliance. One of the students suggested the creation of a magazine or a blog under the guidance of a faculty member.

Regarding the Sports and Canteen Facilities: In general the students had grievances against the current canteen caterer. They also want more Sports Facilities in South Campus, and better grounds maintenance. Their requests will be forwarded to the appropriate authorities through proper channel.