



**Minutes of the meeting of  
Departmental Research Committee (DRC)**  
held on April 25, 2024

The first meeting of the *Departmental Research Committee (DRC)* of the Department of Planning & Geomatics was held on **Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 02:30 PM (IST)** in hybrid (online/offline) mode to discuss the following:

**Agenda Items:**

1. Launching the PhD program in the Department of Planning and Geomatics, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) from the current academic session (2024).
2. Recognition of Dr. Tariq Abdullah, Assistant Professor (Geomatics) and Dr. Ubaid Illahi, Assistant Professor (Planning) as a PhD Supervisor within the Department of Planning & Geomatics, IUST.
3. Recognition of Dr. Tariq Abdullah, Assistant Professor (Geomatics) and Dr. Ubaid Illahi, Assistant Professor (Planning) to Co-Supervise PhD research Programmes outside the Department and University.
4. Recommendations and Way Forward

**Resolutions:**

**Item No. 1:** Dr. Tariq Abdullah, the convener of the DRC and Head, Department of Planning & Geomatics, initiated the meeting by outlining the department's goals and vision. He proceeded to introduce the panel members present. Following this, Dr. Tariq Abdullah presented the proposal to launch a PhD programs within the department.

The proposal was discussed, and various aspects such as program structure, objectives, and feasibility were deliberated upon. The DRC appreciated the move of starting the PhD programs in Planning and Geomatics. The DRC unanimously recommended the launch of the PhD program both in Planning and Geomatics from the current academic session (2024). The DRC also recommended a two year's masters programs in the concerned or allied subject(s) as eligibility for the admission to the PhD program(s). The recommendation of the DRC may be placed before the forth coming BORS meeting for approval.

**Item No. 2:** The committee then moved on to discuss the recognition of potential PhD supervisors within the department. Two faculty members, **Dr. Tariq Abdullah** and **Dr. Ubaid Illahi**, were introduced to the panel as the faculty members eligible to serve as PhD supervisors. Their academic backgrounds, research contributions, publications, and any relevant awards were highlighted during the presentation. After thorough consideration and discussion, the panel members unanimously approved Dr. Tariq Abdullah and Dr. Illahi as eligible PhD supervisors, and the same may be placed before the forth coming BORS meeting for approval.



# ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

State University, Approved under 12(b) & 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956

## Department of Planning and Geomatics

1-University Avenue, Awantipora, Pulwama, 192122, Jammu and Kashmir

**Item No. 3:** The committee also deliberated upon the co-supervision of PhD students outside IUST. The DRC resolved that the eligible supervisors i.e., **Dr. Tariq Abdullah** and **Dr. Ubaid Illahi** shall be allowed/permitted to co-supervise Ph.D. Research Programme at other departments within the IUST, and other recognized Institutions outside the IUST and the same may be placed before the forth coming BORS meeting for approval.

**Item No. 4:** The committee engaged in a discussion regarding recommendations and the future course of action for the newly proposed PhD programs and the same may be placed before the forth coming BORS meeting for approval. Several key points were deliberated upon:

- 1. Designing Comprehensive Course Baskets:** It was proposed to develop comprehensive course baskets tailored to the needs of PhD students. These course baskets would encompass a diverse range of subjects relevant to Planning and Geomatics, ensuring a well-rounded academic experience for the students. It can also have subjects or labs outside the department as deemed feasible.
- 2. Integration of Course Components:** The committee suggested merging various course components such as lectures, labs, and tutorials to optimize the learning experience and streamline academic/research delivery.
- 3. Allocation of Funding for Conference Participation:** It was proposed to allocate a portion of the funding for conference participation to facilitate professional development and networking opportunities for PhD students. It will be taken forward to higher officials in the IUST for any approvals if needed.
- 4. Standardization of PhD Nomenclature:** The committee emphasized the importance of standardizing the nomenclature of the PhD degree offered by the department to ensure that graduates are eligible for a wide range of job opportunities in the future. The committee resolved that the department shall offer PhD Degree in Planning and PhD Degree in Geomatics separately.
- 5. Encouragement of Interdisciplinarity:** The committee stressed the need to encourage interdisciplinary research and collaboration. Some of the suggestions by the panel members included focusing on emerging concerns in fields such as Agriculture, Forests, Geology, etc. with an ultimate focus on sustainability. This approach, as recommended, would help in addressing complex challenges through diverse perspectives.
- 6. Designing Academic Calendar:** It was proposed to design an academic calendar that includes clear timelines for various activities such as progress reviews, thesis submissions, and other academic milestones. This would provide structure and guidance to both students and faculty throughout the PhD

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The following members were present in the DRC Meeting held on Thursday, April 25, 2024:

1. **Dr. Tariq Abdullah,**  
Head, Planning & Geomatics, IUST
2. **Dr. Peer Bilal Ahmad**  
Associate Professor, Deptt. of Mathematical  
Science, IUST  
(Internal Member)
3. **Dr. Ubaid Illahi,**  
Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Planning &  
Geomatics, IUST  
(Internal Member)
4. **Dr. Praveen K. Thakur,**  
Head & Scientist-SG, Water Resources  
Department, IIRS Dehradun  
(External member)
5. **Dr. Mohammad Muslim,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Deptt. of Environmental Sciences, University of  
Kashmir  
(External member)
6. **Dr. Divyesh M. Varade,**  
Assistant Professor, IIT Jammu  
(External member)

*Tariq Abdullah*  
*Peer Bilal Ahmad*

*Ubaid Illahi*

*Praveen K. Thakur*

*Mohammad Muslim*

*Divyesh M. Varade*

The meeting concluded with sincere gratitude extended to all DRC panel members and active engagement in furthering the department's research endeavours.

*Tariq Abdullah*  
25/04/24  
Convener  
Departmental Research Committee