

Minutes of the Meeting of the 13th Academic Council of Sikkim University held on 26th July 2013 at New Academic Building, 6th Mile, Samdur, Tadong

Members Present:

1. Prof. T.B. Subba, Vice-Chancellor
2. Shri Tashi Densapa, Director , Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok
3. Professor Rajkishor Gupta , HOD, Director, North Maharashtra University, Maharashtra
4. Dr. M.P. Thapa, Principal, Namchi Govt. College, Sikkim
5. Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Daniel Bara, S.J., Principal, Loyola College of Education, Namchi
6. Prof. S.F. Patil, Executive Director, International Affairs (Research & Training) Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Bharati Vidyapeeth Bhavan, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Pune
7. Prof. Pratap Chandra Pradhan, Dean, School of social Sciences & Humanities, Sikkim University
8. Dr. Dhaniraj Chettri, Dean of Students' Welfare, Sikkim University
9. Dr. S.K. Gurung, I/C Controller of examinations, Sikkim University
10. Dr. Subir Mikhopadhyay, Associate Professor & Head, department of Physical Sciences, Sikkim University
11. Dr. Sohel Firdos, Associate Professor & Head, department of geography & Natural Resources Management, Sikkim University
12. Dr. N.K. Paswan, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Peace & Conflict Studies & Management, Sikkim University
13. Dr. V. Krishna Ananth, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, Sikkim University
14. Dr. A.N. Shankar, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Management & Commerce, Sikkim University
15. Dr. N. Sathyanarayana, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Ethnobotany & social Medicine Studies, Sikkim University
16. Dr. Manish, Associate Professor & Head, department of International Relations/ Politics, Sikkim University.
17. Dr. Kabita Lama, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Nepali Language & Literature, Sikkim University.
18. Dr. S. Manivanan, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Floriculture & Horticulture Management, Sikkim University
19. Dr. Manesh Choubey, Associate Professor & Head, School of Policy Planning & Studies, Sikkim University.
20. Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Sciences, Sikkim University
21. Shri. K.M. Deb, OSD-Registrar, Sikkim University

Regret Received:

1. Prof. Peter Ronald De Souza, Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla
2. Prof. S.S. Singh, Director, The National Law Institute University, Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal
3. Smt. Keepu Tshering Lepcha, Social Activist, Civil servant & Padma Shri Awardee, Gangtok
4. Lt. Gen. Aditya Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Rtd), Haryana
5. Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Dean, School of Sciences, Sikkim University
6. Dr. H.K. Tiwari, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Microbiology, Sikkim University

As the meeting attained the quorum the Chairman declared the meeting open. He extended heartiest welcome to all the members present and especially to Prof. Rajkishor Gupta and Prof. S.F. Patil, who had come from a long way to attend the meeting.

AC:13:01**Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2013 were circulated but no comments were received. However, Prof. S.F. Patil pointed out that list of the members who attended the last meeting was not enclosed with the minutes. The Chairman ensured that in future the same would be enclosed. The minutes were then confirmed.

AC: 13: 02**ATR on the Minutes of the XIIAC meeting held on 9th March 2013:**

The action report on the minutes of the 12th Meeting of Academic Council held on 9th March 2013 was placed by the Registrar and the same was noted.

AC:13:03**i. Campus Development**

The report on Campus Development, including the position of construction of boundary wall, was noted.

ii. BCI Approval

It was noted that approval of the BCI to the Law Courses in the University as well as to its affiliated college namely, Sikkim Government Law College was communicated to the University over telephone.

AC:13:04

Item for Ratification

i. MOU with XIV Finance Commission

The Council ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor about signing an MOU with the 14th Finance Commission, Government of India to study the finance of the State of Sikkim.

ii. Increase in the number of seats from 30 to 40 in Nepali Department

The action taken by the Vice-Chancellor about increasing the intake capacity in the Department of Nepali from 30 to 40 was ratified. The council also authorised the Vice-Chancellor to take similar decision for other departments too, if it is so required.

AC:13:05

I. Items for Decision:

i. Affiliation matters

A. Renewal of temporary affiliation:

The council considered the reports submitted by different inspection committees and approved to renew the temporary affiliation for the year 2013-14 to the following colleges:-

1. Himalayan Pharmacy Institute
2. Damber Singh College
3. Sikkim Government B.Ed College, Soreng
4. Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing
5. Sikkim Government College, Rhenock
6. Loyola College of Education
7. Sikkim Government College, Namchi
8. Pakim Palatine College

It was also noted that following three colleges were granted permanent affiliation:

1. Sikkim Government College, Tadong
2. Harkamaya College of Education
3. Sikkim Government Law College

B. Pakim Palatine College: withdrawal of suspension of Science Subjects:

On the basis of the recommendations made by the two Inspection Committees the suspension of affiliation to the science subjects (Chemistry and Microbiology) in Pakim Palatine College was withdrawn for the year 2013-14.

II. Syllabus for Master Degree, M.Phil/ Ph.D Programme:

The Council discussed the draft syllabi of Master Degree 1st Semester and 3rd Semester for the subjects History, Political Science, English, Mathematics and Commerce. The syllabi of Master Degree 1st Semester for Education, Tourism, and Zoology and the entire Master's syllabi of Anthropology, Management, Horticulture and Hindi, M.Phil/Ph.D Syllabi for Nepali, Horticulture and History and the Syllabi for P.G. Diploma in Tea Management were approved. The Council constituted a committee consisting of the following members to look into the numbering and coding of each syllabus:

1. Dr. Nawal Kishor Paswan, Associate Professor
2. Dr. Manish Choubey, Associate Professor
3. Dr. A.N. Shankar, Associate Professor

The Council also authorized the Chairman to consider the report of the Committee and to approve the same.

(II.G)Correction in BA (Hons) Sociology Syllabus

The Council noted the mistake in the syllabus and it was decided that Paper 3 should be "Sociological Theories" and Paper 7 should be "Sociology of Religion".

III. Request of M.Phil students of Science Departments for refund of Laboratory Fees charged by the University:

The Council considered the request made by the M.Phil students with all sympathy and decided that the department not having practical in 1st and second semesters may be exempted from paying the laboratory fee but for the other two remaining semesters they shall have to pay the same.

IV. New Fee Structure for all (including old) students of the University from August 2013

After detailed discussion, the Council decided that the hostel fee be charged from all students at uniform rate, i.e., the fee introduced from August 2013. However, other fees shall be payable by the students at the rate as it was at the time of admission. The Council also constituted a committee consisting of the following members to identify the departments running professional courses. The report may be placed to the next meeting of Academic Council.

1. Dr. Manish, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations
2. Dr. S. Manivanan, Associate Professor, Floriculture and Horticulture Management, and
3. Dr. Daniraj Chettri, Dean of Students Welfare

V. BCA-MCA Integrated Course for 5 years:-

After detailed discussion the Council decided that the BCA-MCA Integrated Course should be for 5 years, and not 6 years as published in the University annual reports and prospectuses.

VI. MoU with Sir MVIV, Bangalore

The Council appreciated the initiative taken by the University in signing the agreement with the MVIV, Bangalore for collaborative research, training and HR development in Sikkim University and students and faculty members who would have access to the rich resources of the MVIV. It was also noted that proposal was vetted by the legal cell of the University.

VII. MA/MSc for Economics, Mathematics and Psychology, like for Anthropology and Geography:-

As in the case of Anthropology and Geography the Council noted that students with background either in Science or Arts may seek admission at the Master degree level in the subjects like Economics, Mathematics and Psychology. It is therefore decided that either MA or M.Sc. Degree be awarded to such students on successful completion of the courses depending on their Arts or Science background. Those coming from Commerce background would also be awarded MA in the above five subjects.

VIII. Provision for Lateral Exit with the Degree BA/BSc/BCA/BA-LLB (integrated Course) and percentage of seats for lateral entry at Master's Level in all integrated courses:

After detailed discussion the Council noted that lateral exit and lateral entry are an essential part of integrated courses and decided that the University should introduce the same. It was also decided that 10% of the seats be reserved for lateral entry which may exceed if vacancies are available for non-availability of candidates from within the integrated programme.

IX. Students' Feedback Questionnaire:

The Council noted that the students' feedback mechanism is one of the important aspects considered by NAAC at the time of considering accreditation to the University. To meet the requirement the Council approved the format placed at Annexure 'A'. It was further suggested that NAAC guidelines for students' feedback may be consulted.

X. Item no 'X' was considered along with the item No. 'XIV'.

XI. Establishment of Community College:

The Council considered the directives of MHRD for establishing 'Community College' which need not be a physical entity but a concept that seeks to integrate skill with higher education, so that employability of the students in Central University is enhanced. The Council approved the same in principle.

XII. National Vocational Education Qualification Framework:

It was reported that MHRD and UGC have formulated a National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) with the aim of crating 500 million skilled manpower by 2022. The Council approved the same in principle and decided that possibilities of outlining the levels of certification, nomenclature of the degrees that may be awarded, vocational sectors, eligibility, nature of faculty resources, etc may be considered keeping in view the requirement of Sikkim in particular and the Himalayan region in general.

XIII. Basic Certificate Courses in Chinese and Nepali:

The Council considered the demand of the Wireless Experimental Units of Indian army for introduction of short courses of 3 months' duration at least twice in a year in Nepali and Chinese languages and decided to introduce 3 months' Basic Certificate Course in Nepali and Chinese to meet the requirements of the Indian army.

XIV. List of experts for selection committees:

The Council approved the list of experts for the selection committees as presented by the Chairman for the subjects mentioned below:

1. Zoology
2. Management
3. Commerce
4. History
5. Political science
6. Peace and Conflict Studies and Management
7. International Relations
8. Anthropology
9. Sociology
10. Hindi
11. Nepali
12. Floriculture and Horticulture
13. Education
14. English
15. Law
16. Mathematics
17. Music
18. Tourism

XV. Appointment of faculty members on contract:

The Council considered the shortage of faculty members at senior levels and the difficulties that University has been facing to recruit persons to fill in such positions and decided that the Vice-Chancellor be authorized to revoke the provision under **Statute 19 of the University Act** to tide over the situation and improve the quality of higher education.

XVI. Chartered Accountancy (CA) as a qualifying degree for admission to Ph.D:

The Council decided that the Chartered Accountancy degree awarded by the Institute of Chartered Accountant of India be recognized as the qualifying degree for admission to PhD programme in Sikkim University.

AC.13:06

Items from the Chair:

1. Anomalies in Paper 9, Module B, Unit 3 in the syllabus of the English degree course:

The Council noted the mistake in English syllabus for Degree Course, which was the repetition of two topics in Paper 2 and Paper 9 in the syllabus prescribed for English Degree Course and constituted a committee with Prof. Pratap Chandra Pradhan as Chairman with the power to co-opt two members to suggest the necessary correction. The report submitted by the committee may be considered by the Chairman and take necessary decision. The action taken may be reported to the next Academic Council.

2. LLM (One Year):

The proposal to start 1-yr LLM degree was deferred to the XII meeting of the Council. The Council considered it again and approved the same.

3. Reward for Post Doctoral Experience:

The Council considered the demand of some faculty members of the University with considerable post-doctoral experience for appropriate reward in terms of increment in academic grade pay or other such benefits as received by some central educational institutions in India and directed that the University may study the demand and place the proposal along with supporting documents in the next Council meeting.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

K. M. Deb
OSD/Registrar

T. B. Subba
Vice-Chancellor & Chairperson