

**Minutes of the 29th meeting of the Academic Council held on
5th September 2022 at University's Campus, Yangang**

29th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 5th September 2022 at 11 AM at University's Campus, Yangang. Following were present:

1. Prof. Shanti S. Sharma - Chairperson
Vice-Chancellor (I/C)
2. Dr. B.B. Pradhan - Member
Principal
Sikkim Institute of Science & Technology
Chisopani, Namchi District, Sikkim
3. Sh. P.W. Rinzing - Member
Secretary, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology

Represented by
Prof. H.P. Gangnegi
HoD, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies
Namgyal Institute of Tibetology
4. Prof. N. Sathyanarayana - Member
Dean, School of Life Sciences
5. Prof. Manesh Choubey - Member
Dean, School of Social Sciences
6. Prof. S.S. Mahapatra - Member
Dean, School of Professional Studies
7. Prof. Sanjay Dahal - Member
Dean, School of Physical Sciences &
Dean, Students' Welfare
8. Prof. Kabita Lama - Member
Dean, School of Languages & Literature
9. Prof. Sohel Firdos - Member
Dean, School of Human Sciences
10. Dr. S. Murali Mohan - Member
Controller of Examinations
11. Dr. Shri Ram - Member
Librarian
12. Prof. Laxuman Sharma - Member
Head, Department of Horticulture

13. Prof. Nawal K. Paswan
Head, Department of Peace & Conflict Studies
and Management - Member
14. Prof. Rosy Chamling,
Head, Department of English - Member
15. Prof. Anil Kumar Misra,
Head, Department of Geology - Member
16. Prof. Satyananda Panda,
Head, Department of Psychology - Member
17. Prof. Veenu Pant,
Head, Department of History - Member
18. Dr. Krishnendu Dutta
Head, Department of Music - Member
19. Dr. Durga Prasad Chhetri,
Head, Department of Political Science - Member
20. Dr. Mohan Pratap Pradhan,
Head, Department of Computer Applications - Member
21. Dr. T.J.M.S. Raju,
Head, Department of Education - Member
22. Dr. Krishna Murari,
Head, Department of Management - Member
23. Dr. Anil Kumar Misra,
Head, Department of Geology - Member
24. Dr. Hardeep Singh
Head, Department of Hindi - Member
25. Dr. Bhoj Kumar Acharya
Head, Department of Zoology - Member
26. Dr. Amit Chakraborty
Head, Department of Mathematics - Member
27. Dr. Nitish Mondal
Head, Department of Anthropology - Member
28. Dr. Rajesh Raj S.N.,
Head, Department of Economics - Member

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| 29. | Dr. Ajay Tripathi
Head, Department of Physics | - Member |
| 30. | Dr. A.N. Shankar
Head, Department of Commerce | - Member |
| 31. | Prof. Pushpa Sharma
Professor, Department of Nepali | - Member |
| 32. | Prof. Dhani Raj Chhetri
Professor, Department of Botany | - Member |
| 33. | Prof. Swarup Roy
Professor, Department of Computer Applications | - Member |
| 34. | Prof. K.R. Rama Mohan
Professor, Department of Anthropology | - Member |
| 35. | Prof. Komol Singha
Professor, Department of Economics | - Member |
| 36. | Dr. Vimal Khawas
Associate Professor
Department of Peace & Conflict Studies and
Management | - Member |
| 37. | Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Gupta
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry | - Member |
| 38. | Shri K.V.S. Kameswara Rao
Registrar | - Secretary |

Following members attended the meeting online through video conferencing:

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| 39. | Prof. R. Ganesh
Senior Professor – H
Institute for Plasma Research | - Member |
| 40. | Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang
Head, Department of Microbiology | - Member |

The following members could not attend the meeting because of their pre-occupation and sought leave of absence:

1. Prof. Swati A. Sachdeva, Head, Department of Sociology
2. Prof. Abhijit Dutta, Professor, Department of Commerce

Dr. S.K. Gurung, Joint Registrar (Acad.) and Shri Satyam Rana, Assistant were present to assist the Council. Mrs. Dimple Rai, Technical Assistant was present to provide technical support during the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed all members present in the 29th meeting of the Academic Council and especially welcomed the following members who were attending for the first time.

1. Prof. R. Ganesh, Senior Professor-H, Institute of Plasma Research
2. Dr. B.B. Pradhan, Principal, Sikkim Institute of Science & Technology
3. Dr. Ajay Tripathi, Head, Department of Physics
4. Dr. T.J.M.S. Raju, Head, Department of Education
5. Prof. Komol Singha, Professor, Department of Economics
6. Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

The Chairperson also put on record the contributions of the following and thanked them who completed their tenure in the Academic Council:

1. Dr. Sudhan Pradhan, Principal, Sikkim Government Science College, Chakung
2. Dr. Arati Chhetri, Principal, Harkamaya College of Education
3. Prof. Shanti S. Sharma, Former Head, Department of Botany
4. Prof. Subir Mukhopadhyay, Former Head, Department of Physics
5. Prof. Praveen Mishra, Former Head, Department of Law
6. Prof. Yodida Bhutia, Former Head, Department of Education
7. Prof. Niladri Bag, Former Head, Department of Horticulture
8. Prof. Mohammad Yasin, Former Professor, Department of Political Science

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up as under:

SECTION-1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES & ACTION TAKEN REPORT

AC 29.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 28th meeting of the Academic Council held on 10th December 2021

The Academic Council confirmed the minutes of 28th meeting of the Academic Council held on 10th December 2021 as circulated to all the members on 30th December 2021.

AC 29.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 28th meeting of the Academic Council held on 10th December 2021

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 28th meeting held on 10th December 2021. The Academic Council noted the action taken report.

**SECTION-2
REPORTING ITEMS**

AC 29.2.1: Synopses for M.Phil/Ph.D registrations in the University

The Council noted the number of synopses for Ph.D registrations in the University under each School of Studies.

**SECTION-3
RATIFICATION MATTERS**

AC 29.3.1: Panel of External Examiners

The Council noted that in view of the due date of submission of dissertation of three MPhil students as on 30.06.2022, the Dean, School of Human Sciences had submitted panel of External Examiners for evaluation of MPhil dissertation for students belonging to the Departments of Geography=1 and Psychology=2. In consideration of the same to meet the deadline, the Vice-Chancellor approved the panel of external examiners.

The Academic Council ratified the action of the Vice-Chancellor in approving the panel of external examiners.

AC 29.3.2: Preparation of merit list for the 6th Convocation in view of judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim

The Council noted that the Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim in its judgement dated 02.09.2021 in the W.P.(C) No. 36 of 2019 declared the following provisions of the University Ordinances and Regulations ultra vires and has struck down:

- i) Section OC-4 (para 3) and OC-5 (para 11) of the University Ordinance which states that “...*the scores obtained after re-evaluation or improvement examination shall...not be considered for medals.*”
- ii) Section 10 of the Regulations on Conduct of Examinations which states “.....*The Re-evaluated candidates, however, shall not be eligible for the award of Rank/prizes and medals as the case may be.*”

In view of the above judgment of the Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim, the Examination Department proposed that the merit list for award of Gold and Silver medals for the ensuing **6th Convocation**, for students passing in the year **2020, 2021** and **2022**, shall include those

students with reevaluated results but otherwise fulfilling all other criteria for award of medals as laid out in the rules of the University. The Vice-Chancellor approved the proposal in view of its immediate implementation.

The Academic Council ratified the above action of the Vice-Chancellor.

SECTION-4 MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

A. PANEL OF EXAMINERS, ETC.

AC 29.4.A1: Panel of External Examiners

The Council approved the panel of examiners as per the details given below as recommended by the concerned School Board for the purpose as mentioned in the table:

Sl. No.	Name of the School	Name of the Department	External examiners to be invited for
1)	School of Physical Sciences	Chemistry	3 PhD theses
		Geology	6 PhD theses
		Physics	2 PhD theses
2)	School of Languages & Literature	English	2 PhD theses
		Nepali	1 PhD thesis
3)	School of Life Sciences	Microbiology	MSc Practical examination
		Pharmacy	Practical examinations
		Botany	3 PhD theses
		Horticulture	MSc/PhD practical examinations; 7 PhD thesis
4)	School of Human Sciences	Anthropology	2 PhD theses; 1 MPhil dissertation
		Geography	1 MPhil dissertation
		Psychology	1 PhD thesis; 2 MPhil dissertation
5)	School of Professional Studies	Commerce	1 PhD thesis
		Tourism	2 PhD theses
		Mass Communication	1 PhD thesis
		Education	4 PhD theses
		Music	2 PhD theses; 4 MPhil dissertation
		Management	2 PhD theses
6)	School of Social Sciences	History	1 MPhil dissertation
		Economics	1 PhD thesis; 2 MPhil dissertation

		International Relations	2 PhD theses; 1 MPhil dissertation
		Political Science	3 PhD theses; 5 MPhil dissertation
		Law	2 PhD theses
		PCS&M	6 MPhil dissertation

B. SYLLABUS MATTERS/COURSES ETC.

AC 29.4.B1: Revised syllabus of Master of Library and Information Science

The Librarian presented the important points where modifications have been suggested to be included in the already approved syllabus of the Master of Library and Information Science.

The Academic Council after deliberations approved the amended syllabus of Master of Library and Information Science.

AC 29.4.B2: Rectification in the Credits distribution in a paper of PhD coursework syllabus of Horticulture

The Council noted that keeping in view of the ICAR guidelines and syllabus, and to opt for the current existing marks distribution pattern as per the University norms, the Department of Horticulture proposed changes in credit distribution in a paper of PhD coursework syllabus, viz., HOR RS 624 - Advances in Landscape Architecture from 1+2 (1 credit theory + 2 credits practical) to 2+1 (2 credits theory + 1 credit practical).

After deliberations, the Council approved rectification in the credits distribution in the abovementioned paper of PhD coursework syllabus of Horticulture.

AC 29.4.B3: Minor Revision in B.Pharm. programme

The Academic Council, after deliberation, approved the following minor revision in B.Pharm. programme:

- (a) To shift "Communicative English" in B. Pharm Semester-IV (carrying 100 marks) to B. Pharm Semester-I in the name of "Communication Skills" with total marks of 50 (theory 35 marks + practical 15 marks) as prescribed in the PCI syllabus.
- (b) To shift "Environmental Studies" studied in B. Pharma Semester-V (100 marks) to B. Pharma Semester-II in the name of "Environmental Sciences" of seventy-five (75) marks as prescribed by the PCI syllabus.

AC 29.4.B4: Implementation of FYUG in all the UG departments under Sikkim University (only)

Prof. N. Sathyanaryana, Chairperson, NEPCSU presented the matter. The Academic Council, after deliberation, approved implementation of Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUG) in all the UG departments under the Sikkim University (only).

The Council was informed that the final guidelines on FYUG have not yet been received from the UGC. The Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to adopt the UGC final guidelines on FYUG once they are notified.

It was also informed that University has already prepared the course structure of FYUG based on the draft guidelines of the UGC. The admission process for the UG programme is going on and the 1st Semester classes shall commence after completion of the same. In case the UGC final guidelines on FYUG are notified before the commencement of 1st Semester UG classes, the guidelines will be implemented after approval of the Vice-Chancellor as authorized by the Academic Council and will be placed for ratification in the next meeting of the Academic Council. However, if the UGC final guidelines are not notified before the commencement of the 1st Semester UG classes, then it was decided to start the classes of FYUG with the 1st Semester course structure prepared on the basis of UGC draft guidelines, as advised by the Chairperson of UGC.

C. RULES AND POLICY MATTERS

AC 29.4.C1: Period for completion of Ph.D. coursework in Horticulture

The Council noted that the approved syllabus for Ph.D. coursework in Horticulture consists of 32 credits (based on the ICAR regulation) which are spread over two semesters. However, University Ordinance OC-7 notified on 9th October 2020 states that, “the course work shall be of one semester (12 credits) duration only and must be cleared within one semester of commencement of the course. However, in exceptional cases on the recommendation of Departmental Council (DC), the candidate may be allowed to complete the coursework in the immediate relevant semester”. BoS Horticulture observed that completion of coursework following the approved syllabus is not possible in a semester. Hence, to remove the difficulties, the Departmental Council and BoS of Horticulture Department has proposed the following:

1. Ph.D. course in Horticulture may be completed in 2 semesters. However, in exceptional cases on the recommendation of DC, the candidate may be allowed to complete the coursework in the immediate relevant semester.

2. As per OC- 7, for the Ph.D. programme, the maximum permissible period between admission and registration shall be three semesters or 18 months. If the candidate fails to complete the coursework in two semesters, it may be extended up to 5 semesters or 30 months.

The School Board of Life Sciences in its meeting held on 25.07.2022 observed that the above proposals require amendment of Ordinance OC-7 and the Board has recommended to the Academic Council to get them further examined by an expert committee.

After deliberation, the Council accepted the recommendation of the School Board of Life Sciences and suggested to constitute an expert committee which will look into comprehensively the similar matter existing in other departments including Horticulture which are governed by the regulatory bodies. The Academic Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to constitute an Expert Committee.

AC 29.4.C2: Minutes/Report of the meeting of the Committee for drafting rules for Maternity Leave for students of UG and PG programmes in Sikkim University and its affiliated colleges

The Council noted that in pursuant to the UGC letter no. 21-116/2021 (CPP-II) dated 14th December 2021, a committee to draft rules for maternity leave for women students of UG and PG programmes in Sikkim University and its affiliated colleges was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. N.K. Paswan with Prof. Dhani Raj Chhetri, Prof. Laxuman Sharma, Prof. Yodida Bhutia and Dr. Suresh K. Gurung as Members.

The Chairman of the committee presented the matter duly mentioning that the issue is very sensitive. It was also observed that there should be more women members in the committee. After deliberation, the Council recommended for constitution of a new committee with adequate representation of the women members. The Vice-Chancellor, being the Chairman of the Academic Council, has been authorized to constitute a committee either by expanding the existing committee with more women members or to constitute a fresh committee with majority of women members and place the report of the committee for consideration in the next meeting of the Academic Council.

D. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC 29.4.D1: Revision in the rate of per diem of students going for field work

The Council observed that field work is a compulsory component for completion of Master's degree in the Departments under the School. However, the per diem of the students going for field work has not been revised since 2013 while the prices of food and accommodation

have gone up substantially. Presently, the rate of per diem for students is ₹250/- which is felt not adequate to cover the expenses.

After deliberation, the House recommended for constitution of an expert committee with Finance Officer as one of Members to look into the rate of per diem and also the nature of tours/field works/internship. The proposed committee may consult the Head(s)/In-charge(s) of the relevant departments during preparation of the report. The Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to constitute the said committee.

AC 29.4.D2: Increase of seats in M.Sc. Environmental Science

After deliberations, the Council approved the recommendation of the School Board of Physical Sciences for increasing the intake in M.Sc. Environmental Science programme from 12 seats to 22 seats.

AC 29.4.D3: Uniform use of nomenclature of the programme as per UGC Guidelines

After deliberation, the Council approved the recommendation of the School Board of Physical Sciences for using uniform abbreviation for Master of Library and Information Science programme as M.Lib.I.Sc. as per the UGC guidelines.

AC 29.4.D4: Rectification of course name of B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering to B.Tech Computer Engineering and B.Tech in Civil Engineering to B.Tech Civil Engineering in all official documents and academic records of the students

The Council observed that the matter should have been placed in the concerned School Board before taking it to the Academic Council directly. The Council also observed that the programme in Engineering has not been assigned to any of the Schools of Studies in the University.

After deliberation, the Council considered the proposal of Principal, Sikkim Institute of Science and Technology, Chisopani for rectification of the existing terminology of B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering to B.Tech Computer Engineering and B.Tech in Civil Engineering to B.Tech Civil Engineering in principle subject to submission of relevant original documents provided by AICTE while according approval for the programme to the Controller of Examinations for verification of nomenclature in the approval letter received from the AICTE.

Further, it was also decided to constitute a committee to look into the modalities for aligning the programmes in Board of Studies and School Boards. It was informed that in all likelihood, the programme will align with the School of Physical Sciences as our own Department of Computer Applications is aligned with the School of Physical

Sciences. From now onwards, all the matters of the said programme of the college to be placed in the Academic Council should have come through a School Board after its allotment.

AC 29.4.D5: Transfer of Academic Credits earned by students through online platform and Reflection of the same in the Marksheet

It was informed that there is a need for a common policy applicable to all departments for transfer of Academic Credits earned by students through online platform and Reflection of the same in the Marksheet as required under NEP 2020.

After deliberation, the Council decided to defer the matter till a common policy for all departments is framed.

AC 29.4.D6: Memorandum of Understanding between Sikkim University and CSIR-NEIST

The Council noted that the Department of Geology submitted a proposal for signing of an MoU between Sikkim University and CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Assam with the following purpose and objectives:

1. The broad purpose of this MoU is to promote cooperation in scientific education and research between CSIR-NEIST and Sikkim University. The mutual collaboration will enable the utilization of each other's strength in teaching and research, which in turn, will mutually benefit the students and faculty members of both the Institute/University and to create a framework for such a platform of collaboration.
2. The specific purpose of the MoU is towards monitoring of the seismic activities in and around Tripura. CSIR-NEIST would facilitate installation of BB-Seismometers along with digitizers for a seismic station to be set up at Geological Park in Sikkim University campus at Yangang.

The Council, after deliberation, considered the draft MoU and recommended the same for approval of the Executive Council.

AC 29.4.D7: Memorandum of Understanding between Sikkim University and IIM Shillong

The Council noted that an MoU to be signed between Sikkim University and IIM Shillong has been proposed for academic cooperation. The MoU includes exchange of students and faculty members of the two partner institutes, promoting entrepreneurship, promotion of lectures, workshops and exhibitions, exchange of information and academic publications, facilitate good governance and academic reforms, organize various knowledge dissemination activities jointly, etc. Among other initiatives under the MoU, both IIM Shillong and Sikkim University shall conduct short term certificate

courses jointly and Certificates shall also be signed by both the Institute/University.

The Council, after deliberation, considered the draft MoU and recommended the same for approval of the Executive Council.

SECTION 5 MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES

AC 29.6.1 Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 23rd July 2022

The Council noted the Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 23rd July 2022.

AC 29.6.2 Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 22nd July 2022

The Council noted the Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 22nd July 2022.

AC 29.6.3 Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 26th July 2022

The Council noted the Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 26th July 2022.

AC 29.6.4 Minutes of the 15th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 27th July 2022

The Council noted the Minutes of the 15th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 27th July 2022.

AC 29.6.5 Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 29th July 2022

The Council noted the Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 29th July 2022.

AC 29.6.6 Minutes of the 11th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 25th July 2022

The Council noted the Minutes of the 11th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 25th July 2022.

AC 29.6.7 Minutes of the 15th meeting of the College Development Council held on 1st August 2022.

The Council noted the Minutes of the 15th meeting of the College Development Council held on 1st August 2022. The Council after deliberations recommended the following items for approval by the Executive Council:

- i) Renewal of Ph.D. Programme at Harkamaya College of Education from the Academic Session 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23. However, college may start admission of Ph.D students from the academic session 2022-23.
- ii) Renewal of Temporary Affiliation of (14) Colleges/Institutes/ Subjects/Courses for the academic session 2022-23
- iii) Inspection of Permanently Affiliated Colleges

SECTION - 6
ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

AC 29.6.1 PG syllabus and duty leave

Prof. Veenu Pant, Deptt. of History raised concerns with regard to revision of PG syllabus in all departments without waiting for the direction from UGC to align with NEP 2020 and UGC guidelines.

She also raised the issue of duty leave stating that it may be granted on annual basis. It is to note that duration of duty leave shall ordinarily not to exceed 7 days in a semester excluding holidays and days of travel as per the OB-3 of the University Ordinances.

Looking into the general requirement all concerned, the Academic Council authorized Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee to address both the issues and submit a report.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
(K.V.S. Kameswara Rao)
Registrar & Secretary
Academic Council

Sd/-
(Prof. Shanti S. Sharma)
Vice-Chancellor (I/C) & Chairman
Academic Council