

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON
17TH OCTOBER, 2008**

The first meeting of the Academic Council was held on **17th October, 2008** at Hotel Royal Plaza, Gangtok. The following members were present:

1.	Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, Vice Chancellor	Ex-officio Chairman
2.	Prof. Y.D. Prasad, Former Director, A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, and Former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Patna Univ.	Member
3.	Prof. R.P. Tiwari, Dean, School of Forestry & Earth Sciences Mizoram University, Aizwal	Member
4.	Prof. Ravi Shankar Srivastava. Centre for Regional Development Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	Member
5.	Prof. (Dr.) J.P. Sharma, In-charge, Department of Commerce Delhi University South Campus, Delhi	Member
6.	Prof. P.K. Banik, Director, NIT, Silchar	Member
7.	Prof. V.S. Prasad, Former Director, NAAC, Bangalore	Member
8.	Shri Sanjoy Hazarika, Centre for North-East Studies & Policy Research, New Delhi	Member
9.	Prof. Iftekhar Ahmed, Director, AJKMCR, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi	Member
10.	Dr. G.S. Yonzon, Former Principal, Kalimpong College	Member
11.	Dr. Neelima Deshmukh, Director, Centre for Women Studies & Development, Nagpur University, Nagpur	Member
12.	Prof. Anjan Mukharjee, Department of Mathematics, Tripura Univ.	Member
13.	Prof. Manvendra Kishore Das, Dean, Faculty of Education, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi	Member
	Shri S.K.Sarkar, Registrar, Sikkim University	Ex-officio Secretary

The following members could not attend the meeting:

1. Prof. A.R. Reddy, School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad
2. Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta
3. Prof. T. Karunakaran, Former Vice-Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Institute
4. Prof. (Dr.) S.F. Patil, Former Dean of Science, University of Pune & Former Vice-Chancellor, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune
5. Prof. Tanka Bahadur Subba, Head, Department of Anthropology, NEHU, Shillong
6. Prof. Atul Sharma, Former Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar

7. Prof. Tista Bagchi, Department of Linguistics, University of Delhi
8. Prof. Jose Verghese, Former Vice-Chancellor, Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur

The following officers of Sikkim University attended the meeting to assist the Chairman:

1. Shri P.V.Ravi, Finance Officer
2. Shri S.Gopinath, Officer on Special Duty
3. Dr J.P.Tamang, Academic Coordinator
4. Shri Vimal Khawas, Associate Fellow

In the Forenoon, a Plenary Session of the Academic Council was held at Chintan Bhavan, Gangtok, in which Shri B.P.Singh, HE Governor of Sikkim and Chief Rector, Sikkim University was present as the Chief Guest. Shri P D Rai, the Deputy Chairman, State Planning Commission, graced the occasion by his presence . The esteemed members of the Academic Council were introduced to the Hon'ble Chief Rector and also to the august gathering, which included senior officers of the Government of Sikkim, respected members of the civil society of Sikkim, academicians from Central and State institutions, media persons, principals, directors, teachers and students of Sikkim University and its affiliated colleges. They were extended a warm welcome by Prof. Mahendra P Lama, Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University. The Vice-Chancellor gave a detailed account about the mission of the University and the steps taken so far by the University in fulfilling the mission.

The business session was held at Hotel Royal Plaza in the afternoon. Before taking up the formal agenda items, the Vice-Chancellor once again welcomed all the esteemed members and expressed his gratitude to them for making it convenient to attend the meeting. Then the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

AC:01:01 To ratify the syllabus on English (General and Honours) and English (Compulsory) prepared by the Under graduate (UG) Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in English (General and Honours) and English (Compulsory) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-01.

AC:01:02 To ratify the syllabus on Nepali (General and Honours) and Nepali (Compulsory) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Nepali (General and Honours) and Nepali (Compulsory) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-02.

AC:01:03 To ratify the syllabus on Lepcha (General) and Lepcha (Compulsory) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Lepcha (General) and Lepcha (Compulsory) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-03.

AC:01:04 To ratify the syllabus on Bhutia (General) and Bhutia (Compulsory) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Bhutia (General) and Bhutia (Compulsory) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-04.

AC:01:05 To ratify the syllabus on Limboo (General) and Limboo (Compulsory) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Limboo (General) and Limboo (Compulsory) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-05.

AC:01:06 To ratify the syllabus on Environmental Studies (Compulsory) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Environmental Studies (Compulsory) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-06.

AC:01:07 To ratify the syllabus on Economics (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Economics (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-07.

AC:01:08 To ratify the syllabus on Geography (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Geography (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-08.

AC:01:09 To ratify the syllabus on Education (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Education (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-09.

AC:01:10 To ratify the syllabus on Sociology (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Sociology (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-10.

AC:01:11 To ratify the syllabus on History (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in History (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-11.

AC:01:12 To ratify the syllabus on Political Science (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Political Science (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-12.

AC:01:13 To ratify the syllabus on Tourism (General) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Tourism (General) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-13.

AC:01:14 To ratify the syllabus on Physical Education (General) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Physical Education (General) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-14.

AC:01:15 To ratify the syllabus on Journalism and Mass Communication (General) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Journalism and Mass Communication (General) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-15.

AC:01:16 To ratify the syllabus on Botany (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Botany (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-16.

AC:01:17 To ratify the syllabus on Zoology (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Zoology (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-17.

AC:01:18 To ratify the syllabus on Chemistry (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Chemistry (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-18.

AC:01:19 To ratify the syllabus on Physics (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee

The Council ratified the syllabus in Physics (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-19.

AC:01:20 *To ratify the syllabus on Mathematics (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee*

The Council ratified the syllabus in Mathematics (General and Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-20.

AC:01:21 *To ratify the syllabus on Microbiology (Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee*

The Council ratified the syllabus in Microbiology (Honours) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-21.

AC:01:22 *To ratify the syllabus on Commerce (General and Honours) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee*

The Council ratified the syllabus in **Commerce (General and Honours)** as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-22.

AC:01:23 *To ratify the syllabus on Law (LLB) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee*

The Council ratified the syllabus in Law (LLB) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-23.

AC:01:24 *To ratify the syllabus on Pharmacy (B. Pharm) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee*

The Council ratified the syllabus in **Pharmacy (B. Pharm)** as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-24.

AC:01:25 *To ratify the syllabus on Bachelor of Library Science (1 year course) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee*

The Council ratified the syllabus in Bachelor of Library Science (BLIS) as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-25.

AC:01:26 *To ratify the syllabus on B.Ed (1-year course) prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee*

The Council ratified the syllabus in B.Ed. as prepared by the UG Syllabus Review Committee under the semester system as in Annexure-26.

While ratifying items from AC:01:01 to AC:01:26, the Council appreciated the efforts taken by the University team in reviewing all the syllabi of the under graduate courses within a very short period. However, it was suggested that all these syllabi may be reviewed by the respective Boards of Studies, to be constituted, and placed before the Council for its consideration.

AC:01:27 *Ratification of Structure of Undergraduate Courses under Semester System*

The Council noted that all the Colleges of Sikkim affiliated to Sikkim University have adopted the semester system with a newly introduced inter-disciplinary curriculum and evaluation system. The Council also noted that this would facilitate intense academic period and would lead to prompt evaluation system.

While ratifying the Structure, the Council suggested that this may be reviewed after the second semester.

AC: 01:28 *Ratification of PG Courses in affiliated colleges in M.Ed., M.Pharm and LLM*

The Academic Council noted that North Bengal University had granted affiliation to three colleges of Sikkim to run Post Graduate courses. These colleges are Harka Maya College of Education (M.Ed. course), Himalayan Pharmacy Institute (M.Pharm), and Sikkim Govt. Law College (LLM). Vice Chancellor approved these colleges to continue their PG courses as per the syllabus of North Bengal University till Sikkim University designs its own curricula for all these three courses.

The Council ratified the above action taken by the Vice Chancellor.

AC:01:29 *Ratification of Post Graduate Courses syllabi in (1) Sociology, (2) International Relations & Politics, (3) Peace and Conflict Studies (4) Microbiology*

Sikkim University has started the following four Post Graduate Courses during the academic session 2008-2009:

- (1) Sociology (under School of Social Sciences)
- (2) International Relations & Politics (under School of Global Studies)
- (3) Peace and Conflict Studies (under School of Peace, Conflict & Human Security Studies)
- (4) Microbiology (under School of Life Sciences)

The syllabi in these four courses have been designed from UGC model syllabi and those of Jawaharlal Nehru University; Banaras Hindu University; Jamia Millia University; University of Hyderabad; Osmania University; and Delhi University as placed in **Annexures 28-31**. The Vice Chancellor approved the first semester of PG courses with these adopted syllabi till the new syllabi are designed and finalized by the constituted PG Curricula Committees.

The Council ratified the above action taken by the Vice Chancellor.

AC:01:30 *To consider and ratify the evaluation system implemented in Sikkim University*

The Academic Council noted the following:

The University have carried out a college reforms process and have brought the entire college programmes under semester system with a newly introduced inter-disciplinary curriculum and evaluation system. Semester system would facilitate intense academic period and lead to prompt evaluation system. It would be very useful to track and maintain an individualized performance record of all the students through intensive interactive process

between the students and teachers. There would be a short summer break and a relatively longer winter break for the students and faculty members.

The University proposed to follow full internal evaluation system in UG and PG examinations. All the term papers/tutorials along with mid-term test and end semester test scripts would be evaluated by the concerned course teacher internally. This means a teacher teaches, sets the question papers and evaluates the performance of her/his students also. The course (subject) teacher would also discuss the answer scripts of each student in the class so that a student knows where she/he has gone right or wrong. This makes evaluation more open and interactive.

However, 30 per cent of the end-semester scripts evaluated by the course teacher concerned would be randomly picked up by Sikkim University and get them evaluated by an external examiner. If the difference is up to 20 per cent in the marking by the course teacher and the external evaluator, the marks given by the internal course teacher would be regarded as final. If however, the difference is more than 20 per cent, the script would be sent to a third external examiner and the marks awarded by him/her would be taken as final. This is done to minimize the prejudice and subjectivity of a teacher in the evaluation of an answer script.

The Academic Council ratified the above system of evaluation on trial basis for one year (two semesters) and desired that the Vice Chancellor would take appropriate steps to review the system through a Committee constituted by him and the findings of the Committee be placed for the consideration of the Council in due course.

AC:01:31 Constitution of School Boards in (1) School of Social Sciences; (2) School of Global Studies; (3) School of Peace, Conflict & Human Security Studies; and (4) School of Life Sciences

The Academic Council noted that under Section 30 (1) (j) of the Sikkim University Act, 2006 read with clause (2) of Statute 15, there shall be a School Board for each School.

The Council authorised the Vice Chancellor to constitute the School Boards accordingly for (1) School of Social Sciences; (2) School of Global Studies; (3) School of Peace, Conflict & Human Security Studies; and (4) School of Life Sciences.

AC: 01:32 Constitution of Board of Studies

The Academic Council noted that under Section 30 (1) (j) of the Sikkim University Act, 2006 read with clause (2) of Statute 16, there shall be a Board of Studies (BOS) for each subject taught at the degree level and post degree levels.

The Council authorised the Vice Chancellor to constitute the respective Boards of Studies.

AC: 01:33 Proposed Schools with their Centres to be opened during 2009-2010 (including Integrated Courses)

The Academic Council considered the proposal for creation of 40 Academic Departments under 17 Schools of Studies under the XI Plan Period (2007-12)

The Academic Council accepted the proposal for creation of 40 Departments as indicated below. However, the categorization under different schools would be made by the Academic Council in the next meeting.

Schools of Studies accepted by the Council:

- 1 School of Social Sciences**
- 2 School of Global Studies**
- 3 School of Law and Governance**
- 4 School of Linguistics and Languages**
- 5 School of Management**
- 6 School of Media, Communication and Information Sciences**
- 7 School of Computer Sciences**
- 8 School of Environmental Studies**
- 9 School of Biotechnology**
- 10 School of Life Sciences**
- 11 School of Physical and Chemical Sciences**
- 12 School of Planning, Architecture and Engineering**
- 13 School of Medicine**
- 14 School of Indigenous and Folk Studies**
- 15 School of Sustainable Development and Livelihood Management**
- 16 School of Peace, Conflict and Human Security Studies**
- 17 School of Policy Planning and Studies**

The Academic Departments accepted by the Council for creation under the above Schools of Studies:

Department of Social Systems and Anthropology
Department of Geography & Natural Resources Management
Department of Education Planning & Development
Department of Economic Studies & Planning
Department of Psychology Studies
Department of International Relations
Department of Neighbourhood Studies
Department of Globalisation Studies
Department of Law and Legal Jurisprudence studies
Department of Environmental and Biodiversity Laws
Department of Nepali Language & Literature
Department of Asian Languages (5-year BA-MA integrated course)
Department of Linguistic Studies

Department of Business Administration (5 year BBA-MBA integrated course)
Department of Library & Information Sciences
Department of Journalism Studies
Department of Computer Science and Applications (5-year BCA-MCA Integrated)
Department of Climate Change Studies
Department of Biotechnology (5-year BSc-MSc Integrated course)
Department of Animal Sciences (Zoology)
Department of Plant Sciences (Botany)
Department of Microbiology
Department of Physical Science
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Department of Chemical Science
Department of Urban, Regional & Environmental Planning (Integrated B Plan and M Plan- six year degree programme)
Department of Geology and Earth Sciences
Department of Pharmacy Studies (B.Pharm + M Pharm six year integrated)
Department of Handicrafts, Art, Design & Fashion Technology
Department of Food Science, Technology & Nutrition Management
Department of Folk Music, Theaters and Literature
Department of Energy Studies
Department of Sustainable Mountain Development
Department of Tourism Development & Management

Department of Floriculture and Horticulture Management
Department of Military Science & Defence Studies
Department of Disaster Prevention & Management
Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management
School of Policy Planning and Studies

40. Department of Ethno Botany and Social Medicine Studies

AC: 01:34 *Constitution of Committees to design curriculum for various Post Graduate Programmes to be stated in 2009-201.*

It is proposed that Committees would be constituted to design curriculum for various Post Graduate Programmes. The Committees will broadly work out the methodology and instructional devices.

The Council authorised the Vice Chancellor to constitute the Committees.

AC:01:35 *National and International Collaborations including Memorandum of Understanding on exchange of academic programmes, research activities and faculty and students*

Academic Council noted that in terms of Section 5 (xi) of the Sikkim University Act, 2006, the University shall have the power to co-operate or associate with any other University or authority or Institution of higher learning in such manner and for such purposes as the University may determine. It has been proposed that the University would collaborate with other national and international Universities or Institutions of higher learning to enhance the quality of education in various academic activities such as exchange of academic programmes, collaborative research on regional and global context, etc.

The Council agreed in principle and authorised the Vice Chancellor for taking necessary action.

There being no other agenda, the meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Sd/-

(S.K.Sarkar)

Registrar, Sikkim University and
Secretary, Academic Council

Date: