

Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Academic Council held on 25th June 2019
at Barad Sadan Academic Block, Gangtok

25th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 25th June 2019 at 11:00 am at Barad Sadan Conference Hall. Following members were present:

1. Prof. Avinash Khare - Chairperson
Vice-Chancellor
2. Prof. Purabi Roy - Member
Former Professor
Department of International Relations
Jadavpur University, Kolkata
3. Prof. A. S. Chandel - Member
Librarian
4. Prof. Abhijit Dutta - Member
Dean, School of Professional Studies
5. Prof. Nawal Kishore Paswan - Member
Dean, School of Social Sciences
6. Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay - Member
Dean, School of Physical Sciences
7. Dr. K. R. Rama Mohan - Member
Dean, School of Human Sciences
8. Dr. Kabita Lama - Member
Dean, School of Languages & Literature
9. Dr. Laxuman Sharma - Member
Dean Students' Welfare
10. Dr. Suchishmita Dutta - Member
Principal, Sikkim Government College
Burtuk, East Sikkim
11. Dr. N. R. Bhuyan - Member
Principal, Himalayan Pharmacy Institute
12. Prof. Mohammad Yasin - Member
Head, Department of Political Science
13. Prof. Shanti S. Sharma - Member
Head, Department of Botany

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| 14. Prof. Jeta Sankritayayana Head, Department of Economics | - | Member |
| 15. Prof. Sanjoy Bandhopadhyay Head, Department of Music | - | Member |
| 16. Dr. Praveen Mishra Head, Department of Law | - | Member |
| 17. Dr. Vijay Kumar Thangellapali Head, Department of History | - | Member |
| 18. Dr. H. K. Tiwari Head, Department of Microbiology | - | Member |
| 19. Dr. Niladri Bag Head, Department of Horticulture | - | Member |
| 20. Dr. Sandhya Thapa Head, Department of Sociology | - | Member |
| 21. Dr. Swarup Roy Head, Department of Computer Application | - | Member |
| 22. Dr. Yodida Bhutia Head, Department of Education | - | Member |
| 23. Dr. Rosy Chamling Head, Department of English | - | Member |
| 24. Dr. Vimal Khawas Head, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies & Management | - | Member |
| 25. Dr. Anil Kumar Misra Head, Department of Geology | - | Member |
| 26. Dr. Satyananda Panda Head, Department of Psychology | - | Member |
| 27. Dr. Pushpa Sharma Head, Department of Nepali | - | Member |
| 28. Prof. Irshad Gulam Ahmed Professor, Department of English | - | Member |
| 29. Prof. N Sathyanarayana Professor, Department of Botany | - | Member |
| 30. Prof. Manish Choubey Professor, Department of Economics | - | Member |

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| 31. Dr. S. S. Mahapatra Professor, Department of Commerce | - | Member |
| 32. Dr. A. N. Shankar Associate Professor, Department of Commerce | - | Member |
| 33. Dr. Rajesh Raj S. N. Associate Professor, Department of Economics | - | Member |
| 34. Dr. S Manivannan Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture | - | Member |
| 35. Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharyya Associate Professor, Department of Physics | - | Member |
| 36. Shri Debasish Pal Finance Officer | - | Special Invitee |
| 37. Shri T.K. Kaul Registrar | - | Secretary |

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

1. Prof. Nripendranath Mondal, Professor, Bose Institute, Division of Molecular Medicine, Kolkata
2. Prof. Saroj Kumar Pyne, HoD, Department of Animal Science, Institute of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati
3. Prof. (Dr.) Neelu Rohmetra, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh
4. Prof. Ranjit Verma, Vice-Chancellor, Munger University, Munger & Former Pro- Vice-Chancellor, Patna University, Patna, Bihar.
5. Prof. Payal Mago, Principal, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women University of Delhi, Delhi.
6. Prof. Manoj Khanna, Principal, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, Delhi.
7. Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Dean, School of Life Sciences.
8. Dr. Krishna Murari, Head, Department of Management.
9. Dr. K. Birla Singh, Head, Department of Zoology.
10. Dr. Sohel Firdos, Head, Department of Geography.

Dr. S.K. Gurung, Joint Registrar (Acad.) and Shri Satyam Rana, Assistant were present to assist the Council.

The Chairperson welcomed all present in the 25th meeting of the Academic Council. Thereafter, agenda items were taken up as under:

SECTION-1
CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES & ACTION TAKEN REPORT

AC 25.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 24th meeting of the Academic Council held on 16th November 2018

Minutes of the 24th meeting of the Academic Council held on 16th November 2018 were circulated to all the members on 29th November 2018. Comments have been received from some members of the Council pertaining to item no. AC 24.4.D1 for which a separate agenda item has been placed in the current meeting.

The Council confirmed the minutes of 24th meeting of the Academic Council held on 16th November 2018 as circulated to all the members on 29th November 2018 except minutes pertaining to item no. AC 24.4.D1.

AC 25.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 24th meeting of the Academic Council held on 16th November 2018

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 24th meeting held on 16th November 2018. The Council noted the action taken report.

SECTION-2
REPORTING ITEMS

AC 25.2.1: Synopses for M.Phil/Ph.D registrations in the University

The Council noted the number of synopses for M.Phil/Ph.D registrations in each School.

SECTION-3
RATIFICATION MATTERS

Nil

SECTION-4
MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

A. PANEL OF EXAMINERS, ETC.

AC 25.4.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 Human Sciences | Psychology | PhD thesis & PG practical and dissertation |
| | | Anthropology | PhD thesis |
| 2) | School of | English | PhD thesis |

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| | Languages & Literature | Hindi | MA Dissertation |
| | | Limbu | MA Dissertation |
| | | Nepali | PhD thesis & MA dissertation |
| 3) | School of Life Sciences | Horticulture | BSc/MSc practical |
| | | Microbiology | MSc practical |
| | | Botany | MSc practical |
| 4) | School of Physical Sciences | Computer Applications | Practical/dissertation |
| 5) | School of Professional Studies | Commerce | PhD thesis |
| | | Education | M.Ed dissertation & PhD thesis |
| | | Mass Communication | PhD thesis |
| | | Management | PhD thesis |
| 6) | School of Social Sciences | History | MPhil dissertation & PhD thesis |
| | | Sociology | PhD thesis |
| | | PCS&M | PhD thesis |
| | | International Relations | PhD thesis |
| | | Economics | PhD thesis |

Some members from School of Life Sciences raised the issue of panel of examiners for evaluation of PhD thesis. It was clarified that the panel of examinees of PhD theses has to be submitted to the Academic Council in sealed cover after being considered by the School Board for approval before being sent to the Controller of Examination.

B. SYLLABUS MATTERS/COURSES ETC.

AC 25.4.B1: Proposal for commencement of one semester/ 6 months Certificate Course in Chinese and recommendation of draft syllabus

Dr. Dhriti Roy, In-charge, Department of Chinese presented this item suggesting draft syllabus for one semester/6 months Certificate Course in Chinese.

The Council approved the draft syllabus for one semester/ 6 months Certificate Course in Chinese. However, the Academic Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to decide on the number of seats to be offered for the Certificate Course keeping in view the availability of space and the faculty.

AC 25.4.B2: Syllabus of MPhil and PhD course work in Industrial Microbiology

Dr. Anil Kumar Verma, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology presented the draft syllabus of course work for MPhil and PhD in Industrial Microbiology. He clarified that the infrastructure for running the course work in Industrial Microbiology is available within the Department.

The Council approved the syllabus of MPhil and PhD course work in Industrial Microbiology.

AC 25.4.B3: Syllabus of Zoology for new specialization in “Animal Physiology and Biochemistry”

Dr. Bhoj Kumar Acharya, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology presented the draft syllabus for specialized subject ‘Animal Physiology and Biochemistry’ in MSc course.

The Council approved the syllabus for new specialization in “Animal Physiology and Biochemistry” in MSc in Zoology.

AC 25.4.B4: Syllabus for M.Pharma (Pharmaceutical Analysis)

Dr. N. R. Bhuyan, Principal, Himalayan Pharmacy Institute presented the draft syllabus of M.Pharma (Pharmaceutical Analysis). It was noted that the syllabus is as per PCI guidelines.

The Council approved the syllabus of M.Pharma (Pharmaceutical Analysis).

AC 25.4.B5: M.Com course structure/syllabus

Prof. Abhijit Dutta, Dean, School of Professional Studies presented this item. The Council approved the draft revised syllabii for the following courses

1. Financial Institutions and Markets
2. Financial Services

The Council desired that the codification of the courses may carried out as per convention.

AC 25.4.B6: Modification of syllabus in MPhil/PhD coursework in Music

Prof. Sanjoy Bandhopadhyay, Department of Music presented this item. The Council after deliberations desired that the Vice-Chancellor may constitute a committee to revise the syllabus in line with the syllabus of M.Phil/PhD Course work in Music in other university.

AC 25.4.B7: B.Ed syllabus

Dr. Yodida Bhutia, Head, Department of Education presented this item. It was informed that the syllabus is as per NCTE Regulation.

The Council approved the draft syllabus of B.Ed course.

AC 25.4.B8: B.Voc syllabus in Information Technology (B.Voc-IT)

Dr. Swarup Roy, Head, Deptt of Computer Application presented the draft syllabus of B.Voc in Information Technology (B.Voc-IT).

After deliberations the Council approved the draft syllabus of B.Voc in Information Technology.

AC 25.4.B9: Syllabus for M.A in Buddhism and Tibetan Studies

Namgayal Institute of Tibetology (NIT) which is affiliated to Sikkim University is starting MA course in Buddhism and Tibetan Studies. For drafting syllabus NIT constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yungchuk Dorjee of Central Institute of Higher Academic Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi. Dr. Sanghu Thendup, Assistant Professor, Department of History represented Sikkim University in syllabus drafting.

Dr. Sanghu Thendup presented the draft syllabus of M.A in Buddhism and Tibetan Studies on behalf of NIT.

After deliberations the Council felt that the re-alignment of courses has to be done as per the rules of the University. The re-alignment of courses may be carried out by Prof. N. K. Paswan and thereafter the draft and syllabus can be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor for his approval subject to ratification by the Academic Council in its next meetings.

AC 25.4.B10: Syllabus for B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering and Civil Engineering

Dr. Mohan Pratap Pradhan, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Applications presented this item. The Council felt that there are some inconsistencies in the assessment part which need to be sorted out. The Council also advised that a uniform evaluation mechanism as kept for 1st and 2nd semester may be adopted. The Council also decided that after revisiting the syllabus for removal of inconsistencies, the syllabus may be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor for approval to be ratified in the next meeting of the Academic Council.

It was also suggested that a draft syllabus for other semesters may be put up much earlier.

AC 25.4.B11: Minor changes in PG syllabus in Psychology

Dr. Satyananda Panda, Head, Deptt of Psychology presented this item.

The Council approved minor changes in PG syllabus in Psychology.

C. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC 25.4.C1: Adoption of UGC Regulations on minimum standard and procedures for award of M.Phil/PhD degrees, 2016 and its amendments

The Council was informed that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified Regulations on minimum standard and procedures for award of M.Phil/PhD degrees on 5th May 2016 and has issued two amendments to it on 27th August 2018 and 16th October 2018. After deliberation the Council adopted the UGC Regulations on minimum standard and procedures for award of M.Phil/PhD degrees 2016 and the amendments thereto.

The Council also noted that a committee was constituted to align the Regulation for conduct of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) programme and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme with UGC Regulations. Committee submitted changes required in our Regulations. However, the Council noted some inconsistencies in the proposed revised Regulations. The Council desired that committee may again to look into the changes suggested for the said Regulations of the University so that those are in alignment with UGC Regulation on minimum standard and procedures for award of M.Phil/PhD degrees, 2016.

AC 25.4.C2: Adoption of UGC Regulations on Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions, 2018

The Academic Council in its 24th meeting held on 16th November 2018 had considered adoption of the said UGC Regulations. The Council noted that the University was having a policy of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in which any thesis was not allowed to be submitted where the plagiarism exceeding 20% (excluding quoted work, references, bibliography, table of content, preface and acknowledgment etc). It was noted that the UGC Regulations is having a tolerance of only 10% and the UGC Regulations has prescribed Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP) and Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) and prescribed penalties.

The Council in its 24th meeting held on 16th Nov 2018 had accepted UGC Regulations in principle with plagiarism tolerance upto 10%. It was also recommended that the Vice-Chancellor may constitute a committee to consider other aspects of the recommendations and how this could be implemented. The recommendations of the Academic Council were approved by the Executive Council in its 32nd meeting held on 8th February 2019. Accordingly, Vice-Chancellor constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. S. Chandel, Librarian with Prof. S. S. Sharma, Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Praveen Mishra as members. The committee

has submitted its report. Prof. A. S. Chandel, Chairman of the committee was requested to appraise the members about the report.

After deliberations, the Council recommended to the Executive Council for adoption of UGC Regulations on Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Education Institution, 2018. The Council also recommended for approval of the suggestions given by the committee in its report for implementation.

AC 25.4.C3: Draft Ordinance on Departmental Research Committee (DRC)

Prof. N K Paswan presented this item. After deliberation, the Council found that the role of Research Advisory committee as given to the UGC Regulations for minimum standard and procedures have not been defined. Since there were some divergent views among the members, the item was therefore, deferred to the next meeting.

D. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC 25.4.D1: Engagement contractual staff out of the overhead charges from Projects

The Council noted that the matter regarding engagement of contractual staff out of overhead charges of the projects was discussed in the Academic Council in its 24th meeting held on 16th November 2018. The minutes of the said item were objected by some members stating that they do not agree with the decision of the Academic Council as mentioned in the minutes. They asserted that engagement of contractual staff out of overhead charges was discussed but it was not from 30% share.

Some members pointed out that in the projects involving lab or field work certain items are not catered in the project proposal like repair of equipments etc. The funding agency on most of the occasions do not provide funds to cater to those small items. This is more so in respect of projects in Science Departments. After detailed deliberations, it was decided that the overhead charges of the project may be decided as under

- i) 20% for PIs for catering to the unforeseen expenditure like repairs which are not catered in the Project Budget. This amount will not be paid in cash to PIs but may be spent as per the University procedures.
- ii) 20% for engaging contractual staff for administrative/ finance departments to look after the project related work. The contractual staff will not be kept exclusively at the disposal of the project but have to attend to other departmental/ administrative work.
- iii) 60% to be retained by the University for awarding Research projects and Publication award.

AC 25.4.D2: Recognition of NAAS rated journal for publication by UGC for Academic appraisal

The Academic Council recommended for approval of the Executive Council the suggestion of School Board of Life Sciences in its meeting held on 28th May 2019 for recommendation of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAC) rated journal for publication by UGC for Academic appraisal.

AC 25.4.D3: Supervision of PhD students by Prof. Avinash Khare, Vice-Chancellor

The Academic Council approved the proposal of School Board of Physical Sciences for allotment of PhD student(s) for supervision by Prof. Avinash Khare, Vice-Chancellor.

AC 25.4.D4: Proposal of changes in guidelines of submission of PhD thesis

The proposal of School Board of Physical Sciences for issuing guidelines for submission of PhD thesis to incorporate minor corrections in the thesis as suggested by the Examiner was deliberated in detail.

After deliberations, the item was deferred to the next meeting of the Academic Council.

AC 25.4.D5: Proposal of rename the department of Computer Application and Introduce M.Tech (CSE) course :

The Council deliberated on the proposal of the School Board of Physical Sciences to change the name of Department of Computer Applications to Department of Computer Science and Engineering and start M.Tech (CSE) Course.

After deliberations, it was noted that change in the name of the Department requires amendment in the statutes which requires the approval of the Visitor. For starting M.Tech (CSE) course, it was deliberated that the University is presently functioning from the hired buildings and therefore will not be in a position to provide infrastructural facilities required for starting M.Tech course. AICTE approval for M.Ed course was also discussed.

The Council, after deliberations decided to initiate the process for renaming of the Department of Computer Applications to Computer Science and Engineering and defer start of M.Tech course for the time being.

**SECTION 5
MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES**

AC 25.5.1: Minutes of the 11th meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 17th May 2019

Noted

AC 25.5.2: Minutes of the 11th meeting of the School Board of Language & Literature held on 24th May 2019

Noted

AC 23.5.3: Minutes of the 11th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 20th May 2019

Noted

AC 23.5.4: Minutes of the 11th meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 22nd May 2019

Noted

AC 23.5.5: Minutes of the 10th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 22nd May 2019

Noted

AC 23.5.6: Minutes of the 11th meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 29th May 2019

Noted

AC 23.5.7: Minutes of the 13th meeting of the Deans' Committee held on 19th March 2019

Noted

AC 23.5.8: Minutes of the 11th meeting of the College Development Council held On 31st May 2019

Noted

The Council gave specific approval to the followings

1. Revised B.Voc. Syllabus For Pharmaceutical Chemistry
2. Inspection Report of Four permanently affiliated colleges be sent to the concerned college for initiating improvements as suggested.
3. Renewal of extension of PG centres at erstwhile Sikkim Government College, Tadong (now Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong)

**SECTION - 6
ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

Nil

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Sd/-
(T.K.Kaul)
Registrar & Secretary
Academic Council**

**Sd/-
(Prof. Avinash Khare)
Vice-Chancellor & Chairman
Academic Council**