

GROUP I – ITEMS WHICH NEEDED APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION

AC:07:01	The Chairperson calls the House to order
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Minutes:

7.01.1 The Chairperson called the house to order

AC:07:02	Obituary Reference
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[Agenda Note:

7.02.1 *The death of the following eminent personalities is brought before the house with deep sense of grief.*

1. *Shri Stephen Namchu, Leading Musician of Sikkim who has performed with National Musical bands like Parikrama*
2. *Shri P G Tenzing, former IAS and a Noted Author.*
3. *Prof Arjun Sengupta, noted Economist and Rajya Sabha Member*
4. *Shri Santosh Gurung, noted Political leader, Darjeeling*
5. *Shri Padam Subba, noted literary figure and one of the founders of APATAN*
6. *Mrs. Rosabel Namchu, former director, Govt. of Sikkim]*

Minutes:

7.02.1 The House noted with deep sense of grief the passing away of the eminent personalities mentioned above. As a mark of respect of departed souls the House observed two minutes silence.

AC:07:03

Performance Highlights by the Vice-Chancellor

Minutes:

7.03.1 The Vice-Chancellor made a power point presentation highlighting the various activities of the University since the last meeting of the Academic Council held on 2.06.2010 [Annexure AC VII - 01].

7.03.2 On this, Prof. Manvendra Kishore Das observed that the Centre for Education including distance education and also on teaching quality management should be introduced as a key Department. He suggested that the University may consider opening of a full fledged Centre for Education during the XII Plan Period. He assured that he is willing to provide any assistance in this front needed by the University.

7.03.3 Prof. V.S.Prasad congratulated the Vice-Chancellor for the commendable progress made in the Academic Front and suggested that this tempo should be maintained. He suggested that the affiliated institution should stick to the Academic Calendar of the University. Also, the University can look for more reforms in Examination including orientation of examiners and also in question paper setting. He further added that the University may also attempt to open up an Academic Staff College. While applauding the Chinese language and China Studies programme, he suggested that the University may consider establishing a “Centre on Confucius Studies” in collaboration with the Government of Peoples Republic of China and the Government of India. He further stressed on the establishment of Quality Assurance Mechanism to focus more on quality dimension. He also expressed that the Academic Council also desire to pass a resolution on early acquisition of land at Yangang.

7.03.4 Prof Atul Sarma mentioned that he was deeply impressed with the introduction of semester system even in the colleges which is rather a very difficult task. He mentioned that the University should clearly frame a clear policy on enrolment of students. It was also stated that the University may consider introduction of Resource Management as one of the Departments. The University may also consider introduction of more South East Asian Languages apart from Chinese under the Department of Asian Languages.

7.03.5 Prof S.F.Patil observed that the University may consider introduction of Awards/Appreciations for assessment of the performance of the Teachers in the University as well as in the affiliated colleges. He suggested that the University should constitute a Committee on quality assurance and also make its course innovative so that the students from all over India would be

attracted. He suggested that an advance course on nano-sciences could be also introduced in the integrated course framework.

7.03.6 Prof. Y.D.Prasad observed that the University may consider acquiring the publications of the Members of the Executive and Academic Councils for its library.

7.03.7 Dr. G.S.Yonzone enquired whether the Academic Council also can contribute its role in the acquisition of land at Yangang so that the same can be expedited.

7.03.8 Shri Sanjoy Hazarika reiterated that the Academic Council may also pass a resolution on early acquisition of land at Yangang. He also suggested that the University may consider the recognition of role played by independent groups like NGOs in Sikkim on environment management like 'Plastic Free Sikkim" etc and make use of the same in its studies on Environment. As regards the Department of Peace, Conflict & Management Studies he suggested that the appropriate name shall be 'Department of Peace & Conflict Management Studies". He further suggested that the University should consider the Role of Women in peace process. The University may organise an Annual Lecture/National Seminar on the subject by a prominent woman speaker.

7.03.9 Prof. Anjan Mukherjee mentioned that while starting the BBA-MBA course the University may also consider introduction of Statistics also as part of curriculum.

7.03.10 Prof. Manvendra Kishore Das also mentioned that the University may also consider setting up of Centre[s] for Buddhist/Chinese/Confucius Studies.

7.03.11 Summing up the observations of the Members on various points, the Chairperson replied that;

Sikkim University is facing many challenges in its functioning which are overcome by hard work and dedication. It is incumbent upon the University to set up standards of its own in each of the functional areas. Sikkim University desires to achieve to be one of the best universities in the Country. The University is engaged continuously in setting standards and improving of quality in every sphere. The Chairperson fully agreed that a resolution of the Academic Council on the land issue would be definitely useful in pursuing the case of land with the State Government. As regards establishing of the Centre on Confucius Studies the Chairperson mentioned that this being a sensitive issue and requires clearance from the Government of India. However, it was mentioned that the University is proposing for exchange programmes for Students with the People's Republic of China. The Chairperson requested Prof. Patil to provide his suggestions on integrated courses which the University could consider. As regards the observation on opening of the discipline on statistics, the

Chairperson replied that the same would be considered for inclusion in the XII Plan proposals along with the Department of education preferably from 2012-13. He also mentioned that the idea of constituting a Committee on Quality Management would be taken up in due course.

7.03.12 With the above observations, the House considered the Performance Highlights presented by the Vice-Chancellor.

AC:07:04	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Academic Council held on 2.6.2010
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Minutes

7.04.1 The House considered the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2.6.2010 and confirmed the same.

AC:07:05	Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the last meeting of the Academic Council held on 2.06.2010
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Minutes:

7.05.1 The House considered the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the last meeting held on 2.06.2010 and confirmed the same.

AC:07:06	Adoption of UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil/PhD Degree) Regulations 2009.
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Minutes:

The House considered the Agenda item in detail. Member Prof Patil suggested that the University may specifically look into some of the provisions of the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil/PhD Degree) Regulations like Course work, Evaluation and Assessment Methods etc for implementation meticulously. The Chairperson replied that the University is scrupulously following the due procedure as is being followed in Universities like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

With the above observation, the House formally adopted the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil/PhD Degree) Regulations 2009.

AC:07:07	Ordinance on Legal Education
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Minutes:

7.07.1 The Academic Council considered the skeleton draft Ordinance and recommended the empowerment of the Vice-Chancellor to suitably draft the same as full-fledged Ordinance and implement the provisions thereof in the current Academic Year 2010-11.

AC:07:08	Ordinances on Affiliation of Colleges
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Minutes:

7.08.1 The House considered the following draft Ordinances placed before it viz.

1. Ordinance for Affiliation of Science Colleges
2. Ordinance for Affiliation of Arts Colleges
3. Ordinance for Affiliation of Teacher Education Colleges
4. Ordinance for Affiliation of Pharmacy Colleges
5. Ordinance for Affiliation of Engineering and Technology Colleges
6. Ordinance for Affiliation of Law Colleges
7. Ordinance on Norms and Procedure

and recommended the same for approval of the Executive Council in accordance with Primary Statute 14 read with Statute 40 (t) of Sikkim University Act, 2006

AC:07:09	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination
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Minutes:

7.09.1 The House considered the agenda item in detail and discussed on the same. The House opined that as regards Clause 05.11 – Evaluation Pattern that the University should rather

strengthen the methodology for selection of 30% answer scripts instead of making evaluation of all answer scripts by a second examiner which are 60 and below. Similarly, in the case of appointment of paper setters, moderators and evaluators as mentioned under Clause 05.09, the House desired that the same has to be done by the Vice-Chancellor or her/his nominee not less than the rank of a Dean. The House also suggested constitution of a Lapses Committee to look into the lapses by the question paper setters.

7.09.2 At the same time the House also considered the fact, that the said amendment in view of its exigencies was approved by the Executive Council in its last meeting of 3.11.2010.

7.09.3 Therefore, the House resolved that the amendment may remain for the current semester only and for the next semester the House directed that a revised draft amendment may be placed before it considering the suggestions now made by it.

AC:07:10

New Courses for the Academic Year 2011-12

Minutes:

7.10.1 Before considering the Courses to be approved for 2011-12, the House suggested that the University may consider re-naming the course M.Sc in Physical Sciences as “M.Sc in Physics” The House also pointed out that the new course BA-MA in Geology has to be corrected as B.Sc-M.Sc in Geology and also could rename as Earth Sciences instead of Geology.

AC:07:11

Conferment of *HONORIS CAUSA*

Minutes:

7.11.1 The House considered the amendment to the Primary Statute 27 proposed and after considerable discussion, suggested modification as below:

Existing Provisions	Provisions after amendment
<p><u>Statute 27</u></p> <p>(1) The Executive Council may on the recommendation of the Academic Council and</p>	<p><u>Statute 27</u></p> <p>(1) The Executive Council may on the recommendation of the Academic Council and</p>

<p>by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, make proposals to the Visitor for conferment of honorary degrees</p>	<p>by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, make proposals to the Visitor for conferment of honorary degrees.</p> <p><u>Provided that such honorary degrees would be conferred only to individuals of high eminence in the fields of Science/Humanities/Public Policy and/or to the Heads of a State/National Government as the case may be.</u></p>
<p>Provided that in case of emergency, the Executive Council may on its own motion make such proposal.</p>	<p>Provided that in case of emergency, the Executive Council may on its own motion make such proposal.</p>
<p>(2) The Executive Council may, by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, withdraw, with the previous sanction of the Visitor, any honorary degree conferred by the University.</p>	<p>(2) The Executive Council may, by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, withdraw, with the previous sanction of the Visitor, any honorary degree conferred by the University.</p>

7.11.2 Thereafter, the House considered the proposal for conferment of *Honoris Causa* to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and recommended the same to the Executive Council for approval.

GROUP II – ITEMS WHICH ARE REPORTED FOR GUIDANCE & INFORMATION

AC:07:12

Adoption of University Invocation**Minutes:**

7.12.1 The House considered the agenda item and also listened to the audio rendition of the Invocation Song written played before it. The lyrics are written by the Founding Vice Chancellor Prof Mahendra P Lama and the music is rendered by a student Shri Lepcha. Member Prof. Manvendra Kishore Das suggested that the University may also print the Hindi Version of the invocation for the larger understanding of the stake holders and public to which the Chairperson assured in affirmative.

7.12.2 The House expressed on record its deep appreciation of the rich contents and melodious composition of the song.

AC:07:13

Constitution of Second Academic Council**Minutes:**

7.13.1 The House noted the amendment made by the University, in compliance with the instructions of the Ministry of Human Resource Development in letter dated 7.10.2010 on constitution of the Second Academic Council.

7.13.2 The House also suggested that the University may also consider including the Director, College Education of the State Government [or a similar post which is being operated in Sikkim] as one of the nominees of the Vice-Chancellor. To this the Chairperson replied that the same would be considered in due course.

AC:07:14

Constitution of Curriculum Development Committees for the new courses and also for review of existing curricula**Minutes:**

7.14.1 The House considered the agenda item and also the request of the University. It was suggested in the Curriculum Designing besides the academics and experts the University may include eminent private sectors professionals wherever they are needed to be included so that these

curricula have strong elements of practical contents and knowledge. The House highly appreciated innovative ways and means the University has adopted in both constituting the Curriculum Development Committees and also in designing the contents of the curricula. It was also appreciative of the curriculum designing framework placed by the University before these committees.

7.14.2 The Members of the House also promised to the Chairperson to provide their valuable service in curriculum designing.

AC:07:15	Hosting of Asia Conference
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Minutes:

7.15.1 The House expressed its deep appreciation to the University on Hosting of the Asia Conference in December 2010. Prof. Y.D.Prasad expressed his willingness to join the conference and present a paper on it. The Chairperson expressed his happiness for the enthusiasm of the Member and mentioned that his participation in the conference would be highly beneficial.

AC:07:16	Plan of Action for Admissions 2011-12
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Minutes:

7.16.1 The House discussed the agenda item which was placed separately before it. Prof. Atul Sarma enquired about level of comfort of answering of the candidates in each segment in the question paper in the context of the inter-disciplinary programmes introduced by the University. He had further suggested that the University may consider including more entrance test centres particularly in all the eight states of the North east region like in Agartala, Itanagar etc.

7.16.2 The Chairperson requested the Members for their suggestions for improvements in the entrance examination pattern and also on the contents of the Prospectus of the University for the Year 2011-12.

7.16.3 The Members agreed to provide their value addition wherever feasible.

7.16.4 With the above, the House noted the Agenda item placed before it.

AC:07:17**Re-naming of Schools in the Revised Statute on Establishment of Schools****Minutes:**

7.17.1 The House noted the agenda item placed before it. It was reiterated that the Department of Peace, Conflict & Management Studies be renamed as Department of Peace & Conflict Management to which the Chairperson assured that the suggestion of the House would be looked into.

AC:07:18**Delay in Acquisition and Handing Over of Land at Yangang****Minutes:**

7.18.1 The House unanimously resolved that the delay in acquisition and handing over of land to the University by Government of Sikkim is creating multiple hardships to the University including cost and time overrun. The House fully endorsed with the views of the Executive Council on this issue in its recent meeting held on 3.11.2010 and directed the University to take up the issue with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Union Minister for Human Resources Development for their kind intervention to expedite the matter.

AC:07:19**Any other items with the permission of the Chair**

As there being no other item, the meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

**Sd/-
(PV Ravi)
Finance Officer,
Secretary-in-charge, Academic Council**