

(17)

MINUTES OF THE 19TH MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SCHOOL OF SCIENCES HELD ON 17.5.1999 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SCHOOL OF SCIENCES, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110 068

The following were present:

1. Prof. B.S. Saraswat Chairman
2. Prof. Shakti R. Ahmed
3. Prof. R.N. Khanna
4. Prof. A.K. Agarwal
5. Dr. J.M. Parakh
6. Dr. A.R. Khan
7. Prof. S.C. Garg
8. Prof. S.S. Hasan
9. Prof. Parvin Sinclair
10. Dr. Swadesh Taneja
11. Dr. Sunita Malhotra
12. Dr. Geeta Kaicker
13. Dr. Sujatha Varma

Prof. A.R. Verma, Prof. P. Dayanandan, Prof. P.N.Srikanth, Ms. Rekha Sen and Sh. S.S. Dubey could not attend the meeting.

At the outset the Chairman extended a hearty welcome to all the members. He specially welcomed Dr. A.R. Khan and Prof. Agarwal who were attending the meeting of the Board for the first time. The following items on the agenda were taken up:

Item No.1 To confirm the minutes of the 18th meeting of the School Board

- 19.1.1 The Board was informed that the minutes of the 18th meeting held on 27.3.99 were circulated to the members on May 3, 1999 and no comments had been received from any of the members. The Board confirmed the minutes.

Item No.2 To re-consider the constraints in awarding a B.Sc. Degree

- 19.2.1 The Chairman explained the structure of the Bachelor of Science Programme to the members. He informed the members that as per the structure of the B.Sc. Programme approved by the Academic Council of the University, a student must earn at least 25% of the total Elective credits in Science disciplines having a laboratory component, i.e. Physics, Chemistry and Life Sciences, from laboratory courses. He added that this stipulation about the laboratory credits was laid down to impart skills via hands-on experience. However, it has come to the notice of the School that some students are not offering the requisite number of laboratory credits and hence are unable to complete their B.Sc. degree. In particular, he pointed out to the Board that Sh. Keshav Mukunda (Enrl-943350790) and Sh. Rampal Yadav (Enrl-920350617), who are students of the B.Sc. programme have completed 64 credits in Elective courses in Science without completing any credit in laboratory courses. Therefore, the B.Sc. degree has not been

(170)

released to them. The Board was requested to consider relaxing the requirement of laboratory courses for the award of B.Sc. degree in these cases.

Another student Mrs. Renu Sharma (Enrl-940850205) had also completed 64 credits in Elective courses out of which 50 credits were from theory courses and 14 credits were from laboratory courses. As the credits earned by her in the laboratory courses were less than 25%, she did not receive her B.Sc. degree and missed an opportunity of getting admission in a B.Ed. course of another University. She has now enrolled in another laboratory course worth 4 credits which she will be completing by the end of this month.


The case of yet another student Ms Harshita Priyanka (Enrl-934850342) was also brought to the notice of the Board. By June 1998, the student had earned 56 credits in Science Electives, but had earned only 4 credits in Mathematics as against the minimum 8 credits to be earned from any one discipline. Although, the final grade card indicating division and percentage of marks was issued to the student, the degree was withheld. The student has been forced to register for another course in Chemistry in place of the MTE-1 course which she had already passed.

19.2.2

The Board discussed these cases and the basic issue of compulsory credits in laboratory courses in detail. During the discussion it emerged that probably timely advice about the choice of courses is not being given and/or proper monitoring is not being done. The Board pointed out this failure of the system. However, it decided not to relax the conditions in individual cases till the School Faculty discuss the issues involved and come back to the Board with their recommendations. The following points were made during the discussion for the consideration of the School Faculty:

- i) Should the students doing a major in Mathematics but registered for B.Sc. be exempted from taking laboratory courses?
- ii) Should the condition of 25% credits in laboratory courses be imposed disciplinewise?
- iii) What should be the minimum and maximum percentage of credits in laboratory courses?
- iv) There is a need to improve the efficiency of the system and to monitor the progress of the students so that timely advice can be given to the students and corrective measures taken. As a first step, the data of B.Sc. students maintained in the SRE Division should incorporate a package which should automatically indicate the errors, if any, in the choice of theory and laboratory courses made by the students.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


21/5799
(B.S. SARASWAT)
CHAIRMAN