

MINUTES OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SCHOOL OF SCIENCES HELD ON JANUARY 11, 2002 AT 11 A.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF SCHOOL OF SCIENCES, IGNOU, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI - 110068.

The following were present:

1. Prof. S.C. Garg, Director (SOS)-Chairman
2. Prof. Shobha Madan
3. Prof. A.K. Bakshi
4. Dr. Protibha Jolly
5. Prof. S.K. Panda
6. Prof. S.V.S Chaudhary
7. Dr. Anju Sehgal Gupta
8. Prof. S.S. Hasan
9. Prof. Parvin Sinclair
10. Prof. S. Kannan
11. Dr. Jaswant Sokhi
12. Dr. S.R. Jha
13. Dr. Pushplata Tripathi
14. Dr. Lalita S. Kumar
15. Dr. Atul Razdan
16. Dr. Vijayshri (Special Invitee)
17. Dr. Neera Kapoor (Special Invitee)

Prof. T.P. Singh, Prof. Vijay A. Singh, Prof. B. S. Saraswat, and Prof. Manohar Lal could not attend the meeting.

At the very outset, the Chairman greeted all members in the New Year and welcomed Prof. S.K. Panda, new member on the School Board on behalf of the School. He placed on record the Board's appreciation for the signal contributions of the outgoing member Prof. A.R. Khan.

The following items on the agenda were deliberated:

Item No. 1 To confirm the Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the School Board of School of Science held on Jan. 12, 2001 at 11.00 a.m.

- 23.1.1 The Board was informed that the minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the School Board of School of Sciences were circulated to all members vide our letter No.IG/SOS/2001/1149-53,2216 and 2675 dt. 12.2.2001 and no comments were received from any member. The Board was requested to confirm the minutes.
- 23.1.2 The Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the School Board of School of Sciences were confirmed without any amendment.

Item No. 2 Matters arising out of the Minutes

23.2.1 The Chairman placed before the Board, a brief report of the activities of the School and the progress made on recommendations in the previous Board Meeting. He informed the Board that the enrolment in B.Sc. has been progressively registering an increase. In the year 2002, 4023, students have been registered and the number of science study centers now stands at 116. The School has launched 2 new programmes, namely CTPM and CPLT, and the total initial enrolment in these programmes in the first 2 cycles was around 1400 and 600, respectively. He also informed the Board that the Ph.D programme proposal approved by the School Board with the proposition that the condition of M Phil be waived and postgraduate students be admitted directly sent put to the Research Council of IGNOU. The Research Council desired that a general policy document to the effect be prepared by a Committee comprising the Director (SOS) and Director (SOMS) for this purpose. The recommendations of the committee submitted to the Research Council were placed before the School Board for information. The Board was also informed that the Modular Programme in Sciences and Technology for Sustainable Development and the courses Astronomy and Astrophysics and Communication Physics had been approved by the Academic Council and its decision had been communicated to the physics faculty. The School has also been involved in professional development activities for teachers in higher education. The first programme was organised by the School in collaboration with SRTIDE as the Refresher Programme for Science Teachers of Open Universities. In addition, the School has organised UNESCO sponsored workshops in the Use of Electronic Media in University Science Teaching, for University and College teachers from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

Item No. 3 To consider and approve the Certificate programme on Micro Energy Generation and Distribution Systems: Installation, Operation and Maintenance

23.3.1 The Chairman explained that in the instant case, the programme will be offered as part of the North-East Initiative project awarded to the University by MHRD and being monitored directly from the PMO on a quarterly basis. Two new programmes, namely IT based Community Learning and Food Processing, would be offered shortly. In addition, a Teachers' training programme is also being envisaged. A training programme for TV producers from N-E region has been organised with the aim of capacity building for production of A/V software. The Board was apprised of the details of the programme and informed that films prepared by trainees have been shortlisted for international competition. As a part of these academic initiatives, two programmes were submitted by the School to N-E council of IGNOU. Micro-energy generation and distribution Systems Installation, Operation and Maintenance and Natural Resource Management, respectively. Of these, the

concept paper for the former was being placed before the School Board. The Chairman requested Dr. Vijayshri, Programme coordinator to appraise the Board about the essentials of the proposal.

Dr. Vijayshri presented the major features of the concept paper outlining the rationale and objectives of the programme along with the underlying perspective and major content components. In the ensuing discussion, several interesting questions and issues were raised pertaining to the level, scope, entry qualifications, content, media-mix, delivery, etc. of the programme which were clarified by Dr. Vijayshri and the Chairman.

Members advised that the programme may also be offered in regional languages in due course and a simple title thought of, if possible. While designing the programme, the economic and environmental dimensions of the proposed renewable energy technologies should be made an integral part along with a component on environmental impact assessment, handling of residues and limitations of technologies. It was also suggested by a member that the programme should initially be offered in areas where the viability of these technologies had already been established and there was an active demand from the people for such technologies. The Board also advised that in the light of past experience, the launch date of the programme be made more realistic.

With these observations, the Board approved the proposal

Item No. 4 To consider and approve the proposal for the Application Oriented Course on Integrated Pest Management

- 23.4.1 The Chairman explained the concept of an AOC as an integral component of the BDP Programme for the benefit of outside members. The Chairman then requested Dr. Neera Kapoor to explain the objectives and the proposed content of the course. The Board advised that in view of the fact that AOCs are offered to all BDP students, the prerequisites, if any, should be spelt out clearly. It was also suggested that the structure of the course content be deliberated further by the Expert committee for the course. In particular, the theory component could be increased and the practical component could be visualised as a 2 credit project or in the form of structured practical work to be carried out at study centres. With these suggestions, the Board approved the proposal.

Item No. 5 Approval of the names of the Moderators, Papers Setters and Evaluators of various courses of B.Sc./Laboratory Techniques

- 23.5.1 The list of Moderators, Papers Setters and Evaluators for various courses of B.Sc and CPLT was approved by the Board with the observation that the name of the same persons should not be repeated in many courses as had been

done for MTE-8, MTE-10, MTE-12. The Board authorized the Chairman to approve modification, if any.

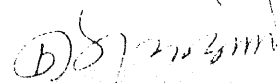
Item No. 6 Any Other Item with the permission of Chair

23.6.1 Under this item, a 16 credit worth package of elective courses in microbiology was tabled. The Chairman explained that the purpose of proposing this package was to enhance course offerings in Life Sciences electives. He informed that B.Sc. (Major) in Zoology and Botany was already on offer with the provision that 16 credits of either Zoology or Botany would be required for these Major degrees in addition to 32 credits worth Life Sciences electives. This package would increase the available options in elective courses in Life Sciences.

Thereafter, Dr. Pushplata Tripathi explained the rationale, the contents and usefulness of these courses. The Board advised that the School could consider offering in future career-oriented Diplomas in Food Technology, Industrial Micro-biology, etc.

The Board approved the proposal as electives for the B.Sc. programme.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.


(S.C.(Garg))
Chairman