

MINUTES OF THE 47TH MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCES HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF BLOCK D, IGNOU, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI – 110068.

The following members were present:

1. Prof. Vijayshri, Director (SOS), Chairperson
2. Prof. Oommen V Oommen, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board
3. Prof. M.H. Qureshi, Jamia Millia Islamia
4. Prof. J.P. Shrivastava, University of Delhi
5. Prof. S.K. Gakhar, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak
6. Prof. S.C. Garg, SOS, IGNOU
7. Prof. B.S. Saraswat, SOS, IGNOU
8. Prof. S.S. Hasan, SOS, IGNOU
9. Prof. D. Gopal, SOSS, IGNOU
10. Prof. Sunita Malhotra, SOS, IGNOU
11. Prof. M.K. Salooja, SOA, IGNOU
12. Dr. V. Venkat Ramanan, CSD, IGNOU
13. Prof. Poornima Mital, SOS, IGNOU
14. Prof. Sujatha Varma, SOS, IGNOU
15. Prof. Jaswant Sokhi, SOS, IGNOU
16. Prof. Neera Kapoor, SOS, IGNOU
17. Prof. B.I. Fozdar, SOS, IGNOU
18. Prof. S.R. Jha, SOS, IGNOU
19. Prof. Amrita Nigam, SOS, IGNOU
20. Prof. M.S. Nathawat, SOS, IGNOU
21. Dr. Bano Saidullah, SOS, IGNOU
22. Dr. Sanjiv Kumar, SOS, IGNOU
23. Dr. Benidhar Deshmukh, SOS, IGNOU
24. Dr. Manish Trivedi, SOS, IGNOU
25. Dr. Sanjay Gupta, SOS, IGNOU
26. Dr. Arvind Kumar Shakya, SOS, IGNOU
27. Mr. Pawan Kumar, SOS, IGNOU

The following members could not attend the meeting:

1. Prof. J.M. Khurana, University of Delhi
2. Mr. Shashi Bhushan, SOCIS IGNOU
3. Prof. Javed A. Farooqi, SOS, IGNOU
4. Dr. Subhakanta Mohapatra, SOS, IGNOU

The Chairperson welcomed the members of the School Board. Thereafter, the following items on the agenda were deliberated upon:

- Item No. 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 46th meeting of the School Board of the School of Sciences held on 15th May, 2013 and to note the action taken.**

SB 47.1.1 The minutes of the 46th meeting of the School Board of the School of Sciences held on 15th May, 2013 were confirmed. While noting the Action taken on the Minutes, the Board advised that the names of the External Examiners for Practicals should be communicated to SED also.

Item No. 2: Matters arising from the minutes.

SB 47.2.1 No matter was raised from the minutes of the 46th meeting of the School Board.

Item No. 3: To approve the minutes of the 6th School Board Standing Committee meeting held on 22nd August, 2013.

SB 47.3.1 The minutes of the 6th meeting of the School Board Standing Committee held on 22nd August, 2013 were approved by the School Board. One of the members suggested that the wording of the agenda item should be changed from 'ratified' to 'approved'. The School Board adopted the suggestion and it is reflected in the Minutes. The Minutes are recorded in the CD accompanying the paper copy of these Minutes.

Item no. 4: To consider and approve the revised programme fee for the PG Certificate in Geo-Informatics to be offered in the January, 2014 cycle.

SB 47.4.1 The criteria for determining the programme fee were discussed at length and it was decided that the costing and fee determination should be done once the policy guidelines on the matter are obtained from the Planning Board. It was suggested that costing must include the recurring expenditure on all possible heads but the fee determination may be done on the basis of approved guidelines by statutory bodies of the University. Accordingly, it was decided to defer the item. It was decided that the matter may be deliberated in a subsequent School Board Standing Committee and brought to the School Board for its approval thereafter.

Item no. 5: To consider and approve the bio-data of Dr. Omkar Verma, Assistant Professor of Geology, School of Sciences, as supervisor in the M. Phil/Ph.D. (Geology) Programme.

SB 47.5.1 The resume of Dr. Omkar Verma, Assistant Professor of Geology, School of Sciences, as supervisor in the M. Phil/Ph.D. (Geology) Programme was approved by the School Board with the recommendation that (i) it will be applicable with effect from October 2013 and (ii) his experience as contractual Lecturer may be deleted from his CV. The modified resume of Dr. Omkar Verma is placed at Annexure 1.

Item no. 6: To consider and approve the Phase 1 Form for MPhil Programme in Geography.

SB 47.6.1 The School Board was informed that the DEC is now functioning under UGC as Distance Education Bureau and the University is expected to follow the UGC regulations on all matters. Members were also informed about the Gazette Notification, 2009 of UGC (copy appended as Annexure 2) as well as the position taken by UGC in respect of research degree programme in open universities. The

matter was discussed in detail and ultimately it was decided that there is lack of clarity regarding the status of research programmes offered by IGNOU and to protect the interest of prospective students, clear policy guidelines are needed before new programmes are offered from the School. In view of the lack of clear information as well as the prevailing uncertainty regarding the research degree programmes of IGNOU, it was thought prudent and in the interest of prospective students that the agenda item be deferred.

SB 47.6.2 The School Board further decided that a Sub-Committee of the School Board of the School of Sciences comprising the following members be set up to examine the issue holistically and give its recommendations:

1. Prof. S C Garg
2. Prof. B S Saraswat
3. Prof. Neera Kapoor
4. Prof. Poornima Mital
5. Prof. M S Nathawat

The Sub-Committee was advised to submit its recommendations as soon as possible.

Item no. 7: To consider and provide appropriate direction with regard to the application of Ms. Ritvik Chauhan, Ph.D. Scholar in the discipline of Geography for renewal and continuation of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST.

SB 47.7.1 The application of Ms. Ritvik Chauhan, Ph.D. Scholar in the discipline of Geography for renewal and continuation of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST was considered by the School Board. After deliberating all aspects of the matter, the School Board recommended the renewal and continuation of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Ms. Ritvik Chauhan provided that she works full-time at IGNOU under the supervision of Dr. Vijay Kumar Baraik, Associate Professor in Geography. The Fellowship shall be given from the date she joins IGNOU.

Item no. 8: To consider and recommend the additional list of Editors for Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Statistics with specialisations in Industrial/Bio-Statistics.

SB 47.8.1 The School Board considered the list of additional Editors for Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Statistics with specialisations in Industrial Statistics/Bio-Statistics and recommended that it be sent for the approval of the Vice Chancellor with one additional name of Prof. Madhulika Dubey for the course Bio-Statistics-II, to be kept in reserve. The list of Editors is placed at Annexure 3.

Item no. 9: To consider and approve the proposal for restricting the maximum number of credits to be taken in the Lab Courses of the B.Sc. Programme to 50% of the total credits taken in the Lab-based Disciplines.

SB 47.9.1 The School Board was informed of the background for the need for restricting the Lab credits as students were tending to opt for as many as 70% of the total

electives in BSc from Lab courses to acquire the BSc degree and that such a degree may not carry any meaning from the point of view of acceptability and employability. It was informed that the Student Registration Division of IGNOU had also brought this issue to the notice of the School of Sciences. The Board was also informed of the deliberations held on this matter within the School and that the recommendations of the BDP Coordination Committee had been placed in the School Board. The relevant documents including the Minutes of the School Councils held on July 4, 2013 and Aug. 8, 2013 as well as the recommendations of the BDP Coordination Committee brought to the School Board are placed at Annexures 4 a to c.

During the discussion, two divergent views emerged on the issue in line with the recommendations of the two Committees (Annexures 4a and 4c). As per one view, the maximum number of credits to be taken in the Lab Courses of the B.Sc. Programme could be restricted to 50% of the total credits taken in the Lab-based Disciplines. This would bring down the number of Lab credits and make the degree more acceptable without compromising the flexibility of the BSc programme. It was pointed out that the decision on 50% (and not 40%, which is generally the percentage of Lab component in the conventional system) was taken for operational ease of the service Divisions and also to facilitate the students opting for Lab courses.

The other view was that the restriction of minimum 25% and maximum 50% on the choice of lab credits should be enforced **separately** for each lab-based Discipline. Some members felt that students must be allowed to opt for only those Lab courses as corresponded with the respective theory courses in each Discipline. The Chair pointed out that such rigid conditions shall adversely impact success rate, which is quite low even now. Moreover, there would be immense operational difficulties in implementing such rigid conditions given the flexibility available at present to the BSc students for opting courses from any 2 to 4 disciplines and from a minimum of 8 credits to a maximum of 48 credits worth of courses in any one discipline. However, no consensus could be arrived at on the matter.

SB 47.9.2 In view of the divergence of opinion and the lack of consensus on the matter, it was felt that the issue needed wider consultation and in-depth discussion. Therefore, the agenda item was withdrawn by the Chair.

Item no. 10: To consider and approve the review of courses on offer by the School for more than five years.

SB 47.10.1 The Chairperson informed the School Board that it has the power to review the courses in the programmes that have been launched for a substantial period of time. The Chairperson also presented enrolment data and success rates for the programmes offered by the School of Sciences (Annexure 5).

SB 47.10.2 After deliberating in-depth on the matter, the School Board recommended that the Programme Coordination teams/Programme Coordinators of the following programmes be advised to initiate the review of the courses in the programmes on

parameters such as enrolment, success rates, student support, etc. In effect, the Programme Evaluation exercise should be initiated and the reports be submitted to the School Board in one year:

1. PG Diploma in Environment and Sustainable Development (PGDESD)
2. Certificate Programme in Teaching of Primary School Mathematics (CTPM)
3. Certificate Programme in Laboratory Techniques (CPLT)
4. Diploma in Aquaculture (DAQ)
5. Appreciation Course in Environment (ACE)

It was also recommended that the Programmes/courses with low enrolment and low success rates be reviewed to examine the reasons thereof, need analysis may be undertaken once again, feedback may be taken from learners and Academic Counsellors as well as review by Experts may be done in the given time frame of one year. Thereafter, comprehensive strategies to deal with these issues may be placed before the School Board for further advice and recommendations.

Item no. 11: To consider and approve the detailed syllabus of the 2-credit course entitled Complex Analysis (MMT-005) in the MSc (MACS) programme.

SB 47.11.1 The School Board considered and approved the detailed syllabus of the 2-credit course entitled Complex Analysis (MMT-005) in the MSc (MACS) programme. The Minutes of the Expert Committee meeting and the approved syllabus are placed at Annexures 6a and b.

Item no. 12: Any other items, with the permission of the Chair.

Item no. 12 (i): To consider and recommend the names of Paper Setters, Evaluators and Members of the Moderation Boards for the courses BAQ-001 (Basics of Aquaculture) and BAQ-002 (Freshwater Aquaculture).

SB 47.12(i).1 The School Board considered and recommended that the names of the Paper Setters, Evaluators and Members of the Moderation Boards for the courses BAQ-001 (Basics of Aquaculture) and BAQ-002 (Freshwater Aquaculture) placed at Annexures 7a and b be sent further for the Vice Chancellor's approval.

Item no. 12 (ii): To consider and approve the addition of the name of Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Director, NCERT in the panel of Experts for the Doctoral Committee of Ph.D. in Mathematics.

SB 47.12(ii).1 The School Board considered and approved the name of Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Director, NCERT in the panel of Experts for the Doctoral Committee in Mathematics. Her affiliation is as follows:

Prof. Parvin Sinclair
Director, NCERT,
New Delhi -110 016

The updated list of members of the Doctoral Committee in Mathematics is placed at Annexure 8.

Item no. 12 (iii): To consider and approve the lists of External Examiners for Physics Laboratory Courses, namely BPHL-103, PHE-08(L), PHE-12(L) of B. Sc. and LT-04 of CPLT.

SB 47.12(iii).1 The School Board considered and approved the lists of External Examiners for B. Sc. Physics Laboratory Courses, namely BPHL-103, PHE-08(L), PHE-12(L) and the elective LT-04 of CPLT (Annexure 9).

Any Other Item (i): In its 44th meeting held on 02nd and 30th March, 2012, the School Board decided to constitute the School Board Standing Committee with the following members:

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|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Director of the School | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. S C Garg | - | Physics Discipline |
| 3. Prof. B S Saraswat | - | Chemistry Discipline |
| 4. Prof. S S Hasan | - | Life Sciences Discipline |
| 5. Prof. Poornima Mital | - | Mathematics Discipline |
| 6. Prof. M S Nathawat | - | Geography Discipline |
| 7. Dr. Meenal Mishra | - | Geology Discipline |
| 8. Dr. Parvesh Bubber | - | Biochemistry Discipline |
| 9. Mr. Rajesh Kaliraman | - | Statistics Discipline |

It was pointed out by one of the members that this had led to an anomalous situation, wherein the Faculty members who were not members of the School Board were members of the Standing Committee. Although it was pointed out by one member that as per the statutes of IGNOU, non-members of statutory bodies could be members of their Standing Committees, the School Board averred that the School Board members should be the members of its Standing Committee of . Accordingly, the following decision was taken regarding the membership of the Standing Committee of the School Board of the School of Sciences:

The tenure of any member in the Standing Committee of the School Board shall be co-terminus with her/his tenure in the School Board. Therefore, it was decided that Dr. Manish Trivedi, Dr. Benidhar Deshmukh and Dr. Arvind Kumar Shakya shall be the members of the Standing Committee for their tenure as members of the School Board in place of Shri Kaliraman, Dr. Meenal Mishra and Dr. Parvesh Bubber, respectively.

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

(Vijayshri)
Chairperson

List of Annexures

Annexure 1: Resume of Dr. Omkar Verma

Annexure 2: The Gazette Notification, 2009 of UGC.

Annexure 3: **The list of Editors for Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Statistics with specialisations in Industrial/Bio-Statistics.**

Annexure 4a to c:

- a) Minutes of the School Council held on July 4, 2013,
- b) Minutes of the School Council held on Aug. 8, 2013,
- c) Minutes of the BDP Coordination Committee set up by the School Council to examine the matter (Page 1 and page 2).

Annexure 5: Enrolment data and success rates for the programmes offered by the School of Sciences.

Annexure 6a and b: a) Minutes of the Expert Committee meeting and **b)** syllabus of the 2-credit course entitled Complex Analysis (MMT-005) in the M.Sc. (MACS) programme.

Annexure 7a and b: a) Names of Paper Setters and Evaluators and **b)** Members of the Moderation Boards for the courses BAQ-001 and BAQ-002.

Annexure 8: Updated list of members of the Doctoral Committee in Mathematics.

Annexure 9: The lists of External Examiners for Physics Laboratory Courses, namely BPHL-103, PHE-08(L), PHE-12(L) of B. Sc. and LT-04 of CPLT.