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INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
(SOITS)

Minutes of the 5th School Board Meeting held on April 17, 2009 at 11.30 a.m in the Conference Room, Block No.8, IGNOU, New Delhi -68.

The 5th School Board Meeting of the School of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies was held on April 17, 2009 at 11.30 a.m in the Conference Room, Block No.8, IGNOU, New Delhi -68.

1. The meeting was chaired by Prof. K.R. Srivathsan, Pro Vice Chancellor in charge of SOITS.

The following were present:

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| 1. Prof. Vijay Kapur, Professor, FMS, University of Delhi | - Member |
| 2. Prof. Nawal Kishore, SMS, IGNOU | - Member |
| 3. Prof. N.K. Dash, Professor, SOE, IGNOU | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Jaswant Sokhi, Reader, SOS, IGNOU | - Member |
| 5. Dr. Nandini Sahu, Reader, SOH, IGNOU | - Member |
| 6. Dr. Babu P. Kamesh, Director (I/C), SOITS | - Convenor |

The following members could not attend the meeting:

1. Prof. Dilip R. Ahuja, ISRO Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore.
2. Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya, Chairman, Centre for Studies in Civilisations, Kolkata.
3. Dr. Ranabir Samaddar, Director, Mahanirbhan Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata.
4. Prof. Chandan Mahanta, IIT, Guwahati

Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur (SOITS), Prof. D. Gopal (SOSS), Prof. C.K. Ghosh (SSC), Mr. Ajay Mahurkar (SOSS) Prof. Venugopal Reddy (Director, Research Unit), Dr. Jayasree Kurup (Deputy Director, EDNERU) were also present in the meeting as Special Invitees.

At the outset, Dr. Babu P. Remesh, Director (I/C), SOITS welcomed the members and special invitees. This was followed by item-wise discussions and recommendations of the agenda of school board meeting as follows:

SOITS 5.1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Fourth School Board Meeting held on 4 March 2009

SOITS 5.1. 1. No comments received on the Minutes of the Meeting of the Fourth School Board. The School Board Confirmed the Minutes as approved.

SOITS 5.2. Action Taken Report and Review of Work-in-Progress

SOITS 5.2.1. Director (I/C), SOITS presented a brief report of the activities carried out by the School since the previous school board meeting.

SOITS 5.2.2. The progress made in terms of various academic programmes of the School, which will be launched in the current academic year was reported by the Director (I/C), which was supplemented by the Coordinators of respective programmes.

SOITS 5.2.3. The phase 4 form of the P.G. Diploma in Folklore and Cultural Studies was tabled for consideration of School Board. Dr. Nandini Sahu, Programme Coordinator explained the progress made so far and informed that the Course is expected to be ready for the July 2009 session. The members unanimously appreciated the progress made so far and approved the Phase 4 form.

SOITS 5.2.4. Prof. D. Gopal explained the activities carried out related to the proposed programmes on Gandhi and Peace Studies. It was reported that since the previous school board meeting, two Expert Committee Meetings were held. An MoU was also signed with the National Council for Rural Institutes, Hyderabad - to promote Gandhi and Peace Studies. It was further reported that M.A. in Gandhi and Peace Studies, will be commenced in July 2009 as a Face to Face Programme.

SOITS 5.2.5. Director (I/C), SOITS reported that as per the decisions of the 4th School Board Meeting of SOITS held on 04 March 2009, an MoU was signed with Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF) to launch an Online Certificate Programme in Sanskrit. Prof. Srivathsan informed the meeting that the School proposes to induct an Expert in Sanskrit studies as Consultant, shortly, who will be primarily entrusted with the task of coordinating the activities related to the implementation of the online certificate programme, in collaboration with CIF.

SOITS 5.2.6. It was also reported to the Expert Committee that following the decisions of the 4th School Board Meeting, necessary follow up has already made to sign MoU between IGNOU and the International Centre for Integral Studies (ICIS) and that the same may be signed in the last week of April 2009. Further, it was informed that as per the decisions of the 4th School Board Meeting, a Joint Consultative Meeting of those organizations who deal with Integral and Sri Aurobindo Studies (i.e., ICIS and SACAR) is scheduled for 17 June 2009.

SOITS 5.3. Constitution of Doctoral Committee

SOITS 5.3.1. The agenda point of constituting doctoral committee of the School was discussed. It was informed that there are already 3 RTAs who have submitted their proposals to SOITS (through the EDNERU division) and the constitution of the doctoral committee is a prerequisite to expedite the process of registration of these RTAs. After

detailed deliberations, the members agreed to recommend the following as the members of the doctoral committee.

1. Dr. Babu P. Remesh, Director (I/C), SOITS. (IGNOU), New Delhi -
Chairperson
2. Faculty of the SOITS - Members
3. At least one expert from the following panel (if approved by the VC).
 - i. Prof. Prabhu Mohapatra, Department of History, DU, New Delhi
 - ii. Prof. Kunal Chakrabarti, Centre of Historical Studies, JNU, New Delhi.
 - iii. Dr. Uma Chakrabarti, Member Governing Body, CWDS, Bhai Veer
Singh, Marg New Delhi - 110006.
 - iv. Prof., Romila Thapar, Emeritus, CHS, JNU, B- 23, Maharani Bagh, New
Delhi - 110065.
 - v. Prof. Ranbir Chakrabarti, CHS, JNU, New Delhi.
 - vi. Dr. Kamala Sankaran Department of Law , DU, New Delhi
 - vii. Dr. Parvin Jha, CESP, JNU, New Delhi.
 - viii. Dr. V. Snathakumar , CDS, Trivandrum.
 - ix. Dr. Raman Mahadevan, IDA, Chennai.
 - x. Prof. Vijay Kapur, Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University.
Delhi - 110007
 - xi. Prof. Sudharshan Aiyangar, VC, Gujarat Vidyapith Ahmadabad, Gujarat.
 - xii. Prof. Abdul Nafuy, Center of American Studies , SIS, JNU, New Delhi
 - xiii. Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, Chairperson, SIS, JNU, New Delhi
 - xiv. Dr. Rajan Kumar, SIS, JNU, New Delhi
 - xv. Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya, Director, Malvia Peace research centre,
Centre of Peace, BHU, Varanasi.
 - xvi. Prof. J.N. Sharma, Director, Department of Gandhian University
Punjab University, Chandigarh.
 - xvii. Prof. R.P, Mishra former Vice - Chancellor, Allahabad University,
Allahabad.
 - xviii. Prof. Manorama Sharma, Department of History, NEHU, Shillong,
Meghalaya.

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- xix. Prof. Apoorva Barua, Department of Politics, NEHU, Shillong, Meghalaya.
- xx. Prof. Upender Singh, Department of History, DU, Delhi – 110007.
- xxi. Prof. B.P. Sahu, Department of History, DU, Delhi - 110007
4. Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur, Ph.d Programme coordinator & Convenor, SOITS.

SOITS 5.3.2. It was decided that subsequently, SOITS needs to invite the eligible candidates for synopsis presentation before the doctoral committee and to send the minutes of the same for required approval and further follow up action with EDNERU and Research Unit of IGNOU. It was decided that these all these matters will be completed before 30.04.2009, to ensure the registration of the students.

SOITS 5.4. Future Plan of Action

SOITS 5.4.1. The meeting discussed at length and agreed upon the future plan of action of the School. It was decided that at the School level, the following generic actions may be pursued.

- Preparation of a Vision Plan for the School – which provides a framework and directions for expanding the activities of the School – for the next one decade.
- Organisation of regular Seminar Series and National/International Conferences on themes of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary relevance.
- Launching a journal on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies, namely The Indian Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies.

SOITS 5.4.2. While discussing the details of the journal, Prof. Srivathsan emphasized that there is ample scope for taking advantage of the information technology in the dissemination of the journal. It was unanimously suggested that the journal can have both online as well as text versions. Prof. Vijay Kapur suggested that the first issue of the journal can be brought out at the time of the Jubilee Celebrations of IGNOU in 2010. The members agreed to this suggestion and recommended for necessary follow up action.

SOITS 5.4.3. It was also reported in the Expert Committee meeting that the faculty members of the SOITS will also design and implement specific academic programmes in their respective areas of specializations. In the present academic year, there will be two face to face Masters Programmes (M.A. in Ancient History and Anthropology; Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur and M.A in Labour and Development; Dr. Babu P. Remesh), which may also be offered in the distance and open education mode subsequently.

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SOITS 5.4. Other Matters

SOITS 5.4.1. It was reported by the Director (I/C) that as per the decisions of the 3rd School Board Meeting held in October-2008, the necessary follow up regarding signing a MoU between IGNOU and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG) is being done. It was reported that as on date a draft MoU is received from the MCRG, which is under processing. The members unanimously agreed for the required follow up.

SOITS 5.4.2. The members also unanimously agreed to a proposal of including the faculty members of the School as ex-officio members of the School Board.

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

(K.R. Srivathsan)
Chairman