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INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY
STUDIES

Ref: IG/SOITS/09
Date: 24 August, 2009

6th School Board Meeting 31st July, 2009 in Board Room
IGNOU, New Delhi-110017

The introductory speech was given by Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur and report was presented by her regarding the MA programme in Social Anthropology.

The members presented in the meeting:

1. Prof. K. R. Srivathsan, PVC, IGNOU
2. Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur, Director (I/C) SOITS
3. Dr Babu Remesh, SOITS, IGNOU
4. Dr. C.K. Ghosh, IGNOU
5. Dr. Nandini Sahu, IGNOU
6. Prof. Vijay Kapur, FMS, University of Delhi
7. Prof. Ranabir Samaddar, MCRG, Kolkata
8. Prof. D.Gopal, IGNOU
9. Prof. Dilip Ahuja, Bangalore
10. Prof. Nawal Kishore, IGNOU
11. Prof. N.K. Dash, SOE, IGNOU

Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur in her report stated that a seminar will be shortly organized on tribal studies based on the previous Board meeting. Prof. C.K. Ghosh stated that a Doctoral committee will be formed to finalise the research topics in this regard. It was also mentioned that subjects like water management should be included in the School. Gandhian approach will also be included in the school. Someone will be very urgently required to assist the multiple activities connected with the school. It was also emphasized by the members that the SOITS is a very unique school in comparison to the other schools.

Prof. C.K. Ghosh explained about the International year of Astronomy. They are planning to organize a series of programme related to Astronomy particularly in Lucknow and Patna. They stressed on publishing through press and media. They are also interested to organize a seminar. The need to start an integrated M.Sc. programme in Astrophysics was also called upon in the meeting.

PVC Srivathsan encouraged the plan to organize seminar in the field of Astronomy. He pointed out Dr. Ramanujam was the first person to introduce the programme in Astronomy. In the meantime Prof. Srivathsan also emphasized that Sanskrit can also be a full time programme which has great potential.

Prof. Dash asked about the courses in MA in Social Anthropology and he also said that the course has already been launched, and the syllabus is also ready. Detailed structure of the programme has approved by the school. Prof. Srivathsan pointed out that regarding this course Prof. Romila Thapar also added some suggestions to bring into it an interdisciplinary prospective. Prof. Nawal Kishore appreciated the school for taking up the challenging task by including Science and Humanities in the interdisciplinary subject areas. Pure kind of routine activities and syllabus should be evaluated.

Prof. Srivathsan differentiated between the impact of normal study centre and the Distance learning mode. Several protocols are there in the distance learning. ICIS is a web based programme which enhances the quality of distance education. T

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school has to take some additional responsibility to develop this programme. The assessment done by the school is also acceptable. One person should be appointed to screen and monitor the programme. Prof. Nawal Kishore pointed out that Psychology is also a course which can be framed out under IGNOU and he named Sunil Verma's expertise in this regard. Prof. Dash gave importance to tie up with partner institute. He recommended that a consultant be appointed in the school. He mentioned the name of Dr. Anuradha as a visiting guest professor to the school. Prof. Srivathsan pointed out that VC's approval should be taken to appoint a guest adviser. He told to target the rural areas in this course. Water management, tribal problem also a field of study. He suggested that a tutorial video instruction mode of teaching will enhance the quality. Dr. Chandan Mahanta expressed his thought to pull the resource person from various field to govern the course of the school and an expert consultant may be appointed to handle the programme. Dr Mahanta suggested that in North East Gauhati University has a strong Social and Anthropology Department. The school should tie up with the Department to benefit from its expertise. Dr. Nandini Sahu expressed her concern that her course on folklore studies might overlap with tribal studies conducted by Bhasa. She also expressed her keenness to be a member of SOITS Doctoral Committee. In the meanwhile Prof. Gopal explained at length about the RTA scheme of IGNOU to clarify the query of Dr. Mahanta regarding RTA scheme.

Prof. Ghosh explained his plan to introduce a programme on Education for Navy and to form an expert committee with member from the Naval officers. With suggestion from Prof. Vijay Kapur, Prof. Ghosh was advised to invite some senior Naval personal from Directorate of Naval Education (DNE) in the next Board meeting to form a naval programme.

Nandini Sinha K
(Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur
Director (I/C), SOIT

PVC (KRS)

Tejashwini
14.9.09.

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Approved.

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