



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

51st (SPECIAL) SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
Held on Sept 16, 2015
Committee Room of School of Humanities
F-Block, New Academic Complex
Indira Gandhi National Open University

MINUTES OF THE 51st (SPECIAL) MEETING OF SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

The 51st meeting of the School Board (Special School Board) of the School of Humanities was held on 16th September, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the Committee Room, Block-F, Tagore Bhawan, New Academic Complex, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068.

The meeting was chaired by the Director (SOH) Prof. Sunaina Kumar.

The following were present:

1. SOH Faculty Members – Professors

1. Prof. J. M. Parakh, Professor of Hindi
2. Prof. A.S. Gupta, Professor of English
3. Prof. Malati Mathur, Professor of English
4. Prof. Satyakam, Professor of Hindi
5. Prof. A.B. Sharma, Professor of English

2. Members – SOH (IGNOU) under Section 2(c)

1. Dr. Nandini Sahu
Associate Professor in English
2. Dr. Jitendra K. Srivastava
Associate Professor in Hindi
3. Dr. Parmod Kumar
Assistant Professor in English
4. Ms. Mridula Rashmi Kindo
Assistant Professor in English

3. Members – outside SOH (IGNOU) under Section 2(d)

Prof. Geeta Kaicker
Professor of Life Sciences, School of Sciences

4. Members – outside IGNOU under Section 2(e)

1. Prof. Ravinder Gargesh, Formerly Dept. of Linguistics, Delhi University, SD 386 Tower Apts. Pitam Pura, Delhi- 110034
2. Prof. M. Venkataswar,
Flat No.310, Kancherla Towers,
Golconda Cross Roads,
Musheerabad, Hyderabad – 500020
3. Prof. Govind Prasad, Centre of Indian Languages, JNU, New Delhi – 110067
4. Prof. Ameena Kazi Ansari, Deptt. of English, JMI, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi

The following could not attend the meeting:

1. Prof. Shatrughna Kumar
Professor of Hindi, SOH, IGNOU
2. Prof. A. K. Singh
Professor, SOTST, IGNOU
3. Shri Ajay Mahurkar
Associate Professor, SOSS, IGNOU
4. Dr. Shikha Rai,
Assistant Professor, SOJNMS, IGNOU
5. Prof. B.Y. Lalithamba, Prof. of Hindi (Retd.), 13041, STC Main, 2nd Stage, 9th Block, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore.

Since this was a Special School Board meeting, the 1) Proceedings and 2) Discussions & 3) Decisions are recorded in detail.

1.PROCEEDINGS

At the outset, Prof. Sunaina Kumar, the Chairperson and Director of the School Board of School of Humanities (SOH) welcomed all the Members to the Meeting and thanked them for coming at such short notice. This meeting had been called on the directives of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (Encl 1) which was the reason for placing only the two agenda items as per Agenda emailed that had been emailed to all Board members (in view of shortage of time and Xerox facilities).

The Chairperson requested that since this is a Special meeting, the Agenda was only limited to discussing post facto approval of the Board for the two Courses being revised viz. BEGA-001 (Introduction to the Media) and BEGE-106 (Understanding Poetry)- both being coordinated by Prof A B Sharma, Prof of English. (Originally these courses were titled AFW-01: Feature Writing and EEG-06: Understanding Poetry and were also being coordinated by Prof Sharma.)

Here Prof Sharma intervened that he had already placed on record that he felt this meeting was unnecessary and post-facto approval could be sought directly from the Academic Council Standing Committee (ACSC), without the approval of the School Board.

(This is procedurally wrong since the ACSC itself had directed (Encl 2) that the post-facto approval of "detailed modified syllabus along with existing syllabus" from it should be sought after obtaining School Board's approval.)

She further took permission to orient the Board about the processes of course development followed at IGNOU so that they could take an informed view of the issues for which the meeting had been called.

The Chairperson said that since IGNOU's terminology and the processes of course development followed at IGNOU are confusing to non-IGNOU experts, so she would use the (new) names **Introduction to the Media** and **Understanding Poetry** rather than codes alone, for their convenience, for these two courses and take these courses up in this order.

2.DISCUSSIONS:

With reference to the Agenda for the Special 51st Meeting of the School Board for "POST-FACTO APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE COURSES- BEGE 106 & BEGA 001".

Before taking up the first Agenda Item, the Chair took the opportunity to inform that the Academic Council /ACSC fresh Approval for the course BEGA 001 was to be sought in compliance with the decision of the Academic Council at its 32nd meeting (Nov 13, 2004).

- 1. Agenda Item No.1: BEGA-001 (Introduction to the Media): Coordinator Prof A B Sharma**
To replace AFW: Application-oriented Course on Feature Writing: Coordinator Prof. A.B. Sharma

Chair informed that the Revised Course **BEGA-001 (Introduction to the Media)** had already been printed in 2011. She added that this has been pending since the term (till Sept 30, 2013) of the previous Director, Prof Rita Rani Paliwal who has since superannuated.

However, as per file records available with School, it was not on offer due to the desire of Coordinator, to offer both the original course **AFW: Application-oriented Course on Feature Writing**, which was to be replaced as being “too advanced”) **and also the new course, the BEGA 001: Introduction to the Media** to the students.

The problems with this suggestion, then, of Coordinator were two-fold, she explained for the benefit primarily of external members:

Firstly, approval for revision of **AFW: Application-oriented Course on Feature Writing** was given the basis of it being “too advance” (sic) (ACSC 22.2.1) and he proposed a revision/transformation of the same. With this logic, the old course could, therefore, not be offered any more. (Reference to *Item 46.5 “Minutes of 47th SB meeting”*: “*The Board wanted to know whether Feature Writing (AFW) revision had been approved. No relevant information has been given...If the required papers are attached the item can be treated as approved. The Board authorized the Chairperson to see that all papers are placed*”.)

Secondly, the ‘basket’ of options for the BDP electives of which this course would be a part, can have only eight credits worth of courses i.e. four from AWR (Application-oriented Course on Writing for Radio) and four from AFW (Application-oriented Course on Feature Writing). If BEGA 001 is also put in this basket, it would have a credit load of twelve credits for students. *This twelve credit workload was not in keeping with IGNOU’s policy for Application-oriented courses.*

However, in the School Council held on September 04, 2015, the Coordinator "changed his stand" (Minutes presented at meeting attached again here (Encl 3) and no longer wished to offer the old course in addition to the new revised version.

In the light of this, the School Board, after detailed deliberations and discussions, approved the **BEGA-001 (Introduction to the Media)** as a **replacement** for the existing **AFW: Application-oriented Course on Feature Writing** and requested the Chairperson to follow due procedures in the matter with regard to approval by the Academic Council Standing Committee (ACSC) of IGNOU.

The existing AFW would be henceforth be phased out and not on offer in the forthcoming IGNOU Handbook cum Prospectus.

Prof A B Sharma again intervened to place on record that he did not feel the need for placing this item before the Board. The Chair explained that it was being placed with Hon’ble Vice Chancellor’s written directive for “**CONVENING A SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING...FOR “POST-FACTO APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE COURSES- BEGE 106 & BEGA 001”**”.

However, the Coordinator Prof Sharma specifically and repeatedly kept insisting he did not need to have it placed before the Board for Post -facto approval.

At this point the Board members asked to look at the already printed materials of both the courses **BEGE 106 & BEGA 001**

Prof Sharma then left the meeting before BEGE 106 could be discussed. Before leaving, he reiterated that BEGE 106 too did not need Post-facto Approval by the School Board.

Agenda Item No. 2: BEGE 106: Introduction to Poetry was therefore, discussed, in his absence.

2. Agenda Item No.2: BEGE-106 (Understanding Poetry – 8 Blocks).

To replace EEG 006: Understanding Poetry– 7 Blocks): Coordinator Prof. A.B. Sharma

The Board members repeated that they wished to know the status of the **eight blocks** of the **BEGE 106: Introduction to Poetry**. Director informed the Board that the said course has been announced for July 2015 cycle in the IGNOU Handbook cum Prospectus, on the written assurance of the Coordinator that it would be ready by March (2015) end. Board was informed that

- Regarding Blocks 1 and 6 as of Sept 11, 2015, there was no written information from Coordinator about the status of the print materials. (to Query from PVC SY).
- Blocks 2,3,4,5 of this course were ready in October, 2014, as per IGNOU records
- Blocks 7 and 8 of BEGE 106 are as of Sept 15, 2015, (the previous day), Director was informed in writing by the SO (Printing) of SOH that they are only in final proof stage and are not yet ready in CRC or print form.

The four available printed blocks (2,3,4,5) were placed then before the Board.

This process of course development has other procedural shortcomings as well,

The School Board after detailed deliberations and discussions approved that the **BEGE-106 (Understanding Poetry) – (8 Blocks) -- would replace EEG: Understanding Poetry and requested the Chairperson to Application-oriented Course on Feature Writing and requested the Chairperson to follow due procedures in the matter with regard to approval by the Academic Council Standing Committee (ACSC) of IGNOU.**

This decision was only to facilitate students who had already enrolled in the July 2015 cycle of admissions for this course and were yet to be sent the course materials as on date, and not to serve as precedent for similar cases, the Board noted.

The Board noted that responsibility for getting the materials of BEGE 106 printed would henceforth be the responsibility of the Course Coordinator Prof A.B. Sharma (**Encl 4**) since in the file pertaining to the Board Meeting he had noted that he wished the said course to be printed by MPDD).

Chair pointed out that this procedure is at variance with the current practice of routing all printing jobs for **revised and new Courses** of SOH through the School of Humanities. (Ref IGNOU's current policy of decentralizing printing to Schools.)

Further, procedurally, the **budget** for all work orders of **revised and new courses**, processing of bills for printing-related jobs, is with the SOH and duly put up by the SO(P) to the Director

who is the Drawing and Disbursing officer of the School of Humanities for payments. **Courses Reprinting budget** is with MPDD. This issue would need to be kept in mind as well while getting BEGE 106 printed by MPDD.

3.DECISIONS FOR THE TWO COURSES

The School Board after detailed deliberations and discussions approved that

- a) **BEGA-001 (Introduction to the Media) is to replace the existing AFW 01: Application-oriented Course on Feature Writing.** The Board authorized the Chairperson to obtain Post-Facto approval for this Course from Academic Council Standing Committee (ACSC) of IGNOU at its next meeting. **It took note of the minutes of the School Council held** on September 04, 2015, where the Coordinator had "changed his stand" (Minutes presented at meeting) and no longer wished to offer the old course in addition to the new revised version.
- The existing AFW is to be phased out and not to be on offer for new students in the forthcoming IGNOU HANDBOOK CUM PROSPECTUS.
 - BEGA-001 (Introduction to the Media) is to replace the existing AFW 01: Application-oriented Course on Feature Writing.
- b) **BEGE-106 (Understanding Poetry) – (8 Blocks)—is to replace the existing EEG: 106 Understanding Poetry.** It authorized the Chairperson to obtain Post-Facto approvals for this Course from Academic Council Standing Committee (ACSC) of IGNOU at its next meeting.

It was noted that this decision is only to facilitate the students who have enrolled for the said course BEGE-106 (Understanding Poetry) for July 2015 cycle and not to serve as a precedent for further similar cases.

Chairperson thanked the Board members for their presence, advice and guidance in the issue of obtaining Post-facto Approvals of the two courses, at the next meeting of the ACSC.

c) Approval of tabled Item:

Prof Satyakan, PhD (Hindi) Coordinator at this point requested the Board to approve tabled item re change of Supervisor of Ms Sunita Devi, Enrol no. 112246909 (Minutes of Hindi Doctoral Committee Meeting --Encl 5) as her Supervisor had superannuated. Since this was a case of interest of student, the Board approved the same for further necessary action.

The undersigned places on record her personal apologies to the Board members for the unpleasant situation they were exposed to as a result of intemperate language and behavior of the said Coordinator when respected Board Members had spared their valuable time to come at such short notice and were trying to facilitate the offering of the two courses he was coordinating.

**Prof. Sunaina Kumar,
Chairperson, School Board &
Director, School of Humanities**

PVC's COPY