



An Institution of
the Society for the Higher Education
of Women in India

Office of the Principal

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Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Academic Council of Sophia College (Autonomous) – Held via Zoom at 2.30 pm on 17 February 2022

The meeting was chaired by Dr (Sr) Ananda Amritmahal, Principal of the college. All the Vice-Chancellor's nominees, Dr. Shivram Garje, Dr. Uma Shankar and Dr. D.V. Pawar were present. No one from the panel of four experts from outside the college, Ms. Padmini Somani, Dr Usha Mukundan, Ms. Zara Murao and Dr Rajiva Kothurkar were able to attend. All the Heads of Departments and senior members of the college were present.

Dr. (Sr.) Ananda welcomed all the members to the seventh Academic Council meeting, especially the newly appointed VC's nominees, and said that she looked forward to their valuable inputs during the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were displayed. Dr. Pawar proposed the passing of the motion and Dr. Uma Shankar seconded the motion to pass the minutes, and the minutes were unanimously accepted.

Sr. Ananda presented a brief report of the first semester of 2022-22. She stated that the teaching pattern has continued in the online mode. Not many students have started coming into college, even though they are now allowed, since lectures are being conducted in a hybrid mode and the students find it easier to access these from the comfort of their homes. Despite the online mode, several webinars, guest lectures and an international seminar on Gender Sensitization and Protection of the Rights of Children and Senior Citizens had been successfully concluded. Further, all the departments have completed an add-on course as planned during the last Academic Council meeting. The response to these courses has been very positive with student numbers ranging from 30 to 150. These courses also offer students the opportunity to take cross faculty courses.

Of the new courses initiated, the first semester of the newly started MA course has been successfully concluded. There have been few student registrations this year, however, the course has been well received. It has been conducted in the online mode. The other course which is a Diploma in Safe Guarding Children and Vulnerable Adults is ongoing and will complete in April, and there will be 2 weeks of practice sessions in the physical mode. This course is conducted for counsellors, all of them are working professionals.

The names of the VC nominees for constituting a new BoS were received only in December end and hence the meetings were conducted in Jan-Feb of 2022. The assessment pattern continues to remain 50% Internal Assessment and 50% Semester End Exam. The IA included at least one subjective component. The SEE was in the form of MCQs of 1 and 2 marks, but efforts are made to make these questions challenging, requiring higher order skills and not simple rote learning.

The Principal then continued with discussing the changes made in the syllabi:

Since most subjects had made only minor modifications, Sr. Ananda only highlighted the changes that had been incorporated.

- English Department- Some minor changes – the name of an author was corrected; another text was dropped as it was not possible to obtain copies easily.

The following text was included in the section on Romanticism and Colonialism in Paper VIII (Semester V) Tim Fulford and Peter J. Kitson (eds.): Selections from *Romanticism and Colonialism: Writing and Empire, 1780 – 1830*

- Foundation Course – The paper Foundations in Indian Society SBAFCO101/ SBSFCO101 has been modified by 30%. Topics such as LGBTQ have been included, and wherever it was philosophical, it has been made more practical oriented.
- History Department - The formats of all the papers for Sem IV and Sem V have been changed – each paper now has five modules instead of four. And some content of these papers has also been changed.
- Philosophy - There are some modifications in the SYBA Paper II and Paper III syllabi. In paper II a module has been switched from Sem 3 to Sem 4.

Dr. Pawar pointed out that both Learning objectives and Learning outcomes should be mentioned in the syllabus as per NAAC guidelines.

- Sociology - At FYBA level in Paper SBASOC201, Introductory Sociology, two theories of Socialization are added to the syllabus. From the academic year 2021-22 at TYBA level in Paper SBASOC606, Qualitative Social Research students will have to do a paper presentation based on their research project which will be followed by viva voce.
- Microbiology – Some minor changes in the SYBSc syllabus. In MSc. the topic on research methodology has been shifted from Sem 3 to Sem 2 so that the students are better prepared when they plan for their project.
- Life Sciences – Minor changes have been made in TYBSc syllabus with inclusion of one new practical. A few minor changes have also been made in the FYBSc practical syllabus. For the MSc syllabus there has been a reciprocal switch in a module from Paper 4 between Sem 1 and 2.
- Chemistry – For MSc Part I syllabus has been changed and some new topics introduced in all the 4 papers, including some new practicals. Some changes are also introduced in the IA assessment. In Sem 3 one paper has also been changed to be in concordance with the other cluster colleges.

Dr. Garje enquired whether Internal Assessment was only for theory or also for practical. He was informed that the IA was only for theory.

- BMM/ BA(SCJ) – Extensive changes have been made. Papers have been interchanged between Sem 5 and 6. A new paper has been introduced in Sem 6 called ‘Social and Rural Marketing’. BMM now called BA(SCJ) will have the TY batch in 2022-23 and papers have been changed accordingly. The various topics in the papers were presented. The department is hoping to have an entrance exam during admission from next year and this has been passed by the BoS.
- The Principal mentioned the various add-on Courses that are on-going and/or being introduced from next year. Education -one-credit certificate course on Gender Inclusivity; Foundation course - one-credit certificate course on Local Culture (Mumbai Meri Jaan); Microbiology - one-credit certificate course on Clinical Research; Zoology - one-credit certificate course on Basics in Forensic Science

- The Principal in her concluding remarks mentioned that the decision for conduct of exams, whether online or offline was still pending. One, because the college is waiting for the University to announce their decision. The need to maintain uniformity with the University was important since the students would compare themselves with the other University affiliated college students. Hence, there was no resolution regarding the exams to be passed during this meeting.
- The resolutions to be passed were:
 - ✓ Resolved that the proposed add-on courses be and hereby are accepted and passed. The courses will be conducted in the academic year 2022-2023.
 - ✓ Resolved that the proposed changes in the syllabi discussed in the Academic Council meeting be and hereby are accepted and passed. The changes will come into effect from the academic year 2022-2023.
 - ✓ Resolved that the proposal to continue with the ratio of SEE to IA, viz. 50:50 be and hereby is adopted, for the academic year 2022-2023.

She added that once a decision was reached on the format of the SEE exams, we could pass a circular resolution which could be signed by all the members of the Academic Council.

Dr. Garje suggested that if the University decides to conduct exams in the offline mode then the college needs to be prepared for that. Sr. Ananda agreed and said that in fact the college was preparing for both modes and question papers are being set accordingly. The students, however, were being told that the college is awaiting the University decision. Since several students would have to come from outstation there was great anxiety among them.

Dr. Uma Shankar mentioned that the add -on courses was a good idea and the fact that students were attending these in large numbers would greatly benefit from them. She agreed that this uncertainty regarding the mode of exam was something all the colleges were experiencing.

The resolutions were passed with Dr. Andrea Coutinho proposing and Dr. Yasmin Khan seconding the motion.

Sr. Ananda ended by saying that this would be her last AC meeting since she was retiring in March. She thanked the new members and said that she was happy to have interacted with them during this meeting.



Dr. (Sr) Ananda Amritmahal
Principal, Sophia College Autonomous