

Minutes of the 1st Board of Studies Meeting - Department of Psychology

26th September 2018

Ms. Gilda Pereira welcomed the members of the board of studies to the meeting. The meeting began with all the members introducing themselves to one another.

Leave of absence was granted to Dr. Anuradha Sovani and Ms. Vasundhara S. The forum was formed with 5 members (Sr. Patricia D'souza, Dr. Jennie Mendes, Dr. Neeta Tatke, Ms. Archana Patki, and Dr. Smita Desai).

The Agenda of the meeting was:

1. Welcoming the members
2. Brief address by HOD
3. Scrutiny and approval of the syllabus for semester 1 and 2
4. Scrutiny and approval of the syllabus for semester 3 and 4
5. Scrutiny and approval of the syllabus for semester 5 and 6
6. Scrutiny and approval of the list of examiners and paper setters
7. Any other business

The meeting proceeded with the presentation of the syllabus beginning with the FYBA syllabus. A query was raised as to how the topic of 'Applying Psychology to Everyday Life' was being done, which was clarified. Dr. Desai mentioned a textbook that she had come across that focused on how to study psychology. It presented the jargon involved in explanation of terms. Which would be of assistance to students making it easier for them to decode the material later.

A question was raised by Ms Patki regarding the credits awarded for each paper. They are sometimes 3 and sometimes 4. This causes the Mumbai University students to be at a disadvantage. The other members clarified that since this would involve changing the workload it is not possible to change the credits awarded to each paper.

A recommendation regarding the wording of the objectives was made. It was suggested that the department make them more learner centric. For example, use words like "enable" and "facilitate". The current objectives are more teacher centric than learner centric.

For the topic on Indian Psychology Dr. Desai recommended a book edited by Girishwar Mishra.

Ms Jennie spoke about the syllabus for the Social Psychology paper. She mentioned that the syllabus for the first semester has remained the same as the previous year. In the second semester, a small change has been made. The topic on groups has been replaced by interpersonal attraction.

Sr. Patricia mentioned that the Developmental Psychology syllabus remained the same, however some shifting around has been done within the chapters. LGBT issues were also something that needed to be focused on.

She also said that the syllabus for Testing and Statistics paper remained the same as before. Dr. Desai had a suggestion for the Testing and Statistic paper with regard to the intelligence and personality assessments since a lot of people who enter the field get into assessments. She mentioned that they know nothing about education achievement tests, and a lot of time goes in training them. She also made a suggestion with regard to neuropsychological testing, saying that a small introduction to these tests should be given. Dr. Tatke commented that in the current syllabus under intelligence/personality assessments the main focus is on the history and development of the tests which is not very relevant. Moreover, the tests that are being studied are outdated.

A suggestion was made with respect Abnormal Psychology. It was said that the syllabus does not touch upon the elderly population at all and, there is no mention of child and adolescent disorders either. Questions were raised with respect to students' preparedness for work life after their bachelor's degree. If they receive adequate training, they can work in the field of Psychology immediately after BA if they have a strong Psychology background. The department could explore the idea of equipping the students with skills so that they can work as research assistants.

A suggestion regarding the nomenclature of the courses was made. One possibility was replace Part I and Part II in the titles with more specific course titles. For example, in developmental, the titles could be changed to development in infancy and development in childhood for semester 1 and 2 respectively.

It was also recommended that the department could have experts in the field come in and talk to the students about their experience. This would allow the students to see beyond the text at the applications of theory.

Dr. Desai also mentioned that she and her colleagues have an online software that allows them to monitor some of the aspects related to counselling skills and techniques. She offered to come and speak to the students about the software so that could be aware of what is being used in therapeutic set-ups in the country today. Dr. Jennie mentioned that January may be a good time because they would be covering goal setting at the time

Sr Patricia said that the syllabus for Industrial-organizational Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, and Practicals has remained the same. Sr Patricia shared the altered paper patterns. Issues were raised that this pattern allows students to leave one topic completely. According to UGC guidelines, that is not permissible. One can have only internal choices. The distribution of marks is up to the department. However, the pattern should not permit the students to skip an entire unit. Dr. Neeta Tatke mentioned that the department could go ahead with this pattern for this semester but it would be advisable to go through the UGC guidelines before the next semester. Sr. Patricia mentioned that the paper pattern for testing and statistics is slightly different from the other papers and displayed the pattern on the PPT.

The members mentioned that external moderation and double evaluation are some good practices that can be followed during the evaluation process.

The board recommended asking the students to come more prepared for the classes. This would include asking them to read up beforehand and to look at research articles. This helps build interest in the field makes students enjoy learning. It was mentioned that the use of technology could aid in classroom learning. They spoke about the use of software such as Moodle for paper setting.

The two resolutions concerning the syllabus and appointment of paper setters/examiners were passed by the Board of studies members.

Sr. Patricia thanked all the members for their present and valuable contributions. She informed them that the next meeting would tentatively take place in February 2019.

Passed by: Dr. Neeta Tatke

Seconded by: Ms. Archana Patki