

MINUTES OF THE 11th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
HELD ON 19th MAY 2012 AT UNIVERSITY GUEST HOUSE, GANGTOK

The First Meeting of the Second Academic Council of Sikkim University, constituted in terms of amended provisions of Statute 13 of the Schedule to Sikkim University Act 2006, was held in Gangtok on 19.05.2012. The meeting was preceded by a Plenary Session, wherein aspects of various activities of the University over last five years were reported to Members of the Academic Council.

Following Members attended the meeting:

S. No.	Name & Designation	Position
1.	Prof. Mahendra P Lama Founding, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University	Chairperson
2.	Shri Tashi Densapa Director Namgyal Institute of Tibetology Deorali, Gangtok - 737 101	Member
3.	Smt. Keepu Tshering Lepcha Social Activist Civil Servant & Padma Shri Awardee – 2009 Gangtok - 737101	Member
4.	Dr. Rajkishor Gupta Principal Sant Muktabai Arts and Commerce College Muktainagar, Jalgaon – 425 002, Maharashtra	Member
5.	Prof. S.F. Patil Executive Director International Affairs (Research & Training) Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University Bharati Vidyapeeth Bhavan Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Pune – 411 030	Member
6.	Dr. M.P. Thapa Principal Namchi Govt. College Kamrang, Namchi 737 126	Member

7.	Fr. (Dr.) Donatus Kujur, SJ Principal Loyala College of Education Namchi 737 126	Member
8.	Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor, School of Physical & Chemical Sciences, Sikkim University	Member

Following members requested for leave of absence from the meeting:

S. No.	Name & Designation	Position
1.	Prof. Peter Ronald de Souza, Director Indian Institute of Advanced Study Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla – 171 005	Member
2.	Prof. S.S. Singh, Director, The National Law Institute University, Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal – 462044	Member
3.	Lt. Gen Aditya Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Rtd) T-11/8, DLF City Phase III Gurgaon, 122 002-03, Haryana	Member

The officials of Sikkim University present in this meeting were Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Acting Registrar, Dr. C.B. Sunwar, Fellow (Academic), Shri D. Kanunjna, OSD (Finance), Dr. Tamal Guha, Librarian and Dr. Suresh Gurung, COE(I/c).

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

AC:11:01	The Chairperson calls the House to order
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The quorum having been attained, the Chairperson declared the meeting open by welcoming the new members and by recording his deep appreciation of the invaluable contribution made by the Members of the First Academic Council in shaping the University as it stood today.

AC:11:02	Obituary Reference
-----------------	---------------------------

Minutes:

Names of the eminent personalities and relations of members of family of employees of Sikkim University, who passed away recently, were read out. The House observed two minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

AC:11:03	Performance Highlights by the Vice-Chancellor
-----------------	--

Minutes:

In his 15 minutes power-point presentation, the Founding Vice Chancellor touched upon wide range of issues, from the students enrolment to award of degrees, curricular review to evaluation, recruitment of teaching and non-teaching positions, management of University administration under challenging circumstances, visits to affiliated colleges, engagement in community development programmes and NET-SLET examination. He observed that though much of his early expectations were frustrated owing to various extraneous causes, the University was able to pursue the academic programmes quite satisfactorily till date.

The members noted with appreciation the efforts made by the university to foster remarkable and all-round growth in trying situations and hoped that the same would continue unabated.

GROUP I –ITEMS WHICH NEED APPROVAL

AC:11:04	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Final and 10th meeting of the First Academic Council held on 20.08.2011
-----------------	--

Minutes:

Minutes of the tenth and last meeting of First Academic Council held on 20.08.2011 was presented. It was reported that these minutes were duly circulated among members of the First Academic Council for their comments if any. Since no comment from any member was reportedly received, these minutes were confirmed.

AC:11:05	Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the Final and 10th meeting of the First Academic Council held on 20.08.2011
-----------------	---

Minutes:

Report of action taken on the directions of members on various items of agenda of the last meeting was presented. The members perused and approved the action of the university.

AC:11:06	Zero Semester Cases
-----------------	----------------------------

Minutes:

The members noted that applications of fourteen students, who had sought to avail the benefit of Zero Semester, for their end-semester examination of Monsoon 2011, were considered by the university. The House accorded its approval to the proposal.

AC:11:07	Unfair Means Cases
-----------------	---------------------------

Minutes:

The members perused the recommendations of the Examination Disciplinary Committee on the three cases of students, who were found to adopt unfair means in Monsoon Semester Examination 2011, and approved the same for necessary follow-up action.

AC:11:08	Semester Break Cases
----------	----------------------

Minutes:

The members were apprised of the provision for permitting semester-break to students, who are forced to temporarily discontinue studies under compelling circumstances. Applications of thirteen such students received during Monsoon semester and recommended by the university were considered and approved.

AC:11:09	Improvement Cases for the Monsoon Semester 2011-12
----------	--

Minutes:

The members were informed that altogether 28 candidates of Monsoon semester examination 2011 were found eligible for writing improvement papers as per the Ordinance framed. The House noted the matter with approval.

AC:11:10	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination – clause relating to “Zero Semester”
----------	--

Minutes:

After detailed deliberations, the House unanimously adopted following amendments to the proposed Ordinance on Examination with regard to the provisions for Zero Semester Clause 05.13) by inserting following new proviso:

05:13 (3A) : Provided that the student may also tender application in prescribed format duly recommended and forwarded by the Principal of the College / Head of the Department to the office of the Controller of Examinations within 7 (seven) days after the completion of the end – semester examinations in emergency / special situation like inevitable medical attention required due to sudden and severe illness, death in the family, accident involving the student herself or himself, while the examination is in progress.

05:13 (3b): Provided that in the event of a student availing Zero Semester in the same semester when she/he is also required to clear the improvement paper and cannot do so because of Zero Semester, shall clear the improvement paper without fail in the same designated semester when she / he is doing the Zero Semester.

05:13 (3c): *Provided that students prosecuting programmes with courses having 8 semesters or more like B.A-LLB (10 Semesters), B.Sc. in Horticulture & Floriculture (8 Semesters), B. Pharm. (8 Semesters) may avail “Zero Semester” twice in the entire course subject to approval by the appropriate authority. However, the second Zero Semester can only be availed after the completion of the Sixth Semester and clear the Zero Semester in the relevant (odd / even) semester after the completion of the final semester.*

AC:11:11	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination – clause relating to “Pass requirements and promotion to the next semester.”
----------	--

Minutes:

The members noted that due to introduction of Choice-based-credit-system (CBCS), certain transitional difficulties with regard to pass requirements and promotion to next semester have arisen. In order to obviate those difficulties and to bring more clarity to the system, the House decided that

- (i) to insert two provisions to the first Ordinance on Examinations (as amended upto 20.08.2011) below Section 05.12(3) as follows

05:12 (3) (a): *Candidates falling below this stipulation but maintaining minimum aggregate marks / grade specified for General Course candidates shall also be promoted to the next semester.*

05:12 (3) (b): *“A candidate who fails to score a cumulative aggregate of 40 per cent but secures at least 35 per cent cumulative aggregate when he / she completes the degree shall be demoted and shall be awarded a General Course degree”.*

- (ii) the stipulation of pre-CBCS syllabus for promotion to the next immediate semester should be allowed to continue and 2010 stipulation should be made effective from 2012-13 academic session at the undergraduate (affiliated college) level.

AC:11:12	Amendment to Examination Ordinance – Insertion of new Clause relating to Integrated Courses
-----------------	--

Minutes:

Members noted with appreciation that programmes offered under integrated courses in Sikkim University have increased from four to nine during the academic year 2012 – 13. It further noted that these programmes have provisions to exit after completion of undergraduate segment and also to permit lateral entry at the postgraduate level.

The House also approved introduction of oblique sign (like BA/MA) replacing hyphen sign (like BA-MA) in all the expressions of descriptions of courses.

Accordingly, relevant provisions under sub-section (h) of Section 05.15 of the Examination Ordinance have been permitted to be amended to read as under

1. BA LL B/LL M
2. BCA/MCA
3. BBA/MBA
4. BPA/MPA in Music
5. BA/MA in Chinese Language
6. B Sc/M Sc in Psychology
7. B Sc/M Sc in Floriculture and Horticulture Management
8. B Sc/M Sc in Earth Science
9. B Sc/M Sc in Mathematics

AC:11:13	Amendment to Examination Ordinance – Insertion of new Sub-Clause relating to Division, Distinction to successful candidates.
-----------------	---

Minutes:

11.13.1 The House considered the proposal under submission and approved insertion of new Sub-Clause regarding award of divisions / class to successful candidates in Sikkim University in general programme as under;

Sl. No.	Marks / Per cent scored	Award of Division / Class
01	60 % and above	First Class

02	45 % and above & less than 60%	Second Class
03	Above 35 to 45 per cent	Pass.

The House directed to bring the above proposal as amendment to the relevant provision in the First Ordinance on Examinations retrospectively covering Monsoon 2008 to till 2009-10 batches.

AC:11:14	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination – Award of division and award to topper
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The House after an exhaustive deliberation on the topic suggested the University to select the topper by calculating percentage out of the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

The House further directed to bring the above as amendment to the relevant provision in the First Ordinance on Examinations.

AC:11:15	Amendment to nomenclature of the programme: BA-MA Music.
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the proposal under submission and approved the UGC nomenclature of degree programmes in Music as Bachelor/Master of Performing Arts (Music) for implementation in the University.

In line to the above, the House directed to bring amendment in the relevant Ordinance(s).

AC:11:16	Amendment to M. Pharm. Syllabus: Paper MPY 31 (Biodiversity of Eastern Himalayas)
-----------------	--

Minutes:

In view of the anomaly persisting in the credit allocation for Paper MPY 31 (Biodiversity in Eastern Himalayas) in M.Pharm syllabus, the House considered and approved implementation of the following pattern of evaluation and weight-age as follows;

Pattern of Evaluation	Total Weight-age in %
Mid Semester Test	20
Project Report	40

Seminar presentation and Viva-Voce	35
Attendance	05
Total	100

11.16.5 The House directed the University to bring the above as amendment in the M.Pharm syllabus.

AC:11:17	Amendment to M. Pharm. Syllabus: Paper MPY 33 (Dissertation) III & IV Sems.
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The Members noted the difficulty in distributing credits allocated for dissertation in Paper MPY 33 of M Pharm Syllabus of Third and fourth semester. It was decided that the results of paper MPY 33 will be declared only on completion of fourth and final semester.

AC:11:18	FIELD STUDY AT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES: Amendment to payment norms.
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The Members were informed that Sikkim University has introduced a system under which the cost of field visits conducted by students as part of their undergraduate curricula is reimbursed to colleges. According to this, each student is paid @ Rs. 75 per day for a field trip of at least 12 days. In addition, a lump sum amount of Rs. 5000 is paid to respective college for ensuring smooth conduct of the field visit. It has been experienced that the Teacher Coordinators, who accompany the students are often required to spend for themselves, as there is no provision for reimbursement of their expenses.

The House, after detailed discussion and on obtaining views of the members representing affiliated colleges, directed that the lumpsum amount of Rs. 5000 be henceforth paid to the Teacher Coordinators for each trip. The amount should be shared, if more than one teacher is engaged. It was decided that the scheme would be reviewed to make it more effective.

AC:11:19	Report of Inspection Committee – Sikkim Government College
----------	--

Minutes:

Members noted the observations of the Inspection Committee and noted that the college did not fulfill the minimum norm of permanent affiliation. The recommendation to continue with the provisional affiliation for the year 2012 – 13 was approved by the House.

The Vice Chancellor discussed the matter at length with the Members and urged upon the need for a serious relook into the performance of some of the affiliated colleges, which were erstwhile affiliated to the University of North Bengal. This was necessitated by growing apprehension of uncertainty on the one hand and non-improvement of academic infrastructure on the other. Members shared his concern and requested the Vice Chancellor to conduct a second and more comprehensive inspection of similarly placed colleges under the Chairmanship of Prof. Rajkishor Gupta, Member of the Academic Council.

AC:11:20	Report of Inspection Committee – Namchi Government College
----------	--

Minutes:

While approving the recommendations of the Inspection Committee to grant provisional affiliation for the year 2012-13, the House directed that a second inspection, as deliberated upon in Agenda No. 19, be conducted.

AC:11:21	Report of Inspection Committee – Government College, Rhenock
----------	--

Minutes:

While approving the recommendations of the Inspection Committee to grant provisional affiliation for the year 2012-13, the House directed that a second inspection, as deliberated upon in Agenda No. 19, be conducted.

AC:11:22	Report of Inspection Committee – Sikkim Government Law College
-----------------	---

Minutes:

While approving the recommendations of the Inspection Committee to grant provisional affiliation for the year 2012-13, the House directed that a second inspection, as deliberated upon in Agenda No. 19, be conducted.

AC:11:23	Report of Inspection Committee – Sikkim Government B.Ed. College, Soreng
-----------------	---

Minutes:

While approving the recommendations of the Inspection Committee to grant provisional affiliation for the year 2012-13, the House directed that a second inspection, as deliberated upon in Agenda No. 19, be conducted.

AC:11:24	Report of Inspection Committee – Damber Singh College
-----------------	--

Minutes:

While approving the recommendations of the Inspection Committee to grant provisional affiliation for the year 2012-13, the House directed that a second inspection, as deliberated upon in Agenda No. 19, be conducted.

AC:11:25	Report of Inspection Committee – Pakim Palatine College
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The Members perused the report of the Inspection Committee and expressed its grave concern over the performance of the college. The Vice Chancellor informed that he himself visited the college and heard the complaints of teachers and students about the deteriorating standard of teaching and poor infrastructure. The House directed that the University should:

- i. Immediately issue a letter to the management pointing out the deficiencies noticed and categorically stating that unless there is perceptible improvement within next six months, the University would be constrained to consider de-affiliation.

- ii. Discontinue courses on Science covering Bachelor's programme in Mathematics, Chemistry, Botany and Microbiology from academic year 2012-13 until further notification.
- iii. Grant Provisional Affiliation, limited to existing Arts and Commerce courses, for 2012-13.
- iv. Organise special inspection by the Inspection Committee headed by Prof. Gupta.

AC:11:26	Report of Inspection Committee – Himalayan Pharmacy Institute
-----------------	--

Minutes:

Members, after detailed deliberation of the report, accepted the recommendations made by the Inspection Committee.

AC:11:27	Report of Inspection Committee – Harkamaya College of Education
-----------------	--

Minutes:

While approving the recommendations of the Inspection Committee to grant provisional affiliation for the year 2012-13, the House directed that a second inspection, as deliberated upon in Agenda No. 19, be conducted.

AC:11:28	Report of Inspection Committee – Loyala College of Education
-----------------	---

Minutes:

While approving the recommendations of the Inspection Committee to grant provisional affiliation for the year 2012-13, the House directed that a second inspection, as deliberated upon in Agenda No. 19, be conducted.

AC:11:29	Approval of Syllabus for Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. in Mathematics
----------	--

Minutes:

The Members considered the report of the CDC and approved the syllabus.

AC:11:30	Approval of Syllabus for MA in Hindi Language and Literature
----------	--

Minutes:

The Members considered the report of the CDC and approved the syllabus.

AC:11:31	Approval of Syllabus for M Phil/Ph D in Chemical Sciences
----------	---

Minutes:

The Members considered the report of the CDC and approved the syllabus, which was as per UGC norms.

AC:11:32	Approval of Syllabus for M Phil/Ph D in Geography and Natural Resources Management
----------	--

Minutes:

The Members considered the report of the CDC and approved the syllabus, which was as per UGC norms.

AC:11:33	Approval of Syllabus for M Phil/Ph D in Economic Studies and Planning
----------	---

Minutes:

The Members considered the report of the CDC and approved the syllabus, which was as per UGC norms.

AC:11:34	Approval of Syllabus for M Phil/Ph D in Journalism and Mass Communications
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The Members considered the report of the CDC and approved the syllabus, which was as per UGC norms.

AC:11:35	Remodeling Undergraduate Program into Honours Program in Liberal Subjects
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The Vice Chancellor informed the House of the several advantages of pursuing an Honours programme in the undergraduate level, which would not call for any major restructuring at the college level but, would add considerable value to the acquired degree. The Members appreciated the move and approved remodeling of the undergraduate programmes into Honours, subject to adherence of norms fixed with regard to eligibility, course structure, syllabus etc.

AC:11:36	Request for introduction of new courses of study in Govt. College, Rhenock.
-----------------	--

Minutes:

After detailed deliberation, the House permitted introduction of following new courses in Govt. college, Rhenock from the academic year 2012-13.

- i. Elective English
- ii. Mathematics (Honours)
- iii. Statistics (Honours)

AC:11:37	Ordinance on Establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cell
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The House approved the draft Ordinance on Establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cell and suggested that the same should be extended to all affiliated colleges.

AC:11:38	Recognition of University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) qualifications
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The proposal to recognize the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) Level A degree at par with Standard XII degree of Indian senior secondary boards was accepted.

AC:11:39	Request for introduction of new courses of study in Namchi Government College
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The House considered the proposal of the college to introduce UG programmes in Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Statistics from the Monsoon Session 2012. It however noted that the college had neither received sanction for appointment of teachers nor could set up basic laboratory infrastructure for running these programmes. Accordingly, the proposal was accepted in principle, but its implementation is deferred until next academic year 2013-14, when formal permission may be considered subject to appointment of qualified teachers in respective subjects and setting up of laboratories. The college may be advised to that end and requested to make a fresh request when these are complied with.

AC:11:40	Permanent Affiliation of Sikkim Govt. Law College
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The Members observed that the issue of granting permanent affiliation to Sikkim Govt. Law College may be kept on hold till the Inspection Committee headed by Prof. Gupta undertakes inspection of the colleges and make specific recommendation on this behalf.

AC:11:41	Permanent Affiliation of Sikkim Government College
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The Members observed that the issue of granting permanent affiliation to Sikkim Govt. College may be kept on hold till the Inspection Committee headed by Prof. Gupta undertakes inspection of the colleges and make specific recommendation on this behalf.

AC:11:42	Affiliation of Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The House considered all aspects and ratified granting provisional affiliation to Sikkim Govt. College, Gyalshing for the year 2012-13.

AC:11:43	UGC Coaching Framework/Manual
-----------------	--------------------------------------

Minutes:

The House approved the Coaching Framework/Manual drafted by the University.

AC:11:44	Grant of Extra Ordinary Leave to Dr. Somendra Nath Chakraborty
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The House ratified the action taken to grant Extraordinary Leave without pay and allowances to Dr. Somendra Nath Chakraborty for the period 15.05.2012 to 31.07.2012 for the purpose of completing his post doctoral contract and other academic assignments in USA, with the expectation that Dr. Chakraborty would serve Sikkim University for at least five years after return from leave.

ITEMS WHICH ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

AC:11:45	Analysis of Monsoon 2011 Results
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information and deeply appreciated the effort of the University in bringing out the result within 18 days from the date of last examination.

AC:11:46	Introduction of New Courses from the Session 2012-13
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The House noted for its information the introduction of new courses from the Academic Session 2012-13.

AC:11:47	Appointment of Teaching Staff on regular basis
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The House deeply congratulated the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and his team for so efficiently conducting the entire recruitment process. The House became satisfied that with the appointment of new faculty members, exhibiting high proficiency and knowledge, the University would further attain greater height of success in the academic arena in the upcoming days.

The House then noted for its information all the details presented regarding recruitment of regular teaching staff.

AC:11:48	Amendment to the Statute on Constitution of the Academic Council.
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:49	Constitution of Committee for Advance Studies and Research
----------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:50	Amendment to Ordinance on Recruitment Rules – Teaching positions
----------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:51	Recruitment of Teaching staff (on contractual basis)
----------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information and suggested the University to expedite the process in bringing the incumbents on regular basis.

AC:11:52	Initiation of Community Radio Project
----------	---------------------------------------

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information and applauded the move of the University in initiating such ventures projects highly benefitting the State and the adjoining regions as a whole.

AC:11:53	Completion of the Second Winter Sojourn Programme
----------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:54	Appointment of the Registrar
----------	------------------------------

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC: 11:55	Appointment of Officer on Special Duty (Finance & Management)
------------------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:56	University Library – Salient Performances
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:57	Sikkim University Website Revamping – A Report
-----------------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:58	Holding of UGC Net Examination by Sikkim University
-----------------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:59	Status of Hiring of Buildings
-----------------	--------------------------------------

Minutes:

The House while noting the agenda item for its information made serious concern on the excessive outgo of public money on hired buildings which could have been heavily curtailed if the State Government had handed over the earmarked land for building the University campus.

AC:11:60	Campus Land at Yangang
----------	------------------------

Minutes:

The House made a severe concern on the protracted delay in handing over the earmarked land to the University by the State Government. The House apprehended that if the delay goes further lengthened than proven issues of price escalation of land, enhanced cost of construction materials, growth of dissent among the land owners for giving the land and such other major impediments is likely to crop up in the upcoming days.

AC:11:61	Plan of Action for Admissions - 2012-13
----------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:62	PLANNER 2012
----------	--------------

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:63	2 nd Foreign Policy Lecture and Winter Sojourn Presentations
----------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:64	MoU with INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad for Shodhganga
----------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:65	Memorandum of Cooperation with the National Archives of India, New Delhi
----------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:66	Memorandum of Cooperation on Inter-University Consortium on Cryosphere & Climate Change
----------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:67	Joining Status of Regular Teaching Staff
----------	--

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:68	Appointment of Adjunct Professors
----------	-----------------------------------

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:69	Third Spring Lecture and Book Discussion Programme 2012
----------	---

Minutes:

The House noted the agenda item for its information

AC:11:70	Any other items with the permission of the Chair
----------	--

Minutes:

There being no other Agenda item, the meeting ended offering thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
Secretary,
Academic Council