

**Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015**  
**at Barad Sadan Academic Block, Gangtok**

Following were present:

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|--|---|-------------|
| 1. Prof. T.B.Subba,<br>Vice-Chancellor   | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. D.K. Nayak,<br>Deptt. of Geography, NEHU                                      | - | Member      |
| 3. Dr.N.R. Bhuyan,<br>Principal, Himalayan Pharmacy Institute,<br>Majhitar             | - | Member      |
| 4. Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang,<br>Dean, School of Life Sciences                        | - | Member      |
| 5. Prof. Pratap Chandra Pradhan,<br>Dean, School of Languages & Literature             | - | Member      |
| 6. Dr. Dhaniraj Chhetri,<br>Dean, Students' Welfare                                    | - | Member      |
| 7. Prof. A. S. Chandel,<br>Librarian   | - | Member      |
| 8. Dr. Debashis Chowdhury,<br>Controller of Examinations                               | - | Member      |
| 9. Prof. Irshad Ghulam Ahmad<br>Deptt. of English                                      | - | Member      |
| 10. Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay,<br>Head, Deptt. of Physics                                 | - | Member      |
| 11. Dr. Nawal K. Paswan,<br>Head, Deptt. of Peace and Conflict Studies &<br>Management | - | Member      |
| 12. Dr. V. Krishna Ananth,<br>Head, Deptt. of History                                  | - | Member      |
| 13. Dr. A.N. Shankar,<br>Head, Deptt. of Commerce                                      | - | Member      |
| 14. Dr. N. Sathyanarayana,<br>Head, Deptt. of Botany                                   | - | Member      |
| 15. Dr. H.K. Tiwari,<br>Head, Deptt. of Microbiology                                   | - | Member      |
| 16. Dr. Manish,<br>Head, Deptt. of International Relations                             | - | Member      |

17. Dr. Kabita Lama, Head, Deptt. of Nepali	-	Member
18. Dr. S. Manivannan, Head, Deptt. of Horticulture	-	Member
19. Dr. Manesh Choubey, Head, Deptt. of Economics	-	Member
20. Dr. V. Rama Devi , Head, Deptt. of Management	-	Member
21. Dr. Durga Prasad Chhetri, Head, Deptt. of Political Science	-	Member
22. Dr. Swati Akshay Sachdeva Head, Deptt. of Sociology	-	Member
23. Dr. Kotra Rhine Rama Mohan, Head, Deptt. of Anthropology	-	Member
24. Dr. Nutankumar S. Thingujam, Head, Deptt. of Psychology	-	Member
25. Dr. Silajit Guha, Head, Deptt. of Mass Communications	-	Member
26. Dr. Komol Singha, Assoc. Professor, Deptt. of Economics	-	Member
27. Dr. Puspha Sharma, Assoc. Professor, Deptt. of Nepali	-	Member
28. Dr. S.S. Mahapatra, Assoc. Professor, Deptt. of Commerce	-	Member
29. Dr. Laxuman Sharma, Assoc. Professor, Deptt. of Horticulture	-	Member
30. Shri T.K.Kaul, Registrar	-	Secretary

The following members could not attend the meeting because of their pre-occupation and sought leave of absence.

1. Prof. Sanjay Roy, Deptt. of Sociology, NBU
2. Dr. (Mrs.) Lily Alley, Principal, Sikkim Govt. College, Tadong
3. Prof. Sameera Maiti, Dean, School of Human Sciences

At the outset the Vice-Chancellor welcomed all the members of the Council. Thereafter, agenda items were taken up as under:

**SECTION 1**  
**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES AND ACTION TAKEN REPORT**

**AC17.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014 were circulated to all the members on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014. No comments were received from any of the members of the Council.

The minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 as circulated to the members on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were confirmed.

**AC17.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014**

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council. The Council noted the same.

**SECTION 2**  
**RATIFICATION MATTERS**

**AC17.2.1: Constitution of Library Management Committee**

Prof. A.S. Chandel, Librarian, presented this item. A sub-committee of Library Management Committee consisting of the following members was formed to suggest the composition, duties and functions of Library Management Committee:

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|--|---|----------|
| 1. Shri D. Kanunjna, Advisor (Finance) | - | Chairman |
| 2. Shri T.K. Kaul, Registrar           | - | Member   |
| 3. Prof. A.S. Chandel, Librarian       | - | Member   |

The recommendations given by the sub-committee regarding composition, duties and functions of Library Management Committee were approved by the Vice-Chancellor and notification regarding constitution of Library Management Committee was issued.

The Council ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor with modification that instead of two students, three students from three schools not represented by the Deans be nominated by Deans Students Welfare to the Committee for a period of one year.

**SECTION 3**  
**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL**

**AC17.3.1: Affiliation of GBPIHED, Almora and OKDISCD, Guwahati**

On the proposals from GBPHIED, Almora and OKDISCD, Guwahati for affiliation with SU for PhD programme, the Vice-Chancellor was authorized by the Academic Council in its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to constitute a committee to examine the proposals and submit recommendations in the next meeting. Accordingly, the Vice-Chancellor constituted a committee consisting of Dr. V. Krishna Ananth (Chairman), Dr. N. Satyanarayana and Dr. Nutankumar S. Thingujam as its members.

The Council after deliberations approved the recommendations of the committee consider their proposal under OC-7.

**AC17.3.2: Establishment of Department of Indian Sign Language**

The Council constituted a committee of the following faculty members to consider the feasibility of such a department, including employment opportunities for students:

- |                       |   |          |
|-----------------------|---|----------|
| i) Prof. P.C. Pradhan | - | Chairman |
| ii) Dr. Silajit Guha, | - | Member   |
| iii) Dr. Samar Sinha, | - | Convener |

The report of the committee will be considered by the Council in its next meeting.

**AC17.3.3: Establishment of UGC Chairs in Universities under XII Plan**

The Council recommended creation of following chairs in the University for which UGC may be approached for approval and funding:

Sl. No.	Name	Subject/Areas	Department
1	Amartya Sen Chair	Economics Studies	Economics
2	C.V. Raman Chair	Physics/Chemistry	Physics/ Chemistry
3	Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Chair	Constitutional Studies	History
4	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Chair	Education	Education
5	Mother Teresa Chair	Peace Studies	Peace and Conflict Studies & Management
6	Rabindranath Tagore Chair	Music	Music
7	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Chair	Governance	Political Science/ International Relations
8	Sir Syed Ahmad Khan Chair	Education	Education
9	Hargobind Khurana Chair	Biology	Botany

#### **AC17.3.4: *Per Diem payment to the students on Internship***

The Academic Council in its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting while approving the Rules on Internship advised the University to calculate the likely implication of increase in per diem by additional 100 and 50 rupees. The matter was thereafter referred to Finance Department for their comments. Finance Department gave the following rationale for not increasing per diem rates at present:

- i) The present per diem rate of 150/- per day for non-home town and 75/- for home town internship has come into effect from as late as 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Hence revision of per diem rate within such a short period is not justifiable.
- ii) There is no record of hardship expressed by the interns in bearing the expenditure with the present per diem rates.
- iii) The students should also contribute part of the expenditure for internship programme from their personal/familial sources.

The Council concurred with the views of the Finance Department.

#### **AC17.3.5: *Introduction of Ph.D. Programme in Himalayan Pharmacy Institute***

Himalayan Pharmacy Institute has been running PG courses in Pharmacy since 2005 and was even running PhD programme under North Bengal University, which stopped after it came under Sikkim University. Having PG courses is a norm followed by the Council for granting permission to conduct research for PhD.

The Council deliberated at length the proposal of HPI to introduce Ph.D programme but it was considered premature to accept the proposal at present. However, the Council agreed to consider HPI as a research centre under OC-7, which meant that the PhD students admitted to HPI would attend the coursework in the Department of Microbiology and their research proposals would be vetted by the Board of Studies in Microbiology and the School Board of Life Sciences. As regards pharmacy papers in the coursework the same would be taught by the faculty members of HPI, as the University has no department of pharmacy.

The Council also constituted a committee to suggest the modality of effecting this change at HPI from the next academic year.

1. Prof. J.P. Tamang, Dean, School of Life Sciences (Chairman)
2. Dr. V. Krishna Ananth, Associate Professor, Deptt. of History (Member)
3. Dr. H.K. Tiwari, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Microbiology (Member)
4. Dr. Laxuman Sharma, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Horticulture. (Member)

#### **AC17.3.6: *Exemption of ISSN/ISBN in Hindi/ Nepali books and journals***

The request of Nepali Department to consider the following periodicals for exemption for ISSN for the purpose of counting API was approved:

*Prakriya, Baduli, Chaap Gurans, and Pardeshi.*

### **AC17.3.7: Department of Law**

The Chairman informed the Council that the Department of Law runs an Integrated BA-LLB and 2-Year LLM programmes. First batch of LLM students will be passing out in July 2015. The Department has proposed to start M.Phil/Ph.D courses from August 2015 through its Board of Studies and School Board. The Chairman further informed that at present 3 teachers in the department are eligible to guide M.Phil students and 1 at Ph.D level. Draft syllabus for M.Phil and Ph.D has also been submitted for consideration of the Council.

The Council after deliberations approved the syllabus for M.Phil/PhD Programme in Department of Law as given at **Appendix -1** and allowed intake of 6 M.Phil and 1 Ph.D students at present in the Department.

The Council also constituted a committee of the following to look into the feasibility of continuing with Under Graduate Programme in Law in view of the following two facts: one, the number of students taking admission to BA-LLB programme has never reached double digits in the history of the department and, two, undergraduate education in law is made totally free in Burtuk Law College funded by the government of Sikkim:

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|---|---|----------|
| 1. Dr. N.K. Paswan, Dean, School of Social Sciences | - | Chairman |
| 2. HoD/IC, Department of Law                        | - | Member   |
| 3. Dr. V. Krishna Ananth, HoD, History              | - | Member   |
| 4. Dr. Manish, HoD, International Relations         | - | Member   |

### **AC17.3.8: Department of Education**

The Academic Council in its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting approved the proposal of the department to start M.Phil and Ph.D Programme. The coursework syllabus for M.Phil and Ph.D programmes in Education as placed at **Appendix - 2** was approved by the Council.

### **AC17.3.9: Amendment to OC-4 on the Structure of Bachelor of Arts, sciences, Law, Medicine, Education, Home Science, Commerce and Professional Courses**

The Council considered the amendment to the Ordinance OC-4 for insertion of Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc) after Bachelor of Commerce so that the University can start awarding B. Voc. degrees.

The Council after deliberations approved the amendment to the OC-4.

### **AC17.3.10: Compulsory Audit paper on National Service**

Academic Council in its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting approved National Service as a compulsory paper of 4 credits at Master's level and suggested that NSS Cell may prepare the modalities of evaluation of this paper. The NSS Cell accordingly prepared modalities of evaluation but it was difficult to have a uniform evaluation pattern for awarding credits/marks to students of all departments. It was thus proposed to

the Council that the paper be made compulsory audit paper for all PG students instead of compulsory paper of 4 credits, as decided in the previous Council meeting.

Dr. V.Krishna Ananth dissented with the decision of the Academic Council to make the paper compulsory one.

#### **AC17.3.11: Amendment to Regulations on Conduct of Examinations**

Controller of Examinations presented this item and explained the need for revising Regulations on Conduct of Examinations.

The Council after deliberations approved the revised Regulations on Conduct of Examinations as placed at **Appendix - 3** to these minutes. However, after much discussion, decision on implementation of question bank system, as desired by the UGC in its guidelines on CBCS, was kept in abeyance, as some members strongly objected to the proposal. As such Clause-3 of the Regulations relating to Question Paper Setting shall have sub-clauses 'a' to 'e' but NB-1 below Clause-3 with sub-clause i to xi shall not form part of Regulations at present.

#### **AC17.3.12: Report of the Plagiarism Committee**

At the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council, a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. A.S. Chandel, Librarian with Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay, Dr. V. Krishna Ananth and Dr. N. Sathyanarayana, Associate Professors was constituted to suggest the extent of plagiarism which may be considered to be within the admissible tolerance limit. The Committee in its interim report has suggested that there should be zero tolerance to plagiarism in M.Phil and Ph.D theses. However, upto 20% similarities may be acceptable if the following is not filtered by plagiarism software:

1. Quoted Sentences
2. Bibliographic citations
3. Small matches of words
4. Diagrams and tables

The Committee approved the interim recommendations of the committee. It was decided that in order to have uniformity, one licensed anti-plagiarism software would be chosen and regarded as the University's official software for the purpose of testing similarities in theses submitted to the University. It was further decided that the Controller of Examinations would put the theses to plagiarism test and furnish a copy of the report to HoD/IC of the concerned department and if a thesis had more than 20% similarity after excluding the above-mentioned four contents the same would not sent to the examiners for evaluation.

### **AC17.3.13: Prospectus for 2015-16**

The Chairman informed the Council that so far prospectus was never placed before the Academic Council. However, it was considered desirable that the Academic Council, as the highest academic policy making authority of the University, approved it before it was put in public domain.

The Chairman also informed the Council that Central Admission Committee and Working Committee on Admissions were notified, which was ratified by the Council.

The Council also approved the proposal that the question papers for M.Phil/PhD entrance tests would be sent by the Controller of Examinations. For admission to Integrated and PG programmes, the Council recommended that, in view of the difficulties candidates from different corners of the country are likely to face in coming to Sikkim to sit for entrance tests and in view of the high expenditure involved in holding entrance tests by the University in different parts of the country and outside, as was the practice earlier, the entrance tests may be carried out only if it was necessary as per norms of some of the professional disciplines like Management and Music.

The Academic Council approved the prospectus for 2015-16 as placed at **Appendix - 4** of these minutes.

## **SECTION 4 MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES**

### **AC17.4.1: Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the College Development Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

The Council considered the minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the College Development Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 and approved the following recommendations:

1. Continuation of BA-LLB Programme till the University obtains BCI approval for BA-LLB (Hons) course and apply for renewal of its BA-LLB course for the academic year 2015-16.
2. To withdraw affiliation given to certificate course in Chinese language to Human Resource Development Centre of HQ 63 Mountain Brigade, 99 APO for non-payment of affiliation fees.
3. Approved the Ordinance on Governing Body/Advisory Committee with modification that the composition of Governing Body shall include two student representatives to be nominated by the Principal of the College. **(Appendix - 5)**
4. Grant of temporary affiliation to 8 colleges as per the recommendations of the College Development Council.



5. Guidelines on CBCS and NSQF, as provided for in **Appendix – 6** were approved.
6. Reservation of 2 seats in each course in Sikkim University and colleges affiliated to it for the students of Jammu and Kashmir for the academic year 2015-16 under supernumerary quota with concessions like relaxation in cut-off percentage up to 10%, waiving requirement of domicile etc. was approved.

**AC17.4.2: Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Deans' Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

The Council considered the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Deans' Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and approved its recommendation on special incentives for quality publication given under clauses 11 and 12 of the guidelines for sanction of the University Research Award. Clauses 1 to 10 were approved at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to the Council.

**AC17.4.3: Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The Council noted/approved the following:

- 10 Ph.D proposals along with their supervisors and co-supervisors in the Deptt. of Microbiology
- 3 Ph.D synopses in Deptt. of Botany
- Syllabus for M.Phil/Ph.D coursework in Zoology (**Appendix – 7**)

**AC17.4.4: Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The Council noted/approved the following:

- 3 Ph.D synopses along with their supervisors in Department of English
- 5 M.Phil synopses along with their supervisors in Department of English
- Syllabus for M.Phil in Deptt. of Hindi (**Appendix - 8**)
- 6 Ph.D synopses and 10 M.Phil synopses in Deptt. of Nepali

The Council further authorized the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee to look into the possibility of starting integrate BA-MA Course in the departments of Hindi and Anthropology, as these subjects are not taught in any college in Sikkim.

**AC17.4.5: Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences, held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The Council noted/approved the following:

- 5 Ph.D and 2 M.Phil proposals of students along with supervisors in Deptt. of Physics;
- 2 M.Phil proposals of students in Deptt. of Chemistry; and
- List of external examiners for practical papers.

**AC17.4.6: Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015**

The Council noted/approved the following:

- 43 M.Phil synopses as under:  
Economics - 7; History – 8; International Relations – 7; Peace and Conflict Studies & Management – 6; Political Science -10; Sociology – 5;
- 12 Ph.D synopses as under:  
Economics -3; History -2; International Relations -1; Peace and Conflict Studies & Management -2; Political Science -1; Sociology -3.

**AC17.4.7: Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015**

The Council noted/approved the following:

- 2 Ph.D and 2 M.Phil proposals of students in Deptt. of Psychology;
- Syllabus for M.Phil/Ph.D in Anthropology (**Appendix - 9**)
- 1. M.Phil and 1 Ph.D synopses along with the supervisors in Deptt. of Geography

**AC17.4.8: Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015**

The Council noted/approved the following:

- Syllabus for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters of M.Ed Programme; (**Appendix -10**)
- Revised syllabus for Master's in Mass Communication; (**Appendix 11**)
- M.Phil/Ph.D coursework syllabus for Mass Communication;
- 3 M.Phil and 2 Ph.D proposals for Deptt. of Mass Communication;
- Panel of examiner for M.Phil dissertation and MA practical examination in Mass Communication;
- MBA project work of Deptt. of Management.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Sd/-**  
**(T.K.Kaul)**  
**Registrar & Secretary**

**Sd/-**  
**(T.B.Subba)**  
**Vice-Chancellor & Chairman**