

**Minutes of the 31st meeting of the Academic Council held on
21st February 2024 at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan Academic Block**

31st meeting of the Academic Council was held on 21st February 2024 at 11 AM at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan Academic Block. Following were present:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Prof. Avinash Khare
Vice-Chancellor | - Chairperson |
| 2. | Prof. D.N. Gupta
Department of Physics and Astrophysics
University of Delhi | - Member |
| 3. | Dr. Passang D. Phempu
Director, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology | - Member |
| | Represented by
Dr. Tshewang Gyatso Bhutia
HoD, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies
Namgyal Institute of Tibetology | |
| 4. | Dr. B.B. Pradhan
Principal
Sikkim Institute of Science & Technology
Chisopani, Namchi District, Sikkim | - Member |
| 5. | Prof. S.S. Mahapatra
Dean, School of Professional Studies | - Member |
| 6. | Prof. Rosy Chamling
Dean, School of Languages & Literature | - Member |
| 7. | Prof. Sohel Firdos
Dean, School of Human Sciences | - Member |
| 8. | Prof. V. Krishna Ananth
Dean, School of Social Sciences | - Member |
| 9. | Prof. Swarup Roy
Dean, School of Physical Sciences | - Member |
| 10. | Prof. Sanjay Dahal
Dean of Students' Welfare | - Member |
| 11. | Dr. S. Murali Mohan
Controller of Examinations | - Member |
| 12. | Prof. Nawal K. Paswan
Head, Department of Peace & Conflict Studies | - Member |

and Management

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| 13. | Prof. Satyananda Panda,
Head, Department of Psychology | - Member |
| 14. | Prof. Kabita Lama
Head, Department of Nepali | - Member |
| 15. | Prof. Ambika Dhaka
Head, Department of History | - Member |
| 16. | Prof. Dhani Raj Chhetri
Head, Department of Botany | - Member |
| 17. | Prof. Durga Prasad Chhetri
Head, Department of Political Science | - Member |
| 18. | Prof. Praveen Mishra
Head, Department of Law | - Member |
| 19. | Prof. Bhoj Kumar Acharya
Head, Department of Zoology | - Member |
| 20. | Prof. Amit Chakraborty
Head, Department of Mathematics | - Member |
| 21. | Prof. A.N. Shankar
Head, Department of Commerce | - Member |
| 22. | Prof. Nitish Mondal
Head, Department of Anthropology | - Member |
| 23. | Prof. Manesh Choubey
Head, Department of Economics | - Member |
| 24. | Dr. Bilambita Banisudha
Head, Department of Music | - Member |
| 25. | Dr. Mohan Pratap Pradhan,
Head, Department of Computer Applications | - Member |
| 26. | Dr. Nipun Chaudhary,
Head, Department of English | - Member |
| 27. | Dr. Rakesh Kumar Ranjan,
Head, Department of Geology | - Member |
| 28. | Dr. Hardeep Singh
Head, Department of Hindi | - Member |

29.	Dr. Nagendra Thakur Head, Department of Microbiology	- Member
30.	Dr. Ajay Tripathi Head, Department of Physics	- Member
31.	Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang Senior Professor Department of Microbiology	- Member
32.	Prof. Yodida Bhutia Professor, Department of Commerce	- Member
33.	Prof. Snehlata Jaswal Professor, Department of Psychology	- Member
34.	Prof. Sandhya Thapa Professor, Department of Sociology	- Member
35.	Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Gupta Associate Professor Department of Chemistry	- Member
36.	Dr. Krishnendu Dutta Associate Professor Department of Music	- Member
37.	Dr. Sujata Upadhyay Associate Professor Department of Horticulture	- Member
38.	Dr. Gorakh Nath Tiwari Associate Professor Department of Hindi	- Member
39.	Prof. Laxuman Sharma Registrar (I/C) & Dean, School of Life Sciences	- Secretary & Member

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

1. Prof. Swati A. Sachdeva, Head, Department of Sociology
2. Dr. Dhrit Roy, Head, Department of Chinese
3. Dr. T.J.M.S. Raju, Head, Department of Education
4. Prof. Pradeep K. Sarma, Professor, Department of Hindi

Dr. S.K. Gurung, Joint Registrar (Acad.) was present to assist the Council.

The Chairperson welcomed all members present in the 31st meeting of the Academic Council and especially welcomed the following members who were attending for the first time.

1. Prof. D.N. Gupta, Professor, Department of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi
2. Prof. V. Krishna Ananth, Dean, School of Social Sciences
3. Prof. Yodida Bhutia, Professor, Department of Education
4. Prof. Snehlata Jaswal, Professor, Department of Psychology

The Chairperson also put on record the contributions of the following and thanked them who completed their tenure in the Academic Council:

1. Prof. R. Ganesh, Senior Professor-H, Institute for Plasma Research
2. Shri K.V.S. Kameswara Rao, Former Registrar & Secretary
3. Dr. Shri Ram, Former Librarian
4. Prof. Abhijit Dutta, Professor, Department of Commerce
5. Prof. K.R. Rama Mohan, Professor, Department of Anthropology
6. Prof. Vijay Kr. Thangellapali, Professor, Department of History

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up as under:

SECTION-1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES & ACTION TAKEN REPORT

AC 31.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 30th meeting of the Academic Council held on 25th August 2023

The Academic Council confirmed the minutes of 30th meeting of the Academic Council held on 25th August 2023 as circulated to all the members on 9th October 2023.

AC 31.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 30th meeting of the Academic Council held on 25th August 2023

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 30th meeting held on 25th August 2023. The Academic Council noted the action taken report.

SECTION-2
REPORTING ITEMS

AC 31.2.1: Synopses for Ph.D registrations in the University

The Council noted the number of synopses for Ph.D registrations in the University under each School of Studies.

SECTION-3
RATIFICATION MATTERS
NIL

SECTION-4
MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

A. PANEL OF EXAMINERS, ETC.

AC 31.4.A1: Panel of External Examiners

The Council approved the panel of examiners as per the details given below as recommended by the concerned School Board for the purpose as mentioned in the table:

Sl. No.	Name of the School	Name of the Department	External examiners to be invited for
1)	School of Physical Sciences	Geology	2 PhD thesis; MSc dissertation and practical examination
		Physics	1 PhD thesis
		Computer Application	2 PhD thesis
2)	School of Languages & Literature	English	MA dissertation
3)	School of Life Sciences	Zoology	1 PhD thesis
		Botany	1 PhD thesis
		Horticulture	2 PhD thesis
4)	School of Human Sciences	Anthropology	4 PhD thesis; PG dissertation, practical examination and viva-voce
		Geography	2 PhD thesis
5)	School of Professional Studies	Mass Communication	MA dissertation and practical examination
		Commerce	4 PhD thesis
		Tourism	1 PhD thesis
6)	School of Social Sciences	History	2 PhD thesis
		Economics	2 PhD thesis
		Law	2 PhD thesis
		Political Science	1 PhD thesis
		Sociology	1 PhD thesis

B. SYLLABUS MATTERS/COURSES ETC.

AC 31.4.B1: Approval of NEP 2020 syllabi of PG syllabus on Indian Knowledge System of the Department of Hindi

The Council noted that the School Board of Languages and Literature in its meeting held on 07.12.2022 has recommended for approval of a paper on Indian Knowledge System (Bharatiya Gyan Parampara) in the MA syllabus of the Department of Hindi as proposed by the BoS, Department of Hindi. The syllabus was presented before the Council by the HoD, Department of Hindi.

After deliberations, the Academic Council approved the paper on Indian Knowledge System (Bharatiya Gyan Parampara) in the MA syllabus of the Department of Hindi subject to carry out some modifications as advised to the HoD, Department of Hindi.

AC 31.4.B2: Approval of Swayam courses for MA History (Semester – II) and mutual shift of Cyber Security course from Semester II to Semester I

The Council approved the following as recommended by the School Board of Social Sciences in its meeting held on 29.11.2023:

1. Cyber Security course (earlier of 2 credits in Semester II but now of 4 credits in Semester I) shall be shifted from Semester II to Semester I in MA History.
2. Certain courses of multidisciplinary nature (2 credits) and open on Swayam platform for enrolment will replace the Cyber Security course in Semester II are as follows: -
 - i. Enhancing Soft Skills and Personality
 - ii. Environmental Studies
 - iii. Language, Culture and Cognition: An Introduction
 - iv. Natural Hazards
 - v. Research Ethics and Plagiarism
 - vi. Research Methodology
 - vii. Research and Publication Ethics
 - viii. Bilingualism: A cognitive and psycholinguistic perspective

The Academic Council also advised all the Departments to decide selection of value added courses from the Swayam platform at the departmental level.

AC 31.4.B3: PMKVY 4.0 courses as skill courses for UG programs in Sikkim University

The Council noted that a letter dated 21/02/2023 has been received from UGC regarding initiation of Skill Hub in Sikkim University under PMKVY 4.0 [D.O. F.5-11/2023 (Skill Hubs)/NSQF]. Accordingly, the Vice-Chancellor constituted a three-member committee vide Office

Order No. 187/2023 dated 01.06.2023 under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture. The primary registration on PMKVY 4.0 portal has been initiated for expressing willingness for implementing skill oriented courses in UG and PG programs. In this regard, a meeting with NEP 2020 core committee of Sikkim University was held on 14.02.2024 to chalk out the way forward for implementation of the programme. Due to implementational difficulties in PG program, it was decided to initiate the process in UG programs so that students may take up this skill oriented courses as internship.

The Academic Council, after deliberations, approved the following:

- 1) Action taken by the Vice-Chancellor for initiating the process
- 2) Decision of the NEP committee to initiate the process in UG program to start with.

In regard to registration of courses on PMKVY 4.0 platform, the Council advised Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Chairperson to start at the moment with only one non-lab based PMKVY 4.0 course in view of the space constraints at the departments which is presently functioning from hired buildings. More PMKVY 4.0 courses may be taken up later after the University shifts to its permanent campus at Yangang.

C. RULES AND POLICY MATTERS

AC 31.4.C1: Revised Regulations on conduct of Ph.D programme & revised University Ordinance OC-7

The Chairman of the Committee placed the matter before the House. However, during the deliberation one member informed that the Ordinance should be placed in the Executive Council first. It was clarified that all amendments to Ordinances and new Regulations must be placed in the Academic Council first and later to Executive Council for approval with the recommendations of Academic Council. It was also informed that earlier OC-7 and Regulations were placed in 30th Academic Council meeting which directed to place again in the next Academic Council meeting with the inputs from its stakeholders.

Statute 40(2) of the Sikkim University Act mentions that no Ordinance shall be made by the Executive Council unless a draft of such Ordinance has been proposed by the Academic Council.

Thus the Ordinance/Regulation to be placed directly before the Executive Council for approval without the recommendations of the Academic Council shall be in violation of the Sikkim University Act.

Accordingly, the matter may again be placed before the Academic Council for further deliberations and recommendation to the Executive Council for approval.

AC 31.4.C2: Report of the Committee for drafting rules for Maternity Leave for students of UG and PG programmes in Sikkim University and its affiliated colleges

The Academic Council decided to defer the matter for want of some clarifications and place it again before the next meeting of the Academic Council for deliberation and recommendation to the Executive Council for approval.

D. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC 31.4.D1: Memorandum of Understanding between Sikkim University and Central Agricultural University

The Council noted that the School of Life Sciences and the Department of Economics submitted a proposal for signing of an MoU between Sikkim University and Central Agricultural University, Imphal alongwith its Constituent Colleges for academic collaboration in carrying out the following programs and activities:

- a) joint educational and research activities;
- b) exchange of faculty members and postgraduate and PhD students (including faculty pursuing PhD programs) for research, lectures, and discussions;
- c) participation in seminars and academic meetings;
- d) exchange of academic materials, publications, and other information;
- e) special, short-term academic/training programs;
- f) To jointly propose and engage in research or training programs sponsored by various funding agencies and to invite each other's faculty/scientists to participate therein; and
- g) To jointly organize seminars, conferences or workshops on topics of mutual interest and to invite each other's faculty/scientists to participate therein.

The Council, after deliberation, considered the draft MoU and recommended the same for approval of the Executive Council.

**SECTION 5
MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES**

AC 31.5.1 Minutes of the 19th meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 22nd November 2023

The Council noted the Minutes of the 19th meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 22nd November 2023.

AC 31.5.2 Minutes of the 19th meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 7th December 2023

The Council noted the Minutes of the 19th meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 7th December 2023.

AC 31.5.3 Minutes of the 19th meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 24th November 2023

The Council noted the Minutes of the 19th meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 24th November 2023.

AC 31.5.4 Minutes of the 18th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 6th December 2023

The Council noted the Minutes of the 18th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 6th December 2023.

AC 31.5.5 Minutes of the 19th meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 29th November 2023

The Council noted the Minutes of the 19th meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 29th November 2023.

AC 31.5.6 Minutes of the 13th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 23rd November 2023

The Council noted the Minutes of the 13th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 23rd November 2023.

**SECTION - 6
ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

AC 31.6.1 Default in payment of fees by students

The Chairperson invited the Finance Officer to put forward this agenda item before the House. The Finance Officer informed the House that the majority of the students in the University are defaulting in payment of their semester fees. This has resulted a substantial corpus of outstanding fee amount as accumulated over time. The Chairperson took a serious concern on the matter and opined that it will hinder the growth of the University due to insufficient internal fund generation. The Chairperson requested all the HoDs/In-charges to constantly keep a close vigil towards timely payment of the semester fee by the students of their respective departments. Also, the Finance Officer informed that some students staying in hostels are defaulting in payment of their hostel fees. The Chairperson requested the Wardens of the respective hostels to ensure that the hotel fees are paid within the stipulated time.

The Finance Officer requested that this agenda item may be placed in every upcoming meetings of the Academic Council to take stock of the collection of the outstanding fee amounts. The House approved the same.

Before ending, the House put on record the prestigious Bharat Ratna conferred to Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the First Chancellor of the University.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
(Prof. Laxuman Sharma)
Registrar (I/C) & Secretary
Academic Council

Sd/-
(Prof. Avinash Khare)
Vice-Chancellor & Chairman
Academic Council