

**Minutes of the 33rd meeting of the Academic Council held on
14th February 2025 at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan Academic Block**

33rd meeting of the Academic Council was held on 14th February 2025 at 11 AM at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan Academic Block. Following were present:

1.	Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang Vice-Chancellor (Off.)	- Chairperson
2.	Prof. D.N. Gupta Department of Physics and Astrophysics University of Delhi	- Member (Attended online)
3.	Prof. Suresh C. Sharma Department of Applied Physics Delhi Technological University	- Member (Attended online)
4.	Dr. Sudhan Pradhan Principal, Sikkim Government Science College Chakung, Soreng	- Member
5.	Dr. Devi Kala Lama Principal, Sikkim Government B.Ed. College Soreng	- Member
6.	Prof. Yodida Bhutia Dean, School of Professional Studies	- Member
7.	Prof. Rosy Chamling Dean, School of Languages & Literature	- Member
8.	Prof. V. Krishna Ananth Dean, School of Social Sciences	- Member
9.	Prof. Swarup Roy Dean, School of Physical Sciences	- Member
10.	Prof. Satyananda Panda Dean, School of Human Sciences	- Member
11.	Dr. Sujit Kujur Librarian (I/C)	- Member
12.	Prof. Nawal K. Paswan Head, Department of Peace & Conflict Studies and Management & Dean of Students' Welfare	- Member

13.	Prof. Kabita Lama, Head, Department of Nepali	- Member
14.	Prof. Snehlata Jaswal, Head, Department of Psychology	- Member
15.	Prof. Sohel Firdos Head, Department of Geography	- Member
16.	Prof. Durga Prasad Chhetri Head, Department of Political Science	- Member
17.	Prof. Praveen Mishra Head, Department of Law	- Member
18.	Prof. Pradeep K. Sarma Head, Department of Hindi	- Member
19.	Prof. Amit Chakraborty Head, Department of Mathematics	- Member
20.	Prof. A.N. Shankar Head, Department of Commerce	- Member
21.	Prof. K.R. Rama Mohan Head, Department of Anthropology	- Member
22.	Prof. Manesh Choubey Head, Department of Economics	- Member
23.	Prof. Sandhya Thapa Head, Department of Sociology	- Member
24.	Prof. Ratika Pradhan, Head, Department of Computer Applications	- Member
25.	Dr. Bilambita Banisudha Head, Department of Music	- Member
26.	Dr. Rakesh Kumar Ranjan, Head, Department of Geology	- Member
27.	Dr. Nagendra Thakur Head, Department of Microbiology	- Member
28.	Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharyya Head, Department of Physics	- Member
29.	Dr. Bisu Singh Head, Department of Zoology	- Member

30. Dr. Dhriti Roy
Head, Department of Chinese - Member

31. Dr. Amit Kumar Singh
Head, Department of Tourism - Member

32. Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Gupta
Head, Department of Chemistry - Member

33. Dr. Arun Chettri
Head, Department of Botany - Member

34. Dr. Sujata Upadhyay
Head, Department of Horticulture - Member

35. Prof. S.S. Mahapatra
Professor, Department of Commerce - Member

36. Prof. Veenu Pant
Professor, Department of History - Member

37. Prof. Subir Mukhopadhyay
Professor, Department of Physics - Member

38. Prof. Nitish Mondal
Professor, Department of Anthropology - Member

39. Dr. Rajesh Raj S.N.
Associate Professor
Department of Economics - Member

40. Dr. Krishnendu Dutta
Associate Professor
Department of Music - Member

41. Dr. Amrit Lamichaney
Associate Professor
Department of Horticulture - Member

42. Dr. Gorakh Nath Tiwari
Associate Professor
Department of Hindi - Member

43. Dr. Abdul Hannan
Associate Professor
Department of Geography - Member

44. Dr. Nishchal Wanjari Associate Professor Department of Geology	- Member
45. Prof. Laxuman Sharma Registrar (I/C) & Dean, School of Life Sciences	- Secretary & Member

Dr. S. Murali Mohan, Controller of Examinations could not attend the meeting because of his pre-occupation and sought leave of absence.

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

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed all members present in the 33rd meeting of the Academic Council and especially welcomed the following new members who were attending the meeting for the first time.

1. Dr. Sudhan Pradhan, Principal, Sikkim Government Science College
2. Dr. Devi Kala Lama, Principal, Sikkim Government B.Ed. College
3. Prof. Satyananda Panda, Dean, School of Human Sciences
4. Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharyya, Head, Department of Physics
5. Dr. Arun Chettri, Head, Department of Botany
6. Prof. Subir Mukhopadhyay, Professor, Department of Physics
7. Prof. Nitish Mondal, Professor, Department of Anthropology
8. Dr. Amrit Lamichaney, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture

The Chairperson thanked the outgoing members, viz., Prof. Avinash Khare, Former Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University and put on record the contribution of Prof. Khare to Sikkim University as the Vice-Chancellor w.e.f. 11.10.2018 to 31.07.2024. The Chairperson also put on record the contributions of the following outgoing members and thanked them for their support and valuable suggestions during their tenure as the member of the Academic Council:

1. Dr. B.B. Pradhan, Principal, Sikkim Institute of Science & Technology
2. Dr. Passang D. Phempu, Director, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology
3. Prof. Sanjay Dahal, Former Dean of Students' Welfare
4. Prof. Dhani Raj Chettri, Former Head, Department of Botany
5. Prof. Vijay Kumar Thangellapali, Former Head, Department of History
6. Prof. T.J.M.S. Raju, Former Head, Department of Education
7. Dr. Nipun Chaudhary, Former Head, Department of English
8. Dr. Ajay Tripathi, Former Head, Department of Physics
9. Dr. Mohan Pratap Pradhan, Former Head, Department of Computer Applications
10. Prof. Amit Kumar, Former Professor, Department of Geography

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up as under:

SECTION-1 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES & ACTION TAKEN REPORT**

AC 33.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 32nd meeting of the Academic Council held on 12th July 2024

The Academic Council noted that the minutes of the 32nd meeting of the Academic Council held on 12th July 2024 was circulated to all the members on 26th July 2024. Prof. Yodida Bhutia, Dean, School of Professional Studies has reverted with the following observations:

- 1) AC.32.2.3: The Chairperson of the Council noted point no (viii) on page no 7 and asked the NEP Chairperson to respond to it. It was reported that credit transfer applies to all institutions of higher education, not just Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University. It was decided to remove this point. Further, it was also discussed if this university is already a part of ICIMOD programme.
- 2) AC 32.4.C4: Page No 12: There is a gap between the last two lines. First, we can write that the students can obtain percentages from the absolute marks provided in the mark sheets. We should also have a separate paragraph addressing the requirements for student attendance to be eligible for summative assessment. After which we can write that it was recommended to issue a circular requiring the HoDs/Colleges to provide attendance details to verify student's eligibility to appear in the summative assessment conducted by the university.

With respect to observation at Sl. No. 1 above, the Council noted that the MoU with Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University was signed on 01.12.2023 and the matter was only reported to the Academic Council for information. Any changes in the MoU has to be done with mutual consent of both Universities.

The observation at Sl. No. 2 above was considered by the Academic Council for taking up necessary revision in the minutes of the 32nd meeting of Academic Council under item no. AC 32.4.C4. The Council, thereafter, confirmed the remaining items of the minutes of 32nd meeting of the Academic Council held on 12th July 2024.

AC 33.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 31st meeting of the Academic Council held on 21st February 2024

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 31st meeting held on 21st February 2024. The Academic Council noted the action taken report.

SECTION-2 **REPORTING ITEMS**

AC 33.2.1: 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.

It was informed that if it is urgent and if the Vice-Chancellor approves, PhD registration notification will be issued based on the minutes of the concerned School Board and the matter may be placed as Reporting item for information of the Academic Council or else minutes of the School Board on research proposal for PhD registrations are to be recommended by the School Board for approval of the Academic Council.

SECTION-3 **RATIFICATION MATTERS**

AC 33.3.1: Establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Sikkim University Campus at Yangang

The Council noted that a committee under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Yodida Bhutia was constituted for exploring the possibility of establishment of a school at Sikkim University, Yangang campus. The committee after surveying the preferences of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the University, reported that the majority of the staff of the University preferred establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya at the Yangang campus. Accordingly, the University vide letter dated 24.12.2024 approached the Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), New Delhi requesting establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya at the University Campus, Yangang. An inspection team comprising of two Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas of Sikkim were deputed by the KVS to inspect the site on 06.01.2025 at the Yangang campus. The inspection team submitted a feasibility report with recommendations to the KVS for establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya at the Yangang campus. In order to complete the process, KVS asked the University to submit the proposal for establishing a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the prescribed format for further necessary action. Information's were obtained from a few Central Universities, where Kendriya Vidyalaya exists for more than a decade, in order to ascertain the requirements like free of cost space, suitable land and building, bearing recurring and non-recurring expenditures, equipment's and suitable residential accommodations for KV staff etc. before filling up the prescribed format. Thereafter, the proposal in the prescribed format was submitted to KVS Regional Office, Kolkata vide letter dated 04.02.2025.

The Academic Council, after deliberation, ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor for establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Sikkim University Campus, Yangang.

AC 33.3.2: Tri-partite MoU between Ministry of Education (MoE), University Grants Commission (UGC) and Sikkim University for the financial year 2024-25

The Council noted that as per Rule 229 (xi) of General Financial Rules, 2017 all statutory/autonomous bodies are required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Administrative Ministry or Department, spelling out clearly performance evaluation parameters, output targets along with commensurate input requirements for each financial year. Accordingly, all Central Universities have to enter into MoU with the UGC and the MoE for every financial year.

The Council also noted that a letter vide F.No. 20-7/2024-CU.II dated 27.06.2024 was received from MoE requesting to submit the Tripartite MoU between Sikkim University, MoE and UGC with specified performance evaluation parameters and output targets for the year 2024-25. Accordingly, the Tripartite MoU for the year 2024-25 duly signed by the Vice-Chancellor was sent to MoE vide letter dated 17.01.2025.

The Academic Council ratified the signing of tripartite MoU between MoE, UGC and Sikkim University for the year 2024-25.

**SECTION-4
MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL**

A. PANEL OF EXAMINERS, ETC.

AC 33.4.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 Languages & Literature	English	3 PhD thesis
		Hindi	1 PhD thesis
2)	School of Life Sciences	Zoology	2 PhD thesis; MSc Practical and Dissertation evaluation
		Botany	1 PhD thesis
		Horticulture	4 PhD thesis; MSc/PhD Practical and Dissertation evaluation

3)	School of Human Sciences	Anthropology	MA/MSc Physical Anthropology Practical Examination and Dissertation Evaluation
4)	School of Professional Studies	Mass Communication	1 PhD thesis
		Music	3 PhD thesis
		Library & Information Science	PG Practical Examinations December 2024
		Pharmacy	B.Pharm & M.Pharm Practical Examinations, December 2024.
5)	School of Social Sciences	Economics	2 PhD thesis
		Political Science	1 PhD thesis
		International Relations	1 PhD thesis
		PCS&M	1 PhD thesis
		History	1 PhD thesis
		Sociology	2 PhD thesis

B. SYLLABUS MATTERS/COURSES ETC.

AC 33.4.B1: Revision of UG Curriculum in alignment with NEP 2020

Prof Yodida Bhutia, Chairperson, NEP Committee of Sikkim University, presented brief information on the process of updating UG curricula and detailed the components of it. The UG curricula are updated as per the National Education Policy 2020. The curricula have followed UGC guidelines for the Curriculum and Credit Framework 2021, Learning Outcome-Based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) guidelines 2020 for UG, and the credits are included as per the National Credit Framework (NCrF)-2023. The level of the content is as per the UGC National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF)-2023. The categories of the courses are major, minor, multidisciplinary, ability enhancement course, skill enhancement courses, value-added courses, internship, research project, and dissertation.

Built on foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability, the National Education Policy suggest an inclusive learning-based curriculum.

To prepare this UG curricula, 35 committees are worked, of which 27 committees worked for preparing major and minor courses, 5 committees worked for the development of ability enhancement courses, 1 committee for value-added courses, 1 committee for skill enhancement, and 1 committee for vocational education.

The Council discussed curricula for 27 major courses which are Bhutia, Botany, Buddhist Studies, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer

Science, Economics, Education, English, Geography, History, Lepcha, Limboo, Mass Communication, Mathematics, Microbiology, Nepali, Physical Education, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Statistics, Tourism, Zoology, Computer Engineering and Civil Engineering. It was reported that the committees which prepared major courses also prepared 5 disciplinary minors for the students of the same discipline for other departments. A vocational minor ensures the students studying the major gets the required skills and get employed if they exit. One internship to have firsthand experiences and industrial experiences, two or three research methodology courses to provide information on research methods and techniques, as well as one course on dissertation.

The committees which prepared major courses also prepared one multidisciplinary course, so the students of the other disciplines also can take this course. The committee for ability enhancement courses developed communicative language courses I & II. So, these courses are Communicative English I &II, Communicative Nepali I &II, Communicative Lepcha I &II, Communicative Bhutia I & II, Communicative Limboo I &II. The committee for value-added courses prepared four value-added courses such as Indian Knowledge System, Cyber Security, Value Education, Environmental Education. The skill enhancement courses committee prepared six skill courses as per the National Skill Qualification Framework 4.5 level of 3 credits each. The skill enhancement courses are related to the skills and tasks which are available locally.

As per NEP-2020, if they exit after one year, the students will be earning a minimum of 40 credits and 4 credit skill enhancement courses. If they exit after two years, they will be getting 80 credits. If they exit after three years, they will be getting a minimum of 120-122 credits, and if the students go to a four-year UG course with honours or honours with research, they will be earning 162 credits.

The learning outcome-based curriculum has gradual attributes, which were adopted from UGC guidelines under the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF). The Programme Learning Outcome (PLO) was prepared. The Programme Learning Outcome was designed to ensure that the curriculum is student-centered. The course learning outcome for each course was also prepared.

The suggested teaching-learning strategies are provided so that teachers can select the teaching-learning strategies as deemed fit for the subject and the level of the students. The assessment is also suggested so that the education system is not only examination-oriented but also student-oriented. Internal assessment will check

whether learners are learning or not, and a final assessment is given. This curriculum is comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and aims to prepare the youth for the future knowledge society.

Accordingly, after deliberations, the UG syllabi of the 27 major courses mentioned above and aligned with NEP 2020 guidelines were approved by the Academic Council:

AC 33.4.B2: Reduction in credits of Cyber Security (SOC-V-557)

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Social Sciences in its meeting held on 29.11.2024, the Academic Council approved to reduce the number of credits (From Credits 4- to credits 2) of the Cyber Security course (SOC-V-557) ensuring the semester wise minimum credit requirement of 20 credits is not affected. The reduced credit course will be implemented from the next semester, i.e. Second Semester of Academic Year, 2024-25.

AC 33.4.B3: Exchange of skill enhancement courses (1st & 2nd Semester)

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Social Sciences in its meeting held on 29.11.2024, the Academic Council approved exchange of skill enhancement courses between 1st semester (SOC-S-506: Academic Writing) and 2nd Semester (SOC-S-555: Student's Aspirations and Capabilities Project) of MA Sociology programme.

C. RULES AND POLICY MATTERS

AC 33.4.C1: Draft Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) of the Institutional Ethics Committee

The Academic Council, after deliberations, approved the draft Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) of the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC), Sikkim University as recommended by the Institutional Ethics Committee in its meeting held on 28.11.2024 with a minor modification that IEC Certificate should not be made compulsory for all the researchers in order to carry out their research work.

D. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC 33.4.D1: Per Diem for conducting field work

The Academic Council noted that in its 32nd meeting held on 12.07.2024 a two member committee was constituted comprising of Prof. Nawal K. Paswan, Head, Dept. of Peace & Conflict Studies and Management and Dr. Abdul Hannan, Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography with the mandate to revise the per diem policy for the fieldwork of the students in Sikkim University which is currently ₹250/- per day for each student and the same has not been revised since 2013. Based on the mandate, the committee members had several rounds of discussions and also surveyed the local market. The

committee also invited Dr. Rakesh Kumar Ranjan, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Geology to participate as *Special Invitee* and put forward his inputs since the department also has compulsory fieldwork for masters' students. In light of this, the committee made the following recommendations for consideration.

1. The per diem for students is ₹250/- and it has not been revised since 2013. Per diem of students should at least be increased from ₹250/- to ₹500/- based on the existing prices and inflation. Hence, the committee recommends per diem to at least ₹500/- for the students.
2. If student is carrying out the field work individually within his/her home town, he/she is entitled for 50% of recommended per diem, i.e., ₹250/-.
3. The faculty members and staff accompanying the students for the field study should be entitled for TA and DA as notified by the Government of India from time to time.
4. The travel and transport expenses for students for the field work should be as per government approved rate or actual, whichever is lower.
5. In case of emergencies/extra-ordinary situations like disaster/ landslides/connectivity problems, Field Coordinator may consult the concerned Head/In-charge of the Department to take appropriate decisions at the ground regarding additional expenses to avoid any complications.

The Academic Council, after deliberations, recommended the above proposal of the committee to the Finance Committee for consideration.

AC33.4.D2: Implementation of Transcript (consolidated marks card) fees

The Council noted that the Examination Department has been issuing multiple numbers of transcripts to the passed out students every year without charging any fees. The NEP Guidelines stipulates that Central Universities are required to generate 30% revenue from internal sources. The Central Universities like University of Delhi, Mizoram University and NEHU are collecting transcript fees from the students. Accordingly, the Examination Department has proposed to implement the Transcript (Consolidated Marks Card) fee to the pass out students from this Financial Year 2025-26.

The Academic Council, after deliberations, resolved that Transcript (Consolidated Marks Card) fee may be levied @ ₹1500/- within the country and ₹2500/- for abroad and recommended the same to the Finance Committee for consideration.

AC33.4.D3: MoU of Sikkim University with Management & Entrepreneurship & Professional Skills Council (MEPSC), New Delhi

AC33.4.D4: MoU of Sikkim University with Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC), New Delhi

Items No. AC33.4.D3 and AC33.4.D4 were discussed together. The Academic Council, after deliberations, dropped the proposal for MoU with the above organizations. However, Chairperson, NSDC/Skill Committee may consult the organizations for more details. The Chairperson was also advised to approach government sector organizations imparting skill education courses.

SECTION 5 **MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES**

AC 33.5.1 Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 25th November 2024

The Council considered the Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 25th November 2024.

AC 33.5.2 Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 2nd December 2024

The Council considered the Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 2nd December 2024.

AC 33.5.3 Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 27th November 2024

The Council considered the Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 27th November 2024.

AC 33.5.4 Minutes of the 20th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 28th November 2024

The Council considered the Minutes of the 20th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 28th November 2024.

AC 33.5.5 Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 29th November 2024

The Council considered the Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 29th November 2024.

AC 33.5.6 Minutes of the 15th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 26th November 2024

The Council considered the Minutes of the 15th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 26th November 2024.

SECTION - 6
ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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

Sd/-
(Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang)
Vice-Chancellor (Off.) & Chairman
Academic Council