

**Minutes of the 34th meeting of the Academic Council held on
4th August 2025 at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan Academic Block**

34th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 4th August 2025 at 11 AM at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan Academic Block. Following were present:

1.	Prof. Abhijit Dutta 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.	Prof. Yodida Bhutia Dean, School of Professional Studies	- Member
5.	Prof. Rosy Chamling Dean, School of Languages & Literature	- Member
6.	Prof. V. Krishna Ananth Dean, School of Social Sciences	- Member
7.	Prof. Swarup Roy Dean, School of Physical Sciences	- Member
8.	Prof. Satyananda Panda Dean, School of Human Sciences	- Member
9.	Dr. Suresh Gurung Controller of Examinations (I/C)	- Member
10.	Dr. Sujit Kujur Librarian (I/C)	- Member
11.	Prof. Nawal K. Paswan Head, Department of Peace & Conflict Studies and Management & Dean of Students' Welfare	- Member
12.	Prof. Kabita Lama, Head, Department of Nepali	- Member
13.	Prof. Snehlata Jaswal, Head, Department of Psychology	- Member

14. Prof. Sohel Firdos
Head, Department of Geography - Member

15. Prof. Durga Prasad Chhetri
Head, Department of Political Science - Member

16. Prof. Praveen Mishra
Head, Department of Law - Member

17. Prof. Pradeep K. Sarma
Head, Department of Hindi - Member

18. Prof. Amit Chakraborty
Head, Department of Mathematics - Member

19. Prof. A.N. Shankar
Head, Department of Commerce - Member

20. Prof. K.R. Rama Mohan
Head, Department of Anthropology - Member

21. Prof. Manesh Choubey
Head, Department of Economics - Member

22. Prof. Sandhya Thapa
Head, Department of Sociology - Member

23. Prof. Ratika Pradhan,
Head, Department of Computer Applications - Member

24. Dr. Bilambita Banisudha
Head, Department of Music - Member

25. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Ranjan,
Head, Department of Geology - Member

26. Dr. Nagendra Thakur
Head, Department of Microbiology - Member

27. Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharyya
Head, Department of Physics - Member

28. Dr. Bisu Singh
Head, Department of Zoology - Member

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

43. Dr. Nishchal Wanjari
Associate Professor
Department of Geology - Member

44. 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. Dr. Sudhan Pradhan
Principal, Sikkim Government Science College Chakung
2. Dr. Devi Kala Lama
Principal, Sikkim Government B.Ed. College Soreng
3. Prof. Niladri Bag
Professor, Department of Horticulture, School of Life Sciences

Shri Satyam Rana, Section Officer was present to assist the Council.

At the outset, the Registrar welcomed Prof. Abhijit Dutta, Vice-Chancellor in his first meeting as the Chairperson of the Academic Council. Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed Dr. Suresh Gurung, Controller of Examinations who was attending the meeting for the first time.

The Chairperson thanked the outgoing members, viz., Late Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Former Vice-Chancellor (Off.) and Dr. S. Murali Mohan and put on record their contributions to Sikkim University and thanked them for their support and valuable suggestions during their tenure as the Chairperson and Member of the Academic Council.

The House also observed a two-minute prayer silence to offer homage to Late Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Former Vice-Chancellor (Off.) who left for heavenly abode on 29.04.2025.

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up as under:

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

AC 34.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 33rd meeting of the Academic Council held on 14th February 2025

The Academic Council confirmed the minutes of 33rd meeting of the Academic Council held on 14th February 2025 as circulated to all the members on 20th March 2025.

AC 34.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 33rd meeting of the Academic Council held on 14th February 2025

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 33rd meeting held on 14th February 2025. The Academic Council noted the action taken report.

SECTION-2 **REPORTING ITEMS**

AC 34.2.1: Memorandum of Agreement between Sikkim University and Nagaland University

The Council noted that Sikkim University through its Department of Horticulture and Nagaland University through its School of Agricultural Sciences entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for academic collaboration in the fields of mutual interest between the two Universities.

SECTION-3 **RATIFICATION MATTERS**

AC 34.3.1: Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2025 regarding Conversion Formula and Non-Coding of Answer Scripts for De-Centralized Evaluation

The Council noted that a committee constituted to discuss on the conversion formula for obtaining percentage of marks and Coding of answer scripts for De-centralized evaluation held its meeting on 4th April 2025 and recommended the following:

a) Conversion Formula for calculation of percentage of marks from CGPA

It was observed that calculating the percentage by multiplying a candidate's CGPA (awarded on a 10-point scale as per the University Ordinance) by a factor of 10 does not accurately reflect the actual percentage of marks. This method sometimes results in a higher percentage than candidate's actual percentage for some and, while for others it yielded a lower percentage.

Recommendation: The aggregate percentage of marks may be calculated from the absolute marks as against conversion of CGPA to a percentage figure as follows and the conversion formula to be printed on the marks sheet for the convenience of the students.

$$\text{Total marks Secured} \\ \text{-----} \times 100 \\ \text{Total Marks}$$

b) Non-Coding of answer scripts for De-centralized evaluation

University Regulations on the conduct of examinations under clauses 2B(w), 5(a) and 5(d) states the following.

Clause 2B(w): *"For ensuring confidentiality, answer scripts of the End Semester examinations shall be coded prior to handing them over to the evaluators"*

Clause 5 (a): “Evaluation of all UG answer scripts shall be centrally executed at designated location under direct supervision of the CoE or official (s) of the University / Colleges designated by the CoE”

Clause 5 (d): “..the PG answer scripts shall be evaluated by the concerned faculty at the Department”

After deliberations, the Committee recommended for revision on the above Clauses as follows.

Clause 5 (a) to be revised as “Evaluation of all UG answer scripts of the End Semester examinations shall be centrally evaluated at designated location under direct supervision of the CoE or official (s) of the University / Colleges designated by the CoE. **For ensuring confidentiality, the answer scripts for Central Evaluation shall be coded prior to handing them over to the evaluators.”**

Clause 2B(w): It is subsumed with Clause 5(a) and may be deleted from the University Regulations on the conduct of Examinations.

The Academic Council, after deliberation, ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor for approving the minutes of the meeting of the committee along with its above recommendations.

AC 34.3.2: Certificate Verification Fee

The Council noted that the Examination Department does not charge/ levy any fee for the candidate/organization/Agencies asking/ requesting for verifications of certificates as on date. Other Universities, including Central Universities, charge fee for verification of certificates. Hence, in order to enhance internal revenue generation, it was proposed to levy / charge fee for certificate verification request.

In line with the other Central Universities, the following fee/charge was proposed for verification of certificates.

Sl. No.	Category	Rate of fee / Charges	Postal Charges
1	Central / State Government Organizations/Institutes/Universities	Nil	
2	Private Organizations / Institutes/ Company / Agencies	₹500/- per programme	Within India ₹300/- International
3	Foreign Organizations / Institutes/ Company / Agencies	\$ 50 per programme (USD)	₹1000/-

The Academic Council ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in approving the above fee/charges for verification of the certificates

SECTION-4
MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

A. PANEL OF EXAMINERS, ETC.

AC 32.4.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	2 PhD thesis
		Hindi	4 PhD thesis
2)	School of Life Sciences	Microbiology	2 PhD thesis
		Botany	7 PhD thesis; MSc Practical and Dissertation evaluation
3)	School of Human Sciences	Anthropology	1 PhD thesis
4)	School of Physical Sciences	Computer Applications	5 PhD thesis
5)	School of Professional Studies	Education	1 PhD thesis
		Tourism	1 PhD thesis
		Management	8 PhD thesis; MBA and PhD coursework dissertation
		Library & Information Science	2 nd & 4 th Semester practical examinations even sem 2025
		Music	4 PhD thesis
		Pharmacy	B.Pharm & M.Pharm Practical Examinations, even sem 2025
		Loyola College	1 PhD thesis
6)	School of Social Sciences	History	6 PhD thesis
		Sociology	1 PhD thesis
		Political Science	2 PhD thesis
		Economics	1 PhD thesis
		Law	3 PhD thesis
		PCS&M	1 PhD thesis

B. SYLLABUS MATTERS/COURSES ETC.

AC 34.4.B1: New Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Outcome Based Education

The Council noted that the faculty of the Department of Education has proposed a new Post Graduate Diploma program in Outcome Based Education. Key highlights of the proposal includes the following:

The Post Graduate Diploma in Outcome Based Education (OBE) aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills in different aspects of outcome-based teaching and learning. The programme is

aligned with NEP 2020 and UGC's curriculum and credit frameworks. The programme will be in blended mode with both online and face to face sessions and offers a balanced mix of theory, skill-based practicum and project work. The target group of the programme will be pre-service and in-service teachers, teacher educators, curriculum developers and education professionals. The total credits of the programme is 40 and focuses on curriculum design, assessment strategies and continuous quality improvement in OBE. The programme fee is ₹8,000 (excluding admission and examination fees), with flexible scheduling to accommodate working professionals.

The School Board of Professional Studies in its meeting held on 30.06.2025 recommended the proposed new Post Graduate Diploma program in Outcome Based Education for approval of the Academic Council.

The Academic Council, after deliberations, deferred the matter on want of more details of the proposed programme in respect of financial implications against the available budget, the duration of the programme, possible collaboration with the Government of Sikkim in view of most teachers are from Government Colleges and many such other information's. The Council advised to again submit the proposal in the next meeting with all the sought information's.

AC 34.4.B2: Minor changes in the courses of the Department of Mass Communication

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Professional Studies in its meeting held on 30.06.2025, the Academic Council approved the following minor changes in the MA Mass Communication programme:

- Introduction of Communication in Unit IV
- Communication for Social and Behavioural Changes
- Change of media terminology for Media Law and Ethics, like IPC and CRPC
- Addition of a practical component in public relations and corporate communication.

However, the Council advised that the IPC and CRPC has been replaced by Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) w.e.f. 01.07.2024 by the Government of India. Accordingly, the Council suggested that the new criminal laws may be incorporated in the MA Mass Communication programme and such other syllabi of the University.

AC 34.4.B3: FYUG (Four-Year Undergraduate) program proposed by Harkamaya College of Education

AC 34.4.B4: FYUG (Four-Year Undergraduate) program proposed by Loyola College of Education

Introduction of FYUG programs proposed by the above two affiliated colleges were recommended for approval by the School Board of Professional Studies in its meeting held on 30.06.2025.

The Academic Council advised the agenda AC34.4.B3 and AC34.4.B4 to route through the College Development Council, these are college related matter and, procedurally too, it should be first placed before the College Development Council for consideration.

AC 34.4.B5: Modification in the curriculum of MA IV Semester International Relations

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Social Sciences in its meeting held on 01.07.2025, the Academic Council approved the following modified curriculum structure of MA IV Semester International Relations:

1. INT-E-651: Globalisation in World Politics
2. INT-E-652: India and Its Neighbourhood
3. INT-E-653: Eastern Himalaya: Issues in Geo-Strategy and Sustainability
4. INT-O-654: State and Politics in India
5. INT-R-655: Dissertation

However, the Council advised the Department of International Relations to ensure uniform credit distribution as per NEP 2020 in the above course structure.

AC 34.4.B6: Proposal for considering two year M.Lib.I.Sc programme as “Integrated B.Lib.I.Sc – M.Lib.I.Sc” programme

The Academic Council noted that the Department of Library and Information Science offers a two-year (Four Semesters) Masters programme in Library and Information Science since 2022. The first batch of M.Lib.I.Sc students have graduated in 2024 and the second batch will graduate subsequently in 2025.

It has been reported that the students who were graduated in 2024 with M.Lib.I.Sc certificate were often asked to produce B.Lib.I.Sc certificate for job opportunities in various organizations/institutions and deny their entry as they failed to provide B.Lib.I.Sc certificate.

The Council also noted that the certificate issued by Sikkim University does not mention anything about the B.Lib.I.Sc in the marksheet/certificate.

According to the UGC Notification dated 5th July, 2014, the entry level requirement of the B.Lib.I.Sc and M.Lib.I.Sc programmes are as follows.

Name of the Programme	Duration of the Programme	Entry Level
B.Lib.I.Sc	1 year	Graduation
M.Lib.I.Sc	1 year	B.Lib.I.Sc

Since, the M.Lib.I.Sc programme offered by the University is of two year (4 Semesters) duration, and in order to align with the UGC notification dated 5th July, 2014, the Academic Council approved the following proposals in the larger interests of the students.

1. To use the nomenclature 'Integrated B.Lib.I.Sc – M.Lib.I.Sc' programme and to reflect the same on the marksheets and degree certificate w.e.f. 2024-25 batch.
2. To issue "Equivalence Certificate" of integrated B.Lib.I.Sc- M.Lib.I.Sc for those belonging to 2022-23 and 2023-24 batches.

AC 34.4.B7: Approval of 1 Year NEP 2020 inspired PG Syllabus under the (4+1) Model, for the next year academic session 2026-27 of the Department of Chinese

The Academic Council, after deliberations, deferred the PG syllabus under the (4+1) model of the Department of Chinese since the said syllabus is yet to be vetted by the NEP Committee of Sikkim University and bring in the next AC meeting.

C. RULES AND POLICY MATTERS

AC 34.4.C1: Conduct of the viva-voce for MA Dissertations

The Academic Council noted the following recommendations from the School Board of Social Sciences in its meeting held on 01.07.2025 with regard to the procedure to be followed for inviting External Experts for the viva voce examinations and subsequent amendments in the relevant Regulations:

- 1) The Departments shall submit a panel of three examiners, valid for one year before the School Board held in the month of October/ November.
- 2) Such panel will be valid for the viva voce examinations scheduled for the academic year and more specifically scheduled for May/ June of the subsequent calendar year.
- 3) The three-member panel, will have to be approved by the BoS/DC of the department concerned and shall have as panelists only from regular teachers in Universities from outside Sikkim. The Departments may elect regular teachers, including Assistant Professors from colleges/Universities outside Sikkim.

- 4) The panel, thus approved by the School Board shall be submitted to the Vice Chancellor who shall identify any one of the three as expert for the relevant academic year and convey the same to the Controller of Examination.
- 5) The Controller of Examination shall establish contact with the expert selected by the appropriate authority at the time of the viva voce examination and arrange her/his presence for the viva voce examination on the appointed date.
- 6) The viva voce examination shall ordinarily be held in the physical mode and shall be conducted over a period of at least two working days. The same may be increased depending upon the number of MA Dissertations to be examined in consultation with the Department concerned.
- 7) The CoE may suggest holding the viva voce examination in virtual mode only in the event of an emergency or contingent situations arising out of weather and road conditions with the concurrence of the department concerned.

The Academic Council, after deliberations, decided to constitute a committee under the Chairmanship of the Controller of Examinations to examine the above proposal and to bring amendments in the relevant Regulations, if found feasible.

AC 34.4.C2: Revision of Ordinance OC-4 and OC-5 in line with NEP 2020

The Academic Council, after deliberations, deferred the matter and advised the committee to relook and incorporate the suggestions/ comments of the members on the revision of Ordinance OC-4 and OC-5 in line with NEP 2020. The revised Ordinances may again be placed in the next meeting of the Academic Council.

D. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC 34.4.D1: Increase of PhD thesis evaluation fee to ₹5000/- (Five thousand) from existing ₹3000 (Three Thousand)

The Council noted that the Deans' Committee in its meeting held on 16.06.2025 recommended the proposal for increasing the honorarium paid to the examiners of Ph.D thesis to ₹5000/- instead of the existing ₹3000/- since many times the external examiners are reluctant to examine the PhD thesis because of less fee.

The Academic Council, after deliberations, approved the proposal for increasing the honorarium paid to the examiners of Ph.D thesis to ₹5000/-. The Council also advised that this honorarium/evaluation fee of PhD thesis should be included in the admission fee.

AC 34.4.D2: Memorandum of Understanding between Sikkim University and Rajiv Gandhi University

The Council noted the proposal for entering into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sikkim University and Rajiv Gandhi University for academic collaboration in the fields of mutual interest between the two Institutions as submitted by the Chairperson, NEPCSU. The purpose of the MoU, but not limited to, is to make collective efforts by both Universities to implement the vision set forth by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The Council also noted the following objectives and scope of the proposed MoU:

1. Objective

- 1.1. To establish a legal framework for cooperation between SU and RGU for the implementation of NEP 2020 and other academic initiatives.
- 1.2. Subject to their respective rules, regulations, statutes, ordinances, and applicable laws, the Parties shall endeavour to promote and enhance mutual cooperation in areas of academic and research interest.
- 1.3. The Parties agree to share infrastructure, knowledge, and human resources to facilitate the implementation of the NEP 2020 in letter and spirit.

2. Scope: The collaboration shall include, but not be limited to:

- 2.1. Implementation of the Multiple Entry and Exit framework under NEP 2020.
- 2.2. Mutual recognition and transfer of academic credits.
- 2.3. Joint academic and research programmes and projects.
- 2.4. Capacity building of students and faculty.
- 2.5. Exchange of faculty, researchers, and students.
- 2.6. Joint seminars, conferences, training programmes, and outreach initiatives.
- 2.7. Joint publication and policy formulation.
- 2.8. Launch of new academic programmes and courses.
- 2.9. Mobilisation of funds for collaborative projects.
- 2.10. Any other activity mutually agreed upon in writing

The Academic Council, after deliberations, recommended the proposed MoU between Sikkim University and Rajiv Gandhi University for approval of the Executive Council.

SECTION 5 **MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES**

AC 34.5.1 Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 27th June 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 27th June 2025.

AC 34.5.2 Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 9th July 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 9th July 2025.

AC 34.5.3 Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 27th June 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 27th June 2025.

AC 34.5.4 Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 30th June 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 21st meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 30th June 2025.

AC 34.5.5 Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 1st July 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 1st July 2025.

AC 34.5.6 Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 4th July 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 16th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 4th July 2025.

AC 34.5.7 Minutes of the 18th meeting of the College Development Council held on 4th July 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 18th meeting of the College Development Council held on 4th July 2025. The Council after deliberations recommended the following items for approval by the Executive Council:

- i) Continuation of permanent affiliation of the six affiliated colleges for the next three years.
- ii) Renewal of Temporary Affiliation of 14 Colleges/Institutions/ Subjects/Courses for the Academic Session 2025-26 with the following observations:
 - a) To organize a meeting of the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Director, Higher Education, GoS, Controller of Examinations with the Principal of NBBGC, Tadong.
 - b) To write a strong letter asking as to why Principal, NBBGC, Tadong did not comply with the university letter dated 18.10.2024 for applying for affiliation of eight PG subjects offered at the college and also to request him to apply for affiliation of PG subjects immediately in prescribed format.

- c) Holding of Affiliation Order of those colleges which have yet to deposit affiliation fee for the academic session 2025-26 and to send a list of colleges which have not submitted affiliation fee to the Director, Education Department, GoS for payment.
- d) Himalayan Pharmacy Institute (HPI), Majhitar to seek accreditation of the institute at the earliest.

iii) Revisiting examinations and registration fee for students of affiliated colleges as recommended below:

- a) To enhance the fee for theory and practical with 2% non-cumulative enhancement annually as per OC-3 retrospectively from 2016 for both UG General and UG professional as follows;

Sl. No	Programme	Existing Exam fee		Fee after 2% enhancement	
		Theory	Practical	Theory	Practical
1	UG (General)	300	250	360	300
2	UG (Professional)	300	250	360	300

- b) Now onward, 2% non-cumulative enhancement will be levied on the examination fee every year as per OC-3 of the University Ordinance and a notification to this extent will be issued every year.

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. Abhijit Dutta)
Vice-Chancellor (Off.) & Chairman
Academic Council