

**Minutes of the 35th meeting of the Academic Council held on
16th February 2026 at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan Academic Block**

35th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 16th February 2026 at 11 AM at Conference Hall, Barad Sadan Academic Block. Following were present:

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| 1. | Prof. Santanu Kumar Swain
Vice-Chancellor | - Chairperson |
| 2. | Prof. Suresh C. Sharma
Department of Applied Physics
Delhi Technological University | - Member
(Attended online) |
| 3. | Prof. Kalyan Ghadei
Professor & Head
Department of Extension Education
Institute of Agricultural Sciences
Banaras Hindu University | - Member
(Attended online) |
| 4. | Dr. Sudhan Pradhan
Controller of Examinations
Khangchendzonga State University | - Member |
| 5. | Dr. Devi Kala Lama
Principal
Sikkim Government B.Ed. College Soreng | - Member |
| 6. | Prof. V. Krishna Ananth
Dean, School of Social Sciences | - Member |
| 7. | Prof. Rosy Chamling
Dean, School of Languages & Literature | - Member |
| 8. | Prof. Satyananda Panda
Dean, School of Human Sciences | - Member |
| 9. | Prof. Anil Kumar Misra
Dean, School of Physical Sciences | - Member |
| 10. | Prof. Niladri Bag
Dean, School of Life Sciences | - Member |
| 11. | Dr. Suresh Gurung
Controller of Examinations (I/C) | - Member |
| 12. | Prof. Nawal K. Paswan
Head, Department of Peace & Conflict Studies
and Management &
Dean of Students' Welfare | - Member |

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| 13. | Prof. Abhijit Dutta
Head, Department of Commerce | - Member |
| 14. | Prof. Kabita Lama,
Head, Department of Nepali | - Member |
| 15. | Prof. Snehlata Jaswal,
Head, Department of Psychology | - 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. K.R. Rama Mohan
Head, Department of Anthropology | - Member |
| 21. | Prof. Sandhya Thapa
Head, Department of Sociology | - Member |
| 22. | Prof. Ratika Pradhan,
Head, Department of Computer Applications | - Member |
| 23. | Dr. Bilambita Banisudha
Head, Department of Music | - Member |
| 24. | Dr. Rakesh Kumar Ranjan,
Head, Department of Geology | - Member |
| 25. | Dr. Nagendra Thakur
Head, Department of Microbiology | - Member |
| 26. | Dr. Bisu Singh
Head, Department of Zoology | - Member |
| 27. | Dr. Dhriti Roy
Head, Department of Chinese | - Member |
| 28. | Dr. Amit Kumar Singh
Head, Department of Tourism | - Member |
| 29. | Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Gupta
Head, Department of Chemistry | - Member |

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| 30. | Dr. Arun Chettri
Head, Department of Botany | - Member |
| 31. | Dr. Sujata Upadhyay
Head, Department of Horticulture | - Member |
| 32. | Dr. Abdul Hannan
Head, Department of Geography | - Member |
| 33. | Dr. Rajesh Raj S.N.
Head, Department of Economics | - 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. | Prof. Bhoj Kumar Acharya
Professor, Department of Horticulture | - Member |
| 39. | Dr. Jigmie Wanchuk Bhutia
Associate Professor
Department of Tourism | - Member |
| 40. | Dr. Amrit Lamichaney
Associate Professor
Department of Horticulture | - Member |
| 41. | Dr. Nipun Chaudhary
Associate Professor
Department of English | - Member |
| 42. | Dr. Nishchal Wanjari
Associate Professor
Department of Geology | - Member |
| 43. | Prof. Laxuman Sharma
Registrar (I/C) | - Secretary |

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

1. Prof. Yodida Bhutia
Dean, School of Professional Studies
2. Prof. Ambika Dhaka
Head, Department of History
3. Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharyya
Head, Department of Physics

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

At the outset, the Registrar welcomed Prof. Santanu Kumar Swain, Vice-Chancellor in his first meeting as the Chairperson of the Academic Council. Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed all members present in the 35th meeting of the Academic Council and especially welcomed the following new members who were attending the meeting for the first time.

1. Prof. Kalyan Ghadei, Professor & Head, Department of Extension Education, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University
2. Prof. Anil Kumar Misra, Dean, School of Physical Sciences
3. Prof. Abhijit Dutta, Head, Department of Commerce
4. Prof. Bhoj Kumar Acharya, Professor, Department of Zoology
5. Dr. Jigmie Wanchuk Bhutia, Associate Professor, Department of Tourism
6. Dr. Nipun Chaudhary, Associate Professor, Department of English

The Chairperson thanked the outgoing members and also put on record their contributions to Sikkim University for their support and valuable suggestions during their tenure as members of the Academic Council.

1. Prof. D.N. Gupta, Professor, Department of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi
2. Prof. Laxuman Sharma, Former Dean, School of Life Sciences
3. Prof. Sohail Firdos, Former Head, Department of Geography
4. Prof. Manesh Choubey, Former Head, Department of Economics
5. Prof. A.N. Shankar, Former Head, Department of Commerce
6. Dr. Krishnendu Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Music
7. Dr. Gorakh Nath Tiwari, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up as under:

SECTION-1
CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES & ACTION TAKEN REPORT

AC 35.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 34th meeting of the Academic Council held on 4th August 2025

The Academic Council confirmed the minutes of 34th meeting of the Academic Council held on 4th August 2025 as circulated to all the members on 24th September 2025.

AC 35.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 34th meeting of the Academic Council held on 4th August 2025

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 34th meeting held on 4th August 2025. The Academic Council noted the action taken report.

SECTION-2
REPORTING ITEMS

SECTION-3
RATIFICATION MATTERS

AC 35.3.1: Revised Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD Syllabi of the Department of Nepali

The Council noted that in compliance to the judgement pronounced by the Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim in the W.P.(PIL) No. 03 of 2025, Shri Dhan Raj Gurung vs. Sikkim University, the Department of Nepali immediately made suitable revisions in the undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD Nepali Syllabi of Sikkim University. Further the Nepali Research Handbook *Nepali Lekhan Shaili* (2011) was replaced by the *Structural Framework of Nepali Research* handbook drafted by the Department of Nepali. The Revised Syllabi and the *Structural Framework of Nepali Research* Handbook was approved by the School of Languages and Literature in its meeting held on 8.12.2025 and implemented w.e.f. Even Semester 2026 as per the directions of the Hon'ble Court.

Dr. Samar Sinha, Assistant Professor, Department of Nepali made a brief presentation before the House explaining the necessity for revision of the syllabi of Department of Nepali and also the content of the syllabi which has been revised.

The Academic Council, after deliberation, ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor for approving the revised undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD syllabi of the Department of Nepali.

SECTION-4
MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

A. PANEL OF EXAMINERS, ETC.

AC 35.4.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	5 PhD thesis
		Lepcha	1 PhD thesis
		Limbu	1 PhD thesis
		Nepali	7 PhD thesis
2)	School of Life Sciences	Microbiology	2 PhD thesis; MSc Practical and Dissertation evaluation
		Botany	2 PhD thesis
		Horticulture	2 PhD thesis
		Zoology	1 PhD thesis
3)	School of Human Sciences	Anthropology	3 PhD thesis
		Geography	4 PhD thesis
		Psychology	2 PhD thesis; viva voce/practicals/ dissertation of UG/PG
4)	School of Physical Sciences	Computer Applications	1 PhD thesis; MCA Practical and Dissertation evaluation
		Mathematics	1 PhD thesis
		Geology	2 PhD thesis; MSc Practical and Dissertation evaluation
		Physics	2 PhD thesis
5)	School of Professional Studies	Commerce	1 PhD thesis
		Mass Communication	1 PhD thesis
		Tourism	3 PhD thesis
		Library & Information Science	Practical examination/dissertation of M.Lib.Sc. for three academic years 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28
		Music	10 PhD thesis
		Pharmacy	B.Pharm & M.Pharm Practical Examinations
6)	School of Social Sciences	History	1 PhD thesis
		Sociology	1 PhD thesis
		PCS&M	3 PhD thesis
		Economics	1 PhD thesis

The House also observed that the time taken in getting the statutory approval of the panel of examiners is very lengthy and this may result the examiners to get incapacitated to perform their required task when the entire process of approval of panel is followed. It was

resolved to examine the matter and simplify the process so that the existing delay in approval of the examiners may be minimized.

B. SYLLABUS MATTERS/COURSES ETC.

AC 35.4.B1: Introduction of Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) and Post Doc programme

The Council noted that Sikkim University offers PhD programme in its 32 departments (except Library & Information Science and Buddhist Studies) and it has almost been around 15 years the PhD programmes are under operation. Now many scholars are aspiring to take up D.Litt./Post-Doctoral programme in Sikkim University after completion of their PhD degree. Accordingly, it is proposed to start D.Litt./Post-Doctoral programme in Sikkim University in the respective departments which are eligible and intend to mentor the same.

The Academic Council, after thorough deliberations, authorized the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee for framing a comprehensive Guidelines including Ordinances and Regulations on Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) and Post-Doctoral programme separately.

AC 35.4.B2: Curriculum of B.Voc. Retail Management as per NEP guidelines

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Professional Studies in its meeting held on 01.12.2025, the Academic Council approved the curriculum of B.Voc. Retail Management framed as per NEP guidelines. The Council also noted that B.Voc. Retail Management programme is being offered at Sikkim Government Vocational College, Dentam.

AC 35.4.B3: NEP-based one-year PG programme in Music

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Professional Studies in its meeting held on 01.12.2025, the Academic Council approved the NEP-based one-year PG curriculum in Music.

The Council also had an extensive deliberation regarding rolling out of the one-year PG programme in the University as required under the NEP 4+1 model. The Council observed that most of the departments in the University are operating from hired buildings and are lacking in adequate resources, faculty and infrastructure for offering additional programmes. Therefore, the Council resolved that the one-year PG programme shall be introduced by the University as and when adequate resources, faculty, manpower and infrastructure are in place. The Council entrusted the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee which will take a holistic approach in determining the feasibility of implementing one-year PG programme in the University.

AC 35.4.B4: PhD curriculum in Pharmacy

The Academic Council had an exhaustive deliberation on the matter. The Council discussed the provisions of the University norms which allows the affiliated colleges to run PhD programmes. The Council, thereafter, entrusted the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee which will review the PhD curriculum in Pharmacy and also the selection of PhD supervisors in affiliated colleges. The Vice-Chancellor shall then take a decision on the report submitted by the committee and then place for ratification in the next meeting of Academic Council if approved.

The Council also observed that science background subjects from affiliated colleges are under the School of Professional Studies and the non-alignment of the content of these subjects with the School Board of Professional Studies is creating difficulty in decision making to the School Board when matters related to these subjects are discussed. The Council decided to reallocate the science background subjects of affiliated colleges from School Board of Professional Studies to other science-based Schools of the University.

AC 35.4.B5: Syllabus for NEP 2020-Inspired One Year Postgraduate Program in Chinese (Course Work Only) PG Syllabus, Department of Chinese

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Languages & Literature in its meeting held on 8.12.2025 and after noting that all the latest NEP components, including course structure, credit framework, marks and teaching hours, along with postgraduate attributes and course learning outcomes have been incorporated in the said syllabus, the Academic Council approved the syllabus for NEP 2020 Inspired One Year Postgraduate Programme in Chinese.

AC 35.4.B6: Syllabus for NEP 2020-Inspired Short-Term Course in Mandarin Chinese

The Academic Council deferred this agenda item for want of more information regarding the modalities to be followed in running the short-term course in Mandarin Chinese including its sustainability in posterity and bringing it under the ambit of University Ordinances/ Regulations especially related to issuing of Certificates. The Council also noted that this course particularly caters to the corporate/trading community and the course fee should be suitably decided as it is a self-financing course and proportionate remuneration to the faculty members should also be determined.

AC 35.4.B7: Syllabus for NEP 2020-Inspired One Year Postgraduate Program in Hindi (Course Work Only) PG Syllabus, Department of Hindi

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Languages & Literature in its meeting held on 8.12.2025 and vetted by NEPCSU, the Academic Council approved the syllabus for NEP 2020 Inspired

One Year Postgraduate Programme in Hindi (Course Work Only). However, implementation of this program shall be decided on the basis of the report of the committee as resolved in item AC 35.4.B3.

AC 35.4.B8: New PhD coursework papers of Department of Mathematics

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Physical Sciences in its meeting held on 28.11.2025, the Academic Council approved the following new coursework papers for PhD Mathematics:

- MAT-E-710: Advanced Algebra
- MAT-E-711: Super Manifolds and Lie Supergroups
- MAT-E-712: Lie Algebra and Representation Theory
- MAT-E-713: Lie Groups and Lie Algebra

AC 35.4.B9: New Mathematics M.Sc. Elective papers

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Physical Sciences in its meeting held on 28.11.2025, the Academic Council approved the following new Mathematics M.Sc. Elective papers:

- MTH-E-606: Differential Manifolds-I (3rd Semester)
- MTH-E-655: Differential Manifolds-II (4th Semester)
- MTH-E-656: Computational Fluid Dynamics
- MTH-E-657: Discrete Dynamical Systems (4th Semester)

AC 35.4.B10: Restructuring and modification of existing Mathematics PG syllabi

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Physical Sciences in its meeting held on 28.11.2025, the Academic Council approved the restructuring of some existing electives and modifications in some existing M.Sc. Mathematics syllabi as mentioned below:

- Commutative Algebra moved to 3rd Semester
- Algebraic Topology moved to 4th Semester
- Curves and Surfaces” shifted to Open Elective category
- Measure Theory (refinement)
- Graph Theory (minor updates)
- Linear Algebra (minor updates)
- Analysis (minor content update)
- Mathematical Reasoning (minor content update)
- Field Theory (excluded from the elective list)

AC 35.4.B11: Revised NEP-compliant syllabus for the B.Voc. (Software Development) programme

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Physical Sciences in its meeting held on 28.11.2025, the Academic Council approved the revised NEP-compliant syllabus for the B.Voc. (Software

Development) programme, offered by Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Gangtok and Government Vocational College, Dentam.

The Council also resolved that a notification needs to be issued allocating the UG subjects taught at affiliated colleges under a different Boards of Studies – Computer Applications.

C. RULES AND POLICY MATTERS

AC 35.4.C1: Duty Leave for teachers and academic staff

The Academic Council noted that the UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers & Other Academic Staff, 2018 mentions the provision that teachers and academic staff may be granted duty leave upto 30 days in an academic year. The said UGC Regulations 2018 have been adopted by the statutory bodies of Sikkim University and notified vide Notification – 63/2019 dated 06.05.2019. The Academic Council in its 32nd meeting held on 12.07.2024 also resolved that duty leave upto 30 days in an academic year is already implemented in the University subsequent to adoption of UGC Regulations 2018 in the 32nd meeting of the Executive Council. However, Ordinance OB-3 on governing leave to teachers of the university states that the teachers and academic staff may be granted duty leave upto 7 days in a semester, i.e., 14 days in an academic year. The Ordinance OB-3 needs to be amended foremost to implement the provisions of UGC Regulations granting duty leave upto 30 days in an academic year for teachers and academic staff.

After deliberations, the Academic Council recommended for approval of the Executive Council amended to Ordinance OB-3 in conformity with UGC Regulation 2018 keeping in view the wider interest of the teachers and academic staff of the University.

Prof. V. Krishna Ananth, Dean, School of Social Sciences submitted his note of dissent against the proposal for increasing the duty leave to teachers and academic staff from the existing 14 days in a year to 30 days in a year.

AC 35.4.C2: Amendment of Section 5 (xi) of Sikkim University Act relating to Powers of the University

The Academic Council noted that Sikkim University desires to enter into collaboration with prestigious foreign universities/ institutes for academic excellence. However, Sikkim University Act mentions no provision for entering into MoU/Agreement with the foreign institutions. Office Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education vide F.No.6-2/2015-ICC dated 17.02.2015, states the following:

- a) In cases of MoUs/Agreement at Institutional level, where there is a provision in the Act (under which the institution has been established) to enter into an agreement with the foreign institution, the institutions can enter into MoUs/Agreements with the approval of their respective Board of Governors provided there is no additional financial implication for the Government over and above the lump sum annual grant already provided to the institution and the MoU/Agreement conforms with the National Education Policy, Acts of Parliament and any other laws of the land in vogue. The representative(s) of the Department in the Board of Governors may safeguard the interests of Government at the approval stage; and
- b) If there is no provision in the Act of the Institution for signing MoU/Agreement with the foreign institutions, MoUs/Agreements may be signed with the approval of the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Since Sikkim University Act has no provision for entering into MoU/Agreement with the foreign institutions, we need to follow procedure (b) above. However, getting the proposal approved from two Ministry's, i.e., Ministry of Education and Ministry of External Affairs is a time taking process and as such the University's proposals are also stuck in the procedural pipeline for an inordinate period.

Accordingly, it is proposed for amending Section 5 (xi) of Sikkim University Act empowering the University to enter into collaborations with foreign institutions with the approval of the Executive Council bypassing the need for Ministry's clearance/approval. Section 5 (xi) of Sikkim University Act mentions the provision as reproduced below:

(xi) to co-operate or collaborate or associate with any other University or authority or Institution of higher learning in such manner and for such purposes as the University may determine;

The provisions of Section 5(xi) after amendment shall be changed as follows:

*(xi) to co-operate or collaborate or associate with any other University or authority or Institution of higher learning **including foreign university/institute** in such manner and for such purposes as the University may determine;*

The Academic Council, after deliberations, recommended the proposal for amendment of Section 5 (xi) of Sikkim University Act relating to Powers of the University for approval of the Executive Council.

AC 35.4.C3: Starting of "Journal of Himalayan Studies"

The Academic Council noted that a Multidisciplinary International Journal, viz., Journal of Himalayan Studies is proposed to start and publish from Sikkim University. The 'Journal of Himalayan Studies'

(JoHS in short) will focus on publishing research articles/papers on the Himalayan mountains. This journal uses multi-disciplinary approach in understanding the Himalaya, and the ongoing changes. Contributions are drawn from scholars, policy makers, educationists, and practitioners from diverse fields that span natural resources, ethnic diversity and associated knowledge, cultures, traditions, languages, demography, urbanization, climate change, etc reflecting true multidisciplinary approaches.

The Council, after deliberations, approved the proposal for starting a Multidisciplinary International Journal by the University in principle but entrusted the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee to look into various aspects including financial implications, possible nomenclature of journal without violating copyright issues and bringing out print/online versions etc. The proposal may, thereafter, be placed before the Finance Committee and Executive Council for approval and consideration.

AC 35.4.C4: Establishment of an in-house University Publishing House

The Academic Council noted that it has been proposed for establishment of an in-house University Publishing House, to be named “Sikkim University Press (SUP)” to amplify academic impact, preserve regional and national knowledge and to provide a structured platform for scholarly publication. Currently, the invaluable research and perspectives generated by the faculty, particularly on themes of national importance like Viksit Bharat, NEP 2020 and the Indian Knowledge System as well as on the critical socio-cultural and ecological dynamics of our region often seek platforms elsewhere. The establishment of SUP aims to reclaim this agency, providing a prestigious, quality controlled home for our knowledge production. The proposal document outlining a comprehensive and actionable plan for creation of the “Sikkim University Press (SUP)”.

The Council, after deliberations, approved the proposal for establishment of Sikkim University Press in principle but entrusted the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee to look into various modalities including inventory management of the press, grant of initial seed money etc. The proposal may, thereafter, be placed before the Finance Committee and Executive Council for approval and consideration.

AC 35.4.C5: Establishment of a Centre for Buddhist Studies

The Academic Council noted the proposal for establishment of a Centre for Buddhist Studies at Sikkim University with the objective of institutionalising advanced research and documentation in Buddhist philosophy, history, culture, and lived traditions, with a particular focus on Himalayan and trans-Asian Buddhist traditions. Situated at

a unique civilisational crossroads of Indic, Himalayan, and Buddhist knowledge systems, Sikkim provides an exceptional intellectual and cultural context for such an initiative.

The Council also noted that the proposed Centre is envisaged as an interdisciplinary academic hub that will promote rigorous scholarship through textual studies and translation of primary sources, field-based and ethnographic research, and sustained academic engagement with monastic institutions and living traditions. It will foster national and international collaboration, contribute meaningfully to contemporary Buddhist studies, and enhance India's cultural and scholarly presence in the broader Asian context. The Centre will also advance the objectives of the National Education Policy (2020) by integrating classical knowledge systems with modern academic methodologies, thereby strengthening the University's role in preserving, interpreting, and innovatively engaging with India's civilisational heritage.

The Council, after deliberations, recommended the proposal for establishment of a Centre for Buddhist Studies for approval of the Finance Committee and the Executive Council.

AC 35.4.C6: Establishment of a Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS)

The Academic Council noted the proposed establishment of a Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) seeks to advance systematic research, documentation, and pedagogical engagement with India's diverse and interconnected intellectual traditions, encompassing domains such as philosophy, sciences, ecology, linguistics, medicine, and the arts. Situated within the distinctive cultural, civilisational, and ecological milieu of the Eastern Himalayas, the Centre will promote interdisciplinary and regionally grounded scholarship, enabling critical dialogue between classical knowledge systems and contemporary academic frameworks. Aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Centre will contribute to curriculum enrichment, capacity building, and innovative research practices, while positioning the University as an important academic hub for the study, revitalisation, and contemporary relevance of Indian knowledge traditions.

The Council, after deliberations, recommended the proposal for establishment of a Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) for approval of the Finance Committee and the Executive Council.

AC 35.4.C7: Establishment of a Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies

The Academic Council noted the proposal to establish a Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (CDSS) at Sikkim University is intended to strengthen academic and policy-oriented research in the

areas of national security, strategic affairs, geopolitics, and regional security dynamics, with particular reference to Northeast India, the Eastern Himalayas, and the Siliguri Corridor. The Centre will promote interdisciplinary research, capacity building, and engagement with policy institutions, contributing to informed strategic discourse and evidence-based policy formulation. In conformity with UGC norms and national strategic priorities, the proposed Centre will augment the University's academic distinction and address a pressing regional need for rigorous scholarship in defence and strategic studies.

The Council, after deliberations, recommended the proposal for establishment of a Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) for approval of the Finance Committee and the Executive Council.

AC 35.4.C8: Special drive admission campaign to improve enrollment from affiliated colleges and to attract foreign students from neighbouring countries in Sikkim University

The Academic Council noted that there are many departments in the University where enrollment is poor and unable to fill up all seats (as per allocated intake). We have few non-traditional departments (i.e. Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management, Department of Anthropology etc.) and few traditional departments (Department of Music, Department of Hindi, Department of Education, Department of Computer Application, Department of Mass Communication, Department of Tourism etc.) where aspiring candidates in PG program (with CUET score or without CUET score) are very less. Every year, many seats are vacant in these departments even after final round of admission (without CUET score). Therefore, we have to initiate a special drive admission campaign to attract students from affiliated college and nearby areas.

Supernumerary seats for foreign students have to be allocated as very few foreign students have been enrolled in the University and there is an urgent need to initiate a special drive admission campaign to attract foreign students from neighbouring countries (especially Bhutan and Nepal).

Very soon, we are going to start admission process for academic year (2026-27) and special drive for admission campaign has to be completed before CUET exams for PG admission. Most of the students (UG) in Sikkim are not aware about CUET exam and CUET score is the criteria for admission in PG admission. The University may allocate an appropriate budget for special drive admission campaign (academic year 2026-27).

A special drive admission campaign to increase enrollment in Sikkim University requires a multi-faceted approach blending digital

marketing, personalized engagement and strategic partnerships. Therefore, we need a pamphlet, banner and videos to share among stakeholders and various institutions in and around Sikkim and neighbouring countries. Apart from visiting various institutions to conduct interactive meeting with head and aspiring candidates/students, we may simultaneously launch digital campaign. While visiting the Institutions (University) in neighbouring countries, we may explore to sign MoU for strengthening institution ties and benefits.

The Council, after deliberations, approved the special drive admission campaign to improve enrollment from affiliated colleges and to attract foreign students from neighbouring countries in Sikkim University.

AC 35.4.C9: Ph.D. Admission through Sikkim University entrance examinations

The Academic Council noted the departments under the School of Physical Sciences have been experiencing significant difficulty in attracting Ph.D. students since Sikkim University introduced admission to the Ph.D. programme based solely on NET scores. As a result, several departments have not been receiving adequate applications. Extensive financial investment has been made to develop and maintain the research laboratories within the School of Physical Sciences. In the absence of Ph.D. scholars, these state-of-the-art facilities risk remaining underutilized, which would adversely affect the University's Research and Development activities. This, in turn, will impact the research output and publications of the School and may indirectly affect the University's NIRF and NAAC ratings. It was also noted that some Central Universities facing similar challenges, such as Tezpur University and NEHU, have adopted an alternative approach by conducting their own university-level entrance examinations for Ph.D. admissions in addition to granting admission through NET scores. This system has reportedly helped mitigate issues related to low enrolment.

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Physical Sciences in its meeting held on 28.11.2025, the Academic Council approved introduction of University-level entrance examination for Ph.D. admissions in parallel to Non-NET subjects like Lepcha, Limboo, Bhutia etc. and the general method of admission through NET scores.

D. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC 35.4.D1: Memorandum of Understanding between Sikkim University and ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region

The Academic Council noted that the Department of Horticulture has submitted a proposal for entering into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sikkim University and ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya, a premier institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research engaged in various aspects of research and extension on agricultural crops. The general purpose of this MoU is academic collaboration between both institutes and to provide research opportunity to the students and scholars of either institution in increasing the effectiveness of teaching and research in agricultural crops, jointly organise seminars, conferences and academic workshops on topics of mutual interest, publish books, monographs, seminar and workshop volumes etc. and disseminate knowledge.

The Council, after deliberations, recommended the proposed MoU between Sikkim University and ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region for approval of the Executive Council.

AC 35.4.D2: Memorandum of Understanding between Sikkim University and Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad

The Academic Council noted that the Department of Commerce has submitted a proposal for entering into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sikkim University and Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad for academic collaboration in the fields of mutual interest between the two Institutions. The scope of the MoU includes, but not limited to, exchange of students, faculty members between the two Institutions for academic, research and training purposes. Also the MoU favours joint publications and joint research projects between the two Institutions.

The Academic Council, after deliberations, recommended the proposed MoU between Sikkim University and Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad for approval of the Executive Council.

AC 35.4.D3: Provision of DrillBit Software for checking plagiarism research paper

The Academic Council observed that the University is already availing the 'DrillBit-Extreme Plagiarism Detection Software' offered by INFLIBNET Centre under ShodhShuddhi scheme launched by Ministry of Education. Additional requirement of Drillbit Software shall be decided on the basis of the volume of research papers submitted for plagiarism test.

AC 35.4.D4: Change of Criteria for admission to MCA Programme in Department of Computer Applications

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Physical Sciences in its meeting held on 28.11.2025, the Academic Council approved the revised criteria for admission to MCA programme as mentioned below:

A Bachelor's degree (BE /BTech/B.C.A./B.S./B.Sc./ B.Voc.) in the discipline of Computer Science/Information Technology with a minimum of 50% marks / equivalent grade in aggregate for General or 45 % marks /equivalent grade for SC/ST/OBC/DA. Bachelor's degree in other disciplines with passed in Mathematics at 10+2 level and one-year bridge course in Computer Science or Information Technology may apply.

**SECTION 5
MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES**

AC 35.5.1 Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 26th November 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 26th November 2025.

AC 35.5.2 Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 8th December 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 8th December 2025.

AC 35.5.3 Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 28th November 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 28th November 2025.

AC 35.5.4 Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 1st December 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 1st December 2025.

AC 35.5.5 Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 2nd December 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 2nd December 2025.

AC 35.5.6 Minutes of the 17th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 27th November 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 17th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences held on 27th November 2025.

AC 35.6.7 Minutes of the 30th meeting of the Deans' Committee held on 15th December 2025

The Council noted the Minutes of the 30th meeting of the Deans' Committee held on 15th December 2025 and gave specific approval for the following items:

- i) Provision of PhD thesis submission fee by amending Ordinance OC-3
- ii) Discontinuation of remuneration to Adjunct Faculty of the University from Even Semester 2026
- iii) Monitoring the Attendance of the students for Examinations

**SECTION - 6
ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

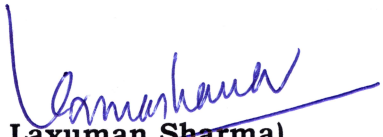
AC 35.6.1 Affiliation fee for private colleges

The Academic Council, after deliberation, decided to place the matter in the forthcoming meeting of the College Development Council (CDC).

AC 35.6.2 Change of nomenclature for the Departments of Computer Application and Geology

It was informed that the amended proposal was sent to UGC for approval and the same is awaited.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


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


(Prof. Santanu Kumar Swain)
Vice-Chancellor & Chairman
Academic Council