

GROUP I – ITEMS WHICH NEEDED APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION

AC:09:01	The Chairperson calls the House to order
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Minutes:

9.01.1 The Chairperson called the House to order

AC:09:02	Obituary Reference
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[Agenda Note:

9.02.2 *The death of the following eminent personalities is brought before the house with deep sense of grief.*

1. *Shri Nawang Gombu, World Famous Mountaineer and Member of the First Executive Council of Sikkim University.*
2. *Shri Sathya Sai Baba, Religious leader and philanthropist.*
3. *Shri Ajit Bhattacharya, Noted Journalist and Writer*
4. *Shri Ajun Singh, Former Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India*

This apart the death and destruction that happened in Japan in the recent earthquake and tsunami is also brought before the House with deep sense of grief.

Minutes:

9.02.2 The House noted with deep sense of grief of the passing away of the public figures / death caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. As a mark of respect of to the departed souls the House observed two minutes silence.

AC:09:03	Performance Highlights by the Vice-Chancellor
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Minutes:

9.03.1 The Vice-Chancellor made his observations on the various activities of the University since the last meeting of the Academic Council held on 28.03.2011. The House in overall placed on record its appreciation for the performance highlights reported. The following observations have been made in particular by the Hon'ble Members.

9.03.2 Prof Ravi Srivastava mentioned that the heart and soul of the Vice-Chancellor was seen in the presentation. The achievements made by the University with a very small and committed team are commendable and congratulated the team for overcoming formidable challenges.

9.03.3 Prof Neelima Deshmukh remarked that the University from the beginning has made very steady state of progress.

9.03.4 Dr. GS Yonzone stated that the Academic Council would always be with the Vice-Chancellor for his thoughtful activities. He stated that the number and nature of activities of the University over a period of time increased very rapidly. In spite of the fact that the actual manpower is very less, the ideas of the University and its achievements are very vast.

9.03.5 Prof YR Reddy described his experience in setting up of University of Hyderabad. It took them at least 20 years to reach a level. He mentioned that in the initial years of formation, the Vice-Chancellor of Hyderabad University wrote to top-class people in the country requesting them to join the University and accordingly brought the best brains for the University. To set Central Instrumentation facilities alone it took more than 7 years. In the case of Sikkim University it has both locational advantages and disadvantages. He urged the Chairperson to look for new faces around the country and should write and trap leaders for developing each of the discipline. While the projections of Sikkim University are very high, with a faculty members at the Assistant Professors level only, it would be rather difficult for it to achieve them. He further suggested that the Vice-Chancellor can write to other Universities for top-class faculty members and can even recruit them without undergoing formalities like interview. Mediocre faculties are always dangerous. Sikkim University should go all out to attract eminent faculty from outside the usual system. Mere advertising for recruitment would not help and the University has to take some amount of risk to do this.

As far as the Central Instrumentation facilities are concerned he mentioned that distributed power system is very much essential which the University should consider.

9.03.6 Dr GS Yonzone mentioned that the University may also consider that after the term of office of the present Academic Council is over, the members may be invited in visiting positions.

9.03.7 Prof JP Sharma mentioned that what Sikkim University has achieved so far many Central Universities could not even dream of. This he knows as he has been in Academic Councils of a number of Central Universities. The University is following total transparency for which he would like

to award ten out of ten to the Vice-Chancellor. He further complemented that from Sikkim University he had learnt a lot.

9.03.8 Prof. Neelima Deshmukh placed on record her appreciation for the excellent and stupendous work done by the Vice-Chancellor and his team. She desired to know as to how long the members would be associated with the University for future.

9.03.9 Prof Tista Bagchi stated that other Vice-Chancellors are also appreciating the dynamism of the VC of Sikkim University. She enquired as to why there was uniform for the students in the affiliated colleges. She hoped that these uniforms primarily meant to bring in discipline actually have not come in the package where there will be undue repressions.

9.03.10 The Chairperson while concluding the discussions mentioned that in Sikkim University everyone is working very hard and with dedication. He stated that his father was a strict disciplinarian and even hair cut of his children was done in a highly disciplined manner. In the same fashion the colleagues of VC in the University including in the faculty and management are disciplined, and work with conviction. He remarked that once the Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development in New Delhi remarked that Vice-Chancellor of Sikkim University is the only Vice Chancellor in the entire country who has no complaints when he meets the Minister. He only mentions about the achievements and the challenges. The Chairperson apprehended that the University may not get this type of national composition in the second Academic Council when it is reconstituted. He mentioned that most of suggestions made by the Hon'ble' Members so far have been implemented and we will do it in future also. He also stated to get the best manpower in the University, it does layers and layers of short listing before selecting a candidate for recruitment, be it teaching or non-teaching. As regards the issue of uniforms in the affiliated colleges, the University was in no way involved as it was the decision of the said college to implement wearing of uniform.

9.03.11 With the above remarks the Chairperson once again expressed his sincere thanks to the Hon'ble members for their valuable observations/suggestions/comments and contributions.

AC:09:04**Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Academic Council held on 28.03.2011****Minutes:**

9.04.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28.03.2011 enclosed as **Annexure AC IX- 01 to the Agenda** was considered and confirmed by the House.

AC:09:05**Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the last meeting of the Academic Council held on 28.03.2011****Minutes:**

9.05.1 The Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the last meeting held on 28.03.2011 which was enclosed as Annexure AC VIII- 02 to the agenda was considered by the house and discussed. The following remarks have been made by the Hon'ble members during discussion.

9.05.2 **Prof AR Reddy** enquired that in the case of an integrated programme when a student exits at B.Sc level what degree she/he will get. If such a student gets out of B.SC from Sikkim University and applies for a particular M.Sc in some other University will it be possible for her/he to enroll there? He further enquired as why the University thought it fit to introduce B.Sc-M.Sc integrated.

9.05.3 To this **the Chairperson** replied that the National Policy on Education is silent on such issues. In fact, even some of the basic parameters of the University and those of Government of Sikkim themselves did not match. On Unitization of B.SC - M.Sc integrated into M.Sc course the Chairperson replied that curriculums are different and independent.

9.05.4 **Prof Reddy** mentioned that after B.Sc the student can choose any PG degree. It should have provisions for lateral entry also. By this students with B.Sc from other Universities would join Sikkim University for M.Sc course. To this the Chairperson mentioned such things are already implemented in Sikkim University and also the case for credit transfer which also requires larger national debate. He further stated that in the case of integrated courses the students will have a separate campus, mentor, mess, lab etc so as to expose them to all kinds of scientific environment. Sikkim University should create such an atmosphere for students of integrated courses to expose them all times in science environment. By this the students will live and work in scientific environment.

9.05.5 **Prof Neelima Deshmukh** enquired as to what action the University has taken on re-naming of itself as the Central University of Sikkim rather than just calling it Sikkim University. This was

essential as there are universities like Vinayaka Mission Sikkim University. Prof JP Sharma also joined the issue in the discussion.

Prof Deshmukh mentioned that the University can write to the State Government mentioning that SU is created by an Act of Parliament and the name was coined in the said act. Simultaneously the University can also write to Ministry of Human resource Development. If the University desires to continue with the present name of “Sikkim University” it can mention in all places below the name with the sentence “[established by an Act of Parliament]”

9.05.06 Prof JP Sharma even suggested that the University can write to Vinayaka Mission Sikkim University as to why they copied the name from Sikkim University and start legal actions.

9.05.07 The Chairperson assured the members that their suggestions would be looked into. After this, the House confirmed the Action Taken Report placed before it.

AC:09:06	Review of Syllabus for BBA – MBA
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Minutes:

9.06.1 The House considered the agenda item and also the views of the Expert Members of the Curriculum Development Committee received by the University. After reviewing the views of the experts, the House directed that the University should submit the details of action taken by it on reviewing of the curriculum in the next meeting of the Academic Council.

AC:09:07	Preparation of Working Manuals
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Minutes:

9.07.1 The House considered and reviewed the draft versions of various working manuals prepared by the University and placed on record for its appreciation for procedurising the various activities of the institution in scientific and easy to follow manner. This culture of codification will go a long way in the development of this University.

9.07.2 Prof JP Sharma mentioned that it is a great job done and observed that he was excited to see the Manuals prepared by the University.

9.07.3 In the case of Manual on Internal Quality Assurance Cell the House suggested that the Guidelines of the UGC on the subject should be separately mentioned from the contents of the Manual. Prof Ravi Srivasatava observed that the formation of IQAC is very vital and from the very beginning it is essential to have faculty-students feedback in making the teaching-learning process accountable and useful. It is essential to design Students Participation in Learning Process (SPLP) at this stage only.

AC:09:08	Ordinance on Examination – Amendment to clause relating to Evaluation Pattern
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Minutes:

9.08.1 The House considered the amendment and recommended the same for implementation by the Vice-Chancellor forthwith. The House also directed that the University may seek post facto approval of the Second Executive Council when constituted.

AC:09:09	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination – Clause relating to “Unfair Means”
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Minutes:

9.09.1 The House considered the amendment and recommended the same for implementation by the Vice-Chancellor forthwith. The House also directed that the University may seek post facto approval of the Second Executive Council when constituted.

9.09.2 While doing so, Prof Ravi Srivastava mentioned that the University may look for ‘Windmill’ software in this regard as regards looking for “unfair means” like plagiarism adopted in M.Phil/PHD. It was also mentioned that the University may also constitute an “Ethics Committee” to frame the regulations etc on this issue.

9.09.3 The Chairperson enquired with the Members of the House as to whether the University can have an Ethics Committee as a part of Internal Quality Management. To this, Prof Srivastava replied in affirmative and stated that University at this formative stage only should have such provisions.

9.09.4 Prof AR Reddy mentioned that there was a classic case of Pune University. In this case the same data were published by two research students in the same international journal on different dates. One way to curb the unfair means in research papers is that the University may obtain a

declaration that “This work is original and not published elsewhere”. He also mentioned that the while gross plagiarism can be detected easily, finer plagiarism cannot be.

AC:09:10	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination – Levying of Fee for Improvement Paper
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Minutes:

9.10.1 The House considered the amendment and recommended the same for implementation by the Vice-Chancellor forthwith. The House also directed the University may seek post facto approval of the Second Executive Council when constituted.

AC:09:11	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination – Levying of Fee for Project/Dissertation
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Minutes:

9.11.1 The House considered the amendment and recommended the same for implementation by the Vice-Chancellor forthwith. The House also directed that the University may seek post facto approval of the Second Executive Council when constituted.

AC:09:12	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination – Improvement Paper
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Minutes:

9.12.1 The House considered the amendment and recommended the same for implementation by the Vice-Chancellor forthwith. The House also directed that the University may seek post facto approval of the Second Executive Council when constituted.

AC:09:13	Guidelines for Project Work/Dissertation
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Minutes:

9.13.1 The House considered the amendment and recommended the same for implementation by the Vice-Chancellor forthwith. The House also directed that the University may seek post facto approval of the Second Executive Council when constituted.

9.13.2 While doing so, Prof AR Reddy and Prof Ravi Srivastava mentioned that the course B.SC-M.Sc be mentioned as B.SC/M.Sc even though the course is an integrated programme. So that there remains a provision for a student to exit after BSc with a degree and others could have entry at the MSc level. This was endorsed by Prof JP Sharma.

9.13.3 The Chairperson assured to consider the suggestion of the House.

AC:09:14

Interactive Session with the Principals of Affiliated Colleges

Minutes:

9.14.1 The House considered the Agenda item and noted the contents. The Chairperson also explained to the House about various measures instituted by the University to improve the quality and feedback mechanism using this forum of interactive session with the Principals of affiliated colleges.

9.14.2 Prof AR Reddy enquired as to whether the Private Colleges are furnishing the correct data to the University of the Fee collected to which the Chairperson answered in affirmative.

AC:09:15

Establishment of Kendriya Vidyalay

Minutes:

9.15.1 The House considered the agenda item. While discussing the issue, Dr. GS Yonzone enquired how this project is related to Sikkim University. To this the Chairperson replied that a Kendriya Vidyalaya is necessary to help our employees and also the general public in the area. In the long term the benefits that accrue from the Kendriya Vidyalaya to the University are immense. This includes quality education at the school level and also would indirectly help in retention of faculty members also. The Chairperson further explained about the efforts of the University in establishing the Community Radio and Campus Museum for it. Prof Reddy indicated that for keeping precious and archived materials including documents the University should have Fire Proof Godrej Safe. The Chairperson assured to consider this.

AC:09:16	Establishment of Model Degree College at Rhenock, East Sikkim
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Minutes:

9.16.1 The House considered the Agenda item and noted the same.

AC:09:17	150 th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore
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Minutes:

9.17.1 The agenda item was considered by the House. Prof Tista Bagchi and Prof AR Reddy enquired with the Chairperson as to how the University has decided to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev. The Chairperson explained that different from organizing the debate etc. the University decided to bring out publications on Gurudev with reference to the contribution made by him from Mongpu in Darjeeling. To this, Prof Tista Bagchi enquired whether it would be appropriate to do the celebrations in Darjeeling. To this the Chairperson replied that the Kalimpong Centre has been in a totally dilapidated condition and hence the contribution of the University to raise it would help in restoration of scholarly treasures of Gurudev. Prof AR Reddy suggested that the School of Languages should have a “Ravindranath Tagore Centre”. Prof YD Prasad put forward the idea of listing the heritage of Sikkim like being carried out by Bihar Heritage & Development Committee.

9.17.2 With the above discussions the House authorised the Chairperson to proceed with the plan to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev.

GROUP II – ITEMS WHICH NEEDS RATIFICATION

AC:09:18	MoU with Helsinki University
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Minutes:

9.18.1 The House noted the agenda item and ratified it.

AC:09:19	MoU with Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)
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Minutes:

9.19.1 The House considered the Agenda item and ratified the same.

AC:09:20	Constitution of Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
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Minutes:

9.20.1 The House considered the agenda item and Prof A R Reddy advised that the first batch of Research Advisory Committee should be the best to derive the maximum benefits. He advised the chairperson to contact scientific institutions of repute (both national and international) including IIT/IISc etc.

9.20.2 It was accordingly decided to reconstitute the RAC with top level scientists in it. The House also noted about preparation of a Vision Document for the University for which the Chairperson was requested to write to Prof AR Reddy & Prof Ravi Srivastava for guidance.

9.20.3 The Chairperson agreed with the suggestion made by the House.

GROUP III – ITEMS WHICH ARE REPORTED FOR GUIDANCE & INFORMATION

AC:09:21	Results Framework Document (RFD) for the Year 2011-12
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Minutes:

9.21.1 The House noted the agenda item placed before it.

AC:09:22	Report on Affiliated Colleges
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Minutes:

9.22.1 The House considered the agenda item and noted it.

AC:09:23	FCNR clearance
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Minutes:

9.23.1 The House considered the agenda item and noted it.

AC:09:24	Visit of Parliamentary Committee on Papers
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Minutes:

9.24.1 The item was orally explained by the Secretary and the house took note of it.

AC:09:25	Progress Report on setting up of Scientific Laboratories
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Minutes:

9.25.1 The House considered the Progress Report on setting up of Scientific Laboratories placed as Annexure to the Agenda. **Prof AR Reddy** suggested for Central Instrumentation Facilities which however require proper protection and maintenance. It will also require proper technical manpower to handle them. In this context it was suggested that the University may consider recruiting a B.E graduate in Instrumentation Electronics. This apart the University may also consider recruiting a Diploma holder to operate these instruments.

9.25.2 The Chairperson assured that the suggestions of the House would be duly considered.

AC:09:26	Approval for constitution of Second Academic Council
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Minutes:

9.26.1 The House noted the agenda item.

AC:09:27	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC/ST students of Sikkim University
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Minutes:

9.27.1 The House noted the agenda item and placed on record its appreciation to the candidates of Sikkim University who have got the Fellowship.

AC:09:28	Status report on Library
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Minutes:

9.28.1 The House considered and noted the agenda item.

AC:09:29	Acquisition of land at Siliguri for University
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Minutes:

9.29.1 The House considered the agenda item and noted it.

AC:09:30	Purchase of Flat at New Delhi for Guest House purposes
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Minutes:

9.30.1 The House considered the agenda item and noted it.

AC:09:31

Visit of National Commission for ST to Sikkim University

Minutes:

9.31.1 The House considered the agenda item and noted it.

AC:09:32

Holding of the meeting of the next Academic Council

Minutes:

9.32.1 The House enquired about the term of the First Academic Council to which the Chairperson replied that based on the publication of the information on constitution of the First Academic Council the term of the House would end on 25.08.2011. Accordingly, it was proposed to hold the last meeting of the Academic Council on 20.08.2011 in Sikkim.

AC:09:33

Any other items with the permission of the Chair

Minutes:

9.33.1 The Secretary submitted before the House the following items for consideration.

1. **Request of Government College, Rhenock for additional courses from the Academic Year 2011-12**
2. **Ordinance on Internal Quality Assurance**

The House in both the cases authorised the Chairperson to take appropriate action as deemed fit.

9.33.2 The Chairperson submitted before the House an extra agenda item on recruitment of teaching staff on regular basis and the methodology followed by the University for short-listing etc. The House gave its valuable suggestions on this front to the Chairperson for further necessary action.

9.33.3 Before conclusion, Prof Neelima Deshmukh enquired about the present position of land acquisition at Yangang for University campus. To this the Chairperson replied that the matter is engaging the attention of Prime Minister's Office.

9.33.4 As there being no other item the meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-

(PV Ravi)

Actg. Registrar & Finance Officer,
Secretary, Academic Council