

**Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Executive Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 11:00 am in meeting room of Barad Sadan, Academic Block, Sikkim University**

31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Executive Council was held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 11:00 am in meeting room of Barad Sadan. Following were present:

- |  |   |                 |
|--|---|-----------------|
| 1. Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang<br>Vice-Chancellor   | - | Chairperson     |
| 2. Shri G.P. Upadhyaya<br>Additional Chief Secretary<br>Human Resource Development Department<br>Govt. of Sikkim | - | Member          |
| 3. Shri Kamal Kafley,<br>Secretary (Retd.), GoS., Pakyong, Sikkim  | - | Member          |
| 4. Dr. Sreeradha Datta<br>Distinguished Fellow, Asian Confluence<br>Shillong, Meghalaya                          | - | Member          |
| 5. Prof. Irshad Gulam Ahmed,<br>Dean, School of Languages & Literature   | - | Member          |
| 6. Prof. V. Rama Devi,<br>Dean, School of Professional Studies   | - | Member          |
| 7. Dr. Nawal K. Paswan,<br>Dean, School of Social Sciences   | - | Member          |
| 8. Dr. K.R. Rama Mohan,<br>Dean, School of Human Sciences  | - | Member          |
| 9. Dr. S.Manivannan<br>Dean of Students' Welfare   | - | Member          |
| 10. Prof. Pratap Chandra Pradhan,<br>Head, Deptt. of Nepali  | - | Member          |
| 11. Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay,<br>Associate Professor, Deptt. of Physics  | - | Member          |
| 12. Shri Debasish Pal<br>Finance Officer   | - | Special Invitee |
| 13. Shri T.K.Kaul<br>Registrar   | - | Secretary       |

Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey, Prof. T.R. Poudyal, Prof. Ghanashyam Nepal and Prof. Amaresh Dubey could not attend the meeting due to their pre-occupations and sought leave of absence.

Ms. Grace D. Chankapa, Assistant Registrar and Shri Satyam Rana, Assistant were present to assist the Council.

At the outset the Chairman welcomed all members of the Council to its 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. He informed the Council that Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University is a new member to the Council nominated by the Chairman UGC. He was welcomed as new member to the Council in absentia.

The Chairman also informed that Prof. Pratap Chandra Pradhan will be superannuating on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and Prof. V. Rama Devi would be leaving the University on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (AN). Both of them will cease to be the members of the Council. The Chairman placed on record valuable contribution made by Prof. Pratap Chandra Pradhan and Prof. V. Rama Devi during their tenure in the Council.

Thereafter, agenda items were taken up as under:

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

**EC 31.1.1: *Confirmation of the minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018***

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were circulated to all members on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018. No comments have been received from any of the members of the Council.

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 as circulated to all members on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were confirmed.

**EC 31.1.2: *Action taken report on the minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018***

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council. The Council noted the action taken by the University.

**SECTION - 2  
REPORTING ITEMS  
NIL**

**SECTION-3  
RATIFICATION MATTERS**

**EC 31.3.1: *Logo of Sikkim University Students' Association (SUSA)***

The Council was informed that the matter regarding approval of logo and motto of Sikkim University Students Association (SUSA) was taken up for consideration of the Executive Council in its 27<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The Council approved the motto i.e., “*Vision, Unity, Success*”. For logo, the Council suggested that SUSA may redo its logo through a competition. This was intimated to SUSA vide letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 with suggestion to invite logo design from amongst the students of the University and conduct an open competition and select the best logo as adjudged by a selection panel. The selected logo may thereafter be submitted to the University for consideration by the Council.

President SUSA vide letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 informed that adhoc SUSA body had called General Body meeting (GBM) and held competition for logo which was judged by voting of students as well. The logo with detailed description provided by Mr. Yogesh Adhikari and Mr. Abhishek Mukhia had been judged and voted to be the winners of the logo competition. President SUSA and General Secretary met the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar and apprised about the significance of logo for use in their Annual SUSA fest 2018 which was held from 19<sup>th</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 intermittently. Vice-Chancellor thereafter accepted and approved the logo of SUSA which was notified vide Notification 18/2018 dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The action of the Vice-Chancellor in approving the logo of SUSA has been ratified by the Council.

### **EC 31.3.2: Appointment of Professor on contract**

The Council ratified the action of the Vice-Chancellor in appointment of Prof. Subhash Chandra Bhattacharya, Professor of Chemistry, Centre for Surface Science, Department of Chemistry, Jadavpur University as Professor on contract for a period of six months w.e.f. 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 on terms and conditions as are applicable to the Professors on contract.

## **TABLE ITEMS**

### **EC 31.3.3: Membership renewal to the Himalayan University Consortium**

The Council was informed that the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) was founded in 2007 with the goal of building a dynamic mountain knowledge partnership among the Universities of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region and other organizations and institutions both within and outside the region. The international Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is hosting the Secretariat of HUC and facilitating its activities.

Sikkim University has since obtained full membership of the Himalayan University Consortium and has renewed it for further three years on 30.04.2018.

The Executive Council ratified the action of the Vice-Chancellor in renewing full membership of Sikkim University to Himalayan University Consortium.

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

**EC 31.4.1: Extension of contract of Professors (on contract)**

Revised agenda note was circulated. The Council was informed that the term of following three Professors who have been appointed on contract with a monthly remuneration of Rs. 1,00,000/- are expiring on the date(s) shown against each:

Sl. No.	Name	Department	Contract upto
1	Prof. Vinod Chandra Tiwari	Geology	30.06.2018
2	Prof. P.K. Sharma	Mathematics	30.06.2018
3	Prof. M.K. Ghose	Computer Applications	30.07.2018

Self-Assessment Reports and feedback from students as per the decision of the Council in its 27<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 have been obtained in all above cases.

The Council approved extension of the contract of above mentioned three Professors on contract for a further period of six months on existing terms and conditions.

**EC 31.4.2: Extension of Contract of Teaching Staff**

The Council was informed that the term of the following eight teaching staff in the Departments of Bhutia, Limbu and Lepcha are expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Department
1	Shri Bhaichung Tsh. Bhautia	Associate Professor	Bhutia
2	Dr. Hissay Wangchuk Bhutia	Assistant Professor	
3	Shri Bal Bahadur Subba	Associate Professor	Limbu
4	Miss Kaushila Subba	Assistant Professor	
5	Shri Tej Raj Limboo	Assistant Professor	
6	Shri Norbu Tshering Lepcha	Associate Professor	Lepcha
7	Shri Kachyo Lepcha	Assistant Professor	
8	Ms. Dukmit Lepcha	Assistant Professor	

The University require their services till such time regular faculty members are appointed in these departments.

The Council after deliberations extended the contractual appointment of above mentioned eight faculty members of the departments of Bhutia, Limbu and Lepcha for a further period of one year i.e. up to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 on existing terms and conditions.

**EC 31.4.3: Resignation of Prof. V. Rama Devi, Deptt. of Management**

The Council was informed that Prof. V. Rama Devi a permanent faculty member in the Department of Management has submitted her resignation on 9<sup>th</sup> April

2018 with request to be relieved on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to join the post of Associate Professor in the Department of School of Management, NIT, Warangal.

In terms of Clause 10 of Ordinance OB-2, Prof. V. Rama Devi has submitted the notice of three months. The Council after deliberations accepted the resignation of Prof. V. Rama Devi w.e.f. 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (FN).

**EC 31.4.4: Completion of probation period of teachers**

Ms. Sona Rai, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology has completed her probation on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017. Her probation has been reviewed by the concerned reviewing authority and there is no adverse remark.

The Council after deliberations' decided to lift probation of Ms. Sona Rai, Assistant Professor and confirm her in the services of the University w.e.f. 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017.

**EC 31.4.5: Tripartite MoU among Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), University Grants Commission (UGC) and Sikkim University for the financial year 2018-19**

As per Rule 229 (xi) of the General Financial Rules, 2017, the statutory/autonomous bodies are required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Administrative Ministry or Department, spelling out clearly performance parameters, output targets in terms of details of programme of work and qualitative improvement in output, along with commensurate input requirements. Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 to this effect has been received from the MHRD.

All Central Universities have to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UGC and the MHRD with specified performance parameters duly approved by the Executive Council. Accordingly, University has to sign the MoUs for release of fund during the financial year 2018-19.

The Council deliberated on the matter and in view of the urgency involved for executing the MoU, the Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to sign the MoU with the UGC and the MHRD and place the matter in the next meeting for ratification.

**EC 31.4.6: Screening cum Evaluation Committee proceedings for promotion under CAS of Assistant Professor from Stage 1 to Stage 2**

The Council noted that the following Assistant Professors have fulfilled the criteria and API scores duly verified by the API verification Committee for placement in Stage-2. Based on the report of Screening cum Evaluation Committee, the Council approved placement of under mentioned Assistant Professors from Stage 1 to Stage 2 from the date(s) of eligibility shown against each:

Sl.No	Name	Date of joining	Date of eligibility
1	Dr. Anju Verma	28.04.2014	28.04.2018
2	Dr. E. Iswarjit Singh	01.03.2012	13.06.2017
3	Dr. Amit Kumar Gupta	30.04.2014	30.04.2018
4	Dr. Santosh Kumar Rai	29.03.2012	29.03.2016

#### **EC 31.4.7: Appointment of Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav as Assistant Professor on Contract**

The Council was informed that Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav was appointed as Assistant Professor against the lien vacancy of Dr. Teiborlang T. Kharsyntiew in the Department of International Relations. The offer of appointment of Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav inter-alia clearly stated that his assignment is for the period of lien granted to Dr. Teiborlang and incase lien vacancy gets converted into regular vacancy, he will not be entitled for regularization. Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav joined the University on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017. Dr. Tebiborang who was on lien w.e.f. 31.01.2016 requested vide letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 for termination of his 'lien' for his confirmation at Jawaharlal Nehru University. His request for termination of lien retrospectively was accepted by the Executive Council in its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017.

The lien vacancy of Dr. Teiborlang ceased to exist from the day termination of lien was accepted by the Council i.e. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017. Since Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav had already joined the University on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 and lien vacancy ceased on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017, the matter was taken up with the Executive Council in its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 for appointing Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav as Assistant Professor on contract upto 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 or till such time the post is filled up on regular basis, whichever is earlier. This was approved by the Council in the said meeting. Remuneration of Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav on consolidated basis as per UGC's guidelines for contractual appointment was approved by the Council in its 30<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The Council was further informed that the University will take some more time in advertising and filling up the vacancy. The case of contractual appointment of Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav was submitted for appointment on contract for the odd semester 2018 subject to the condition that he accepts the terms and conditions of contractual appointment.

The Council after thorough deliberations endorsed the decisions taken by the Executive Council in its various meetings as stated above. However, for the contractual appointment of Dr. Madan Kumar Yadav, the Council advised to first seek the requirement of the department for the odd semester 2018 before considering the proposal to appoint him on contract for odd semester 2018.

#### **EC 31.4.8: Policy for promotion under CAS from Stage-4 (Associate Professor) to Stage-5 (Professor)**

Before this item was taken up, the Chairperson requested Dr. K. R. Rama Mohan, Dr. S. Manivannan and Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay who are all Associate Professors to be away from the meeting.

The Council was informed that the University has adopted a policy of having successfully guided Ph.D as one of the minimum requirements for promotion under CAS from Stage-4 (Associate Professor) to Stage-5 (Professor). Though this policy has not been notified by the University but it was made known to all prospective candidates informally. As such all CAS cases from Stage-4 to Stage-5 in 2017 were considered and those having successfully guided Ph.D were placed in Stage-5 (Professor), after fulfillment of other conditions as prescribed in UGC's Regulation. Case of Dr. V. Krishna Ananth, Associate Professor could not be considered for placement at Stage-5 (Professor) as he did not fulfill the criteria of having successfully guided Ph.D. He thereafter approached the High Court of Sikkim. Single bench of High Court though stated that the University is within its powers to lay down additional criteria, yet it ruled against the University as the policy of having successfully guided Ph.D had not been notified. However, University has filed a review petition for consideration of the matter by the Division Bench which has been accepted.

The policy of having successfully guided Ph.D for CAS from Stage-4 to Stage-5 was kept as it is a mandatory criterion for direct recruitment at Associate Professor level as per UGC guidelines. But this guideline was not followed by the University for direct recruitment of Associate Professors from the beginning. To compensate the shortfall, the above policy for CAS from Stage-4 to Stage-5 was adopted.

The Council after deliberations formally approved the policy of the University of having successfully guided Ph.D (Awarded) as one of the main requirements for promotion under CAS from Stage-4 (Associate Professor) to Stage-5 (Professor).

After adopting the resolution Dr. K. R. Rama Mohan, Dr. S. Manivannan and Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay were asked to re-join the meeting.

**EC 31.4.9: CBI Case in PE0102016A0003 against Dr. Vijay Kumar Thangellapali, Associate Professor and others**

The Council was informed that in its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2017 it was decided to authorize the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee to look into the alleged irregularities committed by the Screening Committee etc in short listing Dr. Vijay Kumar Thangellapali and others and submit a report to facilitate the Council to decide on the future course of action against the concerned officials, if any. Accordingly, the Vice-Chancellor constituted an Inquiry Committee with Prof. Rajat Acharyya of Jadavpur University and Prof. B. Raja Shekhar of University of Hyderabad which was notified on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018. The Inquiry Committee after going through all the necessary documents in its meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 noted that the minimum eligibility for the post of Associate Professor as per the advertisement was fulfilled by Dr. Vijay Kumar Thangellapali, except the API score under Category III. The committee after verification found that Dr. Thangellapali had himself claimed an API score of 245.5 under category III in his application for the post of Associate Professor whereas the Screening Committee of Sikkim University calculated the score of Dr. Thangellapali under Category III as 385.5 which was actually a total of API score obtained under Category I, II and III. The Inquiry Committee also observed that there were two mistakes in re-calculation:

- i. Double counting of articles in conference proceedings and papers presented in conference;

- ii. Awarding marks to the candidate on book chapters and a forthcoming journal article without any documentary evidence submitted by the candidate at the time of application to the aforesaid post.

The Inquiry Committee evaluated the original application of Dr. Thangellapali and arrived at the API score of 227.5 under Category III based purely on the evidences that were submitted by the candidate concerned at the time of application and the overall guideline of the UGC Regulation 2010.

The Committee also looked into the application of Dr. Binu Mathew and noted that he had not substantiated the list of his research papers by enclosing first pages of the papers. Hence minimum eligibility criteria does not appear to be valid in his case.

The Council deliberated on the matter at length and decided to issue chargesheet after seeking first stage advice from Central Vigilance Commission in respect of following as indicated in the CBI report.

1. Dr. V. Krishna Ananth, Associate Professor
2. Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor
3. Dr. Vijay Kumar Thangellapali, Associate Professor

The Council also decided to seek explanation from Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor and Dr. Dhani Raj Chhetri, Associate Professor.

**EC 31.4.10: Report of the Inquiry Committee constituted to inquire into circumstances leading to issue of Notification bearing No. 49/2017 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 regarding UGC Non-NET Fellowship**

Before deliberating on this item, the Chairman requested Dr. S. Manivannan to be away from the meeting.

The Council was informed that in its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2017, a detailed note regarding demonstration by a group of students under SUSA leadership on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2017 demanding release of UGC Non-NET fellowship was presented. The protest by a group of students lead to cancellation of Notification No: 49/2017 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 and allowed UGC Non-NET fellowship to M.Phil/Ph.D students from the date of admission to the respective course. The Council advised the University to constitute an Inquiry Committee to inquire into the circumstances regarding issuing Notification dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 and action taken thereafter and circumstances leading to cancellation of the said Notification.

The Council was further informed that on advice of the Council, Vice-Chancellor constituted an Inquiry Committee vide Notification dated 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) A.P. Subba with Prof. Abhijit Dutta and Dr. Swati Akshay Sachdeva as members. At a later stage, two students Ms. Samiksha Rai and Mr. Mingma Onchen Sherpa were included in the Inquiry Committee as representatives of SUSA. The Committee submitted its report, which has been placed in the Council for consideration. The committee after analyzing the facts of the case, arrived at the conclusion that the main objective behind revision of the Non-NET Fellowship norm was only to lay down a policy



guideline to provide for cases arising out of requests for restoration and resumption of Non-NET Fellowship by students after discontinuing the fellowship on joining another project etc. However, the matter at the level of DSW and Joint Registrar (Acad) was dealt incorrectly in a casual manner relying on the ambiguous letter bearing D.O. No. F.87-1-2012 (SU) dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013. This led to confusion of the decision making authorities of the University which resulted in such a state of affairs. The Committee observed that the officials should have verified authenticity, applicability and relevance of any document before it is relied for any purpose. It is such an important duty that has been given a go-by in the case at hand.

The Council after through deliberations decided to issue warning letters to Dean Students' Welfare and Joint Registrar (Acad) for their lapses on showing casual manner in handling a sensitive case.

After adopting resolution Dr. S. Manivannan was asked to rejoin the meeting.

#### **EC 31.4.11: Policy for grant of Lien to the Post held in the University**

The Council was informed about the provision in Statute 26(6) which provides for giving 3 months of notice in writing to the appointing authority or pay 3 months' salary in case of permanent employees or for 1 month notice or payment of 1 month salary in case of non-permanent employees for resignation.

The Council was further informed that since January 2016 University started accepting requests of permanent employees for retaining lien to their post incase of their selection elsewhere provided application was forwarded through the University or they sought prior permission. The Council was further informed that so far no one has returned back to the University after seeking lien. University is facing problem due to unavailability of faculty members and staff during lien.

The matter was discussed in detail and Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to form a committee to study the Statutes and Rules on Lien and come up with detailed guidelines.

### **SECTION - 5 MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES**

#### **EC 31.5.1: *Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018***

The minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were noted. The Council gave specific approval to the following items:

- i. Introduction of a Certificate Course (6months) in Hindi for non-Hindi speakers.
- ii. Introduction of a BA course in Hindi

iii. Discontinuation of B.Sc course in Horticulture from the session 2019-20

The Council accepted the recommendations of the Academic Council in respect of the following:

- iv. Temporary affiliation of Sikkim Government College of Nursing, Gangtok, East Sikkim
- v. Temporary affiliation of Government Pharmacy College, Sajong, Rumtek, East Sikkim
- vi. Temporary affiliation to Damber Singh College for the academic session 2019-20.

Decision on discontinuation of one supernumerary seat in UG and PG programme for wards of University employees under Vice-Chancellor's discretion was deferred till new Vice-Chancellor joins.

**EC 31.5.2: *Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of Building Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018***

Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of Building Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 were approved by the Council. Specific approval was given for:

Regularization of M/s Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd. as PMC for Package-I Phase-I from MHRD/UGC and selection of PMC for other packages as per GFR-2017.

**TABLE ITEM**

**EC 31.5.3: *Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018***

Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were approved. Specific approval was given for Annual Accounts 2017-18.

**SECTION-6  
ITEM FROM THE CHAIR**

**EC 31.5.3:** The Chairperson informed the Council that he has received a letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 from Additional Chief Secretary, Human Resource Development Deptt., Govt. of Sikkim requesting declaration of results of B.Ed students of Sikkim Government B.Ed College, Soreng for batches 2015-17 and 2016-18. The Council was informed that the results of these batches have not been declared by the University as regularization of increase in B.Ed seats from 100 to 150 in Sikkim Government B.Ed College, Soreng for 2015-17 and 2016-17 batches are pending from NCTE.

Legal opinion had been sought which was read out in the Council. The Council though, broadly agreeing with the legal advice, yet did not agree with the

declaration of results provisionally as the result cannot remain provisional once the marks certificates are issued.

The Council deliberated on the legal part as well as the future of the students. After detailed deliberations the matter was put to vote. Eight members voted in favour of declarations of results keeping in view the future of students. Since the majority of the members present voted in favour of declaration of results, it was decided to declare the result of B.Ed students of batches 2015-17 and 2017-18 in interest of the students.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

**Sd/-**  
**(T.K.Kaul)**  
**Registrar & Secretary**  
**Executive Council**

**Sd/-**  
**(Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang)**  
**Vice-Chancellor & Chairman**  
**Executive Council**