

**Indira Gandhi National Open University
School of Journalism and New Media Studies**

Minutes of the 30th School Board Meeting of SOJNMS held on 13th December 2024 (Friday), at 11.00 A.M in HYBRID Mode

The following members attended the meeting:

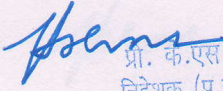
1. Prof. K.S. Arul Selvan, Director, SOJNMS, IGNOU - Chairperson
2. Prof. Pradeep Nair, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala
3. Prof. Manisha Shelat, MICA, Ahmedabad
4. Prof. Tarjeet Sabarwal, JMI, New Delhi
5. Sh. Prabhat Kumar, News 18, Noida
6. Sh. Jatin Gandhi, Jagran New Media, New Delhi
7. Prof. Venkateshwarulu, SOET, IGNOU
8. Dr. Abdul Kareem, SOS, IGNOU
9. Dr. Ajit Kumar, SOE, IGNOU
10. Dr. Shikha Rai, SOJNMS, IGNOU
11. Dr. Ramesh Yadav, SOJNMS, IGNOU
12. Dr. Amit Kumar, SOJNMS, IGNOU
13. Dr. Padmini Jain, SOJNMS, IGNOU

At the outset, the Director of SOJNMS welcomed all the external and internal school board members to the 30th School Board meeting of SOJNMS. The Chairperson placed on record the support, help and inspiration the School received from then Vice Chancellor Prof. Nageshwar Rao of IGNOU. He further elaborated that the School has consistently progressed academically under Prof. Nageshwar Rao's tenure since 2018.

With the 29th School Board meeting, members of the earlier Board expired. The Chairperson appreciated the earlier internal and external members' valuable contributions to the School Board's activities for the last two years. Prof. Himadri Roy of SOGDS, IGNOU, could not attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

Subsequently, the agenda items for the meeting were discussed.

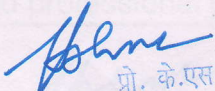
30.01	Confirmation of the Minutes of the 29th School Board Meeting held on 31st May 2024
	The Chairperson informed the School Board members that the 29th meeting was held on 31st May 2024, and the minutes were circulated to all the members. No comments were received from any members.
	The School Board confirmed the minutes of the 29th School Board.


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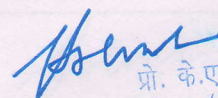
30.02	To consider and approve the Action Taken Report of the 29th School Board Meeting held on 31st May 2024
	The action taken report on agenda items of the 29th School Board was presented. The School Board noted actions taken thereon.
30.03	To consider and approve the Minutes of the Doctoral Research Committee Meetings held on 09 August 2024, 27th August 2024 and 30th September 2024, including the Examiners/Evaluators list for PhD Scholars of PhDJMC – Ranjith EV (198570628), Kaikho Ashuni (198570707), Aruna KC (198570681)
	The Programme Coordinator of PhDJMC presented all the minutes of the Doctoral Research Committee meetings. The examiners' list for the following scholars was opened and finalised after a brief discussion: 1. Ranjith EV (198570628) 2. Kaikho Ashuni (198570707) 3. Aruna KC (198570681) The Programme Coordinator presented the case of two PhDJMC scholars. In a DRC meeting on 19th May 2023, the cancellation of two PhDJMC scholars, Sushil Yati (E. No. 173101600) and Amit Kumar Chauhan (E. No. 173101689), was recommended due to the expiration of their registration in May 2023. This decision was approved by the School Board on 31st May 2023 and forwarded to the Research Council (RC). However, the RC referred the agenda back, advising the School to issue a show-cause notice to these two scholars. Notices were sent on 17th October 2023. In response to that, the scholars requested extensions and submitted their draft thesis. The scholars have requested that the pre-submission seminar be arranged along with their submission. In Sushil Yati's case, Prof. Arul Selvan is his supervisor. After carefully reviewing the draft thesis he had submitted, the supervisor informed the DRC that it was being prepared quickly and that most of the citations were facts and figures pertinent to 2017 or before. He enrolled in the programme in May 2017. According to the supervisor, the thesis does not meet academic merit standards. Prof. O P Dewal, a former Professor of SOJNMS, supervised Amit Kumar Chauhan. The supervisor retired in August 2023. Before his retirement, the supervisor wrote that there had been no progress and that the scholar was not in touch with him. He doesn't have any idea of Amit Kumar Chauhan's


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	progress. However, the scholar submitted a draft thesis in May 2024 in response to the show-cause notice issued by the SOJNMS. The DRC meeting on 9th August 2024 advised the School to submit a status report to the RC for further guidance.
	The School board noted the minutes of the three DRC meetings and approved the examiner's list for three scholars. After a detailed discussion of the merits of the case regarding the two scholars' tenure, the School Board observed and advised the School to submit a status report to the RC for further guidance. All the DRC minutes were considered and approved.
30.04	To consider and approve the OPAF form of the online programme of MAJDM for the January 2025 admission cycle.
	The Programme Coordinator presented the agenda and informed the members that the MAJDM programme was launched in January 2023 in ODL mode. One batch of MAJDM will be passed out from December 2024. The first year of the MAJDM syllabus framework is common for the PGDIDM, which has been available and offered through online mode. Four of the MAJDM courses are already offered through the SWAYAM platform. Besides, the School have produced Audio/visual content with the help of EMPC and CoE for the PGDIDM and MAJDM programmes. The School wants to launch MAJDM online mode from the January 2025 admission cycle.
	The School Board members appreciated the SOJNMS for taking steps to launch professional online programmes like digital media. They suggested keeping the curriculum content abreast of the latest developments in this field, such as Generative AI, changing newsroom culture, and technological developments. The School Board considered and approved the launch of MAJDM online mode in January 2025.
30.05	To consider and approve the MOU between IGNOU - UNSECO - SACTD
	The Programme Coordinator elaborated on the agenda, noting that the School has been engaged in media literacy since 2010. It has undertaken many workshops and three SWAYAM courses related to media literacy. To streamline

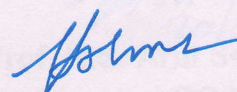

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	these activities, the 29th School Board proposed a PG Diploma in Media and Information Literacy, which was approved by the 82nd Academic Council. The South Asian Center for Teacher Development (SACTD) - a UNESCO Category II institution - is willing to collaborate with the School of Journalism and New Media Studies, IGNOU, on Media and Information Literacy projects. The UNESCO New Delhi office facilitated the initial communication exchange between SOJNMS and SACTD. The SACTD is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education, Government of Sri Lanka. It is mandated to serve all the countries of the SAARC region and all member states in this centre. UNESCO has recognised the SACTD as a Category II institution. The SACTD's primary aim is to enhance the quality of education in the SAARC region. The international collaboration will enhance the prospects of the SOJNMS IGNOU and benefit the School by improving academic credentials. The institutional collaboration procedures will be according to university norms. The proposal for the MoU was initiated on June 12th, 2024. After due administrative process, including legal vetting, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor has approved the MoU draft. After mutual consultation, the MoU signing dates will be finalised, and the three institutions will sign the MoU.
	The agenda was discussed in detail, and the School Board members appreciated the efforts taken by the SOJNMS. During the discussion, it was pointed out that the School may coordinate with the university administration to fulfil all the requirements. After a detailed discussion, the School Board ratified the action taken by the Competent Authority.
30.06	To consider and approve the proposal to conduct a counselling workshop for practical and project courses of SOJNMS at Regional Centres.
	The Director presented the agenda and explained that the School of Journalism and New Media Studies (SOJNMS) has proposed practical counselling sessions at Regional Centers to enhance students' skills in journalism and research. These sessions address challenges faced in media production and research practicals and aim to bridge the identified gaps in students' understanding of journalistic practices, content creation, and research methodologies, which are critical to their academic and professional growth.



	These sessions will focus on two core areas: journalism and research. The journalism counselling will include training on news identification, writing, editing, and multimedia production, culminating in publishable content for the School's lab journal, <i>The Voices</i>. The research counselling workshop will cover literature review, research design, mind mapping, PRISMA chart preparation, and basic statistical analysis. Trained academic counsellors with substantial professional experience will lead these sessions. To ensure quality and consistency, the SOJNMS will conduct Train-the-Trainer (TOT) programmes for academic counsellors at the regional level, using a mix of online and face-to-face modes. The trained Academic Counsellors will then train the students at the RC level. This initiative also seeks to optimise resources and reach by leveraging online platforms and collaborating with Regional Centers.
	After detailed deliberations, The School Board approved the proposal in principle. The Board advised the School to implement the scheme according to the needs of the respective programmes/courses. The scheme may be started on a small scale on an experimental basis and extended to other programmes as needed.
30.07	To consider and approve the proposal for Closure of the Post Graduate Diploma in Audio Programme Production (PGDAPP) programme
	The Programme Coordinator explained the proposal for closure of the PGDAPP programme. Due to outdated content, low demand, and operational challenges, it is proposed that the Post Graduate Diploma in Audio Programme Production (PGDAPP) be discontinued. Developed before SOJNMS's inception and handed over in 2009, PGDAPP is no longer relevant due to significant radio and audio technology advancements. Its practical training agreement with All India Radio (AIR) has expired. It remains unrenewed, while declining enrollment has led to insufficient learner support. SOJNMS has recently launched two new programmes, the PG Diploma in Electronic Media (PGDJEME) and the MA in Journalism and Electronic Media (MAJEM), encompassing PGDAPP's syllabus and addressing modern technological advancements. Thus, discontinuing PGDAPP aligns with SOJNMS's efforts to offer relevant and effective educational programmes. The Programme Coordinator informed the School Board that the PGDAPP programme is included in the programme list and is offered on a free scholarship schedule for SC/ST students. Upon closure of PGDAPP, the School may recommend replacing the PGDJEME programme.

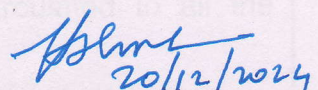
	Since the programme was launched two decades ago, particularly through an MoU with AIR. Moreover, new programmes are being launched on similar subjects with the latest updates have been launched. Hence, the School Board recommended that the PGDAPP programme be closed. It is recommended that the PGDJEME programme be included in the list in place of PGDAPP and offered on a free scholarship scheme for SC/ST students.
30.08	To consider and approve the proposal for the Closure of Certificate in Community Radio (CCR) programme
	The Programme Coordinator made a detailed presentation on the closure of the Certificate in Community Radio (CCR) programme. Initially, this programme was launched before SOJNMS was established. The programme was initially provided with scholarships and training support, but the expiry of the programme's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CEMCA left no financial or institutional backing. The coordinator cited the insufficient demand, outdated content, and operational challenges. Additionally, the outdated curriculum fails to address community radio technology and delivery advancements. Operational difficulties further impacted learner experiences. SOJNMS now offers modern programmes like the PG Diploma and MA in Electronic Media, covering CCR's scope alongside contemporary topics. Thus, it is recommended that CCR be closed, redirecting interested students to these updated programmes for better opportunities.
	The School Board deliberated on the agenda in detail and recommended the CCR programme's closure.
30.09	To consider and approve Unit Writers for Post Graduate Diploma in Media and Information Literacy
	The Programme Coordinator informed the School Board that the PDF and PPR of the Postgraduate Diploma in Media and Information Literacy were approved in the 29th School Board and 82nd Academic Council meeting. The consolidated list of unit writers for the diploma programme is enclosed herewith. This list will be used for all the courses of this programme. Payment will be



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	made according to university norms. The Chairperson requested the members to recommend any potential unit writers to the School within a week.
	The School Board approved the list of unit writers for the PG Diploma in Media and Information Literacy programme.
30.10	To consider and approve the additional list of Evaluators for MAJMC
	The Programme Coordinator presented an additional list of evaluators for the MAJMC programme.
	The School Board approved the list of additional evaluators for the MAJMC programme. The School Board members were requested to nominate any new experts in this list within a week.
30.11	To consider and approve the additional list of Evaluators for MAJEM/PGDEME/MAJDM
	The Programme Coordinator presented the list of additional evaluators for the MAJEM, PGDEME and MAJDM programmes.
	The School Board approved the list of additional evaluators for these programmes. The School Board members were requested to nominate any new experts in this list within a week.
30.12	To consider and approve the expert committee for the revision of the PGDAIC programme
	The Programme Coordinator presented the agenda that the PG Diploma in Advertising and Integrated Communication was launched in the January 2023 admission cycle. Currently, this programme is being offered with 32 credits. As per the university's decision, according to NEP implementation, many SOJNMS programmes have recently been revised into 40/80 credits as per the NEP recommendations. On that line, the Programme Coordinator proposed the revision of PGDAIC. A three-member expert committee list was presented before the School Board. The School Board recommended two more names - Prof. Jayshree Jethwani and Prof. Manisha Shelat for the expert committee meeting.
	The School Board approved the expert committee list for revising the PGDAIC programme.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to everyone.


 20/12/2024
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