

16

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCES HELD ON MARCH 27, 1999 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SCHOOL OF SCIENCES, IGNOU, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI - 110 068

The following were present :

1. Prof. B.S. Saraswat Chairman
2. Prof. Shakti R. Ahmed
3. Prof. R.N. Khanna
4. Prof. P.N. Srikanth
5. Dr. J.M. Parakh
6. Prof. S.C. Garg
7. Prof. S.S. Hasan
8. Prof. Parvin Sinclair
9. Dr. Swadesh Taneja
10. Dr. Sunita Malhotra
11. Dr. Geeta Kaicker
12. Dr. Sujatha Varma
13. Mr. S.S. Dubey
14. Dr. S. Kaman Special Invitee

Prof. A.R. Verma, Prof. P. Dayanandan, Prof. A.K. Agarwal and Ms. Rekha Sen could not attend the meeting. At the outset, the Chairman extended a hearty welcome to all the members. He informed the members that Prof. M.M. Pant and Dr. Amrita Nigam had completed their tenure. The Board placed their contributions on record.

The following items on the agenda were then taken up.

Item No. 1 : To confirm the minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting of the School Board

18.1.1 The Board was informed that the minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting held on March 31, 1998 were circulated to the members on April 28, 1998. As no comments had been received from any of the members, the Board confirmed the Minutes.

Item No. 2 : To approve the proposal of providing the BDP students with an option of a Foundation course in Hindi along with FEG-1

18.2.1 The Board was informed that the FEG-1 course is a compulsory course for the students of the Bachelor Degree programme. Some students are finding it difficult to pass this course. The matter was discussed in a meeting of the BDP Coordination Committee on 4.12.98. The committee recommended that the BDP students be provided with an option of a Foundation course in Hindi along with FEG-1.

18.2.2 The matter was discussed in detail. The Board approved the recommendations of the BDP Coordination Committee. The Board also suggested that the School of Humanities be requested to look into the reasons of failure in the FEG-1 course and to take necessary remedial measures.

Item No. 3 : To approve the Core Elective Mathematics courses for B.Sc. / B.A. students

18.3.1 The Board was informed that elective courses worth 48 credits in Mathematics are on offer, and students need to do a minimum of 40 credits of Math courses to get a major in Maths. The Mathematics Discipline group feels that the students should take certain core courses before majoring in Mathematics. Accordingly they had proposed that the courses MTE-1, 2 and MTE-4 to 9 (worth 28 credits) should be made compulsory for every BDP student who wants to obtain a Mathematics major degree. The remaining 12 credits can be earned from the 4 credit courses MTE-10 to 14.

18.3.2 After a discussion, the Board approved the proposal. While approving the proposal the members observed that in Mathematics electives there is a bias towards applied courses and suggested that more elective courses in pure Mathematics be developed.

Item No. 4 : To approve the criteria for considering a course equivalent to IGNOU's course and for awarding marks and credit transfer

18.4.1 The credit transfer scheme of the University was explained to the members. They were informed that so far only those applicants, who have covered almost the same (100%) syllabus as of IGNOU, have been benefitted from the scheme, but this deprives many more students of the benefits of the scheme. The Board was requested to advise as to what

- percentage of course content / extent of coverage could be treated as equivalent to IGNOU's courses,
- criteria should be used for awarding marks.

18.4.2 The matter was discussed in detail by the Board. After considering all the aspects of the case, the Board decided to constitute a sub-committee comprising the following to give its recommendations regarding the criteria for consideration of the Board :

1. Prof. S.C. Garg Convenor
2. Prof. R.N. Khanna
3. Dr. J.M. Parakh
4. Dr. Geeta Kaicker

Item No. 5 : To recommend the list of Paper Setters, Evaluators and Moderators for the courses MTE-09 and MTE-14

18.5.1 The Board perused the list submitted by the Mathematics Discipline group. The name of Prof. Anurag Sen of ISI, Delhi, was added to in the list of experts for the MTE-14 Moderation Board, and then the Board decided to recommend the names to the Vice-Chancellor for approval. The Board also advised that at least three more names of experts for Moderation Boards of MTE-09 and MTE-14 courses, preferably from Delhi, be added to the list.

Item No. 6 : To ratify the action taken by the Chairman in recommending the names of Course Writers for various courses

18.6.1 The Board was informed that the meetings of Course Experts Committees of the following courses were held/to be held on the dates indicated against their names.

1.	Operations Research	March 24, 1999
2.	Basic Analytical Chemistry	February 25&26, 1999
3.	Separation Methods	December 9&10, 1998
4.	Spectroscopic Methods	January 27, 1999
5.	Electroanalytical & other Methods	January 27, 1999
6.	Computer Interfacing and Quality Assurance	March 19, 1999
7.	Environmental Pollution Monitoring	March 30&31, 1999

On the recommendations of respective Course Coordinators, approval of names of Course Experts was sought from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor incharge of the School so that the meetings could be organised. The Board is requested to ratify the action taken by the Chairman. The Board perused the names of Course Experts and ratified the action taken by the Chairman.

18.6.2 The syllabi of courses listed at Sl. No.2-6 as designed by respective course Experts Committees were also presented before the Board and it was requested that the syllabi be approved. The Board perused the syllabi and approved them.

Item No. 7: Any Other Matter

With the permission of the Chair the following two Items were taken up :

1. **Approval of Programme Perspective, Programme Structure, Methodology of Programme and Course Development, Syllabi of Courses and Course Writers for the Modular Programme on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development**

18.7.1 The Board was informed that a Modular Programme on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development is being developed by the Physics discipline group in the School. A curriculum Development workshop for the programme was held on Sept. 5-7, 1998. Later on an Expert committee was constituted which has finalised the Programme perspective, Programme Structure, Methodology of Programme and Course Development, syllabi of Core and Elective courses and has generated a list of resource persons for various courses. The Board perused the recommendations of the Expert Committee. Some queries were raised by one of the members which were satisfactorily replied to. After that the Board approved the recommendations of the Expert Committee .


2. **Approval of Upgradation of Credit Weightage for Animal Diversity and Plant Diversity Theory courses**

18.7.2 The Board was informed that the Life Sciences discipline group has been developing two packages comprising three courses each on Animal Diversity and Plant Diversity. By doing eight Core courses (LSE-1 to 8L : 32 credits) and one of these packages, students may become eligible to get a B.Sc. (major) degree in Animal Sciences or Plant Sciences. It was originally planned that each course of the Diversity package will be of 4-credits. Now that the theory courses are almost ready, the editors, and the course team members are of the unanimous opinion that the contents of each course, though very appropriate, cannot be studied by the students in 120 hrs. They would require at least 180 hrs for each theory course.

18.7.3 Therefore, it is recommended that the credit weightage for each theory course of the Animal Diversity (LSE-09 and LSE-10) and Plant Diversity (LSE-12 and LSE-13) packages be enhanced to six credits.

The Board considered the proposal and approved it.

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


21/5/99
(B.S.SARASWAT)
CHAIRMAN

