

**MINUTES OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCES HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007**

The following members were present:

1. Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Chairperson
2. Prof. V.B. Bhatia (Retd.), University of Delhi
3. Prof. N.K. Jha (Retd.), IIT, Delhi
4. Prof. S. Kumaresan, University of Mumbai
5. Prof. A.K. Agarwal, SOHS, IGNOU
6. Dr. M.K. Bhardwaj, SOET, IGNOU
7. Prof. A.R. Khan, SOS, IGNOU
8. Prof. S.C. Garg, SOS, IGNOU
9. Dr. Lalita S. Kumar, SOS, IGNOU
10. Dr. Subhalakshmi Lamba, SOS, IGNOU
11. Prof. Sunita Malhotra, SOS, IGNOU
12. Dr. Jaswant Sokhi, SOS, IGNOU
13. Dr. Pushplata Tripathi, SOS, IGNOU
14. Dr. Sujatha Varma, SOS, IGNOU
15. Prof. Vijayshree, SOS, IGNOU

Prof. S. Ramachandran, IGIB, Delhi, Prof. Satya Deo Tripathi, HRI, Allahabad and Dr. Sanjay Mishra, STRIDE, IGNOU could not attend the meeting.

The meeting began with the Chairperson welcoming all the members. Thereafter, the following items on the agenda were deliberated upon:

**ITEM NO. 1: TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 34<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCES.**

- 35.1.1 Comments were received only from Prof. S.C. Garg. These comments were placed before the members. The first comment was "Since the meeting of the School Board was adjourned without transacting the entire agenda, technically it is inappropriate to circulate the minutes as if the Board meeting was concluded after 'handling' all the items."

The members did not accept that the meeting was an adjourned meeting, and hence did not accept the comment. Prof. S.C. Garg asked for his dissent regarding this decision to be recorded.

The second comment was on the recording in 34.4.2, which was accepted by the members. Accordingly the recording of 34.4.2 should be

"The Board recommended that the course should not be made compulsory for students, based on the following rationale:

- i) The recommendations of the Academic Council do not seem to have been kept in mind while finalising the module being placed before the School Board.

- ii) The course given in the minutes is too heavy, and certainly inappropriate for **all** students. Such course material would be more useful if given to new faculty, academic counsellors, and prospective course writers/editors of the course material.
- iii) The purpose of the course, mentioned in the introduction, is, "In order to make best use of the provisions and opportunities provided by open and distance education, it is necessary to orient the distance learners into the instructional science and technology that characterizes distance education". For this, **rather than a course, it would be better to give an enhanced study guide**, something that would be interesting to the students and digestible by them. The content needs to be presented in an extremely student-friendly manner, and in about 20 pages, maybe with a CD. Further, this matter could form a core that could be suitably modified by the programme team for the learners of the programme concerned. For instance, for a science programme it would include some component related to best utilisation of the laboratory courses, etc."

The third comment on the minutes, regarding 34.10.1, was noted, namely, that the reactions of the Expert Committee for the Ph.D Programme in Mathematics to the suggestions of the sub-committee of the RC could have been worded more appropriately.

35.1.2 With these changes/observations, the minutes were confirmed.

35.1.3 The Board also noted the Action Taken Report on the minutes.

## ITEM NO. 2: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

35.2.1 As a follow up of 34.3.2 of the minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting, the Chairperson informed the members of the School Board that a total of 540 students had received the B.Sc. degree in the 18<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University, with the break-up as given below.

B.Sc (Major) in Botany – 35 students  
 B.Sc (Major) in Chemistry – 71 students  
 B.Sc. (Major) in Mathematics – 31 students  
 B.Sc. (Major) in Physics – 46 students  
 B.Sc. (Major) in Zoology – 194 students  
 B.Sc. (General) – 163 students

Apart from this, 155 students of SOS received the degree/diploma/certificate as mentioned below:

B.A. (Major) in Mathematics – 6 students  
 Certificate Programme in Laboratory Techniques (CPLT) – 53 students  
 Certificate Programme in Teaching of Primary School Mathematics (CTPM) – 57 students  
 Post Graduate Diploma in Environment and Sustainable Development (PGDESD) – 4 students  
 Post Graduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Rights (PGDIPR) – 35 students.

**ITEM NO. 3: REPORTING ITEMS**

35.3.1 There were no items for reporting, apart from the one listed at Item 4.

**ITEM NO. 4: TO REPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PHYSICS EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FIVE YEAR PLAN.**

35.4.1 The recommendations of the Physics Expert committee were placed before the Board for information.

35.4.2 The members noted the recommendations.

**ITEM NO. 5: TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-I FORM FOR THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN PHYSICS.**

35.5.1 The Phase I form was placed before the members for consideration. The programme proposers presented the salient points of the proposal. During the discussion following this, the following changes were recommended by the members:

- i) Regarding Item no: 12 of the form, the target group should be "Graduates with Physics as one of the subjects".
- ii) Regarding Item no. 13 of the form, it should be "Type of *Programme*". Similarly, Item no. 15 b), should be "Develop *Programme Structure*".
- iii) The numbering in the items of the form should be corrected

35.5.2 The members approved the Phase-I form, subject to incorporating the changes recommended above.

**ITEM NO. 6: TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-I FORM FOR A PG CERTIFICATE IN NANOSCIENCES.**

35.6.1 The Phase-I form was placed before the members. The programme proposer, Dr. Shubha Gokhale was specially invited to present the salient points of the proposal. The following changes were recommended by the members.

- i) In Item no. 8 of the form, the academic resources available should be given as "All Physics faculty members".
- ii) Regarding Item no. 12 of the form, the target group should include a B.Sc. in any area of Life Sciences.
- iii) Regarding Item no. 17 c) of the form, any Life Sciences department could also be considered for running the practical component, not just microbiology departments.

35.6.2 The members approved the Phase-I form subject to incorporating the changes recommended above.

**ITEM NO. 7: TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-I FORM FOR THE APPLICATION-ORIENTED COURSE, COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN SCIENCES.**

35.7.1 The Phase-I form was placed before the members. The course proposer presented the salient points of the proposal. The following points were made by the members.

- i) Regarding Item no. 8 of the form, the number of faculty members from SOS, and from SOCIS (if any), that would be available should be noted.
- ii) This course should be developed, even if the BDP is expected to be revised in the near future to include a foundation course in computing/IT. The AOC should be reviewed if and when this situation arises.
- iii) Multimedia CDs could be sent to the study centres. Live Linux CDs could be used for interactive learning of the course content.
- iv) A field survey should be carried out for assessing the availability of the required infrastructure for running the course for all the BDP students.
- v) The numbering in the items of the form should be corrected.

35.7.2 The members approved the form, subject to the changes recommended in (i), (iv) and (v) being incorporated in it.

**ITEM NO. 8: TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-3 FORM OF THE DIPLOMA IN RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES, AND RENAMING OF THE PROGRAMME AS THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN APPLICATIONS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

35.8.1 This was placed before the members for consideration. The Programme Coordinator presented the salient points of the programme to the members. In particular, she informed the members that

- i) The Phase-3 form was being placed before the School Board for a second time because of the University requirement that a programme should be launched within two years of this form being approved by the Academic Council. (ref. decision recorded in ACSC 5.1.4).
- ii) The programme was earlier worth 30 credits, and was now being proposed as a 36 credit programme.
- iii) In the Physics Expert committee meeting the programme had been designed to include a project component in each elective package. However, in the present Phase-3 form, this project component had been removed and has been merged with the practical component by the faculty.
- iv) The theory courses would have no component of continuous assessment at present. However, it is envisaged that this component would be taken care of when the students undertake the practical courses.
- v) The fee to be charged is lower than the cost of running the programme. This has been consciously decided by the team since the target group is not expected to be able to afford more than this fee.
- vi) The core courses and the Solar Photovoltaic package are ready. The Biomass package requires some work to be done by the in-house faculty. The other packages would be developed in a phased manner.

- vii) The programme would be launched in English to start with, and in the other regional languages of the North-East as and when the material is translated.

35.8.2

The members recommended the following changes in the form.

- i) In Item no. 10 of the form, the eligibility should be "Matriculate", not "Matriculate for Diploma".
- ii) In Item no. 21a, IIT Roorkee should be included in the list of agencies.

35.8.3

The members approved the form, subject to the changes recommended in 35.8.2.

35.8.4

The members also approved the renaming of the programme as the Diploma Programme in Applications of Renewable Energy Systems.

**ITEM NO. 9: TO CONSIDER THE CRITERIA FOR ENROLMENT IN THE PH.D PHYSICS PROGRAMME.**

35.9.1

The criteria for enrolment in the Ph.D Physics programme, suggested by the faculty were placed before the Board. The Board recommended that **the note be redrafted** and presented to the School Board again. While redrafting the eligibility conditions, which candidates are required to do the course work and which are not required to do this should be clearly noted. Further, the cut-off marks, and the area in which the M.Phil or M.Sc. should have been acquired by the candidates should be clearly mentioned.

**ITEM NO. 10: TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF DR. PRABHAKAR SINGH FOR RECOGNITION AS SUPERVISOR FOR THE PH.D. (PHYSICS) PROGRAMME.**

35.10.1

The curriculum vitae of Dr. Prabhakar Singh was placed before the Board for consideration for recognising him as a supervisor for the Ph.D programme in Physics, his area of research being experimental work in materials science.

35.10.2

The Board recommended his case to the Research Council for recognising as a supervisor for the Ph.D programme in Physics.

**ITEM NO. 11: TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PAPER-SETTERS, MODERATORS AND EVALUATORS, FOR COURSES OFFERED BY THE PHYSICS DISCIPLINE GROUP.**

35.11.1

The names given in the lists were considered and approved by the members of the School Board.

**ITEM NO. 12: TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PAPER-SETTERS, MODERATORS AND EVALUATORS FOR THE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (PGDIPR) COURSES MIP-001 – MIP-008.**

35.12.1 The names given in the lists were considered and approved by the members of the School Board.

**ITEM NO. 13: TO APPROVE THE LIST OF MODERATORS, PAPER-SETTERS AND EVALUATORS FOR THE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PGDESD) COURSES.**

35.13.1 The names given in the lists were considered and approved by the members of the School Board, subject to the recommendation that the lists of paper-setters and of evaluators should be separate.

**ITEM NO. 14: TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE LIST OF PAPER-SETTERS AND EVALUATORS FOR THE COURSE MTE-10 (NUMERICAL ANALYSIS), LIST OF PAPER-SETTERS FOR MTE-14 (MATHEMATICAL MODELLING), LIST OF MODERATORS FOR MTE-12 (LINEAR PROGRAMMING), AOR-01 (OPERATION RESEARCH) AND PMT-01 (THE UNREVISED PREPARATORY COURSE IN GENERAL MATHEMATICS) AND LIST OF PAPER-SETTERS, EVALUATORS AND MODERATORS FOR AST-01 (STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES).**

35.14.1 The names given in the lists were considered and approved by the members of the School Board.

**ITEM NO. 15: TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COURSE MED-003 (ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE PGDESD PROGRAMME, WITH THE COURSE MED-009 (ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT).**

35.15.1 Prof. S.C. Garg, a Programme Coordinator of the Post Graduate Diploma in Environment and Sustainable Development (PGDESD) programme explained to the members that due to an overlap of the syllabus of the course MED-003, with those of the other courses of the programme, the programme team proposed to shelve this course and replace it with the course MED-009 so as to provide for a continuity in the course codes. This would not involve any change in programme design or syllabus.

35.15.2 The Board approved this proposal of the programme team.

**ITEM NO. 16: TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FORMED FOR WORKING OUT THE NORMS FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL EXAMINERS FOR THE LABORATORY COURSES.**

35.16.1 A sub-committee of the School Board was formed in the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the School Board to look into the norms for appointing external examiners for the SOS laboratory

courses that are run at various Study Centres throughout the country. The recommendations of this committee, based on the related Statute and Ordinance of the University, were considered by the Board.

35.16.2

After suggesting certain alterations, the Board approved the norms as given below:

- A) The panel of examiners may be drawn from the following categories:
- i) Approved counsellors for the respective courses having at least 5 years of teaching/academic experience in the relevant area.
  - ii) Teachers such as Course Writers, Editors, in-house faculty, etc., associated with the design and development of the course materials.
  - iii) Conventional peers who fulfil the requirements laid down in the University Statutes and Ordinances.
- B) The external examiner for a study centre should not be from the same centre.
- C) Observers should be deputed to the examination centres. These observers could be drawn from amongst senior teachers of science departments/ colleges/ universities, including retired persons, from within the region of the study centres concerned.
- D) The names of the examiners and observers should be recommended for appointment by the discipline groups concerned, for approval as per the University's rules.

**ITEM NO. 17: ANY OTHER ITEMS, WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR. \***

35.17.1

The Phase-I form for the Post Graduate Diploma in Computational Chemistry was placed before the School Board for consideration. The programme proposer presented the salient points of the proposal. She particularly mentioned that this programme has been designed, and will be developed, by IIITMK with some chosen experts from IIT Madras and other places. This is the first course of its kind in the country, and would be portal based. Further, IGNOU and IIITMK would share the development and delivery costs as given in the form.

35.17.2

The members approved the Phase-I form subject to the following change:

The modular programme would consist of a Post Graduate Certificate in Computational Chemistry worth 16 credits, followed by another 16 credits worth of courses leading to the Post Graduate Diploma in Computational Chemistry. Thus, there can be a lateral exit after successful completion of the coursework of the Post Graduate Certificate in Computational Chemistry. (The corrected form is given as Appendix I.)

  
(Parvin Sinclair)

