

MINUTES OF THE 11th BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING

(13th April, 2024, at 5:00 pm)

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY,

SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), MUMBAI

Date of Meeting: 13th April, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Mode: Online via Zoom

The meeting was attended by the following members

- 1 Dr. Trevor Allis
- 2 Dr. T.C. Roymon
- 3 Adv. Irfaan Engineer
- 4 Dr. Ranjan Pandya
- 5 Dr. Kamala Srinivas
- 6 Dr. Keith D'Souza
- 7 Dr. Parathasarthy Mondal
- 8 Dr. Suchitra Naik
- 9 Ms. Krishna Trivedi
- 10 Mr. Amit Hattiangadi

The Zoom BoS meeting in Philosophy started at 5:00 pm. All the BOS Members were present except Dr. Kamala Srinivas who had excused themselves on prior commitments. Dr. Trevor Allis welcomed all the BoS Members.

5:10 pm

Agenda 1: passing the BoS minutes

Dr. Trevor presented the minutes of the previous BoS meeting. The minutes got passed by Dr. Keith D'Souza proposing it and Ms. Krishna Trivedi seconded it.

5:19 pm

Agenda 2: To approve the SYBA Philosophy syllabus for Semester III as per NEP 2020.

It was taken up and Dr. Trevor presented the NEP framework of Major, Minor and VSC for the SY Philosophy course. There were a few suggestions presented by the board members which are mentioned as follows:

SEMESTER 3

- Majors: 5:22 pm

Dr. Trevor Allis started the discussion with the section on Greek philosophy which was approved by members. Dr. Mondal thought the syllabus was quite comprehensive which Dr. Panda also approved. The next topic "Medieval Philosophy" which Dr. Allis introduced was also well received by the members. Dr. Panda thought it was well-curated as it largely covers the syllabus for UGC.

Dr. Mondal congratulated the department and Dr. T.C. Roymon for preparing the course on Medieval Philosophy.

- Minor: 5:25 pm

Dr. Allis introduced the Minor syllabi where they will focus on Western Philosophy. Dr. Mondal had suggestions concerning the organization of the topics. He believed one topic of Phenomenology should be added right after the Empirical and Rational thought (Enlightenment Era). Dr. Allis appreciated the suggestions and mentioned that the department will be adding Phenomenology under Unit 4. (Phenomenology and Existentialism).

Dr. D'Souza had some queries regarding the scope of the syllabi. This was taken up for discussion where Dr. Allis explained how the entire syllabi of Western Philosophy will have a scope of 300 years covering major philosophies such as Modern Realism, Idealism, Existentialism and Phenomenology.

Dr. D'Souza wanted the Department to include Contemporary Western Philosophy under the syllabi with Dr. Mondal backing the same. The whole discussion was centered around the scope of Western Philosophy and adding the required different philosophies across different Units to accommodate the entirety of Western Philosophy. Dr. Allis agreed to the points mentioned and the department will redesign the syllabi for Western Philosophy accordingly.

- VSC: 5:36 pm

The VSC components of Formal Logic and Traditional Logic were introduced by Dr. Allis. Dr. Suchitra Naik had some questions about the syllabus whether or not Modern Logic will be introduced to them or not. Dr. Allis said that “Yes, it will be included in the TYs for the students who have opted for the Majors program.

SEMESTER 4

- Majors: 5:50 pm

Dr. Allis presented the syllabus for Semester 4 whose focus would be Indian Philosophy which would provide the base for Majors. Indian Ethical Philosophies will be taught to students. Dr. D’Souza induced a discussion on the grounds of not including the other ethical theories such as Adivasi Ethics, which Dr. Panda did not receive well as it will be too ambitious for the Degree college students and not included in the University Portion of UGC.

Dr. Mondal voiced out his concern after the discussion regarding the inclusion of Adivasi Ethics. If Adivasi Ethics were included then students might question the outline and might an ethical branch of a different community for instance Islamic Ethics. Hence, he suggested keeping the portion untouched.

Dr. Allis accepted all the suggestion and said that the department would consult Dr. S.M. Michael on this, as he the expert, then would make the changes in the portion accordingly.

The second paper for Majors will focus on the Classical System of Indian Philosophy. Dr. Mondal found the outline very systematic and just advised the department to refer to S.N. Chatterjee and P.N. Dutta for the syllabi. Along with that Dr. Mondal advised the department to add contemporary thinkers such as K.C. Bhattacharya and Mohammad Iqbal to the syllabus which could provide a great base for students.

Dr. Roymon acknowledged the suggestions and welcomed them. The only issue that the department will face would be related to the credits and the number of hours allotted. It will be very difficult to inculcate everything at the SY level and it students will not be able to cope with it. Eventually, at the Master's level Philosophy will be introduced to these contemporary things and at the Bachelors level we need to lay the

foundations so that contemporary philosophy is easier for them to understand. Dr. Allis concluded the discussion by acknowledging the suggestion and the department will discuss the same.

- Minor: 6:10 pm

Dr. Allis introduced the syllabi for the Minor where they will be introduced to Indian Philosophy including Ethics, Epistemology, and Metaphysics. Firstly, the students will be exposed to themes of the Indian Darshanas, Karma, Rebirth, Moksha, and Purushartha. Secondly, under Indian Ethics, the students will study the concept of Dharma Buddhist ethics, the Brahmaviharas, Karuna, Mudita, and Jain ethics. Indian Epistemology and Metaphysics will provide the essence of different schools of thought such as Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Carvaka and Vedanta. Everyone in the BoS meeting agreed with the syllabus distribution and

- VSC: 5:36 pm

The VSC components of Critical were introduced by Dr. Allis which consist of Analytical reasoning, Moral reasoning, Statistical reasoning, and Scientific reasoning. Dr. Mondal wanted the department to introduce Scientific reasoning before which could be easily done according to Dr. Allis.

The Department will look into all the suggestions mentioned above discuss the mentioned suggestions and present the final draft of the syllabus before the BoS committee members.

Agenda 3: Assessment Papers (Majors and Minors)

The pattern was discussed in detail by Dr. Trevor and the changes that will be included in the SY, due to NEP, such as the ATKT SA (100 Marks) for students who have failed the examination and 10 mark participation for the VSC course in to attract their attendance in the classrooms. The assessment will be divided into 2 parts.

- Continuous Assessment (CA)
- Summative Assessment (SA)

Continuous assessment has replaced the earlier Internal Assessment (IA) and Summative assessment has replaced the Semester End Examination conducted by the department at Sophia College for Women.

Dr. Panda had some questions regarding the format of CA for VSC program to which Dr. Trevor explained what is expected out of the students during CA that would be conducted in the form of tests (MCQs or Subjective or both), Higher Order Thinking questions, field trip, etc the department conducts the examination on different levels.

Agenda 4: Collection of the signatures

Dr. Allis invited all the members of the BoS committee to Sophia College for Women for an offline meeting where the final draft of the syllabi for the SY will be presented and their signatures will be taken. A date will be fixed depending on the availability of all the members.

Agenda 5: Relevant matter addressed

Dr. Allis gave a vote of thanks to all the members of the BoS committee for shelving out time for the online meeting and giving the department their feedback. The chairperson of the BoS Dr. Allis thanked everyone present in the meeting and the meeting came to an end at 6:40 pm.

Chairperson BoS Philosophy



Dr Trevor Allis

Associate Professor

Sophia College (Autonomous)