

**MINUTES OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING**  
**(13<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, at 5:00 pm)**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY,**  
**SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), MUMBAI**

Date of Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Dr. (Principal) Suchitra Naik
- 4 Dr (Adv) Irfaan Engineer
- 5 Dr. Ranjan Pandya
- 6 Dr (Fr.) Keith D'Souza
- 7 Dr Parathasarthy Mondal
- 8 Ms. Krishna Trivedi
- 9 Mr. Amit Hattiangadi

The Zoom BoS meeting in Philosophy started at 5:00 pm.

Dr. Kamala Srinivas requested leave of absence

Dr. Trevor Allis welcomed all the BoS Members to the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Agenda 1: passing the BoS minutes**

Dr. Trevor presented the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> BoS meeting. The minutes were passed by Dr. Keith D'Souza proposing it and Ms. Krishna Trivedi seconding it.

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

Dr. Trevor presented the NEP holistic framework of Major Courses, Minor Courses and VSC for the SY Philosophy for 2024-25. The following were the points of discussion and presentation:

With respect to DSC 3 Major (Sem 3):

- Dr. Trevor Allis presented an overview of the course titled "Greek Philosophy" and the Units comprising the syllabus.
- Dr. Mondal and Dr Panda remarked that the syllabus was very good and quite comprehensive.
- The syllabus was approved and passed by all the members.

With respect to DSC 4 Major (Sem 3) :

- Dr Allis presented an overview of the course titled "Medieval Philosophy" and the Units comprising the syllabus.
- Dr. Panda remarked that it was well-curated as it largely covers the syllabus recommended by the UGC.
- Dr. Mondal congratulated the department and Dr. T.C. Roymon for preparing the course on Medieval Philosophy.
- The syllabus was approved and passed by all the members.

With respect to DSC 3 Minor (Sem 3) :

- Dr. Allis presented the syllabus for the Minor course titled “Western Philosophy”.
- Dr. Mondal suggested that Unit 2 be re-titled The Rationalism-Empiricism Debate.
- Dr Keith Dsouza observed that the syllabus focused largely on Modern philosophy thereby endorsing values of modernity/enlightenment. He proposed making it inclusive by accommodating a critique of modernity/enlightenment by including other contemporary approaches from Continental philosophy such as phenomenology, hermeneutics, postmodernism and critical theory.
- Dr Allis remarked that the Course was designed for students of Philosophy Minor and that the topics in Continental philosophy would probably become somewhat demanding on the students.
- Dr Mondal agreed that the Course syllabus should devote at least one unit to the counter-enlightenment philosophies.
- Dr. Allis agreed to the remarks and observations and assured that the department would alter the syllabus accordingly to address their concerns.
- The revised syllabus would be resent (emailed) to the members for their approval.

With respect to VSC 3 (Sem 3):

- Dr. Allis presented the syllabus for Vocational Skill Course titled “Logic”.
- Dr. Suchitra Naik sought clarification on whether Modern Logic would be introduced to the students.
- Dr. Allis clarified that Modern Logic would be introduced to students in semester 5 of the Third Year.
- The syllabus was approved and passed by all the members.

**Agenda 2 (Continued): To approve the SYBA Philosophy syllabus for Semester IV as per NEP 2020.**

With respect to DSC 5 Major (Sem 4):

- Dr. Allis presented the syllabus for the Major course titled Indian Ethical Philosophies
- Dr. D’Souza proposed alternative ethical approaches such as Adivasi Ethics and recommended a scholar familiar with the topic.
- Dr. Panda remarked that the topic would be too ambitious for undergraduate college students.
- Dr. Mondal voiced his concern about the proposal: there would be demands from other quarters to include ethical perspectives after their caste or community or religion and so on after the discussion regarding the inclusion of Adivasi Ethics. Hence, he suggested to be cautious about introducing such topics
- Dr. Allis noted the proposal and observations of the board members.
- The syllabus was approved and passed by all the members.

With respect to DSC 6 Major (Sem 4):

- Dr. Allis presented the syllabus for the Major course titled “Classical Systems of Indian Philosophy”

- Dr. Mondal commented that the units very systematically arranged. He suggested additional references of S.N. Chatterjee and P.N. Dutta for the syllabus.
- Dr. Mondal also suggested that the department consider introducing contemporary Indian thinkers such as K.C. Bhattacharya and Mohammad Iqbal to the syllabus which could provide a good foundation for students.
- Dr. Roymon acknowledged the suggestions and welcomed them. He however pointed out that introducing additional thinkers would require more credits and hours which would be difficult to accommodate within the NEP requirements which mandate fixed number of credits and hours. Students pursuing Masters degree would eventually be exposed to the topics suggested by Dr Mondal.
- The syllabus was approved and passed by all the members.

With respect to DSC 4 Minor (Sem 4):

- Dr. Allis introduced the syllabus for the Minor course titled “Indian Philosophy” He presented an overview of the main units that included Ethics, Epistemology, and Metaphysics.
- The syllabus structure and content was appreciated by the members of the board.
- The syllabus was approved and passed by all the members.

With respect SEC (Semester 4):

- Dr. Allis presented the syllabus in Skill Enhancement Course titled “ Critical Reasoning”.
- Dr. Mondal suggested a rearrangement of topics in unit 1: topic on statistical reasoning could be followed by the topic on scientific reasoning
- Dr Allis readily agreed to the rearrangement.
- The syllabus was approved and passed by all the members.

Dr Allis stated that the department will work on the suggestions mentioned above and present the final draft of the necessary syllabi before the BoS committee members for their approval.

**Agenda 3: Examination Assessment Pattern (Majors and Minors)**

- Dr Allis presented the paper pattern to be followed in the Major, Minor and VSC
- Dr inquired whether all the CA tests were online or homeworks.
- Dr Allis clarified that all class tests were conducted in class, other tests in the form of projects or assignments could be worked on at home and submitted on the stipulated date.
- The following points were approved and passed by the Board.

**Internal Assessment: 50 marks (for Major and Minor)**

- 25 marks: Class Test (combination of any of the following: MCQ, fill in the blanks, quiz, match the columns, one-line answers, short notes, etc)
- 20 marks: Critical essay or assignment; 5 marks: Viva on the essay/assignment.

**Internal Assessment: 50 marks (for VSC)**

- 20 marks: class test(combination of any of the following: MCQ, fill in the blanks, quiz, match the columns, one line answers, short notes, etc)
- 20 marks: Assignment or project or field trip etc.
- marks: attendance.

**Summative Assessment: 50 marks (for Major and Minor)**

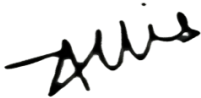
- Descriptive type.
- Total No of questions: 5
- 4 questions @ 10 marks corresponding to 4 units of the syllabus.
- Internal choice within each unit.
- 5th question: Attempt 2 short notes @5 marks from 4 options.

**Agenda 4: Collection of the signatures**

Dr. Allis invited all the members of the BoS committee to Sophia College for Women for the next BoS meeting where pending signatures on resolutions and attendance would be required the date and time of the next BoS would be intimated to the members in due course.

Dr. Allis gave a vote of thanks to all the members of the BoS committee for their time, expertise and contribution to discussing the philosophy syllabi.

The meeting ended at 6:40 pm.

**Chairperson BoS Philosophy**

**Dr Trevor Allis  
Associate Professor  
Sophia College (Autonomous)**