

**MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY,  
SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), MUMBAI**

Date of Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Time: 12.00 noon to 1.30 pm

Mode: Online via Zoom

The meeting was attended by the following members

- 1 Dr. Trevor Allis
- 2 Dr. T C Roymon
- 3 Dr. Suchitra Naik
- 4 Dr Keith Dsouza
- 5 Dr. Irfaan Engineer
- 6 Ms Krishna Trivedi
- 7 Prof. Geeta Ramana
- 8 Dr. Ranjan Pandya

Dr. Davinderpal Kaur Bhasin requested leave of absence.

The meeting started with an official welcome by the chairperson, Dr. Trevor Allis to all the members of the BoS. He introduced and thanked specially the new VC Nominee Dr. Suchitra Naik, and the new members in the BoS namely, Dr. Ranjan Panda and Ms. Krishna Trivedi. Thereafter, the points on the agenda was discussed.

Agenda No. 1 was to discuss and approve changes in SYBA Paper 2 and Paper 3 Semester 3 syllabus to be introduced w.e.f June 2022. Accordingly, the newly revised paper 2 and 3 drafts were proposed by Dr. Trevor. He informed that the proposed syllabus of paper 2 started with Political Philosophy and that Units 1 & 4 had been set for internal assessment. Discussion took place on each unit. Opinion was taken from members about bringing in Fascism as a separate topic to replace Nationalism in the proposed syllabus. However interventions from Dr. Panda, Adv. Irfan and Dr. Geeta brought it out that instead of replacing topic of Nationalism, Fascism can be included into discussion of Nationalism bringing together the positive

as well as negative aspects within the frame of Nationalism. The BoS members appreciated the attempt to compare socialism with liberalism. Ms. Krishna suggested that- just war theory could be taken up as case study. Following a discussion by Dr. Panda and Adv. Irfan, the BoS felt that Paper 2 Semester 3 Unit 4 heading 'What is equality?' can be replaced by 'Concepts of Equality'.

Ms. Krishna suggested that primary works or articles by the thinkers should be provided as IA reading material. But Dr. Trevor pointed out that primary works might very often not be student friendly and thus may not be apt for undergraduate level. However, it was agreed include extracts from the original texts, wherever possible.

Commenting on paper 2 semester 3 Unit 3 topic on the discourse on Distributive justice by Rawls and Nozick, it was suggested by Adv. Irfan that Critique of Rawls by Bilgrami may be added to the critique session of the unit and it was accepted. Dr. Keith suggested that Axel Honneth's theory of recognition, and the Nancy Frazer - Taylor debate could be included as part of general introduction to the paper.

Thereupon, Paper 2 Semester 4 Social philosophy was taken up for discussion. Unit 1 on Citizenship was discussed. Adv. Irfan's suggested that the difference between ethnic and territorial citizenship can also be brought in while teaching the unit. Dr. Trevor informed the BoS that Unit 3 on Civil Disobedience was included newly in the syllabus as it is more relevant at present.

Adv. Irfan volunteered that he would share a film that depicts causes of war. Dr. Suchitra suggested that documentaries can also be used to teach the students on Philosophy of war. Ms. Krishna added that films/documentaries like the one on Kargil war etc can be considered.

Dr. Keith's suggestion that Social conflicts and resentment could be brought in as topics, was considered and it was found that it could be better incorporated into TY syllabus when it would be revised.

Thereafter, Paper 3 Semester 3 and 4 were taken up for discussion. Dr. Trevor explained unit by unit the proposed syllabus for Paper 3. Dr. Roy informed that Units 1 & 4 in Semester 3, and Units 2 & 4 in Semester 4, are kept for internal assessment. Dr. Panda suggested that Solomon and Kathleen Higgins's A short

History of Philosophy, can be added as reference along with McIntyre. In Semester 4 unit 2 discussions on Human psychology and art in connection with the theory of mimesis, it was pointed out that the concept of '*techne*' could be added to the discussions. Ms. Krishna volunteered that she would provide reference for discussion on Aristotle's poetics and the theory of mimesis. Overall the BoS felt that the paper as proposed was well thought out and organized and can be kept unchanged after factoring in the minor inclusions already pointed out.

Dr. Keith's suggestion that 'contrasting Synthetic understanding of knowledge with specialized scientific knowledge would also be a good attempt to take up' was considered and it was found that it could be factored in TY syllabus revisions later.

Agenda No. 2 regarding Internal assessment was taken up and it was informed to the BoS that the college-decided 50 marks IA & 50 Marks SEE pattern will be followed for online exams. IA pattern was looked into and a query was raised by Dr. Geeta on why 40 MCQs to have 50 marks. It was explained by Dr. Trevor that the 40 questions are comprised of 30 questions of 1 mark each and 10 questions of 2 marks each and 2 marks questions would be of those requires complex reasoning. The proposed modes and topics for IA were accepted by the BoS. The BoS members also expressed their happiness about inclusion of lighter and student friendly topics of practical significance like Philosophy of love & friendship in the syllabus as part of IA.

The discussions culminated at 1.30 pm and the BoS Meeting came to an end with a vote of thanks by the Chairperson.

**Chairperson BoS Philosophy**



**Dr Trevor Allis**

**Associate Professor**

**Sophia College (Autonomous)**