

MINUTES of the JANUARY 31, 2022 First Board of Studies Meeting of the Department of Political Science for the Academic Year 2021-22

Members present were Prof. Prashant Kelkar, Prof. Chaitra Redkar, Prof. Kalapan Dixt, Prof.Kannamma Raman, Ms. Harini Calamur, Prof. Venkatesh Kumar, Ms.Antara Desai, Ms.Shahnaz Shaikh and Dr.Paul Rozario.

Dr.Rozario shared the Agenda for the Meeting which was :-

AGENDA

- 1.Inviting and Introducing the New Vice Chancellor's Nominee Prof. PRASHANT KELKAR
2. INTRODUCING and THANKING the Members for accepting to continue to be Members of the New Board of Studies, attending all the Meetings in the previous term, despite their hectic schedules, and giving excellent inputs, timely advice and academic support.
3. INFORMING Members that TWO ADD ON CREDIT COURSES successfully COMPLETED - Public Policy, and UPSC TRAINING in 2020-21
4. SHARING :Online Assessment Experiences
5. SUGGESTIONS for improving Assessment SEE and IA Tests.
6. SUGGESTIONS for methodologies for innovative teaching and evaluation techniques.
7. To Approve and Pass the Syllabus for FYBA, SYBA, TYBA Political Science Courses, for the First and Second Semesters, which is being implemented for the Academic Year 2021-22.
- 8.. SUGGESTIONS for Any New Courses or Topics to be added
9. To consider any other matter to be brought before the members, with the permission of the chair.

The New Members were introduced and welcomed.

Dr.Rozario thanked the Members of the Board of Studies of the previous 3 year term 2018-19 to 2020-21 for their invaluable support and inputs.

Prof. Prashant in his remarks said that he felt that everything seems to be in proper place. He requested some time to offer his suggestions and inputs.

Prof. Raman raised the point that we could seriously consider working on the possibility of combining the syllabus content of Semester V : Politics of Modern Maharashtra , and Semester VI: Determinants of Politics of Maharashtra in the TYBA Political Science Paper IV Political Process In Modern Maharashtra. She also suggested that for TYBA Political Science Paper IV in Semester VI a new Paper for One Semester such as Public Policy could be introduced.

Prof. Raman also raised the point that in TYBA Political Science Paper V : Political Thought in Semester V, the thinkers Will Kymlicka for Multiculturalism and Simone de Beauvoir for Feminism could be considered for replacement by other thinkers.

Dr.Rozario mentioned that Ms. Calamur had also suggested in the earlier Board of Studies Meeting to consider including Conservatism as one of the ideologies in FYBA Political Science Paper I. Ms.Calamur agreed with Prof. Raman that thinkers with more contemporary or recent work in Multiculturalism and Feminism, should be included in TYBA Political Science Paper V.

Ms. Calamur said it would be useful to consider on introducing some recent work, especially on Cold War and New Cold War in International Relations Theory in TYBA Political Science Paper VI. Dr.Rozario mentioned that these topics were included in the syllabus, but admitted the time constraint for each module and topic was an impediment to any elaborate treatment of the same.

Prof. Redkar stated that in TYBA Political Science Paper V it would be better to retain the thinkers Will Kymlicka for Multiculturalism and Simone de Beauvoir for Feminism as the students lack knowledge on these aspects. Also, introducing more recent or contemporary work may not be adequately grasped by the students without the understanding of the basics and background.

Ms. Calamur suggested we could introduce "Surveillance and Privacy" as a credit Course

Prof.Redkar said that she had prepared some typed material on possible changes in the SYBA Gandhism Applied Component Paper. She said that these inputs would be shared later. She suggested that topics like Surveillance and Privacy could be a part of Internal Assessment Project Topics and any related Innovative Evaluative Schemes or could be addressed through Guest Lectures. She admitted that such topics are relevant as students will be able to more easily identify with them.

Prof. Raman pointed out that in SYBA Gandhism Applied Component Paper could be reworked and changed considerably. She said that in topics like Gandhi's Social Ideas and Concepts the links with Poona Pact were not clear. Dr.Rozario said that it could have been included in the context of the Gandhi-Ambedkar Debates. Prof. Redkar said the section was included after Gandhi's views on Caste and Untouchability. She was also of the view that as the political aspect was important and it is useful to understand and comparatively assess both Gandhi and Ambedkar's views, the inclusion of the Poona Pact and related material is indeed significant and relevant. Prof. Redkar added that recent critical work on the problematic aspects of Gandhi's views on Caste could be included. She cited Nishikant Kolge as a good reference for this.

Prof.Raman suggested that Satyagraha, Nonviolence and Truth, the core areas of Gandhian thought could be included in Semester III syllabus and Gandhi's Views on Women could be included in Semester IV syllabus of the SYBA Gandhism Applied Component Paper.

Prof.Venkatesh Kumar said he appreciated the various inputs by the Members and added that he would share his inputs by email. Prof. Kumar agreed that the syllabus needs to be more contemporary and linked to the current situation.

Ms.Shaikh said that she agreed with both Prof.Raman and Prof. Redkar with regard to their suggestions for SYBA Gandhism Applied Component Paper.

Prof. Dixit stated that she would share by email, her inputs on Political Theory for the FYBA Political Science Paper I Introduction to Politics. For this Paper, she suggested that "Market" should be explained and introduced as a (separate) Concept. She also suggested that Nationalism be included in the Module on Ideologies.

Prof. Dixit said that she agreed with the views of Prof. Redkar and Prof. Raman, especially on the inclusion of more recent and contemporary work in TYBA Political Science Paper V. She mentioned that she had successfully carried out changes in the Undergraduate Courses in her institution.

Prof. Dixit specifically mentioned that she would share material and articles on Privacy, Technology (Politics of Data) and Environmental Theory for inclusion and use in the syllabus content and references. Dr. Rozario acknowledged that these topics were very relevant and useful for students and thanked Prof. Dixit for all her inputs and material shared earlier.

Mr. Jayaram emphasized on the need to make the Course materials more compelling and in tune with the interests of the students of this generation, whom he opined were far more conscious and aware of issues related to Climate and Morality. He mentioned that topics like Privacy, Big Technology, the Future of Work (especially recent developments such as Work from Home & Hybrid Nature of Work), Artificial Intelligence, Diminishing Importance of National/State boundaries, etc., could be given as assignment topics to students for Class Discussions and peer interactions.

Mr. Jayaram suggested the increased use of movies, TV serials (For eg. "The Great Hack") and documentaries to enhance student participation and interest. He also volunteered to be a Resource person to help engage the students and expand their understanding and analysis of issues.

Prof. Raman suggested that Deliberative Democracy should be included and discussed in the Module on Democracy in the FYBA Political Science Paper I Introduction to Politics. She also said that Surveillance and Privacy could easily be included in the SYBA Political Science Paper III Public Administration, and used as an Internal Assessment Assignment topic. She also stated that it could be offered as a Two Credit Course as it would be very relevant and useful for students in expanding their career prospects.

Ms. Antara agreed that the changes proposed by the other members especially on social media use and technology related topics would be very interesting for students. She said she send her inputs by email.

Prof. Kelkar mentioned that the topics related to Data and Privacy were interesting. He said that the feasibility of the changes suggested need to be discussed, especially with regard to the assessment and evaluation if offered as Credit Course

Prof. Redkar stated that she agreed with Prof. Raman and Prof. Dixit on their suggestions. For SYBA Gandhism Applied Component Paper she suggested that Semester III could be related to "Gandhi: Ideas and Issues" and Semester IV could include Critique of Gandhi in one of the modules. She emphasized that the coverage of the Critiques should be representative of different perspectives and have sufficient academic rigour.