

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

The sixth meeting of the Board of Studies of the Department of English was held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, and it was attended by the following members:

1. Ms Jihasa Vachharajani: Chairperson, and Head, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
2. Dr Marie Fernandes: **VC's Nominee** – Principal, St Andrew's College, Mumbai
3. Prof Mala Pandurang: **Subject Expert** – Principal, Dr BMN College of Home Science (Autonomous), (SNDT University, Mumbai)
4. Ms Samira Nadkarni: **Alumnus, Sophia College** – Member, Department of English, St Andrew's College, Mumbai
5. Dr (Sr) Ananda Amritmahal: Principal, Sophia College, and Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
6. Ms Samrita Sinha: Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
7. Ms Nishtha Dev: Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
8. Dr Elwin Susan John: Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)

The following members were absent:

1. Mr Jeronimo Pinto: Representative from the Industry or the Corporate Sector/Allied Area Area – Writer
2. Dr Asha Achuthan: Subject Expert – Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, School of Development Studies (TISS)

The minutes of the fifth meeting of the Board of Studies of the Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous), held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, were read and passed unanimously.

The proposed revised syllabi (under autonomy) to be scrutinised at the meeting had been emailed to the members in advance. The drafts of the proposed revised syllabi for the TYBA English Semester VI papers along with the revised syllabi for the FYBA English, SYBA English Paper III and SYBA Mass Communication papers were presented, and this was followed by some discussion.

- SYBA English Paper II: It was suggested that the analytical framework of intersectionality could be incorporated into the core design and structure of the SYBA English Paper II. Instead of presenting 'caste' and 'gender' as discrete units in Semester III, the syllabus could demonstrate the intersections between issues through its selection of texts and arrangement of topics. The syllabus could give students access to a more comprehensive understanding of gender. Theoretical frameworks could be replaced with issues that could then be viewed from multiple perspectives. The discussion of race in the

paper could expand to include more regions and time periods. It was suggested that the title of the paper be revised to reflect its contents more clearly.

- Since the issue of intersectionality informed the pedagogical approach of all members of the department, it was felt that adapting the learning objectives of the papers to incorporate the point would help. It was suggested that learning outcomes be specified in all the papers.
- TYBA Papers VII and VIII: It was felt that there was scope for the papers on 20th and 21st centuries in the TYBA syllabus to be less rigid/conventional in terms of their focus on literary movements and geographies. The papers could offer perspectives on important historical events/phenomena/political movements of the period (climate change, refugee crisis, migration etc.) through literary and cultural texts. In this context, the rationale behind the overall design of the BA syllabus was discussed. The syllabus was designed with the aim of providing students with a general understanding of the canon while equipping them with tools with which to question it (namely, the inclusion of multiple theoretical perspectives, marginalised voices, and wide range of literary and visual texts in the syllabus).
- It was suggested that hyperlinks could be included in the reference lists to introduce students to emerging areas of scholarship.
- Members discussed whether the titles of papers (where they are similar across odd and even semesters within papers or are common overarching topics across papers) could be revised to reflect the diversity of topics that they actually cover, and whether this would help students applying for master's or doctoral programmes abroad.

Resolutions regarding the acceptance of the following syllabi were also passed unanimously:

- FYBA English Course of studies, for implementation in Semesters I and II of the Academic Year 2021-2022
- SYBA Mass Communication Course of studies, for implementation in Semester III of the Academic Year 2021-2022
- SYBA English Paper III Course of studies, for implementation in Semester IV of the Academic Year 2021-2022
- TYBA English Course of studies, for implementation in Semester VI of the Academic Year 2021-2022

The meeting then ended with the Chairperson extending warm thanks, on behalf of the Department, to the external members of the Board of Studies for their generous expenditure of time, energy and thought.