

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SOPHIA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING HELD ON 5th APRIL 2019

The Board of Studies meeting of the Department of English was held on 5th April 2019 and it was attended by the following members:

1. Ms. Jihasa Vachhrajani : Chairperson (Sophia College)
2. Dr. (Sr.) Ananda Amritmahal : Faculty Member (Sophia College)
3. Ms. Nishtha Dev : Faculty Member (Sophia College)
4. Dr. Elwin Susan John : Faculty Member (Sophia College) **ABSENT**
5. Dr. Marie Fernandes : VC's nominee (St. Andrew's College)
6. Dr. Mala Pandurang : Subject Expert (BMN College)
7. Dr. Asha Achuthan : Subject Expert (TISS) **ABSENT**
8. Mr. Jerry Pinto : Representative from the Industry or the Corporate Sector/ Allied Area (Writer)
9. Ms. Samira Nadkarni : Alumna (St. Andrew's College)
10. Ms. Vani Zaveri : Invited Member – ad hoc Faculty member (Sophia College)

The meeting commenced with the chairperson welcoming the guest and introducing the members of the Board to each other. Ms. Jihasa Vachhrajani briefed the members on how not much change has been inculcated in the syllabi owing to the mid semester transition into autonomy. The faculty members of the Department of English, Sophia College presented the revised syllabi to the Board in the order of FY, SY and TY. The members of the board actively participated in the discussion and the following recommendations were suggested for improving the syllabi.

1. Mr. Pinto suggested that for balance, the department should have one Dalit representative on their Board
2. Dr. Mala Pandurang advised that if anyone leaves the department, the syllabus should be a contact link that doesn't affect this transition.
3. She also asked the department to lay down different course objectives for both the FYBA papers (as per the NAAC RAR format)
4. Dr. Ananda said that we need clarity about the course credits when Dr. Pandurang pointed out at the University requirements of 4 credits instead of 3.
5. Both Mr. Pinto and Dr. Pandurang suggested that the Classical Literature paper was quite eurocentric and needs to be modified by inducing adaptations/retellings.
6. Dr. Pandurang said that the Internal Assessments could be carried out independently and be made more flexible (eg. Group presentations) and creative ways of carrying out assignments could be applied. She also suggested to make the IA clearly structured for students.
7. Another recommendation was to make the paper 60/40 instead of 75/25 and to also make the syllabus more inclusive.
8. In general everyone else suggested how the papers could be made more comparative in their approach to texts.
9. Dr. Pandurang emphasised on restructuring the syllabus (two units in introduction, one on comparative studying, one on retellings)

10. Mr. Pinto suggested the incorporation of Intellectual boot camps to approach theoretical terms for the students.
11. Ms. Samira Nadkarni discussed the incorporation of sessions from Point of View (Mumbai). She also said how a contemporary construct is needed adding on to Mr. Pinto's point on classical v/s take on classical literature.
12. Dr. Pandurang added that the syllabus must give teachers an option (and work accordingly) with reference to the syllabi from other autonomous institutions.
13. She also said that the objectives must reflect on pedagogical strategies/aims and that the purpose of the syllabus should be clear (Cultivating Critical consciousness)
14. Ms. Samira Nadkarni also asked for the Second Year Bachelor of Arts component to be added to previous BoS minutes. Dr. Pandurang also pointed out to the use of full forms instead of IA, SY, etc.
15. The Second and Third year syllabi will remain the same as the last time and will change later accordingly.
16. In general everyone agreed on how the minutes of the ongoing BoS meeting should be sent to all the BoS members and how they must reply in confirmation to the same.
17. The members also pointed out that it is necessary to mention how Ms. Zaveri who joined the department in October 2018 was present in the April 2019 BoS meeting and not in the one held in October 2018.
18. Dr. Marie Fernandes pointed out that on the page where the names of the moderators are written, the names of the BoS members were missing and how this should be rechecked and incorporated next time.
19. Dr. Ananda concluded that she will find out from the Joint Directors office whether or not the paper titles should remain the same as not all colleges are retaining the same paper titles.

The Final List of Recommended Books:

- Medea/ Black Medea
- Antigone and Kannagi
- Death of Karna
- *The Politics of Elegy*- J.P. Sullivan
- *Intersectional analysis of gender in Children's Literature* - Diti Vyas
- T.M. Krishna
- *Beastly Tales* - Vikram Seth
- Anushka Ravishankar and Payal Kapadia's works
- *Tales of a Grandfather from Assam* - Laxminath Bezbarao
- *Daisabon Hull* - Adivani
- Jhalkaribai (alternative reading)
- Sukumar Ray's nonsense verse
- *The Buffalo who wouldn't*- Mehlli Gobhai

The meeting concluded with the decision that the suggested recommendations will be incorporated while submitting the revised syllabi.