



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

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An Institution of
the Society for the Higher Education
of Women in India

Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of the Academic Council of Sophia College for Women (Empowered Autonomous) – Held via Zoom at 11.30 am on 25th May 2024

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Anagha Tendulkar Patil, Principal of the college. The Vice-Chancellor's nominees, Dr. Uma Shankar and Dr. D.V. Pawar were present. Dr. Shivram Garje was unable to attend. Ms Zara Murao (Expert from outside the college) was also present. The other three experts – Dr. Usha Mukundan, Ms Padmini Somani, and Dr. Rajiva Kothurkar – were unable to attend. All the Heads of Departments, coordinators of self finance courses and as well as the co-opted members – Dr. Rajbinder Kaur Dehiya, Dr. Sunita Jadhav, Dr. Elwin John and Ms Shraddha Prabhu were present. Dr. (Sr.) Ananda Amritmahal, Dean and Administrator, and Dr. Rashna Poncha, Vice-Principal (Arts), were present.

Dr. Tendulkar Patil welcomed all the members to the Eleventh Academic Council meeting. The Meeting began with the permission of the members.

The Principal introduced all the members of the Academic Council and informed them that the term for this Council would continue till December 2024. Hence the composition of the Council would remain the same for the next two meetings.

The Principal informed all the members that the new syllabi for the courses introduced to the SY NEP batch, as well as the Minutes of the previous meeting, had been emailed to all the members.

Item 1: Passing of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The Principal presented the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd February 2024. Dr. Uma Shankar proposed the passing of the Minutes. Ms Swarupa Kamat seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously accepted.

Item 2: Approval of the new syllabi formulated under NEP for Semesters III and IV.

The Principal informed the Council that for the six umbrella programs; the NEP 2020 was implemented at the First Year level successfully in UG and PG in the academic year 2023-24. The College was prepared to move to the implementation of NEP at the Second Year level in the academic year 2024-25.

She also informed the Council that the Third-Year students would continue under the older system and that the MA in Gender Studies (which has had no enrolment in 2023-24) would start with its first year under NEP in 2024-25.

The Principal shared the new syllabi for Semesters III and IV for both UG and PG in all programs. The paper titles for the Major and Minor papers as well as the Common Courses were read out to the Council. The same were mailed to the members prior to the meeting.

Dr Pawar pointed out that since the Boards of Studies had ratified the syllabi, all the papers were approved.

There was a query to Ms Shahnaz Shaikh (HoD, Political Science) about her Minor papers for Semesters III and IV. Ms Shaikh gave the titles and explained that she was awaiting final approval from her BoS.

Ms Shadab Zaveri (Co-Coordinator, BASCJ) explained the vision for the BASCJ in the Second Year. Ms Murao had a query about papers dealing with Visual Studies. Ms Zaveri responded that Visual Studies was a Major Paper in the FY.

The Principal informed the Council that the Science section would be starting with the Three-Subject Model in 2024-25. However, the Arts section will continue with the Two-Subject model next year and might consider launching a Three-subject model in the following academic year. She explained that in the next year the college will have the NAAC reaccreditation process and it would be difficult to implement a new model in both the sections; in the Science as well as in the Arts streams.

Ms Rinjal Jain (Coordinator BScIT) explained the syllabi for the SYBScIT. Ms Murao commented that the syllabus was current, overarching and interesting, particularly the paper on entrepreneurship. Ms Jain further explained what would be covered under that paper.

The syllabi for the MSc Programs were shared and Dr Prabha Shetty explained the syllabus for the MSc in Analytical Chemistry.

The syllabi were well received and were approved by the external members of the academic council.

The Principal then invited the Controller of Exams, Dr. Sunita Jadhav, to explain the system for Assessment under NEP. Dr Jadhav took the members through the system implemented last year under NEP.

Dr Pawar asked if the new system had helped in the overall results of the First Years. Dr Jadhav responded that the failure rate had gone down. Dr. Pawar also inquired about the promotion policy. Dr Jadhav informed him that the policy decided by the College was that a student required a minimum of 12 credits per semester to be promoted. Dr. Pawar then asked if this had made a difference in promotion rate. The

Vice-Principal (Arts) Dr. Rashna Poncha responded that most of the students had been promoted. Dr Pawar then informed the Council that many colleges were promoting all students and had decided that their Degree certificates would be withheld until they cleared all lower semesters. He went on to congratulate the Principal and all the faculty members on behalf of the University for all their hard work.

Ms Murao inquired if attendance was still counted. Dr Poncha informed her that Class Participation was an integral part of the two credit courses.

The Principal also explained that the Mentor-Mentee Program had also helped students to have a point of contact to reach out to. Ms Swarupa Kamat, in-charge of the Mentor-Mentee Program, explained how the program was run. The Principal also asked about the program continuing into the Second Year and Ms Kamat replied that it would continue and the idea was that the students would continue with the same Mentors for three years. Mentors were carefully chosen so as not be the ones who directly taught the students. This was done with the idea that students would feel more relaxed and be more forthcoming with someone who did not teach them. Ms Kamat also thanked the Principal for her support in running this program.

Item 3: Resolutions

The following Resolutions were then proposed:

- ✓ Resolved that the proposed new NEP syllabi, credit and course structure, in courses taught at second-year level of UG and PG programmes in Semesters III & IV, as in compliance with the NEP 2020 are discussed in the Academic Council and hereby are accepted and passed. The changes are in effect from the academic year 2024-25.

The External members concurred. Proposed by Dr. D.V. Pawar; seconded by Ms Zara Murao.

- ✓ Resolved that the alterations in the examination and evaluation pattern at the second-year level of UG and PG, as in compliance with the NEP 2020, are discussed in the Academic Council meeting and hereby are accepted and passed. The changes are in effect from the academic year 2024-25.

The External members concurred. Proposed by Dr. Sunita Jadhav; seconded by Ms Swarupa Kamat.

Item 4: Concluding Remarks

The Principal informed the Academic Council that the college had received some NOCs. However, the interviews for these could only take place later. Once those were completed the CHB post interviews would take place. Due to this some Minor papers

could have some changes in the content. She also specified that the enrolment for the MA in Gender Studies would take place this year. More details of this would be given in the subsequent meeting. The Co-Curricular and Additional Courses would also be discussed in the next meeting.

The Principal announced that there were two meetings to be held before this academic council is dissolved.

Dr Pawar asked if there was an increase in fees. The Principal informed him that the fees had been increased to accommodate the NEP charges for the Co-Curricular Courses. The FY students would now pay Rs. 2000 and the SY students would pay Rs. 4000 under NEP. Dr Uma Shankar commented that she had also been wondering about the same as there was more expenditure under NEP. Dr Pawar concurred that this was a difficult situation with the NEP as there were many extra charges.

Principal, Dr Tendulkar, thanked the members for attending the meeting. The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

A.P. Patil

Dr. Anagha Tendulkar Patil
Principal, Sophia College for Women
(Empowered Autonomous)

