

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCE

Sophia College (Autonomous)

1st BoS Meeting Minutes

Date: 29th September 2018

Members:

Name	Designation
Dr. Hemalatha Ramachandran	Chairperson Associate Prof. and Head, Department of Life Sciences, Sophia College, Mumbai.
Dr. Indu Anna George	Vice Chancellor's Nominee Professor and Head, Department of Life Sciences, University of Mumbai.
Prof. Krishanu Ray	Subject Expert (from outside the parent university): Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, TIFR, Mumbai.
Dr. Swati Patankar	Subject Expert (from outside the parent university): Professor Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT, Mumbai.
Dr. Nandita Mangalore	Subject Expert Associate Professor, Department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Mumbai.
Dr. Aditee Ghate	Representative from the industry or the Corporate sector/Allied area. General Manager-operations and strategy, Consumer products division, Piramal Health care, Mumbai.
Dr. Radhika Tendulkar	Post-graduate Meritorious Alumnus Associate Professor, Department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Mumbai.

Minutes of the meeting

Agenda 1, 2, 3: F.Y.BSc, S.Y.BSc, T.Y.BSc. Life Sciences courses

1. F.Y.BSc. : Gut biome to be introduced as a part of Application of microbiology- in medicine, agriculture, drug marketing

2. Dr. Nandita suggested several measures

a) to remove dots- 1.02 to 102 as it will lead to one character less in mark sheet and hence beneficial in long run.

b) Not to keep separate heads of passing for Internal, but keep 40% overall passing. It will lessen the chances of students going on appearing for innumerable additional exams. St. Xavier's do not have additional exam, instead if students do not get an overall 40% marks then they appear for a 100 mark paper at end of term.

c) In TY the combination of Genetics and Immunology should be kept in Paper I in Semester V & VI, as is currently done as it is more student friendly.

d) The question papers need not have 100% choice for each question. It could have a choice ranging from 50% to 100% and this choice could be adjusted according to the requirements of each batch.

3. Dr. Swati opined that Group assignments should be given for Internal Assessment. To which Dr. Yasmin Khan replied that the best of 4 components- assignment, ppt, open book test, IA is taken for IA.

4. Dr. Krishanu opined that BSc level students should make buffers and chemicals, allotting senior students to calibrate the same. They will learn to find the mistakes- peer teaching to encourage work ethic, time management and seriousness for work. Dr. Hema Subramaniam replied that buffer making and calibration is a part of SY Practicals but henceforth more emphasis will be given on the said aspects.

5. Dr. Krishanu mentioned that he uses the 'Problems in Cell Biology' by Bruce Alberts to give questions to students.

6. Journal can be completed during practical itself and the concept of rough and fair journal should be discouraged. There was also a suggestion that this could serve as internal marks for Practicals

7. In SY syllabus, US.LSC. 3.01 and US.LSC. 4.01, the title should be changed to Comparative physiology I and II respectively in the new syllabus.

8. Scope of internal assessment to be widened so that assignments, designing, working on a program also is accounted in evaluation.

9. Collaboration among streams -Arts and Science should be encouraged as much as possible. TIFR has a competition of Arts in Science which throws up very interesting entries.

Agenda 4: AC component

- Dr. Aditi knows a person would be helpful in teaching finance in AC component.
1. AC should have some components of industry- Dr. Aditi can help in designing the syllabus, organizing industrial visit-Mahad
 2. Art in Science- TIFR

Agenda 5: MSc Part I Life Sciences courses

- Dr. Krishanu offered to give Drosophila with channelrhodopin. These flies could be made to change their behavior using blue light
1. In paper 1 semester I it was suggested that the topics ecology and environment could be removed and instead some topics related to MSc II, such as psychology or pharmacology could be added
 2. Add instrumentation as a unit to elaborate more on principles
 - o add two levels of instrumentation- firstly, everything about an instrument and then a unit wherein a few instruments are elaborately taught- add spectroscopy and microscopy in more detail so compulsorily every student knows it,
 - o student should be taught its working, principle, application,
 - o using data of some lab or from research papers can be used to teach instrument
 3. Add communication skills in semester I or II
 4. IA: scope of internal assessment could be widened. Also add organizing of conferences. Conferences presentation should be added, Internals in practical should be added
 5. Instead of 5 questions of 12 marks each in SEE there could be 4 questions of 15 marks each for the 4 units of the syllabus (OR add MCQ's. Give one of the questions as short note so all type of questions is covered)??
 6. Specify internal choice percentage- 50-100%
 7. Add Q. 4, numbering is not correct in practical exam pattern
 8. First day internal exam, second day is viva and longer experiment, remove journal marks and add directly the readings, data of experiments in journal itself, also ask students to write why an experiment did not work and the mistakes and changes which can result in getting the results
 9. All experiments could be distributed among the students for preparation and conduct of that experiment. The student doing the peer teaching could be given marks for IA
 10. Select skill set which you want the student to learn,
 11. All experiments could be clubbed under one heading ,so change practical pattern required. And no division into major and minor. Add day 1 day 2 or directly give the experiment names.
 12. IA assessment could be a component of Practical exam. Herein marks could be allotted for Lab record manual –rough journal, post lab discussions and interpretation.

Agenda 6: MSc Part II Life Sciences Courses

1. Change molecular neurobiology title-
2. Switch the semester IV paper 1 and semester III paper IV
3. Remove bioinformatics since already there in Part I
4. Add a little basic of economics in the unit on Neuroeconomics
5. Add Dr. Aditi's name in guest faculty

Another point of discussion was how to divide 150 marks in practical's under Internal, Major practical experiments and minor practical experiments. The members opined that this should be worked out keeping in mind the assessment requirements of a PG course.

