

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCE

Sophia College (Autonomous)

5th BoS Meeting Minutes

Date: 17th October, 2020.

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:

1. The chairperson welcomed and introduced all members attending the BOS meeting.
2. Following members were present for the virtual meeting: Dr. Hemalatha Ramachandran (Chairperson), Dr. Indu George, Dr. Swati Patankar, Dr. Radhika Tendulkar, Dr. Aditee

Ghate, Dr. Hema Subramaniam, Dr. Yasmin Khan, Dr. Sree Nair, Dr. Bhavna Daswani, Dr. Snehal Martin.

3. Following members were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments:
Dr. Nandita Mangalore and Dr. Krishanu Ray
4. The meeting commenced at 4 pm as per the agenda scheduled for the meeting.

Agenda 1

The minutes of the Fourth BOS was presented by the chairperson. Dr. Yasmin Khan proposed the passing of the minutes of the 4th BOS meeting and Dr. Sree Nair seconded the passing of the minutes.

Agenda 2

Dr. Hemalatha Ramachandran presented the course of the academic calendar including the online exams conducted in October for final BSc and MSc students and the online teaching session which commenced in June, 2020 for PG sem 3; July, 2020, for UG sem 3 and 5; August, 2020, for UG sem 1. The Sophia College digital infrastructure including synchronous (Zoom) and asynchronous (Google classroom via Gsuite) modes of teaching were presented as well as the support extended to students. She also touched upon the online training that department faculty have undergone and the virtual practicals being conducted. She enlisted the online certificate courses (scientific writing course and bioinformatics) along with the webinars conducted by the department (Covid-19: An immunologist's perspective by Dr. Sathyajit Rath and Celebration of women in Science: 100 years of Rosalind Franklin) and department YouTube channel. She discussed the road ahead with regard to virtual activities and raised concerns regarding the low enrolment of students at the FYBSc level for academic year 2020-21.

Dr. Swati Patankar inquired about the reason for low enrollment of FYBSc students and whether this is the same condition in all colleges. Dr. Radhika Tendulkar confirmed that St. Xavier's college had a substantial enrolment. Dr. Hemalatha Ramachandran and Dr. Yasmin Khan replied that generally science enrolment at Sophia College has been low at the BSc level as even the junior College level enrolment is low, which is not the case with the Arts stream at Sophia. Other possible reasons discussed were only female students, location, and presently, the anxiety of travelling for practicals during pandemic times.

Dr. Aditee Ghate recommended to offer new cross functional degrees as many students come from International Baccalaureate backgrounds in present times.

Dr. Swati Patankar suggested that final year MSc students who will graduate in 2021 should work on high quality publication worthy review articles. Dr. Radhika Tendulkar also suggested that they can be given options like writing a full-fledged DST/DBT level project with budgeting. Other possibilities discussed were bioinformatics, meta-analyses, surveys. They suggested that this

should be communicated to students to reduce their anxiety about practical project work as it is not possible in the current scenario.

With regard to virtual practicals, both Dr. Swati Patankar and Dr. Indu George agreed that within the given constraints, department faculty are doing a brilliant job.

Everyone thanked the Chairperson and the experts.