

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCE

Sophia College (Autonomous)

6th BoS Meeting Minutes

Date: 13th March, 2021

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. Krishanu Ray, Dr. Nandita Mangalore, Dr. Radhika Tendulkar, Dr. Hema Subramaniam, Dr. Yasmin Khan, Dr. Sree R. Nair, Dr. Bhavna Daswani, Dr. Snehal Martin.
3. Following members were unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments: Dr. Aditee Ghate, Mrs. Divya Sinha and Mrs. Iqra Khatri
4. The meeting commenced at 4 pm as per the agenda scheduled for the meeting.

Agenda 1

The minutes of the Fifth BOS was presented by the chairperson. Dr. Hema Subramaniam proposed the passing of the minutes of the 5th BOS meeting and Dr. Sree Nair seconded the passing of the minutes.

Agenda 2

Dr. Hemalatha Ramachandran presented the activities of the department. On the academic front, she discussed the modalities of online teaching and the exams conducted for the year in December/January for undergraduate and second year postgraduate students. She made members aware that the College has considered 50 marks Internal Assessment and 50 marks Semester End Examination marks for all subjects. Also the 20 marks SEE being descriptive answers for TY and PG SEE examinations.

She informed that the suggestions made in the last BOS regarding the online project proposals/ bioinformatics/ publication of literature reviews/ surveys etc. for MSc Part 2 students have been incorporated. For the online examinations conducted in December/January, she showed a detailed percentage wise analysis of variation in students' performance in objective type questions in each paper right from FYBSc to TYBSc and MSc Part 2. Further, minor changes in the undergraduate and postgraduate syllabus were proposed for the year 2021-22.

Agenda 3

With regard to extra-academic activities, Dr. Ramachandran discussed the status of grants sanctioned/received by the department for the year 2020-21, bioinformatics course and webinars conducted. She informed the members that the College has received sanction letter for DBT Star Status, and DST WOS-A grant (PI: Dr. Bhavna Daswani) and WOS-B grant (PI: Mrs. Divya Sinha) have been received for the year 2020-21. Further, she projected the positive feedback received from the students who undertook the bioinformatics course. Dr. Nandita Mangalore suggested that it could be made an online course and opened up to other students as well.

Dr. Ramachandran enlisted the webinars/talks/sessions conducted by the department, namely, UN awareness Campaign (as part of Ananya) and Right to Choice – New Legal Age of Marriage (coordinated by Dr. Ramachandran in collaboration with Department of Education), 'Understanding Epilepsy', 'National Science Day – Quest Wider than Sky' – student presentations and interaction with experts, and 'Stem Cells' in collaboration with IWSA (coordinated by Dr. Sree R. Nair), Sophia Nobel Oration in Physiology/Medicine 2020 (coordinated by Dr. Hema Subramaniam and Dr. Bhavna Daswani) and Alumni Talks – An evening of anecdotes of having

come a long way (coordinated by Dr. Snehal Martin). She presented the cover page of SCRIBE (Science Chronicles in Research and Investigation Based Education), an in-house Science Journal, (which was inaugurated last year and this year's issue is in the process of being published), it was mentioned that the distinctive feature of this year's issue is that it is peer-reviewed. She also showed a screenshot of an article by Dr. Bhavna Daswani and Dr. Hema Subramaniam on SCRIBE in IndiaBioscience Newsletter in January 2021.

Finally, 'the road ahead' was discussed which included the aspect of increasing enrolment of students at the FYBSc level.

Dr. Indu George, Dr. Swati Patankar, Dr. Nandita Mangalore and Dr. Radhika Tendulkar congratulated the department on the many extra-academic activities conducted.

Dr. Swati Patankar suggested that emphasis must be given to students on 'How to write a Lab Report' which has now been included in the FYBSc and MSc part 1 syllabus for the year 2021-22.

Dr. Nandita Mangalore recommended that Program Outcomes and Course Outcomes should be worked upon for each paper.

Everyone thanked the Chairperson and the experts.