

Board of studies meeting – Department of Psychology

Minutes of the meeting -11th September 2019

Sr. Patricia welcomed the members to the meeting. Leave of absence was granted to Dr. Smita Desai and Dr. Vasundhara Sanghi. The forum was formed with six members Dr. Neeta Tatke, Dr. Anuradha Sovani, Ms. Archana Patki, Sr. Patricia D'Souza, Ms. Mihikaa Chaturvedi, and Ms. Teetash Singhal.

The minutes of the previous meeting were scrutinised and passed.

The syllabus was displayed on the projector. For Paper V (Abnormal Psychology), a recommendation was made by Dr. Sovani to change the title of the fourth unit in semester 5. The suggestion was to change it to “Other psychological disorders and the law and mental health.”

Sr. Patricia mentioned that the department was considering altering the syllabus for Testing and Statistics. She said that several MA colleges are taking students from a double major background as well and they are not prepared for the program. Dr. Tatke mentioned that there is no alternative to manual statistics. Without it, the students are not prepared for a master's program, which becomes a huge jump.

Sr. Patricia displayed the structure of the Practical paper on the projector. She also displayed some recommendations for changes in the experiments that are conducted. After considering the different possibilities, Dr. Tatke pointed out that the measurement of reaction time (RT) would be very difficult to do manually. If a computer were to be used, the department would need to ensure that at least eight computers are available in the psychology lab at the time of the practical examination. Dr. Sovani mentioned that instead of measuring the RT for each trial, a collective RT could be calculated for 10 trials and then the means for the two groups could be compared. She also mentioned that it may be a good idea to run a pilot test for these experiments to see if would be feasible or not. She also pointed out that all the suggestions involved measurement of RT; instead the department could also explore different cognitive processes like that of the divided attention tasks.

Sr. Patricia mentioned that the department was considering altering the weightage of marks for internals in practicals. The students work very hard to complete the journal, but the marks allocated to it are very few. Dr. Tatke mentioned that Sr. Patricia would need to check if the college management would approve of changing the weightage of marks for just one paper as this would impact the final marksheet. She recommended that the department enquire what pattern is followed by the BSc. programmes for their practical examination. It would be more appropriate to have a uniform pattern being followed.

Sr. Patricia mentioned that the department was considering changing the format by removing the current manual that is used for practicals. She said that a greater emphasis was being placed on rote learning than on the actual conduct of the practical's. Instead of the manual, a workbook could be used. This was the format that was followed prior to the

introduction of the manual. Ms. Patki agreed with this idea and said that the students should do the reference work and write the reports on their own.

Dr. Tatke mentioned that there should be some way in which the marks for practicals could be calculated immediately instead of grading the papers later like theory examinations. This is the pattern followed for BSc practicals where the marks are calculated immediately. Dr. Sovani recommended that there should be a short viva at the end of each practical, for which the marks can be uploaded immediately. The student reports can be graded by an internal examiner later. Dr. Sovani also recommended that one could have the students submit a file of their reports written earlier which could be graded by the examiner. This would be similar to the system that is being followed in the master's programmes. Sr. Patricia mentioned that this was a good idea because the viva was too predictable otherwise.

Dr. Sovani mentioned that if computers were to be an issue, the department could check if these software could be run on cell phones or not. She also mentioned that the department could try implementing the idea of flip classrooms using cell phones.

Sr. Patricia displayed the list of examiners and paper setters to the board and the two resolutions were passed. The members were thanked for their time and valuable contributions.