

MINUTES OF ZOOLOGY BOARD OF STUDIES (BOS) ONLINE MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 2020 AT 2.00 PM

1. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Roshan D'Souza, Head of Zoology and Chairperson of BoS. The Members present were Dr. B. B. Nath, Prof. Peeyush Pahade, Dr. Smita Krishnan, Dr. Akbar Dalvi, Dr. Aldon Fernandes and Ms. Nazia Choudhary. Dr. Roshan D'Souza also informed that the name of the Vice-Chancellor's nominee has not yet been received from the University of Mumbai. However, Principal, Dr. Sr. Ananda has directed to go ahead with the meeting and the resolutions passed in this meeting could be passed through the nominee when inducted in the BoS. Thus the proceedings of meeting (via zoom platform) were started.
2. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:
 1. Welcome note by the Chairperson of BoS
 2. Finalizing the minutes of the last meeting held on 15th February, 2020 and approval of the same
 3. Discussion and finalizing the syllabus of Ph. D. Course Work to be introduced from this academic year of 2020-21
 4. FYBSc - Semester II syllabus of Academic Year 2020-21 discussion
 5. SYBSc - Semester IV syllabus of Academic Year 2020-21 discussion
 6. FYBSc & SYBSc - New examination scheme
 7. FYBSc & SYBSc teaching plan discussion and approval of the same
 8. Internal Assessment pattern and approval of the same
 9. Approval of Panel of paper setters and examiners for FY and SYBSc theory and practical examinations
 10. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.
4. Dr. R. D'Souza welcomed the members and discussed the minutes of the last BoS meeting held on 15th February, 2020 that were mailed to the members along with the latest syllabi of FYBSc and SYBSc that were passed in the last Academic Council meeting held on 3rd June, 2020. She mentioned that all the suggestions were incorporated in this approved syllabus.
5. All the members agreed to the discussion of the minutes and unanimously passed the resolution to approve the minutes of the said meeting.
6. In order to maintain the continuity of the discussion, Dr. Roshan D'Souza then considered the points pertaining to FY and SYBSc syllabus. She informed that there were no changes made in the syllabus of Semester II and Semester IV. The members who had gone through the syllabus already sent, agreed to the same.

7. Dr. Roshan D'Souza informed that for this academic year of 2020-2021, the college has taken the decision to change the scheme of examination as 50 mark for Internal Assessment (IA) and 50 marks for Semester End Examination. She further added that this was unanimously decided by the entire teaching faculty as this would serve as a better evaluation method of continuous nature in the current online mode of teaching –learning in this pandemic situation. All the members also commented that this is a good decision.
8. All the members were satisfied with the detailed teaching plan that was mailed to them in advance. Dr. Roshan D'Souza explained that the IA taken would be of more than 50 marks and then scaled to 50 marks so that students have more chances of improving their performance. Also the pattern of IA would involve different modes of evaluation like tests, quizzes, crossword puzzles; resources from internet etc have been incorporated. Members appreciated the innovative and interesting methods of evaluation carried out by Ms. Sandhya Kadiru viz. Kahoot, Testmoz, puzzles and games based on food chains and food webs etc. Dr. Smita Krishnan specifically mentioned that the students will be certainly comfortable with this way of continuous assessment, each being of short durations and carrying smaller weightage.
9. Dr. Roshan D'Souza then initiated the discussion of Ph. D. Course work which is mandatory for Ph.D. students as per the University of Mumbai Circular No. Exam/ Thesis/Univ./VCD/947 of 2018. Based on the guidelines mentioned in the Point no.18 of this circular, the draft of the syllabus has been prepared of total 12 credits of which 4 credits are assigned to Research Methodology.
10. Dr. Roshan D'Souza explained the outline of the syllabus. The discussion at length of the first course - SPSZOO101 was done as follows:
11. Dr. Aldon Fernandes suggested that EHS guidelines could be incorporated in Unit 1.2 of as EHS is taking a centre stage in many industrial applications and this topic will gel well with the GLP.
12. After the discussion about ethical guidelines involved in various types of research in Unit 1.6, Dr. B.B. Nath suggested that a broad title like 'Overview of legislation and regulations and their current status' could be stated which would serve as an umbrella term for the past and the present guidelines as well as the future ones as these get revised from time to time.
13. Prof. Peeyush Pahade suggested that Incubation and Innovations as a future prospect of research could also be included in Unit 1.6 under IPR topic to inspire researchers in this direction as mostly the research is otherwise limited to the institutional level.
14. Topics of Unit 2 of Biostatistics were discussed and Dr. B. B. Nath advised that mentioning the brand names of licensed software could be avoided and instead 'use of appropriate software' should be stated wherever applicable.

15. Dr. Roshan D'Souza informed that the students have enrolled for a MOOC on 'Introduction to Biostatistics' of Swayam-NPTEL. As Mumbai University has not taken the credit transfer via Swayam courses, the students have joined this so that this course can serve as a value –addition for this unit.
16. Syllabus of theory course of SPSZOO102 was then discussed. Dr. Aldon Fernandes suggested that pharmacokinetics, how specific models are selected depending on the experimental studies, importance of phased clinical trials as well as cell-based assays including use of pseudoviruses could be touched upon. It was suggested by all the members that these aspects could be mentioned in the preamble as a guideline to the teaching faculty.
17. Practical course of SPSZOO102 was then discussed. Dr. Akbar Dalvi mentioned that including the study of *C. elegans* would give the research students an opportunity to select that as a model animal, if interested.
18. SPSZOO103 course based on other research related academic activities was discussed. Dr. Roshan D'Souza informed that Dr. Anita Jadhav and Dr. Nisar Shaikh are the members of the Research Advisory Committee that has been constituted. As per the MU guidelines the research proposal has to be presented to them and also every six months the progress report has to be sent to them. All agreed to the various activities included in this course.
19. Examination scheme was decided as 50 marks for continuous assessment and 50 marks as the course end examination. Dr. Roshan D'Souza mentioned that the syllabus will be accordingly modified with all the recommendations and will be emailed to all the members with the examination scheme for each course, so that it could be finalized for it to be presented at the Academic Council meeting for final approval.
20. Dr. Roshan D'Souza and Ms. Sandhya Kadiru were approved to be on the panel of paper setters and examiners – Theory and Practicals has been approved.
21. Dr. Akbar Dalvi mentioned that Principal of Sophia College could send a letter to the University in acknowledgement of Prof. Vinayak Dalvie's contribution to BoS as the former VC nominee. All the members supported this suggestion. Dr. Akbar Dalvi also informed that he will be superannuating on 31st October, 2020. He expressed his pleasant experience of being a member of this BoS and working with all the members. All the members wished him well and also congratulated him for his new assignment as a Coordinator of Sindhu Swadhyay Sanstha of MU.
22. The meeting then ended with Dr. Roshan D'Souza requesting all the members to post on the zoom chat if they agreed to all the resolutions passed with respect to the agenda discussed. All the members very kindly obliged to the same. Both the department staff members thanked all the invited members for their valuable suggestions and for their time given for this meeting.

RESOLUTION

The Board of Studies in Zoology of Sophia College (Autonomous) passed the following resolution in the online meeting held on 3rd October, 2020:

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February, 2020 have been approved.
2. The syllabus of FYBSc – Semester II and SYBSc – Semester IV will be continued for the second term of A.Y. 2020-21 with no changes.
3. The teaching plan for Semester I and III has been approved.
4. The pattern of Internal Assessment through various modes of evaluation as mentioned in the teaching plan has been approved.
5. The panel of paper setters and examiners – Theory and Practicals has been approved.
6. A letter of appreciation will be sent by the Principal of Sophia College to the University of Mumbai acknowledging the contribution of Prof. Vinayak Dalvie, the former Vice-chancellor Nominee of this BoS.

Members present:

1. Dr. Roshan D'Souza – Chairperson, BoS
2. Ms. Sandhya Kadiru - Senior Faculty Member
3. Prof. Dr. B. B. Nath - Subject Expert 1- (Non-parent University)
4. Prof. Peeyush Pahade - Subject Expert 2- (Non-parent University)
5. Dr. Aldon Fernandes - Representative from industry
6. Ms. Nazia Chaudhary - The Postgraduate Meritorious Alumnus
7. Dr. Smita Krishnan - Subject Expert 1 (other faculty member)
8. Dr. Akbar A. Dalvi - Subject Expert 2 (other faculty member)