

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING HELD ON APRIL 5, 2019

The Board of Studies (BoS) meeting of the Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous) was held on April 5, 2019. The following members attended the meeting:

1. Ms Jihasa Vachharajani: Chairperson, and Head, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
2. Dr (Sr) Ananda Amritmahal: Principal, Sophia College, and Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
3. Ms Nishtha Dev: Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
4. Dr Marie Fernandes: **VC's Nominee** – Principal, St Andrew's College, Mumbai
5. Prof Mala Pandurang: **Subject Expert** – Principal, Dr BMN College of Home Science (Autonomous), Mumbai
6. Mr Jerry Pinto: **Representative from the Industry or the Corporate Sector/ Allied Area** – Writer
7. Ms Samira Nadkarni: **Alumnus, Sophia College** – Member, Department of English, St Andrew's College, Mumbai
8. Ms Vani Zaveri: **Invited Member** – Ad hoc Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)

The following members remained absent:

1. Dr Asha Achuthan: **Subject Expert** – Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, School of Development Studies (TISS)
2. Ms Samrita Sinha: Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
3. Dr Elwin Susan John: Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)

1. The meeting commenced with the chairperson welcoming the members of the Board. The faculty members of the Department of English, Sophia College, presented the revised syllabi to the Board.
2. Mr Pinto asked the department to consider appointing at least one dalit representative to the Board.
3. Dr Pandurang advised the department to lay down separate objectives for programmes as well as courses while formulating syllabi (as per the new National Assessment and Accreditation Council Re-Accreditation Report format). She also emphasised the need to have a syllabus with clearly defined/articulated objectives.

4. Dr Pandurang brought up the issue of the number of credits allotted to each course. Dr Amritmahal and Ms Vachharajani said that they would try to seek more clarity on the rules regarding the credit system (notional hours, contact hours, the number of credits to be assigned to each course etc.) from the University and/or the Joint Director's office.
5. The following points were discussed with regard to the First Year Bachelor of Arts (FYBA) syllabus:
 - i. The nomenclature of papers was discussed. Members of the department explained how they had not changed the overall title of the FYBA paper. Dr Amritmahal said that she would try to seek more clarity on the matter of paper titles from the Joint Director's office.
 - ii. Dr Pandurang, Mr Pinto and Ms Nadkarni felt that the syllabus was Eurocentric as far the selection of the texts was concerned.
 - iii. Mr Pinto and Ms Nadkarni suggested names of texts that they felt could make the syllabus more diverse in nature.
 - iv. Dr Pandurang, Mr Pinto and Ms Nadkarni felt that a comparative approach (for example, in the module on epics in the paper on Classical Literature) could be introduced in the syllabus.
 - v. Dr Pandurang's recommended restructuring the syllabus on Classical Literature, with the consensus of the other members of the Board, in the following manner:
 - Two units on the basic introduction to Classical Literature (including modules on genres, histories of form etc.)
 - One unit on a comparative study of epics (e.g., Indian and Greek)
 - One unit on retellings of epics
 - vi. Ms Nadkarni recommended the inclusion of modern retellings of classical epics in the paper on Classical Literature.
 - vii. Dr Pandurang and Mr Pinto felt that the Children's Literature paper could be taught in the first semester (as opposed to the second semester). This would make it easier for FYBA students to grasp notions/processes like textual analysis, application of theory to literature etc. It would make the process of studying literature more enjoyable for the students. It would also prepare them to tackle the texts offered in the paper on Classical Literature (which could then be offered in the second semester).
 - viii. Dr Pandurang made the following recommendations for the Internal Assessment (IA) component of the FYBA English paper:
 - Tasks involving group work could be designed (including making students perform plays/scenes from plays in class)
 - The IA component in the syllabus – texts, nature of assignments etc. - needed to be explained in a clearer and a more structured manner.

- ix. The possibility and feasibility of adopting the 60-40 (as opposed to the 75-25) syllabus format was discussed.
 - x. Members discussed ways of introducing theory/theoretical terms to FYBA students. Mr Pinto suggested the introduction of Intellectual Boot Camps – introductory sessions on basic theoretical terms as well as on critical/analytical thinking conducted by members of the department itself and/or by external resource person – at the start of the semester. Ms Nadkarni recommended taking students to events/talks held at venues like Point of View (Mumbai) in order to give them a broader understanding of the issues discussed in class.
6. The Board was informed that the Second Year Bachelor of Arts (SYBA) and Third Year Bachelor of Arts (TYBA) syllabi had not undergone any changes. The SYBA and TYBA syllabi were passed without any changes.
 7. Ms Nadkarni reminded Ms Vachharajani to add the point regarding the passing of the SYBA syllabus to the resolution of the previous BoS meeting.
 8. Mr Pinto pointed out that short forms like “FYBA”, “SYBA”, TYBA”, “IA” etc., without their full forms, were used in the documents related to the BoS meeting. He said that the full forms of these ‘terms’, along with their short forms, must be used the first time they are mentioned in any official document. Subsequent references to these terms could be made using the short forms.
 9. Dr Fernandes and Dr Pandurang suggested that the point regarding Ms Zaveri’s inclusion as an invited member of the Board for the April 5, 2019 meeting be made in the minutes of the meeting. Ms Zaveri joined the department in October 2018 as an ad hoc member of the faculty. She was, therefore, part the April 5, 2019 BoS meeting and not the one held in September 2018.
 10. Dr Fernandes pointed out that the names of the moderators for the Semester End Exams (SEE) should be included in the resolutions passed at the next BoS meeting.