

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING HELD ON 1st APRIL, 2024

The twelfth meeting of the Board of Studies of the Department of English was held on 1st April, 2024, and it was attended by the following members:

1. Ms Jihasa Vachharajani: Chairperson, and Head, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
2. Dr Marie Fernandes: **VC's Nominee** – Principal, St Andrew's College, Mumbai
3. Prof Mala Pandurang: **Subject Expert** – Principal, Dr BMN College of Home Science (Autonomous), (SNDT University, Mumbai)
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5. Mr Jeronimo Pinto: **Representative from the Industry or the Corporate Sector/Allied Area** – Writer
6. Ms Nishtha Dev Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
7. Ms Samrita Sinha: Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
8. Dr Elwin Susan John: Member, Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous)
9. Ms Prerana Patel: **Post-Graduate Meritorious Alumna** – Ph.D scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Bombay

The following members remained absent:

1. Dr Asha Achuthan: **Subject Expert** – Associate Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

The minutes of the eleventh meeting of the Board of Studies of the Department of English, Sophia College (Autonomous), held on October 13, 2023, were read and passed unanimously.

The changes to be made to the syllabi of the SYBA courses for Semesters III and IV formulated as per the NEP 2020 guidelines were discussed.

Mr Jerry Pinto suggested that the primary readings for the unit on caste the SYBA Major III course should include more Dalit and lower caste voices.

Prof Pandurang suggested that Wole Soyinka's "Telephone Conversation" in the SYBA Major III course be replaced with a more contemporary text dealing with issues of race. She also felt that a longer, more comprehensive text, like a short story or a novel, could replace the poem.

Ms Patel observed that the SYBA Major courses on theory were based on issues of representation and identity. Ms Vachharajani said that the department would also like to use other modes or points

of entry into theory, like language, for instance. She said that they will try their best to include other aspects of contemporary theory in the third year syllabus.

Prof Pandurang observed that the Skill Enhancement Course was related to the domain of specialisation of the English Major students. She suggested that the department could design a more general course that would help students from other disciplines in a more direct way.

Ms Vachharajani presented the course content and the assessment pattern of the add-on course for the academic year 2023-24 titled “Introduction to Critical Plant Studies” to the members. She informed members that Dr Elwin Susan John was the course coordinator for the add-on course for the academic year 2024-25. The add-on course was approved by the Board.

Ms Vachharajani informed the board that the next BoS meeting would be conducted in the offline mode.

The meeting then ended with the Chairperson extending warm thanks, on behalf of the Department, to the external members of the Board of Studies for their generous expenditure of time, energy and thought.