

Minutes of the 27th meeting of the Academic Council held on 28th August 2020
at Cauveri Hall, Gangtok

27th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 28th August 2020 at 11:00 am at Cauveri Hall. Following were present:

1. Prof. Avinash Khare
Vice-Chancellor - Chairperson
2. Dr. Laxuman Sharma,
Dean of Students' Welfare - Member
3. Prof. A.S. Chandel
Librarian - Member
4. Prof. N. Sathyanarayana
Dean, School of Life Sciences - Member
5. Prof. Nawal Kishor Paswan,
Dean, School of Social Sciences - Member
6. Prof. Abhijit Dutta,
Dean, School of Professional Studies - Member
7. Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay,
Dean, School of Physical Sciences - Member
8. Dr. K.R. Rama Mohan
Dean, School of Human Sciences - Member
9. Dr. Kabita Lama,
Dean, School of Languages & Literature - Member
10. Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang,
Head, Department of Microbiology - Member
11. Prof. Shanti S. Sharma,
Head, Department of Botany - Member
12. Prof. S.S. Mahapatra
Head, Department of Commerce - Member
13. Dr. Krishnendu Dutta
Head, Department of Music - Member
14. Dr. Praveen Mishra,
Head, Department of Law - Member

15. Dr. Durga Prasad Chhetri,
Head, Department of Political Science - Member
16. Dr. Niladri Bag,
Head, Department of Horticulture - Member
17. Dr. Sandhya Thapa,
Head, Department of Sociology - Member
18. Dr. Swarup Roy,
Head, Department of Computer Applications - Member
19. Dr. Krishna Murari,
Head, Department of Management - Member
20. Dr. Vimal Khawas,
Head, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies
& Management - Member
21. Dr. Anil Kumar Misra,
Head, Department of Geology - Member
22. Dr. Satyananda Panda,
Head, Department of Psychology
Sikkim University - Member
23. Dr. Pushpa Sharma
Head, Department of Nepali - Member
24. Dr. Sohel Firdos
Head, Department of Geography - Member
25. Prof. Irshad Gulam Ahmed
Professor, Department of English - Member
26. Dr. T.J.M.S. Raju
Associate Professor
Department of Education - Member
27. Dr. Komol Singha
Associate Professor
Department of Economics - Member
28. Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharyya
Associate Professor
Department of Physics - Member
29. Dr. Dhani Raj Chhetri
Associate Professor
Department of Botany - Member

30. Shri Debasish Pal
Finance Officer - Special Invitee
31. Shri T. K. Kaul
Registrar - Secretary

Following attended the meeting through video conference

1. Prof. Payal Mago
Principal, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women
2. Dr. Dr. Veenu Pant
Head, Department of History

The following members could not attend the meeting because of their pre-occupation and sought leave of absence:

1. Prof. Ranjit Verma, Vice-Chancellor, Munger University, Munger
2. Prof. (Dr.) Neelu Rohmetra, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh
3. Prof. Manoj Khanna, Principal, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, Delhi
4. Dr. Sudhan Pradhan, Principal, Sikkim Government Science College, Chakung, West Sikkim.
5. Dr. Arati Chhetri, Principal, Harkamaya College of Education, Samdur, Tadong, East Sikkim
6. Dr. Rajesh Raj S.N., Head, Department of Economics
7. Dr. Yodida Bhutia, Head, Department of Education
8. Dr. Rosy Chamling, Head, Department of English

Dr. S.K. Gurung, Joint Registrar (Acad.) and Shri Satyam Rana, Assistant were present to assist the Council.

The Chairperson welcomed all members present in the 27th meeting of the Academic Council especially Dr. Dhaniraj Chheri who was attending for the first time. The Chairperson also put on record the contribution of Prof. Nripendranath Mandal, Professor, Bose Institute; Prof. Purabi Roy, former Professor, Department of International Relations; Jadavpur University; Prof. Saroj Kumar Pyne, HoD, Department of Animal Science, Visva-Bharati; Dr. Suchishmita Datta, Principal, Sikkim Government College, Burtuk; Dr. N.R. Bhuyan, Principal, Himalayan Pharmacy Institute; Prof. Jeta Sankritayayana, former Head, Department of Economics; Dr. H.K. Tiwari, Department of Microbiology; Dr. S. Manivannan, former Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic all the members present in the meeting mentioned above maintained the required protocol of social distancing etc. Thereafter agenda items were taken up as under:

SECTION-1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES & ACTION TAKEN REPORT

AC 27.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 26th meeting of the Academic Council held on 25th November 2019

Minutes of the 26th meeting of the Academic Council held on 25th November 2019 were circulated to all the members on 12th December 2019. No comments have been received from any of the members of the Council.

The Council confirmed the minutes of 26th meeting of the Academic Council held on 25th November 2019 as circulated to all the members on 12th December 2019.

AC 27.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 26th meeting of the Academic Council held on 25th November 2019

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 26th meeting held on 25th November 2019. The Council noted the action taken report.

SECTION-2 REPORTING ITEMS

AC 27.2.1: Synopsis for M.Phil/Ph.D registrations in the University

The Council noted the number of synopses for M.Phil/Ph.D registrations in the University under each School of Studies.

AC 27.2.2: Guidelines for eligibility and quantum for grant for participation / paper presentation etc. in any National or International Seminar/Conference and similar academic programme

The committee constituted vide Office Order dated 8th July 2019 prepared the guidelines for eligibility and quantum for grant for participation/ paper presentation in National and International Seminar/Conference and similar academic programme were placed before 34th meeting of the Executive Council held on 9th December 2019. The Executive Council approved the draft guidelines with modification of financial assistance for Africa, South Africa, Europe and North America to be clubbed in one group with maximum limit of Rs. 75,000/- (Seventy-five thousand only). The guidelines were thereafter notified vide Notification – 31/ 2020 dated 23rd January 2020.

The Council noted the guidelines for eligibility and quantum for grant for participation/ paper presentation etc in any National or International Seminar /Conference and similar academic programme as notified on 23rd January 2020.

SECTION-3

RATIFICATION MATTERS

AC 27.3.1: Post-facto approval for affiliation of Bachelor of Sowa Rigpa Medicine & Surgery (BSRMS) course at Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT) for the academic Session 2018-19

Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT) was granted temporary affiliation by Sikkim University from Academic Session 2018-19 without any programme/course. Temporary affiliation was thereafter granted for MA course in Buddhism and Tibetan Studies in 2019 and BSRMS courses from Academic Session 2019-20. NIT was offering BSRMS course since 2018 without the approval of Ministry of AYUSH and the University. Central Council for Indian Medicines (CCIM), the regulatory body, under the Ministry of AYUSH granted post-facto approval to the UG courses in BSRMS for 2018-19 batch under Section 12C/13A of IMCC Act to regularize the admission made therein. Based on approval of Ministry of AYUSH to regularize the admission done in UG (BSRMS) Course, the request of NIT was considered by the Sikkim University. The Vice-Chancellor under Clause 21 of University Ordinance OD-1 granted one-time post-facto permission for regularization of BSRMS course started in 2018-19 with an intake of 15 students.

The Academic Council ratified the action of the Vice-Chancellor in grant of post-facto permission for BSRMS course at Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT) with intake of 15 students from the Academic Session 2018-19.

TABLE ITEM

AC 27.3.2: Committee for preparation of Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar in view of COVID - 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown

With COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, academic activities of all the Universities and affiliated colleges have got affected. UGC constituted an Expert Committee to deliberate on the issue of disruption of teaching learning process, research activities, terminal semester examination etc and have issued general guidelines on examination and academic calendar for the Universities. To consider the said guidelines in Sikkim University, the Vice-Chancellor constituted a committee under the Chairpersonship Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang. The committee after holding a number of meetings recommended the following guidelines for implementation:

- A. Guidelines for PG Dissertations and M.Phil/Ph.D thesis in view of COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown.
- B. Guidelines for End-Semester Examinations, 2020 for current UG (2nd and 4th Semesters); PG (2nd Semester) and other Intermediate semesters of various programme in view of COVID-19 lockdown.

C. Guidelines for Online (Take Home Examination) End Term Examination for Even Semester 2020 (Post-Graduate-Regular and Backlog).

D. Guidelines for Online (Take Home Examination) End Term Examination for Even Semester 2020 (Under-Graduate-Regular and Backlog)

Since the guidelines were required to be complied urgently, the Vice-Chancellor approved the guidelines for Notification, subject to the approval of the Academic Council.

The Academic Council ratified the action of the Vice-Chancellor in approving the guidelines recommended by the committee as stated above.

**SECTION-4
MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL**

A. PANEL OF EXAMINERS, ETC.

AC 27.4.A1: Panel of External Examiners

The Council approved the panel of examiners as per the details given below as recommended by the concerned School Board for the purpose as mentioned in the table:

Sl. No.	Name of the School	Name of the Department	External examiners to be invited for
1)	School of Human Sciences	Psychology	3 Ph.D Theses
2)	School of Languages & Literature	English	1 Ph.D Theses
		Nepali	3 Ph.d Theses
3)	School of Life Sciences	Horticulture	PhD Thesis; Practical examination for B.Sc and M.Sc and M.Sc Thesis
		Microbiology	Ph.D Thesis; Practical examination for B.Sc and M.Sc
		Zoology	Ph.D Theses
4)	School of Physical Sciences	Physics	1 Ph.D Theses
		Chemistry	2 Ph.D Theses
5)	School of Professional Studies	Commerce	2 Ph.D Theses
		Education	2 Ph.D Theses
		Mass Communication	5 M.Phil Dissertations
		Management	1 Ph.D Thesis
		Tourism	3 M.Phil Dissertation
6)	School of Social Sciences	Law	5 Ph.D Theses
		Sociology	3 Ph.D Theses
		PCS&M	7 Ph.D Theses

B. SYLLABUS MATTERS/COURSES ETC.

AC 27.4.B1: Revision of syllabi of M.Sc and Ph.D courses in Department of Horticulture

Dr. Niladri Bag, HoD, Department of Horticulture presented the agenda. He informed the Council that in compliance to the rules and guidelines of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) syllabi of M.Sc and Ph.D courses were revised which was considered by the School Board of Life Sciences in its meeting held on 18th August 2020.

The Council approved the revised syllabi of M.Sc/Ph.D course in Department of Horticulture.

AC 27.4.B2: The Syllabus for 5 year program of Bachelor of Sowa-Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (BSRMS) at Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT)

Dean, School of Life Sciences made a presentation about this agenda. He informed that Central Council for Indian Medicine (CCIM) under the Ministry of AYUSH is the regulatory authority of the course. The syllabus recommended for BSRMS Course have not adopted a credit-based grading system and is run under annual scheme with marks-based evaluation. However, efforts have been made to put the syllabus in the semester based and credits has been assigned in some cases. The syllabus is, therefore, designed in a blended mode taking into account the structural requirements of both the CCIM and Sikkim University.

The Council after deliberations approved the syllabus for 5 years programme of Bachelor of Sowa-Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (BSRMS) at Namgyal Institute of Technology (NIT).

AC 27.4.B3: Changes/addition in the current M.Sc and M.Phil/Ph.D coursework syllabus in Mathematics

Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay, Dean, School of Physical Sciences presented this item.

I. M.Phil/Ph.D Syllabus:

Revised syllabus has been approved by the Council and new course “*Homological Algebra*” added in the existing list of electives of course work.

II. M.Sc Syllabus

The House was of the opinion that inclusion of “*Measure Theory*” and “*Differential Algebra*” in electives should be reconsidered and reported in the next meeting of the Academic Council.

AC 27.4.B4: Converting MCA 3 years course to 2 Years course

Dr. Swarup Roy, HoD, Department of Computer Applications presented the item. As per AICTE directives the duration of MCA course has been reduced from 3 years to 2 years.

The Council after deliberation approved converting 3 years MCA course to 2 years from next academic session.

AC 27.4.B5: Recognition and introduction of MOOCs courses in new MCA syllabus

Dr. Swarup Roy, HoD, Department of Computer Applications presented this item. Department of Computer Applications proposed to adopt and include MOOCs courses offered under SWAYAM/NPTEL platform while revising MCA Syllabus for 2 years duration. It was informed that the departments in the University have to implement 20% of the courses under MOOCs. Department of Computer Applications has proposed to adopt and include MOOCs course SWAYAM/NPTEL platforms.

The Council after deliberation approved adoption MOOCs courses for MCA syllabus during its revision. The Council also desired that other departments may also implement 20% of the courses under MOOCs.

AC 27.4.B6: M.Sc. Environmental Science syllabus

Dr. Anil Kumar Misra, HoD, Department of Geology presented this item. The Executive Council in its meeting held on 9th December 2019 on recommendations of Academic Council approved to start M.Sc. Course in Environmental Science.

The Syllabus framed for M.Sc Environmental Science as recommended by the School Board of Physical Sciences was approved by the Council.

AC 27.4.B7: Minor changes in the M.Ed Curriculum

Prof. Abhijit Dutta, Dean presented this item. M.Ed syllabus has internship in second and fourth semesters as per the guidelines of NCTE. At present evaluation of internship report of total 100 marks is for Internal Evaluation in syllabus. The department has proposed to distribute marks for evaluation of Internship Report to be 30 marks for Internal Evaluation and 70 marks for External Evaluation.

The Council after deliberation approved the proposal for evaluation of Internship Report as above as recommended by the School Board of Professional Studies.

AC 27.4.B8: Minor changes in the syllabus of MA Mass Communication

Prof. Abhijit Dutta, Dean, School of Professional Studies presented this item. The Council after deliberation approved the proposed minor changes in syllabus of MA Mass Communication which was recommended by the School Board of Professional Studies.

AC 27.4.B9: Syllabus of Master of Library and Information Sciences (MLIS) course

Prof. A.S. Chandel, Librarian presented this item. The Council after deliberation approved the syllabus of Master of Library and Information Sciences as recommended by the School Board of Professional Studies in its meeting held on 14th August 2020.

AC 27.4.B10: New Course for MA-III Semester (Elective paper) in Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management

Prof. N. K. Paswan, Dean, School of Social Sciences presented this item. The Council after deliberations approved new course in MA –III semester (Elective Paper) on “*Ambedkar and Conflict Transformation*”.

AC 27.4.B11: New course of MA-III semester (Elective paper) in the Department of International Relations

Prof. N. K. Paswan, Dean, School of Social Sciences presented this item. The Council after deliberations approved new course in MA –III semester (Elective Paper) on “*Hydro-Diplomacy and Transboundary*”.

C. RULES AND POLICY MATTERS

AC 25.4.C1: Draft Guidelines on Intellectual Property Rights, 2020

Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang was the chairman of the committee constituted vide Office Order dated 7th August 2019. The Committee referred the IPR policies of some of the major institutions/establishments across the country and after holding a series of meetings and deliberating on the subject, has framed the Guidelines on Intellectual Property Rights, 2020 of the University. The draft guidelines along with Invention Disclosure Form was deliberated in the Council.

The Council after deliberations approved the draft guidelines on Intellectual Property Rights, 2020 for the University.

AC 25.4.C2: Revised Regulations for conduct of M.Phil and Ph.D programme in Sikkim University

Prof. N.K. Paswan presented this item as he was the Chairman of the Committee which was constituted vide Office Order dated 24th January 2020. The draft guidelines are in tune with UGC (Minimum Standard and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degrees) Regulations 2016 along with amendments in 2018. Also it is in line with the revised Ordinance OC-6 and OC-7.

After deliberations the Council recommended for approval of revised Regulations for conduct of M.Phil and Ph.D programme by the Executive Council.

TABLE ITEM

AC 25.4.C3: Guidelines for conduct of Ph.D programme in the Department of Bhutia, Lepcha and Limbu

A committee was constituted under the Chairperson of Dr. Kabita Lama with Prof. N.K. Paswan, Dr. K.R. Rama Mohan and Dr. Samar Sinha as members. A draft guidelines prepared by the committee were presented to the Council. The Council after detailed deliberations recommended for approval by the Executive Council.

D. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC 25.4.D1: Extension of Fellowship to the Research students

The School Board of Physical Sciences in its meeting held on 17th August 2020 observed that the research work of M.Phil/Ph.D Scholars have got affected due to COVID-19 pandemic. They will not be able to complete their research work on the due date. It has been suggested for extension of fellowship to the Research Scholars by one year. The Council deliberated on the issue and it was found that grant of fellowship for the extended period of one year would be beyond the powers of the University as such matters are being dealt by the UGC.

The Council after deliberation decided that the University may take up the matter with the UGC for grant of fellowship to the research scholars for one more year beyond normal duration.

SECTION 5

MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES

AC 25.5.1: Minutes of the 13th meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences held on 11th August 2020

Noted.

AC 25.5.2: Minutes of the 13th meeting of the School Board of Languages & Literature held on 13th August 2020

Noted.

AC 23.5.3: Minutes of the 13th meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences held on 17th August 2020

Noted.

AC 23.5.4: Minutes of the 12th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies held on 14th August 2020

Noted.

AC 23.5.5: Minutes of the 13th meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences held on 12th August 2020

Noted.

AC 23.5.6: Minutes of the 9th meeting of the Deans' Committee held on 18th August 2020

Noted.

AC 23.5.7: Minutes of the 13th meeting of the College Development Council held on 19th August 2020

Noted.

The Council after deliberations gave approval/ recommended for approval by the Executive Council in the following:

- i) Proforma-XII for inspection of Permanently Affiliated College/subject/course
- ii) Renewal of temporary affiliation of four colleges, viz,
 - i. Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok
 - ii. Damber Singh College, Tadong
 - iii. Sikkim Government College, Burtuk
 - iv. Sikkim Governemnt Collge of Nursing, Sochakgangfor the academic session 2020-21 subject to compliance of the observations of the inspection team (s).
- iii) Syllabi of B.Tech. Civil Engineering and B.Tech. Computer Engineering courses together with revised version from I to IV semesters.

SECTION - 6
ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

Nil

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
(T.K.Kaul)
Registrar & Secretary
Academic Council

Sd/-
(Prof. Avinash Khare)
Vice-Chancellor & Chairman
Academic Council