VIGNAN'S
Foundation for Science, Technology & Research
(Deemed to be University)
Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

CIRCULAR

Date: 21.03.2024

Department of Social Sciences and Humanities is going to conduct a Board of Studies (BoS) meeting on 21.03.2024 at 4:00 PM via Zoom. Please attend the meeting via the following

Zoom link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86963662021?pwd=jLEbxOBTcbpSskQlpmKEzcbLh4ev3y.1

Meeting ID: 869 6366 2021

Passcode: 830061

All the members are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting.

The members are:

1. Dr. D. Adam Stephen, HoD, SSH - Chairperson
2. Dr. Shree Deepa, Associate Professor, CELS, University of Hyderabad - External Member
3. Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, Associate Professor, IGNOU, New Delhi - External Member
4. Mr. Ram Mohan, Academic Director / Faculty, La Excellence IAS Academy, Hyderabad - External Member
5. Ms. Shabana Azmi Shaik, Counselling Psychologist, SSH - Internal Member
6. Mr. Ravi Kiran Ch., Assistant Professor, SSH - Dean, R&D Nominee
7. Ms. Aswathy Chandra, Assistant Professor, SSH - Convenor/Secretary
8. Prof. A. Sharada, HoD, English - Dean, Nominee

Agenda of the BoS Meeting:

1. To discuss syllabus of a new audit course – Indian Knowledge System.
2. To discuss syllabi for a new minor in Civil Services

Chairperson

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Date: 21.03.2024

Minutes of Board of Studies Meeting

Board of Studies (BoS) meeting for the department of Social Science and Humanities was conducted on 21.03.2024 in a zoom mode from 4:00 PM to 05:45 PM. Following Zoom link was sent to those participants who joined virtually:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86963662021?pwd=jLEbxOBTcbpSskQlpmKEzcbLh4ev3y.1

(Meeting ID: 869 6366 2021, Passcode: 830061)

Agenda of the BoS Meeting:

1. To discuss syllabus of a new audit course – Indian Knowledge System.
2. To discuss syllabi for a new minor in Civil Services.

The following members were present thorough online.

S. No.	Name and designation of the Member	Position	Signature
1.	Dr. D. Adam Stephen, Associate Professor, HoD,SSH	Chairperson	
2.	Dr. Shree Deepa, Associate Professor, CELS, University of Hyderabad	External Member (Academic)	Joined Online Remotely
3.	Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, Associate Professor, IGNOU, New Delhi	External Member (Academic)	Joined Online Remotely
4.	Mr. Ram Mohan, Academic Director / Faculty, La Excellence IAS Academy, Hyderabad	External Member (Industry)	Joined Online Remotely
5.	Ms. Shabana Azmi Shaik, Counselling Psychologist, SSH	Internal Member	
6.	Mr. Ravi Kiran Ch., Assistant Professor, SSH	Dean, R&D Nominee	
7.	Ms. Aswathy Chandra, Assistant Professor, SSH	Convenor/Secretary	
8.	Prof. A. Sharada, Joint Dean Faculty Affairs	Dean, Nominee	

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Chairperson Dr. D. Adam Stephen, Associate Professor, HoD, SSH - VFSTR, opened the meeting by welcoming and introducing the external members to the internal members. After the brief introductions and pleasantries, Dr. D. Adam Stephen was welcomed to explain the new audit course syllabus for Indian Knowledge System. Followed by introduction of syllabi on Indian and world history, geography, Indian economy, politics and governance and Indian society, all of which are minors offered by the SSH department. The external members were already aware of these syllabi since they were provided with copies of them earlier. The syllabus for the following courses has been presented in a consolidated pdf document:

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS)

Title	Credits			
	L	T	P	C
INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS)	0	2	0	1

CIVIL SERVICES MINOR

Paper	Title	Credits			
		L	T	P	C
Paper - I	INDIAN SOCIETY	3	2	-	4
Paper -II	INDIAN HISTORY	3	2	-	4
Paper - III	INDIAN POLITY AND GOVERNANCE	3	2	-	4
Paper -IV	INDIAN ECONOMICS	3	2	-	4
Paper -V	INDIAN GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT	3	2	-	4

The BoS meeting started with the introduction of the Indian Knowledge System by Dr. Adam. While explaining the syllabus, he mentioned the limitations of in-house expertise in dealing with IKS since nobody has expert knowledge of the subject. Thus, the major part of the syllabus is just an overview of IKS, and it does not cover the core and technical aspects of IKS. In response to the syllabus presented by Dr. Adam, the external expert, Dr. Shree Deepa, inquired about the source material used to teach students and added that while reviewing the syllabus, internal members have to mention that they are not using original source material to teach IKS. External experts also suggest introducing the MOOC programme by providing students with recorded classes by external experts to overcome the limitations of in-house faculty in teaching the class.

The next part of BoS was dedicated to the syllabus discussion of Civil Services minors. The syllabus was introduced by Dr. Adam Stephen. The minor was planned for 5 semesters, so the internal expert, Dr. Adam Stephen, introduced the course structure and syllabus for the course. An external expert, Mr. Ram Mohan, starts the discussion with the history of India. External experts point out that the syllabus lacks a concept of world history and further discuss the relevance of Andhra history. Internal experts point out that the targeted students also include different state students other than Andhra Pradesh native students, so Andhra history can be less relevant to them. Thus, the external member suggests keeping one unit dedicated to world history instead of Andhra history. since world history does not have much weight in the competition exam. The next topic discussed was Indian Geography and Environment. External experts point out that soil geography is missing in Unit 1 of the syllabus. Then the unit of Indian Geography and Environment was arranged as physical geography, human geography of the world, Indian geography and ecology, and Andhra geography. Dr. Sahoo, an external expert, suggests having a uniform name for all the courses that are provided as minors. Along with that, Dr. Sahoo said all minor syllabuses should have a unit dedicated to basic concepts. The syllabus for Indian politics and governance was then discussed. The external expert pointed out that the center-state relationship should be discussed after discussing the legislative, executive, and judicial branches along with federal governance. Thus, the topic has to be rearranged. Mr. Ram Mohan, an external expert, suggested to include governance in the syllabus since the paper title has governance in it. In response, internal experts agreed that adding the concept of district administration to the syllabus is a good idea. Along with that, the internal expert pointed out the relevance of Andhra history, geography, and economy in minor. According to an internal expert, since we are already providing UPSC-based courses in the form of open electives, minors, and regular coaching of AP history, AP economy, and AP geography in this minor stands out among the other two (open elective and coaching). Along with that, the internal expert also pointed out that no coaching institute that focuses on UPSC coaching will teach AP history, AP economy, and AP geography. Thus, inclusion of these three topics can help those students who prepare for group examinations. Hence, BoS decided to keep AP history, AP economy, and AP geography in the minor syllabus. The next paper discussed is Indian Economy, since the syllabus included as many topics as possible to teach in a limited time frame and was approved by BoS. The next paper discussed was Indian Society. An external expert pointed out that the syllabus is able to cover almost all topics and also checked the relevance on the basis of the UPSC examination. An external expert pointed out that the syllabus is able to cover almost all topics and also checked the relevance on the basis of the UPSC examination. Internal experts also added that the syllabus should have a topic on the institution of family/marriage. External expert Dr. Sahoo also recommended adding social stratification and social movements, especially the backward class movement and respective personalities/leaders, to Indian Society. Then BoS members discussed the evaluation pattern for Civil Services minor. The major suggestions were to conduct projects, presentation seminars, assignments based on newspaper editorials, writing assignments, debates, group discussions, book reviews, etc.

The following resolutions are reiterated here based on the above-mentioned discussion:

1. BoS members were suggested to use MOOC classes for the Indian Knowledge System.
2. Regarding minors, the external expert approved the syllabi while suggesting addition of world history, district level governance, soils, the institution of family/marriage, and social stratification to history, politics, geography, and sociology respectively.
3. The BoS also discussed the evaluation pattern for civil service minors and recommended a model of assessment that is in sync with competitive exams.

Based on the suggestions given by the members, the Chairperson of BoS told that, those fruitful suggestions would be incorporated appropriately towards enhancing the quality of our education and this will be recommended to the Academic Council of VFSTR for the approval.

There being no further points for discussion, the Chairperson thanked all the external and internal members and announced that the meeting was adjourned.

Member Secretary

Chairperson

Zoom Meeting
Recording...
Participants (9)
Search
Prof Shree Deepa Amudhan
Sharada
ASWATHY CHANDRA
La Excellence IAS
Ask to unmute
More
Ravi Kiran
Shabana Azmi
Shameem Pulikkal
Invite
Mute All
La Excellence
Sharada
ASWATHY CHAND...
Shabana Azmi
sadananda sahoo
Prof Shree Deepa Amudhan
MacBook Air

Zoom Meeting
Recording...
Participants (9)
Search
Dr. D. Adam Stephen (Host, me)
sadananda sahoo
Prof Shree Deepa Amudhan
Sharada
ASWATHY CHANDRA
La Excellence IAS
Ravi Kiran
Invite
Mute All
More
La Excellence
Sharada
ASWATHY CHAND...
Shabana Azmi
Shameem Pulikkal
Mute
Stop Video
Security
Participants
Share Screen
Summary
AI Companion
Reactions
Apps
Whiteboards
Notes
More
End
MacBook Air

Zoom Meeting
Recording...
La Excellence IAS
La Excellence IAS
Dr. D. Adam Stephen
sadananda sahoo
Sharada
Sharada
Ravi Kiran
Prof Shree Deepa Arpudhan
Ask to unmute
Shabana Azmi
Shabana Azmi
ASWATHY CHAND...
ASWATHY CHANDRA
Shameem Pulikkal