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: 02.11.2024

Department of Social Sciences and Humanities is going to conduct a Board of Studies (BoS) meeting on **13.11.2024** at **4:00 PM** via hybrid mode. Please attend the meeting by join the link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:ZDtuUztUfSy1JN4QZqkHsHzafoi56VNHtE4m4Dt06cs1@thread.tacv2/1730863883264?context=%7B%22Tid%22:%223b0993d8-31db-4db6-b617-64ac193c7ace%22,%22Oid%22:%22af340418-ab63-42fa-a219-d5009a327e3e%22%7D
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. T. D. Vimala, Honorary Professor
   Dept. of Psychology, Acharya Nagarjuna University - External Member
3. Donthu Raj Kiran, DNB Psychiatry
   Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry
   NRI Academy of sciences Mangalagiri, Guntur - External Member
4. Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, Associate Professor,
   IGNOU, New Delhi - External Member
5. Dr. D Rajyalakshmi, Assistant Professor - Internal Member
6. Dr. Vijaya Bhaskararao Bonam, Assistant Professor - Internal Member
7. Dr. Sivasankar Mandal Baidya, Assistant Professor - Dean, R&D Nominee
8. Ms. Aswathy Chandra, Assistant Professor, SSH - Convener/Secretary
9. Prof. A. Sharada, Dean – International Students -School Dean, Nominee

Agenda of the BoS Meeting:

1. The establishment of a Curriculum Management Committee (CMC) at the department level
2. The evaluation of existing courses, including those in Psychology.

Chairperson

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

Date: 13.11.2024

Minutes of Board of Studies Meeting

Board of Studies (BoS) meeting for social science and humanities was conducted on 13.11.2024 in a zoom mode from 4:00 PM to 05: 45pm.Following teams link was sent to those participants who joined virtually: the following link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19:ZDtuUztUfSy1JN4QZqkHsHzafoi56VNHtE4m4Dt06cs1@thread.tacv2/1730863883264?context=%7B%22Tid%22:%223b0993d8-31db-4db6-b617-64ac193c7ace%22,%22Oid%22:%22af340418-ab63-42fa-a219-d5009a327e3e%22%7D

Agenda of the BoS Meeting:

1. The establishment of a Curriculum Management Committee (CMC) at the department level
2. The evaluation of existing courses, including those in Psychology.

The following members were present thorough hybrid mode.

Sl. No.	Name and designation of the Member	Position	Signature
1.	Dr. D. Adam Stephen, Associate Professor, HoD, SSH	Chairperson	
2.	Dr. T. D. Vimala, Honorary Professor Dept. Of Psychology, Acharya Nagarjuna University	External Member (Academic)	Joined Online Remotely
3.	Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, Associate Professor, IGNOU, New Delhi	External Member (Academic)	Joined Online Remotely
4.	Donthu Raj Kiran, DNB Psychiatry. Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry	External Member (Industry)	Joined Online Remotely
5.	Dr. D Rajyalakshmi, Assistant Professor, SSH	Internal Member	
6.	Dr. Vijaya Bhaskararao Bonam, Assistant Professor, SSH	Internal Member	
7.	Dr. SivaSankar Mandal Baidya, Assistant Professor, SSH	Dean, R&D Nominee	
8.	Ms. Aswathy Chandra, Assistant Professor, SSH	Convenor/Secretary	
9.	Prof. A. Sharada, Dean – International Students	Dean, Nominee	

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

The Board of Studies (BoS) meeting was chaired by Dr. D. Adam Stephen, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Social Sciences and Hat VFSTR. The meeting began with a warm welcome to the external members and an introduction to the internal faculty members. After the introductions, Dr. Sivasankar Mandal Baidya was invited to present the existing syllabus for the Integrated BSc-MSc Psychology program.

Dr. Sivasankar Mandal presented the proposed Integrated BSc-MSc in Psychology program for the academic year 2024-2025. This program is designed to provide pathways for both full-time and part-time PhD students, spanning five years and offering diploma, BSc, and MSc degrees. The program begins with foundational courses in the first year, including Principles of Psychology, Developmental Psychology, and Psychometric Assessment. In the second year, students will study Abnormal Psychology, Physiological Psychology, and Health Psychology, with hospital internships. The third year will focus on Counseling, Organizational Psychology, and Clinical Psychology, accompanied by internships and research workshops. In the fourth year, students will have the option to take electives like Indian Psychology, Gender & Sexuality, and Environmental Psychology, alongside dissertation work. The program culminates in the fifth year, with completion of the MSc degree, additional internships, and case studies from mental hospitals.

The program offers two streams for the MSc: one for students with a psychology background, which includes courses such as Abnormal Psychology, Community Psychology, and electives in Forensic Psychology and Sports Psychology; and one for non-psychology students, which starts with foundational courses like Developmental Psychology and Bio-Psychology, progressing to advanced topics like Clinical Psychology and Positive Psychology, along with mental health internships. Additionally, the program includes practical training in psychological testing, SPSS workshops, and ethical considerations, preparing students for PhD studies and careers in clinical psychology, counselling, and organizational psychology.

The external experts provided valuable feedback on the proposed program. Prof. TD Vimala expressed her agreement with the general structure but suggested considering a bridging course for non-psychology students instead of creating separate syllabi. She also praised the inclusion of recent research in the curriculum and recommended using continuous semesters instead of dividing the program into distinct years. Dr. Raj Kiran highlighted the importance of mental health internships and emphasized the need to connect with hospitals for these opportunities. He also recommended that faculty be cautious when suggesting NPTEL courses for students and proposed including workshops for students, ensuring that no copyrighted materials are used. Dr. D. Adam Stephen acknowledged these suggestions and confirmed that the program would be presented for final approval in the 39th academic council on November 30th.

Dr. D. Adam Stephen then introduced the concept of a Curriculum Monitoring Committee (CMC) aimed at enhancing faculty engagement and ensuring the quality of the curriculum. The proposed structure of the CMC will include the HOD, Dr. Adam Stephen, and two additional faculty members. The committee's key functions will focus on: 1) Orientation for New Faculty, including both campus-wide and subject-specific training; 2) a Shadowing Program, allowing new faculty members to observe and learn from senior colleagues; 3) Semester-wise Monitoring, reviewing syllabus coverage, faculty attendance, student feedback, and assessments; and 4) Monitoring Faculty Professionalism and Punctuality, ensuring adherence to professional standards in teaching and classroom delivery.

Feedback from external experts regarding the CMC was positive. Dr. Sadananda Sahoo praised the CMC initiative as a dynamic approach that integrates teachers, students, and new faculty members. He noted that similar systems, which often include refresher programs for teachers, are already in place at other institutions and emphasized that the evolving nature of the program is a positive aspect. Dr. Raj Kiran suggested the inclusion of Faculty Development Programs to ensure continuous growth and professional development. However, he expressed concern over the daily monitoring aspect, suggesting that it might come across as too strict or "Big Brother"-like. Dr. D. Adam Stephen acknowledged this feedback, explaining that while the daily monitoring aligns with management's expectations, there is flexibility in other areas to focus more on faculty improvement and development.

Resolutions Taken by the Board of Studies:

1. **Approval of Psychology Programs**: The Board of Studies resolved to proceed with the final presentation of the new psychology programs for approval, with the expectation that final approval will be obtained by the end of November.
2. **Curriculum Monitoring Committee (CMC)**: The Board of Studies approved the formalization of the Curriculum Monitoring Committee (CMC), with plans for its implementation in the upcoming semester.

The Board of Studies acknowledged and appreciated the feedback and suggestions provided by external experts. It was resolved that the faculty will integrate the feedback into the program and curriculum as appropriate.

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

BOS meeting (13_11_2024)-20241113_160806-...
Wednesday, 4:08 pm