

Minutes of Second Academic Council Meeting held on Wednesday,23rd March 2022

The Second meeting of the Academic Council was held on Wednesday,23rd March 2022 from 5.00 p.m. onwards through Zoom Online Platform.

Composition of Academic Council

- Dr. Suchitra Naik - Ex-Officio Chairman
- All Heads of Department and Coordinators of Self Financing Courses-Members
- Dr. Mahesh Patil - Member Secretary

- **University Nominees**

Dr. Uma Shankar	Principal, SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sion (W) Mumbai
Dr. Saroj Phadnis	Principal, V.K. Krishna Menon College of Commerce and Economics and Sharad Shankar Dighe College of Science, Bhandup (E) Mumbai
Dr. Vithal Balram Rokade	Principal, TK Tope Arts and Commerce Night Senior College, Parel, Mumbai

- **Academy and Industry Experts**

Dr.Sameer Kulkarni	Director: Innovation, Incubation and Linkages, Director National Centre for Nano-Science and Nanotechnology
Mr.Prasad Tokekar	Sr. Vice-President (Employee Relations and HR Compliance) Reliance Jio, Navi Mumbai
Adv.Neel Girish Helekar (Law)	Advocate at High Court, Mumbai Suburban District, Trustee of Deccan Education Society and CDC Chairman of Keerti College, Dadar, Mumbai
CA Dr. Vishnu Kanhere (Commerce)	Practising Chartered Accountant

- **Nominated Teachers**

Mr. Subhash Shinde	Member
Ms. Neeta Pathak	Member
Mr. Nitin Wadhvinde	Member
Dr. Pradnya Rajebahadur	Member

Leave of Absence to CA Dr.Vishnu Kanhere and Dr.Sameer Kulkarni were granted.

➤ **Item 2.01 - Welcome**

Dr. Mahesh Patil, Member Secretary welcomed the esteemed guests for the second meeting of the Academic Council.

➤ **Item 2.02 - To read and confirm Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th July 2021 were presented by Vice Principal Dr. Priyamvada Tokekar. It was approved by University Nominee Principal Dr. Uma Shankar.

➤ **Item 2.03 - To approve the Syllabus of all the Board of Studies including the Evaluation System**

Asst. Prof. Subhash Shinde, Vice Principal of the college and HoD of History, intimated the members that all departments had systematically conducted their BoS meetings as per the guidelines issued by UGC.

The following approvals were sought in the meeting:

1. Around 20% changes were made in the syllabus by all departments at SY and MA Part I level.
2. Departments also presented the titles of Value Added and Bridge Courses and were approved too.
3. Examination pattern designed as 40 marks Internals and 60 marks Externals was presented and approved by members of BoS of concerned departments.

Asst. Prof. Subhash Shinde proposed that the syllabus passed in BoS be approved in Academic Council too. Principal Dr. Uma Shankar approved the agenda and was seconded by Principal Dr. Saroj Phadnis.

➤ **Item 2.04 - To approve the change in Business Management Paper Number at S.Y.B.Com.**

Dr. Rashmi Agnihotri, HoD of Commerce, sought before the Academic Council the permission for approval for the change in Business Management Paper at S.Y.Bcom, Sem III– Paper – I Business Management (Marketing Management) and Semester IV- Paper II Business Management (Marketing Management). This change has been made in order to facilitate students to recognize the sequence of all B.M.Papers.

University Nominee Principal Dr. Saroj Phadnis seconded the proposal and changes was approved by the Council.

➤ **Item 2.05 - To inform about New Post Graduate Courses (M.A. Entertainment Media and Advertising, History and Psychology).**

Dr. Mahesh Patil informed the Council about the three New Post Graduate Courses (M.A. Entertainment Media and Advertising, History and Psychology) which were started in the Academic year 2021-22. Adv. Neel Helekar approved this proposal and appreciated the college authorities for starting new courses.

➤ **Item 2.06 - To approve the proposal of allowing the students from any Graduation to take admission for Post-Graduation in Humanities**

The approval of Academic Council was sought to allow students from any stream of Graduation to take admission for Post-Graduation in Humanities i.e. Business Economics, English, Hindi, History, Philosophy and Psychology by qualifying the Entrance Test and/or any other appropriate mode of selection decided by the College. This proposal was presented by Dr. Mahesh Patil. The Council members agreed upon that if the student qualifies the Entrance Exam then he/she should be allowed to pursue the course of his/her choice. This proposal was approved by Principal Dr. Saroj Phadnis.

➤ **Item 2.07 - To brief about Academic Activities and Exams Conducted**

Principal Dr. Suchitra Naik presented the various Academic Activities and information of Exams conducted in the institution during the Academic year 2021-22:

1. The college was awarded with the Overall Championship Trophy in Theatre section in 54th Youth Festival of University of Mumbai
2. The lectures were conducted through online or offline mode as per the instructions given by Government of Maharashtra and University of Mumbai from time to time.
3. 3rd and 5th Sem exams were conducted in the month of October and results declared. 1st Sem examination was held in the month January. Sem 4th examinations have started and 6th Sem examination will be held in last week of March. 2nd Sem exams will be held in the month of April. PG Semester are also happening properly.

PG Sem 3 and 4 examinations will be as per the timetable of University of Mumbai. ATKT examination were held from time to time.

4. Department of Political Science in collaboration with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabhodini successfully organised online One Day National Conference with the overwhelming response on the theme 'Women Political Leadership Global to Local – Opportunities & Challenges' on 12th January 2022. Principal informed that as per the tradition of the college, the same day upcoming conference was also announced. International Conference will be organised by Entrepreneurship Cell and Skill Development Committee titled, 'Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Scaling New Horizon' on 21st January 2023.

5. Annual College Festival - Navarang, Management Festival- Chrysalis and Intercollegiate Festival Gandharva were organised in the month of December and January.

6. Principal Dr. Suchitra Naik informed that four V.N. Bedekar Memorial lectures were organized till now in this academic year.

7. NCC Army Girls Unit conducted CATC 526 in our college with collaboration of One Maharashtra Girls Battalion NCC from 27th September to 6th October 21. Around 400 girl cadets participated in the camp.

8. In association with Department of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages, University of Mumbai the Start Up Club has been formed.

9. College has been appointed as Lead College for Thane Taluka Cluster for the Mission Yuva Swasthya, initiated by Higher and Technical Education Department of Maharashtra Government for Vaccination of College Students (Age 18+) from 25th October till 2nd November 2021.

10. College continues to be the lead college and is mentoring exams in cluster.

11. Under the umbrella of Social Responsibility, NSS Unit organised 10 days Community Involvement Programme at adopted village, Taki pathakar wherein 20 Departments and 6 Committees participated.

12. In this academic year 18 Add on Courses (572 students), 10 Certificate courses (451 students), 10 Bridge courses (689 students) and 8 workshops (1034 students) were organised in the college. In all 46 Courses were organised in which 2746 students participated.

1. Students Seminar on “Fitness in Sports” was organized on 9th September 2021 in the College Campus. The programme was presided over by Dr. Mahesh Bedekar and Corporate Trainer, Mr. Deepak Londhe was the resource person for the seminar which was attended by more than 400 students of the college.
2. The Inaugural Ceremony of VPM’s Sports Academy was held on 15th November 2021. This grand event was conducted on the ground of the college campus.
3. Sports Academy organized following exhibition matches on the campus:
Basket Ball Exhibition Match on 10th March 2022
Volleyball Exhibition Match on 14th Mar 2022
4. Basket Ball Carnival (Training Programme) was held for college students on 11th-12th March 2022.
5. Sports Academy has planned Summer Sports Camp from 13-23 April 2022 exclusively for students across Thane with introduction and orientation of 10 Olympic Sports.

The Council greatly appreciated the various activities of the Sports Academy and the agenda was approved by Principal Dr. Uma Shankar

➤ **Item 2.09 - To approve the following Policies:**

- 1. Merit Scholarship Policy**
- 2. Add – on Courses Policy**
- 3. Credit Policy**
- 4. Gender Policy**
- 5. Research Policy**
- 6. Information Technology Policy**
- 7. Internship and Social Work Policy**

Policies in the education system creates better standards of quality education for learners and cater to their needs and expectation. They also help in creating an environment conducive for healthy learning.

Dr. Pradnya Rajebahadur, IQAC Co-ordinator sought for the approval of the formation of various policies for the smooth functioning of various activities under Autonomy:

1. Merit Scholarship Policy

The Merit Scholarship Policy is aimed to encourage and felicitate UG and PG students for their academic excellence.

2. Add - on Courses Policy

Add - on Courses Policy is an effort by the college to transform our students into contributing components of our society. In order to enhance the job readiness of our students it is necessary that along with their regular degree programme, each student could preferably undertake at least one Add on Course per year and earn additional credits during 3 year degree programme.

3. Credit Policy

An academic credit system is a standard used by universities and colleges to measure and assess students' work and effort during their Bachelor's, Master's or PhD programme. The CBCS (Choice based credit system) allows the flexibility in education system, so that students depending on their interests can choose inter-disciplinary, intra-disciplinary and skill based courses. This system offers opportunities and avenues to learn core subjects and also to explore additional avenues of learning beyond the core subjects for development of an individual

4. Gender Policy

This policy aims to conceptualize the idea of gender equality by integrating the same in the curriculum and to enlighten equal role played by men and women for the mutual betterment. These policies would work for the purpose of physical mental and financial empowerment of girl students to make them prepared for all challenges in life. To foster gender neutral ecosystem in the college self-defense training programmes, various guest lectures, workshops and activities towards the personal and social development of female students are conducted.

5. Research Policy

Research Policy (2021-22 to 2025-26) was framed in order to:

- To encourage teachers and students to write research papers, projects and attend workshops, seminars and guest lectures. Research Methodology Course and IPR related workshops to be organised.
- Encourage teachers and students to write for UGC Care Listed Journals.
- To publish Annual College Conference Proceedings in UGC Care Listed Journal.
- Institutional Financial Assistance of Rs. 50,000/- for Minor Research Projects for 5 teachers is made available as seed money.
- It has been decided that incentive of Rs.10,000/- each will be awarded to the first 5 teachers for publication in Scopus journals till 30th June, 2022.
- Ethics committee is formed and teachers have to approach Ethics Committee for verifying the quality standard of the respective journal for publication.
- Research Advisory Committee, Research Ethics Committee and E-Cell have been formed.
- It has been decided to correlate and coordinate Community Activities with Research.
- It has been decided to initiate Research Centre in Commerce and Management.

6. Information Technology Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide College employees with guidance on acceptable and unacceptable use of the College's Information Technology (IT) resources. Computing, networking, telephony, and information resources at VPM' Joshi Bedekar College, Thane are available to advance education, teaching, research, and administration service missions. This policy excludes students, except where students are employed by, or on a work placement with the College.

These policies which were placed before the Council was accepted and approved by University Nominee, Dr. Vithal Balram Rokade.

➤ **Item 2.10 - To approve the introduction of New Option for Foundation Course at First Year Level in all Programmes**

Adhering to NEP requirement to integrate multi-disciplinary approach, Vice-Principal Dr. Mahesh Patil sought the approval from the Council Members for the introduction of the following New Options for Foundation Course at First Year Level in all Programmes:

1. For FYBA, Sem I-Introduction to Commerce, for Sem II-Introduction to Management. Resource Department, Commerce.
2. FYB.Com.Sem I-Visual Communication and for Sem II-Current Affairs. Resource Department, BAMMC.
3. FYBMA/FYBBI/FYBAF Sem I-Organisational Psychology I and for Sem II-Organisational Psychology II, Resource Department, Psychology.
4. For FYBAMMC -Introduction to Literature I and for Sem -II-Introduction to Literature II by BAMMC Department.

All the esteemed members of the Council endorsed the suggestion and the proposal was approved by Principal Dr. Saroj Phadnis.

➤ **Item 2.11 - To approve the proposal to increase 10% seats at First Year Level in all Programmes for the Academic Year 2022-23 as per the existing guidelines of University of Mumbai**

Vice Principal, Dr. Priyamvada Tokekar placed before the Council the approval for the proposal to increase 10% seats at First Year Level in all Programmes for the Academic Year 2022-23 as per the existing guidelines of University of Mumbai. This was approved by Principal Dr. Uma Shankar.

➤ **Item 2.12 - To bifurcate Business Law Department from Commerce Department.**

Principal Dr. Suchitra Naik placed before the Council the suggestion to bifurcate Business Law Department from Commerce Department. The Council was of the opinion that permission need to be taken from the University to comply with the changes. As exact information was not available, final decision was not taken on this particular issue, hence was postponed for further consideration.

➤ **Item 2.13 - Approval for the introduction of new programme M.Com in Accounting and Finance**

Dr. Neelam Shaikh- Coordinator of BAF tabled this item of the agenda seeking for the approval for introduction of new programme M.Com in Accounting and Finance from next Academic year 2022-23 which would provide the learners with specialized skills in accounts and taxation. The programme would cater the learners to think critically and have an edge over students from regular post graduate programmes.

Adv. Neel Helekar suggested that the details regarding qualified staff and infrastructure requirement for the new course should be submitted along with the proposal. This suggestion was noted and Dr. Neelam Shaikh affirmed that the inclusion would be made in the report. This proposal was approved by University Nominee, Dr. Vithal Balram Rokade.

➤ **Item 2.14: Decision for the conduct of next Academic Council Meeting**

As a result of discussion among the members, it was decided to conduct the next meeting of Academic Council in the second week of July. Adv. Neel Helekar opined that if the meeting would be held preferably on Saturdays, it would be convenient for all membersto attend.

➤ **Item 2.15: Any other discussion with the permission of the chair**

No other discussion was raised apart from the items specified in the Agenda.

➤ **The Vote of Thanks**

Member Secretary, Dr. Mahesh Patil thanked all the honourable members for their guidance and hoped such cooperation in future too.