

SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY

Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the Academic Council held on 7th January 2017

The following Members and Special Invites were present:

1	Dr. Rupamanjari Ghosh	Vice Chancellor- Chairperson, Director-School of Natural Sciences (SoNS), Dean of Research & Graduate Studies
2	Mr. Rajiv Swarup	President
3	Dr. Ajay Dandekar	Director - School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS)
4	Dr. Shubhro Sen	Director-School of Extended Education and Professional Development (SoEEDP) and School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SoME)
5	Dr. Girish Agrawal	Associate Director (Strategy and Planning), School of Engineering (SoE)
6	Dr. Dinkar Prasad	Associate Director (Academics), School of Engineering (SoE)
7	Dr. Amber Habib	Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Professor and Head, Department of Mathematics, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS); Director, Institute for Innovations and Inventions with Mathematics & IT (IIIMIT)
8	Dr. Sankar Dhar	Professor & Head, Department of Physics, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS)
9	Dr. Deepak Sehgal	Professor & Head, Department of Life Sciences, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS)
10	Prof. Jaya Menon	Professor & Head, Department of History, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS)
11	Dr. Sambudha Sen	Professor & Head, Department of English, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS)
12	Dr. Deepak Mehta	Professor & Head, Department of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS)
13	Dr. Partha Chatterjee	Associate professor and HOD, Department of Economics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS)
14	Mr. Sudhir Naudiyal	Registrar - Non-Member Secretary
Special Invitees		
15	Dr. Jyoti Sharma	Head, Center for Environmental Sciences & Engineering, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS)
16	Dr. N. Sukumar	Director, Centre for Informatics, SoNS, Professor of Chemistry & UG Advisor, Dept. of Chemistry
17	Mr. Atul Bhalla	Assistant Professor, Department of Arts, Design and Performing arts, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoSHSS)
18	Dr. Aniket Jaaware	Professor, Department of English, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS)
19	Dr. Gopal Das Singhal	Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering (SoE)
20	Dr. Meera Visvanathan	Assistant Professor, Department of History, School of Humanities & Social Sciences (SoHSS)

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21	Dr. Phaneendra Babu Bobba	Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, School of Engineering (SoE)
22	Dr. Samarendra Pratap Singh	Assistant Professor Department of Physics, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS)
23	Dr. Karthik Krishnan	Assistant Dean, Research and Graduate Studies
24	Dr. Ram Sharma	Head -- International office , Associate Dean -- UG Studies
25	Mr. Nishant Mishra	Assistant Dean -- Students' Welfare, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering (SoE)
26	Mr. Rajeev Kumar Singh	Assistant Dean -- UG Studies), Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, School of Engineering (SoE)
27	Dr. Sudeepto Bhattacharya	Controller of Examinations, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS)
28	Mr. Ankit Yaduvanshi	Program Co-ordinator, VC's office
29	Dr. Mekhala Krishnamurthy	Associate Professor, Graduate Advisor, Department of Sociology, SoHSS
30	Dr. Parthapratim Munshi	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, SoNS
31	Dr. Anirban Mondal	Associate Professor, CSE, SoE
32	Mr. Bhaskar Mishra	Head, Administration
33	Mr. Kapil Gaba	Head, Admission (UG)

Item No. 1 Welcome address by Dr. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor & Chairperson, Academic Council.

Dr. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Chairperson, Academic Council welcomed all the members and invitees to the Academic Council meeting. She highlighted the following milestones:

- SNU has been awarded "University of the Year" (*in existence for less than 10 years category*) at the 3rd FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards 2016, 10 November 2016
- UGC has accepted SNU's response to the observations/ suggestions of the UGC Inspection Committee and the AICTE Expert Committee, 18 November 2016.
- First (regular) Ph.D. degree requirements have been completed - Mr. Ravi Kant Upadhyay (admitted in the Department of Chemistry, School of Natural Sciences, in August 2012) worked under Dr. Susanta Sinha Roy (Department of Physics, School of Natural Sciences) for his Ph.D. and defended his thesis successfully on 2 December 2016
- School of Extended Education & Professional Development has launched its programs, 14 December 2016.

The Chairperson then directed the Registrar to take up the agenda item wise. The meeting was called to session.

Item No. 2 Confirmation of the minutes of the 21st meeting of the Academic Council held on 20.8.2016

The Registrar informed that the minutes of the 21st Academic Council meeting held on 20.08.2016 were circulated to the members and no comments were since received, he requested the Chairperson to approve the minutes. The minutes were then approved by the AC. The minutes as approved by the AC are enclosed at **Annexure-1**.

Item No. 3 To report on Academic Calendar for Spring 2017

The Registrar reported to the AC members that Academic Calendar for Spring 2017 was circulated to all concerned on 19.12.2016. The Registrar suggested that since the publication of the Academic Calendar is a routine affair, it need not be placed before the AC unless there is a policy related issue involved. The Chairperson concurred with the suggestion and advised that the Academic Calendar should be made in consultation with the Dean, UG & PG, and circulated to all concerned. Registrar also requested that in most of the universities, the Academic Calendar is made for a calendar year and published at the beginning of the year - it helps to follow this practice. The suggestion was accepted by the Academic Council.

Item No. 4 To report Grade Analysis of the results of Monsoon Semester - 2016.

Dr. Sudepto Bhattacharya, Controller of Examinations, presented before the Council the report on examination results for Monsoon semester 2016. The report as attached at **Annexure-2** was taken on record. It was pointed out by the members that a standardization of grading system in the University is required. It was observed that the grading patterns across the Schools and courses such as major/UWEs and CCCs were quite different with skewed distributions and averages. The Chairperson requested some course category-wise details, and then announced the formation of a committee comprising members of C.O.E,

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Dean - UG & PG offices to look for grading patterns and come up with remedial recommendations. The recommendations/suggestions of the Committee would be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor so that the same could be used from Spring-2017 semester. The Chairperson requested the faculty to specify the expected learning outcome for students in each course, and ensure delivery keeping the learner at the center of the process.

- Item No. 5** To discuss and approve the revised UG curriculum for B.A. (Research) in English in the Department of English, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS).

Dr. Sambudha Sen, Professor and Head of the Dept. of English, briefed on the revised curriculum for B.A. (Research) in English. The Chairperson and the members requested a uniform format for course details to be submitted, with preambles underscoring the uniqueness of the revised curriculum including the research opportunities in the program. The three-year degree path was also to be recorded. After a detailed discussion the AC approved the revised UG curriculum of B.A. (Research) in English. The proposal as discussed and approved by the AC is attached at Annexure-3.

- Item No. 6** To discuss minor changes in the syllabus of B.A. (Research) in History by adding the course HIS 320 - Making Languages in Colonial South Asia, in the Department of History, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr. Jaya Menon, Prof. and Head of the Dept. of History briefed the members about the addition of an elective course in B.A. History. The Chairperson suggested that such matters need not come to the AC and rather should be discussed in the Department and in the Board of Studies.

- Item No. 7** To discuss and approve introduction of M.A. programme in Sociology in the Department of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr. Mekhala Krishnamurthy, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Sociology (SoHSS) briefed about the proposed new M.A. programme in Sociology. The MA students will also have an opportunity to pursue an integrated M.A. /Ph.D. programme (2 + 4 years)

culminating in a doctoral degree in Sociology. After detailed discussion the AC approved the proposed M.A. programme in Sociology. The proposal as approved is annexed herewith as **Annexure-4**.

- Item No. 8 To discuss and approve the proposal for introduction of programmes (1) Executive MBA programme (2) M.S. in Financial Management and (3) M.S. in Data Science and Business Analytics in the School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SoME).**

Prof. SR Vishwanath, Head of Finance, SME and Faculty Advisor, Executive Education briefed the members of the AC about introduction of Executive MBA programme; MBA in Business Analytics programme and M.S. Financial Management. The Chairperson told the members that these courses are designed to meet the requirements of a specific target group. Following some discussions, she requested Dr. Partha Chatterjee to discuss the courses with Dr. Shubhro Sen in detail in terms of benchmarking with similar P.G. programs being planned in SoHSS. Prof. Viswanath briefed the members that no scholarship will be offered for these programs. The Chairperson advised to ensure that the nomenclature of the proposed courses is as per the UGC norms. After a detailed discussion, the Academic Council extended its in-principle approval, subject to the addressing of the issues raised by the members. The proposals as discussed and approved in-principle are attached at **Annexure-5**.

- Item No. 9 To note the concept of the introduction of a Post-Graduate (M.Sc.) Program on Water**

Dr. Ajay Dandekar, Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences explained to the members of the AC the concept of the Post-graduate (M.Sc.) programme on water. The Chairperson suggested to do some benchmarking and identification of target group. The concept was welcomed by the members. The AC noted that Dr. Ajay Dandekar will place a detailed proposal in the next meeting of the AC for further discussion and approval.

Item No. 10 To discuss and approve the specific proposals of Integrated Masters-Ph.D.

The Chairperson informed that the proposal for integrated Masters-Ph.D. programme had already been approved in principle in the 21st Academic Council held on 20.8.2016. She stressed that the main motivation for starting an accelerated Masters-Ph.D. program was for the research-oriented undergraduate students coming out of SNU, especially those with an 'Excellent' grade in an OUR project. The proposals to start the Integrated Masters-Ph.D. were received from (1) Department of Chemistry, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS), (2) Department of Life Sciences, SoNS, (3) Department of Physics (SoNS), (4) Department of Computer Sciences & Engineering, SoE, and (5) Department of Mechanical Engineering (SoE). Dr. Parthapratim Munshi, Assistant Professor from the Department of Chemistry, (SoNS) presented the proposal for Integrated Masters-Ph.D. for the Department of Chemistry. Subsequently, Dr. Sankar Dhar, Prof. & Head, Department of Physics (SoNS) presented the proposal of Dept. of Physics. The Chairperson expressed her satisfaction of the proposals presented, suggested that proposals from other departments can be made in line with the Physics Department proposal, and requested the Dean - Graduate Studies office to ensure compliance with Degree requirements specified by the UGC. The AC noted that proposal of the Dept. of Physics and requested other Departments to come up with the detailed proposals.

Item No. 11 To discuss and approve an expanded Part-Time Ph.D. Program.

The Chairperson briefed the members about the existing Part-time Ph.D. regulations. The current Ph.D. Regulations allow part-time candidature only for "*a member of the academic or non-academic staff of the University who satisfies eligibility qualifications*" and "at the discretion of the Director of the School". According to the Regulations,

- The total minimum registration requirement for part-time Ph.D. students at the University is 3 credits per semester till their Qualification to Candidacy for the Ph.D. degree.

- The maximum residence duration (10 semesters for full-time scholars) may be suitably relaxed for part-time scholars, as decided by the Director of the School.

The current proposal is to allow part-time candidature for serious candidates from outside as well, who may be self-sponsored or sponsored by other organizations. A sample of logistics received from the Department of Chemistry was discussed under Item No. 10. The Academic Council noted the above.

Item No. 12 To discuss and approve other amendments to the Ph.D. Regulations.

The proposed amendments to SNU Ph.D. Regulations (December 2014) was discussed in detail by the Academic Council based on the revised UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations 2016. The Council approved the amendments proposed in Clause IV of SNU Ph.D. Regulations (December 2014), as given below:

IV. Research Advisor:

“The research advisor is primarily responsible for guiding the scholar in research and for the scholar’s well-being. The research advisor shall be a full-time faculty member of the University. Within one semester of admission to the Ph.D. program, the scholars shall talk to faculty members who have conveyed interest in the candidates, about their respective research areas, confirm their availability for serving as research guides, and submit their names, indicating order of preference, to the Head of the Department. The scholar will then be assigned a research advisor preferably from this list, with mutual consultation. The scholar may petition for change of research advisor to the Dean of Graduate Studies, whose decision in this regard shall be final. *Research advisor / Co-advisor who is a professor, at any given time, cannot guide more than eight Ph.D. scholars. An Associate Professor as research advisor can guide up to a maximum of six Ph.D. scholars, and an Assistant Professor as research advisor can guide up to a maximum four Ph.D. scholars at any given time.*”

The Chairperson also mentioned that since the revised regulations came in the month of July 2016, these will be made applicable from the academic session 2017-18 prospectively.

Item No. 13 To discuss introduction of a School of Law from the Academic Session 2017-18.

The Chairperson briefed the AC members about the approval of Executive Council to start 'School of Law' (SoL) w.e.f academic session 2017-18. She further informed that University may submit a formal application to the B.C.I. on or before the extended last date of 31.01.2017 for 5-years Integrated B.A. LL.B. program. The SoL will introduce one-year LL.M. program in following streams:

- Intellectual Properties Rights Law
- Environmental Law
- Corporate Law.

After a detailed discussion the Academic Council resolved and approved the introduction of School of Law at the earliest opportunity.

Item No. 14 To approve the suggestion(s) for Honorary Doctorate.

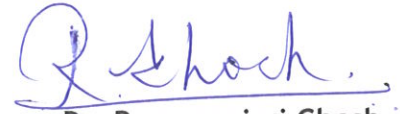
Dr. Manjul Bhargava (born 8 August 1974), a Canadian-American mathematician of Indian origin was suggested for award of Honorary Doctorate in the 3rd Convocation scheduled for 13th May 2017. Dr. Manjul Bhargava is the R. Brandon Fradd Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University, the Stieltjes Professor of Number Theory at Leiden University, and also holds Adjunct Professorships at TIFR & IIT-Bombay, and the University of Hyderabad. He is known primarily for his contributions to number theory. Dr. Bhargava was awarded the **Fields Medal** in 2014 "for developing powerful new methods in the geometry of numbers, which he applied to count rings of small rank and to bound the average rank of elliptic curves." He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in 2015.

The Chairperson asked the Dean/Directors to suggest more names of eligible personalities who could be considered for award of Honorary Doctorate. The Academic Council approved the name of Dr. Manjul Bhargava for award of Honorary Doctorate.

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Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

As there was no other item to be discussed, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Dr. Rupamanjari Ghosh

Chairperson