

Minutes of the 33rd Academic Council (AC) meeting held on 11 September 2021

The 33rd Meeting of the Academic Council (AC) was held online through MS-Teams on 11 September 2021 (Saturday) and the following members were present in the meeting:

1	Dr. Rupamanjari Ghosh	Vice-Chancellor - Chairperson
2	Col. (Retd.) Gopal Karunakaran	Executive Director
3	Dr. Rajat Kathuria	Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS)
4	Dr. Bibek Banerjee	Dean, School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SoME); Dean, Academy of Continuing Education (ACE); Director, Strategic Planning
5	Dr. Sandeep Sen	Dean, School of Engineering (SoE); Senior Professor, Computer Science & Engineering
6	Dr. Sanjeev Galande	Dean, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS), & Head, Department of Life Sciences, SoNS
7	Dr. Suneet Tuli	Dean, Research & Partnerships, Professor, Electrical Engineering
8	Dr. Ajay Dandekar	Chairperson, Center for Public Affairs and Critical Theory (C-PACT)
9	Dr. Amber Habib	Professor and Head, Department of Mathematics, SoNS
10	Dr. Sankar Dhar	Professor & Head, Department of Physics, SoNS
11	Dr. J.P. Gupta	Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, SoE
12	Dr. Saroj Kaushik	Distinguished Professor & Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SoE
13	Dr. Jaya Menon	Professor & Head, Department of History, SoHSS
14	Dr. Sambudha Sen	Professor & Head, Department of English, SoHSS
15	Dr. Yasmeen Arif	Professor & Head, Department of Sociology, SoHSS

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16	Dr. Harpreet Singh	Associate Professor & Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SoE
17	Dr. Ghanshyam Pal	Associate Professor & Head, Department of Civil Engineering, SoE
18	Prof. Atul Bhalla	Professor & Head, Department of Art & Performing Arts, SoHSS
19	Mr. Sudhir Naudiyal	Registrar - Non-Member Secretary

The following AC members could not attend the meeting

1	Maj. Gen. (Retd.) G. Jaishankar	Director, Student Affairs
2	Dr. Parthapratim Munshi	Professor & Head, Department of Chemistry, SoNS
3	Dr. Shahid Jamal	Professor & Head, Department of Communication, SoHSS
4	Dr. Dinkar Prasad	Professor & Head, Department of Electrical Engineering, SoE
5	Dr. Partha Chatterjee	Professor & Head, Department of Economics, SoHSS
6	Dr. Shibashis Chatterjee	Professor & Head, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, SoHSS

The list of other Special Invitees who attended the meeting is attached at **Annexure-1**.

Item No.1 At the outset, the Chairperson presented a quick overview of the University's significant activities from the last AC meeting to date. She mentioned the successful conduct of online Convocation 2021, the change in SNU's Governance Structure, the constitution of an Expert Committee to formulate an Innovation & Entrepreneurship Policy (IEP), the constitution of ESG ("Environmental, Social and Governance") Steering Committee, and various achievements by students of the University. The details of the highlights as briefed by the Chairperson are attached at **Annexure-2**.

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Before taking up the agenda, the Chairperson welcomed all the members and the invitees to the 33rd Academic Council meeting, especially the following new members and invitees:

S No	Name	Designation and Department
Members		
1	Dr. Sanjeev Galande	Dean, School of Natural Sciences, SoNS
2	Dr. Shibashis Chatterjee	Professor & Head, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, SoHSS
3	Dr. Ghanshyam Pal	Associate Professor & Head, Department of Civil Engineering, SoE
Graduate Advisors		
4	Dr. Sumedha Moharana	Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, SoE
UG Advisors		
5	Dr. Naveen Babu	Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, SoE
6	Dr. Atul Mishra	Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, SoHSS

The Chairperson also thanked the outgoing members, UG and Graduate Advisors, for their valuable contribution to the Academic Council. She specially thanked Prof. Amber Habib for his role as the Dean-Undergraduate Studies, and welcomed Dr. Rajeev K. Singh in his new expanded role as the Associate Dean-Academics.

The Chairperson then requested the Registrar to proceed with the agenda items, and the meeting was called to session.

Item No.2 Confirmation of the minutes of the 32nd meeting of the Academic Council held on 31 May 2021

The Registrar informed that the minutes of the 32nd Academic Council meeting held on 31 May 2021 were circulated to the members. Since no comments were received, he requested the Chairperson to approve the

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minutes. The AC then approved the minutes. The minutes as approved by the AC are attached at Annexure-3.

Item No.3 To report completion of Ph.D. requirements by Research Scholars since the last AC meeting held on 31 May 2021

The Registrar reported that the following Research Scholars from the Departments of Civil Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Sociology, and Mathematics completed their Ph.D. since last reported in the AC meeting:

SN.	Name of the Research Scholar	Roll No.	Department
1	Deepika Mann	1610120053	Civil Engineering
2	Bakul Budhiraja	1510120011	Civil Engineering
3	Ramyasri Rachamadugu	1510120042	Civil Engineering
4	Debosmita Banerjee	1510120015	Physics
5	Priya Mandal	1610120074	Physics
6	Sangita Bhowmick	1510120114	Physics
7	Sanjay Dutta	1610120109	Chemistry
8	Saheli Karmakar	1510120047	Chemistry
9	Saibal Sar	1710120111	Chemistry
10	Deepak Prince	1410120053	Sociology
11	Charu Sharma	1210120008	Mathematics
12	Samir Kumar Hazra	1510120051	Mathematics

With this, a total of **94** scholars have completed their Ph.D. from SNU as of 11 September 2021.

The AC took note of the same.

Item No.4 To report the 'Grade Analysis' of the University results for Spring 2021

Dr. Sudepto Bhattacharya, Controller of Examination, presented the Grade Analysis reports for Spring 2021 before the AC. The members had a detailed discussion on the Grade Analysis report, and AC noted the same.

The Grade Analysis report attached at Annexure-4 was taken on record.

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Item No.5 **To report Important collaborative MoUs/agreements signed by SNU since the last AC meeting**

The Registrar reported the MOUs/agreements signed by SNU since the last Academic Council meeting. The AC took note of the same.

A brief on the MOUs executed by SNU since the last Academic Council meeting is attached at **Annexure-5**.

Item No.6 **To report new admissions during the Academic Session 2021-22 for UG, PG & Ph.D. courses across all the Schools**

The Registrar presented a summary of admissions made for the academic session 2021-22 in UG, PG & Ph.D. programs across all the Schools, which the AC noted.

The members expressed concern about the large number of admissions in some UG programs, and discussed the ramifications of this, including the issue of hostel accommodation, classroom arrangements, and so on. It was proposed to re-visit the admission guidelines to adopt a balanced approach henceforth, considering the feasibility and IOE projections.

The admission details presented before the AC are attached at **Annexure-6**.

Item No.7 **To report the list of graduates (UG, PG, and Ph.D.) who were awarded Degree during the Convocation of the University held on 24 July 2021**

Registrar informed the AC that a tentative list of 558 eligible students (UG, PG & Ph.D.) was earlier approved by the AC for the award of Degree in its 32nd meeting held on 31 May 2021; however, the actual number of eligible students who were conferred Degree was 513, as per the list attached at **Annexure-7**.

The AC noted the same.

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Item No.8 To report approval by circulation taken from the Academic Council members

- (1) *Approval by the circulation on 14 July 2021 regarding extension of B.Tech. degree completion time beyond 6 years (12 Semesters) by two B.Tech. students.*
- (2) *Approval by circulation dated 3 August 2021 on the proposal received from the Department of Chemistry, SoNS, regarding the following*
 - **Credit changes in two existing courses**
 - **Revision of Credits for pursuing Minor in Chemistry**

The Registrar reported that approval by circulation was sought and obtained from the AC members on all the matters mentioned above, and the same is placed before the AC for ratification.

The AC ratified the above approval by circulation.

The proposals circulated are attached at **Annexures-8 & 9**.

Item No.9 To discuss and approve proposal received from School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SoME) regarding reactivating registration of Ph.D. (Part-Time) students who had joined in Monsoon 2017

The School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SoME) proposal was presented before the AC by Dr. M B Raghupathy, Associate Professor, SoME, regarding the re-activation of the registration of two Part-time Ph.D. scholars, Mr. Sundararajan Mahalingam (2017PGSNU002242) and Mr. Ajay Kumar Davessar (2017PGSNU002253).

The Chairperson, after a detailed discussion with the members, suggested that the UGC guidelines on the maximum time limit to complete a Ph.D. degree have to be kept in mind while permitting the said candidates to continue pursuing the program. She further advised Dr. M B Raghupathy to revalidate the candidacy of these scholars at the School level and notify the Dean-Research Office.

The AC approved the proposal with the above suggestions. The details as presented before the AC are attached at **Annexure-10**.

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Item No.10 To discuss and approve the proposal received from the School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SoME) for recognizing academic areas as 'Departments' of the School of Management and Entrepreneurship

Prof Deepak Kumar Sinha, Professor, SoME, presented the proposal to recognize the SME, Ph.D. academic areas as 'Departments' to attract students to various 'disciplines' in Management for Ph.D. admissions.

Many members raised questions about the move, and the Chairperson opined that as per the standard practice followed in higher education institutions, departments are established for administrative (and *not* academic) segregation to facilitate efficient handling of programs. The factors of student-faculty ratio, programs offered by the department, student strength, etc. determine the setting up of a department. In addition, a department must meet specific requirements set by statutory bodies and expected by accreditation agencies. There are administrative concerns, particularly with NAAC, where each department's output is counted separately, and some of the metrics are based on department numbers and productivity.

Given these facts and the fact that **single** undergraduate and master's programs are being offered by the whole School, she suggested that distinguishing the specializations might solve the issue of the Ph.D. program. She advised Dr. Karthik Krishnan, Associate Dean-Research, to evolve a mechanism and assist SoME to address the issue of admission into specializations in their Ph.D. program, as is done in the other Schools.

The proposal as presented in the AC is attached at **Annexure-11**. The Dean-SoME withdrew the proposal. The Chairperson said that the School may get back to the AC with a stronger proposal when the faculty strength in each academic area increases suitably.

Item No.11 To discuss and approve Honorary Doctorates (D.Sc.) to be awarded during the 8th Convocation of the University to be held on 28 May 2022

The Chairperson informed the Council that the next Convocation is fixed for Saturday, 28 May 2022. She further said that the next Convocation would hopefully be face-to-face. The following three eminent achievers from diverse disciplines have been invited to be awarded the Honorary

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Doctorate (D.Sc.) during the next Convocation, subject to their confirmation.

1. Ar. Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi
2. Dr. Umesh V. Vazirani
3. Dr. MK Ranjitsinh Jhala

A brief of the above eminent achievers is attached at **Annexure-12**.

The Chairperson further informed that **Dr. Krishna Ella, Chairman & Managing Director of Bharat Biotech International Limited**, has been invited to be the Chief Guest in the next Convocation. However, confirmation from him and the three eminent achievers to be awarded the Honorary Doctorate is still awaited.

The AC approved the names of the Honorary Doctorates to be awarded during the 8th Convocation of the University scheduled to be held on 28 May 2022.

Item No.12 To approve proposal received from the Department of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS) regarding the introduction of new Elective Courses in Sociology

The proposal to introduce the following electives courses in Sociology was placed before the AC by the Department of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SoHSS):

1. Soc 326: Rap Music in Multiple Contexts
2. Soc 415: Health, Disease, Illness
3. Soc 416: The City and Urban Perspectives

The AC, after discussion, approved the proposal. Please refer to **Annexure-13** for details.

Item No.13 To discuss and approve recommendations received from the Office of Dean of Research and Partnerships regarding the continuation of Ph.D. registration beyond five years for certain Ph.D. scholars for Monsoon 2021 Session

Dr. Karthik Krishnan presented to the AC a list of Ph.D. Scholars with a recommendation to extend their registration beyond five years for the Monsoon 2021 Session for approval of the AC. He informed that

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previously AC's permission for extension of registration used to be sought for one academic session. Beginning this session, semester-by-semester approval will be sought from the AC.

The AC noted the same, and approved the proposal for extension of registration for Monsoon 2021. The list is attached at **Annexure-14**.

Item No.14 To report the formation of the 'Center of Excellence in Epigenetics'

Dr. Sanjeev Galande, Dean, School of Natural Sciences, made a detailed presentation before the AC on the formation of a '**Center of Excellence in Epigenetics**.' He briefed the AC that the vision for the proposed Center is to build upon an interdisciplinary synergy by bringing together a group of established as well as young investigators with individual competencies and expertise in diverse fields, including Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology, Developmental Biology Neurobiology, Genomic Approaches, Computational and System Biology to formulate and to test a set of novel and exciting hypothesis in the field of Epigenetics. Dr. Galande further mentioned that the Department of Life Sciences would oversee this Center.

The Chairperson and other AC members appreciated the proposal presented by Dr. Sanjeev Galande, and discussed the ideas for strengthening the Center by involving resources from other Departments/Centers/Schools as well.

After a detailed discussion, the AC approved the item. The item presented before the AC is attached at **Annexure-15**.

Item No.15 To discuss and approve the policy on 'Centers'

The Policy on the functions of the Centers, formulated during the QV-Vision2030 exercise, was presented before the AC by Dr. Rakesh Ganguly, Senior Lead--Planning and Strategy, Vice-Chancellor's Office.

The members had a detailed discussion on the proposed Policy. It was suggested that the entity "Center", for which the policy was discussed, may more specifically be called "Research Center" to avoid any confusion with other entities. The Research Center heads are to be called Chairpersons.

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The Chairperson reiterated that the objective of establishing a Center should be clear -- the formation of a Center is often necessitated for signaling importance of a research area, and give it **visibility**, inside as well as outside the University, and this should be mentioned. Collaboration among faculty members does not need any administrative structure at SNU. The areas of the Research Centers may emerge out of our top-down vision, but should be matched with bottom-up exercises.

Since it was proposed that a Center would not have any permanent staff, some concerns were raised about attracting (temporary/contractual) faculty members in the Centers. A related issue is that Research Centers are expected to generate their own funds, but since main funding for research is from the government, a researcher with a contractual appointment will not be eligible to apply.

As faculty members of Research Centers would be derived from Departments in this model, a question was raised on how to differentiate the publication-affiliations and give credit to Centers vis-à-vis parent Departments. Also, a mechanism may need to be established to de-affiliate non-active members from the Centers.

She advised Dr. Rakesh Ganguly to incorporate the changes in the Policy, discuss it with the Deans, and bring it back to the AC in the next meeting.

Item No.16 To discuss and approve the proposal to Change in Residence requirement clause for Part-Time Ph.D. students

Dr. Karthik Krishnan, Associate Dean-Research, apprised the AC that changing residential requirement for Part-Time Ph.D. students is part of the proposed comprehensive review of Ph.D. regulations. The timeline for submitting the regulations after thorough revision is next month.

The Chairperson directed Dr. Krishnan that the proposed revision should include a comprehensive review of Ph.D. regulations for full-time and part-time students. The activity should be completed within the given timeline. In addition, the definition of 'residency' needs clarification, and it should be a SNU-specific definition.

The revised Ph.D. regulation can be tabled in the next AC meeting.

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Any other item with the permission of the Chair

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



Dr. Rupamanjari Ghosh
Chairperson, Academic Council