

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council held on 26th March '21

Meeting of the Academic Council of R. J College autonomous was held on 26th March 2020 at 2.00pm via online mode of Zoom platform. Chairman Dr. Himanshu Dawda first extended a warm welcome to all the members of the Academic Council which included the Vice Chancellor nominee, Governing body nominees, Industry Experts, Chairpersons of BoS in different subjects and teacher members and continued with the deliberation of the meeting. He also extended warm welcome to Ms Chayya Pinge- Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, Dr Neeta Srivastava, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Dr Baisakhi Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Geography as new Senior teacher members in place of Mr Ajit Limaye (superannuated), Dr Seema Ratnaparkhi (VRS) and Ms Ratna Jadhav .elevated as HoD, Physics Department.

Total Members present: 38

Dr Savita Ladage and Prin Dr B B Sharma, granted a leave of absent.
Invitees- Dr. Ram Sevak Dubey

Following members were present:

Chairman - Dr. Himanshu Dawda

Experts Nominated by Governing Body.

1. Dr. Rajendra Singh – Trustee Entrepreneur
2. Shri Umesh Singh – Industrialist
3. Prin. Dr Madhura Kalamkar, HVPS College of Law, Ghatkopar.

Vice Chancellor Nominee:

1. Prof. P.R.Vavia – Dean, Academics ICT, Mumbai.
2. Prof Dr B B Bhosale Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai

Four Senior Teachers from Teaching Staff:

1. Ms. Sunita Marrat
2. Ms Chhaya Pinge
3. Dr Neeta Srivastava
4. Dr Baisakhi Dutta

Faculty Member Nominated by the Principal (Member Secretary):

1. Capt. Pravin Nayak.

Head's & In-charge of various Departments (Chairman of respective BOS)

(Listed on the next page)

Sr. No.	Name	Department
1	I/C Principal Dr. Himanshu Dawda	Botany
2	Dr. Pratibha Sardesai	Zoology
3	Dr Ram Sevak Dubey	Chemistry
4	Ms. Ratna Jadhav	Physics
5	Ms. Jayashree Vaze	Statistics
6	Ms. Mary Jossey	Mathematics
7	Prof Dr Vilasini Patkar	Commerce
8	Dr Sucheta Joshi	Economics
9	Mr Jitendra Jha	Accountancy
10	Dr Kamalini Bandekar	Geography
11	Dr. Meher Mistry	History
12	Dr. Shashi Mishra	Sociology
13	Mr. Bhushan Arekar	Political Science
14	Dr Amita Valmiki	Philosophy & FC
15	Dr. Sneha Deuskar	Marathi
16	Dr. Neeta Chakravarty	English
17	Dr. Mithilesh Sharma	Hindi
18	Dr. Suchita Golwalkar	Biotechnology
19	Ms. Archana Bhide	Information Technology
20	Ms. Vaidhei Deshpande	Computer Science
21	Ms. Nandini Jagnaryan	Banking and Insurance
22	Ms. Kalaiselvi Nadar	Bachelor of Management Studies
23	MS Rekha Shetty	BAF
24	Ms Pooja Bhardwaj	BAMMC
25	Ms Soni Khemani	BVoc
26	Mr Akash Pursnani	MAEMA

The following business was then transacted:

Item 1: Conformation of minutes of the meeting held on 21st September, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were read and confirmed.

Item 2: Report on the deliberations made on revision of syllabus by respective BOS.

Item 2.1: In view of the revised syllabus for SYBSc undergraduate program in Botany which was accepted by the academic council in its meeting held on 21st September 2020 and to be implemented from 2021-22. With the change in the credits from 120 to 132, the first year batch of FYBSc Botany will have one credit in each semester of skill based course in computer literacy. These students when they progress to second year BSc in 2022-23 would have an opportunity to choose one subject specific elective from one among the six electives offered by the department. Further, the students will also be provided an opportunity to choose interdisciplinary elective.

Resolution 2.1: the recommendations made by the BoS in Botany were approved and passed unanimously

Item 2.2: The Board of Studies in Biotechnology in its meeting held on 20th February 2021 has revised the syllabus of First Year BSc Semester I and Semester II along with a skill based course of one credit in each semester. The chairman board of studies placed the syllabus for one year Post Graduate Diploma Program in 'Industrial safety & Hygiene' with intake capacity of 40 students and eligibility is graduates from any discipline. The total fees to be charged shall be Rs 26200/- with application form fees of Rs 150/-. Fees structure would be placed in the meeting of Finance Committee for their approval.

Resolution 2.2: It was resolved that the recommendations of BOS in Biotechnology for the revision in the syllabus of FYBSc Biotech and additional credits. **It was further resolved that the proposal to start PG Diploma program in 'Industrial safety & Hygiene' was unanimously accepted and passed. The syllabus of the same was also accepted and passed.**

Item 2.3: The Chairman, Board of Studies in Statistics placed the syllabus of Semester I, II, III, IV for the new program " MSc in Statistics", the proposal for which was unanimously approved and passed by the members of Academic council in its meeting held on 21st September, 2020.

Resolution 2.3: It was resolved that the syllabus for the MSc program in Statistics be accepted, approved and passed unanimously for its implementation as a new course from the academic year 2021-22. .

Item 2.4: The Board of Studies in Information Technology in its meeting held on 24th February 2021 approved the revision in FYBSc Semester I and Semester II syllabus both theory and practicals. The Chairman board of studies in Information Technology also presented the revisions in the syllabus of MSc Part I that were deliberated and recommended in the BoS meeting. In view of the increased demand and employability of students in the IT sector, the members of Board of Studies recommended an increase in having an additional batch of 60 students at UG and additional batch of 20 students at PG level.

Resolution 2.4: The members of the Academic Council unanimously accepted the recommendations made by the BoS in Information Technology in first year of UG and PG program

each and resolved that the revised syllabus be implemented from the academic year 2021-22. Recommended increase in student intake at both UG and PG level accepted and passed.

Item 2.5: The Board of studies in Computer Science in its meeting held on 27th February 2021 approved the revision in FYBSc Semester I and Semester II syllabus both theory and practicals. The Chairman board of studies in Computer Science also presented changes in the syllabus of MSc Part I that were deliberated and recommended in the BoS meeting. .

Resolution 2.5: The members of the Academic Council unanimously accepted the recommendations made by the BoS in Computer Science in the first year UG and PG program each and resolved that the revised syllabus be implemented from the academic year 2021-22.

Item 2.6: The Board of studies in History in its meeting held on 8th February 2021 deliberated and recommended the revision of curriculum at UG level for both FY and SY syllabus for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22.

Resolution 2.6: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in History be approved and accepted for the implementation from academic year 2020 – 21.

Item 2.7: The department of B.Voc. in its BOS meeting held on 23rd February 2021 deliberated and recommended the curriculum revision at all levels for all six semesters I, II, III, IV, V and VI. The board also recommended incorporation of an additional unit “Personality Enrichment” in Semester V curriculum.

Resolution 2.7: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in B.Voc be accepted and implemented from academic year 2021-22.

Item 2.8: The Board of Studies in Economics in its meeting held on 18th February 2021 deliberated and recommended the revision of curriculum of FYBA program for Semester I and II.

Resolution 2.8: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in Economics be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation.

Item 2.9: The Board of Studies in Commerce in its meeting held on 11th February 2021 recommended revision of curriculum for the FYBCom Program.

Resolution 2.9: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in Commerce be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation.

Item 2.10: The Board of Studies in Hindi in its meeting held on 22nd February 2021 recommended revision of curriculum in both Compulsory Hindi and Hindi Ancillary for the FYBA Program.

Resolution 2.10: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in Hindi be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22.

Item 2.11: The Board of Studies in Marathi in its meeting held on 25th February 2021 recommended revision of curriculum at First year level Semester I & II.

Resolution 2.11: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in Marathi be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22.

Item 2.12: The Board of Studies in Accountancy in its meeting held on 13th February 2021 recommended revision of curriculum at SYBCom Semester IV.

Resolution 2.11: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in Accountancy be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22.

Item 2.13: The Board of Studies in MAEMA program in its meeting held on 18th February 2021 recommended revision of curriculum at first year MA program.

Resolution 2.13: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in MAEMA be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22.

Item 2.14: The Board of Studies in Mathematics in its meeting held on 19th February 2021 recommended revision of curriculum for SYBSc in both the semesters.

Resolution 2.14: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in Mathematics be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22.

Item 2.15: The Board of Studies in Chemistry in its meeting held on 19th March 2021 recommended revision of curriculum at both UG and PG level. At UG level, curriculum revision for semesters of FYBSc and at PG level, revision of curriculum at Part I was recommended.

Resolution 2.15: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in Chemistry be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22.

Item 2.16: The Board of Studies in Philosophy in its meeting held on 9th February, 2021 recommended revision of curriculum for all semesters of UG program. The members of Board of Studies recommended starting of new program in BA-Psychology. This would be offered in the proposed additional division in the BA program with a student strength of 60 in the subject of Psychology. Since the BA Psychology program would be a self financed program, the fees structure is being forwarded to the Finance Committee for its approval.

Resolution 2.16: It was resolved that the recommendation made by the BOS in Philosophy for UG program be unanimously accepted and passed for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22.

It was resolved that the proposed new program in BA-Psychology to be offered as additional division be accepted and passed unanimously.

Item 3: Any Other Matter:

1. The I/C Principal & the Chairman consolidated the proposal received from different Board of Studies in terms of starting of new programs. BA in Psychology with an intake capacity of 60 in the additional division of 120 students on a self financed basis. The proposal for an additional batch for BSc IT with an additional intake of 60 and additional batch in MSc IT with an additional intake of 20. The recommendation of the Board of Studies in Zoology for an additional batch of 10 students for the specialization of Animal Physiology at the MSc program. The recommendations of Board of Studies in Biotechnology to start Post Graduate Diploma Course in 'Industrial safety & Hygiene' with intake capacity of 40.
2. To increase the number of credits from 120 to 132 for all the undergraduate programs to be implemented in a phase wise manner from 2021-22.
3. Scheme of evaluation: In view of the pandemic, continuous evaluation and semester end evaluation was conducted by online mode for UG programs. However, for PG programs, blended mode was adopted. The pandemic did not deter teachers from engaging students academically and making learning academically fruitful by evaluating the learner using MCQ, Video Quiz, Power point presentations, Video review, Report writing, Making of documentary and short films, Software projects, Scrapbook of news paper articles, Crosswords, Portfolio evaluation etc.
4. Arrangement of Terms for the Academic year 2020-21.
First term- August 7, 2020- December 31, 2020
Second Term – January 2, 2021- May 31, 2021.
The situation still being fluid, the arrangement of terms for the academic year 2021-22 will be decided in due course of time.
5. The I/C Principal & the Chairman shared with the members that all departments, through their departmental activities get automatically engaged in fulfilling the UGC Quality Mandate.
 1. **CARE- Consortium for Academic Research and Ethics-** student were motivated to participate in the Research Convention of the University of Mumbai 'Aavishkar', and National level 'Anveshan'. The Research Advisory Committee of the college organized Anusandhan- an academic engagement for UG/PG students in making presentation of the classic papers from different disciplines in their own words.
 2. **Social Responsibility and Community engagement-** the RJ-Rotract club organized 102 different programs which included reviving the college compost unit, colours festival to engage small children in drawing activity and the unique program of 'Sharing and Caring' and 'Gali Classes' specially designed to engage street children in learning ethics, good habits, hygiene and compassion.
 3. **SATAT-** Sustainable development-'SAFAI Bank' –an initiative to reduce use of plastics and proper disposal management of MLP is the initiative taking by the college involving large number of students. The college is recognized Social Entrepreneurship, Swachata & Rural Engagement cell (SES REC) institution.
 4. **Apprenticeship/ Internship embedded degree course-**At second year BMS program, internship is compulsory. In BVoc program, internship is a part of curriculum fulfilment. In majority of PG programs, intership is made compulsory. For the benefit of students, the college has tied up with *Internshala*- an internship partner which helps students in internship. Itsa platform where in 80.,000 companies are listed.
 5. **Good academic research practices-** the college gives seed money to the newly recruited young teachers to take up research with the facilities available on campus. This motivates them to then apply for university funded projects and confidently engage large

scale projects. All science departments are inducted under DBT Star College Scheme and four departments, namely, Botany, Zoology, Chemistry and Physics are already DBT Star departments. The funding under the scheme enables departments to give hands on training to students of UG class and involve them in small projects that imparts them skills.

6. **Paramarsh-** a unique initiative of UGC wherein NAAC accredited Institute identified by the UGC does mentoring of aspirant colleges for their NAAC accreditation. R J College has been identified as Mentor college and has five mentee colleges, of which Annalila college has already submitted their SSR.
 7. **Deeksharambh-** A week long induction program for new entrée FY students and three day induction program for SY and TY students is arranged by every department in the beginning of the academic year. There are sessions arranged for mental health, stress management, career opportunities and alumni interactions.
 8. **LOCF for UG education-** Learning Outcome Curriculum Framework has been taken up by all departments as a task to be fulfilled from immediate effect and the proposed progression from 120 to 132 credits is the first step towards it wherein, apart from curriculum enrichment and knowledge in the subject domain, the student will be empowered with more skills.
 9. **Jeevan Kaushal-** life skills – The partnership with TCS and TISS-NUSSD has widened the horizons for the students in terms of acquiring skill sets that makes them employable.
 10. **Evaluation reforms-** Under autonomy, the continuous mode of evaluation coupled with the online mode of teaching has brought in more than one evaluation reforms in testing student knowledge. Several modes of evaluation have been successfully used by departments.
 11. **Inclusion of Human values-** human values have been a part of first year BA,BSc, BCom Foundation course syllabus. In addition, all departments have been asked to design and deliver at least one value added course for their students before the end of current academic year. Departments can take up examples or models depicted in their own subjects and explain the importance of such values.
6. The Chairman gave an update of placement of students during the pandemic. Biotechnology, IT and CS students had impressive placement in their respective fields and research institutes. Many students got successful placement in companies like ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, Sutherland, L&T Info tech, IKEA, Qx Global, and Infosys. He further informed the members that TCS- a long time associate of R J College after successfully running ‘Campus to Corporate’ training programme for several years is currently engaging two batches of TYBCom students in ‘Youth Employability’. Bank of America has joined hands with R J College in training students for the job market and is currently running one batch of 40 trainees.

Dr Vavia, VC Nominee, inquired whether the students of Computer Science program do web page designing and is that evaluated by the department. The Chairman, Board of Studies in CS, Ms Vaidehi Deshpande replied that at second year level, students do learn web page designing and is evaluated too. Dr Vavia appreciated the efforts taken by each department in engaging students academically, creatively and in terms of fulfilling their societal responsibility. He expressed a concern for the youth of today and stated that in the prevailing situation wherein the social contact is lost with the youth, their campus activities have come to standstill and the interactive interface between the teacher as mentor and student as mentee has come to a standstill, we must find ways to keep the youth occupied. Dr Bhosale, VC Nominee, described the current time as the most challenging time wherein students are affected psychologically. As much as there is the need for them to be engaged, so is the need to engage them happily. The Chairman replied that every department is constantly in touch with their students and through online mode, all departmental festivals and association activities involving students has been successfully completed. Dr P Vavia

suggested that giving more focus on student improving the soft skills and technological developments in the field they wish to choose they can make themselves more employable.

There being no other matter, the meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

Date: 26/3/2021

Dr Himanshu Dawda
Chairman

