

Minutes of the Meeting of the Members of BoS in Botany 2021-2022

DATE: 27TH August 2021 DAY: FRIDAY TIMING: 11.00 AM via ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM

Meeting of the members of BoS in Botany was held on Friday, 27th August 2021 at 11am via Zoom Meeting Platform.

Following members were present:

1) Dr. Himanshu Dawda	Chairman
2) Dr. Nisha Muni	Member
3) Capt. Pravin Nayak	Member
4) Dr. Anil Avhad	Member
5) Dr. Veena Kelkar	Member
6) Dr. Dan Bahadur Singh	Member
7) Dr. Aruna Rai	VC Nominee
8) Dr. T.R Ganpathi	Subject Expert
9) Prof. Dr. Vinay Raole	Subject Expert – Other University
10) Dr. Priya Chatterjee	Illustrious Alumni and Industry Expert
11) Dr. Vaishali Gode	Alumni from the Industry facilitating Placement
12) Dr. Mrunalini Date	Subject Expert – Invitee
13) Dr. Usha Mukundan	Subject Expert - Invitee

Agenda

1. To read and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 02/03/2021.
2. To discuss revision of F.Y.B.Sc. Botany syllabus to be implemented from AY 2021-22.
3. To discuss revision of syllabus of PG Diploma Program – Horticulture & Landscape Gardening to be implemented from AY 2021-22
4. To present analysis of curriculum feedback by different stakeholders.
5. To share academic engagement of teachers from March-August 2021.
6. Any other matter.

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The Chairman introduced to the house the new members on the Board as the panel of experts has changed for the academic year 2021-22 after the completion of three years under Autonomy. He welcomed Dr. T.R. Ganpathi, Head, Plant Cell Culture Technology Section, Nuclear Agriculture and Biotechnology Division, BARC. His expertise in the field of genetic engineering of banana for the incorporation of useful genetic trait has been remarkable and his suggestions can be valuable to the board. He also welcomed the second expert from M S University of Baroda, Faculty of Science, Department of Botany, Prof. Dr. Vinay Raole. His contribution in the field of biodiversity conservation is known to the entire fraternity of Botany. In absence of new nomination received from Vice Chancellor, Dr. Aruna Rai continued to be on the panel as a VC Nominee, Subject Expert. Dr. Priya Chatterjee Head, Regulatory Affairs, South Asia, at Bayer Healthcare was welcomed as Alumni from the industry facilitating placement. He also welcomed Dr. Vaishali Gode, Product Development and Nourishment, Nature Care and Advanced Te Head, Marico Mumbai as an Illustrious Alumni and industry expert. Dr. Mrunalini Date and Dr. Usha Mukundan, Ex- Faculty of the Department who have nurtured the department for several decades were welcome by the Chairman as Subject Experts – Invitee on the subject board.

Item 1. The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March, 2021 were read and confirmed.

Item 2. The Chairman placed a proposal for the revision of FYBSc Botany syllabus for its implementation from the academic year 2021-22 with the incorporation of topics that would not only generate interest in the subject for the student but would also impart the learner the knowledge of importance of plant in human life, human welfare and human nutrition. This included the incorporation of topics like study of Dermatophytes, i.e. Causative organisms and Control measures of Candidiasis and dandruff, Study of enzymes in relation to metabolism, Mycorrhizal associations and their agricultural applications, Medicinal Botany and human welfare and detailed study on beverage like, Cocoa in terms of its history, origin, processing and production of chocolates. The chairman, on behalf of his whole team of teachers in the department expressed a view that the proposed changes will help the student to connect dynamism of plant kingdom with their day to day life. Dr. T.R. Ganpathi welcomed the changes and suggested to have more details added regarding Cell Biology. Dr. Raole emphasized on creating awareness among students by adding more topics on Plant Biodiversity and conservation in future revision of SY and TY syllabus. Experts appreciated the efforts taken by the department to incorporate applied aspects of the subjects and suggested to explore the possibility to include Green House technology in the syllabus.

Item 3. A copy of revised syllabus of PG Diploma Program in 'Horticulture and Landscape Gardening' was deliberated, approved and passed by the members of BoS.

Item 4. The Chairman presented to the house the analysis of the curriculum feedback taken from different stakeholders like alumni, peer teachers, industry and students. All the stakeholders expressed satisfaction in terms of required blending of basics and applied aspects of the subject in the curriculum. Feedback from the Industry Experts emphasized on including more of the applied aspects of the subject so as to increase employability of students. Peer teachers suggested to have more topics related to Morphology and Taxonomy so that students as botany graduates learn to identify plants. Students, both current and alumni, appreciated the wide choice of different units covering all aspects of the subject. The experts on BoS appreciated the efforts taken by the department to obtain the feedback of the curriculum and stressed upon aspects like personality development skills and communication skills also to become a part of curriculum as these are important graduate student attributes.

Item 5. Every member of the department shared with the house their academic engagement for the past six months. They briefed the house regarding the online FDPs completed by them on content making, content delivery and different modes of evaluation. With individual incharge ship given to every teacher, the department completed three value added Courses, Bridge course, Remedial course, identification of slow and fast learner, Alumni engagement, DBT Star college practicals and one annual activity of the department namely, Dr. D. V. Amonkar Memorial Intercollegiate Elocution Competition.

Item 6. Any other matter

The chairman informed the members that in the BoS meeting held prior to the pandemic, an approval was obtained to dedicate one entire Semester of PG program to the internship. This would give student a necessary industry and research exposure working away from the campus. The evaluation shall be combined evaluation by participatory organisation and the student mentor in the department. However, due to imposed lockdown, this change could not be facilitated and was put on hold for the year 2021. It was decided in this BoS meeting that the dedicated internship semester shall be applicable from the academic year 2021-2022.

Chairman also gave an update on subject specific elective modules which departmental colleagues are preparing. These subject specific electives have to be introduced from Academic year 2022-2023 at SY level to fit in the progression from existing 120 credits to 132 credits in three years starting from 2021-2022. Allotment of electives and deadline of 31st December, 2021 was communicated to the teachers in the previous BoS meeting.

The experts with their wide academic and research experience gave the following valuable suggestions which the department would consider from immediate effect.

1. Prof. Dr. Vinay Raole suggested that in light of NEP, entire UG syllabus should be revisited and a grid that would accommodate the comprehensive learning of each topic matching with the learning ability of the learner at different levels of study should be prepared.
2. Dr. Aruna Rai expressed a concern with regards to how to ensure involvement of every student in correct identification of the plants. She in fact suggested to have a separate group formed of students with wider interest in study of plant Morphology and Taxonomy. They can be then taken for more field visits and collection sites to support their interest.
3. Experts suggested to have QR Codes for the tree species of campus plants to start with. That would generate curiosity based learning among the students and would also help in subject reaching out to wider populations.
4. While appreciating the efforts taken by the department for alumni engagement with the students, Dr. T. R Ganpathi suggested to make more use of social media platforms to reach out yet wider illustrious alumni of the department.
5. Experts suggested effective use of 'Labster' as virtual Science Lab till the academic activities go back to offline mode of teaching and laboratory work.

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