

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY held on 29th March 2022

A meeting of members of Governing Body of R J College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), also known as Hindi Vidya Prachar Samiti's Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous) affiliated to the University of Mumbai held on 29th March 2022 at 11 am via Zoom meeting platform.

The following members were present:

1. Dr. Rajendra Singh (Management, Chairperson of the meeting)
2. Prof Dr. Namita Singh (UGC Nominee)
3. Principal Dr. Sonali Pednekar (University Nominee)
4. Dr. Sonali Rode (State Government Nominee)
5. Shri. Alok Kumar Saboo (Management Nominee)
6. Shri Chandra Mohan (Management Nominee)
7. Shri. Umesh Singh (Management Nominee)
8. Shri. Rajdeep Singh (Management Nominee)
9. Dr. Usha Mukundan (Management Nominee)
10. Shri. Aditendra P. Sengar (Industrialist- Member)
11. Dr. Amita Valmiki (Teacher of the College- Member)
12. Dr. Shashi Mishra (Teacher of the College- Member)
13. Dr. Himanshu Dawda (Principal of the College)

The following business was then transacted:

Item1: Minutes of the seventh Governing Body meeting held on 28/10/2021 were read

Resolution 1: The minutes of the meeting held on 28/10/2021 were confirmed and passed.

Item 2: The recommendation made by subject BoS and further approval by the Academic Council meeting held on 24/03/2022 were presented by the Principal.

- a) The revision of syllabus at the First year study program Semester I & II of Philosophy was proposed and further approved by the Academic Council and unanimously passed.
- b) The revision of syllabus at the Second year syllabus of Semester III & IV of Botany, Chemistry, Commerce, Accountancy, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Sociology, Philosophy, Psychology, English and Marathi was proposed by the BoS and further approved by the Academic Council and unanimously passed.
- c) The revision of the Third year syllabus Semester V & VI of Mathematics was proposed by the BoS and further approved and unanimously passed by the Academic Council.
- d) The revised syllabus at Post Graduate level in Chemistry, Zoology, Hindi (Part II), Biotechnology, Information Technology and Data Science and Artificial Intelligence by respective BoS was approved by the Academic Council and unanimously passed.
- e) In view of increase in the supervisors in the department of Chemistry, proposal to increase seats from 5 to 10 was unanimously approved and passed by the Academic Council members.

Resolution 2: After a long fruitful discussion the following resolution was passed. "Resolved that all recommendations made by the respective subject BoS and duly passed by the Academic Council be accepted and the same is passed to be implemented from the academic year 2022-2023."

Item 3: The minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council held on 24/03/2022 were presented for its approval by the members of the Governing Body.

Resolution 3: The members of the Governing Body unanimously approved and passed the minutes of the Academic Council held on 24/03/2022.

Item 4: Report of IQAC from the period of 1st November 2021 to 28th March 2022.

The Principal informed the members that the vibrant IQAC of R J College meets every 1st Thursday of the month to plan the activities previously planned. The policy of IQAC has always been inclusive wherein every department, every association, every teacher and every student play equal role in academic pursuit of the college.

In association with Research Advisory Committee (RAC), IQAC conducted Two Days Workshop for UG and PG students on Scientific writing, video competition for students on recent documentaries and encouraged students and teachers to participate in research conventions like *Aavishkar* and *Anveshan*. A unique activity of RAC that is always supported by IQAC is *Anusandhan* a classic paper presentation by students.

In association with different departments IQAC conducted celebration of National Science Day, World Computer Literacy Day, National Tourism Day, Republic Day, World Wetland Day, World Water Day, World Wildlife Day, National Law Day, Birthday of Savitribai Phule and International Women's Day, International Day for Persons with Disabilities, National Mathematics Day, *Bhasha Samwardhan Pakwada* etc. Every department also organizes their Annual Festival and a Two Day College Festival called Reflection was also organized in a blended mode.

In association with Placement Cell, Three days Four sessions Workshop for all TY students on aspects of soft skills and life skills was organized. Barclays Bank organized employability training program for R J students as a part of CSR activity.

Several societal outreach programs were organized by NCC, NSS, DLLE and Rotaract Club of the college in association with IQAC. This included vaccination drive with BMC, Ration distribution to Mumbai Dabbawalas, Blood donation Camp awareness on Thalassemia, workshop on Mental Health in association with TISS and "Talk to your Doctor" session for girls on gynecological issues.

In today's time when students scroll up and down in reading literature on computer scree rather than right to left from pages of book the Central Library organized a Virtual Tour of Library for students so that they understand the book wealth of the library. Two days Library Book Exhibition was organized where students were on campus for offline mode of teaching in the months of December to created love for books among students.

IQAC during this period also organized several programs fitting into *Aazadi ka Amrut Mohotsav*. FDPs for teachers, FDP of CAS for professional post, Positive Thinking and No Stress at Workplace for Non-teaching staff. Several MoUs were also signed for

empowerment of teachers and students and through PAVO Nature Club department of Botany generated QR Code for trees of BMC Gardens.

Item 5: Approval of e-Governance Policy and Policy of Inclusion of People with Disabilities on campus and Ph.D Coursework.

The Chairman informed the members that higher education in the country has undergone radical change in the past two decades. The boundaries of the classroom are now beyond the walls of the classroom and hence the process of character building, research, work culture, staff and student satisfaction, societal obligation and care for the environment has become the part and parcel of the process of teaching learning evaluation. New and innovative means as per the need of the time has become institutional obligation.

He presented two policies adopted by the institution for its approval by the Governing Body. The first policy presented was e-Governance Policy which seems as a starting point for the dream of the institution for having Digi Campus. It aims at bringing Efficiency, Transparency, Accountability, Paperless communication, Quick and secure information access making the institution visible globally.

The second policy for Policy of Inclusion of People with Disabilities on campus aims at promoting the rights and dignity of each individual. It indirectly helps to build the values of love, compassion, equality and injustice through elimination of social exclusion among our students.

Principal also shared with the members that the RAC of the college has meticulously designed the Ph.D coursework of 12 credits as a prerequisite for Ph.D of a candidate through RJC Research Centre. Four credits shall be assigned to one or more course on research methodology. Two credits with a component of Research ethics is made compulsory. For the remaining six credits, candidate shall complete coursework restricted to his or her specific research in consultation with Research Supervisor. The coursework may be completed in the research center or outside but in the initial I or II Semesters

Item 6: Update on NOC obtained for promotion of Non-teaching staff.

Principal informed the members that from the Joint Directors Office, Mumbai Region NOC for the promotion of Non teaching staff in the Post of Office Superintendent – 1, Head Clerk – 1 and Senior Clerk – 4. The process of promotion as per government norms have been initiated and the due procedure including CR is being forwarded.

Item 7: Update on promotion of teachers under CAS and appointment of Contractual teachers.

Principal informed the members for teacher promotion under CAS, three teachers- Dr. Rina Puradkar (Department of Philosophy), Dr. Sandesh Divekar (Department of Mathematics) and Dr. Bindu Achary (Department of Zoology) defended their promotion. The Scrutiny Committee and the Selection Committee as and where

applicable were constituted under University directives and the reports were sent to the University authorities for their kind perusal and further approval.

The Chairman informed the members that from 2016, there has been no NOC and as a result, 33 out of 99 sanctioned post in teaching staff and 40 out of 120 in non-teaching staff are vacant. As a stop gap arrangement those remaining no. of contractual appointments have been made by the management for the smooth functioning of academic activities.

In the self-financed program however, all the sanctioned posts are filled and the approval of teachers is obtained from the University authorities.

Item 8: Update on appointment of Principal from 01/04/2020

The Chairman informed the members that on superannuation of Principal Dr. Usha Mukundan on 31/03/2020, the procedure for appointment of new Principal was initiated by the Scrutiny Committee in its meeting held on 21/03/2020. However, due to imposed lockdown, the procedure for the final interview could not happen and Dr. Himanshu Dawda continued as the I/C Principal with every six months appointment from the University for Inchargeship. Finally, on 17/12/2021, the interview for the Principal's post was successfully completed and I am happy to share with you that University approval with its letter dated 14/03/2022, appointment of Dr. Himanshu Govindji Dawda as Principal of R J College has been approved by the University with effect from 20/12/2021.

Item 9: Update on UGC Funds allocated under Autonomy and proposed budget of 2022-2023 passed by the Finance Committee.

No UGC funds are received for the year 2020-2021. However, as per the proposed budget approved by the Finance Committee in its sixth meeting the expenditure statement with utilization Certificate has been submitted to the University for reimbursement. He further updated members that the proposed UGC budget for the year 2022-2023 under Autonomy has been approved by the Finance Committee in its meeting held on 25/03/2022. Also the marginal fee increase in all UG and PG programs that was passed by the Finance Committee before pandemic but put on hold due to pandemic in the year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 will be now applicable from the coming academic year 2022-2023.

Item 10: Any other matter.

Principal presented the arrangement of Terms as received from the University. Academic year 2022-2023 shall commence from 13th June 2022 and end on 1st May 2023. He also shared the mid term break of Ganapati Festival, Diwali vacation, winter break of Christmas. He further shared with the members that the academic calendar for the first half of 2022-2023 is made available on the college website.

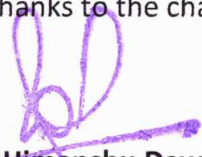
Principal shared with the member that in the changed timings after post pandemic the blended mode of teaching as it appears to be the new mode will be used by the college for the content delivery of Discipline Specific Electives (DSEs). 2022-2023 being the

first year of DSE, it would restrict to the students of their respective subject but in due course of time it would be made interdisciplinary too. Teachers have been proactively using the multiple modes of evaluation which helps in serving the purpose of continuous evaluation and helps out in easing burden of students of learning large curriculum at one time. He further expressed a wish that all PG departments introduced Semester based internships for their students like the departments of Biotechnology, Botany, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Environmental Science and Disaster Management are currently doing. He also stated that with new NEP the college will have to revisit its strategic plan to be able to fulfill the objectives of NEP which focus and emphasizes on student centric learning.

Principal Dr. Sonali Pednekar appreciated the college for their continuous efforts in academic engagement of students in a manner that results in holistic personality development of the students. Dr. Namita Singh appreciated the efforts made by each department in designing of DSEs and expressed a wish that the modules are delivered timely and in a effective manner to support the institutional efforts in providing skill based learning. She further showed interest in having a list of DSEs which she would study and conveyed her expression on the same.

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

Date: 29/03/2022


Dr. Himanshu Dawda
Principal

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