

St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad-9

Minutes of the Academic Council meeting No. 4 held on February 20, 2016

Meeting No.4 of the Academic Council was held on February 20, 2016 in the board room of St Xavier's College, Ahmedabad. A few members could not attend owing to other seminars/conventions held across Gujarat on the same day. Fr Principal conducted the meeting.

1.0 Welcome extended to the member attending the meeting by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed all the members. A few members could not join as they were out of town.

2.0 Approval of the minutes of earlier meeting.

The members approved of the minutes of the earlier meeting and Dr Sebastian was asked to forward the recommended modifications incorporated, in the proposal.

3.0 Inducting new members to the Academic Council due to retirement of HoD of English

Prof. Arti Kumar is appointed as the new Head of the Department of English. She has been appointed as a new member to the Academic Council in place of Dr Sarvar Sherry Chand.

4. Scrutinize and approve the syllabus

4.0. Syllabus scrutinized by various BoS for the following courses were presented to the academic council; BA Journalism and Mass communication; BCom BPS, Sem 3 and 4 of BSc Biotechnology, Chemistry for BSc Biotechnology, Sem 5, 6 of BSc Physics, Sem 5,6 of BSc Electronics, Sem 5,6 of Mathematics, Sem 1,2,3,4 of MSc Physics, Sem 2,3,4 of MSc Biochemistry, MSc BDA

4.1. The course of BA journalism and Mass Communication: syllabus for the first two semesters were presented. However, one of the member pointed out that without including visual media and social media, the degree course will be incomplete, and this can enhance the employability. The Council also expressed desire to have an overall picture of the course, since it is a new degree course rather than a diploma.

4.2. BCom.BPS another new course to be introduced. This is initiated by TCS who are currently running this course successfully in a few colleges nationally. TCS will help in running of the course financially as well as in training of staff along with providing certain equipments. One of the committee member suggested that an institution like Xavier's should focus less on employability and more on offering challenging courses for students to be thinkers of future and policy makers. May be skill development and employability training should be offered only to average students.

4.3. MSc Physics is being planned for which the syllabus was proposed for all 4 semesters. Dr Abijit Sen thought the syllabus content appeared good but emphasized on certain other issues such as assessment based on homework, more exams, seminar based teaching, more home works, stress on self study by students, colloquiums, and a new exam pattern if possible. He suggested that learning should be based on problem solving and budgetary allocation should be included in the course outline. It was also suggested that there is a need to update reference section and by March 10, it can be done. Dr Abhijit agreed look into the syllabus closely, based on which a green signal can be given.

However because of certain logistic problem such as provisions of new experiments requiring new instruments, lab space etc the course can start from 2017-18 academic year.

Fr.Lancy then suggested to Dr Rajesh Iyer to re-send the proposal for equipments, which would be put before the Management.

4.4 Another new course – Big Data Analysis designed by TCS will also be started from the coming academic year. This is also designed to increase the student employability. TCS themselves will absorb the students passing out assuring this for at least the next 10 years.

Dr Noronha had some questions such as if TCS would also pay to which Fr. Principal said that TCS would pay a lump sum of 25 lakhs. Dr Noronha was also skeptical of the course as BPS, he considered was not something that students would like to continue as these are clerical jobs. Also in these times of recession will TCS comply with their promise of absorbing these students. In this regard, he felt that the fees burden on the students should be reduced further and TCS should be asked to pay more.

4.5 Syllabi of other BSc courses for Mathematics, Physics, Biotechnology, and Electronics were also put before the members. Any suggestions in this regard will have to be sent to Dr Sebastian by 10th of march. BSc Biotechnology, Sem-3and 4 syllabus proposed. Any other suggestions in this regard to be sent to Dr.Sebastian by March 10th.

5. Briefing on various developments in recent past

Other academic achievements were listed by Fr. Robert – Rs 90 lakhs grant by DST for college. Also Fr Herbert D’Souza lecture was held in which Dr Rajeev Malhotra was the speaker. Regarding the administrative Section ERP a software has been implemented. Dr Nirmal Desai, CoE mentioned that gradually this system would track the students whole profile here at the college.

5.1 Certain new combinations were also discussed and approved by the members such as

Maths –Stats- Computers

Stats-Maths-Computers

Physics-Electronics-Computers

Electronics –Physics-Computers

This would help the physics dept to reduce their overload for practicals. As govt. does not pay for Computer teacher, hence to compensate for this the students for these courses will be asked to pay an additional amount of 3000 rupees.

5.2. Another new combination, as requested by students is the Economics- Statistics, but the name for the course and the eligibility of students were discussed. But nothing was finalized regarding this.

5.3. There was some concern shown by members about the status of students with the Guj. Univ. MSc admissions. CoE clarified that since these students are enrolled with GU so it should not really matter and students will not be compromised for their further admissions to PG courses. Moreover, enrollment number is given by GU, our credit structure is same as that of GU, and Hon.VC is in our Governing Body.

5.4. Other logistics development taking place in college is the changing of gas pipeline to that of Adani Gas and also work is currently going on for Reliance Communication for installing Wi-Fi in the campus.

6. Dr. Sebastian discussed the Academic Calendar of 2016-17 and pointed out that there will be 85 and 82 working days for odd and even semesters, respectively. Some concern regarding this was shown by Fr. Saldanha which was addressed to by Dr Sebastian.

7. Fr Robert indicated that In house evaluation of various courses will be taken up in the next academic council meeting.

8. Members were also asked to give suggestions for reconstituting the next Academic council as the term comes to an end in June 2016.

9. It was decided that the next meeting will be on *August 13, Saturday 2016*

The meeting concluded by Fr. Lancelot D’Cruz proposing the vote of thanks.

C.C.

1. Fr Robert Arockiasamy, S.J., Principal, St. Xavier’s College
2. Dr Nisha Shah, Dept of Chemistry, Gujarat University
3. Dr Hyacinth Highland, Dept. of Zoology, Gujarat University
4. Dr Manubhai Makwana, Dept. of Sociology, Gujarat University
5. Dr Sudhir K Jain, Director, IIT Gandhinagar
6. Dr Alok Dhawan, Director, Institute of Life Sciences
7. Dr Ernesto Noronha, Professor, IIMA
8. Dr Malay Mahadevia, Whole Time Director, Adani Infrastructure
9. Mr Pankaj Mudholkar , Director, Aakruti promotions & Media Ltd
10. Dr Abhijit Sen, Ex-Director, Plasma Research,
11. Mr Janmejyay Vyas, Managing Director, Dishman Pharma
12. Ms Aditi Vyas, MD, Azafran group
13. Fr Vincent Saldanha, Management Representative
14. Dr Lancelot D’Cruz, Dept of Botany, St Xavier’s College
15. Dr Nirmal Desai (CoE), Dept of Chemistry, St Xavier’s College
16. Prof Ami Shah, Dept of Economics, St Xavier’s College
17. Dr Sarvar Sherry Chand, Dept of English, St Xavier’s College
18. Prof Puransinh Makwana, Dept of Gujarati-Hindi, St Xavier’s College
19. Dr Khushnuma Banaji, Dept of Psychology, St Xavier’s College

20. Dr Shuchita Mehta, Dept of Sanskrit, St Xavier's College
21. Dr Sudeshna Menon, Dept of Biochemistry, St Xavier's College
22. Dr Atul Makwana, Dept of Chemistry, St Xavier's College
23. Fr David K Roy, Department of Computer Sciences, St Xavier's College
24. Dr Rajesh Iyer, Dept of Physics-Electronics St Xavier's College
25. Dr Udayan Prajapati, Dept of Mathematics, St Xavier's College
26. Dr UB Gothi, Dept of Statistics, St Xavier's College
27. Prof Bhadauria, St Xavier's College
28. Prof M.C. Patel, St Xavier's College
29. Dr Sharad Sondarva, Dept of Biology, St Xavier's College
30. Dr Mallika Sanyal, Member Secretary, St Xavier's College
31. Dr Sebastian V, IQAC Coordinator, St Xavier's College