



St. Philomena's College (Autonomous), Mysore

Minutes of the 20th Academic Council Meeting

Date: January 29, 2024

Venu: College Auditorium

Time: 2:30 PM

The 20th Academic Council (AC) meeting of St. Philomena's College (Autonomous), Mysore, was held on 29th January 2024 at 2:30 PM in the college auditorium.

The following members were present:

And, the following members were absent:

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome and an introductory note by Dr. Ravi J D Saldanha., Principal of the College. He highlighted the 78 years of academic excellence and the institution's legacy in upholding academic integrity. He emphasized the importance of the Academic Council in approving, ratifying, and proposing necessary changes to maintain academic standards.

The Principal, in his welcome note, expressed gratitude to the outgoing members Dr. Saraswathi, Prof. Cletus J.M. D'Souza, Prof. K.S. Suresh, and Mr. Vishwa Prasad Alva for their contributions and welcomed the new members Sr. Juanita, Dr. D.S. Guru, Prof. S.J. Manjunath, and Mr. Sukumar Rangachari, encouraging them to contribute to the institution's academic excellence.

The Principal extended a special welcome to Prof. S.N. Hegde acknowledging his continuous guidance and wisdom in the council since the college attained autonomy.

Prof. M. Nagaraj Urs, Academic Dean, was invited to present the proposed agenda for discussion, deliberation, and approval.

Agenda 1: Approval of the Minutes of the 19th Academic Council Meeting

The minutes of the 19th Academic Council Meeting held on 5th July 2024 were presented for approval. It was proposed by Prof. Anand D., and seconded by Dr. D.S. Guru.

Decision: Approved

Agenda 2: Approval of the Programme structure for various Undergraduate Programmes in Arts, Science, Commerce and Management framed by University of Mysore from the academic year 2024-25 (Circular No: AC 2 (S)/07/2024-25, dated 23.05.2024).

The programme structures for B.Sc., B.A., B.Com., BBA, BCA, BBATH, and BSW were proposed, with all programs structured to 23 credits in the first semester. The evaluation pattern was outlined as follows:

$C1 + C2 = 10 + 10$, $C3 = 80$ (for 3-credit and above papers)

$C1 + C2 = 5 + 5$, $C3 = 40$ (for papers with less than 3 credits)

During the discussion, Dr. Prasanth, the Arts Stream Special Invitee, raised concerns about the major courses carrying 5 credits instead of 6 credits, suggesting a need for revision. In response, Prof. Anand D. recommended adhering to the university framework while allowing adjustments to be justified at the respective Board of Studies (BOS) meetings. Additionally, Prof. Nagaraj Urs expressed concerns regarding credit compatibility with UUCMS if such changes were made.

Decision: Approved with recommendations to align with university guidelines.

Agenda 3: Approval to introduce the following course components to BA, B.Sc, B. Com, BSW, BCA, BBA and BBATH programmes from the academic year 2024-25.

- i. New curriculum for I and II semesters approved in the respective BOS meetings of the college as per the University of Mysore circular no :AC2(s)/07/2024-25, dated: 23.05.2024

Decision: Approved and ratified.

- ii. 30% revised NEP-2020 Curriculum for V and VI semesters for UG programmes approved in the respective BOS meetings of the College.

Decision: Approved and ratified.

Agenda 4:

- i. Approval to introduce the 30% revised curriculum for all the LOCF 2020-21 PG programmes approved in the respective BOS meetings of the college
- ii. Approval to introduce the curriculum for the new course M.Sc in Food Science and Nutrition Programme.

Decision: Ratified.

Agenda 5: Approval of New Open Elective Courses

Prof. Guru proposed changing the title of the proposed open elective course "**Physics for All.**"

Decision: Approved with a change of title.

Agenda 6: Approval to introduce Internship as a mandatory component to the semester VI students under NEP 2020 curriculum (University of Mysore circular No: AC 2 (S)/525/2009- 10; dated 29.02.2024).

The discussion on internships began with Mr. Sukumar Rangachari stating that internships could be undertaken at any organization. Dr. Anjali raised concerns about logistical

challenges and suggested that internships be conducted at department-related industries or organizations. In response, the Principal clarified that students themselves would handle logistics. Prof. Anand D. emphasized the significance of internships as per the NEP and stressed that they must be conducted outside the campus for a minimum duration of 3 weeks. Dr. Ananth highlighted practical difficulties and suggested inviting industries to stay connected with the institution. At this juncture, Mr. Cutinha requested Dr. Isaac to share the implementation and success of internships in the MBA program. Dr. Isaac explained that they successfully placed 60 students in 30-day internships.

Dr. Anjali pointed out space constraints and recommended that students be sent for internships throughout the year to manage the volume efficiently. Dr. Seema, Head of the Department of Food and Nutrition, suggested reconsidering the existing low credit allocation and making internships a regular part of the curriculum. Ms. Gloria, Head of the Computer Science Department, raised concerns about students obtaining internships through payment rather than actual work experience. She recommended internships in fields like digital marketing, e-billing, tally, paint mixing, and schools to ensure practical exposure. Mr. Sukumar appreciated this as an innovative approach.

The Rector supported these discussions, noting that the final semester was well-structured to accommodate the proposed changes. Prof. Hegde emphasized the need to streamline internship processes and encouraged faculty to build strong industry contacts to facilitate better opportunities. Dr. Noor Mubasheer, PG Coordinator, inquired about the assessment process and asked Prof. Anand D. how it would be conducted at the 8th and 16th weeks?. In response, Prof. Anand D. stated that students would be required to maintain a work diary assessed for 50 marks and submit a final report with an interaction-based evaluation for another 50 marks, suggesting this as a best practice. Dr. Mohan Monteiro illustrated how internships play a crucial role in securing good placements. Concluding the discussion, Prof. Anand D. reiterated the necessity of internships, stating that this was why they were made mandatory.

Decision: Approved with enhanced monitoring measures.

Agenda 7: Approval to introduce an exclusive Indian Knowledge System (IKS) paper/ course of one credit to the students from the academic year 2025-26, in addition to the IKS components in the existing curriculum.

The Academic Dean proposed a 1-credit course on Indian Knowledge System (IKS), and Prof. Thomas, the IQAC Coordinator, provided a briefing on the same. During the discussion, Prof. Anand D. suggested increasing the credit allocation to 2 to enhance its academic value. Mr. Sade Bose, Head of the Kannada Department, pointed out that IKS was already integrated into the existing curriculum. In response, Mr. Cutinha emphasized the importance of the course, while Dr. Guru added that IKS is already a part of the NEP scheme and suggested offering it to non-NEP students in higher semesters. Prof. Anand D. recommended sending a proposal to the CDC office and obtaining approval from the Board of Studies (BOS).

Decision: Approved

Agenda 8: Approval to apply necessary changes in the evaluation pattern of all existing PG programmes [60% External Evaluation and 40% Internal Evaluation & Review system].

Dr. Venugopal Gowda, Head of the PG Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, requested reconsideration of the proposal due to practical difficulties in arranging external evaluation. Dr. Felan Amal, Head of the PG Department of Physics, added that this challenge stems from specialization courses in PG programs, where fewer courses carry more credits. Dr. Guru suggested that if external evaluation must be implemented, a minimum of 50% external evaluation should be ensured.

Decision: Minimum 50% evaluation must be external.

Agenda 9: Any other matter with the permission of the chair.

Dr. Guru requested a presentation on institutional research progress. The Principal briefed the council on ongoing research initiatives, including RDC initiatives and seed money projects. Dr. Felan Amal highlighted that end-semester projects often lead to research publications. Dr. Asha, Head, PG Department of Chemistry presented the progress in her department.

Ms. Reena Mol, Head of the MCA Department, requested clarity on the PG evaluation review system.

Decision: Existing guidelines to be followed.

The Principal thanked all members for their active participation.

The meeting concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Felan Amal.

Minutes Recorded by: Dr. Felan Amal, Head, PG Department of Physics

Date: January 29, 2024