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MINUTES OF THE 14TH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF SCHOOL OF SCIENCES HELD ON 5TH JULY, 1996 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF BLOCK-8 AT IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068.

The following members were present:

1. Prof. R.K. Bose Chairman
2. Prof. Shakti R. Ahmed
3. Prof. A.W. Joshi
4. Prof. V.C. Nanda
5. Prof. I.A. Niazi
6. Prof. Vijay V. Mandke
7. Dr. Masood Parvez
8. Dr. Javed A. Farooqi
9. Dr. S.S. Hasan
10. Dr. Poornima Mital
11. Dr. Amrita Nigam
12. Prof. B.S. Saraswat
13. Dr. Vijayshri
14. Dr. S. Kannan (Special Invitee)

The following members could not attend the meeting.

1. Prof. Devesh Kishore
2. Dr. S. Peppin

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members, and in particular, the new members from IGNOU. Prof. J. Jha, PVC-III, in-charge of our School was present and School Board members were introduced to him. After a brief speech by Prof. Jha, the agenda items were taken up for consideration.

Item No.1 To confirm the minutes of the 13th meeting of the

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School Board of the School of Sciences held on 18th October, 1995.

14.1.1 The minutes were confirmed after the following modification in 13.2.1.

"The name of the additional Course Writer for the course "Plant Diversity-II" was approved as proposed.

Item No.2. To consider the award of Bachelor's Degree with major in a subject on qualifying 40 credit courses (S.R. & E Division).

14.2.1. The Chairman pointed out some factual errors in the note sent by S.R. & E. Division and clarified the position.

The Academic Council at its meeting held on March 4, 1993 confined its consideration of major to disciplines in B.A. only. Also for qualifying for award of major in a particular discipline in B.A., the Academic Council approved that a student has to successfully complete 48 credits worth of courses including a related AOC.

For B.Sc., Academic Council in its meeting held on Oct. 5, 1995 approved the majoring scheme for science disciplines as approved by the School Board in its 11th meeting.

Further, the following interim arrangement for majoring was proposed and approved by the Board.

(i) For Physics Discipline - 40 credits of PHE courses + 8 credits of AHE-1 till 48 credits of PHE courses are

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available.

(ii) For Life Sciences Discipline - 40 credits of LSE courses + 8 credits of AHE-1.

(Life Sciences Discipline recommended the following nomenclature:

"B.Sc. with specialisation in Life Sciences" in stead of Major till the time the discipline restructures the Life Sciences electives).

Item No.3 To consider the guidelines for a five point grading system circulated by Distance Education Council (S.R. & E. Division).

14.3.1. After some discussion it was decided that a sub-committee constituted by the School Board with Prof. B.S. Saraswat as convenor would look into it and submit a report which will be placed before the next meeting of the School Board.

Item No.4 To consider the amendment to clause (2)(c) of Statute 10A (Registrar, Administration).

14.4.1. This matter was placed before the School Board earlier and it was decided to retain the decision taken concerning this.

Item No.5 To recommend to the Vice-Chancellor the name of the Editor of Animal Diversity-II.

14.5.1 The name of the Editor of Animal Diversity-II was approved as proposed.

Item No.6 To recommend to the Vice-Chancellor the name of course writers of LSE-14 (Part A, 2 credits).

14.6.1 The names of the course writers of LSE-14 (Part A, 2

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credits) were approved as proposed.

Item No.7 To recommend to the Vice-Chancellor the names of the Course Writers for Physics elective course "Physics of Solids".

14.7.1. The names of the alternative/additional Course Writers for the Physics elective course "Physics of Solids" were approved as proposed.

Item No.8 To recommend to the Vice-Chancellor the names of the paper setters, moderators and evaluators (including for the Project) for AMT-1, "Teaching of Primary School Mathematics".

14.8.1 The names of the paper setters, moderators and evaluators (including for the project) for AMT-1 were approved as proposed.

Item No.9 To report on the conduct of COL-Commonwealth Secretariat Workshop on Laboratory Technicians' Programme and to consider the approval for the Certificate Programme for Laboratory Assistants working in senior secondary schools and colleges.

14.9.1. Dr. S. Kannan, Coordinator, COL-Commonwealth Secretariat Workshop on the Laboratory Technicians' Programme, presented the salient features of the pre-workshop seminar and the workshop. It was pointed out that the faculty of the School of Sciences after prolonged deliberations prior to the workshop came to the conclusion that the materialsent by COL after suitable modification could be used to offer a

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Certificate Programme for training the laboratory staff working in senior secondary schools and colleges. The faculty suggested that the material could be divided into the following four courses:

1. Laboratory Organisation, Management and Safety
2. Laboratory Techniques (Chemistry)
3. Laboratory Techniques (Physics)
4. Laboratory Techniques (Biology)

The faculty worked out the detailed draft syllabi of these courses to facilitate discussion at the workshop. The deliberations at the pre-workshop seminar and at the workshop also pointed to the possibility of using ~~the~~ curriculum prepared at the workshop for offering a Certificate Programme for the laboratory staff working in senior secondary schools and colleges. Further it was suggested that the advanced modules could later be prepared for the laboratory staff working in universities, national laboratories and R and D wings of industries. The draft syllabi prepared by the School faculty was taken up for discussion in the workshop and a modified version of the syllabi was prepared by the workshop participants.

Although this agenda item was introduced as a reporting item for the conduct of the workshop, the Chairman requested that the School Board may give its approval for offering a Certificate Programme for the laboratory staff working in senior secondary schools

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and colleges. The approval from the School Board would gear up the process of obtaining approval from other statutory bodies of the University and give impetus to the course teams in refining the curriculum and redefining the credit weightages. Two of the members of the Board emphasized on the need to formulate the Experts Committee or an alternate mechanism to go into the various aspects of Programme planning and designing. The Chairman pointed out that:

(i) the proposed Programme is only an awareness level Certificate Programme of six month duration and it does not need the specialised services of discipline or field experts;

(ii) the six day deliberations by School of Sciences faculty and the other learned participants of the workshop drawn from South Asian countries was an elaborate exercise of intensity greater than what is generally available in an Experts Committee meeting;

(iii) keeping in view the experience that the School faculty have gained in formulating curriculum for distance education system, some of the issues like recasting credit weightages, refining the course content etc. could be appropriately and ably handled internally by the School faculty.

The Chairman of the Board concluded that there is no necessity for constituting a separate Experts Committee for this programme and that the course teams

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could tackle all the issues related to Programme planning, designing and launching.

The following suggestions were offered by the members of the School Board for the consideration of the course teams:

(i) The course teams may keep the level of the courses within the reach of the clientele.

(ii) The curriculum should reflect the functions and responsibilities of the lab assistants working in senior secondary schools and colleges:

(iii) HRD Ministry, the State Education Ministries and the relevant employment groups may be appraised of the offer of this Certificate Programme so that recruitment/promotional procedures could emerge in future for the students successfully completing the Programme. (It was indicated by Dr. S. Kannan that initial trials in this direction suggest that launching the Programme and establishing its credibility through its course content and training mode would be a better way to convince the bureaucracy and employer groups regarding the Programme-recruitment tie up).

The School Board gave its approval for the Programme and authorised the School to take further action for offering the proposed Certificate Programme.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

*R.K. Bose* 25/09/96  
(R.K. BOSE)  
Ex-Chairman  
School Board of SOS

