



W. B. State Council of Higher Education

[A Statutory Body established under the West Bengal Act XXXVII of 1994]

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Letter No : WHSCHE/ Council/2016/07

Dated : 08.12.2016

From : The Member-Secretary
West Bengal State Council of Higher Education

To : All Council Members

Sub : Approved "Record of discussions" of the 3rd meeting of the reconstituted State Council of Higher Education held on 17th November '2016 at Amity University, Newton , Rajarhat , Kolkata,

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to forward herewith the approved 'Record of Discussions' of the 3rd Meeting of the reconstituted West Bengal State Council of Higher Education. The same is attached herewith.

Member-Secretary

Date : 08.12.2016

Copy forwarded and necessary action to:

1. The Chaiman , West Bengal State Council of Higher Education.
2. The Vice-Chairman (Administrative), West Bengal State Council of Higher Education.
3. Joint Secretary , Univ Br. , Higher Education Department.
4. The Joint Secretary , West Bengal State Council of Higher Education.

Member-Secretary

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST BENGAL STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION HELD ON 17/11/2016 AT AMITY UNIVERSITY, NEW TOWN, RAJARHAT, KOLKATA

Hon'ble MIC, Higher Education Department and Chairman of the West Bengal State Council of Higher Education presided over the meeting.

2. The list of attendees is annexed. Leave of absence was granted to the Director of Technical Education and the Director, State Archives.
3. The Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department and Vice-Chairman (Administration) of the Council welcomed all the members and invitees present in the meeting and initiated the discussion on the Agenda Points.
4. Copies of the minutes of the last meeting of West Bengal State Council of Higher Education held at Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 13.06.2016 were circulated to all members present and those were read and confirmed.
5. Upon being requested by the Principal Secretary, the Member Secretary of WBSCHE made a Power Point presentation on the status of on-going revision of syllabi of 12(Twelve) science subjects at the UG level undertaken by the Syllabus Revision Committee headed by Prof. Amitava Ray Chaudhuri and comprising twelve subject experts as members, formed under the aegis of the WBSCHE.
6. Principal Secretary noted the progress of the work and he informed that Council Members that the intention of the government was to implement the CBCS with revised syllabi at UG level in the state w.e.f. new academic session (2017-18). However he wanted to know about the higher education system's preparedness for introduction of CBCS with semesterisation and the revised syllabi taken together from academic session 2017-18. He requested Prof. Amitava Ray Chaudhuri to offer his views on this point.
7. Prof. Amitava Ray Chaudhuri opined that the content of the Core papers and Elective papers as are included in CBCS, are already being taught under the present system. Some changes are to be made, if necessary. Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses (AECC) and Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC) are to be added to the present system. He added that the existing syllabi of West Bengal State Universities are quite up-to-date and were at par with the all-India pattern.
8. At this point of time Hon'ble MIC invited the Vice Chancellors of the State Universities present to put forth their views on the subject. VC, Kazi Nazrul University (KNU) was requested to comment first, since theirs is a new University and they have already started semester system for all their PG & UG courses. VC, KNU confirmed that they had already introduced semester system in UG & PG levels and he expressed that they foresee no difficulty in going in for CBCS. He informed the House that continuous

evaluation of students' performance is being done and next semester examination is scheduled to be held in January, 2017.

9. Hon'ble Chairman requested Vice Chancellors of newly-established universities such as KNU, Diamond Harbour Women's University (DHWU), Bankura University, Raiganj University etc. to explore the feasibility of adopting CBCS in the colleges affiliated to their universities. He then wanted comments from the VC's of the older Universities.

10. VC, Jadavpur University (JU) submitted that in his university such an introduction of CBCS could be tried initially for some faculties from the next session and then across the faculties later. He stressed the need for standardization of evaluation system before going for a semester system for maintaining the quality aspect. He also indicated that for Humanities and Social Science subjects' semester system has not been applied internationally citing the example of Oxford University. He also opined that introduction of CBCS will not be a problem but its implementation might be a challenge for higher education institutions due to lack of infrastructure e.g. proper student-teacher ratio, adequate library facilities etc. He proposed the idea of formation of cluster system among colleges for sharing of resources and also to provide better opportunity of learning like brain storming session etc. to the students of rural areas so that they can be at par with those of city areas.

11. VC, Vidyasagar University (VU) said that introduction of CBCS in PG level won't be a big challenge. But so far its introduction in UG level is concerned he echoed the view of VC, JU particularly considering the colleges situated in remote areas. He favoured for introduction of semester system of evaluation in the 1st phase and CBCS in the 2nd phase.

12. VC, West Bengal State University at Barasat stressed upon the need for ensuring attendance of the students as well as teachers in the classes. He said that this was most essential for improving the quality of education.

13. VC, North Bengal University (NBU) reported that in affiliated colleges of his University, Credit system had already been introduced for some courses like B.Com (Law), BBA (Law) and felt that it may not be feasible to introduce all three things, viz., revision of syllabi, semester system and CBCS in one go. He also mentioned that admissions/ registration into UG level courses would need to be completed much earlier if the semester system is to be success. In his view priority should be given for revision of syllabi first, introduction of semester exam second and then introduction of CBCS for selected science subjects only.

14. VC, JU mentioned that the syllabi for Social Science subjects in West Bengal are at par with the national standards.

15. VC, Sidho Kanho Birsa University (SKBU) opined that semester system should be implemented first and no discrimination should be made between Arts and Science for

its implementation since otherwise, conducting the exams will be difficult . CBCS may be implemented thereafter.

16. VC, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University (MAKAUT) reported that in his affiliated colleges(about 100 in number) semester system have been implemented from very beginning and syllabi were being revised regularly and it was a continuous process. He also mentioned that syllabi of some non-AICTE courses need to be updated.

17. VC, Presidency University strongly advocated to implement all the 3(three) viz. Syllabus revision, Semester System & CBCS in one go and then address issues as they emerge over time.

18. VC, Raiganj University reported that semester system has been implemented in his university at the UG and PG levels, and agreed with VC, PU and VC, SKBU in regard to implementation of CBCS in UG and PG courses.

19. VC, Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) said that CBCS is most suitable for UG level courses as students have more opportunities to migrate move elsewhere for PG-level studies and also for better job opportunities. As PG syllabus is heavy, it should be easier to introduce CBCS at the UG level. He further opined that the process of revision of syllabi, introduction of semester system and CBCS should go hand in hand.

20. VC, Calcutta University (CU) said that syllabi revision was not a problem but introduction of semester system and CBCS in UG level might be a challenging task as University campuses are widely scattered and the large number of colleges affiliated under CU. Presently evaluation process takes about 2/3 months time and maintaining uniformity in evaluation across colleges is also difficult.

21. Prof. Amitava Ray Chaudhuri clarified that UGC allows a 30% leeway/ flexibility in modifying/ adapting the syllabi pertinent to CBCS as per local conditions.

22. On the issue of the revision of the syllabus of science subjects at the UG level, Principal Secretary requested the Chairman of the Syllabus Revision Committee to compress the time lines projected for the finalisation of their recommendations, and opined that seven to eight universities might be able to start CBCS with revised syllabi from next session and for this he suggested formation of an implementation committee University wise in this regard.

23. Hon'ble Chairman expressed dismay over the fact that many universities had misinterpreted the G.O. of 1979 regulating the post-retirement engagement of teachers on exceptional basis, with the result that most, if not all, faculty members attaining the age of superannuation were being given extensions in a mechanical manner. This had major policy level issues besides becoming a subject of litigation, and had to be stopped forthwith. He announced that the said G.O. would be kept in abeyance with immediate effect, and advised the VCs not to process any cases pertaining to the subject until a fresh G.O. on the subject is issued by the Government.

24. He also requested the VCs to submit the list of the candidates including officers, teachers and non-teaching staff who had been given extensions/ post-retirement engagements since 2011. This report should reach the HED by 30th November, 2016.

25. Hon'ble Chairman also announced that a Teachers' Convention is proposed to be held on 07/01/2017 at 4 pm at Kolkata (venue to be informed later) where all teaching Community including VCs, Registrars, Inspector of Colleges, Controller of Examinations of Universities, Principals of Government an Government-aided colleges, top managements and officials of Private Universities, select Self-Financing Colleges etc. would be invited. Since this will be Government programme, he requested participation of all VCs to ensure the programme's success.

26. As regards the status of additional manpower for the Council, which was approved in the 1st Meeting of the re-constituted Council held on 1th of December'2015, Chairman desired that formulation of recruitment rules for all such posts be completed and necessary steps shall be taken to sanction and fill up the posts at the earliest.

27. Hon'ble Chairman reiterated the Government's commitment to improve quality of higher education in the State. It was decided that the all the State-aided Universities set up after 2012 would take earnest steps to introduce the revised syllabus (in respect of the science subjects at the UG level), CBCS and semester system at the UG and PG levels from the Academic Session 2017-18. A Coordination Group, headed by VC, KNU and comprising the VCs of the other newly-established universities will be set up by the Council immediately, to oversee the planning and implementation of the same. The Group may co-opt/ invite Principals and other persons from time to time, as deemed fit. The other universities, too, would be encouraged to formulate their strategy for implementation of the above, based in an assessment of the feasibility of ensuring a seamless and smooth roll out for the triple objectives mentioned above in a time-bound manner.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from & to the chair.

Sd/-

(Dr. Partha Chatterjee)
