Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth

Academic Council Meeting

15th June 2017 / 9.30:00 AM / Gurudev's Shrine, CEG Campus

ATTENDEES

1. Prof. B Mahadevan, Vice Chancellor – Chairman
2. Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Dean of Faculty, Chinmaya Eswar Gurukula
3. Smt. Pramodini Rao, Academic Director, Chinmaya Naada Bindu Gurukula
4. Swami Sharadananda, Chinmaya International Foundation (expert member)
5. Prof. G Sabarinathan, IIM Bangalore (expert member)
6. Prof. G Gangadharan Nair (expert member)
7. Prof. Gopal Mahapatra, IIM Indore (expert member)
8. Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi, Bhopal (expert member)
9. Prof. K Ramasubramanian, IIT Bombay (expert member)
10. Prof. N K Sundaresan, University of Calicut (expert member)
11. Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat, Head, School of Vedic Knowledge Systems
12. Dr. Pavankumar Satuluri, Head, School of Linguistics and Literary Studies
13. Dr. Ramakrishna Pejathaya, Head, School of Ethics, Governance, Culture, and Social Systems
14. Dr. K E Gopala Desikan, Head, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Scientific Heritage
15. Shri Saurabh Singanapalli, Head, School of Contemporary Knowledge Systems
16. Shri Sunil Avachat, Head, School of Kalayoga
17. Pandit Rupak Kulkarni, Professor, Chinmaya Naada Bindu Gurukula
18. Dr. Varun Khanna, Assistant Professor, Chinmaya Eswar Gurukula
19. Shri Swapnil Chaphekar, Assistant Professor, Chinmaya Naada Bindu Gurukula
20. Shri Suresh Subramanian, Registrar – Secretary

Special Invitees

1. Smt. P. Geervani, Pro-Chancellor
2. Swami Advayananda, President, Executive Council, Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth

Leave of Absence

1. Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh
2. Smt. Nirupama Rajendra
3. Professor Muralimadhavan Nair

DECISIONS TAKEN

A) Department Names: All Schools and Department names as per the proposal are approved. There was however a suggestion to consider naming the School of Contemporary Knowledge Studies differently.

Resolved that this will be internally discussed, as also with the Management Board, as required, and brought back to the Academic Council, if necessary.

B) General Programme Structure: All Programmes and Courses on offer as per the proposal are approved, other than specific suggestions considered hereunder.

C) Consideration for Honour Degree Since the University is going to offer courses of a certain high standard, it was suggested that consideration be given to introducing an Honours degree option, for example, B.A. (Honours) or Shastri (Honours). This could be introduced by allowing students to take a higher number of credits to achieve an Honours degree in the same time. It was felt that from year 2 onwards, this option could be offered.

Resolved that this suggestion will be considered for Year 2 and brought back to the Academic Council for discussion if necessary.

D) CNBG Programmes
The course name 'Sanskrit: A Language for Eternal Use' could be renamed to something new, which is more aligned to its subject area.

Resolved that no changes be made to the course title this year.

E) CEG Programmes

1) Consider making the Yoga course a credited course, as students may not take it seriously otherwise.

Resolved that the suggestion be considered for suitable implementation.

2) For the BA programme in Sanskrit-Darśana:
   - Keep *Cārvākasaptatiḥ* in the syllabus for nāstika darśanas.
   - *Mīmāṁsānyāyaprakāśa* can be taught instead of *Arthasaṅgraha.*
   - Replace *Tarkasaṅgrahadīpikā/prakāśikā* with Sutras from *Nyāyadarsana.*
   - For Western Philosophy, consider teaching the book on Western Philosophy by Sri Ramachandrudu.
   - The course name 'Applied Nyaya' could be changed to 'Application of Nyāya principles in other Darśanas'.

- In the elective courses, retain only *Nyayasiddhantamukthavali* and omit the *Dinakari,* as it is very difficult to read for the students.
- Either add another elective on 'Perspectives from Madhvacharya', or change the course title of 'Advanced Vedanta 2 – Perspectives from Ramanujacharya' to 'Advanced Vedanta 2 – Perspectives from other Vedantic Schools'.

Resolved that the teaching faculty shall consider these suggestions and incorporate them suitably at the time of offering the course.

3) For the MA programme in Sanskrit-IKT:
   - As most of the texts being taught are classical epics, it might be useful to include some more contemporary works as well. For example, "Chinmayananda Caritam" can be taught as a contemporary epic.
   - Consider removing the names "Padya" and "Campū" from the Literature and Aesthetics courses, such that their names are merely 'Literature and Aesthetics I' and 'Literature and Aesthetics II'. This may allow freedom in both courses to teach more widely, broadly, deeply.
   - Instead of teaching entire texts, consider teaching small aspects of lots of things, not just one thing. Choose more excerpts and exciting ślokas from different works, which will be really fascinating.
   - Introduce some bigger play such as *Abhijnana Sakunthalam* or *Svapnavasavadatta* instead of a minor play. Also, several excerpts from different Natakas could be introduced.

   Resolved that the teaching faculty shall consider these suggestions and incorporate them suitably at the time of offering the course.

4) For the Postgraduate Diploma in Youth Empowerment, the theory course name 'Understanding Sanskrit' sounds misleading. It could be changed to something like 'An Introduction to Sanskrit' or 'Appreciating Sanskrit'.

   Resolved that this change will be implemented

5) For the Integrated Master's Program in Vyākaraṇa:
   - Change the course name to **अष्टाध्यायी-धारणम्** instead of **अष्टाध्यायी-स्मरणम्**

   Resolved that this change will be implemented

6) For the Integrated Master's Program in Advaita Vedānta:
   - *Pancadasi* need not be studied, as it is an easy text to understand

- Students should learn modern Advaitic texts in Sanskrit, so that they don't think that there is nothing new in Sanskrit being produced about Advaita Vedanta. For instance, the *Sankaraasankarabhashyavimarsa* by Ramarayakavi could be studied.
- खण्डनखण्डखाद्य of Sriharsa could be studied to get used to the explanations of some complex concepts of Advaita Vedanta.

Resolved that the teaching faculty shall consider these suggestions and incorporate them suitably at the time of offering the course.

F) Administrative considerations:
- The admission policies, attendance policies and faculty work load norms are approved.
- The grading policies are approved with some suggestions for changing the letter scheme.

  Resolved that the UGC norms be followed for letter grading conventions. The issue could be internally discussed and brought for any modifications to the Academic council in a future meeting.

- The core academic beliefs and values of the University was adopted and approved.
- The proposal for Controller of Examinations was approved.

Other Suggestions

1) Apart from scholarships for students at the time of admission, consider giving scholarships to meritorious students who perform well during the semester. However, link this scholarship to their continued good performance at the University.
2) Consider free boarding for students who require assistance, especially in the Integrated Master's programmes.
3) More efforts must be put to encourage admissions in the BA Darśana and IM-Advaita Vedanta programmes, which are currently lagging.

Resolved that these suggestions will be considered for implementation.

G) Yep 10 Certificate Programme: YEP-10 was ratified as a certificate programme of the University.

ACTION ITEMS

The course outlines for all the 1st-year courses must be sent to the Academic Council members for their reference and suggestions.

Sd/-
Registrar

Vice Chancellor
Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth