Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth
(Deemed University under Section 3 of UGC Act)

Minutes of the 8th Academic Council Meeting

08th April, 2020 09:30 AM (Video Conference)

ATTENDEES

1. Prof. Nagaraj K. Neerchal (NN), Vice Chancellor - Chairperson
2. Prof. P. Geervani (PG), Pro Chancellor, CVV (Member)
3. Prof. Gauri Mahulikar (GM), Dean of Faculty, CVV (Member)
4. Dr. Subbarao V. Jayanti (SJ), Head, School of Contemporary Knowledge Systems, CVV (Member)
5. Dr. Vanisree Ramanathan (VR), Head, School of Ethics, Governance, Culture & Social Systems, CVV (Member)
6. Dr. L. Sampath Kumar (LSK), Head, School of Linguistics and Literary Studies, CVV (Member)
7. Prof. Sreevalsakumar R, (SVK), Head, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Scientific Heritage, CVV (Member)
8. Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat (VRB), Head, School of Vedic Knowledge Systems, CVV (Member)
9. Shri Swapnil Chaphekar (SC), Head, School of Kalayoga, Chinmaya Naada Bindu Gurukula (Member)
10. Dr. Radha Mohan (RM), Professor, School of Ethics, Governance, Culture & Social Systems, CVV (Member)
11. Pandit Abhijit Banerjee (AB), Professor (Guru), Chinmaya Naada Bindu Gurukula (Member)
12. Pandit Rupak Kulkarni (RK), Guru, School of Kalayoga (Member)
13. Dr. Shilpa Pandit (SP), Associate Professor, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Scientific Heritage, CVV (Member)
14. Dr. Ramakrishna Pejathaya (RKP) Assistant Professor, School of Ethics, Governance, Culture & Social Systems, CVV (Member)
15. Shri Nithin Ramakrishnan (NR), Assistant Professor, School of Ethics, Governance, Culture & Social Systems, CVV (Member)
16. Prof. B Mahadevan (BM), Professor, IIM Bangalore (Member)
17. Dr. Sanjay Bapna (SB), Professor, Morgan State University (Member)
18. Prof. A. N. Balchand (ANB),
19. Smt. Pramodini Rao (PR), Academic Director, Chinmaya Naada Bindu Gurukula (Member)
20. Shri Neeraj Bhai (NB), Director – IT Services, CVV (Member)
21. Dr. Soumya S (SS), Registrar (I/c), CVV – Secretary
22. Shri P. Krishna Kumaran Thampi (PKK), Controller of Examinations, CVV (Permanent Invitee)

23. Ms. Lakshmi Shenoy (LS), Finance Officer, CVV (Invitee)
24. Swami Advayananda (SA), (Invitee)
25. Ms. Jayalakshmi Nanda (JN), Chief of Staff of VC, CVV (Invitee)
26. Dr. Satheesh Varma (SV), Assistant Professor, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Scientific Heritage, CVV (Invitee)

Leave of Absence Granted:

1. Dr. M. Sathish (MS), Assistant Professor, School of Contemporary Knowledge Systems, CVV (Member)
2. Swami Sharadananda (SS), Chinmaya International Foundation (Member)

Members Absent:

1. Vid. Manjusha Patil (VMP), Guru, School of Kalayoga (Member)
2. Prof. K. Dorasami

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting commenced as video conferencing at 9:30 AM with prayer and Shanti Mantra.

1. **Welcome by Vice Chancellor**

   The Vice Chancellor welcomed members of the Academic Council to the 8th meeting.

2. Academic achievements **by Faculty and Students**

   Members took note of academic achievements by faculty and staff.

3. Approval of Minutes of 7th Academic Council meeting
   1. ATR

   The corrections pointed out by the members were noted for making necessary changes.

   PR made motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by GM and the members resolved to approve the minutes of 7th Academic Council meeting.

   In the ATR, PG pointed that the abbreviation of Applied Psychology is APP. The correction was noted for making necessary changes.

   Members took note of the Action Taken Report of the previous Academic Council meeting.

4. Revision of credits of LLM – Legal Theory and LLM – International Trade and Commercial Laws

The LLM programmes are currently having 34 credits in total. The Board of Studies recommended to bring down the credits to 30. In view of this, the programme structure has been revised to make a total of 30 credits with effect from 2020 admissions.

- LLM – Legal Theory
- LLM – International Trade and Commercial Laws

Approval sought for the revision of credits as proposed above.

The new credit structure of LLM – Legal Theory and LLM – International Trade & Commercial Laws, along with the curriculum was shared to Academic Council members. NR explained the new credit structure of the one-year LLM programmes. BM enquired the rationale of the new structure. NR explained that UGC structure is only 24 credits. Also, the students are running short of time to complete 34credits. So, based on BoS recommendation, the total credits were reworked to 30.

NR further stated that it is being proposed to ramp up the one-year LLM programme to two-year programme, as advised in the 5th Academic Council. The two-year programme is targeted at the teaching aspirants and one-year programme is targeted at aspirants of other jobs.

It was proposed by members to consider offering scholarship for IKS based dissertation. NN explained that to deliver a truly de novo programme, NR has done a good job of developing an appropriate curriculum, where IKS faculty have also pitched in with good inputs. More faculty have also been hired.

NR made the motion for approval of revision of credits to 30 from the existing 34. Members resolved to approve the revision of credits from 34 to 30, and the revised curriculum of LLM – Legal Theory and LLM – International Trade & Commercial Laws.

5. Change in the number of Foundation Courses for UG

Currently, the foundation courses offered for UG as:

- Indic Knowledge Systems – 1 (4 Credits)
- Indic Knowledge Systems – 2 (4 Credits)
- Dharma – Perspectives from Ramayana (3 Credits)
- Purushartha – Perspectives from Mahabharata (3 Credits)
- Niti Sastra – A guide to Living (3 Credits)

In order to streamline the contents under a common theme, it is proposed to offer the following foundation courses with effect from 2020 admissions:

- Indic Knowledge Systems – 1 (4 Credits)
- Indic Knowledge Systems – 2 (4 Credits)
- Dharma and Niti Sastra: Indigenous Perspectives on Human Organization (4 Credits)
- Understanding our Itihasas (4 Credits)

Approval sought for reorganizing the foundation courses

RKP explained the rationale of reorganize the contents of foundation courses and offer four courses in place of five courses. GM summed up the points.

SA pointed that the word 'Indigenous' in Dharma and Niti Sastra: Indigenous Perspectives on Human Organization does not reflect the Indian context.

BM stated that the change was wonderful and suggested that the course titles look very plain and simple, and should be reworked to bring out the Indic perspective.

PG suggested to give different names for IKS 1 and IKS 2 since the connotation of 1 and 2 indicates a precedence relationship of the courses.

NN suggested the team to work on the title change and seek comments from BM before finalization and stated that the reworked names can be brought back in the next meeting. He sought if structural change is acceptable. BM suggested that the structural change is fine and that the new course titles can be circulated to the members.

BM made the motion to approve the structural change and the members resolved to approve the structural change.

Action item: To change the titles of the courses and circulate among Academic Council members.

6. New Programmes:
    1. B. Voc
    2. M. Voc
    3. B.Sc. Applied Psychology (Honours)

Approval sought for the new programmes.

B. Voc and M. Voc

NN explained the execution plan of vocational programmes and invited GM to give more inputs on vocational programmes.

GM explained the programme structure and in inclusion of CVV specific courses to add the de novo flavour.

Member SB stated that their University has a programme in Hospitality management and that there were courses which is aimed at preparing managers in future. He further suggested to include courses imparting functional skills in the curriculum, and offered to share their curriculum. NN explained the need to follow UGC guidelines as a first cut and keep improvising upon it as we move along. He also stated that the courses suggested by SB can be offered as minors and can be managed closely for the students of B.Voc/ M.Voc.

BM stated that the points laid out by SB is important and we should project it in our marketing also so that the students interested in taking up managerial rle will get interested. NN stated that according to Kumari ji's experience, there are lot of entrepreneurs in Tourism & Hospitality.

PG suggested to give attractive titles to courses like Community Service for Seva, for example. NN stated that it is planned to build a course catalogue and numbering for courses. Along with this, the naming can also be taken care of. Once this is done, it can be circulated for inputs. This will be taken up in Curriculum Council.

BM suggested to include good electives linking to IKT in tourism. NN stated that it can be taken care of by insisting to take a minor from a specific set.

BM stated that Renewable Energy Management is lab intensive. NN stated that the vocational programmes in REM stream are planned to be rolled out in a phase manner, with M. Voc in Academic year 2020-21.

SA enquired whether we are rolling out B. Voc and M. Voc in all the three streams: Tourism & Hospitality, Renewable Energy and Business Process & Data Analytics. NN clarified that for the academic year 2020-21, we are planning to start B. Voc and M. Voc in Tourism & Hospitality, M. Voc in Renewable Energy Management and B. Voc in Business Process & Data Analytics.

BM enquired why certain course outlines are blank. NN clarified that the course structure of vocational courses is very different with less time in classroom and more time on the job and industry visits. GM also clarified that the detailed course structure of courses till second semester was included in the current Academic Council and the courses in the later semesters will be brought back to the Academic Council when they are ready.

BM suggested to circulate the detailed course outlines of the rest of the courses to the Academic Council when they are ready and also suggested to revisit the books prescribed for the different courses.

BM enquired the school to which vocational programmes belonged. NN clarified that the vocational programmes would from the part of CKS.

SB enquired the eligibility criteria for admission into M. Voc in REM and suggested to specify the eligibility criteria as: Any graduate with Physics/ Mathematics/ Chemistry or other similar background.

B. Sc Applied Psychology (Honours)

SVK invited SV to present the programme structure to the members.

BM suggested to change the courses listed as minors to electives since the concept of minors is for students to explore their other areas of interest.

BM stated that Communication and Computing Skills are important especially for Indian students and should be included as separate courses. SV explained that Communication Skills were built into courses like OB/ HR with activities to enhance communication. Research Methods included modules on improving computing skills.

SB enquired about the weekly duration of internship. SV clarified that internship will normally be in vacation time and evaluation will be done. SB enquired if one hour per week is sufficient. NN clarified the credit structure with respect to internship.

BM suggested to change the component: Time management of assignments and include it as a qualitative/ judgmental factor so that quality does not suffer. SP stated that it can be changed in the course outline.

PG suggested that eligibility criteria for B.Sc Applied Psychology (Honours) can be different from others. SV informed that for Honours, the criteria is 75%.

PG enquired whether there is option to shift from B.Sc Applied Psychology (Honours) to BA Applied Psychology. SVK clarified that it is possible.

The members resolved to approve the following with the suggested minor edits:

1. **B. Voc in Tourism & Hospitality**
2. **M. Voc in Tourism & Hospitality**
3. **M. Voc in Renewable Energy Management**
4. **B.Sc Applied Psychology (Honours)**

7. Final Results of the following batches to be tabled at the meeting:
    1. MA Sanskrit: Batches 2017-19, 2018-20
    2. BA Sanskrit: Batch 2017-20
    3. BBA: Batch 2017-20
    4. B. Com: Batch 2017-20
    5. BA Music (Hindustani Vocal): Batch 2017-20
    6. BA Music (Hindustani Tabla): Batch 2017-20
    7. BA Music (Hindustani Bansuri): Batch 2017-20

Approval sought for awarding degrees to the students enrolled in the courses as above.

VC congratulated CoE office to have published results on time in spite of our not being fully automated.

BM stated that CoE must include all paperwork like percentage, average pass percentage, etc. He also enquired whether we are awarding Gold medal for topper. NN stated that awards, if any, can be taken up in convocation.

BM suggested to word the proposal of award of degrees to the grandaunts in the standard format and bring it back in the next Academic Council.

SA congratulated CVV and CoE office on behalf of all Academic Council members to have published the results in time in spite of the current situation.

BM congratulated all at CVV to have contributed to successfully rolling out the first batch.

SB stated that recognition is very important for degrees awarded from a University. He also stated that merit awards need to be given based on values in addition to marks alone.

Action Item: To word the proposal of award of degrees to the grandaunts in the standard format and bring it back in the next Academic Council.

8. Exam procedure updates

    1. Student Attendance Policy

    Our current policy is as follows:

    - >90%: No change in Grade
    - 80.01 - 90%: Deduct 1 from Earned Grade Point
    - 75.01 - 80%: Deduct 2 from Earned Grade Point
    - <= 75%: 0 Grade

    As per extant UGC regulations ***(UGC (Minimum Standards of Instruction for the Grant of the First Degree through Formal Education) Regulations, 2003.)***, the criteria for attendance is as follows:

    The minimum number of lectures, tutorials, seminars and practicals which a student shall be required to attend for eligibility to appear at the examination shall be prescribed by the university, which ordinarily shall not be less than 75% of the total number of lectures, tutorials, seminars, practicals, and any other prescribed requirements.

    Approval sought for revising the Student Attendance policy to align with the extant UGC regulations on Student Attendance.

    NN explained the rationale for the decision. PG and SB stated that UGC regulations should be followed.

    SVK stated that penalization unethical and moves from learning to teaching. SP and LSK seconded the opinion of SVK and suggested positive reinforcement measures to facilitate student engagement.

    PG stated that insisting on attendance is important if we are giving financial support to the students.

    The members resolved to approve the proposal to revise the Student Attendance policy to align with the extant UGC regulations on Student Attendance.

SA expressed happiness on withdrawing the earned grade penalization due to attendance. He urged to ensure that students attend classes. NN stated that it can be integrated in CIA and that there is a need for shift from the faculty side.

SA suggested to include in assessment practices. NN stated that CCC will be given the task of working on assessment practices and strengthening the Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA).

Action Item: CCC to come with a policy to integrate attendance in CIA.

2. CIA, Make up Exam: Presentation by CoE

   The item was deferred due to paucity of time.

9. Any other business with the permission of the Chair

   1. BM suggested to have members having background in Sanskrit and Performing Arts also in ACM.

      NN thanked BM for the suggestion.

   2. SB expressed interest in discussing about LLM in International Trade and Commercial Laws.

      NN suggested SB to connect with NR and take it offline.

The meeting ended at 01:30 pm with prayer and Shanti Mantra.

In His Service
Sd/-
Registrar

Vice Chancellor
Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth