

School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University

Minutes of the meeting

Day and Date: Monday 23rd December 2024

Time: 2:00 pm onwards

Venue: Botany lecture hall, SBSB, GU

Agenda of the Meeting

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1. Teaching and Research
2. Report on Student Feedback
3. PAIR Research Grants and Proposal (Prof. S. Garg)
4. Certificate Course in IPR (Prof. S. Ghadi)
5. 5-Year Integrated MSc in Life Sciences
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

Members present

1. Prof. B. F. Rodrigues (Chairperson, Dean, SBSB)
2. Dr. Aditi Naik (Member Secretary, SBSB)
3. Prof. S. Krishnan
4. Prof Sanjeev C. Ghadi
5. Prof. Sandeep Garg
6. Dr. Avelyno H. D'Costa
7. Dr. Shanti N. Dessai
8. Dr. Rupali Bhandari
9. Dr. Milind Mohan Naik
10. Dr. Minal Shirodkar
11. Dr. Siddhi Kashinath Jalmi
12. Dr. Preeti Pereira
13. Ms. Gandhita V. Kundaikar
14. Ms. Dviti D. Mapari
15. Dr. Trupti Asolkar
16. Dr. Nitin Sawant
17. Dr. Shamshad B. Shaikh
18. Dr. Samantha Fernandes D'mello
19. Ms. Snigdha Mayenkar
20. Dr. Preethi Pandit
21. Dr. Bhakti Salgaonkar
22. Dr. Judith Noronha
23. Dr. Vikash Yadav

Members who could not attend

1. Dr. Lakshangy Charya- on leave
2. Dr. Meghanath Prabhu -on leave
3. Dr. Lata Gawade Velip - on leave
4. Dr. Sanika Darshan Samant - on leave

Proceedings:

Dean of the School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (SBSB) welcomed all members to the 10th School Council Meeting. He expressed his appreciation for their presence and initiated the proceedings. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 25th October 2024, were reviewed and unanimously approved by the house.

1. Teaching and Research

Under the agenda of teaching and research, Prof. Bernard emphasized the importance of timely correction and submission of marks. It was collectively agreed that such delays must be avoided in the future to ensure the smooth functioning of the academic process. Furthermore, it was reported that dissertation presentations across all disciplines had been successfully completed.

2. Report on Student Feedback

In the context of student feedback, Prof. Bernard emphasized the importance of addressing feedback promptly and ensuring that Program Directors (PDs) take necessary actions based on the reports. The following details were provided by the Programme Directors of the various disciplines on the Student feedback report and the action taken report.

Botany Discipline: The feedback from the students for the overall academic content of the course papers was very good, good, or satisfactory. No adverse comments were received in any of the papers. Most students commented on the unsatisfactory IT resources (network issues). Based on the feedback from the students, the following measures have been recommended.

- To increase the number of textbooks/reference books for the core and optional courses in the University library.
- Teachers are advised to use additional online resources and provide the students with links and e-content.
- Teachers are requested to improve the quality of assignments/tests for ISAs.
- Teachers are advised to make themselves available to the students throughout working hours.
- To send communication to the Computer centre to improve the internet connection facility.

Microbiology Discipline: About 95% students reported good and very good for all the courses taught. About 10-20% reported unsatisfactory only in certain sections of a few courses. Most students commented on the unsatisfactory IT resources. Based on the feedback from the students, the following measures have been recommended.

- Teachers are advised to tap more online resources and make them available to students.
- Teachers are advised to provide more study and reading material to students for their respective courses.
- Teachers are advised to make themselves available to the students as and when required throughout the day including non-office hours.

Biotechnology Discipline: Most of the responses to questions in the student feedback were very good, good, and satisfactory. In all the course feedback, few students had commented on unsatisfactory IT resources. The IT resources unsatisfactory were attributed to the poor internet connectivity inside the classroom, laboratory, and Hostel. It was also observed that the number of feedback responses received from students were very few. Based on the feedback from the students, the following measures have been recommended.

- It was decided to send communication to the computer center in order to improve the internet connection facility in the discipline.
- It was suggested that effective mechanism has to be adopted by the University in order to get feedback from all the students.

Zoology Discipline:

Most of the responses to questions in the student feedback were very good, good, and satisfactory and a few were not satisfactory. Based on the response of the students for the courses that received unsatisfactory feedback, the following actions have already been initiated:

- The teachers are requested to improve the teaching methods in the cases where the report was not satisfactory.
- Teachers are advised to provide more study and reading material to students for their respective courses.
- Teachers are advised to make themselves available to the students as and when required throughout the day including non-office hours.

It was also suggested that feedback forms for teachers and alumni be developed in consultation with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) for a comprehensive review of programs.

3. PAIR Research Grants and Proposal

Prof. Garg briefed the house on the status of the PAIR proposal. He informed the members that the themes and sub-themes had been finalized, and letters of consent had been sent from Goa University. Emails with relevant information had been dispatched to all faculty members. He reminded everyone that the last date for uploading the final PAIR proposals was 15th January 2025.

4. Certificate Course in IPR

SC discussed the Certificate Course in IPR. It was decided to get the syllabus approved by the BoS and AC. Prof. S. C. Ghadi agreed to do the needful.

5. 5-Year Integrated MSc in Life Sciences

The discussion on the proposed 5-Year Integrated MSc Program was a significant part of the meeting. A committee was formed to structure the program, with a directive to submit an action-taken report by January 2025. Prof. Bernard emphasized that the structure should be finalized and followed by syllabus preparation. The house discussed whether the program should be titled "Life Sciences" or "Biological Sciences." Prof. Garg proposed aligning the program with the National Education Policy (NEP) format, allowing students to specialize in major subjects. Prof. Sanjeev Ghadi suggested naming the program "Life Sciences," incorporating interdisciplinary courses such as biophysics, biochemistry, and artificial intelligence. It was resolved that the program structure would be deliberated and finalized in a follow-up meeting scheduled for January 2025.

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

The house took a moment to congratulate Prof. Bernard for receiving the prestigious award for significant contributions to mycology from the Mycological Society of India.

Regarding curriculum updates and the upcoming NAAC reassessment, Prof. Bernard stressed the need to introduce new courses and ensure alignment with defined Course Outcomes (COs), Program Outcomes (POs), and Program-Specific Outcomes (PSOs). He announced that all students must

complete a compulsory 2-credit SWAYAM course, approved in the Board of Studies (BoS). He also highlighted the need for feedback from teachers and alumni to improve programs further.

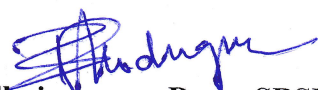
The issue of support for slow learners was addressed next. It was agreed to introduce bridge or remedial courses (approx. 2 weeks duration) for students facing academic challenges, including those affected by medical issues. These courses would be incorporated into the timetable, and records would be maintained. PDs were instructed to maintain mentoring records, including attendance and areas of subject guidance, and to submit detailed reports.

A discussion was held regarding Goa University's initiative to be a plastic-free campus. Disciplines were instructed to collect plastic waste at the school level with the active involvement of students.

Under Any Other Business (AOB), several points were raised. SC suggested allocating 1 credit for the Swachh Bharat Student Internship (SBSI) without exceeding the curriculum load, as students often lacked interest in such activities. Dr. Aditi informed the house that Madkai village had been allocated for extension activities. Dr. Rupali also announced the commencement of e-Samarth registrations. Dr. Tiwari raised a query regarding the availability of drinking water, and the responsibility for addressing this concern was assigned to Dr. Meghanath.

Dr Siddhi informed that SBSI is compulsory for the students and has a course on mind management. She requested Dr. Rupali Bhandari (Nodal officer for university) to orient faculty and students about the SBSI course. She also informed that the activities under SBSI should be extension activities carried out in villages and on the themes suggested by SES-REC.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair, and Prof. Bernard reiterated the importance of completing pending tasks promptly and effectively.


Chairperson, Dean, SBSB
Prof. B. F. Rodrigues
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Prepared by:
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