

Shikshana Prasaraka Mandali's
Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College
 Matunga, Mumbai 400019
 Minutes of the 8th meeting of the
Academic Council
 Held on Thursday, 27 May 2021

The 8th meeting of the Academic Council of the Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College was held on THURSDAY, 27 May 2021, at 11 am via Zoom Online Meetings platform.

The status of the Council members was as follows.

Sr. No.	Name of the Person	Designation & Department	Present/Leave of absence Granted
1.	Dr. Anushree Lokur	I/C Principal	Present
2.	Dr. Sujata Suvarnapathki	Member Secretary	Present
3.	Dr. Mohsina Mukadam	Principal's Nominee	Present
4.	Dr. Varsha Shukla	Principal's Nominee	Present
5.	Dr. Jessy Pius	IQAC Coordinator	Present
6.	Dr. Sunil Shankhadarwar	Exam In- charge	Present
7.	Dr. Bhavana Nerula	Senior Teacher	Present
8.	Prof. S. D. Samant	Former Head, Department of Chemistry, ICT, Mumbai,	Present
9.	Dr. Uday Salunkhe	Director of the Welingkar Institute of Management Development & Research, Mumbai	Present
10.	Dr. Hrishikesh Soman	Principal, Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune	Present
11.	Prof. Sunil Bhagwat	Professor, Institute of Chemical Technology,	Present
12.	Dr. Manjiri Kamat	Professor, Department of History, University of Mumbai	Present

13.	Dr. Saroj Ghaskadbi	Professor, Department of Zoology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune	Present
14.	Dr. Uttara Sahastrabuddhe	Dept. Of Civics & Politics University of Mumbai	Present
15.	Dr. Urmila Moon	Head, Dept. of Commerce	Present
16.	Dr. Varsha Malwade	Head, Dept. of Economics	Present
17.	Dr. Arjun Kharat	Head, Dept. of English	Present
18.	Ms. Anjore Deshpande	Head, Dept. of French	Present
19.	Dr. Pravinchandra Bisht	Head, Dept. of Hindi	Present
20.	Dr. Louiza Rodrigues	Head, Dept. of History	Present
21.	Ms. Priyanka Desai	Head, Dept. of Mass Media	Present
22.	Ms. Leena Kedare	Head, Dept. of Marathi	Present
23.	Dr. Himani Chaukar	Head, Dept. of Philosophy and Psychology	Present
24.	Dr. Vaibhavi Palsule	Faculty, Dept. of Political Science	Present
25.	Dr. Vaishali Dabke	Head, Dept. of Sanskrit	Present
26.	Dr. Sachin Palekar	Head, Dept. of Bioanalytical Sciences	Present
27.	Mr. Prashant Masali	Head, Dept. of Biochemistry	Present
28.	Ms. Supriya Kale	Head, Dept. of Biotechnology	Present
29.	Dr. Sucheta Ketkar	Head, Dept. of Statistics	Present
30.	Dr. Jessy Pius	Head, Dept. of Botany	Present
31.	Dr. Manish Hate	Head, Dept. of Chemistry	Present
32.	Ms. Megha Sawant	Head, Dept. of Computer Science and Information Technology	Present
33.	Dr. Seema Shinde	Head, Dept. of Life Science	Present

34.	Dr. Rajeshwar Andhale	Head, Dept. of Mathematics	Present
35.	Dr. Anushree Lokur	Head, Dept. of Microbiology	Present
36.	Dr. Vijay Mayekar	Head, Dept. of Physics	Present
37.	Dr. Jessy Pius	Head, Dept. of Zoology	Present
38.	Dr. Sanchita Chaudhuri	Head, Dept. of Green House Management	Present
39.	Ms. Amrita Gokhale	Head, Dept. of Tourism and Travel Management	Present
40.	Dr. Sasikumar Menon	Head, Dept. Of Pharma Analytical Sciences	Present
34.	Dr. Himani Chaukar	Head, Department of Philosophy and Chairperson, Foundation Course	Present

I/C Principal, Dr. Anushree Lokur welcomed all the Members to the meeting.

She began on a warm note by expressing her appreciation and gratitude to teaching and non-teaching staff of Ruia College in the Academic year 2020-21, for adapting to the WFH (Work from Home) pattern and going ‘beyond the call of duty’, to ensure smooth functioning of the work. She mentioned that she had her concerns about the procedure of Online admissions which were slightly challenging but all colleagues and staff did amazingly well to help students with online admissions and start the academic year smoothly.

She especially congratulated and placed her appreciation on record for her younger colleagues who devised à online training program called “Effective Digital Shikshan” for training the senior faculty on the different online teaching resources. She also emphasized on the different teaching and learning practices that were implemented this year like different evaluation and assessments. Ruia collaborated with “Indian magic Eye”, for developing videos of Science Practicals for helping students with the experiments. Another point of appreciation was for the Examination Cell of the college for conducting the online exams and timely declaration of results.

Last but not the least, she also informed the Council of the achievements of our students in various online competitions and activities, placing on record, Ruia College’s winning Championship at the 53rd Youth Festival. The department of Psychology was specially thanked for their counselling assistance to students during this difficult year of the pandemic.

Another feather in Ruia College’s hat was Ruia College being the recipient of prestigious “DBT Builder” grant from the Dept. of Biotechnology, Government of India, worth ₹ 1.8 crores for advancement of PG education in Life Biological Sciences. The College IQAC was also mentioned for the several useful training programs and workshops that it conducted, notably, the National level webinar of NEP conducted on 24-25 May 2021.

She once again thanked all staff members for their effort and hard work during the online examinations and declaration of results, as well as smooth admissions conducted for this academic year.

The Member Secretary, Dr. Sujata Suvarnapathki followed with the meeting proceedings post the Principals address.

Agenda item No.01: To confirm the minutes of the previous Academic Council Meeting held on 5 November 2020.

The Minutes of the last meeting and Action report, were shared with all the members and resolutions passed therewith were reiterated.

Dr. Samant opined that there was immense heterogeneity with syllabi but academic council members would require more time to give in constructive suggestions going beyond a regular Academic Council meeting.

Dr. Lokur justified here, that there is Planning and Evaluation committee which gives clear instructions as to what is expected through the Board of Studies(BoS) meetings and overall planning of the syllabi. She also emphasized that every BoS has one external member from this Planning and Evaluation Committee who attends BoS meetings.

Due diligence and time are given to review before everything is submitted to the Academic Council. But she also assured the members that we will conduct more and regular such meetings with academic council to discuss and deliberate in more depth, their recommendations and suggestions.

All of the above was unanimously passed by the Council.

Proposed by: Dr. Jessy Pius **Seconded by:** Dr. Sucheta Ketkar

Agenda item No.02: To scrutinize and approve the proposals for the year 2021-22 with or without modifications made by the boards of studies with regards to courses of studies, curricula, syllabi and modifications thereof and evaluation.

The Council was informed that BoS meetings for each department were held in May 2021 and that the Academic Dean attended specific meetings to review those as an external member. It was noted that there was healthy interaction among members of BoS and all suggestions were well received and the necessary changes were incorporated.

Every Head of Department then briefly explained the changes and modifications in their syllabi as recommended by their respective BoS. The details of the same are attached as Appendix to this report.

Regarding the Departments of Bio Analytical Sciences and the Department of Biochemistry, Dr. Samant queried if these were cognate subjects for PhD admissions. It was informed by Dr. Lokur that an Equivalence and entrance test, aptitude test, etc. were conducted by respective departments as each had their specific protocol as well as the Pet for MSc. And PhD candidates

– currently there are 2 candidates registered with the Bio Analytical Sciences department for PhD program but no new candidates are registered as yet as many Guides have retired from the College recently.

Dr. Uttara Sahasrabuddhe informed the Council that at University of Mumbai for Subject change during MSc. And PhD admissions a test must be taken before the actual candidate selection process. She emphasized need to devise a similar format for Ruia College PG admissions and recommended the same selection pattern that they followed at University Department of Civics and Politics which consisted of 25 marks each essay type questions or full-fledged 4000 words research paper. Dr. Samant added that Guides can be continued on case-to-case basis to allow Ruia College to become good hub for research.

Dr. Kamat further reminded the Council and all teachers that the VCD of University of Mumbai is in charge of addressing all queries to the Dean's of University RAPC section in terms of clarity for PhD admissions.

Another important point regarding syllabi revision made by Dr. Sunil Bhagwat was on handling residual students of earlier syllabi batches. It was informed to the Council that remedial coaching for students was made available in such cases and students appeared for exams on the basis of their admission year for 3 consecutive years and post failure to clear in those attempts, they would have to attempt KT exam as per new syllabi.

Dr. Kamath instructed some teachers that it is important to mention reasoning of changes made to syllabi in the syllabus revision document shared with the Council so as to give better clarity to the logic and rationale behind these modifications.

There was a critical appraisal of modification made in the syllabi of the Departments of English and French. It was unanimously recommended to review this modification and revisit the changes. It was emphasized that all stakeholders in the syllabi revision process including BoS and Alumni must be consulted with equal weightage before making serious modification to syllabi. It was also specifically recommended to include full texts for study in the literature departments as only introductory texts would not provide students holistic perspective of the topics and works of literature that were being discussed through the syllabi. It was also pointed out that much literature in English department's syllabi was based on Marathi literature and therefore a serious reconsideration of the syllabi as whole was recommended.

With reference to the emerging and important topic of LGBTQ communities all members reinforced that there must be gender connections and gender study which is subject-specific and taken up by each faculty whether from Sciences or Humanities as part of their syllabi. But not to give too much weightage in the subject of English.

Dr. Hrishikesh Soman put a brainstorm question for all teacher on how to decide modalities and scope and limitations of syllabi revision as there were no set, specific rules or guidelines. He put out the ideas for changes to be made as per a Teacher's conviction and student profiles, percentage of weight on quantity or quality as well as rationale for including or discarding topics. He reiterated that we must not make change for sake of change but really add value and have long-term vision with regards to syllabi revision.

Dr. Salunkhe further added that industry feedback is important in present times as most students are now enrolled in Skill-based courses and look for immediate employment. Fundamentals in terms of core learning should be focused on – how many students have work experience and what percentage is in the fresher category must be viewed from employability point of view and only then requisite syllabi revision must be made.

Dr. Hrishikesh Soman also suggested that at UG level the focus must be on the Department and creating a firm foundation for students. At Masters level more variety of topics can be introduced as by then students are mentally capable of handling in depth study of various topics.

Dr. Kamat also instructed the teachers to specifically make academic suggestions and justifications for syllabus changes. Language and terminologies that are academic must be used in such reports and presentations. Informal language should be omitted.

Another interesting suggestion by Dr. Salunkhe was gasification, to be introduced as a way to make syllabus study topics interesting and interactive for students.

All the above modifications, except for the Department of English and French were unanimously passed.

Resolution Numbers: Arts (UG)

Sr.no	Name of the department	Resolution Number for Academic year 2021-22 syllabus
1.	Commerce	AC/II(20-21).2.RUA1
2.	Economics	AC/II(20-21).2.RUA2
3.	English	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA3
4.	French	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA4
5.	Hindi	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA5
6.	History	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA6
7.	Marathi	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA7
8.	Philosophy	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA8
9.	Political science	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA9
10.	Psychology	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA10
11.	Sanskrit	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA11
12.	Foundation Course	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA12
13.	Mathematics	AC/II(21-22).2.RUA13
14.	Statistics	AC/II(20-21).2.RUA14

RESOLVED THAT the changes in the syllabi of the subjects under Arts Faculty including above subjects whereby changes in syllabi were reflected, as recommended by the respective Board of studies are approved with the requisite credits and corresponding number of lectures.

Resolution Numbers : Science (UG)

Sr.no	Name of the department	Resolution Number for Academic year 2021-22 syllabus
1.	Bio-Analytical Sciences	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS1
2.	Bio-Chemistry	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS2
3.	Biotechnology	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS3
4.	Botany	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS4
5.	Chemistry	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS5
6.	Computer Science	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS6
7.	Life Science	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS7
8.	Mathematics	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS8
9.	Microbiology	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS9
10.	Physics	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS10
11.	Statistics	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS11
12.	Zoology	AC/II(21-22).2.RUS12

RESOLVED THAT the changes in syllabi of the all Subjects under Science Faculty including above subjects whereby changes in syllabi were reflected, as recommended by the respective Board of studies are approved with the requisite credits and corresponding number of lectures.

Resolution Numbers: B.Voc

Sr.no	Name of the Course	Resolution Number for Academic year 2021-22 syllabus
1.	TTM	AC/II(21-22).2.RUV3

RESOLVED THAT the changes in the syllabi of all subjects under B. Vocational Programme whereby changes in syllabi were reflected, as recommended by the respective Board of studies are approved with the requisite credits and corresponding number of lectures.

Resolution Numbers: BACM

Sr.no	Name of the Course	Resolution Number for Academic year 2021-22 syllabus
1.	BACM	AC/II(21-22).2.RUM

RESOLVED THAT changes in the syllabi of all subjects under the same as recommended by the Board of Studies are approved with the requisite credits and corresponding number of lectures.

Resolution Numbers: PG Courses

Sr.no	Name of the department	Resolution Number for Academic year 2021-22 syllabus
1.	Bio-Analytical Sciences	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS1
2.	Bio-Chemistry	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS2
3.	Biotechnology	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS3
4.	Botany	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS4
5.	Chemistry	AC/II (21-22). 2.RPS5
6.	Computer Science	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS6
7.	Information Technology	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS7
8.	Life Science	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS8
9.	Microbiology	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS9
10.	Physics	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS10
11.	Zoology	AC/II (21-22).2.RPS11

RESOLVED THAT the changes in the syllabi of all subjects of PG Programs whereby changes in syllabi were reflected, as recommended by the respective Board of Studies, are approved with the requisite credits and corresponding number of lectures.

The detailed list of syllabi changes in various Programs and the list of Certificate Courses

instituted in this academic year is attached in Appendix I

Proposed by: Dr. Mohsina Mukadam Seconded by: Dr. Seema Shinde

Agenda Item No. 3: To recommend to the Governing Body proposals to seek sanction:

1.To start a new program M.A. in Psychology

2.For the new Certificate courses approved by respective Board of Studies

3.For Swayam/NPTEL courses approved by respective Board of Studies for the accumulation of additional credits.

4.For the additional division for T.Y.B.Sc. Statistics

The MA in Psychology Program and additional Division for Statistics at TYBSc. class, were approved by the Council. Syllabi for all certificate courses, especially for the Diploma in Floristry was requested to be submitted to the Council members for review via email.

Dr. Lokur justified that the Diploma in Floristry couldn't be introduced earlier due to pandemic but now the course was further modified to suit the new normal and would be started next academic year.

She also proudly mentioned the collaboration with Dr. Bharatan from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, USA for starting the Gene editing certificate Course late next year.

The Council had a detailed discussion on evaluation methodology during and post pandemic. It was unanimously agreed by the Council that MCQs at PG level exams cannot be an evaluation method for higher education programs.

The Exam Coordinator Dr. Sunil Shankadarwar suggested 40 marks subjective and 20 marks MCQ based exam for PG courses. Dr. Bhagwat further added that there must be no review of answers for MCQs as that would undermine credibility and transparency of answering an online evaluation.

Dr. Hrishikesh Soman suggested that instead of MCQs an open book test with analytical questions will be more effective and also not require proctoring. This could further be coupled with Group projects and some individual questions to add effectivity to the evaluations. But it was also understood that universal modality for all subjects is not possible as each subject would have its own requirements as to evaluation.

Dr. Uttara seconded this by citing example of the Dept. of Civics and Politics at Mumbai University who tried this method successfully at PG level as there were limited students giving the exam and it was easier to attempt analytical questions rather than simply descriptive ones. With time bound answer submission, no proctoring, indication of foot notes, bibliography and so forth made the exams and evaluation transparent effective.

All the above Certificate Courses were unanimously passed by the Academic Council.

Proposed by: Dr. Louiza Rodrigues. Seconded by: Dr. Megha Sawant

Agenda Item No. 4: To recommend to the Governing Body approval of One week program on

i) Universal Human Values and ethics

ii) Yoga

The Council unanimously passed the above courses without any specific suggestions.

Proposed by: Dr. Pravinchandra Bisht Seconded by: Dr. Supriya Kale

Agenda Item no. 5: To present the progress report on Autonomous Status (2017-2020)

Dr. Lokur briefly took the Council on a review of the progress post Autonomy in terms of overall administration of programs and work of the college through the 4 years of Autonomy. She proudly presented student achievements in both academics and extra-curricular activities. The IQAC led numerous training workshops were also listed as well as online innovative teaching practices and growing student progression for various programs.

The Council recommended focus on Research and securing more guides from outside as well as extension of existing guides. Dr. Samant strongly suggested the formation of a small research Committee to be established urgently to come up with solutions for good and increasing research output as well as institution of new PhD programs, especially in humanities.

Agenda item no:6: To discuss future plans

Introduction of CBCS (Choice Based Credit System)-Core Courses and Elective Courses

It was unanimously agreed that Choice based credit system with autonomy in terms of NEP was absolutely essential.

Introduction of Interdisciplinary credits was strongly recommended.

Dr. Kamat also offered to share with Ruia College, the formats for the Board of National and International linkages for MoUs that the University of Mumbai followed.

Agenda Item No. 7: Approval of Admission policy and SOP for Admission Committee

It was informed to the Council that this protocol document for admission to all programs of Ruia College would be posted on the College website to help candidates understand and follow admission process smoothly. The Council approved of the same and also suggested a similar manual for Research Programs.

The Members agreed to the above unanimously and passed the resolution.

Proposed by: Dr. Vaishali Dabke. Seconded by: Dr. Manish Hate

Agenda Item No. 8: Any other matter with the permission of the chair.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the Member Secretary who closed the meeting at 2 pm IST.

**Dr. Sujata Suvarnapathki
Dean, Academic Affairs and Member Secretary, Academic Council**

Minutes Approved by

**Dr. Anushree Lokur
I/C Principal, Chairwoman, Academic Council**

Appendix I:

Please refer to attached documents for:

- 1. Detailed syllabi modifications for aforementioned resolutions**
- 2. Syllabi of Certificate Courses**
- 3. Autonomy report**