

Minutes of 36th Academic Council Meeting held on 27/07/2019

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF WBNUJS
held on 27th July, 2019 at Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan, 12 LB Block, Sector – III, Salt Lake,
Kolkata – 700098.

The thirty fifth meeting of the Academic Council was held on Saturday, 27th July, 2019 at Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700098.

The following members were present:-

1. PROF. (DR.) N. K. CHAKRABARTI
Vice-Chancellor, Chairman, Academic Council, WBNUJS, Kolkata.
2. PROF. SAIKAT MAITRA
Member, Academic Council.
3. PROF. POONAM SAXENA
Member, Academic Council.
4. MR. B. BADONIYA
Member, Academic Council.
5. MR. KISHORE DATTA
Member, Academic Council.
6. PROF. (DR.) ARUP KUMAR PODDAR
Member, Academic Council.
7. PROF. (DR.) T. V. G. N. S. SUDHAKAR
Member, Academic Council.
8. PROF. (DR.) SREENIVASULU N.S.
Member, Academic Council.
9. PROF. (DR.) SANDEEPA BHAT B.
Member, Academic Council.
10. PROF. (DR.) ANIRBAN MAZUMDER
Member, Academic Council.
11. DR. ANUPAMA GHOSHAL
Member, Academic Council
12. DR. BIKRAMJIT DE
Member, Academic Council.
13. DR. KAVITA SINGH
Member, Academic Council.
14. DR. LOVELY DASGUPTA
Member, Academic Council.

SMT. SIKHA SEN, Registrar (Acting), WBNUJS, was also present in the Academic Council Meeting.

PROF. (DR.) M.K. SINHA, PROF. (DR.) S. S. SINGH, SHRI ASOKE DEB & PROF. (DR.) FAIZAN MUSTAFA could not attend the meeting.

At the outset the Chairman welcomed the members and started the proceedings of the Academic Council Meeting.

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Agenda	Resolution
<p>1. <u>Confirmation of minutes of 35th meeting</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the 35th Meeting of the Academic Council, held on 10.05.2019 as attached (at Annexure-1) is placed for confirmation of the honourable members.</p> <p>Enclo: "Annexure-1" -Minutes of the 35th Meeting of the Academic Council</p>	<p>Confirmed.</p>
<p>2. <u>Adoption of amendment of NUJS Act 1999 vide amendment the WBNUJS (Amendment) Act 2018 (Sec-2) dated 21 May 2019 regarding 30% reservation for domicile candidates of West Bengal</u></p> <p>Put up for the perusal and information of the hon'ble members.</p> <p>Enclo: "Annexure-2" -</p>	<p>The Academic Council noted the West Bengal National University Juridical Science (Amendment) Act 2018 regarding 30% reservation for Domicile candidates of West Bengal and it will be implemented from the next Academic Year.</p>
<p>3. <u>Rationalisation of the workload of the teaching faculty – Faculty representation</u></p> <p>Explanation: Even a cursory look at the existing workload of the teaching faculty will reveal glaring disparities. While some teachers are overburdened with compulsory and optional papers, there are others who are not similarly placed. It had been decided in Faculty Meetings that every teacher is required to offer 2.5 courses per year – meaning thereby, 2 compulsory and 1 optional paper, or 1 compulsory and 3 optional papers, or 5 optional papers. The method of calculation was as follows –</p>	<p>Resolved that the rationalisation of the workload of the faculty members usually be followed as per the guidelines of the UGC. However, uniform workload may not be the basic idea behind rationalisation but consideration be given on the research project and UGC CARE publications of the respective faculties.</p>

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1 compulsory paper = 1

1 optional paper = 0.5

However, this calculation has certain problems. The assumption based on which an optional paper is given half the weightage of a compulsory paper is that there would be 40 students in the paper. Right now, there are optional courses running in the university where the number of students opting for the course is many more than 40, thus almost equating the course with a compulsory course increasing the workload of the faculty member. Moreover, there are Faculty Members offering courses to the LL.M. batches, the relative batch strength and the consequent workload of which can never be equated with an LL.B. course. All these factors need to be duly considered while equating the workload.

Encl: "Annexure -3" –

4. Exchange Programmes, International Conferences and Membership in International Bodies – Faculty representation

Explanation: The University should actively incentivize the Faculty towards self-development and consequently, institutional development by entering into MoUs with eminent academic institutions that provide for exchange of not only students, but also faculty members. Similarly, participation of

4a) The Academic Council discussed the need for increasing the reimbursement amount to faculty members for attending National and International Conferences or seminars. The A.C. recommended to the Executive Council for enhancement of the admissible reimbursement amount from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- for participation and presentation of papers in National Conferences/Seminars or as resource persons and from Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- for participation and presentation of papers or as resource persons in the International Seminars/Conferences.

Further resolved that the process of approval for participation by the faculty

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faculty members in conferences abroad should be encouraged. Right now, each faculty member is reimbursed to the extent of Rs. 40,000/- per year for attending an International Conference. This amount can barely cover the airfare in most cases. Many other expenditures like Registration Fees, accommodation etc. fall upon the faculty member, and it acts as a disincentive to even send papers to such conferences.

It is requested that the amount of institutional support be enhanced.

It is also requested that the University should renew its lapsed membership with the Asian Law Institute (ASLI) and seek membership of other similar bodies, which provided unique academic opportunities for the institution and the faculty.

Encl: "Annexure -4" –

5. Streamlining the LL.M. Dissertation Presentation Evaluation – Faculty representation

Explanation: The LL.M. programme in NUJS has been significantly marginalized in recent years, owing to the sudden enhancement of the student strength, the reduction of the duration of the programme to one year and several other reasons. What

members be simplified by issuing necessary office orders.

4b) Members unanimously resolved that we go for membership in Asian Law Institute (Renewal) and International Association of Law Schools (New membership).

Further resolved that E.C. be requested to consider the aforesaid proposal in its next meeting for necessary approval.

Resolved from next LL.M. examination the presentation dates be fixed after Winter End Semester Examination within seven days from last date of examination where presence of all the faculty members be compulsory. There may be different date for different groups of subjects/area of research before different panels. The details of the presentation will be prescribed by CPGLS.

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is happening as a result is that there are instances of serious dilution of standards, including but not limited to, the Dissertation and the evaluation of its presentation. While in the past, the dissertation presentation used to be before the entire faculty body, right now it's the supervisor who has to run from pillar to post to find an interested second evaluator to sit for the student's dissertation. Naturally therefore, the evaluation becomes subjective and in many cases, lax.

It is proposed that a dedicated window of 3 days is carved out for the LL.M. dissertation presentation when the Faculty members are relieved of all other academic and other responsibilities, such that a meaningful evaluation of the dissertation can take place.

Encl: "Annexure -5" –

6. Discontinuing the practice of awarding attendance to students for attending lectures, talks etc. – Faculty representation

Explanation: It has been noticed in the last few years that there has been an indiscriminate awarding of free attendance to students for attending lectures, talks etc. Not only is this attendance awarded for the university's flagship lectures, there is a generous awarding of attendance for sessions of the Informal Discussion Group, Recruiters' pre-placement talks etc. This trend has had a spiraling effect on the

The proposal is considered but no change is required at this moment.

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already declining academic rigour and standards. With threats, tacit or otherwise, of lectures remaining empty, students have arm-twisted successive Vice Chancellors into falling in this trap where because of the award of attendance, some uninterested students drag themselves into the auditorium and get themselves engaged with their phones or laptops, showing utter disregard to the speaker. This unfortunate trend had been pointed out by Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi when he had come to deliver the Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee Memorial Lecture. However, the practice has continued unabated.

It is submitted that even at the risk of having sparse attendance and the need to shift lectures to smaller venues than the auditorium, the University should forthwith discontinue the practice of awarding such free attendance.

Encl: "Annexure - 6" –

7. Inclusion of additional Ph.D evaluator's name – Faculty representation

The said proposal forwarded by Dr. Lovely Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, Law, is put up for the perusal and the direction of the Hon'ble members.

Following are the names of new Ph.D evaluators for inclusion in the existing

The names suggested is being approved as additional list of Ph.D. examiners.

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list of Ph.D. evaluators:

1. Dr. David McArdle; Senior Lecturer,
Contact details: d.a.meardle@stir.ac.uk,
University of Stirling, Scotland

2. Dr. Vishnu Konoorayar; Associate
Professor, Contact details:
vishnu.konoorillam@terisas.ac.in, TERI
School of Advance Studies

3. Dr. John Gleaves; Associate
Professor, Contact
Details: jgleaves@fullerton.edu,
California State University, Fullerton

4. Dr. Jack Anderson; Professor,
Melbourne University, Contact Details:
jack.anderson@unimelb.edu.au,
Melbourne Law School, The University
of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Enclo: "Annexure -7" – Proposal by
Dr. Lovely Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, Law

8. **Proposal for New Scholarship Policy –
SJA representation**

The existing policy is a mere two-page document without any streamlined process. There is no mechanism for punishment, appeals, the composition of the scholarship committee, nature of documents required, operational timeline, etc. After having recognized a range of flaws in the existing policy, we have proposed the **New Scholarship Policy** which has been a long-standing demand of the General Body.

In this policy we have, *inter*

A Sub Committee consisting of the following members is requested to go through the proposal and submit a report within one month regarding implementation of the proposed scholarship policy.

Members of the Committee:

- 1) Prof. N. Konar – In chair
- 2) Prof. Anirban Mazumder
- 3) Dr. Sujata Roy
- 4) Dr. Sanjit Chakraborty
- 5) Mr. Faisal Fasih
- 6) Mr. Tapash Bhattacharya –
Member Secretary

Necessary Office Order be issued in this regard by the Registrar.

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alia. streamlined the process of scholarship, delineated the composition of the scholarship committee, clearly provided the eligibility criteria, and incorporated an offenses and penalties clause.

Encl: "Annexure -8" – Proposal of New Scholarship Policy

9. Review of Plagiarism Policy - SJA representation

The Academic Council in its 33rd meeting held on 30th November 2018 noted the need for having a separate plagiarism policy in consonance with The UGC Regulation of 2017 on Plagiarism.

In light of this resolution, we have drafted a Plagiarism Policy conforming to UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2017. This Policy has been created to incorporate those aspects which ensure a time-bound approach for speedy disposal of complaints, establishing clearly defined procedures for complaints, investigation, and appeals, ensuring access to and awareness of plagiarism detection tools/software.

The item is to be considered along with Agenda No. 10.

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<p>Submitted for the perusal and direction of the members.</p> <p>Encl: "Annexure -9 " – Review of Plagiarism Policy</p>	
<p>10. <u>Review of Academic Regulations and Curriculum of both B.A. LL.B & LL.M - SJA representation</u></p> <p>Our current Academic Regulations are not in conformity with the need of Differently-abled Persons. Therefore, we urge the Academic Council to form a sub-committee which shall look into this aspect and suggest suitable reforms for the same. The University Curriculum Review Board will periodically review and suggest changes to the existing course outlines.</p> <p>Encl: "Annexure -10 " – SJA representations</p>	<p>Resolved that two Sub Committees be formed to review 1) Regulations of both LL.B. and LL.M. courses and 2) Curriculum of LL.B. as well as LL.M. courses.</p> <p>The Sub Committee to review Regulations of LL.B. and LL.M. courses is consisting of the following members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Prof. Saikat Maitra, Vice Chancellor, MAKAUT as Chairperson2) Prof. Arup Kumar Poddar as Convenor3) Prof. Anirban Mazumder4) Dr. Kavita Singh5) Dr. Bikramjit De6) Mr. Shouvik Kumar Guha7) Prof. Rathin Bandopadhyay as external member8) Mr. Tapash Bhattacharya – Secretary <p>An office order be published by Registrar in this regard.</p> <p>The second Sub Committee for review of curriculum of LL.B. and LL.M. courses will be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Prof. (Dr.) T.V.G.N.S. Sudhakar as Chairperson2) Prof. Sreenivasulu N.S.3) Prof. Sandeepa Bhat B.4) Ms. Ruchira Goswami5) Mr. Saurabh Bhattacharjee6) Mr. Mahesh Menon7) Dr. Lovely Dasgupta

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	<p>8) Mr. Tapash Bhattacharya – Secretary</p> <p>An office order be published by Registrar in this regard.</p> <p>Both the committees are requested to submit their reports by 30th November, 2019.</p>
<p>11. <u>Approval of expert list for selection and promotion of the faculties of WBNUJS</u></p> <p>Matter will be placed before the hon'ble members on the table.</p>	<p>The list submitted before the Academic Council has been approved as expert list for purpose of selection committee for promotion and selection process of the faculties in addition to existing list.</p>
<p>12. <u>Creation of post of Adjunct Faculties/ Visiting Professors</u></p> <p>Taking an integrated initiative towards skill development and upgradation of the competencies, UGC has issued Guidelines for empanelment of Adjunct Faculties in University to develop useful collaboration between the University and the legal profession and enhancing quality of education and skills by involvement of renowned academician, scholars, practitioners, policy makers and skilled professionals in teaching, training, research and related services in each semester. By creating these positions we may attract individuals in the field of law who has accepted in their field of specialization for interaction of the students. Such interactions are</p>	<p>Resolved that the proposal is accepted in principle and recommended for consideration of the Finance Committee and Executive Council.</p>

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<p>expected to foster trans-disciplinary approach and synergized outside 'real world' experienced with the inside intellectual students in the University. We may pay Rs. 4000/- per day of service subject to a maximum sealing of Rs. 80,000/- per month and a minimum of 2-4 days per semester.</p> <p>Similarly, we can invite such persons as honorary visiting Professors. Initially we propose to invite 10 adjunct Professors/Faculties and 10 honorary visiting Professors.</p>	
<p><u>13. Proposal for Bridge Course for the Qualifying Examination for Indian National holding Foreign Law Degrees in WBNUJS</u></p> <p>Details are placed before the members as Annexure – 10 A.</p>	<p>The Academic Council approves in principle the proposal for introduction of Bridge Course for the Qualifying Examination for Indian National holding Foreign Law Degrees for 3 years or 4 years duration.</p> <p>The proposal is recommended for consideration of the Executive Council in its next meeting to take further action in this matter.</p>
<p><u>Additional Agenda A1</u></p> <p><u>Memorandum of Understanding between The WB National Juridical Sciences And M/s. Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy</u></p> <p>Details of the MOU is attached as Annexure 14A.</p> <p>Put up for perusal and approval of the honourable members.</p>	<p>The proposal for entering MOU with M/s. Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, a not for profit company registered u/s. 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, has been received by the Office of the Vice Chancellor.</p> <p>Resolved that opinion of the Advocate General be obtained in this regard to take further action in this matter.</p> <p>After receiving the opinion of the Advocate General regarding its acceptability the matter be placed before the Executive Council.</p>

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<p><u>Additional Agenda A2</u></p> <p><u>Reminder for submission of Utilization Certificate – Referred by the Vice Chancellor</u></p>	<p>The reminder letter dated 19th June, 2019 received from Chief, UNICEF Office for West Bengal has been considered.</p> <p>In view of the fact that the University has received fund for activities for Centre for Child Rights hence University is obliged to submit Utilization Certificate and the activity reports on time.</p> <p>The Academic Council was of the view that the Executive Council must be appraised of the urgency for the submission of the Utilization Certificate to UNICEF so that necessary directions can be issued at their end to fulfil the obligations of the University.</p>
<p><u>R1. Admission to award of Graduation degree - LL.B course 2019 as on 17.07.2019</u></p> <p>The following students of LL.B course have successfully completed all the requirement for admission to the B.A. LL.B (Hones.) course. Degree will be awarded during the Convocation.</p> <p>Submitted for the perusal and direction may be given by the hon'ble members.</p> <p>Enclo: "Annexure -11" –</p>	<p>List of eligible candidates as submitted is approved.</p>

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R2. Admission to award of Post Graduate degree – Ph.D Degree 2019 as on 17.07.2019

The following students of Ph.D. degree have successfully completed all the requirement for admission to the Ph.D. degree. Degree will be awarded during the Convocation.

Submitted for the perusal and direction may be given by the hon'ble members.

Encl: "Annexure -12" –

Names of the candidates are approved for awarding Ph.D Degree.

Further resolved that efforts be made from the Academic Section that the notifications of provisional Ph.D Degree be made within one week from the date of viva voce.

R3. Admission status of undergraduate (LL.B) & Post Graduate (LL.M) course - 2019

Appended below is the list of students admitted in LL.B & LL.M course for the Academic year 2019-2020

B.Sc./B.A. LL.B. (Hons.)

<u>Category</u>	<u>LL.B seats</u>	<u>Admitted</u>
General	74	63
General (WB) Domicile	4	4
SC	13	11
SC (WB)	2	2
ST	7	7

Noted. The converted seats under the Foreign National Category is approved subject to maintaining the reservation policy.

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ST (WB)	1	1
OBC A (Domicile)	1	1
OBC B (Domicile)	1	1
J&K	2	2
NRI/NRI Sponsored	17	16
NRI/NRI Sponsored (WB)	1	1
Foreign National	4	1
	127	110

LL.M

Category	Total Seat	Students admitted
General (GEN)	31	18
Scheduled Caste (SC)	6	0
Scheduled Tribe (ST)	3	3
Person with Disabilities (PWD) [Horizontal Reservation]	2	0
Foreign National *	2	0
		21

* Seats converted to General Category

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<p>from the Foreign National Category due to non-availability of Foreign National category students</p> <p>Submitted for the perusal and direction may be given by the hon'ble members.</p>	
<p>R4. <u>Award of NUJS Merit – cum – means scholarship 2018</u></p> <p>Placed below please find the list of students of LL.B course have been awarded NUJS merit cum means scholarship 2018.</p> <p>Submitted for the perusal of the hon'ble members</p> <p>Encl: "Annexure -13" –</p>	<p>Deferred.</p> <p>The documents pertaining to the selection of the students for availing waiver of tuition fees are not available with the agenda papers.</p> <p>It is resolved that the documents pertaining to the selection be sent to the members through email for adopting a resolution by circulation. The documents be emailed by 29th July, 2019.</p> <p>The proposed resolution would read as under:-</p> <p>"The Committee members have perused the documents and are satisfied/not satisfied with the veracity of the selection process."</p>
<p>R5. <u>Credit course – 2018</u></p> <p>Placed below the list of Credit Courses which have been conducted during the academic year 2018-2019.</p> <p>Details are given below for the perusal of the hon'ble members.</p> <p>Encl: "Annexure -14" –</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

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R6. Appointment of Guest faculty (Law)

Intimation has been received from the office of the Registrar that the following Guest faculty (Law) have been appointed by the competent authority on adhoc & temporary basis.

- 1) Ms. Rashmi Bothra
- 2) Ms. Anwasha Pal
- 3) Mr. Surja Kanta Baladhikari

Reported for the perusal of the hon'ble members.

The agenda papers do not contain the documents relating to the selection of the appointees.

Since the matter requires to be placed in the next E.C. meeting scheduled to be held on 10th of August, 2019, it is resolved that the documents pertaining to the selection be sent to the members through email for adopting a resolution by circulation. The documents be emailed by 29th July, 2019.

The proposed resolution would read as under:-

“The Committee members have perused the documents and are satisfied/not satisfied with the veracity of the selection process.

The matter be placed before the E.C. for its consideration.”

There being no further points the meeting ended at 2:00 P.M.

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Mr. Surja Kanta Baladhikari
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