

Department of Policy & Management Studies
TERI School of Advanced Studies

Minutes for the Board of Studies (BoS) Meeting

Date: 18 August 2022

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Venue: Conference Hall, TERI SAS

A Board of Studies (BoS) meeting of the Department of Policy & Management Studies (DoPMS) was conducted on 18 August 2022, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Following BoS members were present in the meeting:

External Members

Prof. Avnish Kumar, *Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon*
Prof. Meeta Keswani Mehra, *Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi*

Internal Members

Dr. Sukanya Das (Chairperson)
Dr. Smriti Das
Dr. Montu Bose
Dr. Chandan Kumar (Secretary)

Special Invitee

Dr. Kavita Sardana, *Programme Coordinator, MSc (Economics)*
Dr. Swarup Dutta, *Programme Coordinator, MA (Sustainable Development Practice)*

Agenda

1. Review the revised Programme Structure of the MSc., Economics, and the MA, SDP for BoS approval.
2. Review of the revised courses aligning with the revised Programme Structure of the Master's Programme, i.e., MSc., Economics, and the MA, SDP for BoS approval. Presently, the revised courses to be offered in the first semester are being presented before the BoS for approval.
3. Any other issue as per the consideration of the Chairperson.

Minutes:

The BoS Chairperson welcomed the BoS members, and the BoS Secretary briefed the agenda items and requested the respective Programme Coordinators to present their points during the meeting under the

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concerning agenda items. BoS Secretary moderated the meeting. The sequence of events, presentation, discussion, comments, suggestions, and resolutions are summarized below under the respective agenda:

Agenda 1:

Dr. Kavita Sardana, Program Coordinator, M.Sc. (Economics), presented the revised Programme Outline of MSc (Economics) with the rationale for the program restructuring, which was designed based on stakeholder feedback. Additionally, the MPEC (Economics) incorporated suggestions of the discipline experts from the Delhi School of Economics and JNU. In her presentation, Dr. Kavita briefly discussed the background and context of carrying out the restructuring process [**Annexure 1: Revised Programme Outline, MSc. (Economics)**]. It was mentioned that among the courses that will be offered in the first semester, the outlines of courses “Microeconomics-I” and “Mathematical Methods for Economics” are proposed to remain unchanged; minor changes in the course “Macroeconomics-I” is proposed, and a new course, “Econometrics-I” is proposed to be offered in the first semester.

This followed the discussion:

a. Prof. Avanish Kumar suggested the following:

- If the two courses are combined into one course, namely Econometrics I, although the properties and advantages of both the courses will be available in the combined course, however, MPEC (Economics) should be sure that they are not leaving any important content in that process.
- MPEC (Economics) should consider documenting the reason for moving Environment and Economic Development from Core to Elective course.
- While renaming the course titles, the MPEC (Economics) was suggested to consider the popular and emerging domains reflected in the course titles to align with the market demand, as one of your mandates is also to ensure placement. For example, many emerging aspects they might be covering in the course 'Microeconomics-I' & 'Microeconomics-II', but these conventional nomenclatures would mask the uniqueness of the program.”
- On the issue of increasing seats in the program, he also raised concerns about the changing faculty: student ratio. As per the NEP, a university must follow the faculty: student ratio of 1:20.
- He also provided a few suggestions for implementing NEP at the program level. Overall, while restructuring the credit distribution across the semesters/academic year, it was suggested to consider the credit bank system. This would facilitate the exit-entry option. He further noted that a one-year PG program must be self-sufficient in the courses offered. Finally, he mentioned that careful consideration must be given while

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incorporating the courses in the program's first year (first two semesters) to remain competitive.

Other members of the BoS noted that TERI-SAS is about to initiate the process of implementing the provisions of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) that are being considered across Programmes.

In the ensuing discussion, MPEC (Economics) faculty members mentioned that the foundational and theory-based courses are offered in the first two semesters of the revised program and applied courses will be offered in the third semester. Faculty members of MPEC (Economics) opined that offering 'Environmental Economics' in the second semester would be helpful for the students to write a research proposal for their Master's thesis.

b. Prof. Meeta K. Mehra, through the email communication, shared the following:

- She apprised her complete agreement with the introduction of parts I and II of Micro, Macro and Econometrics. She opined that this would provide the much-needed rigour and training for graduate studies in Economics.
- She extended her consent to moving the course “Environment and Economic Development” from the list of core courses.
- She showed her satisfaction with having “Environmental Economics” as a second-semester core course.
- She opined that the decision of the last BoS about the two-track approach for the fourth semester of the MSc Economics programme (one that would entail making the thesis optional by giving choice between thesis and coursework) was a very good idea.
- She agreed with the expert panel that the compulsory Master’s thesis will make it very difficult to ensure the quality of the thesis work in view of the large student intake now intended for this programme. She pointed out that this would be especially problematic given the small faculty strength of the department and the long process required for selecting new faculty. Importantly, it would divert the time of the faculty from their teaching and research efforts.

Dr. Swarup Dutta, Program Coordinator, MA-Sustainable Development Practice (SDP), presented the revised Programme Outline with the rationale of the program restructuring [**Annexure 2: Revised Programme Outline, MA - SDP**]. In addition, he presented a step-by-step process of an entire program restructuring exercise. This followed the discussion:



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Prof. Avnish Kumar expressed his satisfaction with the proposed structure of the program; however, during the process sought a few clarifications and pointed out the following comments and suggestions:

- He asked about the rationale behind changing the credit
- He inquired whether the rural and urban field assessment exposure was provided to students
- While observing a few course titles framed using common terms, he suggested that an internal faculty might know the components covered in each course, but that should also be reflected explicitly in the course titles.
- He suggested that if the popular and emerging domains from the market demand perspective are known, the newly introduced courses on such aspects can be placed as 'core' rather than 'elective'. For example, courses such as 'social entrepreneurship' can be considered core courses rather than electives as far as emerging domains from the market demand perspectives are concerned."

On the question about the rationale behind changing credits in a few courses, Dr. Swarup mentioned that reducing and increasing course credits are based on the relevance of the course content. This exercise reduced the overlapping and redundancy of the content in different courses within the program. The BoS members also agreed with the rationale behind removing a few core courses in the 2nd semester.

Dr. Smriti further added that in a course like "Group Practicum," the students get field exposure in the rural areas, whereas it is mandatory to conduct fieldwork in the urban areas in the course "Qualitative Research for Development Practice ."In this regard, Prof. Avnish also agreed with more inclination toward rural emersion in the "Group Practicum," as the focus of the NEP is also exerted on rural exposure.

Resolution: The BoS members approved the revised Programme Outlines presented before them with the suggested modifications, as summarized in **Annexure 1** and **Annexure 2**.

Agenda 2:

Dr. Seema Sangita presented the revised course outline "Econometrics I" of the M.Sc. (Economics) Programme. The revised course was designed by combining portions of two previously offered courses, i.e., "Probability and Statistics," which was offered in the first semester, and "Econometrics," which was offered in the second semester as a core course in the M.Sc. (Economics) Programme.

This followed the discussion:

- c. Prof. Avnish Kumar pointed out the following comments and suggestions:



- First, the rationale for excluding/including topics (in this context, “Probability and Statistics” and “Econometrics”) needs to be spelt out.
- The terms using “Introduction” in each module can be avoided. For example, 'Introduction' in Module 2 can be removed since there is already an introductory module in the course (Module 1).
- The learning objectives should be aligned with the distribution of lectures and Practical.
- The learning outcomes should also be linked with the evaluation criteria.

Since the course Econometrics-I is designed by combining two courses, namely 'Probability and Statistics and 'Econometrics,' the course primarily focuses on the conceptual and theoretical understanding. Dr. Kavita further mentioned that the practical component would be given more emphasis in the course Econometrics-II. 'The uniqueness of the M.Sc. (Economics) program has been to train empirical, applied economists. Therefore, proper training in theoretical fundamentals of econometrics is covered in part I before they can apply using Practical exercises in Part II.

Dr. Montu noted that Gauss Markov Assumptions might simultaneously be taught with violations rather than sequential. Dr. Kavita responded that the course outline's flow is designed to be compatible with the main textbook for the course.

Dr. Swarup Dutta presented the revised course outline “Current Advances in Environmental Science” of the MA-SDP program.

- Prof. Avanish Kumar pointed out that the practical component should have a separate module within the course while assimilating all the domains of environmental issues. Fieldwork can be a module.

Dr. Swarup Dutta presented the revised course outline “Global Classroom: Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development” of the MA-SDP program.

- The BoS members expressed their satisfaction with the course outline.

Dr. Swarup Dutta presented the revised course outline “Law, Society, and Sustainable Development” of the MA-SDP program.

- Prof Avanish and Dr. Smriti pointed out that Module 4 can precede Module 3.

Dr. Swarup Dutta presented the revised course outline “Principles of Economics” of the MA-SDP program.

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- The BoS members felt that the practical application was missing in this course, and adding the component in the outline would be a value-addition to the program.

Dr. Chandan Kumar presented the revised course outline "Quantitative Approaches & Methods for Development Practice" of the MA-SDP program. This followed the discussion:

- Dr. Montu Bose highlighted that Module-5 could be reframed.

Dr. Swarup presented the course outline of "Qualitative Research for Development Practice" of the MA-SDP program.

- The BoS members expressed their satisfaction with the course outline.

Dr. L.N. Venkataraman presented the course outline of "Themes and Perspective of Development" of the MA-SDP program.

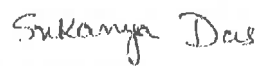
- Dr. Avanish mentioned that the proposed L-T-P distribution of module-5 can be reconsidered.


Resolution: The revised course outlines will be offered in the first semester of the MSc. Economics, and MA-SDP, which were presented before the BoS, were approved by the BoS with the suggested modifications to be presented before the Academic Council for further approval.


The BoS Chairperson concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks.



Prof. Avanish Kumar

Prof. Meeta Keswani Mehra


Dr. Sukanya Das


Dr. Smriti Das


Dr. Montu Bose


Dr. Chandan Kumar

FW: BoS Meeting to be held on 18th August 2022Chandan Kumar <chandan.kumar@terisas.ac.in>

Wed 14-Sep-22 5:07 PM

To: Vishal Kumar <vishal.kumar@terisas.ac.in>

From: Meeta Keswani Mehra <meetakm@gmail.com>**Sent:** 20 August 2022 20:49**To:** Sukanya Das <sukanya.das@terisas.ac.in>**Cc:** Chandan Kumar <chandan.kumar@terisas.ac.in>; Kavita Sardana <kavita.sardana@terisas.ac.in>**Subject:** Re: BoS Meeting to be held on 18th August 2022

Dear Sukanya,

I regret that I could not attend the BoS meeting of August 18, 2022. I have a few comments to offer on the agenda items.

I have read the minutes of the last BoS and the suggestions and comments of the expert panel for restructuring of the MSc Economics programme. I am in complete agreement with the introduction of parts I and II of Micro, Macro and Econometrics. This would provide the much needed rigour and training for graduate studies in Economics. I also consent with moving the Environment and Economic Development from the list of core courses. Additionally, having Environmental Economics as a second semester core course is a very good idea.

Furthermore, I also strongly feel that the decision of the last BoS about the two-track approach for the fourth semester of MSc Economics programme (one that would entail making the thesis optional by giving choice between thesis and coursework) was a very good idea. One should not revert back to a compulsory Masters thesis. I agree with the experts panel that the compulsory Masters thesis will make it very difficult to ensure the quality of the thesis work in view of the large student intake now intended for this programme. This would be especially problematic given the small faculty strength of the department, and the long process required for selecting new faculty. Importantly, it would divert the time of the faculty from their teaching and research efforts.

I hope these suggestions from my end would be incorporated.

Best regards,

Meeta

On Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 1:14 PM Sukanya Das <sukanya.das@terisas.ac.in> wrote:

Dear Prof Mehra,

Thank you for your email.

It will be really helpful, if possible, given your time constraint, you can send your valuable comments and suggestions for the restructuring M.Sc. Economics programme and the courses shared in the zipped folder.

warm regards

Sukanya

From: Meeta Keswani Mehra <meetakm@gmail.com>**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2022 11:34 AM**To:** Chandan Kumar <chandan.kumar@terisas.ac.in>**Cc:** avanish@mdi.ac.in <avanish@mdi.ac.in>; Sukanya Das <sukanya.das@terisas.ac.in>; Smriti Das <smriti.das@terisas.ac.in>; Montu Bose <montu.bose@terisas.ac.in>; Sukanya Das <hod.dpms@terisas.ac.in>; Vishal Kumar <vishal.kumar@terisas.ac.in>; Kavita Sardana <kavita.sardana@terisas.ac.in>; Kavita Sardana <Program.eco@terisas.ac.in>; Swarup Dutta <swarup.dutta@terisas.ac.in>; Swarup Dutta <Program.sdp@terisas.ac.in>; Shantanu De Roy <shantanu.roy@terisas.ac.in>**Subject:** Re: BoS Meeting to be held on 18th August 2022

Dear Dr Kumar,

Thank you for the invitation.

I regret that I will not be able to attend the BoS meeting as I will be on travel overseas for a conference during all of next week.

Do excuse me from this meeting.

Best regards,

Meeta K Mehra

On Thu, 11 Aug 2022, 11:30 Chandan Kumar, <chandan.kumar@terisas.ac.in> wrote:

Dear BoS Members,

This is to inform you that we have scheduled the BoS meeting on 18th August 2022 at the TERI SAS campus (Seminar Hall) from 11 AM – 1 PM. I'm herewith enclosing all the documents for your review along with the agenda for the BoS meeting. All the documents are arranged in two separate zipped folders for MSc. Economics and MA SDP programmes.

The main agenda for the BoS Meeting is as follows:

1. Review of the revised Programme Structure of the MSc., Economics, and the MA, SDP for BoS approval.
2. Review of the revised courses aligning with the revised Programme Structure of both the Master's Programme, i.e., MSc., Economics, and the MA, SDP for BoS approval. Presently, the revised courses to be offered in the first semester are being presented before the BoS for approval.
3. Considerations and approval for the arrangement of the courses as open electives following the guidelines of the New Education Policy 2020.

Thanks & Regards,

Chandan

C. Kumar, *PhD*

Asstt. Professor & DRC/BoS Secretary,

Department of Policy & Management Studies,

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