

**TERI School of Advanced Studies
Coca- Cola Department of Regional Water Studies**

Minutes of the Board of Studies Meeting

Date: 30 July 2021

Time: 10:30 AM -12:30 PM

Venue: Conference Hall, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi

A meeting of the Board of Studies (BoS) of the Coca Cola Department of Regional Water Studies was held on campus on 30/07/2021 at 10:30 AM.

External Members

1. Prof. Rakesh Mehrotra (DTU)
2. Prof. Gauhar Mehmood (Jamia Millia Islamia)
3. Prof. Vishal Narain (MDI Gurgaon) ; Joined online

Internal Members

1. Prof. Arun Kansal (HoD)
2. Dr. Fawzia Tarannum
3. Dr. Sherly M A

Special Invitee

1. Ms Ranjana Ray Chaudhuri, Programme Coordinator, M.Sc Water Science and Governance and M.Tech Water Resources Engineering and Management

Agenda

- Presentation of the departmental feedback
- Presentation of department report for NAAC Audit
- Review of the course outlines to incorporate minor changes to comply with UGC guidelines on credit hours.
- Departmental presentation and suggestions for future

The Head of the Department welcomed the Board of Studies (BoS) members and gave them a brief introduction about the department and the agenda items for the meeting.

1. Presentation of the departmental feedback

The feedback taken from Alumni and the current students with respect to overall programme structure, curriculum and learning outcome was presented as part of the departmental presentation. The copies of the feedback were shown and filed. The key highlights of the feedback are as follows:

MSc (Water Science and Governance)

- Learnt about how water uses impacts various fields like drinking, agriculture, plantation and significance of dams
- Learnt about the science of water (hydrology).
- The technical and quantitative estimation part of the course exceeded the expectation.
- There was horizontal learning as each subject fitted itself with the next one so wonderfully in each semester.
- Had joined the program with the aim to understand more about water resources, the problems and challenges associated with it and how it is perceived among diverse sectors, which was met.
- Expected hands-on experience and exposure on the field and put my knowledge into application which was impacted due to pandemic.

MTech (Water Resources Engineering and Management)

- Water has been a completely new domain for me. I was expecting it to be very difficult, but the teaching methods and the support provided by the faculty are worth appreciation. The subjects taught made me understand the gap that exists between industry and academics.
- Gained additional in-depth knowledge on all the aspects related to water, than just the hydraulics and water treatment, which I have been working on before I joined the program.
- The course is a complete package though some disadvantages due to the pandemic are always there.
- One new modelling software may be taught in each semester so that we may learn a few by the time we go for internship in fourth semester.

BoS members reviewed the document and verified.

2. Presentation of department report for NAAC

The department report for NAAC was presented by Dr. Sherly. The records of each item presented were also shown for verification and were filed. The BoS members checked the supporting documents and approved the NAAC Audit report.

3. Review of the course outlines

The course revision for alignment of credit hours as per UGC guidelines which is from 14 contact hours per credit to 15 contact hours per credit and minor changes thus made in each course were shared with the BoS members. The courses were reviewed individually and the final recommended course outlines are attached.

Attachment 1 – Summary Sheet

Attachment 2- Detailed Course Outlines

4. Discussion on future plans for the department

Prof. Arun Kansal and Dr. Fawzia made a presentation on the departmental activities carried out so far in terms of education, research, outreach and extension. Feedback and inputs were sought from the BoS members for education programs in the light of NEP, and thrust areas for future research and capacity building.

- Prof. Mehrotra inquired about the inclusion of Agricultural institutes in the survey that was conducted prior to developing the interdisciplinary curriculum which Prof confirmed that a micro-level diagnosis was undertaken and Agricultural institutes were part of it.
- Prof. Vishal inquired about the nature of topics on which the students are pursuing PhD, and whether they are interdisciplinary or based on natural sciences. Prof Kansal confirmed that the PhD programme is interdisciplinary in nature and the research is usually a combination of socio-economic, policy, science and technology.
- Prof. Mehrotra expressed the interest in knowing about the source of data collection related to water and energy used in the Water-Energy Nexus Project and the challenges associated in getting the data from the government institutions and individual households. Prof. Kansal in his response shared that he shall share the report, policy brief and the publications related to the project.

Suggestions:

- Prof. Mehmood appreciated the efforts of the department and brought out that the department lacks a hydrogeologist. The department may consider inviting experts from outside to collaborate in projects to incorporate hydrogeology in the studies.
- For the challenge related to fund-raising, Prof. Mehmood suggested collaboration with Central Universities and other government institutions. The department must plug in the deficiencies in expertise by submitting collaborative proposals.
- Prof. Vishal inquired about the challenges associated with getting funding grants during pandemic times and suggested that we may have to rethink the research priority areas and pedagogy for attracting funds and exploring new territories. He suggested that we connect with Alumni and get them to share how the interdisciplinary curriculum is helping them in the professional environment including what's working and what needs to be strengthened. He also suggested that instead of compartmentalizing Natural and Social Sciences, effort through workshops may help in integrating the two streams.
- Prof. Vishal inquired about the gender balance in the programmes offered by the department with respect to the conventional Engineering Programmes. Prof. Kansal confirmed that it is more balanced in an interdisciplinary programme. To attract more students to the programmes, Prof. Vishal suggested that short webinars from the Alumni would help in greater visibility of the programmes.

- Prof. Mehrotra, in response to the question on how the current curriculum could be aligned with the New Education Policy, stated that we must focus on making every aspect of the programmes outcome-based. He also emphasized the need for modification of the curricula for postgraduate study to cater for the time that student dedicates towards self-study rather than basing it on contact teaching hours.

The BoS members granted approval to the revised course summary and outlines and the Department specific NAAC Audit report and supporting documents presented to them.

Prof. Rakesh Mehrotra

Prof. Gauhar Mehmood

Prof. Arun Kansal (HoD)

Dr. Fawzia Tarannum

Dr. Sherly M A