



## **Minutes of joint MPhil committee and Department Council meeting 26 Sept 2017**

The following members were present:

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Charu Gupta          | 8. Dr. Sonu Yadav         |
| 2. Dr. David Vumlallian Zou | 9. Dr. Sajjan Kumar       |
| 3. Dr. Rahul Govind         | 10. Mr. Saifuddin Ahmad   |
| 4. Dr. Seema Bawa           | 11. Dr. Vipul Singh       |
| 5. Dr. Shalin Jain          | 12. Prof. Jaya Tyagi      |
| 6. Dr. Santosh Rai          | 13. Dr. Vijayalaxmi Singh |
| 7. Dr. Raziuddin Aquil      | 14. Dr. Prabhu Mahapatra  |

The coordinators of the various Committees of the Department submitted a record of their activities. These are mentioned below in the following order:

- I) MPhil Committee and report of MPhil coordinator
- II) Report of PhD coordinators
- III) Library Committee
- IV) Seminar Committee
- V) CAS
- VI) Other matters

### **I) The following subjects related to the MPhil programme were discussed:**

Dr. Vipul Singh, the MPhil coordinator informed the committee that the Orientation class for the 2017-2019 batch of students was held on 8th September and Course 1 started soon afterwards. He shared the minutes of the MPhil Course Convenors with the committee and the Calendar of the MPhil Programme 2017-2019. A roster of the number of students enrolled under the supervision of each faculty member has been prepared to ensure that we follow the recently introduced caps on the number of research students with each teacher. *This document is Annexure I.*

### **I Examiners Appointed**

A) Proposed examiners for Ms Raka Roy's MPhil Thesis submitted recently under Dr. Prabhu Mahapatra's supervision.

B) Proposed examiners for Ms. Moni's MPhil dissertation "Adhunik Bharat Mein Vikalangata Ke Prati Badalta Nazariya" submitted recently under Dr. Anirudh Deshpande's supervision.

C) Proposed examiners for Nagwant Singh's MPhil dissertation, "Sayyid Ghulam Nabi Raslin and his Works: a historical analysis of Gender and Culture in the 18th century" submitted under Dr. Raziuddin Aquil's supervision.

D) Proposed examiners for Subin Sahu's MPhil dissertation, "Yogis, Bhaktas and Sufis: Religious Traditions in Medieval North India, c. 1000-1400" submitted under Dr. Raziuddin Aquil's supervision.

(details of these are mentioned in the Mphil minutes)

## **II The following case of Medical Leave was discussed**

**Tannishtha Bhattacharjee**, 2017-19 batch (enrolled recently) has requested for exemption from Course I, which she will do next year. The conveners of Course 1, 2 and 3 propose that the candidate be allowed to take courses 2 and 3 this academic year and course 1 in the next academic year (2018-19) while she works on her dissertation. This was accepted.

## **III The following case of withdrawal was tabled:**

**Ms Chitra Mishra** gave an application requesting withdrawal from the MPhil programme because she was moving to Hyderabad. She gave an undertaking that she recognized that this 'withdrawal' meant that she had voluntarily given up her seat and would have to seek fresh admission into the programme should she want to do this at any future date – her application would not be regarded as a 'deferral' of her admission to sometime in the future.

## **IV Duration of extension given to MPhil students at the end of their second year needed to be rationalized since they sometimes varied.**

It was decided that extensions after their second year for the completion of dissertations would be awarded on three occasions for 4 months on each occasion. All applications needed to note the students date of enrollment and total number of extensions could not exceed three years from their date of admission into the programme. All applications needed to carry the recommendation of the supervisor and supporting documents if required.

The following extension case application was tabled:

- 1) **Ravi Kumar Meena**, 2015-2017 batch (enrollment 06/08/2015) "Settlement Pattern in pre-Harappan site of Ganeshwar, Jodhpura and Sunarighat" supervisor Vijaya Laxmi Singh. Extension of 4 months, until 31-1-2018.

**V The MPhil coordinator submitted the following documents for record in the minutes of the meeting:**

- 1) Calendar of MPhil Programme (For information: *Annexure II.*)
- 2) Minutes of MPhil Course Conveners (For information: *Annexure III.*)

**VI The MPhil coordinator also submitted the following documents for circulation to all faculty members:**

- 1) **6 Monthly Report Form** – this important document clarifies many important requirements that MPhil students will need to complete in a time bound manner before the holding of their vivas. All students are required to submit this form every six month after it is countersigned by their supervisors. A copy of the form is attached as *Annexure IV*
- 2) **Compliance Form from Board of Research Study.** This new form needs to be included in each MPhil dissertation. It clarifies that the students were taught the principles of citation and what constitutes plagiarism. At the time of submission of the dissertation and before the appointment of examiners a soft copy of the dissertation will be run through a plagiarism check software. The Compliance Form is *Annexure V.*

**II) The following subjects related to the PhD programme were discussed:**

**I List of PhD students working with each faculty member:**

The PhD coordinator, Dr. Shalin Jain reported on the preparation of a roster of PhD students currently enrolled with each faculty member. This is to allow (i) for effective supervision of PhD students at different stages of their enrollment in the programme and (ii) the imposition of the cap on the number of students enrolled with each teacher. This roster of students is in the Excel file marked as *Annexure VI.*

**II PhD Orientation and Status Report:**

The PhD coordinator reported on the progress of admission of the new batch of PhD students. Once all students have paid their fees the PhD orientation will be held after the Diwali weekend. The PhD coordinator read the following statement and asked for its inclusion in the minutes of the meeting.

### **STATUS REPORT REGARDING Ph.D PROGRAMME**

The amended Ph.D Ordinance makes continuous and more careful supervision of Ph.D research scholars a collective and compulsory responsibility of the department. In accordance with the Ordinance and the required Six Monthly Progress Report (see III B,

below) the following administrative steps have been proposed some of which require our collective response.

1. To streamline the Pre Ph.D seminars a calendar has been prepared proposing these activities fall on every second and fourth week of the working months on Tuesdays. The date of Ph.D vivas are more dependent upon the convenience of the external examiner but we will try to club events as far as possible.
2. A Ph.D Orientation program too has been mooted to familiarize students about the many administrative details introduced by the new Ordinance. Considerable emphasis has been placed upon completing requirements regularly: course work, two conference presentations, publication of one research paper, and regular six monthly progress reports. Supervisors now have to provide a certificate that students have received training in research methodology (citations etc) to curb plagiarism (*Annexure VII*). The additional paper work means that research supervision has to have some documentary support. We have tried to make this into a useful, supportive exercise that enables quality research and not just a bureaucratic intervention.
3. For implementation of UGC Regulation the University has already sent us a template document for Research Methodology compliance (citations etc). Other documentary requirements demanded by the UGC and the BRS have been consolidated within the required six monthly progress reports (*Annexure VII & VIII*). These forms are very similar to the one required for the MPhil (*Annexure IV & V*) and all faculty members need to familiarise themselves with its requirements. These should not be too burdensome. It will certainly allow for more precise monitoring of the progress of our PhD students. That will be useful to students, supervisors and the department.
4. The value of this documentation is apparent in the incredibly flimsy archival information available on our PhD students at present. We have tried to research and cohere data from multiple sources. But there are a lot of discrepancies in record keeping even at the BRS level. We have compiled as much information as possible over the last six years (*Annexure VI*) and this will be valuable to track the progress of our respective students. We have shared this data with all faculty members – please be sure to check the information on all your students and let us know about any discrepancy. This exercise is particularly important because the upper cap on the admission of research students in the Department is now calculated on the basis of the cap on enrolled students with each faculty member.
5. The attached excel sheet (*Annexure VI*) plots the progress of all students over the last six years and we now have an individual file maintained on every student admitted to our Ph.D programme somewhat on the lines present already in the

BRS. This will help avoid discrepancies and complications.

6. We have often remarked on the lack of engagement shown by PhD students in the academic events organized by the Department. If we use the PhD ordinance constructively we should accomplish three tasks: i) make it simpler for individual supervisors to follow the progress of their students; ii) create the sense of an academic cohort amongst each batch of admitted PhD students as they complete courses, publish papers, participate in seminars, write up their chapters and hold their pre-PhD presentations (please read the requirements of *Annexure VII* very carefully); iii) although cast as a largely bureaucratic exercise, the new regulations can actually cohere our hitherto loosely run PhD programme into a more valuable, carefully supervised academic venture. This will foreground the research profile of our department. At present we have about a hundred research students on our rolls but with little idea about their individual progress or accomplishment. Our intent is not just to implement the amended Ph.D Ordinance but also to streamline our Ph.D programme.

### **III The following documents were tabled by the PhD coordinator for discussion and inclusion in the minutes.**

#### **A. Form relating to Research Methodology (*Annexure VII*):**

This form needs to be signed by the Supervisor, the HOD and sent to the Chair, BRS at the time of submission of each dissertation attesting to the training given to students in citations together with a workshop on plagiarism. This training and workshop will be held during the orientation session of each new batch of students.

- B. Six Monthly PhD Progress Report Form signed by the student and his supervisor to be kept in the office (*Annexure VIII*).** This is an extremely important document and Dr. Shalin Jain's 'Status Report' explains the importance of this document in tracking the progress of each student and its help in ensuring timely completion of all requirements before submission of the dissertation.

### **III) Library Committee Report:**

Under the convenorship of Dr. Sanghamitra Misra, the Library Committee submitted the following report of its discussions to the joint MPhil committee and DC meeting for inclusion in the minutes.

The Library Committee consists of the following members:

Shalini Shah  
Santosh Kumar Rai  
Sanghamitra Misra

Raziuddin Aquil  
Parul Pandya Dhar

1. The Committee strongly recommended that the Department library be moved from its current location to a bigger and more amiable physical space. It was suggested that a possible new location for the library could be the current M.A. Previous Lecture Hall; to compensate this loss of lecture room space in this building, the room that the library currently functions out of, may be marked out as an MA Previous class room. This will greatly facilitate the use of the library by the faculty and students, and also make it possible to display a large number of books that are currently being crammed into the closed cupboards at the back of the library.

2. The Committee recommended that the catalogue of the Department library should be digitalised and made available online. Towards that, it was suggested that the Librarian at the CRL be consulted for the acquisition of a software that will make it possible to set up this digital/online catalogue. The Committee agreed that it would be ideal if the costs towards this digitalisation, including the temporary acquisition of a member of a CRL library staff who could help with the process, be met through the Department's CAS programme. It would like to enquire of the HOD, Prof. Sunil Kumar, if this was indeed possible.

3. The Committee would like to know if there are funds from CAS available for purchasing books for the Department library. It requests Prof. Sunil Kumar, the HOD, to provide any information regarding the same.

4. The members agreed that the library is in serious need of additional staff. Other, smaller, department libraries (the East Asia Department Library as an example) appear staffed with a larger number of employees. Keeping in mind the faculty and student strength of the History Department as well as the large repository of books, the Committee recommends an increase in the library staff by at least 2 members.

5. It was agreed that the members of the faculty should be invited to send in lists of books to the Library Committee that they would like to procure for the CRL. These lists will then be handed over to University approved book dealers who can then acquire them and present the bills to the HOD. This process will ensure that those books that are required by the faculty are made available in the CRL.

The Committee suggests that the Department pursue the possibilities of ordering books online, in conjunction with other Departments of the University and the CRL. This will greatly facilitate the process of purchasing books for the faculty and also ensure the maximum utilisation of library funds since used/second hand books could also be purchased at reduced rates.

Of the issues raised in the report of the Library committee some recommendations were in the long duration, some dependent on CAS, others on the shifting of the library to its new premises. But the DC took note of items #1 and #5 and recommended their implementation immediately. As a matter of report to the Department, since the meeting we have progressed substantially in some areas and not in others:

**#1** we have since moved closer to shifting the PSG Departmental Library to the MA Previous Lecture Hall. The room has been whitewashed and we would like to initiate the transfer to the new premises during the week of study break, after the suspension of classes but before the examinations.

**#5** The recommendation regarding ordering books needs to be implemented by all faculty members. Please do **NOT** order books from book sellers. Instead send the lists of books that should be procured to the Library Committee. They will ask CRL to procure books for us. This is important. We are no longer honouring signed recommendations of faculty members presented by book sellers.

#### **IV) Seminar Committee Report:**

Under the convenorship of Dr. Aparna Balachandran, the Seminar committee submitted the following report to the joint MPhil committee and DC meeting for inclusion in the minutes.

##### **Report on the activities, implemented and proposed by the Seminar Committee:**

The Seminar Committee, Department of History consists of the following members

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Dr. Aparna Balachandran<br>(Convener) | 3. Dr. Rahul Govind   |
| 2. Prof. Sunil Kumar                     | 4. Prof. Farhat Hasan |
|  | 5. Dr. Shalin Jain    |

The Seminar Committee has planned a series of events for students and faculty for the present semester, and will put together preliminary plans for the coming semester (January – May 2018). Here is the schedule for this semester:

**Weekly talks** will be held in the Committee room at 2:30 PM on Wednesdays. These are the details of the upcoming talks that have been finalized. We have invited several other speakers who have yet to confirm their dates.

1. 15 September: Dr Hemanth Kidambi: 'Constituting identity within the sacred landscapes of early medieval South India: the Chalukyas of Badami (ca. 550-750 CE)'
2. 27 September: Dr Nidhi Mahajan: 'Dangerous Dhows: 'Risk and Insecurity

in the Western Indian Ocean”

The following speakers have agreed to give a talk in the coming weeks:

3. 25 October: Dr Sanghamitra Misra
4. 15 November: Dr Shahana Bhattacharya
5. The seminar committee will also organize 2 “**baithaks**” this semester. These are events where students and faculty will read a few selected texts of the speaker who will then discuss these at the baithak. One speaker has been confirmed so far. Dr Prachi Deshpande will be conducting a baithak on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December.
6. Furthermore, Dr Rahul Govind and Dr Sanghamitra Misra are organizing a workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, “Revolution and Marxism. Here is a tentative description and schedule of the workshop:

### **Revolution and Marxism**

**2:15 – 3:00:** "Contemporary Marxism: Shankar Guha Niyogi and the Rights and Dignity of Work" ,  
Sudha Bhardwaj, Visiting Professor, National Law University Delhi and PUCL

**3:00 – 5:00/5:30:** "Revolution and Marxism as Method: An Inter-disciplinary Inquiry"

Amit Bhadhuri, Professor of Political-Economy, Pavia University, Italy and Visiting Professor, Council for Social Development, Delhi. Professor Emeritus Jawaharlal Nehru University. Author of *The Economic Structure of Backward Agriculture* (London: Academic Press, 1982), *Macroeconomics: The Dynamics of Commodity Production* (London: Macmillan, 1986), *Unconventional Economic Essays* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1992), *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Liberalisation* (coauthored with D. Nayyar) (India: Penguin, 1996), *On the Border of Economic Theory and History* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999), and *Development with Dignity* (India: National Book Trust, 2006).

B. S. Chimni, Formerly Professor, Centre for International Legal Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Author of *The Third World & International Legal Order: Law, Politics & Globalisation* (co-edited with Antony Anghie, Karen Mickelson & Obiora Okafor, Kluwer Law International, 2003). *International Refugee Law: A Reader*. New Delhi: Sage, 2000. *International Law and World Order: A Critique of Contemporary Approaches*. New Delhi: Sage, 1993. *International Commodity Agreements: A Legal Study*. London: Croom Helm, 1987.

Arup Banerji, Formerly Professor, University of Delhi. Author of *Merchants and Markets in Revolutionary Russia: 1917-30* (New York : St. Martin's Press in association with the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham, 1997) and *North Indian Nomads and Bankers in Afghan, Uzbek and Russian Lands* (Delhi: Three Essays Collective 2011)

### **V) CAS:**

Professor Upinder Singh's letter on CAS was noted. In her absence no discussion on the subject was possible. The HOD would study the pending paper work and discuss with the DC and Prof. Singh on the way forward.

## **VI) Other Matters:**

Under 'Other Matters' the following subjects were taken up:

- I. The HOD reported that he had appointed Prof. B.P. Sahu; Dr. Anirudh Deshpande; and Dr. Rahul Govind as members of the Department Leave Committee.
- II. The HOD reported on the need for caution while recommending the application of students for the use of rooms to hold academic or other events. Diligent inquiry was necessary regarding the background of the applicants (are they current students?); whether the event organised is academic or not, and who is being invited as speakers.
- III. The HOD informed that a series of workshops on UG CBCS courses taught in DU have already been held and additional workshops are scheduled for 12-14 October. Check the notice board for details.
- IV. The HOD informed the faculty regarding the wide-spread expectation amongst students of 'rewards' accruing to students who function as class representatives or/and student members of the Seminar Committee. These expectations made for intense competition regarding the election of Student Representatives this term with some rather nasty, negative campaigning. The DC felt that elections were necessary but we might go slow with the student-faculty meetings this term to belie unwarranted expectations of rewards amongst students.
- V. The HOD informed colleagues about the request by the Indian chapter of the International Organisation for Eighteenth Century Studies (IIECS) to hold an afternoon talk on 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Department. The keynote speaker is Prof Denys Leighton and all organisational expenses would be defrayed by the IIECS. Since the group is represented by Deeksha Bharadwaj, an old student of the Department and teacher in Gargi College, and the event is academic, and all they want is the use of one of our class rooms, the DC allowed the holding of the event in either room no. 6 or 24 (whichever is free that day) in the Social Science Annexe building.
- VI. The HOD wanted permission to start a paper recycling programme in the Department and the money raised to be used by the seminar committee for its events. This was allowed.
- VII. The HOD informed the faculty about the impending call for submission of

question papers for the end of term examinations and for cooperation in their submission in a timely fashion. His request was met with nonchalance and raised eye brows.