



DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY  
HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY

Summer Hill, Shimla-171 005 (HP), India

(NAAC Accredited "A" Grade University)

जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग  
हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय

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**Proceedings of the Meeting of  
the Board of Studies (BoS) in the subject of Biotechnology,  
Department of Biotechnology, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla  
[December 18, 2019, 12:00 Noon]**

A meeting of the Board of Studies (BoS) in the subject of Biotechnology of Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla was held on December 18, 2019 at 12:00 Noon in the Seminar Room of Department of Biotechnology, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla to discuss various issues related to the department i.e. Revision of Course curriculum, proposal for starting new entrepreneurial/ skill development courses and other issues related to faculty, technical, ministerial staff and students etc.

The following were present:

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Prof. Arvind Kumar Bhatt | Chairman               |
| 2. Prof. Rajat Sandhir      | External Expert Member |
| 3. Prof. Praveen B. Balgir  | External Expert Member |
| 4. Prof. S.S. Kanwar        | Member                 |
| 5. Prof. Reena Gupta        | Member                 |
| 6. Prof. Duni Chand         | Member                 |
| 7. Prof. Wamik Azmi         | Member                 |
| 8. Dr. Savitri              | Member                 |

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members of the Board of Studies (BoS) in the subject of Biotechnology and detailed the reason for convening this meeting. The Chairman discussed the detailed future plans of the Department and also elaborated the efforts made in the past by his predecessors, all the previous Chairpersons, faculty members, technical and support staff, researchers and students for overall growth and development of the Department, due to which it has been rated B+ by DBT/BIRAC and is among top 10 Universities in the country offering DBT Sponsored PG Course in Biotechnology. It was hoped that with the help and constructive inputs/ suggestions of the worthy Members, the Department will be able to grow and excel further while fulfilling the objectives for which it was established in the year 1995. Thereafter, the following agenda items were taken for consideration, discussion and following decisions were taken:

**Item - 1 Revision of Course Curriculum of M.Sc. Biotechnology**

It was informed that with changing time need-based timely revision of course curriculum is must and accordingly based on the feedback of the students, the usefulness of the contents for competing in various Entrance Exams including UGC-CSIR NET and various others, the need based changes have been made by the faculty members in the existing Syllabus. The Chairman placed before the BoS the revised Draft of the Syllabus to be implemented from the next academic session i.e. July, 2020. Suggestions and approval of the Experts and Members for improvement of the Proposed Draft of the Revised Course Curriculum for M.Sc. Biotechnology to be implemented from Academic Session 2020 onwards.

**Decision Taken:** The Draft syllabus proposed was approved after incorporating several useful suggestions (Approved curriculum at Annexure-I. The External Expert Members also suggested to mention individual course wise and total Credits



in the syllabus although these are not reflected in Marks card for the benefit of the students. Further, several useful suggestions/ improvements suggested in view of the future implementation of CBCS system at PG level in HPU were also incorporated in the approved Syllabus for M.Sc. Biotechnology.

**Item - 2 Proposal for additional Faculty Members and Technical Staff for the Department of Biotechnology as per the proposal**

The BoS was informed that in view of the past suggestions of the DBT Advisory Committee and the feed-back from the students, requirement of specialized faculty in few specific areas is essential for growth of the department besides technical manpower at other levels. It was felt also informed that two posts of professors are lying vacant and one is being advertised from time to time but has not been filled and thus the Departmental Council has recommended to convert the post of professor as Assistant Professor. In addition two positions of Assistant Professors are also required in two specialized areas. Further few Technical Positions are also required in view of the increased work load. After approval of the BOS the request will be sent to various academic and statutory bodies for implementation.

**Decision Taken:** The BoS approved the request of the department as per the recommendation of the Departmental Council for following Teaching and Technical positions for Department of Biotechnology:

Sr. No.	Positions Required	Remarks
<b>A: Teaching Positions</b>		
1.	Conversion of one vacant post of Professor to Assistant Professor	General Biotechnology -1 (One)
2.	Additional Positions of Assistant Professors - 02 (Two)	Plant Biotechnology/Molecular Biology/ Medical Biotechnology/ Microbiology/ Bioinformatics
<b>B: Technical Staff</b>		
3.	Laboratory Assistant (Pay scale of Rs. 10300-34800+GP 3200	-1 (One)
4.	Library Attendant (Pay scale of Rs. 10300-34800 + 3200 GP	-1 (One)
5.	Laboratory Attendants (Pay scale of Rs. 5910-20200+GP 1900 )	- 2 (Two)

**Item - 3 Introduction of M. Tech. Biotechnology and new Entrepreneurial / Diploma / other short-term skill development courses in specific areas replacing M. Phil. Biotechnology from next Academic Session.**

The BoS was informed that the Department has been admitting 15 students in M. Phil, Biotechnology every year but there has been resentment among the students due to no progression opportunities for PhD or job possibilities in view of new UGC Guidelines. Even at state level, the financial benefits are not provided to M.Phil. candidates as per past practice.

Keeping in view the above the Departmental Council has recommended to replace M.Phil. Biotechnology and instead if feasible, to start Entrepreneurial/ Skill Based Diploma / Short-term courses and also M.Tech. as replacement for M.Phil., which will be more beneficial to the students. The Chairman wanted the view point / opinion of the BoS in this regard.

**Decision Taken:** The BoS approved the request of the department as per the recommendation of the Departmental Council for promoting Job Oriented Skill Development Courses/ Diplomas and short-term courses. The BoS also recommended to replace the M.Phil. Biotechnology Course and suggested to start the M. Tech. in specialized areas with emphasis on Entrepreneurial Biotechnology (not exceeding 5 seats initially) subject to the condition that faculty and infrastructure as per requirement is made available in advance.



**Item - 4 Request of Researchers of Biotechnology & Microbiology for their eligibility for Life Science and other posts as per UGC Guidelines.**

The BoS was informed that Hon'ble Vice Chancellor has forwarded the request of the Researchers of Biotechnology & Microbiology addressed to Hon'ble Chief Minister to allow them to be considered for the positions of Assistant Professors in Life Science for positions advertised by State Public Service Commission which presently is not the practice although they are allowed to appear in UGC NET/SLET in Life Sciences and several State Governments allow the Microbiology & Biotechnology Graduates for teaching positions in Life Science. As per UGC guidelines 2018, the eligibility criteria for appointment of teachers and other academic staff in higher education is master degree with 55% marks in a relevant/allied subject from any Indian University. They have also requested for creation of college cadre in Microbiology/Biotechnology and introduction of Microbiology/ Biotechnology courses in government colleges of H.P. The Departmental Council has also recommended that the State Govt. may be requested to consider the demand of the Biotechnology / Microbiology Graduates to consider them for the positions of Life Science in State after approval of the BoS and Academic Council. The suggestions/ recommendation of the BOS is required in this connection.

**Decision Taken:** The BoS recommended that since the Biotechnology & Microbiology students are eligible for UGC-CSIR NET and are also considered for teaching positions in the field of Life Science in several states, their candidature may also be considered for Teaching positions in the area of Life/ Allied Sciences by State Govt. for College Cadre posts as per the UGC Guidelines-2018. Further, keeping in view the usefulness of these modern Life Science subjects globally, BoS was also of the view that these subjects should also be introduced in Government colleges in Himachal Pradesh as well as at 10+2 level as elective subject like Environment Science. Further it was also recommended that State Govt. should be requested by the University to have at least one teaching position for Microbiology/ Biotechnology in these colleges/ schools wherever so that the students can be benefited by these advanced Life Science subjects.

**Any other Item 1: Revision of Course Curriculum of B.Sc. (Hons.) Biotechnology under New Yearly system of CBCS**

The BoS was informed that due to switch over of CBCS system at UG level in the state from Semester to yearly system, the revision of the course curricula to suit the changed system was done and the total outline of the Course was finalized. Further, due to urgency, the detailed syllabi for the courses of first year was also finalized in the previous meeting of BoS and it was desired that the syllabus for the second and third year will be finalized before start of second year. Subsequently, the appropriate changes/amendments as suggested by the members according to the finalized outline were incorporated well in time. Draft of the revised Course Curriculum/Syllabus prepared for second and third year was placed before the committee for comments/suggestions.

**Decision Taken:** After detailed deliberations and discussions on various issues vis-à-vis the usefulness of the curriculum for the students, the detailed syllabus of B.Sc. (hons.) Biotechnology, after incorporating required/ suggested changes, was finalized and approved as per Annexure-III.

Finally, while appreciating the efforts of the Department and University, the BoS was of the view that the focus should be on strengthening the existing facilities for improving quality and introducing need based job oriented courses like Food Technology, Industrial Microbiology/ Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, Biochemistry and Forensic Science etc. with focus skill development, entrepreneurial possibilities and more hands on practical and job training for increasing employability of the students and the Department of Life Science especially Biotechnology and Microbiology should take lead in this







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**Any other Item : 2 Proposal for award of Ph.D degree in their respective discipline.**

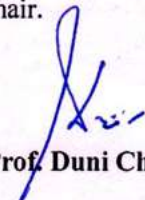
Department has received request from Ph.D. Scholar regarding award of Ph.D. degree in their respective discipline of post-graduation. The BoS recommended that the Ph.D. Scholars who have done their PG in Microbiology will be awarded Ph.D. in Microbiology and the scholars who have done their PG degree in Biotechnology will be awarded Ph.D. in Biotechnology.

**Decision Taken:** The BoS approved the proposal and further recommended that the department should decide admission to Ph.D. Microbiology/Biotechnology at the time of admission while also considering the choice of the candidate seeking admission. Further, the department may decide about the admission in Microbiology/ Biotechnology at the time of admission in consultation with the student and also make appropriate changes in this regard.

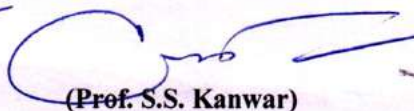
The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

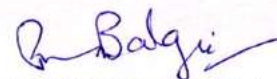
  
(Dr. Savitri)

  
(Prof. Wamik Azmi)

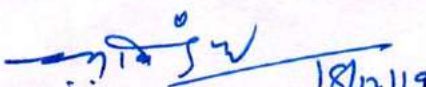
  
(Prof. Duni Chand)

  
(Prof. Reena Gupta)

  
(Prof. S.S. Kanwar)

  
(Prof. Praveen P Balgir)  
External Expert Member

  
(Prof. Rajat Sandhir)  
External Expert Member

  
(Prof. Arvind Kumar Bhatt)  
CHAIRMAN- BoS