

School of Human Ecology, AUD

Minutes of the Board of Studies Meeting held on 16th January 2015

The fourth meeting of the Board of Studies of the School of Human Ecology was held on 16th January 2015 at 2 pm at the Kashmere Gate campus of AUD. The meeting was attended by:

1. Prof. Chandan Mukherjee, Pro VC (Special invitee)
2. Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao (External member)
3. Prof. Sudha Vasan (External member)
4. Dr Vikram Dayal (External member)
5. Dr Asmita Kabra (Deputy Dean, SHE)
6. Prof. Jatin Bhatt (Dean, SDes)
7. Dr Rachana Johri (Dean, SUS)
8. Dr Arindam Banerjee (Assistant Professor, SLS)
9. Dr Praveen Singh (Assistant Professor, SHE)
10. Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi (Assistant Professor, SHE)
11. Dr Rohit Negi (Assistant Professor, SHE)
12. Dr Suresh Babu (Assistant Professor, SHE; Special Invitee)
13. Dr Pulak Das (Assistant Professor, SHE; Special Invitee)

Prof. C.R. Babu regretted his inability to attend.

Agenda

1. To report the action taken on decisions of the previous meeting
2. To discuss three courses as per the following details:

S. No.	Course	Programme/School	Action sought
1	Advanced Ecology	MA Environment and Development at the School of Human Ecology	To seek ratification for the course structure of this approved course
2	Environmental Issues and Challenges	All BA (hons) programmes at the School of Undergraduate Studies	To seek ratification of the course
3	Introduction to Human Ecology	All BA (hons) programmes at the School of Undergraduate Studies	To seek approval for the course

3. Any other matters

Discussion and Decisions

1. Prof. Chandan Mukherjee opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the SHE board of Studies.
2. Dr Asmita Kabra reported that the courses Methods in Human Ecology (4-credit elective for the PhD programme) and Gender and Environment (2-credit elective for the MA programme) recommended by the BoS in its 3rd meeting have been duly placed before and approved by the Academic Council.

Asmita Kabra

3. Dr Asmita Kabra outlined the current structure of the MA programme in Environment and Development (MAED), including the division of courses between core, elective and field practicum. A rich discussion was held on the elective component at SHE as well as the transaction of electives within AUD as a whole. Dr Krishna AchutaRao enquired about the proportion of approved electives that were actually offered to SHE's MA students in the course of their MA programme. It was clarified that most of the listed electives are in fact offered, provided a minimum cohort size of students opt for the courses. It was suggested that the university should evolve appropriate systems of time table creation and information sharing by which students are enabled to opt for courses from other MA programmes and schools.

Dr Asmita Kabra explained the location of and need for the approved 4-credit course "Advanced Topics in Ecology" in the basket of electives of the MAEd programme. Dr Suresh Babu provided an overview of the course outline and explained that the course will be offered to students of 2nd and 4th semester. He proposed that the title of the course be changed to "Advanced Ecology". After an intensive discussion, the members suggested that the weightage of assessments be made more flexible within the AUD assessment norms, to be able to customize them to the needs and interests of different batches.

Subject to these changes being made, the members approved the change in course name as well as the proposed outline of the course "Advanced Ecology".

4. Dr Praveen Singh provided an outline of the 4-credit undergraduate course "Environmental Issues and Challenges" on behalf of the course team (which includes Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi and Dr Pulak Das). Dr Asmita Kabra explained its placement as a core foundation course to be offered in the 1st year to all SUS students. She explained the design of the course outline in the context of the Supreme Court ruling and UGC guidelines regarding mandatory teaching of environmental issues to all undergraduate students. A rich discussion took place, in which the board members suggested the following modifications, given the breadth of topics that the course is expected to cover:
- The course team should make the prescribed reading list simpler, and use popular texts, magazine articles, films and other resources to animate the classroom discussions.
 - As suggested by the UGC guidelines, the team should develop a few field based activities specific to Delhi that cut across different topics, and add these to the course outline.

Subject to these changes being made, the members approved the proposed outline of the course "Environmental Issues and Challenges".

5. Dr Suresh Babu, along with Dr Rohit Negi and Dr Asmita Kabra (the course team) presented the undergraduate course titled "Introduction to Human Ecology", proposed as a 4-credit elective for final year undergraduate students of SUS. The team also outlined the innovative blended-learning pedagogy being proposed for the course in consonance with the ongoing Indo-European E-QUAL project, of which the SHE team at AUD is an important part. The board members suggested the following modifications:
- A few India-specific readings may be introduced in cluster 1
 - In cluster 3, a few basic readings from the 'new social movements' literature might be included, to complicate the 'varieties of environmentalism' framework.

Asmita Kabra

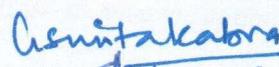
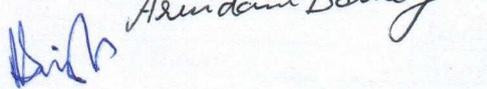
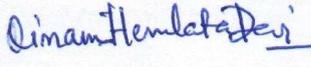
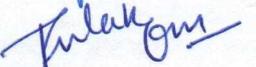
Subject to these changes being made, the members approved the proposed outline of the course "Introduction to Human Ecology".

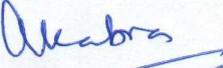
6. Dr Asmita Kabra updated the members about ongoing research projects at SHE and informed the members about the upcoming conference on human ecology being organized in Feb-March 2015.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(Minutes prepared by Dr Asmita Kabra)

I have read the minutes above and approve of them.

Name	Signature
Prof. Chandan Mukherjee	
Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao	
Prof. Sudha Vasani	
Dr Vikram Dayal	
Dr Asmita Kabra	
Prof. Jatin Bhatt	
Dr Rachana Johri	
Dr Arindam Banerjee	
Dr Praveen Singh	
Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi	
Dr Rohit Negi	
Dr Suresh Babu	
Dr Pulak Das	


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School of Human Ecology, AUD

Minutes of the Board of Studies Meeting held on 9th November 2016

The fourth meeting of the Board of Studies of the School of Human Ecology was held on 9th November 2016 at 2.30 pm at the Kashmere Gate campus of AUD. The meeting was attended by:

1. Prof. C.R. Babu (External member)
2. Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao (External member)
3. Prof. Sudha Vasan (External member)
4. Dr Vikram Dayal (External member)
5. Prof. Asmita Kabra (Dean, SHE)
6. Prof. Jatin Bhatt (Dean, SDes)
7. Dr Rachana Johri (Dean, SUS)
8. Dr Arindam Banerjee (Assistant Professor, SLS)
9. Dr Praveen Singh (Assistant Professor, SHE)
10. Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi (Assistant Professor, SHE)
11. Dr Rohit Negi (Assistant Professor, SHE)
12. Dr Suresh Babu (Assistant Professor, SHE; Special Invitee)
13. Dr Pulak Das (Assistant Professor, SHE; Special Invitee)

Agenda

S. No.	Title	Details
Reporting Items		
1	a. Annual report of SHE b. Achievements and updates – faculty promotion, new initiatives, collaborations, student progression, key gaps	To be presented by the Dean
Items for Discussion		
2	Proposed changes to the course structure of MA Environment and Development: a. Shift of core course Environmental and Ecological Economics to Semester 2 b. Revision of the name of the course Ecological Statistics 2	Both items to be presented by the respective course coordinators
3	Discussion on proposed new courses: a. Proposed new PhD course: Livelihoods Research b. Proposed new MA courses: i. Contested Atmospheres: The Political Ecology of Urban Air ii. Conservation and Livelihoods iii. Ecology and Society	Course outlines attached. Details to be presented by the respective course coordinators
4	Proposed collaborations: a. Dr. Majed Akhtar, Indiana University, Bloomington b. Prof. Andrea Nightingale, SLU, Uppsala c. Proposal for an SHE post-doctoral fellowship	To be presented by the Dean To be presented by the Dean To be presented by Dr. Rohit Negi

Discussion and Decisions

1. Item 1: The Dean presented the annual report and a summary of the achievements of and updates about the School of Human Ecology in the period between the 4th and the 5th meeting of the Board of Studies.
2. Item 2: Proposed changes to the course structure of MA Environment and Development
 - a. The proposed shifting of the core course SHE2ED106 (Environmental and Ecological Economics) was discussed in detail. The members concurred with the suggestion by SHE faculty that shifting the course to the 2nd semester will enable students opting to exit with a diploma to complete the entire basket of core courses. The proposal was duly approved.
 - b. The Dean presented the proposal to change in the name of the course SHE2ED312 (Ecological Statistics II) to Ecological Statistics, and for delisting the course SHE2ED311 (Ecological Statistics I). This is being proposed since the content of the latter course is already covered in the course SHE2ED202 (Research Methods II). The members agreed to the proposal, and it was decided that the course SHE2ED311 may be delisted and the name of the course SHE2ED312 be changed to Ecological Statistics.
3. Item 3: Discussion on proposed new courses
 - a. Prof. Asmita Kabra presented the outline of the PhD level course provisionally titled Livelihoods Research. It was agreed by all members at the outset that in general, doctoral level courses should be more in 'guided reading' and 'seminar' mode, with limited stress on classroom transactions. The members also agreed that the course structure should be designed to provide intellectual space to the student to think and work independently. A detailed discussion on the proposed course was held, during which the members appreciated the need for the course and its broad structure, but also raised a few issues and concerns which need to be addressed. It was suggested that the course description should specify clearly that the student will learn to apply quantitative analysis techniques learned in lab mode using statistical software packages. It was also suggested that the list of topics could include techniques for data checking and consistency checks. If possible, the course should be made more modular to enable better coordination with the teaching schedule of the SLS faculty member in the course team. It was suggested that the course name should explicitly specify that it is based on econometric techniques, and to foreground the fact that livelihoods research need not always be quantitative and econometrics based. After due discussion, the proposed course was approved by the Board of Studies with the revised name Advanced Econometrics for Livelihoods Research..
 - b. The outline of the proposed 2-credit MA elective course titled Political Ecology of Urban Air was taken up for discussion. A few minor modifications were suggested by the members. The course should aim to correct the misinformation around air, and to improving literacy around air related issues. The pedagogy should include invited lectures by experts and other hands-on pedagogical tools. The linkages of the course with older literature on commons, political ecology, environmental justice, environmental history, public health, epidemiology etc. should be made more explicit. In this sense, the focus of this particular course could continue

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to be on air, but students could learn to apply these theories to critically analyse other resources like forests, water etc.

The Board of Studies decided to approve the course subject to the above suggestions being incorporated in the course outline.

- c. The course outline of the proposed 2-credit MA elective course titled Conservation and Livelihoods was discussed. The members suggested that topics like community-based conservation and radical ecological democracy should be incorporated in module 3, and that the contested relationship between conservation and the aspirations for consumption-led economic growth should be brought out more explicitly in the course. A few additional readings were suggested for these topics.

The Board of Studies decided to approve the course subject to the above suggestions being incorporated in the course outline.

- d. The course outline of the proposed 4-credit course Ecology and Society was discussed. The Board of Studies decided to approve the course with a few minor modifications, including bringing the urban middle class more sharply into focus in the course.

4. The Dean, SHE apprised the members about some proposed collaborations with scholars of repute at various institutions abroad (including Indiana University, Bloomington and the SLU Uppsala). This was welcomed by the members, who agreed that such collaborations will strengthen teaching and research at SHE. Building further on the proposal to increase the network of academic collaborations with SHE, Dr. Rohit Negi introduced the proposal for starting a Visiting Fellowship for post-doctoral scholars at SHE. The Board welcomed the proposal and suggested that fellowships could be advertised for the duration of one to two years, and young scholars of repute from within India and outside the country should be encouraged to apply for competitive selection.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

I have read the minutes above and approve of them.

Prof CR Babu

Prof Krishna Achuta Rao

Prof Sudha Vasani

Dr Vikram Dayal

Prof Asmita Kabra

Prof Jatin Bhatt

Prof Rachana Johri

Dr Arindam Banerjee

Dr Praveen Singh

Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi

Dr Rohit Negi

Dr Suresh Babu

Dr Pulak Das

A. Kabra

Dean, SHE
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**Draft minutes of the meeting of joint Ambedkar University Delhi
Boards of Studies of SHE and SLS: 26 July 2017 (2:35 – 5:30 p.m. in
Staff Lounge, AUD KG Campus)**

Members in attendance (including special invitees = SI):

Prof. Asmita Kabra (Dean SHE, Co-Chair), Prof. Denys P. Leighton (Dean SLS, Co-Chair), Prof. Dharendra Datt Dangwal, Prof. Smita Tewari Jassal, Prof. Geetha Venkataraman, Prof. Salil Misra, Prof. Anup Kumar Dhar, Prof. S. B. Upadhyay (IGNOU), Prof. Nasir Tyabji (JMI – emeritus), Prof. Rajni Palriwala (DU), Prof. Ashok Acharya (DU), Prof. Sudha Vasani (DU), Prof. C. R. Babu (DU – emeritus), Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao (IIT Delhi), Prof. Krishna Menon (Special Invitee), Prof. Babu P. Remesh (SI), Prof. Sumangala Damodaran (SI), Dr. Arindam Banerjee, Dr. Oinam Hemlata Devi, Dr. Praveen Singh, Dr. Priyasha Kaul, Dr. Rohit Negi, Dr. Santosh K. Singh (SI), Dr. Anil Persaud (SI), Dr. Suresh Babu (SI), Dr. Rajan Krishnan (SI), Dr. Pulak Das (SI).

Members absent: Prof. Jatin Bhatt, Prof. Rachana Johri, Prof. Sanjay Sharma, Prof. Chandan Mukherjee, Dr. Brinda Bose (JNU), Dr. Niharika Banerjee, Dr. Venugopal Maddipati, Dr. Vikram Dayal (IEG, DU).

The **Dean SLS** welcomed the members, including **Prof. Asmita Kabra** (Dean SHE) as Co-Chair, and initiated a round of self-introduction by the regular members and special invitees. He explained the rationale for a combined meeting of two Boards, citing minutes of the 9th meeting of the Academic Council (January 2017) referring to MA in Global Studies as one of the proposed interdisciplinary programmes that could be administered by more than one School of AUD. A Global Studies Task Group had been formed in 2011 with Dr. Praveen Singh and Dr. Rohit Negi (both of SHE) as co-leaders, and several AUD faculty members had prepared a detailed programme note in 2012 upon which the present proposal was based.

Dr. Praveen Singh explained the background of the proposal and described several activities (including consultative meetings) that had preceded the present meeting. He then provided an overview of the programme proposal. Members and special invitees were invited to comment on the programme as a whole as well as individual components (courses). Rather than providing a transcript of all comments given by the members, *what follows here are participants' observations grouped according to particular issues and specific courses, along with summarized responses of GS Task Group members to some of the members' observations.*

GS core/compulsory courses introduced were 'Knowledges in Global Perspective' (by Dean SLS, acknowledging the team of course designers), 'Global Environment and Society' (by **Dr. Rohit Negi**) and 'Cultures, Identities and Globality' (by **Dr. Santosh Kr. Singh**). The first semester introduction to research methods course ('Research Methods I') was referred to but not formally presented. It was noted that

the course has already been approved as part of the MA in Environment and Development programme. Once the MA Global Studies programme is launched at least two sections of Research Methods I would be taught by one or more teachers to ensure optimum class size.

The members of the Boards welcomed the initiative and strongly recommended its launch. They argued that it was a much needed beginning as few other Indian universities presently offer postgraduate or undergraduate programmes or clusters of courses in global studies or global cultures. They had several suggestions intended to make the programme more sharply focused and raised several important questions about programme content and the mode of implementing the programme. In this connection some observations were made about the name of the programme—for example, whether ‘MA in Global Studies’ would adequately express what is notable about the programme and correctly inform potential applicants about the nature of the programme.

1. It was suggested that there be an introductory course or formal orientation on globalization and global studies.

The programme team had originally planned to provide a credited two-week orientation programme titled ‘Constituting the Global’ in which internal faculty and invited guests will give lectures on various facets of and discourses on globalization and world regions. This would help orient the students entering the programme to this field before they delve into the main themes and methodology. Another possibility would be to conduct a seminar / lecture series for the duration of first semester in each programme iteration. Either a programme lecture series or a credited ‘orientation’ course in the first semester could serve the purpose of introducing students to the ‘field’ of global studies.

2. Include in some course the earlier forms of globality or/and attempts to forge different perspective / vision of globality or globalization. The proposed course ‘Wealth and Poverty’ (Semester 2) could be elaborated on further with this in mind.

The programme team noted that several of the core/compulsory courses introduce students to aspects of globalization before c. 1990 and try to disabuse students of the notion that only developments of the past thirty years can be comprehended as globalization. This could be put across through the aforementioned ‘orientation’ exercise(s): considerations about proto-globalization, ‘archaic globalization’, modern globalization, etc. (A. G. Hopkins, C. A. Bayly, others), socialist internationalism and liberal paradigms (both colonial and post-colonial). Core courses of Semesters 1&2 do acknowledge ‘historical’ dimensions of globalization/globality. If these core courses become too unwieldy, then historically-attuned electives foregrounding debates respecting the historicity of globalization/globality shall be designed and offered in the second or third

semesters. Courses of other MA programmes (e.g., History, Economics: see the indicative list of electives) take up such issues and would be open to students of MA GS.

- 3. Whether the aim of the programme is a study of globalization or to bring in a global perspective, and if it is the latter, then how do we bring in the perspective of the global south?*

The programme's focus is a study of globalization both in its contemporary form and as a *long-duree* process through the lens of culture, environment, economy, science and technology, and politics--among many other themes that will be included. The point is also to help provide an appropriate multi- or interdisciplinary perspective to understand the processes, flows and trends. The programme does not prioritise any scalar or spatial level of analysis over another. 'Global South' is only one evolving thought paradigm of 'alternative' globalization and should be considered among others.

The programme could foster a 'Global South' perspective, by focusing on South Asia, South-East Asia, Latin America and Africa, through elective courses, careful selection of readings, student projects, invited lectures and visiting scholars. In addition, alternate regionalization of the globe will be explored that go beyond the incumbent territorial, continental and national imaginaries by focusing on, for instance, the Indian Ocean, the Himalayas, Central Asia, etc. Moreover, phenomena such as super-urbanization and suburbanization will be considered not only as organizational or environmental processes but as forms of experience of inhabitants--across regions, cores, peripheries—of the 'globalized' world.

- 4. Suggestions related to the absence of important thematics (loss of cultural and biotic diversity; conflict resolution and peace) / issues (international governance institutions) / readings (not enough from Africa, Latin America E/SE Asia, global south).*

The programme team has included some of the above in the courses under review, while some of the issues / readings / thematics will be covered in the other two GS core courses of the second semester and in electives (offered through other programmes as well as ones to be offered later through the GS programme).

The courses under review have now included additional material from non-Europe/non-West, including South Asia, Africa and Latin America. The course 'Global Environment and Society' now includes material on biodiversity loss and conservation in the introductory unit.

- 5. Suggestions on size of the cohort, mentoring and administrative location:*

The programme team took cognizance of the suggestion that this kind of programme will require close and continuous mentoring and that the cohort size of 50 seems too large. It communicated to the members that the final decision on cohort size will be taken by the Standing Committee Academic Programmes.

A question was raised that if the programme is not located in any one school, would this not lead to alienation for the students of this programme. The programme team will ensure regular interaction between faculty and students, and among students, to ensure a sense of cohesion is imparted organizationally as well as intellectually.

6. *The programme document should sharply lay out the focus, goals and distinctive features of the programme.*

The introductory statement of the programme document has been edited to provide a more crisp statement of the main aims, objectives and focus of the programme. It also includes a statement on the growth of Global Studies internationally and how AUD's programme relates to such developments.

7. *Methodology: The method course has to be carefully thought out and should include methods for comparative research, case studies, multi-sited research etc.*

It was pointed out that the 1st semester course on research methodology is a very basic course which introduces the students to some important ways of doing research, but focuses more on basic reading and writing skills. The programme team had recently concluded that a 'heavy' global studies methodology course conducted during the first programme semester could be intimidating and counter-productive. The team will develop a more detailed and appropriate course on research methodology ('Research Methods II') to be offered in the 2nd semester. This work had in fact been started under the rubric of Research Methods I but will now be re-thought. The 'orientation' exercises/course mentioned earlier (under 1. above) could foreground methodological issues without yet 'teaching' specific methods and techniques.

8. *Foreign language:*

Though language learning was not mentioned in the original programme document, there was some discussion of this issue, as there had been in previous consultative meetings. Some members expressed the opinion that, even if students do not reach advanced proficiency in a non-English foreign language, a few language courses may be offered to help students gain basic proficiency--to enable their participation in study-abroad programmes outside the English-speaking world, and to enable them to use archives other than Anglo-American ones in the course of graduate research. The language question requires more careful thought and deliberation. Even *English* language proficiency might be at issue for some students of the programme. The programme team had considered including foreign language courses as part of the electives in the 2nd and 3rd semesters.

9. Other points:

- Pay attention to logistics of operating the programme in more than one campus: if core courses are offered in one location and many electives in another, then what?
- Pay more attention to planetarity/planetary consciousness as a meta-cultural theme of globalization.
- Attend to science and technology as drivers of change in human relations, as well as in 'environmental' matters.
- What about globalization in relation to ethics, social and political justice? Has modern (or earlier) globalization promoted or eroded ethical universalism, or both at once? What are the possible ethical groundings for decision-making that is imagined to have global repercussions?

In conclusion, the members of the Boards agreed that, the observations/recommendations outlined above notwithstanding, the MA programme in Global Studies could be launched. A programme proposal incorporating suggestions of the SHE Board + SLS Board members would soon be forwarded to the AUD Standing Committee Academic Programmes.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

School of Human Ecology

Seventh Meeting of the Board of Studies (4th December 2017)

The seventh meeting of the Board of Studies of the School of Human Ecology was held on 4th December 2017 at 2.30 pm at the Kashmere Gate campus of AUD. The meeting was attended by:

1. Prof. C.R. Babu
2. Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao
3. Prof. Sudha Vasani
4. Dr Vikram Dayal
5. Prof. Asmita Kabra
6. Prof. M. Sharique Farooqui
7. Dr Rachana Johri
8. Dr Arindam Banerjee
9. Dr Praveen Singh
10. Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi
11. Dr Rohit Negi
12. Dr Pulak Das (Special Invitee)

Dr Suresh Babu (special invitee) could not attend as he was on a field visit with students.

Agenda

S. No.	Title
1.	Action Taken Report on minutes of the 5 th and 6 th meetings of the BoS
2.	Items for Ratification: a. Policy on attendance and assessment b. Policy on field based learning
3.	Reporting Items: a. Annual report of SHE (2016-17) b. Achievements and updates – faculty recruitment, faculty promotion, new initiatives, collaborations, student progression, key gaps
4.	Discussion on proposed new MA courses: 1. Involuntary Displacement and Livelihood Restoration 2. Rivers, Ecosystems and Geo-informatics
5.	Any other items

Discussion and Decisions

1. Item 1: The members confirmed the minutes of the 5th meeting of the BoS of SHE and the 6th meeting of the joint BoS of SHE and SLS and noted the Action Taken Reports on both meetings.
2. Item 2(a): The Dean presented the School of Human Ecology's Policy on Attendance and Assessment. After discussion, the members approved the policy subject to minor modifications, and recommended that it be placed before the Academic Council.
3. Item 2(b): The members discussed the School of Human Ecology's Policy on Field-based learning and approved it after due discussion. A few minor changes were suggested in the wording of the Undertaking to be signed by students for field-based learning. The Dean was requested to send the Undertaking to the Office of Student Services for legal vetting before forwarding it to the Academic Council.
4. Item 3: The Dean presented the Annual Report (2016-17) and provided the members with a summary of the achievements of and updates of the School of Human Ecology. The members took note of and appreciated the achievements.

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5. Item 4(a): Prof. Asmita Kabra presented the proposed new MA elective course titled "Involuntary Displacement and Livelihood Restoration". The members suggested that in order to highlight the practice-oriented nature of the course, the title may be changed to "Social Impact Assessment: Theory and Practice". They suggested that the theoretical issues relating to accelerating land use change in the contemporary world may be introduced by way of background, and practical aspects of designing and conducting SIA studies should form the main body of the course. The course was duly approved by the Board of Studies subject to these modifications.
6. Item 4(b): Dr Pulak Das presented the 2-credit MA elective course titled "Rivers, Ecosystems and Geo-informatics". The members held a detailed discussion about the course and suggested several modifications. Dr. Pulak Das was asked to significantly revise the course outline and share it with Prof. CR Babu and Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao for further assistance. The course will be brought again to the BoS once these changes have been made.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

I have read the minutes above and approve of them.

Prof. C.R. Babu C. R. Babu

Dr Rachana Johri _____

Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao _____

Dr Arindam Banerjee Arindam

Prof. Sudha Vasani Sudha

Dr Praveen Singh Praveen

Dr Vikram Dayal _____

Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi Oinam Hemlata Devi

Prof. Asmita Kabra Asmita Kabra

Dr Rohit Negi Rohit

Prof. M. Sharique Farooqui M. Sharique Farooqui

Dr Pulak Das Pulak Das

Asmita Kabra

Dean, SHE
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School of Human Ecology

Eighth Meeting of the Board of Studies (6th May 2019)

The eighth meeting of the Board of Studies of the School of Human Ecology was held on 6th May 2019 at 2 pm at the Kashmere Gate campus of AUD. The meeting was attended by the following:

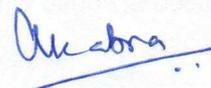
1. Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao
2. Prof. Sudha Vasani
3. Dr Vikram Dayal
4. Prof. Asmita Kabra
5. Prof. Dharendra Dutt Dangwal
6. Dr Malabika Pal
7. Dr Venugopal Maddipati
8. Dr Suresh Babu
9. Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi
10. Dr Pulak Das
11. Dr Budhaditya Das
12. Dr Monica Kaushik (Special Invitee)

Agenda

S. No.	Title
1.	Action Taken Report on minutes of the 7 th meeting of the BoS
2.	Item for Ratification: Change in course code for Ecological Statistics to SHE2ED328
3.	Reporting Items: a. Annual report of SHE (2017-18) b. Achievements and updates of 2018-19- faculty recruitment, faculty promotion, new initiatives, collaborations, student progression, key gaps
4.	Items for Discussion: Proposed new/modified MA courses a. New Elective Course: Conservation Biology (4 credits) b. Modified Core Course: Environmental History (4 credits)
5.	Any other items, with the permission of the Chair

Discussion and Decisions

1. Item 1: The members confirmed the minutes of the 7th meeting of the BoS of SHE and noted the Action Taken Report on this meeting.
2. Item 2: The Dean apprised the members about the background to the agenda item pertaining to the course code of Ecological Statistics (**Annexure 1**). It was noted that the course contents remain unchanged and the course code is being changed simply to maintain ease of retrieval of data from the university's ERP system. After a brief discussion, the members agreed to ratify the decision of the Dean to change the course code of Ecological Statistics to SHE2ED328.
3. Item 3: The Dean presented the Annual Report (2017-18) and provided the members with a summary of the achievements and updates of the School of Human Ecology. The members took note of and appreciated the achievements. The Dean updated the members about the change in faculty composition of the School due to transfer of Prof Praveen Singh and Dr Rohit Negi to the newly created School of Global Affairs, and the consequent adjustments in teaching responsibilities in the MA Environment & Development (MAED) programme. The board members underscored the urgency of recruiting faculty to ensure smooth functioning of the teaching and research programmes.



4. Item 4(a): Dr Budhaditya Das presented the revised outline of the course Environmental History (**Annexure 2**), a first semester core course of the MAED programme. It was pointed out that the course has been offered since the inception of the programme in 2010, and has not been revised till date. The members approved of the overall structure of the course, and provided several additional suggestions about the pedagogy, content and reading material. They suggested that the objective of the course should be highlighted, which is to develop historical thinking, learn historical (including archival) methods, rather than simply learning the chronological environmental history of the Indian subcontinent. Very advanced readings should be minimized, and simpler texts should be used, keeping in mind the interdisciplinary nature of the student body. Some members suggested that a few important themes/ concepts like conservation, agrarian history and the anthropocene should be covered in depth, while others were in favour of a more exhaustive list of themes, in line with the previous version of the course. The course coordinator was asked to balance between these alternatives, keeping in mind the contemporary and interdisciplinary nature of the MAED programme. The course was duly approved by the Board of Studies, subject to the abovementioned minor revisions.
5. Item 4(b): The Dean introduced Dr Monica Kaushik, who has been associated with SHE as Visiting Faculty (Winter Semester 2019) and has been asked to develop a new 4-credit elective course titled Conservation Biology. Dr Kaushik presented the course outline (**Annexure 3**) to the members. A detailed discussion of the course followed, in which the members appreciated the course outline and agreed that the course will add value to the basket of science-based courses offered in the MAED programme. The course coordinator was asked to divide the reading list module-wise and to indicate the essential and additional readings separately, as well as to provide the page details for books included in the reading list. The members approved the new course titled Conservation Biology (course code SHE2ED329), subject to the abovementioned minor revisions.
6. Under 'Any Other Items', the Dean introduced the tabled agenda item "**To discuss and approve minor revisions to three existing core courses offered in the Monsoon semester**". It was pointed out that these three courses (SHE2ED301: Ecology Ecosystems and Biodiversity; SHE2ED302: Development and Social Change, and SHE2ED201: Research Methods I) are being offered since the inception of the MA programme in 2010. All these courses were originally approved in the 1st meeting of the SHE Board of Studies, held on 24th October 2011, and subsequently approved by the Standing Committee on Academic Programmes (SCAP) and the Academic Council. It was also pointed out that over the last 8 years, the same faculty member has been offering the course, and several minor modifications have been made to these courses to update the reading list and to improve the flow between different modules of the courses. The courses were placed before the members to review and discuss the changes made to the originally approved course outlines. After due discussion, the members agreed to approve the revised course outlines of the courses SHE2ED301: Ecology Ecosystems and Biodiversity; SHE2ED302: Development and Social Change, and SHE2ED201: Research Methods I (which are attached at **Annexures 4, 5 and 6** respectively).

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all the members.

Alkabra

(Minutes prepared by the Dean, Prof. Asmita Kabra)

I have read the minutes above and approve of them.

Prof. Krishna Achuta Rao — by circulation
Prof. Sudha Vasani — by circulation
Dr Vikram Dayal — by circulation
Prof. Asmita Kabra Alkabra
Prof. Dharendra Dutt Dangwal Dangwal
Dr Malabika Pal — by circulation
Dr Venugopal Maddipati — do -
Dr Suresh Babu — do -
Dr Oinam Hemlata Devi — do -
Dr Pulak Das — do -
Dr Budhaditya Das — do -

Alkabra

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