

MINUTES OF THE EMERGENT ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 14 APR 2020 THROUGH ZOOM APP

A meeting of the Academic Council was held through Zoom App on 14 Apr 2020 at 11.30 am. The meeting was attended by the Registrar, Deans, Librarian, Director of all campuses, COE, Director-IQAC, DSW, Proctor, HoD's of various schools, Joint Registrar, all Deputy Registrars, and Assistant Registrar of the university. Prof. P. S. Shukla, and Dr. Neera Narang, External Members, also attended the meeting.

Prof. Annpurna Nautiyal, the Chairperson, welcomed the Hon'ble members of the Academic Council and expressed special gratitude to the outside members who, despite their busy schedule, attended the meeting. The Chairperson narrated that this emergent meeting has been called to discuss some urgent issues that have arisen due to the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country, resulting in the ongoing, entire nation lockdown.

Chairperson gave a brief introduction of members and sincerely hoped that the members would provide their vision and guidance to the university under these extraordinary times. Thereafter, the agenda item was taken up for discussion and approval.

Agenda Item No. 1: To consider and finalize modalities for providing Online teaching to the students as the university is closed due to ongoing lockdown.

Resolution:

A detailed discussion about finalizing modalities for providing online teaching was held by members. Few teaching members apprised the council about the measures they are taking to provide online teaching to their students. Most of the members were of the opinion that they are facing lots of problems to reach to all students of their schools as some students have changed their numbers or are not reachable as most of the students live in rural areas where connectivity is a big problem.

It was informed to the Academic council that online teaching is being provided by all regular and guest faculty members to the students. Few suggestions were also given by some members in this regard. Prof. Shukla also gave a valuable suggestion about seeking feedback from the students participating in online classes. Prof. Ramola informed the council that he, along with the faculty of his school, has been providing teaching/study material to students by Google Class, WhatsApp, and other social media platforms. They are also discussing the problems with the students are facing after reading the online material through Zoom App on a regular basis.

Prof. Shukla and most of the members supported the online model of Prof. Ramola and suggested that this model may be used by all schools of the university to provide online teaching to its students. All schools/departments can create class on Google Classroom and enrol the students for easy sharing of text, link, image and videos, and also for getting online feedback/experience from the students as it has two-way communications with storage facility. The online sessional test may also be conducted using this tool.

It was also agreed by the council that the university might also take necessary action for other activities where direct contact or presence is not mandatory so that most of the activities can continue in the university.

Some suggestions were given by Finance Officer and Joint Registrar Finance about fixing the modalities for ascertaining that online classes are conducted as per instruction of UGC/MHRD.

It was informed by the Chairperson that the university has been using various platforms like Swayam, Swayam Prabha, E-PG Pathshala, among many others.

It was suggested by the faculty members that ten days crash course can be developed for such students who could not make use of the ICT facilities or online teaching going on at present once university is opened so as to prepare them for End Semester exams.

Academic council agreed on the above proposal and instructed the university that model/modalities for online teaching be decided after obtaining the suggestions from the faculty and other officers of the university and authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take the final decision in this regard as per situation as deems fit in the interest of the university upon receipt of suggestions.

Agenda Item No. 2: To consider and finalize modules/modalities for conducting online exams of the students as the university is closed due to ongoing lockdown.

Resolution:

A detailed discussion about the conducting online exam was held by members. It was proposed by the COE that different Schools of the university may upload the assignment for internal assessment/sessional exams on university websites and conduct internal/sessional exams of their students. He also proposed that affiliated colleges of the university may also conduct internal/sessional exams of its students by different online mediums or social media as deems feasible to them.

COE informed that conducting the exams of final semester students of various classes is of paramount importance at this stage. He proposed that the university may start the exams of students of the final semester in the second/third week of June 2020. He also apprised the council that the university may conduct the exams of all students (except students of the final semester) as per the UGC guidelines, which is expected soon from UGC.

COE also proposed that the university should get the examination forms filled up from all students at the earliest possible.

It was suggested by few faculty members that End Semester examination of this session can be conducted by developing the question papers in two parts i.e. one containing few Multiple-Choice Questions as part of End Semester Exams and another part containing some questions as part of Internal assessment as it may not be possible to conduct online internal assessment test/exams for all students as many students are not in a position to have online teaching facility. OMR should be used for answering MCQ so that results can be prepared by machines and can be declared within one week of completion of exams.

It was also suggested that question bank containing of hundreds of questions can be developed by local faculty members and uploaded on university website to facilitate students to prepare for their exams. Apart from these, one window can be created in university website where students can ask any questions related to their subjects. Even, students can also post their concerns and queries

related with stress, mental trauma, anything unusual they have been experiencing or any other query related to exam/studies etc. These questions should be answered by the concerned experts.

It was also suggested that End Semester exams for UG & PG students should be conducted after getting the guidelines from UGC/MHRD.

It was also suggested that university should make some evaluation centers at different places of Uttarakhand and central evaluation should be done along with the examination so that results could be given in time to students.

It was discussed that it will be prudent to invite suggestion within 2 days by email from faculty members.

Academic council agreed in principle on the above and instructed that suggestions be invited from faculty members and authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take the final decision in this regard as deems fit as per the situation in the interest of the university upon receipt of suggestions.

Agenda Item No. 3: To consider providing of E-Resource to faculty for the benefit of the students.

Resolution:

A detailed discussion about providing of E-Resources was held by members. It was informed by the Librarian that many open sources as available on the net had been compiled and provided to all faculty members of the university. It was also informed by him that the Library is making continuous efforts to search, compile, and provide all the open sources to faculty. Online newspapers are being provided on a daily basis to the Faculty.

He also informed that he has discussed providing of E-Resources with many publishers. A few publishers have agreed to provide the same, and these E-Resources shall be provided to faculty members as and when the same is provided by the publishers.

The academic council showed its happiness about the efforts being made by the university and instructed the university to purchase and provide maximum E-Resources to students.

Agenda Item No. 4: To consider giving grace time for submitting Ph.D./M.Phil's thesis who are not able to submit the same during this lockdown period.

Resolution:

Registrar informed the council that there are many students who are not able to submit their Ph.D./M.Phil thesis due to ongoing lockdown. He proposed that the university may give 30 days' time from the date when the university gets fully functional after lockdown is withdrawn. This shall facilitate such Ph.D. Scholars/M.Phil students who were supposed to submit their thesis during the lockdown period but are not able to submit their thesis due to ongoing lockdown.

Detailed discussion was held about this by all members, and the Academic Council approved the above proposal of Registrar and instructed the university to implement this proposal if no further guidelines from UGC are received in this regard. Academic Council also instructed the university to

follow the UGC guidelines, if anything contrary to this proposal is provided by UGC in this regard after lockdown is withdrawn.

Agenda Item No. 5: To consider withdrawing of summer break due in June-July 2020 to meet the teaching days and regularise the next academic session.

Resolution:

It was informed by the Chairperson that she has been receiving many requests from various faculty members that next summer break/holidays falling in forthcoming June and July 2020 be withdrawn so that all schools/departments can effectively regularise current academic session and next academic session.

Detail discussion about this was held by the members, and all members supported this proposal. The academic council approved this proposal and instructed the university to issue an order for cancelling the forthcoming summer break.

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

(Dr. A.K. Jha)
Registrar
Member Secretary

(Prof. Annpurna Nautiyal)
Vice Chancellor
Chairperson, Academic Council