

V.E.S. College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous)

Department of Economics

Minutes of 6th Board of Studies Meeting

on 5th October 2024

The Department of Economics organized its sixth Board of Studies meeting on 5th Oct 2024 at 10.00 am in a hybrid mode in the VESASC College via Google meet

Google Meet/ Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ajh-ifcs-dyn?hs=224>

Agenda of the Meeting:

1. Implementation review of NEP 2020 for FY and SY Classes.

2. Proposed structure for Third Year

3. A.O.B.

The Members present in the meeting:

1. Mrs. Samhitha Sharma Kain: Chairperson (Head, Department of Economics, VESASC).
2. Other Department of Economics, VESASC faculty: Mrs. Sunita Choudhury, Dr. Heena Ganatra and Mrs. Jayeshree Kurdiya.
3. External Subject Expert 1: Dr. Santosh N Kadam
4. External Subject expert 2: Prof. Dr. Ruby Ojha
5. University Nominee: Prof. Dr. Sujata S. Khadilkar
6. Subject Expert (R&D/ Industry): Mr. Rishiraj Banerjee.
7. PG Alumnus: Ms. Richa Sharma

Discussions and Proceedings:

1. Implementation review of NEP 2020 for FY and SY Classes:

Mrs. Samhitha Sharma Kain and Mrs. Sunita Choudhury gave a summary of the implementation of NEP 2020 for the FY and SY BA and BCom classes. The excellent inputs by the BOS members in the previous meeting, on 16th Feb 2024, had *ensured a smooth implementation of the new structure and syllabi of SYBA and SYBCOM Economics for Semester*

III. In the same previous meeting the syllabi for semester IV for these classes was also modified and passed. The same shall be implemented now.

The **experience in conducting Co-Curricular Activities** (the requirement being 60 hours and 2 credits) was shared. The Department's conduct of Invited talks under PM USHA initiative as also other departmental activities like A.D. Shroff Elocution, the Know Your Economy (KYE) Awareness Kindling Test etc. (in addition to the common activity offered by the College) was also updated by Mrs. Samhitha Sharma Kain to the esteemed BOS members. All of these provided ample opportunity to the students for accumulating hours for their CCA, apart from the other avenues open to all College teachers. Experts invited for talks included Mr. Rishiraj Bannerjee, Prof. Dr. Sujata Khadilkar and Dr. Phad. Our BA students have benefited a lot due to their diverse, effective and impactful sessions.

At the same time, the experience with the **conduct of Field Project**, also for 60 hours and 2 credits for SY Classes in Semester 3, was shared.

2. Proposed structure for Third Year BA

SEM	Mandatory	Elective	Minor	VSC	OJT	FP/ CEP	Total Credits
V	8(4x2) Microeconomics-III; Industrial and Labour Economics-I	4 International Economics	4 Psycho/ Socio/ Commerce (Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory-I)	4 Basic Statistical Tools for Economics	-	2 (No lectures)	22
VI	10(4x2+2) Macroeconomics-III; Industrial and Labour Economics-II; Economics of Growth and Development	4 Environmental Economics	4 Psycho/ Socio/ Commerce (Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory-II)	-	4 (No Lectures)	-	22

*The numbers in bold indicate credits.

Mrs. Sunita Choudhury has presented the proposed TYBA Economics NEP 2020 Credit structure for next year. She invited suggestions for any changes in the same. All BOS members agreed that this structure has a comprehensive coverage in terms of the papers offered that the TYBA Economics major students should surely complete during their third year. *The TYBA structure was approved without any changes.* The detailed syllabi is to be prepared and presented in the following BOS Meeting.

3. Proposed structure for Third Year BCom Economics Paper

Dr. Heena Ganatra then presented for discussion, the previously existing TYBCOM Business Economics Semester V and VI *old* syllabus. Semester V had covered the Indian economy, while Semester VI focused on international economics. The syllabus was earlier for 3 credits in each semester. She invited suggestions to reduce the content to facilitate credit reduction from 3 to 2 credits, as per the new NEP TYBCOM School Specific Structure, wherein Economics is one of the 3 majors and is allocated only 2 credits per semester.

During discussions, two main options emerged:

- First option is to modify the content of the two papers and reduce that to two credits each. For e.g., in the Indian economy paper, we can retain the first module as it is and combine all sectors (Agriculture, Industry and Services sector) into a second, consolidated module.
- Alternatively, we could opt to retain either the Indian economy (Semester V) or international economics (Semester VI) paper in totality, by spreading the syllabus equally across two semesters. The current syllabus has already been shared with members for further feedback and suggestions.
- After much discussion and deliberations, consensus emerged that we should retain the richness and relevance of the Indian economy syllabus and spread it across two semesters. At the same time, the BOS members allowed for flexibility and further discussion among the department members to decide upon the best alternative.

4. Discussion on FP, CEP and OJT

Suggestions were invited for the Field Project (FP), Community Engagement Project (CEP) and On the Job Training (OJT) for the 4th, 5th and 6th Semesters.

Pro VC Prof. Dr. Ruby Ojha suggested the following for facilitating/enabling our students to complete OJT and Internship (2 credit and 60 hours):

1. The 2nd year students should do their internship during Diwali vacation.
2. For 3rd Year students in Semester 6, the OJT is of 4 credits and 120 hours. The best time for students to complete this is during summer vacation. To streamline our internship opportunities, proposals should be made and MoUs secured with organizations regarding the number of students and the duration for which they can be engaged. She suggested seeking MOUs with MEDC, TISSAR, local self governments, LIC, EXIM bank, Public sector Banks, Max Life Insurance, NGOs etc. Mahila Arthik Vikas is another option. For SNTD data analysis, Dr. Phad can also take some students for OJT.
3. Teachers should be mentors. These students should be monitored. There should be a proper format for OJT. An OJT Diary is to be maintained by students. Everyday they should fill the same. They should also present their work. Evaluation should be done.
4. Library/ Dept./ Admin office/ University can also be the options for providing OJT to the students.
5. Teaching assistant positions can be given to students within or outside. Peer to peer learning can be facilitated with such avenues.

A few snapshots of the meeting are below:

