



MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HELD ON 3rd NOVEMBER 2010

GROUP I – ITEMS WHICH NEED APPROVAL

EC:07:01	The Chairperson calls the House to order
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Minutes:

7.01.1 The Chairperson called the House to order.

EC:07:02	Obituary Reference
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[Agenda Note:

7.02.1 *The death of the following eminent personalities is brought before the house with deep sense of grief.*

- 1. Shri Stephen Namchu, Leading Musician of Sikkim who has performed with National Musical bands like Parikrama*
- 2. Shri P G Tenzing, former IAS and a Noted Author.*
- 3. Prof Arjun Sengupta, noted Economist and Rajya Sabha Member*
- 4. Shri Santosh Gurung, Noted Political leader, Darjeeling]*

Minutes:

7.02.1 The House noted with grief the passing away of the eminent personalities mentioned above and observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls.



EC:07:03

Performance Highlights by Vice-Chancellor

Minutes:

7.03.1 The Vice-Chancellor made a power point presentation highlighting the performance of the University since the last meeting of the Executive Council held on 12.06.2010. Prof. Suryavanshi desired to know the percentage of students enrolled so far in the University courses from the Eastern part of the country and the rest of India. The Chairperson explained that the distribution of enrolment of students in the University is fairly spread over from different states including States like Tamil Nadu over a period of time. While the University continue to attract more number of students from Sikkim and Eastern and North-Eastern parts of India, yet the recent admissions for the year 2010-11 showed a fairly well spread distribution as mentioned earlier which indicates that the University is able to establish itself within 3 years of its formation with good number of students from the Southern Parts of the Country. This goes very well in maintaining the national character of the University and also in injecting a deep sense of diversity and competition among various constituents of the University including the students. The Member also enquired about the present status of acquisition of land at Yangang on which the Chairperson stated that that the same is going to be discussed subsequently as a separate agenda item [Item no EC:07:28] in this meeting itself.

7.03.2 Prof Anandkrishnan, requested the University to explore the feasibility of conducting the Entrance Examination jointly with other Universities, in tune with the policy of the UGC. The Chairperson explained that in the absence of homogeneity of courses and varying curricula among various universities, it may not be a feasible idea at the moment to implement the same. The Chairperson, however, assured that the University would duly consider the suggestion in course of time. The Member also suggested that the University may consider introduction of e-book content as well as digitization of the books. He however, cautioned that while doing this the University should duly consider the copy right implications also. The Chairperson assured that the suggestion of the Member will be duly considered.

7.03.3 Thereafter, the House highly appreciated the efforts made by the University in diverse areas of activities and also the fast pace of development and directed the Chairperson to continue the same tempo for the future also.



EC:07:04	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Council held on 12.06.2010
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Minutes:

7.04.1 The House considered and approved the Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Council held on 12.06.2010.

EC:07:05	Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Council held on 12.06.2010
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Minutes:

7.05.1 The House considered the Action Taken Report placed before it and approved the same.

EC:07:06	Adoption of University Invocation
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Minutes:

7.06.1 The House was much impressed by the Invocation Song written by Prof Mahendra P Lama, Vice Chancellor and also the audio of the orchestra played. The Chairperson explained that the music for the invocation song was composed by a student of the University and the house deeply appreciated the talent of the young composer for delivering such a pleasingly rich tune. The House desired to know the meaning of the Invocation song, composed by the Vice Chancellor, in greater detail. The author of the Song and the Chairperson explained that that the invocation while celebrating the arrival of a great educational institution in Sikkim, mentions as how this university could transform the entire society in the Himalayan regions of India and how the national and global community could benefit from the actions of the University. It also states as to how the students could now aim at embracing the global world from a local perspective. It also applauds the greatness of Mother India that is nuanced by the magnificent beauty and tranquility of Sikkim where the University is located. It also alludes to the ambition of the University in promoting education in a simple and lucid way in Nepali. He further explained that Nepali language which is recognized in the eighth schedule of the constitution of India is not only widely spoken but also is one of the official languages of the State of Sikkim.



7.06.2 The House placed on record its deep sense of appreciation for the poetic intelligence and expressions of the Vice-Chancellor in composing this soulful and high symbolic Invocation song and adopted the same as University Invocation Song on record.

EC:07:07

Appointment of Non-Teaching Staff on regular basis

Minutes:

7.07.1 The House considered in detail the agenda item placed before it. The Chairperson explained to the House the entire recruitment process work starting from scrutiny of huge number of applications received, short listing to assisting the management in holding the interview of the candidates was done by the faculty members with unparalleled devotion and dedication. He also explained that such processes in other universities are being either outsourced at a hefty cost or done by a large number management staff only. Prof. Gautam Barua placed on record his deep appreciation for the excellent work done by the faculty members.

7.07.2 The House later on considered the Panel of names for the appointment as non-teaching staff in **Annexure EC-VII -03 to EC VII-08** and approved the panels.

7.07.3 The House also conveyed its approval for issue of offer of appointments to the candidates mentioned in the Agenda item for the posts to which they are selected.

EC:07:08

Annual Report - 2009-10

Minutes:

7.08.1 The House considered the Agenda item [both the draft annual report & the draft audit certificate] placed before it and authorised the Vice-Chancellor to submit the same to the Ministry of Human Resource Development after duly incorporating the Final Audit Certificate when received from the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for further remission before the Houses of Parliament.



EC:07:09	Appointment of OSD at the level of Manager (Deputy Registrar)
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Minutes:

7.09.1 The House considered the agenda item and also the justification for creation of the post as explained by the Chairperson. The House also noted that for the present the University lacks adequate staff at middle management level compared to the volume of work before it. After duly weighing all the facts, the House approved, in the exigencies of work, to create a temporary post of Officer on Special Duty and fill up the same by a candidate, based on merit, amongst the empanelled candidates for the post of Manger [Deputy Registrar] on deputation basis.

EC: 07:10	Amendment to Ordinance on Recruitment of Non-Teaching Staff
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Minutes:

7.10.1 The House considered the amendment to the Ordinance [in Appendix I – Composition of Selection Committee and Appendix II – Composition of Departmental Promotion Committee – as referred to in Section 6 (vi)] and approved the amendment that relate to the redundancy of the sentences mentioned.

EC:07:11	Revised Proposals for Sikkim University Health Scheme
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Minutes:

7.11.1 The House considered the background note and the revised proposals placed before it. The House enquired about the range of premium in case of coverage of staff members which was explained by the Secretary in charge. The House was also explained that it has been proposed to recover 25% of the premium amount from the staff members concerned to partly cover the expenditure incurred. In case of students, it was however, decided not to collect any contribution from them, as it is incumbent upon the University to take care of the health of the students also particularly when the University is yet to have its own regular medical facilities.



7.11.2 After considering the above, the House accorded its approval in principle for implementation of the revised proposals.

EC:07:12	Procurement of Land at Gangtok
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Minutes:

7.12.1 The House considered the agenda item including the report submitted by the Committee on Land purchase for Gangtok campus in detail and also the Proceedings of the Land Purchase Committee. The House noted with concern that even in the case of outright purchase of land at Gangtok the University has to seek the assistance of Government of Sikkim. The House also noted that in case of acquisition of land for the main campus at Yangang in spite of paying a compensation of Rs 15 crore (which is not done usually as according to the Act it is incumbent on the part of the State Government to provide the land free of cost) the University could not take over the possession of land even after 3 years due to various reasons. The House apprehended that such situation should not arise in the case of procurement of land at Gangtok. For this, Prof Gautam Barua suggested that in addition to the option of outright purchase, the University may also consider the option of getting land at Gangtok, on 99 Years lease in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and University Grants Commission. In other words, the House suggested that the University may explore all the three options viz. Acquisition through Government, outright purchase and taking on long term lease for acquisition of land at Gangtok for its Gangtok campus. The Chairperson of Land Purchase Committee, Prof Madhura Swaminathan, explained the reality to the House that the land prices in and around Gangtok are spiraling up in view of acute scarcity and fast commercial development in the State and emphasized the University should try to get the land as quickly as possible. She also stressed the fact that the prospective owners of the identified lands may not stick to their quoted prices for long.

7.12.2 With the above observations, the House authorised the Vice-Chancellor to initiate immediate further action on the same.



EC:07:13	Adoption of UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil/PhD Degree) Regulations 2009.
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Minutes:

7.13.1 The House considered the agenda item and approved the same.

EC:07:14	Ordinance on Legal Education
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Minutes:

7.14.1 The House considered the agenda item. The House also noted that the University has to comply with the instructions of the Bar Council of India as regards Legal Studies programmes in the University is concerned and to implement the instructions contained in Rules of Legal Education -2008 notified by the BCI. After considering the above, the House, authorised the Vice-Chancellor to comply with the instructions and to implement the required provisions from the current academic year 2010-11 by suitably reviews the syllabus. The House also instructed that after completing the exercise, the University may move a formal Ordinance on the subject after getting the same duly recommended by the Academic Council.

EC:07:15	Amendment to Ordinance on Examination
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Minutes:

7.15.1 The House considered and approved the amendment in view of the exigencies involved that such an amendment is necessary before commencement of the next end semester examination in December 2010. This was done in the larger interest of the students.

7.15.2 At the same time the House advised the University to get the same duly vetted and recommended by the Academic Council as envisaged under Primary Statute no.40 (2) of Sikkim University Act, 2006.



EC:07:16	Charging of affiliation fees from Colleges
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Minutes:

7.16.1 The House considered the Agenda Item in detail and approved the proposal for charging of affiliation fee, on ad-hoc basis, from the academic year 2011-12 as given in **Annexure EC VII – 18**.

7.16.2 The House also observed that the said proposal will be replaced by a formal ordinance on the subject which would be drafted based on the recommendations of the Committee constituted by the House in its meeting held on 12.11.2009.

EC:07:17	Hostel Rules of Sikkim University
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Minutes:

7.17.1 The House considered the agenda item and approved the same.

EC:07:18	Guest House Rules of Sikkim University
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Minutes:

7.18.1 The House approved the agenda item with the following modifications.

- That the term ‘Official Guest’ be defined in the Rules specifically to avoid any ambiguity.
- The charges to be levied also may be modified accordingly.

EC:07:19	Building Maintenance Rules of Sikkim University
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Minutes:

7.19.1 **This item was deferred.** It was explained by the Secretary-in-charge, that more consultations as to provisions of CPWD Manual etc have to be made; the said agenda item could not be placed before the house in the present meeting.



EC:07:20	Constitution of Second Executive Council
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Minutes:

7.20.1 The House considered the agenda item in detail and in particular the instructions of the Ministry of Human Resource Development in its letter dated 7.10.2010 [**Annexure EC VII – 23**]. The House made elaborate discussions on the subject. The provisions as regards quorum of the meeting were discussed in much considering the practical difficulties obtained in this regard in sister institutions of Higher Learning and also geographical, climatic and logistic difficulties that prevail in Sikkim

7.20.2 After much deliberation, the House modified the provisions relating to quorum as below:

“Statute 11 (3) - Seven [7] members out of total of 20 or one-third of the existing members of the Executive Council shall form quorum for a meeting of the Executive Council”

7.20.3 With the above amendment the House approved the amendment to Statute 11 proposed.

7.20.4 The House has also approved the Regulations as proposed in Para 7.20.4 of the Agenda item as regards conducting of the meetings of the Executive Council including its periodicity, circulation of agenda items etc.

EC:07:21	Constitution of Second Academic Council
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Minutes:

7.21.1 The House approved the agenda item as to constitution of Second Academic Council and also the regulations thereunder as proposed in the agenda item.

EC:07:22	Establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Yangang
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Minutes:

7.22.1 The House considered the agenda item. The Chairperson explained to the house the need to establish the Kendriya Vidyalaya at the main campus site at Yangang simultaneously with the moving of the University there in very near future. It was also mentioned that a quality school could also cater to



the larger and long term needs of the University. He also explained that it would be incumbent upon the University to provide only the infrastructure for the proposal. Such Vidyalaya would be beneficial to the general public of the area also apart from the staff of the University.

7.22.2 The House accordingly approved the agenda item and directed the University to initiate the required steps in this direction.

EC:07:23	Establishment of CGHS Dispensary/Hospital at Yangang
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Minutes:

7.23.1 The House considered the agenda item. The Chairperson explained to the House the need to establish the CGHS Dispensary/Hospital at the main campus at Yangang in South Sikkim. It was suggested that while the University can go for such proposal of a fully fledged CGHS hospital in the larger interest of University staff and the general public in the area, it can also, at the initial stages request the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to authorise a dispensary in that area for availing of medical facilities by the University staff. It was further explained to the House that the University Grants Commission also under XI Plan General Development Grant, made an allocation of Rs 300 lakh for the purpose of Construction of University Hospital.

7.23.2 Thereafter the House authorised the Vice Chancellor to take up the proposal with concerned authorities for establishment of the CGHS Dispensary/Hospital at Yangang.



GROUP II – ITEMS WHICH NEEDED RATIFICATION

EC:07:24	MOU with Hiroshima University, Japan
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Minutes:

7.24.1 The House deeply appreciated and commended the initiative taken by the University to have collaborations with well known universities abroad. And congratulated the University for being able to get fellowships for two students to Hiroshima University for a short term academic programme. After considering the agenda item, the House ratified the same. The House has also authorised the Vice-Chancellor to enter into such collaborative agreements with other universities within India and abroad, when approached or otherwise within the broad provisions of Sikkim University Act, 2006.

EC:07:25	Appointment of Teaching & Academic Staff (on contractual basis)
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Minutes:

7.25.1 In view of the exigencies created by a number of academic programmes launched by the University, the House ratified the appointment of teaching and academic staff made on contractual basis as mentioned in the agenda item.

7.25.2 It also, at the same time, directed the University to expedite the issue of making appointments on regular basis by taking up the same with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the University Grants Commission. When the Chairperson explained about getting the Visitor's Nominee to the Selection Committee the House suggested the University may also *suo-motu* prepare and send a list of experts to the Ministry of Human Resource Development so that the Ministry could, without difficulty, recommend few of the names to the Visitor, for nomination to the Selection Committee(s). The Chairperson assured the House to implement its suggestion forthwith.



EC:07:26	Appointment of Non-Teaching Staff (on contractual basis)
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Minutes:

7.26.1 The House ratified the appointments of the Non-teaching staff on contractual basis as mentioned in the agenda item.

EC:07:27	Revision of salaries (Teaching/Academic/Non-Teaching Staff)
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Minutes:

7.27.1 The House ratified the revision of salaries made in respect of Teaching/Academic/Non-Teaching Staff as mentioned in the agenda item.



GROUP III – ITEMS WHICH ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

EC:07:28	STATUS REPORT ON ACQUISITION OF LAND AT YANGANG
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Minutes:

7.28.1 The item was discussed in great detail and with serious concern. The Chairperson once again mentioned as how despite sending four letters by the Govt. of Sikkim asking the University to take over the physical possession of land for the main campus at Yangang and despite the payment of full compensations (including Rs 15 Crore contributed by the University in 2008 and 2009) also no land owner has vacated the land. In fact, it was found that no land owner has been served with the eviction notice by the Govt. of Sikkim. The entire house unanimously expressed its deep sense of dismay and dissatisfaction on the way in which the land acquisition process has happened so far. It was opined that in spite of disbursing the compensation to the landowners, non-servicing of eviction notices is a matter of grave concern. As was already pointed out by the House in its previous meetings also, the delays is costing the Government of India both cost and time over-run in execution of the project. It also deprives the state of Sikkim, indirectly, in access to quality higher education the University is willing to deliver once the campus land is made available to it. It was said that delay in the handing over of land would also result in resentment among the faculty and staff and the students in moving to Yangang after being in at Gangtok for more than three years. The House resolved that the matter may be taken up immediately with the Ministry of Human Resource Development to immediately resolve the issue with the Government of Sikkim. It should also be pointed out to the Government of India that the issue is becoming more and more complicated day by day. The House also suggested that the Ministry of Human Resource Development may be requested by the University to consider other options including re-location of the University if deemed necessary if the land could not be handed over to the University by the Government of Sikkim within next three to four months from now.

7.28.2 The Chairperson agreed to take up all the issues/points made out by the House suitably with the Ministry. For this, he suggested that a draft letter on the issue would be made by the University, which can be circulated amongst the Hon'ble Members for their comments, before submission to the Ministry.



EC:07:29	Hosting of Asia Conference
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Minutes:

7.29.1 The House considered and noted the agenda item placed before it.

EC:07:30	Compliance report on Internal Audit Report for the Year 2009-10
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Minutes:

7.30.1 The House considered the Compliance Report on Internal Audit Report for the year 2009-10 submitted with the Agenda item and taken note of the same.

EC:07:31	Half Yearly Accounts of the University for the half-year ended 30.09.2010
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Minutes:

7.31.1 The House noted the Half-Yearly Accounts of the University for the Half-year ended 30.09.2010 and noted the same.

EC:07:32	Position of Sanctioned Strength & Men-in Position as at 1.10.2010
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Minutes:

7.32.1 The House noted the position of Sanctioned Strength & Men-in-Position as at 1.10.2010 submitted in the agenda item.



EC:07:33	Regulations on affiliation of colleges
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Minutes:

7.33.1 The House noted the Norms & Regulations on affiliation of colleges placed with the agenda item and directed to submit the same as formal ordinance with the recommendations of the Academic Council in the next meeting for approval.

EC:07:34	Dates of Next meetings of the Executive Council
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Minutes:

7.34.1 On the dates proposed, the House desired that the next meeting may be held on 27.11.2010 at New Delhi instead of 26.11.2010 and noted the same accordingly.

EC:07:35	Any other item with the permission of the Chair
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Minutes:

7.35.1 There being no other item, the meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
(P.V.Ravi)
Finance Officer
Secretary-in-charge, Executive Council