

# Proceedings of the two day workshop with the Vice Chancellors of ten Universities

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A two day workshop was conducted in the Conference Room of NKCCDS on 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in which ten Vice Chancellors of state Universities were invited to attend. The purpose of the workshop was to deliberate on the various recommendations given by the five expert committees for reforms in Higher Education in Odisha and way forward on the decisions taken in the meeting held under chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Higher Education on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 18. Vice Chancellors, Controllers of Examination and Training nodal officers of ten universities participated in the workshop.

At the outset, Member Secretary, Odisha State Higher Education Council (MS, OSHEC), welcomed all the esteemed Vice Chancellors (VCs) and their team. Five different committees were constituted as an outcome of the VCs conference under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Higher Education on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (1) The committee headed by Vice Chancellor, Utkal University was to suggest on Common Admission Test for PG courses under all Universities (2) The committee under chairpersonship of Vice Chancellor, Rama Devi Women's University was to recommend on feasibility of a uniform syllabi at U.G. and P.G. level (3) The committee headed by VC, GM University was to suggest reforms in examination system management including examination pattern, question paper delivery and evaluation of answer scripts (4) The committee under chairmanship of Joint Secretary, HE department was to suggest mechanisms to ensure capture and monitoring of On-time Graduation (OTG) (5) The committee headed by Vice Chancellor, FM University was to suggest steps for timely conduct of examination, results publications and award of degree.

Hon'ble Minister, H.E. had invited all these five committees to present their recommendations on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018. As per the decisions in that meeting, this two day workshop would be an opportunity for all the five committees to elucidate on the action plan for implementation of their recommendations. MS, OSHEC proposed that as the reforms are to be adopted across all the Universities, the mechanism for implementation has to be arrived at based on consensus. Also it would be preferable to have a common proceeding for the deliberations as the topics are partly overlapping. The proposals were

accepted. It was also unanimously agreed upon that Vice Chairman, OSHEC will act as chairman for all the deliberations and decisions will be taken only on consensus.

### **1. Curriculum Reforms**

Rolling out a common syllabus under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) for UG courses was agreed upon by all VCs. VC, Utkal University emphasised that number of units per paper and sub-units within each unit needs to be dealt with focusing on right content and pedagogic inputs. Also, identification of chapters is important for which books are limited or unavailable.

MS, OSHEC reiterated that a meeting in this regard was already conducted under the chairmanship of VC, OSHEC on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 in Utkal University wherein Board of Studies (BoS) chairpersons of all departments of UU and 5 to 6 departments from other Universities participated. The philosophy was to streamline the syllabus in such a way that

1. Students read from textbooks and not only from class notes
2. Practicals are related to the theory
3. New / difficult units are identified so that training modules can be developed for them

Chairperson, BoS of UU is to act as coordinator of a committee for each subject under UG level. The BoS chairpersons of that subject from all other Universities will be its members as agreed in that meeting. To ensure effective and timely completion of this exercise, it was agreed that

- a) VC, UU will work out a timetable mentioning time and place where the various BoS would meet and communicate the same to all other VCs
- b) All other VCs will hold a meeting with their respective BoS chairpersons explaining the philosophy of common syllabus so that the committee meetings of respective subjects are held smoothly
- c) Each paper will have 4 units uniformly
- d) The committee will recommend the revised common syllabus by 15<sup>th</sup> June including (1) Text book for covering CBCS syllabus for each of 13 core, 3

DSE and 1 GE (2 parts) papers. Except language papers, one book covering 70 to 80 percent of a paper will be the benchmark

(2) Practicals to be adopted along with list of laboratory equipment required. The time available (20 hours) and lab sizes be taken into account

(3) New / difficult modules among the prescribed syllabus and the duration of traqining required for such modules.

- e) BoS committees will ensure the participation of 4 faculty teaching at the college level of whom 2 will be junior faculty( 3 or less years of teaching in degree college) and 2 will be outside UU.

VC, Sambalpur University suggested that the recommended template for each subject should indicate objectives and expected outcomes from the taught program. VC, FMU suggested that a final audit of the revised syllabus must be done before implementation. VC, RDWU suggested to consider the citation of master and additional reference for reading for each subject.

Vice Chairperson, OSHEC suggested that curriculum reforms are a challenging task and therefore the BoS committee should carefully review and recommend revisions of the syllabus. While recommending books, monographs of authors should be considered for inclusion especially for topics of contemporary significance. All the members consented that digitalized version of books may be made available to the colleges in future.

The house agreed that with increased workload under Honors degree, Government should take adequate steps to fill up vacant faculty posts in a systematic way.

**2. Exam Reforms (to be effective from 2019-20 session)**

VC, GMU presented various recommendations in PPT mode. Multiple choice and shorter questions being part of examination was emphasized to ensure coverage of full syllabus by the students.

After detailed discussions, all the members present consented that

**A. For U.G. courses without Practicals:**

- 1. End Term exams will have weightage of 80 % as below with 3 hours time

Section	Nature	Q x Unit Mark	Mark
End-Term (80%)			
Objective	MCQ - No Choice	20 x 1	20
Very short answer	2-3 sentences (8 out of 10)	8 x 2	16
Short answer	75 words (8 out of 10)	8 x 3	24
Long answer	300 words ( either or from same unit)	2 x 10	20

3. Midterm exams will have weightage of 20% through internal assessment. The assessment has to be of question answer type. Project, case study, presentations etc., should not be considered at UG level given the logistics and number of faculty available. The type of questions will be decided by the college authority. Mid Term answer sheets have to be preserved for atleast one year.

**B. For U.G. courses with Practicals:**

- ✓ 60 marks final exams- 3 hrs
- ✓ 15 marks- internal exam (policy is same as above)
- ✓ 25 marks- Practical exam

Section	Nature	Q x Unit Mark	Mark
End-Term (60 %)			
Objective	MCQ - No Choice	16 x 1	16

Very short answer	2-3 sentences (8 out of 10)	8 x 1.5	12
Short answer	75 words (8 out of 10)	8 x 2.5	20
Long answer	300 words ( either or from same unit)	2 x 8	16

**C. Question paper delivery:**

VC, GM U proposed that delivery of Question papers online just one hour before exam is better logistically and to ensure secrecy. VC, OSHEC mentioned that in states like Maharashtra, 100% e-delivery of Q. papers for University exams is undertaken. Some CoEs expressed concern that essential prerequisites like industrial scale printers, continuous power supply and net connectivity may not be present leading to implementation issues. To ensure close monitoring during roll out, it was unanimously agreed that this process is to be piloted in three remote districts by each CoE for 2018-19 and upscale to all districts from 19-20 onwards. MS, OSHEC emphasized that some financial incentive has to be provided to the centers conducting the exams to bring them on board considering the increased workload of these colleges.

A lead college in a district can also be identified having good infrastructure. The digital question paper will be delivered directly to the lead center for onward circulation to the feeding colleges as tagged to the lead center.

The Regional Directors of Education (RDE) will coordinate with the CoE of university for better compliance from the colleges chosen.

**D. Digital Evaluation:**

Digitizing the evaluation process was discussed in detail. The scanning of answer sheets and their online corrections may require considerable logistics and finance. This may be taken up in future. It was consented by all that, after physical evaluation of the paper, the marks should be entered online by the college at the Evaluation center and sent electronically to the CoE.

VC, FMU intimated that they have accomplished this milestone already. Other universities committed to ensure this in spirit from academic session 2018 – 19 onwards.

**E. Question bank Development (to be effective from 2019-20 session)**

Each university consented to contribute at least 150 questions per subject to the common pool of question bank as per the revised syllabus. VCs were requested to select question setters with due confidentiality for every subject.

VC, GMU was requested to prepare a draft on required budgetary provisions and modalities for ensuring that a meaningful and comprehensive bank containing questions of all levels( easy, medium and difficult) is prepared.

**3. On Time Graduation (OTG)**

MS, OSHEC explained that a student joining in semester 1 passing out without arrear papers after semester 6 results will qualify as OTG. Universities have to analyse the OTG status of various affiliated colleges to understand their academic standing and bring in corrective measures. To ensure this, the first step is to capture students’ academic performance from Semester-I till Semester VI. The data should be captured as in the example below

District name	College name	Admission year	Students admitted in semester 1	Semester for which result declared	% of students passed
Kandhamal	AMCS, Tikabali	2015	100	5	55
		2016	100	3	62
		2017	100	1	71

The numbers under ‘Students admitted’ (100 in the example) should be a hyperlink which should show Arts/ Sci/ Com breakup which clicked. Each category should further show respective Honors subjects and then finally data of individual students. Also data

(8)

should be available for analysis of SC/ ST/ women students separately to understand their progress.

To simplify the exam process, the house agreed to the recommendations that

1. No requirements of form fill up by students at college level for regular papers. Exam fees will be collected along with admission, development & other fees during start of the semester. In case the student's name is not recommended for writing exam, his exam fees will be adjusted for the subsequent semester.
2. For backlog papers, form fill up as done presently will continue.
3. No admit card will be issued by CoE every semester. One Exam card will be issued in the first semester only.
4. Attendance sheet of students shall be uploaded every month by the college in the college website.
5. Students with backpaper will be allowed to appear in them in alternate semesters ( papers of 1,3,5 semester in 2,4,6 & vice versa) For 2018-19, only 5<sup>th</sup> semester students will be provided this option. From 19-20 onwards, it will be fully rolled out.
6. Management and Guest Faculty with more than 2 years of teaching experience will be allowed to evaluate answer scripts with approval of respective BoS.

The changes mentioned in points 1,2,3 above will be introduced for students joining in the academic session 2018-19 onwards. Form fill up and admit card issuance will continue for students admitted before 18-19. The CoEs agreed to work out these modalities and ensure its roll out in 18-19.

#### **4. Common Admission Test for PG courses (to be effective from 2019-20 session)**

As per the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 18, an apex committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of VC, OSHEC with all VCs as members to chalk out the modalities for implementation and frame the guidelines. for common admission test to PG courses.

All consented to the following proposals

1. Entrance test and career marking with 70% and 30% weightage respectively for all the regular and self finance courses.

2. PPP mode courses will not be covered by the common entrance test.
3. It was noted that in Sambalpur and Behrampur Universities, some reservations beyond the constitutional provisions were practiced. The house recommended that fair opportunities should be provided to all students without any local considerations.
4. All the participating universities were requested to share P.G. courses taught and UG courses eligible to apply for each subject by 16<sup>th</sup> April via email to [oshec.hed@gmail.com](mailto:oshec.hed@gmail.com) In the next meeting, consensus will be evolved on the UG courses eligible for each PG course based on these inputs. All VCs were requested to internally deliberate in their forums regarding assigning Maths, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography subjects under Arts / Science stream.
5. Utkal, Berhampur and Sambalpur universities agreed to act as lead agencies for conduct of common entrance test exams.
6. Budgetary provisions required for common entrance test exam shall be worked out by OSHEC and shared with the universities in two months time.

## **6. Faculty Development and Trainings**

It was emphasized that to ensure good academic output, training is paramount. However, it is a matter of concern that this crucial aspect has not been looked into in detail.

All consented to the following proposals

1. The proposal to train at least one faculty of each subject from each college under the Odisha Higher Education Program for Excellence and Equity (OHEPEE) was appreciated.

The batch size for training should not be larger than 40 participants to ensure quality outcomes.

2. Training of faculties will be conducted in the new / difficult topics under CBCS syllabus after final recommendations of BoS. To ensure adequate time is made available by the Resource persons engaged, retired faculty or experts of competency and motivation will be engaged.

3. University's existing infrastructure is to be used for faculty training. For accommodation, based on availability of hostels/Guest houses, private agencies can be empanelled.
4. Higher Education Department shall share (a) the guidelines including budgetary provisions for conducting the trainings with respect to boarding/ lodging, remuneration for resource persons and logistics (b) administrative order for ensuring attendance of faculties in training programs and (c) modalities for certificate issuance
5. The Ravenshaw U, GM U and Khallikote U will share the responsibilities of training some of the affiliated colleges of UU, SU and BeU respectively. Modalities will be worked out by the concerned VCs. Once this plan is shared with the OHEPEE PMU, budgetary provisions will be made for this.
6. Fund provision will be made for the affiliating Universities of NOU and RDWU for 2018-19.
7. As training is a very crucial aspect requiring extensive planning and coordination, all VCs are requested to appoint a nodal officer who can handle this responsibility. The HRDCs of UU and SU need to have a fulltime Director to execute this efficiently.
8. All the universities were requested to submit their Training Needs in the following format.

University Name (1)	Topic (2)	Training duration (3)	Target Participants (4) [Eg: Physics faculty]	No. of Training (5)	Total No. of Participants (No of training * participants in each batch) (6)	Training module exists (Yes/No) (7)	Venue (7)	Nodal officer (8)	Resource Person (Internal/ External/ Institution) (9)

Presently, focus is to be given on the academic training for new topics under CBCS. Except columns 3 and 8, all other details are to be worked out and shared by 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**7. Improving NAAC accreditation**

The house discussed the ways and means of improving the number of colleges taking NAAC accreditation. It was agreed that the colleges applying for NAAC will improve their internal planning and this will help in improving academic quality and outcomes. MS, OSHEC expressed that many colleges are keen to apply but are not aware of the procedures to be adopted. It was decided that each University will handhold 20 of their potential affiliating colleges to obtain NAAC accreditation in 18-19. As NAAC application window will be open only in 2 cycles (April-May, November-December) the IQAC nodal officer in the University has to chalk out a timetable to achieve this.

It was decided that another meeting will be held after two months to discuss the progress on all the decisions agreed upon.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and all the participants.

*Alice Dey 3.4.2018*

Vice Chairman, OSHEC

**Vice-Chairperson  
Odisha State Higher Education  
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