

Ambedkar University, Delhi
School of Development Studies (SDS)

Minutes of the Board of Studies(BOS)meeting held on 6th May, 2014

Members present:

Prof. Chandan Mukherjee, Dean, SDS
Prof. Satish Deshpande
Prof. Aditya Nigam
Prof. AshwaniSaith
Mr. George C. Varughese
Dr. SumangalaDamodaran, Deputy Dean, SDS
Dr. Subrata Mandal
Dr. Ivy Dhar
Dr. AsmitaKabra
Dr. Shubra Nagalia

Agenda:

1. To approve the minutes of the BOS meeting held on 22nd February 2013
2. To discuss the possibilities of introducing clusters of specialisation for students of MA Development Studies around areas suggested by the SDS faculty
3. List of experts for Selection Committee to be endorsed

Discussions and Decisions taken:

- Minutes of BOS meeting held on 22nd February, 2013 were approved. It was shared with the members present that as per the BOS recommendation, SDS has reduced the number of core courses. Semester 3 and 4 of MA are entirely dependent on electives. On the recommendation for drawing up clusters based on theme of courses offered, SDS faculty is proposing to open possible clusters of specialisation in Development Economics, Peace, Conflict and Development, Industrialisation, Urbanisation and Labour and Gender and Development.
- Discussions among the members present opened up for the logic behind offering courses in the form of clusters. SDS faculty discussed that the idea of clusters is to allow different study and research components within Development Studies to thrive. As students move from internship phase to dissertation, clusters can bring some level of integration of students' area of interest and faculty's area of interest, primarily based on the current expertise.
- Members recommended that clusters should be more than just a set of courses. It should be able to achieve more than that is not offered at present. It could be a qualifier to a different degree. Students will be given specialization benefit of the

cluster in which they pursue courses. They must be given option between opting for cluster courses or take up courses that may not be within one specialization area. They should be given guidance to choose the pathway.

- Both sides of approach to be taken in consideration while designing structure of cluster courses, it must address broader theoretical base and bring in the applications/ practice part wherever possible. The logistics, skill issues, its connectivity with Research Methods and collaborative efforts with programme/faculty from across AUD schools has to be worked out.
- The School should begin with a few clusters. Development Economics, Peace, Conflict and Development and Industrialisation, Urbanisation and Labour were approved. Health economics and ecology economics are possible areas where courses can be offered within Development Economics. Further thought was needed on courses that may be designed within Gender and Development to offer it as a form of cluster.
- List of experts for Selection Committee was endorsed. Experts from the field of political science were also to be included in the list. Prof. Zoya Hasan, Prof.Ujjwal Singh and Prof. SudhaPai were recommended for the list.

School of Development Studies
Minutes-Board of Studies Meeting
30 April 2019

Members Present:

Prof Ramakumar, TISS, Mumbai

Prof Sumangala Damodaran, Dean, SDS, AUD, Delhi

Prof Ashwani Saith, Visiting Professor, SDS, AUD, Delhi

Prof Badri Narayan, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Jhusi, Allahabad

Prof Satish Deshpande, D.U. Delhi

Prof Krishna Menon, SHS, AUD, Delhi

Prof Deepita Chakravarty, SDS, AUD, Delhi

Dr. Moggallan Bharti, SDS, AUD, Delhi

Dr. Arindam Banerjee. SLS, AUD, Delhi

Prof Babu P. Remesh, SDS, AUD, Delhi

Dr. Anirban Sengupta, SDS, AUD, Delhi

Dr. Rohit Negi, SGA, AUD, Delhi

Dr Partha Saha, SGA,AUD, Delhi (Special Invitee)

Agenda items:

1. Approval of minutes of last SDS BoS, 1 May 2017
2. Discussion on proposed courses -
 - 2.1. Course submitted by Dr. Anirban Sengupta
 - 2.2 Course submitted by Prof. Babu P. Remesh
 - 2.3 Course submitted by Dr. Moggallan Bharti.
3. Discussion on SDS MA Program attendance policy.
4. Any other matter, with approval of Chairperson.

Discussion and decisions taken:

- At the outset, Prof. Sumangala Damodaran, Dean, SDS welcomed all the members and invitees for the meeting of the Board of Studies. It was reported that SDS has seven faculty members from the previous strength of eight faculties, as one of the faculty has been now appointed at Aud Karampura campus. It was added that with the changed profile of the school, the present meeting of Board of Studies assumes special importance. Prof. Damodaran also briefly explained the role and mandated functions of Board of Studies and informed that Board's recommendation/approval is required before the School takes up its academic proposals to statutory bodies of the University, such as SCAP and Academic Council.
- As the first agenda item, the Minutes of BOS meeting held on 1st May, 2017 were approved, subsequent to a brief reporting of follow up actions on the decisions of the previous meeting of Board of Studies.
- During the discussion on the course outline titled, 'Entrepreneurship and Development', submitted by Dr Anirban Sengupta, Prof Badrinaryan suggested that work of Prof Nandini Gooptu could be incorporated in the suggested readings. Prof Ashwani Seth remarked it's pertinent to bring study aspect of macroeconomics in to this proposed course. Prof Satish Deshpande added that the course objectives needed to be define more clearly, while number of suggested readings could be reduced. Dr Arindam Banerjee suggested that we need to have a critique of 'Religion and entrepreneurship' in the context of the wider purchase of 'Protestant ethics and the spirit of capitalism'.

After discussing the course, it was collectively decided that after incorporating the above mentioned changes, the course stands passed in principle and could be offered in the upcoming semester.

- During the discussion on the course outline titled, 'Migration and Development in South Asia', submitted by Prof Babu P. Remesh, Dr Arindam remarked that the link between the case study (by students, as part of the proposed course) with the assessment is too heavy for a 2-credit course. Prof Ashwani also suggested that course, given its 2-credit focus, need to be streamlined further and if possible besides gender and education, rural to rural, rural to urban and child migration be made part of this proposed course. Prof Badri also emphasized that the politics of the migration could also be incorporated in the course. Prof Deshpande specifically suggested to teach module 2,3, and 4 through case studies. Prof Deepita contended that there might be a possibility of thematic overlap between this proposed course and her own course on South Asia. Prof Babu responded by saying that they both can collectively work and mitigate the possible overlaps. Dr Partha suggested that instead of

studying case studies its better to do 'instances of migration' and also that such a course on migration should be a core course of School of Development Studies.

The course stands passed in principle and could be offered in the upcoming winter semester.

- During the discussion on the course outline titled, 'Reading & Understanding Ambedkar', submitted by Dr Moggallan Bharti, Prof Ram Kumar suggested that the proposed text of Ambedkar must be located in his time and the evolving style of his thought and writings. He also underlined that the module 1 of the proposed course need to be further streamlined. The objective of highlighting his idea of 'state socialism' need to be written about within this module. Prof Badri remarked that the course should also instruct that how one must read Ambedkar. Module 1 could be located in some specific discourse in Ambedkar's life. Prof Ashwani added that another approach to transact this course could be informing about the multiple interpretation available on a text, for instance Ambedkar's 'Thoughts on Pakistan'. One possible object could be the exploring of the multiple interpretations. Course should be focused on one particular skill set and in the end students should get that skill. Prof Satish Deshpande suggested that 'Hindu code Bill' could also be used as the reading for 'Nationalism & Democracy module'.
The course stands passed in principle and could be offered in the upcoming winter semester.

- Discussion on SDS MA Program attendance policy: Prof Ashwani raised the question asking what is the motivation behind this policy?
He said pedagogical innovation should be put in place to encourage attendance among students.
It was collectively decided that the broad positive measures should be encouraged to enhance the attendance while the negative measures to be discussed in the next Board of Studies meeting.

School of Development Studies (SDS)

Minutes of the Board of Studies(BOS)meeting held on 1st May, 2017

Members and Invitees Present:

1. Prof. Sumangala Damodaran, Dean, SDS, AUD, Delhi
2. Prof.AshwaniSaith, Visiting Professor, SDS, AUD, Delhi
3. Prof. Satish Deshpande, DU, Delhi
4. Prof.Ramakumar, TISS, Mumbai
5. Prof.VikasRawal, JNU, New Delhi
6. Prof. Krishna Menon, SHS, AUD, Delhi
7. Dr. Arindam Banerjee, SLS, AUD, Delhi
8. Dr. Rohit Negi, SHE, AUD, Delhi
9. Dr.Dipita Chakravarty, SDS, AUD, Delhi
10. Prof.Babu P. Remesh, SDS, AUD, Delhi
11. Dr.Anirban Sengupta, SDS, AUD, Delhi
12. Dr.Moggallan Bharti, SDS, AUD, Delhi
13. Dr.NandiniNayak , SDS, AUD, Delhi

Agenda Items

1. To confirm the Minutes of last meeting of Board of Studies of School of Development Studies held on 6 May 2014 as circulated
2. To set up a committee to initiate a comprehensive internal evaluation of the School of Development Studies
3. To consider approval of a course titled ‘Gender and Development’
4. To consider approval of a course titled ‘India in World Affairs’
5. To consider approval of a course titled ‘Political Economy of Development: South Asia in a Comparative Frame’
6. To consider approval of a course titled ‘Prejudice and Politics: Perception and Manifestation’
7. To consider approval of a course titled ‘Development and Security’
8. Discussion on MA dissertations and attendance

Discussions and Decisions taken:

- At the outset, Prof. Sumangala Damodaran, Dean, SDS welcomed all the members and invitees for the meeting of the Board of Studies and explained that the Board is meeting after a long period of about three years. During this period, it was explained that the School had proceeded further in its various endeavours, especially in terms of offering academic programmes such as MA (Development Studies) and Ph D (Development Studies). While some of the earlier faculty members are not with the school now, in the recent past a few more faculty members joined the school and right now, SDS has eight faculty members. It was added that, with this changed profile of the school, the present meeting of Board of Studies assumes special importance. Prof. Damodaran also briefly explained the role and mandated functions of Board of Studies and informed that Board's recommendation/approval is required before the School takes up its academic proposals to statutory bodies of the University, such as SCAP and Academic Council.
- As the first agenda item, the Minutes of BOS meeting held on 6th May, 2014 were approved, subsequent to a brief reporting of follow up actions on the decisions of the previous meeting of Board of Studies.
- At the outset, prior to deliberating on other agenda items, Prof. Sumangala Damodaran, Dean, SDS explained that in 2018, AUD is going to complete 10 years of its existence and at this juncture, it will be good to initiate a committee to have a comprehensive evaluation of the School's activities, during its first decade. It was observed that this sort of an assessment will be of immense use to identify the strengths, weakness and potential of the school and to have a clear road map for future activities. This will also equip the school with necessary preparations and inputs for a possible evaluation that the AUD may be taking for the University as a whole. The members unanimously welcomed and agreed on this idea and had a detailed deliberation on this matter. Subsequently, the Board of Studies entrusted Dean, SDS to further take up this matter, by constituting a committee and to entrust the committee with specific terms of reference and to come out with a detailed assessment report, within a stipulated time period. The utility of having at least one external member was highlighted by some of the members. Prof. Ashwani Saith was requested to be one of the members of the Committee.

- Subsequently, the members had generic discussions on the broad structure of the MA programme offered by SDS. The clarifications sought by members regarding the programme include: What has been the pattern of preferences of the students, while selecting the electives, and how it has been changing over the years? Where are they placed for internship? What are the norms followed in the school for allowing the students to choose electives offered from other Schools? After detailed deliberations, it was agreed unanimously that the school can consider introducing a cap in re selection of elective courses from outside the School (e.g. 8 credits compulsory from the SDS's courses). At the same time, it was observed that, it not desirable to restrict the choice of students beyond this stipulated credit. They can be allowed to choose according to their individual preferences. Some of the members also pointed out that it is better to have a review of some of the electives offered by other schools and then to come out with a list of 'approved' or 'suggested' electives from outside SDS. This will help the students in identifying appropriate electives which are also related to Development Studies. Some of the members also suggested the school to consider the possibility of introducing some of the electives in the first year of MA programme, but after having a detailed discussion and planning in this matter. It was unanimously agreed by all the members that though the school can have a detailed list of approved elective courses, all these may not be offered to the students in a particular semester/year. Depending upon the availability of faculty members and their specialisation, at the beginning of each semester the school can notify as to which are the electives available in the particular semester. Detailed discussions were also held on various other aspects teaching, evaluation and the compulsory course on internship. In the light of these, it was suggested that all these matters can be reviewed based on the experience of the school in the previous years, while carrying out the Assessment of School's activities.
- After detailed deliberations the Board approved the elective course on a course 'Gender and Development'. While approving the matter, the Board also suggested that School can also have a review of gender related courses offered in other schools, primarily to avoid possible overlaps.
- The outline of an elective course that SDS has been offering (titled, 'India in World Affairs') was briefly discussed and the majority of Board members felt that the course need to be properly reworked, incorporating many other relevant matters, which are not at present included in the course contents. It was suggested to place the revised course structure in a subsequent meeting of the Board.

- The Board of Studies also approved the newly proposed elective course titled 'Political Economy of Development: South Asia in a Comparative Frame'. While discussing this matter, the members unanimously observed that introducing such a course will be a good addition to the extant course structure of MA (Development Programme). It will be ideal to keep this course as one which is not 'India-centric'. Also, it will be good to design the contents of this course on certain identified themes, which are taught in a comparative perspective.
- The Board also approved the elective course titled 'Prejudice and Politics: Perception and Manifestation'. During the deliberations, some of the members also pointed out that since the theme of the course is a universal one, it is necessary to expand its focus beyond India. Thus, the School was advised to bring in a comparative analysis for this course.
- The board also considered the proposal on the course titled 'Development and Security'. But after detailed deliberations, it was suggested that approving this course can be deferred as the present outline requires some revision. Accordingly, the school was directed to re-work on the proposal and to bring the revised proposal for the approval of the Board in a subsequent meeting.
- Though the Board discussed briefly about some of the issues related to MA dissertations and certain matters related to attendance, it was suggested that these matters can be included in the evaluation process of the school, which will be initiated shortly.

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