



Progressive Education Society's
Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce
Pune University Circle, Ganeshkhind, Pune – 411 016

**Minutes of the DBT Star College Scheme
Advisory Committee Meeting**

Date: 16th March 2015
Time: 2:30 pm
Venue: Kanitkar Audio Visual Hall,
Modern College, **Ganeshkhind**,
Pune – 411 016

An Advisory Committee Meeting for the Star College Scheme of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India was held on 16th March 2015 at Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Ganeshkhind, Pune to discuss and review the implementation of the scheme and the progress made by the departments of the college supported under the scheme.

Members Present for the meeting were as follows:

Dr. Sanjay Kharat
Principal and Chairman

Dr. Suman Govil
DBT Representative

Dr. G. S. Chinchankar
External Expert

Dr. K. M. Kodam
External Expert

Dr. Vinay Kumar
Overall Coordinator

Departmental Coordinators:

Mrs. S. Kandharkar
Department of Mathematics

Mrs. Varsha Joshi
Department of Physics

Dr. Shakera Inamdar
Department of Zoology

Dr. Amita Dharmadhikari
Department of Statistics

Dr. Rekha Gupta
Department of Biotechnology

Dr. Madhuri Kulkarni
Department of Chemistry

Mrs. Sneha Ogale
Department of Microbiology

Dr. Prachi Rawal
Department of Botany

Mrs. Vaishali Salunkhe
Department of Electronics



Besides, the faculty members of all the science departments supported under the scheme also attended the meeting.

The external advisory members were received in the College Campus by the Principal, Vice-Principal (Science) and the Coordinator of the scheme. The principal started the proceedings in the Audio Visual Hall with a welcome note and introductory remarks about the scheme. The principal thanked the authorities of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India for their support to the college under this coveted scheme.

The coordinator requested Dr. Suman Govil to release the Abstract Book of the Students Projects carried out under the scheme and a Compilation of Research Publications by the faculty members and the students during the year 2013-14.

The external advisory members started the interaction with the Departmental Coordinators/HODs and faculty members and reviewed the progress made by each department under the scheme. The departmental presentations were started with Chemistry Department.

Department of Chemistry

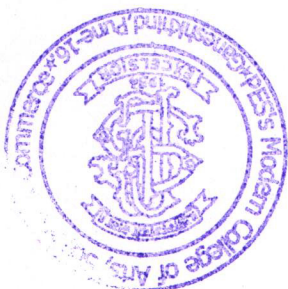
Mrs. Anuradha Bhamidi started the presentation with a brief profile of the department and went on to highlight various activities conducted for the students under the scheme. She also explained how this scheme has helped the students to improve their theoretical and practical skills through exposure to better infrastructure facilities and learning-by-doing approaches.

Recommendations:

Dr. Govil suggested for enhanced inter-disciplinary collaboration between Chemistry and other departments. She also suggested conducting a student workshop aimed at safety in handling the chemicals in the laboratories.

Department of Zoology

Dr. Shakera Inamdar, Head, Zoology Department presented the departmental activities conducted under the scheme. She highlighted how the scheme has tremendously helped the students in designing and undertaking small research projects. She also highlighted the activities conducted by the department including the Hands-on-Training Program and Workshop for students, besides one for faculty members themed on Scientific Writing. The experts appreciated



the efforts taken by the faculty in the department for furthering scientific interest amongst students by screening the scientific documentaries and movies.

Recommendations:

Dr. Govil and other external experts advocated for sufficient safety measures to be undertaken before commercialization of any product developed by the students, e.g. herbal products. The experts asked the department not to undertake the projects themed on developing commercial products for human consumption, owing to safety and ethical considerations involved therein.

Department of Electronics

The next presentation was of the Electronics Department delivered by Ms. Vaishali Salunkhe. She could highlight the students' activities under the scheme which include the development of Digital Time-table with Details of Time Schedule, Teacher and Hall Number besides the subject. The external experts and Dr. Govil appreciated this activity and asked for more such innovative activities to be conducted by all the departments.

Recommendations:

The external advisory members recommended that more inter-disciplinary students' projects should be encouraged in the department to give them an understanding of wide applicability of electronics in other streams.

Department of Microbiology

The presentation of Microbiology department was given by the HOD, Mrs. Sneha Ogale. She drew the attention of the committee members to the various activities and the projects conducted by the students in the department under the scheme. She also elaborated on learning microbial and life sciences through various unusual ways such as preparing and display of Scientific Rangolis and Salads (themed on scientists, cellular structures and pathways).

Recommendations:

The experts expressed their satisfaction over the activities conducted by the department but they also emphasized against the use of pathogenic strains in the laboratories for their curricular experiments and research projects.



The experts overviewed the projects carried out by the students and gave some valuable suggestions for instance students should work towards degradation of dye-industry waste rather than synthetic dyes.

Department of Mathematics

The Vice-Principal (Science) and Head, Mathematics Department presented the progress made by the department under the scheme in terms of students activities and projects undertaken by the students. She brought focus on various innovative and interesting activities devised by the teachers in the department to arouse their interest in the subject such as Mathematical Hockey, a workshop on 'C' Language etc.

Recommendations:

The experts expressed their views on need for more projects involving applications of mathematics and mathematical principles for biology students to diffuse the fear of mathematics prevalent in most of the students with biology background.

Department of Biotechnology

The departmental presentation of Biotechnology by the HOD, Dr. Rekha Gupta started with a brief overview of the department and faculty members. She presented the major activities conducted under the scheme by the students and faculty members. She also drew attention towards the overall research and scientific ambience in the department. The workshop conducted by the department on Microscopy and Microtomy got appreciation from the members. She also shared the details of Industry-Connect organized by the department for making the students industry-ready.

Recommendations:

The experts and Dr. Govil recommended the enhanced use of facilities in the department by students of other departments. They also emphasized on designing more interdisciplinary and inter-departmental projects for students. Further, they also urged the departmental faculty to train the students from classical life science subjects in advanced techniques and instruments.



Department of Physics

The departmental activities of Physics Department were reviewed next. Mrs. Varsha Joshi, HOD highlighted various activities including students' visits, expert lectures and projects.

Recommendations:

Once again the external experts suggested increasing the inter-disciplinary and inter-departmental activities and projects.

Department of Statistics and Botany

Due to time constraints, Dr. Govil asked these departments to highlight the activities through a discussion rather than presentations. The respective Heads of Statistics and Botany Departments brought forward the purchases they made and the activities conducted under the scheme.

Recommendations

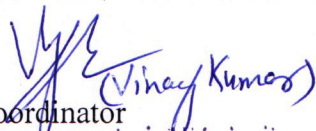
Dr. Govil recommended more involvement of Statistics department for making the students of varied backgrounds understand the importance and use of statistical software and tools for their research projects.

General Recommendations

Overall, the external experts and Dr. Govil expressed their satisfaction over the progress made by the college under the scheme and gave some general recommendations, such as:


1. To develop yearly activity-planners by each department at the beginning of year,
2. To increase the overall inter-disciplinary and inter-departmental activities,
3. To conduct more hands-on-trainings for students in different fields during next academic year, and
4. To try and inculcate the scientific understandings and interest amongst students through various simple activities e.g. giving them simple problems like determining and reconfirming the normality/molarities of commercial solutions.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Principal Dr. Sanjay Kharat.


Coordinator

CO-ORDINATOR

DBT - STAR COLLEGE SCHEME
PES's MODERN COLLEGE OF ARTS SCIENCE &
COMMERCE, GANESHKHIND, PUNE-53.


Principal
Principal

Modern College of Arts, Science
& Commerce, Ganeshkhind, Pune-53.

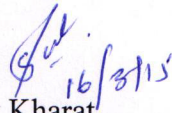


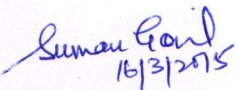


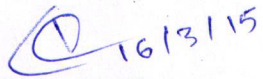
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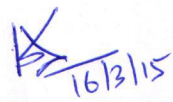
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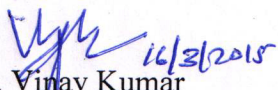
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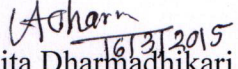

Dr. G. S. Chinchankar
External Expert

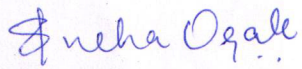

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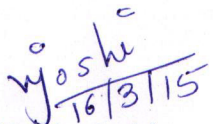

Dr. Vinay Kumar
Overall Coordinator (Member Secretary)

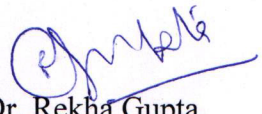
Departmental Coordinators:



Mrs. S. Kandharkar
Department of Mathematics
16/08/2015

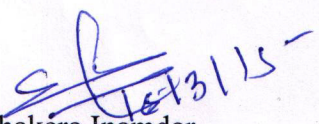

Dr. Amita Dharmadhikari
Department of Statistics

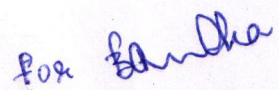

Mrs. Sneha Ogale
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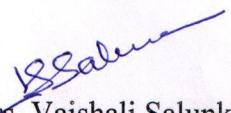

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