

Board of Studies meeting of the Department of Zoology was conducted on 02-07-2016 at 10 am in the Department of Zoology.

Also present Dr. Nisha P Aravind, Staff secretary, Board of Studies Zoology

The meeting commenced with a silent prayer followed by the welcome address by Dr. Johnson Baby (Chairman). All the members self-introduced themselves. Discussions based on the agenda were carried out.

Agenda I- Curriculum

As per the decisions taken by the syndicate, it was decided to follow the university syllabus (2012 onwards) for the first year and later on it can be restructured in the next year.

Agenda II- Books

Books recommended as per the syllabus are to be followed

Agenda III- Methodology for innovative teaching and evaluation

As per the university rules, no changes can be done in the present mark system. Innovations are possible while evaluating i.e. the way in which internals are being conducted. Institution should develop its own curriculum, which includes the various contents like transaction methods, evaluation and co-curricular activities. Innovation is possible in evaluation and in transaction methods. It was decided to study the curriculum followed in various universities and thereby devise one that is feasible for our college/department, which will be discussed in the next meeting.

Innovative suggestions:-

- Questions can be developed according to Bloom's Taxonomy
- Objective type questions can be asked after each class
- Curriculum can be revised after every semester
- Study materials can be downloaded from the corresponding sites according to the curriculum
- Syllabus can be revised to suit the needs of the competitive exams like UGC-CSIR-NET
- After every internal exam marks are to be published in the notice boards at the earliest
- Combined seminars can be conducted for both UG and PG students. Seminars can be used to develop student's personality
- Students come from different backgrounds hence needs to be treated differently

Innovations in the course

- Certificate courses can be started. Like film appreciation courses to enhance student participation

- Major challenge faced by the student is difficulty in topic presentation which can be overcome by conducting seminars and group discussions. Credits can be given to those who ask questions so as to break the language barrier. Communicative English classes can be conducted.
- Most of the students are weak in basics – study of local fauna needs to be stressed upon. Taxonomy needs to be emphasised. Different fields like molecular taxonomy and chemical taxonomy. Teachers need to be competent in these fields. Anatomy of fish and dissection of common forms should be studied. This helps in developing the skill and patience.

Innovations in teaching methodology

- Introduction of smart class
- Dissections can be copied in the cameras
- Evaluations needs to be strict
- Teach a student and then evaluate. Repeat the process if the result is poor
- Make the students to answer all the questions from the question bank
- Internals are to repeated if the marks are poor unless they get the desired marks
- Separate time can be allotted for doing projects. Start projects early, keep log books
- Changes are to be made in the practical syllabus. Key is to be made for insect identification. Develop taxonomic skills among students.

Evaluation

- Student and teacher evaluation to be done after the end of each semester
- Student progression needs to be analysed
- Talents and skills of the students' needs to be identified apart from curricular aspects. Programmes can be conducted to identify the skills. Old students can guide the new comers.
- Evaluate the amount of time spent on journals, number of books taken from library. Reading skills are to be developed.
- Seminars and workshops are to be conducted. Library timings are to be changed

Agenda IV- Panel of examiners

- Panel of names for Academic Council to be approved
- Panel of examiners list to be expanded

The chairman thanked all the members for their valuable suggestions and concluded the meeting

(Member Secretary)

(Read and confirmed)

(Chairman)

Kottayam

02-07-2016