

Report of the Committee Constituted Vide notification no DU/ RG/ G.01.01/2021/4508 dated 20/07/2021 for preparing a report regarding preparedness of Dibrugarh University to introduce measures in conformity to NEP, 2020.

The committee after several discussions opines that preparedness of Dibrugarh University to introduce measures in conformity to NEP, 2020 will have to be a continuous process to deal with the overall restructuring of the Higher Education. However, the committee opines that at this early stage of implementation of NEP, 2020 Dibrugarh University may consider the following initiatives:

I. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) proposes the need for promoting “multidisciplinarity and a holistic education across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and sports for a multidisciplinary world in order to ensure the unity and integrity of all knowledge.” Accordingly, Dibrugarh University proposes the following to promote multidisciplinary and holistic education :

- Dibrugarh University currently has a Multi-disciplinary Faculty Board which needs to be reconstituted in line with the policy framework as enunciated in the NEP 2020.
- Moreover, to emphasize on interdisciplinary research the same Faculty Board can be coined as **Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary Faculty Board**.
- Furthermore, interdisciplinary research, as it is devised in different universities, also demands joint supervisors. To facilitate such a process of joint supervisors in interdisciplinary research in Dibrugarh University, an **IRC- inter-departmental research committee** –may be constituted, which may function like the existing **DRC-departmental research committees**.
- Additionally, an **Interdepartmental Board of Studies** may also be constituted under the same regulations to facilitate interdisciplinary courses from the undergraduate to Ph.D. levels.
- The committee also opines that as introduction of such new interdisciplinary courses will demand active participation of faculty members, who will need to venture beyond their present practicing expertise; there should be adequate measures to incentivize such endeavours, if faculty members come forward to offer such courses. Incentives may include API for younger faculty members at the Assistant and Associate Levels and funding for research projects for Professors.

II. As some of the other universities and institutes in the country have already started making plans to introduce measures in conformity with the suggestions of NEP 2020, the committee also feels that Dibrugarh University in regard to interdisciplinary courses should take appropriate measures so that the same can be introduced as part of the DU CBCS curriculum in the post-graduate programs. This thrust on interdisciplinary courses has been suggested by the Committee based on the NEP 2020 which notes that :

“Given the 21<sup>st</sup> century requirements, quality higher education must .... enable an individual to study one or more specialized areas of interest at a deep level, and also develop character, ethical and Constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, creativity, spirit of service, and 21st century capabilities across a range of disciplines including sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, languages, as well as professional, technical, and vocational subjects.”

- The members of the committee opine that such interdisciplinary courses may be introduced in PG CBCS programs from the next academic session onwards.
- Presently the DU PG CBCS curriculum contains two compulsory GE courses and 2 AEC courses constituting a total of 12 credits, among other courses, which are offered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.
- The committee opines that theme-based interdisciplinary courses comprising of a total 12 credits can be introduced as new choices for interested PG students in addition to the existing GE and AEC courses.
- These theme-based courses will comprise of a total of 12 credits having 4 courses and this proposed theme-based interdisciplinary course structure will be aligned with the present DU PG CBCS curriculum so as to maintain structural integrity of the existing curriculum.
- The committee has proposed 12 credits for these theme-based interdisciplinary courses so that the students can have ample exposure and expertise in such emerging areas of studies.
- The following table shows the manner in which the theme-based interdisciplinary course (IDC) may be scheduled alongside the existing AEC and GE. Students currently have a choice of opting for AEC and GE, but with the introduction of 4 IDC's, they will have the choice to opt for these as well.

Second Semester	Third Semester
AEC- 2 credits/ Interdisciplinary course 1- 2 credits	AEC- 2 credits/ Interdisciplinary course 3- 2 credits
GE- 4 credits / Interdisciplinary course 2- 4 credits	GE- 4 credits / Interdisciplinary course 4- 4 credits

- Some of the theme-based Interdisciplinary courses, which can be offered by Dibrugarh University, are:
  1. Public Health and Sanitation
  2. Rural Development
  3. Brahmaputra Studies
  4. Women Studies
  5. Strategic Networks
  6. Water
  7. Environmental Science, Global Warming and Climate Change
  8. Peace and Conflict Studies

### Sample of the proposed structure of the IDC's:

#### 1. Public Health and Sanitation

- **Introduction to Public Health and Sanitation-** Interdisciplinary course No.1-2 credits
- **Sustainable Development Goals and Health and Sanitation-** Interdisciplinary course No. 2- 2 credits
- **Public health Education and Engineering-** Interdisciplinary course No. 3- 4 credits
- **Policymaking and Research in Health and Hygiene -** Interdisciplinary course No. 4- 4 credits

#### 2. Rural Development

- **Rural economy-** Interdisciplinary course No. 1- 2 credits
  - **Rural sociology-** Interdisciplinary course No. 2- 2 credits
  - **Rural administration-** Interdisciplinary course No. 3- 4 credits
  - **Government policies for rural development-** Interdisciplinary course No. 4- 4 credits
- The committee recommends such interdisciplinary courses based on the NEP 2020 which enunciates that "interdisciplinary thinking" should be emphasized in pedagogy.

III. For undergraduate and integrated course, including Dibrugarh University Institute of Engineering and Technology, within Dibrugarh University campus, the Committee proposes the introduction of appropriate measures so that the **spirit of liberal arts and sciences education**, which promotes the exposure of the students to a multidisciplinary environment, can be integrated in the curriculum of such courses.

- The NEP emphasizes on the need to make available to students at the under-graduate level courses from various disciplines so as to enable them to acquire multiple proficiencies rather than providing an insular orientation based on the present system of early specialization.
- To offer greater choices to the students at the undergraduate level, it is proposed that students are encouraged to opt for courses from different disciplines rather than concentrating on the watertight divisions in terms of Science/Arts/Commerce which is currently prevalent in Dibrugarh University.

- Some of the universities have already started working in this direction and the same should also be introduced by restructuring the present curriculum, at least in the first and second semester of the undergraduate courses.
- Moreover, as proposed in the NEP 2020, the university may also seriously consider the introduction of the 4 years liberal arts and sciences course and 1-year master degree course for the integrated courses, which are presently being offered in DU campus. The same is also being considered in other universities. DU should also have a roadmap for the same to be introduced in the other programs as well.

IV. As the NEP 2020 proposes to phase out the present MPhil programme, the committee suggests the introduce of Dissertation-writing at the post-graduate level in a phased manner, to facilitate students with an understanding of basic research methodology and cultivate research aptitude among them, which will help them in admissions into PhD Research programmes.

V. Moreover, internships for students in different programs should be encouraged and the university should have a definite **internship placement cell** for coordinating matters relating to internship opportunities. The teaching Departments and Centre's should be encouraged to explore possibilities to incorporate internships within specific courses.

VI. Colloquiums/workshops/lectures/training programs may be organized for the faculty members on a regular basis on important international, national and local issues. Such exposure is important to achieve the new **Course Learning Outcomes, such as preservation of heritage and conservation**, which have been devised and defined by Dibrugarh University.

VII. As suggested in the NEP 2020, the committee recommends that Ph.D students of Dibrugarh Univesrity "will also have a minimum number of hours of actual teaching experience gathered through teaching assistantships and other means." Accordinly, all PhD scholars of Dibrugarh University may be mandatorily required to teach a minimum number of classes in the department under which they are conducting their PhD research. The committee also opines that, as mentioned in the NEP 2020, it is necessary to ensure "Exposure to pedagogical practices, designing curriculum, credible evaluation systems, communication, and so on will be ensured since many research scholars will go on to become faculty or public representatives/communicators of their chosen disciplines."

VIII. As suggested in the NEP 2020, the committee opines that student activities may be encouraged by forming clubs- such as eco-club, cine-club, photography-club, literary-club, nature-club – with the involvement of teachers, to increase aptitude and awareness among students. The committee also opines that the various Departments and Centre's undertake local outreach programs to promote community engagement and service.

Kalyan Das  
20/09/2021

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Office of the Registrar

**DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY**

Dibrugarh | PIN-786 004 | Assam

## NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified that a Committee is constituted with the following members of the University for implementation of Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education in Dibrugarh University and affiliated colleges and share the initiatives taken in this regard on the University Activity Monitoring Portal (UAMP) :

1. Prof. D.K. Chakraborty : Chairperson  
Department of Economics, D.U.
2. Prof. S. Borkotoky : Member  
Department of Mathematics, D.U.
3. Prof. Kalyan Bhuyan : Member  
Director, IQAC, D.U.
4. Dr. Chandan Kr. Sarma : Member  
Department of History, D.U.
5. Dr. (Mrs.) Obja Bora Hazarika : Secretary  
Department of Political Science, D.U.

Issued with due approval.

Registrar 20/07/2021  
Dibrugarh University  
Dibrugarh

Date : 20/07/2021

No. : DU/RG/G.01.01/2021/4508

Copy to :

01. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dibrugarh University, for kind information.
02. All Members, as notified above, for information, with a request to extend necessary cooperation.
03. The In-charge of the Dibrugarh University website, for uploading a copy of the notification in the University website.
04. Office file.

Registrar 20/07/2021  
Dibrugarh University  
Dibrugarh