

Adoption of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) across all the State Universities.

With reference to the public Notice issued by the UGC dated 10th April 2015 on seeking views and feedback from stakeholders on CBCS model curriculum and letter dated 17th April 2015, from the Principal Secretary to Govt. HE Department, Telangana State referring feasibility and implementation of CBCS in the State of Telangana.

Accordingly a meeting of Deans of Faculties of all the State Universities and representative from commissionerate collegiate education and members of state level committee on CBCS was conducted on 24th April 2015 at Telangana State Council for Higher Education.

The meeting was chaired by the Prof. T. Papi Reddy, Chairman, Telangana State Council for Higher Education (TSCHE) and Co-chaired by Prof. S. Mallesh, Vice-chairman, TSCHE. The Chairman after briefing the objective of the meeting, the members actively participated in the deliberations to express their views and opinions on CBCS for its implementation.

The members after carefully examining the letters and guidelines issued by the UGC from time to time (12th November 2014, 8th January 2014 and 10th April 2015) expressed the opinions after going through the following.

1. The UGC in its first letter dated 12th November 2014 issued guidelines for adoption of CBCS uniformly through out the country with a draft template classifying the courses as Core, Elective and Foundation with a minimum 50% of Core component while providing scheme for the grading system of evaluation in a semester pattern.
2. The UGC in its subsequent letter dated 8th January 2015 based on the consensus emerged from state education ministers meet convened by MHRD on 6th January 2015 to initiate action on CBCS by addressing the following pertinent issues in order to expedite the implementation process.
 - a. Semesterization of curricula
 - b. Restructuring of syllabi in the form of modules
 - c. Standardisation of examinations and
 - d. Switching over from numerical marking system to grade system
3. The UGC in its latest letter dated 10th April 2015 directed the academic fraternity and students to send comments/feedbacks within 15 days for the draft model syllabi proposed for under graduate courses under CBCS.

All the members present expressed the following opinions.

1. All the members arrived at consensus on CBCS model and also on the structure to facilitate the implementation. However they expressed reservations on proposed model syllabi for UG courses.
2. Universities should continue to enjoy their own autonomy and freedom to decide and design the curriculum to have their own brand.
3. The UGC can decide on the learning objectives and learning outcomes of the programme and courses, which enable the Universities to frame the syllabi based on knowledge, skill and competency development and also to incorporate the emerging needs and societal demands so as to benchmark with National and Internationally Comparable Institutions and Examinations.
4. Fixing of common minimum syllabi and only 20% deviation is not acceptable, however the model curriculum should be a reference rather than binding on the part of Universities. The UGC can decide number of credits for an undergraduate programme as they decide the duration of the degree.
5. The members agreed to have uniform number of core papers to extent of minimum of 60%, however the elective and foundation courses should be university specific to address the regional needs and knowledge base of students admitted to the courses.
6. The present curriculum structure in the state of Telangana provides more scope and opportunities for vertical mobility i.e., 5 options including two languages offered under foundation course with equal credits for a UG programme than the proposed structure (reduced options) by the UGC under CBCS for UG programmes.
7. With regard to acquiring language proficiency in both English and Modern Indian Language credits were equivalent with core course in Telangana State Universities and Colleges, which also addresses the integration of multi-linguistic nature and cultural diversity of the country with global and regional needs.
8. The proposed syllabi by the UGC for different subjects framed under modular model or units needs to be corrected to normalise into uniform credits.
9. The model curriculum is contradicting the guidelines and the template provided by the UGC in the month of November 2014 which was more appropriate for effective implementation and integrating with existing structure in the state.

10. The categorisation of subjects/disciplines is to be based on the classified streams suggested by UGC for conducting national level examinations like NET and for awarding merit scholarships based on ranks.
11. The UGC should support the institutions to develop ICT enabled teaching, learning, evaluation and governance and also for faculty resources and training for effective implementation of CBCS and to overcome the disadvantages.
12. The introduction of project work at UG level to all students is far from ground realities of massive expansion of higher education, instead it should be selective to research aspiring students under discipline centric elective option for autonomous, government and accredited colleges for effective implementation and monitoring. However the private unaided colleges can also offer under network collaborations and others it may be substituted with internship followed by assignment and seminar.
13. The Skill Enhancement Course in the present model curriculum limiting to two credits may facilitate to the extent of knowledge purposes, unless it is integrated with practical / internship the desired learning outcomes cannot be accomplished.
14. The students with inter/multidisciplinary format may be considered for vertical mobility subject to fulfilling the minimum of 24 credits inclusive of allied disciplines.
15. Further the members opined to fix the maximum duration of instruction hours per week and working days as per better feasible academic norms.
16. Provide uniform program code to be adopted throughout the country for facilitation of easy recognition and mobility.