

Forest Research Institute Deemed to be University
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council held on 13.05.2024 at 03:30 pm

The meeting of the Academic Council of FRI Deemed to be University was held on 13.05.2024 in the Board Room of FRI Deemed to be University. Following members attended the meeting in offline/online mode:-

Attended offline

1. Dr. Renu Singh, Director, FRI & Vice Chancellor, FRIDU- **Chairperson**
2. Dr. Vineet Kumar, Dean (Academic), FRI Deemed to be University.
3. Dr. P.K. Gupta, Scientist-G & Head, Forest Products Division, FRI
4. Dr. Arun Pratap Singh, Scientist-G & Head, Forest Protection Division, FRI.
5. Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Scientist-G, Silviculture & Forest Management Division, FRI
6. Sh. D.P. Khali, Scientist-G, Forest Products Division, FRI
7. Dr. Vipin Prakash, Scientist-F, Course Coordinator, Forestry, FRIDU.
8. Ms. Vijaya Ratre, IFS (DCF), Silviculture & Forest Management Division, FRI.
9. Sh. Sambuddha Majumder, IFS (DCF), Silviculture & Forest Management Division, FRI.
10. Dr. Pratima Patel, Scientist-E, Controller of the Examination of FRIDU
11. Dr. Parul Bhatt Kotiyal, Scientist-E, Forest Ecology and Climate Change Division, FRI.
12. Dr. Parmanand Kumar, Scientist-D, Forest Ecology & Climate Change Division, FRI.
13. Dr. Shailendra Kumar, Scientist-D, Course Coordinator, WST, FRIDU
14. Dr. P.K. Verma, Scientist-D, Forest Botany Division, FRI.
15. Dr. Shambhavi Yadav, Scientist-C, Genetics & Tree Improvement Division, FRI.
16. Dr. Balaganesh G, Scientist-C, Silviculture & Forest Management Division, FRI.
17. Dr. Abhishek Kumar Verma, Scientist-B, Course Coordinator, EM, FRIDU
18. Dr. A.K. Tripathi, Scientist-G & Registrar, FRIDU - **Member Secretary**.

Attended online

19. Dr. Neelu Gera, Retd. IFS, Ex-Dean, FRI Deemed to be University.
20. Dr. M.C. Porwal, Retd. Scientist, IIRS, Dehradun.

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the members of the Academic Council and after that Registrar & Member Secretary, Academic Council FRI Deemed to be University with the permission of the chair started the proceedings of the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8/2024

To confirm the minutes (resolutions) and compliance report of the meeting of the Academic Council held on 13-03-2024.

Resolution No. 8/2024: The members having gone through the compliance report on the resolutions passed by the Academic Council in its meeting held on **13.03.2024** finally confirmed the minutes.


(A.K. Tripathi)

Member Secretary, Academic Council
Registrar, FRI Deemed to be University


(Renu Singh)

Chairperson, Academic Council
Director, FRI & VC, FRI Deemed to be University

Agenda Item No. 9/2024:

To consider National Eligibility Test (NET) as an Entrance Test for admission to Ph.D.

Resolution No. 9/2024: The members having gone through the agenda, in the light of UGC Notice dated 27.3.2024 and also UGC (Minimum Standards & Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 resolved to make some modifications in the relevant clause 5 of Ph.D. Ordinance of FRI Deemed to be University as under:-

5.1.1 **The university shall admit candidates by two stages process:** The applications for both stages shall be invited at once. After conducting entrance examination, the interviews of candidates of both stages as prescribed in Clause 5.2.1(A) and 5.2.1(B) will be conducted together, as also prescribed under clause 5.2.2 of this ordinance.

5.2.1 (A) 1st Stage- On interview basis for students qualifies for fellowship/scholarship only in UGC-NET/UGC- CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests and eligible for admission in Ph.D.:

At first stage the university shall admit students who qualify for fellowship/scholarship in UGC-NET/UGC- CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests based on an interview. The eligibility for admission in Ph.D. of a candidate who qualifies for fellowship/scholarship in UGC JRF-NET/UGC-CSIR JRF-NET/DBT-JRF/CEED and similar National level tests shall be within the period prescribed in their awardees' letter. In case there is no period specified, the marks of said exam will be valid for a period of two year from the date of issue of JRF Award letter. And their merit will be prepared on the basis of marks obtained by them interview conducted by FRIDU.

The interview will be conducted discipline-wise by the Head of Division concerned/Nodal Officer of respective research centres to discuss their research interest/area. The marks of candidates appeared in the interview will be sent to the Registrar, FRI Deemed University, who will prepare the list of selected candidates as per merit on the basis of marks of interview and category-wise. The list prepared by the Registrar, FRIDU would be placed before Joint Admission Committee constituted by Vice Chancellor, FRIDU. The Joint Admission Commission shall examine the list of selected candidates keeping in view all aspects and shall approve the list and finally be approved by the Director, FRI/VC, FRIDU and would be uploaded on the website.

5.2.1 (B) 2nd Stage- On the basis of qualifying entrance test conducted by FRI Deemed to be University or qualified UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests and eligible for admission in Ph.D., followed by interview:

In second stage after filling the seats of 1st stage, for, the university shall fill remaining vacant seats by the candidates who qualified entrance test of FRIDU or qualified UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar National level tests and eligible for admission in Ph.D., and appeared in interview conducted by FRIDU. The candidates will be called for interview and merit list for admission will be prepared as per clause 5.2.5(i) of this ordinance

The marks obtained in FRIDU Entrance Test or in the UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/DBT/CEED and similar National level tests will be valid for a period of one year. The candidates shall have to provide score-card of the marks obtained in the said exam, percentile score shall not be considered.


(A.K. Tripathi)

Member Secretary, Academic Council
Registrar, FRI Deemed to be University

(Renu Singh)

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The Entrance Test conducted by FRIDU shall consist of 50% of research methodology and 50% shall be subject-specific. The Entrance Test shall be conducted preferably during the month of July-August once in a year followed by interview as per FRIDU rules.

The candidates who qualifies UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/DBT/CEED and similar National level tests may also appear in Ph.D. Entrance Test conducted at FRIDU level.

Supplementary Agenda Item No. 1 /2024:

To consider the recommendation of Board of Studies to introduce an elective course on 'Sustainable Land Management' in 3rd Semester of M.Sc. Environment Management course and to approve its syllabus finalized by Board of Studies

Resolution No. 10 /2024: The Academic Council discussed the issue in great length and depth. The Dean(A), Course Coordinators and other faculty members informed that due to shortage of faculty, it is not possible to add one more elective paper on 'Sustainable Land Management' in M.Sc. Environment Management as proposed by Centre of Excellence Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM), ICFRE. It was also informed that presently there are 10 numbers of elective papers (i.e. 1.Natural Resource Conservation and Management 2.Bio Diversity Monitoring and Management 3.Bio Statistics and Computer Application 4 Solid Waste Management 5. Forest, Society and Climate Change 6. Remote sensing and Geographic Information System- Advance and Application in Environmental Management 7. Environmental Impact Assessment 8. Wildlife and Habitat Management 9. Plant Taxonomy 10. Urban Forestry) in M.Sc. Environment Management course and facing difficulty arranging the faculty for these elective courses. After detail discussions and deliberations in the matter it was unanimously **resolved** by the Academic Council that under the present circumstances it would not be possible to initiate a new elective paper and finally drop the agenda.

Supplementary Agenda Item No. 2/2024

To consider the recommendation of Board of Studies to run certificate courses in FRI Deemed to be University by Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management - ICFRE independently.

Resolution No. 11 /2024: The Academic council discussed the agenda and the recommendation of Board of Studies in great length and depth. The Academic Council opined that University can not approve any short term Certificate Courses/training programmes which are not academically, administratively and financially organized, managed, controlled and monitored (Through evaluation/examination) by University itself. Here the short term (5 days certificate courses), which are too short and proposed by CoE-SLM are totally organized, managed (academically, administratively as well as financially), controlled and monitored by CoE-SLM itself without any interference of FRI Deemed to be University. It is not legally justified to approve such courses by FRI Deemed to be University which are independently run, organized, managed, controlled and monitored by COE- SLM or any other organization itself.

Therefore Academic Council **unanimously resolved to drop the agenda.**


(A.K. Tripathi)

Member Secretary, Academic Council
Registrar, FRI Deemed to be University


(Renu Singh)

Chairperson, Academic Council
Director, FRI & VC, FRI Deemed to be University

Supplementary Agenda Item No. 3/2024:

To consider the matter of introduction of a new Ph.D. Discipline “Sustainable Land Management” in Ph.D. Programme in Forestry run by Forest Research Institute Deemed University.

Resolution No. 12 /2024: The Academic Council discussed the agenda in detail and opined that presently Ph.D. in Forestry is awarded in 24 sub-disciplines including 1. Conservation Social Science; 2. Forest Ecology & Environment; 3 Forest Management 4. Environment Management; and 5. Soil Science. 6. Wildlife Science. Faculty members also informed that ‘Sustainable Land Management’ is a part of above mentioned sub-disciplines and some of the Ph.D. Scholars are also pursuing their Ph.D. in such relevant fields. Therefore, Academic Council desired not to create such specific discipline which are already covered in existing disciplines and therefore **unanimously resolved** to drop the agenda.

Supplementary Agenda Item No. 4/2024: To consider the revised recommendation of Board of Studies of M.Sc Forestry Programme to increase the credits hours of “Forest Economics (FFE – 214) which covers 2 credits hours (1 credits for theory and 1 credits for practical), could be considered as 1+1 credit hours (1 credit for theory and 1 credit for practical) in 2nd Semester.

Resolution No. 13 /2024: The Academic Council asked to place this agenda in its next meeting.

The meeting then ended with thanks to Chair and all the members present in the meeting.



(A.K. Tripathi)
Member Secretary, Academic Council
Registrar, FRI Deemed to be University



(Renu Singh)
Chairperson, Academic Council
Director, FRI & VC, FRI Deemed to be University