Central University of Kerala

Established by the Parliament of India vide the Central University Act, 2009(No.25 of 2009)

Kasaragod, Kerala, India, 671123

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

No. CUK/GEO/BOS/MIN/2021/01 Dtd: 17/08/2021

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2th Board of Studies in Geology held online at 10.00 a.m. on 17/08/2021

The Department of Geology, Central University of Kerala conducted the Board of Studies (BoS) meeting on 17th August, 2021. It was the Second BoS meeting of the second Board of Studies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation the meeting was conducted through online via Google Meet platform. The panel members included invited subject experts, Head of the Department, internal members and department faculties as special invitee. The attendees of the meeting were as follows: -

BoS Attendees:

Invited subject experts

- Prof. (Dr.) Rajneesh Bhutani, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Pondicherry University
- Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Raghunath, Professor, Dept .of Geology, University of Kerala,
- Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Narasimha, K.N., Professor, Department of studies in Earth science, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri
- Dr. A. Anil Kumar, Director, Marine & Coastal Survey Division, Geological Survey of India, Manglaluru.

Internal members from the Central University of Kerala

- Dr. Pratheesh P., Assistant Professor and HOD (i/c), Dept. of Geology.
- Dr. Sijinkumar A.V., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geology.
- Dr. S. Anbazhagi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Environmental Science.

Special invitee from the Central University of Kerala

- Dr. Sandeep K., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geology.
- Dr. Chandan Kumar B., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geology.

The BoS meeting started with the welcome address by Dr. Pratheesh P., Head of the Department (i/c). Dr. Pratheesh P. gave a brief introduction on the objectives of the BoS meeting. Thereafter, he welcomed all experts and faculty to the meeting, and briefed the agenda of BoS meeting.

The agenda for discussion in the BoS meeting was proposed by the Head of the Department. The main items discussed in the BoS are given below:

(a) The inclusion of programme outcome and course outcomes in the syllabus of department of geology, central university of Kerala thereof.

(b) Consider the revised syllabus for 2021 admission

c) Inclusion of employment oriented courses in syllabus

The details of agenda-wise discussion and the final recommendation by the BoS are given below.

Agenda 1: The inclusion of programme outcome and course outcomes in the syllabus of department of geology, central university of Kerala thereof.

Dr. Pratheesh P. has explained the Faculty Council discussion regarding inclusion of programme outcome and course outcomes in the syllabus. Then Dr. Pratheesh P. invited the Board of Studies opinion. BoS members have accepted the proposed programme outcome and course outcome. Prof. Rajneesh Bhutani opined that there should be some integration of thinking skills in the programme outcome.

Recommendation: Following a detailed discussion on the contents, the members approved the inclusion of programme outcome and course outcomes in the Department of Geology, Central University of Kerala curriculum.

Agenda 2: Consider the revised syllabus for 2021 admission.

Dr. Pratheesh P. has presented the revised syllabus for 2021 along with proposed programme structure. BoS members have accepted the proposed programme structure with some small suggestions.

Prof. Rajneesh Bhutani pointed that Geochemistry was missing from the curriculum, which is very much essential for an earth science. After a long discussion, BoS has decided to incorporate Geochemistry as a compulsory elective paper. Prof. Prakash Narasimha has suggested the usage of 'Planetary Sciences' instead of 'planetary Geosciences'. Dr. A. Anil Kumar has suggested a title change for Oceanography as 'Oceanography and Marine Geology'. Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Raghunath has recommended some modifications in sequence stratigraphy. Apart from this BoS has recommended a number of additions in the core course discussion.

Recommendation: After a detailed discussion on the revised syllabus, the members unanimously approved the new syllabus for MSc Geology programme in Department of Geology Central University of Kerala. All the recommendations from the experts have incorporated in the revised syllabus.

Agenda 3: Inclusion of employment oriented courses in syllabus.

Dr. Pratheesh P. has explained the feedback received from the Alumni through the Alumni Coordinator, on the inclusion of employability oriented courses. He also pointed that the faculty council has discussed the same and incorporated a new core course 'Geospatial Technology and Engineering Geology' in the proposed syllabus. BoS had a fruitful discussion on the syllabus framework of the newly inducted course.

Recommendation: Following a detailed discussion on the contents, the members approved inclusion of 'Geospatial Technology and Engineering Geology' as core course in the proposed curriculum.

After this, overall agenda discussed in the BoS were summarised by Dr. Pratheesh P. Thereafter, Dr. Sijinkumar A.V. offered the vote of thanks, which conluded the BoS meeting.

Dr. Pratheesh P.

Head (i/c), Department of Geology

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
M.Sc. GEOLOGY

Course Code	EGE 5204	Semester	II
Course Title	Paleontology		
Credits	3	Type	Core

This is a participatory, experimental, problem solving and employability based Field geology skill development course.

Course Description

Paleontology is the scientific study of life that existed in the geological past. It includes the study of fossils to classify organisms and study their interactions with each other and their environment. The course aim to observe and examine the anatomy, morphology, and evolutionary history of vertebrate and invertebrate organisms and plants, understand the major lineages of organismal life through study of their anatomy and diversity, describe the major events (extinctions, diversifications, and environmental transitions) in the history of life and relate these events to possible causes.

Course Outcome

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- To understand palaeontological principles, terms, definitions and classifications, the applications of fossils in understanding Earth history.
- Recognize and identify invertebrate fossils, label key anatomical features and explain their function, recognize and classify fossil plants and animal traces, understand general characteristics and evolution of vertebrates.
- Application of fossils to constrain the age of the enclosing rock, identify and describe the principal microfossil groups, describe the methods of sample collection and laboratory preparation of microfossils.
- Summarise the value of microfossils in paleoenvironmental reconstruction, assess the importance of microfossils in hydrocarbon sub-surface exploration.
- Students will master complex and specialized knowledge, concepts and ideas in palaeontology which includes identification and description of vertebrate, invertebrate, plant and micro fossils. To develop research capability and practical competency in the field of palaeontology.

Course Structure

Module - 1

Life during the Precambrian, Diversification of life. Evolution of life during the Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras. Cambrian explosion. Fossil record and modes of evolution: Microevolution, Macroevolution and Tree of life. Theory of organic evolution and the factors in the Darwinian theory. Theory of Punctuated Equilibria. Origin of life: extra-terrestrial and terrestrial. Miller's experiment. Mass extinction and its causes.

Module - 2

General characteristics, geologic history, classification and evolution of Pisces, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals (Elephant, Horse and Human being). Human fossils from different parts of the world. Use of fossils in palaeoclimatic, paleoecological and palaeogeographic studies. Major fossil discoveries from India

Module - 3

Micropalaeontology: scope and subdivisions - types, extraction of microfossils from sediments and sedimentary rocks. Foraminifera: their palaeoecology and application in paleoclimate, paleoceanography and biostratigraphy. Radiolaria, Diatoms, Ostracoda, Pteropods, Cocolithophores, Stromatolites and Conodonts – morphology, classification and importance. Palynology: General morphology of spores and pollen and their applications. Palaeobotany: Plant life through geological ages. Gondwana plant fossils. Application of microfossils in petroleum exploration.

Evaluation &Grading

Lab Assessment – 10%
Skill development (Analytical, Writing and Presentation) – 10%
Class Test – 20%

End Semester Assessment – 60%

References

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