

NOTIFICATION

11 May 2020

SUB: Regarding Academic Matters and Setting up of COVID-19 Cell at SAU

An emergent online meeting of Deans, Chairpersons, Proctor, Professors, Director (A&E), Hostel Wardens, Registrar, Director (Finance), Dy. Registrar (Admin & Scholarship), Dy. Registrar (Admission), Dy. Registrar (Evaluation), AD (ICT), PRO, AD (HSS), AR (Admin), Security Officer and the Medical Officer was held at 1700 hours on Thursday, 07 May 2020 with Dr AVS Ramesh Chandra, Acting President SAU in the Chair.

In view of the emergency created by COVID-19, SAU Rule 5.2.6 was invoked to override Regulations 12 and 13 which pertain to teaching and testing of MA/MSc and MPhil/PhD students at SAU and the Academic Calendar and the Bye-Law on Class Attendance.

Keeping in view the above and the guidelines issued by the UGC of the Host Country on Examinations and the Academic Calendar for the Universities in view of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns, the following decisions were taken:

1. In supercession of Circular of 24 April 2020 alternate mode of teaching should commence immediately so as to enable completion of coursework to the extent possible as deemed appropriate and feasible by the Department/Faculty, using whatever alternative method the faculty finds feasible.
2. All Semester II students will be promoted to Semester III. Modalities for the final evaluation of Semester II students to determine their ranking and grades will be decided upon later.
3. Departments/Faculties to decide modalities for the testing and evaluation of Semester IV students to determine the ranking and grades of students for this semester.
4. Exams for PhD 1st year students will be conducted when the University reopens.
5. Departments/Faculties to submit the results for Semester IV to Evaluation Branch by 30th June, 2020.
6. MPhil/PhD thesis in electronic form will be accepted for evaluation due to the Covid 19 lockdown and SAU Finance will accept online payment of the required fees. Hard copies of the thesis may be submitted by the research scholar later. Viva voces can be held on Skype or any other suitable online platform. The viva voce will be open to all interested faculty and students and reports must be duly signed by the External Expert, as feasible, and other members of the Interview Committee. A recording of the viva voce will also be made.
7. Extension upto 3 months for MPhil students and upto 6 months for PhD students whose deadlines fall within this period (March-June 2020) will be considered if requested for by the student, and on case-by-case basis, upon the recommendation of the supervisor and the Chairperson of the Department, Dean of the Faculty concerned, and after approval by the competent authority. As of now, the approved budgetary provision until 30 June 2020 does not provide for incurring additional

expenditure during the extended period, if extension is granted for submission of MPhil and PhD theses.

8. Period of lockdown to be treated as deemed to be attended by all the students/research scholars.
9. Use of Labs is permitted on rotation, with limited number of students, physical distancing and under the strict supervision of concerned faculty.
10. The Entrance Test would be held by August 2020 if conditions in all SAARC countries permit. The last date for the receipt of applications for the Entrance Test be extended to 30 June 2020. Information regarding this will be disseminated through online means.
11. A COVID-19 Cell comprising all Deans and Chairpersons, Director (A&E), the Medical Officer with Prof Kapil Sharma as Convenor will solve the issues of students related to the academic calendar and examinations. Mr. Ravinder Trivedi, Office Assistant, will provide the secretarial support to this Cell.
12. A committee consisting of the Medical Officer, AD (HSS), Security Officer and AR(S&P) will finalise the plan of action for: (a) sanitization measures (thermal scanning, masks, pulse oximeter, hand sanitizer, sanitization tunnel, etc) and (b) protocols (spraying, testing, distancing, self reporting, app usage, employee strength, security, regulating entry, etc) to be adopted as and when the University decides to start its formal functioning.
13. **All Master's students currently residing in hostels should vacate the hostels latest by 31st May 2020 when travel conditions and related safety issues would have improved in the country and beyond.** However, exceptional cases will be decided by the competent authority. All such hostel students who are allowed by all applicable norms to leave the hostels, travel safely and with health safety to reach their homes, will be further facilitated to do so at the first opportunity and in all further necessary consultations with all concerned Host Authorities and/or Embassies/High Commissions of concerned SAARC countries.

This issues with approval of the Competent Authority, in consultation with and approval of all concerned, referred to in the opening paragraph of this notice.

S/d
Dean of Students

S/d
Director (A&E)

S/d
Registrar