

SHAHEED BENAZIR BHUTTO UNIVERSITY SHERINGAL, DIR UPPER



MINUTES OF THE 14th ACADEMIC COUNCIL

OF SHAHEED BENAZIR BHUTTO UNIVERSITY HELD ON

DATE & TIME: 11.09.2026 (09.30 AM)

VENUE:

COMMITTEE ROOM OF NEW ADMINISTRATION BLOCK OF
THE UNIVERSITY

SHAHEED BENAZIR BHUTTO UNIVERSITY SHERINGAL, DIR UPPER,
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN

MINUTES
OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
SHAHEED BENAZIR BHUTTO UNIVERSITY, SHERINGAL

The 14th meeting of the Academic Council of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University (SBBU), Sheringal, was held on September 11, 2026, in the Committee Room, New Administration Block, under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr. Sardar Khan (TI). The following attended the meeting:

S#	Name	Designation / Department	Role
01	Prof. Dr. Sardar Khan (TI)	Vice-Chancellor	In Chair
02	Dr. Abdul Khaliq Jan	Chairman, Department of Chemistry	Member
03	Dr. Midrar Ullah	Associate Prof, Deptt of Biotechnology	Elected Member
04	Dr. Shafiq-Ur-Rahman	Associate Prof, Deptt of Pharmacy	Elected Member
05	Dr. Muhammad Riaz	Director Teaching & Admissions	Member
06	Dr. Badshah Hussain	Registrar	Member-cum-Secretary
07	Dr. Juma Muhammad	Controller of Examinations	Member
08	Dr. Muhammad Asif Nawaz	Chairman, Department of Biotechnology	Member
09	Dr. Mian Shah Bacha	Chairman, Department of English	Member
10	Dr. Irfan Ullah	Chairman, Department of Comp. Sci	Member
11	Dr. Allah Ditta	Chairman, Department of Environmental Sciences	Member
12	Dr. Rajpar M. Nawaz	Chairman, Department of Forestry	Member
13	Dr. Shujaat Ahmad	Chairman, Department of Pharmacy	Member
14	Dr. Haya Hussain	Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy	Elected Member
15	Dr. Sajjad Ali	Lecturer, Department of Mathematics	Elected Member
16	Dr. Aftab Ahmad	Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies	Elected Member
17	Dr. Khan Sher	HOD Department of Botany	
18	Dr. Sajjad Ali	Director, ORIC	Member


Registrar


Vice Chancellor

The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Dr. Aftab Ahmad. After a brief introduction with members, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed all the participants in the meeting and invited the Registrar, Dr. Badshah Hussain to present the agenda items before the House for discussion and deliberation. The Council deliberated on each agenda item, resolved and decided as follows:

01: Submission of Implementation Report on Decisions of the 13th Academic Council Meeting

Decision:

The House confirmed the implementation status of the decisions taken during the 13th meeting of the Academic Council.

- It was resolved that any committee constituted by the Academic Council for a specific task must complete its assignment within the stipulated timeframe and submit its report/recommendations for consideration in the subsequent Council meeting.
- Dr. Shafiq-Ur-Rahman along with other members raised a concern regarding the late dispatch of meeting materials, proposing that the agenda and working papers be circulated at least one week prior to the meeting. The Council endorsed this proposal and resolved that, henceforth, the meeting agenda shall be circulated well in advance in strict accordance with the Rules of Business.

02: Request of Mr. Izhar Alam, BS Management Sciences Student, for One-Year Program Extension

Decision:

The House approved the request of Mr. Izhar Alam, a student of BS Management Sciences, for a one-year study extension in accordance with the prescribed University Semester Rules and prevailing HEC policy guidelines.

03: Nomination of an Academic Council Member to the Affiliation Committee

Decision:

Pursuant to Section 33(1) of the University Statutes, 2022, the Council nominated **Dr. Aftab Ahmad**, Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, as a member of the Affiliation


Registrar


Vice Chancellor

Committee for a term of three (03) years or until the completion of his tenure as an Academic Council member, whichever is earlier.

04: **Launch of Associate Degree Programs for Female Students (Fall 2026 and Onwards)**

Decision:

The House approved the constitution of a committee to evaluate the feasibility of introducing Associate Degree (AD) programs exclusively for female students starting Fall 2026. The committee shall review academic, financial, statutory, infrastructural, and faculty requirements, and submit a comprehensive report with actionable recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor for final approval on behalf of the Academic Council:

- **Dr. Abdul Khaliq Jan**, Chairman, Department of Chemistry — *Convener*
- **Dr. Midrar Ullah**, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology — *Member*
- **Dr. Muhammad Asif Nawaz**, Chairman, Deptt of Biotechnology — *Member*
- **Concerned Head of Department (HoD)** — *as Co-Opt Member*
- **Director Teaching & Admissions** — *Member-cum-Secretary*

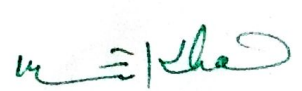
05: **Recommendations of the Board of Studies, Department of Botany**

Decision:

The House approved the recommendations of the Board of Studies (BoS) in Botany, subject to the following conditions:

- Approved the launch of the Ph.D. program in Botany along with its curriculum, strictly in compliance with HEC criteria and nomenclature standards.
- Course codes shall be aligned with the uniform coding framework approved in the 13th Academic Council meeting.
- Mandatory components, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and *Fahm-ul-Quran* (Understanding of the Quran), shall be incorporated in accordance with HEC and University regulations.
- The Chairman, Department of Botany, shall integrate the changes and secure a verification certificate from the Director Teaching & Admissions.


Registrar


Vice Chancellor

- The Vice-Chancellor is authorized to grant formal approval to the final curriculum upon receipt of the verification certificate.

06: Recommendations of the Board of Studies, Department of Chemistry

Decision:

The House approved the recommendations of the Board of Studies (BoS) in Chemistry, subject to the following conditions:

- Curricula and course contents shall be thoroughly aligned with the latest HEC curriculum standards and University benchmarks.
- Course codes shall be consistent with the approved uniform coding template of the University.
- Mandatory AI-related courses and *Fahm-ul-Quran* shall be duly incorporated.
- The Chairman, Department of Chemistry, shall incorporate all required revisions and obtain a compliance certificate from the Director Teaching & Admissions before submitting the curriculum to the Vice-Chancellor for final approval.

07: Recommendations of the Board of Studies, Department of English

Decision:

The recommendations of the Board of Studies in English were approved, subject to the following directives:

- **Course Coding:** Course codes must be realigned with the University's uniform coding system within one (01) week.
- **Diploma Programs:** Proposals for restructuring diploma programs are referred to the notified Diploma Committee for detailed review and submission of findings within one (01) week.
- **Financial Approvals:** All budgetary and financial implications shall be channeled through the Finance & Planning Committee (F&PC).
- **Teaching Workload Exemption:** Program Coordinators at the BS, M.Phil., or Ph.D. level may be granted an exemption of up to one (01) teaching course only when departmental workload is exceptionally high. Otherwise, teaching assignments must strictly observe prescribed HEC/University credit-hour limits without exemption.


Registrar


Vice Chancellor

- **Internship Guidelines:** The departmental internship framework shall be standardized in coordination with Dr. Midrar Ullah (Convener, Internship Committee) within one (01) week.
- **Thesis/Synopsis Formatting:** English thesis and synopsis templates shall be harmonized through the ASRB-notified Thesis/Synopsis Committee to establish a standardized template for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.
- To optimize student enrollment, admissions at the MS/M.Phil. level shall be offered under both Research-based and Coursework-based tracks, effective from Fall 2026. Final syllabi shall be routed through the Director Teaching & Admissions for verification before executive sign-off by the Vice-Chancellor.

08: **Recommendations of the Board of Studies, Department of Islamic Studies**

Decision:

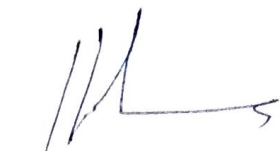
The House approved the revised curricula for **Islamic Studies** (for Muslim students) and **Ethics** (for Non-Muslim students), carrying 02 credit hours (2-0), in strict conformity with the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy (V 1.1).

- These courses shall be uniformly implemented across all 4-Year BS and Associate Degree programs in SBBU departments (excluding the Department of Islamic Studies itself) and affiliated colleges starting Fall 2026, fully replacing outdated course outlines.
- To optimize student enrollment, admissions at the MS/M.Phil. level shall be offered under both Research-based and Coursework-based tracks, effective from Fall 2026.

09: **Report of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Courses**

Decision:

The Council approved the recommendations of the Committee constituted in the 13th Academic Council regarding the design and integration of standardized Artificial Intelligence (AI) courses for BS, MS, and Ph.D. degree programs, in compliance with HEC guidelines. Approved courses shall be systematically incorporated into the respective schemes of studies across all departments.



Registrar



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10: Rationalization and Streamlining of Thesis Submission and Evaluation Process

Decision:

The Council approved the procedural framework for online submission of graduate students' theses, as recommended by the Advanced Studies & Research Board (ASRB) and its 43rd meeting, held on September 10, 2026, to streamline thesis evaluation (MS/M.Phil./LL.M./Ph.D.) and eliminate unnecessary administrative delays.

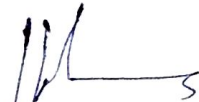
- Graduate Studies Committees (GSC) must submit recommended evaluator panels and obtain evaluator consent in advance.
- Scholars must submit soft copies (Word and PDF) along with one certified hard copy accompanied by the official anti-plagiarism report.
- Automated reminders shall be dispatched to external examiners at 30-day and 60-day intervals, the non-responsive evaluators shall be formally replaced after 07 days of the final reminder.
- Post-viva revisions must include an itemized compliance sheet and a certificate attesting that digital and printed copies are identical.
- Evaluator panel requirements:
 - **Ph.D.:** Five (05) foreign evaluators from HEC-approved technically advanced countries, three (03) external domestic evaluators, and one (01) internal examiner.
 - **MS/M.Phil.:** Five (05) proposed external reviewers.

11: Regularization of GSC and ASRB Meetings

Decision:

To guarantee timely student progression, the Council approved the recommendation of ASRB (43rd meeting held on September 10, 2026) about regular monthly meetings of GSC and ASRB with the following operational schedule:

- **GSC Meetings:** This meeting shall be conducted at least once every month in all departments offering graduate programs. Signed minutes must reach to the ASRB Secretariat within 7 to 10 days for further processing and share with concerned students and supervisors.


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- **ASRB Meetings:** This forum meeting shall be convened regularly once every month. Decisions and approved minutes must be communicated to scholars, supervisors and other offices concerned within one (01) week.

12: **Adoption of HEC Journals and Publications Policy-2024 (Version 2.0)**

Decision:

The House adopted the HEC Journals and Publications Policy-2024 (Version 2.0, as amended w.e.f. November 05, 2025) and recommended its formal endorsement to the Syndicate.

13: **Approval for Launching New Graduate and Postgraduate Programs**

Decision:

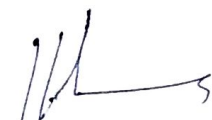
The Council approved the launching of the following postgraduate programs, subject to regulatory clearance:

- **Ph.D. Programs:** Zoology, Botany, English, Education, and Sociology.
- **M.S. and Ph.D. Programs:** Social Work.
- To optimize student enrollment, admissions at the MS/M.Phil. level shall be offered under both Research-based and Coursework-based tracks in all departments having no wet laboratory but equipped with required infrastructure and faculty as per HEC minimum criteria and graduate policy.
- **Mandatory Conditions:**
 - Concerned departments, in coordination with the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), must prepare complete program dossiers verifying terminal faculty qualifications, infrastructure, and schemes of studies.
 - **Zero-Tolerance on Unauthorized Admissions:** No program shall be advertised, nor shall any admissions be finalized, without first securing an official No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

14: **ORIC Five-Year Strategic Plan (2026-2031)**

Decision:

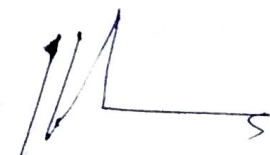
The House approved the ORIC Strategic Plan (2026-2031), titled "*Building a Culture of Research, Innovation and Commercialization*," and recommended it to the Syndicate for final


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statutory approval after language correction by Dr. Mian Shah Badshah, Department of English and technical evaluation by Dr. Irfan Ullah, Chairman Department of Computer Sciences.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.



Registrar



Vice Chancellor