

5: 6: 1(1)

5: 6: Establishment of new Deptts/Centres/Courses.

- (i) Establishment of the Department of Spiritual Studies and Moral Values.

In pursuance of the Academic Council's decision vide its Resolution No:AC:62:99:6:7(iii), a Committee was constituted vide Notification No.62-4/Conf/99-1532 dt.27.1.2000 to look into the establishment of the School of Studies of Spiritual and Moral Values.

The report of the said Committee is placed as Annexure-I alongwith Annexure-'A' &'B' of the report.

The above report was placed before the 63rd meeting of the Academic Council and the Council RESOLVED that concrete steps should be taken for the establishment of the School in the Xth Five Year Plan.

The matter is placed before the Council for consideration.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE IN PURSUANCE OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL'S
RESOLUTION NO: AC:62:99:6.7: (iii)

The Committee met on several occasions and with a view to garner more ideas co-opted a number of leading teachers and thinkers from various Christian denominations as well as Khasi Tribal Religions.

The Committee was informed that as per the IXth Plan proposal only one faculty position will be available for the School of Studies of Spiritual and Moral Values for the Department of Christian Studies and the Department of Traditional Religions. The Committee, therefore, decided to recommend to the Academic Council in order to make a beginning these two Departments may be started as one Department to be known as the Department of Christian Studies and Traditional Religions, which could then be subsequently bifurcated into the two Departments after more faculty positions are approved.

The background and aims and objectives of the School are placed at Annexure 'A' and the proposed Course Structure for the Department of Christian Studies and Traditional Religions is placed at Annexure 'B'.

Sd/-
KS Lyngdoh

Chairperson

Sd/-
John MS. Khongwir
Convener

Subsequently, the Academic Council in its 54th meeting held on 21st and 22nd November, 1995 resolved that the School for Studies of Spiritual and Moral Values may be included in the Ordinances with the following Departments under it:

1. Department of Christian Studies
2. Department of Traditional Religions
3. Department of Buddhism
4. Department of Hinduism
5. Department of Islamic Studies

The decision of the Academic Council was endorsed by the Executive Council in its 91st meeting held on 7th of December, 1995 and relevant amendments to the Ordinances have since been ratified.

The establishment of the School with two Departments initially, that is, the Department of Christian Studies and the Department of Traditional Religions was included in the IX Plan Proposal.

An introduction on the aims and objectives of the School of Studies of Spiritual and Moral Values is given hereunder:

This is a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-religious country rightly described as a melting pot or a firing net into which have been drawn people of all races, where through a strange alchemy most of them became a tightly mixed people interacting closely and contributing to the composite culture of the Indian people. At the threshold of the new millennium the feeling widely shared by scholars of all disciplines is that the old paradigm

In 1985 the North-Eastern India Christian Council had approached the University for the setting up of a Department of Christian Studies, as, except for the University of Mysore, and presently the University of Madras no other University has a Department for a study in Christianity and while Studies in Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam are conducted in a few Universities. The matter was placed before the Academic Council in its 25th meeting held on 18th of December, 1985 and the Council appointed a Committee consisting of Prof. B. Pakem, Mr. HWT Syiem with Prof. Mrinal Miri as the Chairman to look into the matter. The Committee recommended that the University may establish a School of Spiritual and Moral Values consisting of the Departments of Christian Studies and Traditional Religions. The Academic Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee and resolved to recommend the same to the Executive Council. The Executive Council in its 53rd meeting held on 4th September, 1986 accepted the recommendations of the Academic Council but desired that the matter be further examined by a Committee consisting of Prof. TSB Narasaraju, Prof. T. Mathew, Shri AK Austin John, Rev. I. Ben Wati, Fr. Sngi Lyngdoh, Mother Anne, Dr. Sujata Miri, Brother.MG Shannon with Mr. Kiremwati Ao as the Convener. The recommendations of the Committee were placed before the Executive Council in its 55th meeting held on 20th of March, 1987 which then referred the matter to the Academic Council in its 28th meeting held on 27th April, 1987 which resolved that the nomenclature of the School may be "School for Studies of Spiritual and Moral Values".

Subsequently, the Academic Council in its 54th meeting held on 21st and 22nd November, 1996 resolved that the School for Studies of Spiritual and Moral Values may be included in the Ordinances with the following Departments under it:

1. Department of Christian Studies
2. Department of Traditional Religions
3. Department of Buddhism
4. Department of Hinduism
5. Department of Islamic Studies

The decision of the Academic Council was endorsed by the Executive Council in its 91st meeting held on 7th of December, 1996 and relevant amendments to the Ordinances have since been notified.

The establishment of the School with two Departments initially, that is, the Department of Christian Studies and the Department of Traditional Religions was included in the IX Plan Proposals.

An introduction on the aims and objectives of the School of Studies of Spiritual and Moral Values is given hereunder:

India is multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-religious country rightly described as a melting pot or a fishing net into which have been drawn people of all races, where through a strange alchemy most of them became a highly mixed people interacting closely and contributing to the composite culture of the Indian people. At the threshold of the new millenium the feeling widely shared by scholars of all disciplines is that the old paradigms,

the thought patterns that shaped our culture and civilisation for the past several centuries, are losing their significance. The momentous changes taking place in the economic, socio-political, and cultural realms of life and the resultant impact have led to the disintegration of traditional communities and the value systems. A comprehensive survey of the contemporary national scene brings into sharp focus the deep and disturbing animosity that exists among members of various religious persuasions often resulting in violence and trampling upon of human rights and dignity. Religions which are meant to bring out the best in man and help to build a harmonious human society based on sublime spiritual and moral values have become a source of division and disharmony due to prejudice, ignorance and mistrust. It is in this context that the North-Eastern Hill University has taken the timely and bold step to start a School of Studies of Spiritual and Moral Values, with a view to foster a spirit of harmony among all citizens.

By 'Spiritual and Moral Values' we mean the vertical and horizontal dimensions of human life. Inclusively, it is the integration of life. In other words, it is life-integration discipline based on the spiritual and moral values of all religious traditions. This particular school attempts therefore to make all traditional, spiritual and moral values pluralistically inclusive. This perspective we believe is the need of the hour.

By 'Values' we mean the ideals, customs, institutions, etc., of a society toward which people have an effective regard. Hence "Spiritual Values" are values that are concerned with the total well being of a person. Such values are drawn from a person's devotion to God in conjunction with other fellow human beings. And "Moral Values" are values related to rules or habits of conduct with reference to standards of right and wrong. Such values serve as a guiding force that motivate people to do the right thing. Thus 'Spiritual and Moral Values' are an integral part for a peaceful human co-existence and survival.

1. The School will strive to define and to realise the above mentioned objectives in all possible ways, by theory, by testimony and by experiment, if possible.
2. It will be the endeavour of the School to uphold and promote the great ideals of secularism and national integration as enshrined in the Indian nationhood and the constitution of India. The 'School' as the name implies will give shelter to all views. A beginning will be made by a Department of Christian Studies and Traditional Religions to start with.

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS PROPOSED
COURSE STRUCTURE.

First Semester

- SMV.1.** Introduction to the Study of Christianity and Khasi Traditional Religion – toward developing methodology for the study of these two religions.
- SMV.2.** History, origin and development of the Khasi Traditional Religion.
- SMV.3.** Christianity in Khasi Jaintia Hills in the past 160 years.
- SMV.4.** Axiology (Theory of Values).

Second Semester

- SMV.5.** Introduction to Scriptures and Traditions – towards a better understanding of the Teachings of Christianity and Khasi Traditional Religion.
- SMV.6.** Religious Practices and Forms of Worship of Christianity and Khasi Religion.
- SMV.7.** Anthropology in Christianity and Khasi Tribal Religion.
- SMV.8.** The Study on phenomenology of religions.

Third Semester

- SMV. 9.** Christianity's and Khasi Traditional Religion's Idea of Creation- toward an Indigenous Understanding of human beings and environment.
- SMV.10.** Spiritual & Moral Values in Christianity and Traditional Religion.
- SMV.11.** Christianity and Traditional Religion – a world view.
- SMV.12.** The Concept of God in the Khasi Traditional Religion.

Fourth Semester

- SMV.13.** Basic Christian Doctrines.
- SMV.14.** Religion, Politics & Social Values.
- SMV.15.** Religion and Culture.
- SMV.16.** Christianity & Khasi Traditional in a Pluralistic Society.

(iii) Evaluation / Examinations Report.

EC:107:2000:5:5:(iii): The Council considered the Report of the Committee to look into examination and evaluation matters **RESOLVED** to accept the same. The Council, further **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Academic Council in constituting an Advisory Committee for examination matters.

5.6- Establishment of new Deptts. / Centres / Courses.

(i) Establishment of the School for Spiritual Studies and Moral Values.

EC:107:2000:5:6:(i): The Council considered the recommendation of the Academic Council for the establishment of the School for Spiritual Studies and Moral Values and **RESOLVED** to accept the same and that the Planning Board should be directed to include the School in the Xth Plan Proposal.

(ii) Opening of new Departments in the NEHU Tura Campus.

EC:107:2000:5:6:(ii): The Council considered the establishment of new departments in Tura Campus and noted that action has been taken by the Chairman to provide necessary funds for the starting of at least one new department during the current financial year. The Chairman also placed on record his appreciation to the Deans' Committee for the documents prepared by them which had been submitted to the University Grants Commission.

5.7- Affiliation etc.

(i) Inspection Reports regarding affiliation cases of various Colleges.

EC:107:2000:5:7:(i): The Council considered the recommendations of the Academic Council with regard to the affiliation cases of the following Colleges and **RESOLVED** to approve the same.

Name of a College	Subjects	Recommendations
1.Lunglei College, Mizoram.	Morning Pass Course in English, Mizo,(MIL & Elect) History, Pol.Sc., Economics, Education & Commerce.	Extension of provisional affiliation for one year.