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# 10 recommendations for BUET reform

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Steps are being taken to reform the present curricula and education system at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) to meet the national demand and to keep pace with development around the world.

A ten-member committee entrusted with the task of formulating proposals to regularise BUET academic session and to specify the shape of future course contents and examination system came up with 10 concrete recommendations in a report presented recently to the Academic Council of BUET.

Prof Iqbal Mahmood headed

(the committee whose other members are: Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Prof Md Abu Taher Ali, Prof Md Mizanur Rahman, Prof Md Shamimuzza man Basunia, Prof Md Muzibur Rahman, Prof Jasim-uz-Zaman Prof A M Azizul Haque, Dr Ite khar Mazhar Khan, Dr A S O Karoni.

The committee, after pinpointing some gross imperfections in the structure of syllabus and examination system felt it has become all the more necessary to reform the same to keep with the speed of development of technology now undergoing in different parts of the world. The committee also hoped that with the implementation of their proposals, the length of time usually required to complete the preparatory leave and examination would be reduced by 50 per cent.

The committee-members during their investigation of the present course contents and examination system found that a BUET student had to study eight different theoretical and some practical subjects in an academic session which required 30-33 hours classes per

week. In comparison with Western standards the number of classes is quite higher, they revealed.

The members also expressed their deep concern over the tendency of the students to lengthen the already long preparatory leave for every semester examination (of about three-week) resulting in the dislocation of academic session. They attributed this to the large number of subjects a student has to study in each semester.

The committee, therefore, suggested to divide every academic session into two semesters with 13-14 weeks fixed for each semester. The number of subjects to be read in each semester will be limited to 4-5 and 25-27 hours classes will be held per week, they opined.

The university will go into a vacation of 12 weeks after the end of the second semester during which all academic and administrative functions will be completed, they suggested.

Regarding the marking system of every subject the committee recommended that 25 percent marks would be fixed for home assignments and class tests combined with the remaining marks allotted for the final examination to be held after the completion of each semester.

For promotion to higher classes, the committee said, a student must obtain 50 per cent marks on average and pass every subject separately. If a student fails to pass one or two subjects even after getting 50 per cent marks on average he will be allowed to sit for a special subjects examination (called "Referred Examination") to pass that or those which will be held during the vacation after the end of the academic year, they proposed.

The committee also urged upon the BUET authority to set up a permanent committee to suggest changes in the syllabuses of course from time to time with the changing need of the country.