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DU Academic Council's decision One year Master's course now an option

Varsity Correspondent

Academic Council, the top academic body of Dhaka University, on Wednesday decided to treat its four-year Bachelor's degree as professional degree from henceforth.

The Council, comprising all the professors of the university, in its regular meeting in the afternoon also decided to make the one-year Master's programme as optional, which was earlier mandatory for all students.

But the students of Science and Biological Science faculties will have to secure a certain marks for doing post graduate studies. The marks-limit was not set at the meeting, said a professor present at the meeting.

In its repeated revision of academic system, the university authorities earlier adopted four-year integrated course since 1997-98 session for the Bachelor's stu-

dents to match with the global academic system. It was earlier a three-year course with some subsidiary subjects.

The proposal for making the Bachelor's degree as "terminal degree" came from some young teachers of Biological Science faculty. The Academic Council in its previous meeting on November 3 split-rifted after a heated debate over agenda.

Council chairman and Vice Chancellor of the university Prof SMA Faiz formed an Expert Committee with all the Deans of the faculties for making recommendations.

In the faculty meetings, heads of the departments of the Science, Biological Science and Pharmacy faculties agreed with the proposal, but the departmental heads of Arts and Social Science faculties ve-

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One-year masters

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hemently opposed the proposal.

The Deans, in their recommendations, echoed the voice of their colleagues and the decision was taken according to the recommendation, sources said.

The decision made the general students happy as they will be able to enter jobs immediately after finishing the four-year professional course, like the students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the medical colleges and Bangladesh Agriculture University.

Student leaders also welcomed the decision. But they opposed the provision of restricting the scope for postgraduate studies in science faculties.

Many teachers gave objection to the term 'Terminal Degree'. "It's a nonsense idea in connotation. Education can't be terminal for any one," said Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

"If the authorities want to save the students' time, they can adopt semester system like the West. As early a student finishes the credit hours, she can achieve the degree in the shortest time," he added.

The Academic Council also decided to launch three new Departments for Master's courses under Faculty of Pharmacy from the next session.

The departments are: Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Technology or Pharmacy.

Students having B Sc (Honour's) degree in Pharmacy will be eligible for admission to the new departments in M SC courses.