

CULTURAL FORUM POLICY

(Chapter - XXVII, University Policies & Guidelines)



CHAPTER XXVII

Cultural Forum Policy

“Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.”- Jawaharlal Nehru

A brief history about the forum:

University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) has a very beautiful and excellent cultural environment. Students from different states show different cultures which make it a better place indeed. On that note the Cultural Forum of USTM has been formed (May, 2014) which champions culture and creativity and beyond. It aims to encourage cultural enterprise, promote cultural literacy and provide cultural leadership. Cultural forum is also a framework for analyzing how the culture and its various facets affect student community as well as the society. It plays a vital role in organizing cultural events namely North East Graduate Congress, Varsity Week, Rashtriya Ekta Divas, Freshman Social & talent Hunt, Annual Social/alumni Gathering. Besides this, members of the forum constantly help and assist others in organizing events such as Independence Day, Republic day celebrations, significant days of Meghalaya and Assam, Christmas, Bihu celebrations etc.

Preamble:

The Culture Forum includes a series of events on culture-related issues, cultural carnivals and significant days of our nation as well as mankind. The forum through its activities tries to create high moral, social and cultural values within its members by developing the hidden talents of student members.

Vision:

To impart quality skills in performing art forms by undertaking various cultural activities, trainings and a platform to showcase hidden talents among the students.

Mission:

The members of cultural forum aim to create and facilitate a space to participate, discuss, debate, and contest established ideas and approaches in order to recommend new pathways for locating culture as an integral part of sustainable development, ethical frameworks for ensuring community engagement, mutual understanding and respect among different cultures and building of a harmonious “global cultural” society.

Objectives:

1. To identify the talents in cultural field and to adorn the cultural environment of the university by providing every possible nourishment to the cultural minds of students.
2. To provide a platform to showcase students' talents.
3. To organise different trainings, workshops, carnivals and events related to cultural field to uplift student's talent and knowledge to encourage creativity among them.

4. To bring glory to the university by achieving prizes by showcasing students talents at national and international platform.
5. To promote cultural integrity through performing art among students.
6. To provide required platform for talents in respective fields by providing scholarships, incentives, training and media publicity.

Rules and Regulations:

1. Faculty representative from each department of the university (one faculty).
2. Student representative from each department (two students-one male and one female).
3. All representatives will have tenure of two years.
4. All students will register to the cultural forum during their admission.
5. Decision regarding selection of students in participating any event will entirely be taken by the cultural forum only.
6. Decision regarding organizing of any event related to culture will be taken by the cultural forum only.

Structure of Cultural Forum Committee:

The University shall constitute Cultural Forum in every two year at the beginning of Session. The Cultural Forum, USTM shall be constituted as follows:

Chief Adviser: Honourable Chancellor, USTM

Adviser: Honourable Vice- Chancellor, USTM

Convener: Cultural Forum

Joint Convener: Cultural Forum

Cultural officer: Cultural Forum

Members: Cultural Forum, One Faculty member from each department

Present Committee of Cultural Forum, USTM:

Chief Adviser	Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Honourable Chancellor, USTM	
Adviser	Dr. P.K.Goswami, Vice-Chancellor, USTM	
Convener	Dr. Palme Borthakur, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Earth Science, USTM	
Joint Convener	Dr. Mautushi Das, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Botany, USTM	
Cultural Officer	Ms. Krishna Deka	
Members	School/Department	Name of Faculty
	Applied Biology	Dr. Madhusmita Borthakur
	Zoology	Ms. Wanaz Nusreen Islam
	USLR	Ms. Khanjana Hazarika
	Earth Science	Dr. Kankana B. Goswami
	Commerce	Ms. Barsha Bhuyan

	Economics	Dr. Pranti Dutta
	Business Administration	Mr. Mrinal Sarkar
	Physics	Ms. Devashree Borgohain
	Maths	Dr. Gitumoni Sarma
	Social Work	Ms. Monalisa Rabha
	Pol.Science	Ms. Fahmida S. Borah
	Education	Ms. Sarmistha Choudhury
	English	Ms. Riniva Thakuria
	PQSE	Ms. Sayasree Bordoloi
	Chemistry	Dr. Mautusi Das
	Sociology	Ms. Anindita Das
	Computer Science & Electronics	Ms. Daisy Sharma
	Physiotherapy	Dr. Urvashi Bhattacharya
	Rural Development	Mr. Saikat Mazumdar
	Library & Information Science	Ms. Amrita Devi
	Pharmaceutical Science	R. James
	B.A. Administrative Service	Dr. Arzufa Khannam

Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders:

Role and Responsibility of the University:

- The University Shall be responsible for popularizing cultural activities among university students and affiliated colleges organizing competitions, workshop activities and events;
- To plan and form the Cultural Forum, USTM with advice from previous chair holders.
- The University shall make available necessary funds and infrastructure to implement the policy to its fullest.
- The University shall encourage/invite talented and famous artists to join its various programmes.
- The University shall make provision in the Department time table so as to involve students in performing art at a regular basis.
- The University shall take suitable action against faculty or students not abiding the Cultural Policy.

Role and Responsibility of Cultural Forum, USTM

- To formulate Cultural Policies, frame Rules & Regulations of cultural activities & events from time to time.

- To suggest measures to promote performing art activities among the University students.
- To suggest measures to carry out the Cultural Activities according to the University Budget Allocation.
- To frame the Guidelines for Admission of Students under “Cultural Quota” in the University and Affiliated Colleges.
- The Cultural Forum shall ordinarily meet Twice in a Year, during the months of July/August & February/ March. The Quorum for an Ordinary Meeting shall be of minimum seven Members .
- Any other matter pertaining to the Cultural Activities may be taken up for discussion & decision with the permission of the Chair.

Role and Responsibility of Convener, Cultural Forum

- The overall co-ordination of the Cultural forum.
- Responsible towards participation of students in university as well as inter-college events.
- To guide other office bearer for smooth conduction of cultural events like NEGC, Varsity Week, Inter-University competitions etc.
- Responsible to maintain reports and files of the forum.
- To guide other office bearers to plan and schedule cultural events for the academic year (tentative dates to be included in the university event calendar).
- Maintaining the university Cultural Museum.
- To coordinate with the in-charge of the Central Auditorium of the university during events and for necessary upgrades.

Role and Responsibility of Cultural Officer:

- The Cultural Officer shall organize, supervise and administer competitive, recreational and significant day’s cultural activities.
- The Cultural Officer shall organize orientation programme for students for better understanding of cultural facilities.
- The Cultural Officer shall organize talent hunt events to identify talented students eligible to join the University at graduate and post graduate levels.
- The Cultural Officer shall organize ‘auditions on performing arts’ for all the students joining at graduate and post graduates.

Roles and Responsibilities of Faculty/Student Coordinators:

- To organize inter college and inter university cultural events.
- To take full responsibilities of the cultural events of the University Week, NEGC and other cultural activities.
- To assist in all cultural events organized by USTM.
- To assist the Cultural Forum in conducting all the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- To conduct cultural activity classes at a regular basis.

Categories of cultural activities:

Activity classes that are undertaken by Cultural forum, USTM are briefed below:

Sl. no	Name of the classes
1.	Instrumental class
2.	Classical music class
3.	Western music class
4.	Folk music class
5.	Classical dance class
6.	Western dance class
7.	Folk dance class

Cutural activities carried out:

From music, dance to theatre USTM encourages its students to actively engage in countless of cultural events whether taking place on or off campus. USTM arrange Mega Event (NEGC) and inter-Departmental competitions for the students that lets them nurture their instinctive talents and serves as platform to them. Cultural activities are much more beneficial than they seem. These activities play a vital role in shaping the passion and interest of the students, apart from the academics. Time management, self- exploration, personal growth, improved self-esteem; USTM believes that indulging in such activities teaches the real-time aspects of the life.

Participation in the cultural activities:

Participation in the cultural activities brings an individual a host of personal benefits. It impact is always deep, wondrous and great. It creates a sense of belonging that few other activities can bring. The cultural forum of USTM focus on to encourage students interest, participation and responsibility by providing social cultural and recreational activities for the university community.

Identification and development of cultural talents:

Talent selection - process of identifying talents of cultural background of various stages of the training program; talent selection - reference to a specific task (i.e. a test). The selection procedure held after the session starts every year.

Preparation for the competition :

The cultural Forum provides proper training in music, dance, instrument playing, etc. The special classes are arranged every Saturday and Sunday. Students are also benefited with workshops where the renowned experts from various fields of music & culture are invited.

Class maintainance & and students record:

- Students attendance is properly maintained in the specific register during rehearsals, meetings, trainings and performances.
- Classes are conducted twice in a week after the regular classes gets over.
- Special classes are provided on Sundays where experts and renowned artist are invited to conduct the classes.

Process of selection of students for participation in the inter university competitions:

- The Selection of student/Teams for Various Inter-University Competitions will be done by the Committees formed by the Cultural Forum, USTM.
- The Forum Committee will select the participants of the University based on their Performance during the Competitions held in the University. If Performance Standard of any performer is not Satisfactory as felt by the Selection Committee Members, on the Recommendations of the Committee such performer may not be sent for Participation in Interuniversity competition.
- Selected students are guided by the forum members (or any responsible faculty member) and provided with all the expenditures.

Free Admission for Cultural Excellence:

The university would focus attention on achieving Excellence in at the National and International levels. Students who have records of excellence in sports National/State/District level can apply for Undergraduate and Postgraduate degree programmes in USTM through cultural quota admission.

Accomplishments of the Cultural Forum (Students achievements):

2014-15	Arnisha devray : Received 1st Position in Rabindra Nritya on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Kabiguru Rabindra Nath Thakur organised by Tezpur Bengali Abaitanik Natya Samaj (Cultural)
2015-16	Meghna kalita: Received special jury award at All Asssam Singing Competition organised by Nabadeep Sanskritik Gusti Cultural)
2016-17	Sarfaraz Islam: Awarded with 1 st prize at photography Competition, North- East Graduate Congress (NEGC), 2017(Cultural) Pararthana Devi: Awarded with 1 st prize at Cartooning Competition, North- East Graduate Congress (NEGC), 2017(Cultural)

2017-18	<p>Akangsha Lahon: Received Scholarship ,Centre For Cultural Resource and Training Scholarship Scheme 2017 (Cultural)</p> <p>Nizwim Boro: Received 3rd Best Actress at II India Multi Lingual Drama & Dance Competition and Award giving Festival " Samannay"- 2017(Cultural)</p> <p>Nihir Kashyap: Awarded 2nd prize at Group song competition,North- East Graduate Congress -2018 organised by USTM (Cultural)</p> <p>Received 3rd prize at Solo Singing Competition, Sanklap, Organised by NEF College Of Management & Technology (Cultural)</p> <p>Honored as Best Singer at Red FM par College Ke Tashanbaaz, 2018 (Cultural)</p>
2018-19	<p>Barsha Rani Kalita: India's World Record , Mass Bihu Dance Record attempt of India World Record (IWR)</p> <p>Trilochana Kashyap: India's World Record , Mass Bihu Dance Record attempt of India World Record (IWR)</p> <p>Neelom Dolakakhorla: Honored as Bihu Samragee 2019, Bihu Samragee Competition organised by Guwahati Bihu Sanmilani</p> <p>Samragee Kashyap: Honored as Upcoming youth Dancer at Anajori Award Ceremony</p> <p>Andreya Baruah: Titled as MISS CANDID 2019, Miss Candid 2019, Season</p> <p>Neelom Dolakakhorla: Received Nrityanjali Award at Barak Bramhaputra Sambhandhiya Awards (Cultural)</p>

Infrastructure development:

The university has provided a good infrastructural facility to the Cultural Forum. Till date the available infrastructural details of the forum are:

1. A Central Auditorium of 5000 audience capacity with world class audio system.
2. A Cultural Museum showcasing the vivid culture of northeast(about to complete).
3. An audio recording studio (under construction).
4. Rehearsal room –one
5. Instruments room- one

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