

Minutes of Hybrid meeting of Editorial Advisory Board, UCP Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (UCP JHSS) held on 11th November, 2025 at Board Room, Building-A, UCP

A hybrid meeting of Editorial Advisory Board, UCP JHSS was held on Tuesday, 11th November, 2025 in Board Room, Building A, University of Central Punjab, Lahore at 1500hrs (3pm – Pakistan Standard Time) where Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Editor-in-Chief was in the Chair and the following attended:

- Dr. Xiaoqing Xie
Associate Professor, School of Public Administration, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China
- Dr. Ibrahim Abubakar
Former Chairman, Department of Theology and Philosophy, National University of Malaysia
- Dr. Umbreen Javaid
Professor & Ex Chairperson, Department of Political Science, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
- Dr. Aneeq Ahmed
Professor of Psychology, Henderson University, USA
- Prof. Dr. Syeda Shahida Batool
Professor of Psychology, GC University Lahore, Pakistan
- Dr. Isabelle Rabaud
Associate Professor, Economics Laboratory of Orleans, France
- Dr. Arslan Tariq Rana
Editor- UCP JHSS & Head, Department of Economics, University of Central Punjab
- Dr. Shahzad Akhtar
Editor- UCP JHSS & Associate Professor, The Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Central Punjab
- Dr. Bushra Naz
Editor- UCP JHSS & Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Central Punjab
- Kamil Shehzad Bakhsh
Manager Correspondence – UCP JHSS & Associate Lecturer, University of Central Punjab

Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad (Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Stockholm University, Sweden), and Dr. Sobia Tahir (Head of Philosophy Department, GC University Lahore, Pakistan) could not attend the meeting due to their prior commitments. However, Dr. Asir Ajmal (Dean, GIFT University, Pakistan), Dr. Babar Aziz (Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, GC University, Pakistan), Dr. Tazvin Ijaz (Post- Doctoral Visitor, Department of Psychology, York University, Canada), Dr. Marvin G. Weinbaum (Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois, USA), Dr. Tasneem Zafar (Professor Economics, Director, Civil Services Academy, Lahore, Pakistan), Dr. Farhat Mahmood (Professor of History, GC University, Lahore, Pakistan), Dr. Paul Rollier (CNRS Research fellow, France) and Dr. Muhammad Khan (Associate Professor and Head, Department of Social Sciences, Iqra University, Karachi, Pakistan) could not make them available for the meeting.

Below are the agenda items and decisions thereon:

Agenda	Discussion	Decision
1. Publishing & Content/ Quality Improvement (Review and assess paper standards to enhance content quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed members and initiated discussion on the quality of published papers. Dr. Xie appreciated the current paper standards. Dr. Aneeq raised concern regarding APA formatting inconsistencies on the journal website and sample papers. He suggested using the official APA sample paper for standardization. He also highlighted the unnecessary use of colors in tables and recommended using only black-and-white formatting. 	The Board agreed to review formatting guidelines, update the sample paper, ensure uniform APA standards, and avoid color use except where essential in future.
2. Citation of the Journal / Enhancing Journal Visibility Assess journal visibility and impact in the academic community, and explore strategies to increase journal citations of published articles of journals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair shared that the journal's Scopus application was declined due to insufficient foreign authorship representation. The journal now aims to include at least one international author per issue to meet Scopus expectations. Dr. Aneeq noted that Scopus requirements vary and not all journals mandate foreign authors, but agreed international participation improves visibility. Dr. Rabaud recommended introducing special issues co- 	The Board agreed that the Journal would strive to ensure regular contributions from foreign authors. It may also explore thematic special issues for better international outreach.
3. Scopus or other Indexing (Medium-Term Goal)		

(Assess Scopus indexing status, benefits, implications, necessary actions, and challenges.)	<p>edited by foreign and Pakistani scholars to enhance visibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Shahida Batool emphasized ensuring at least one internationally co-authored article to strengthen the case for Scopus inclusion. 	
4. Ethical Standards and Research Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Shahida Batool stated that APA's ethical guidelines should be followed, especially for studies involving human subjects. • Dr. Aneeq stressed the need for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for human-subject research and advised UCP to establish/update its IRB system. • He recommended that authors must declare IRB approval, informed consent, and ethical compliance within their manuscripts. • Dr. Ibrahim explained that IRB requirements differ between life sciences and humanities, and some disciplines (e.g., history) rely mainly on documented sources. 	<p>The journal will revise its ethical policy page, require ethical compliance statements for relevant research, and introduce clearer ethical guidelines aligned with international standards. It will also see if IRBs are required for better Ethical standards.</p>
5. Query / Complain / other matters (Website Review and Structural Improvements)	<p>Dr. Aneeq highlighted several issues on the website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent journal abbreviation (UCP-JHSS vs. JHSS), • Redundant pages (e.g., Ethical Guidelines + Reviewer Guidelines), • Outdated or unclear formatting instructions. <p>He suggested merging overlapping sections and removing unnecessary use of the word <i>ethical</i> in page titles.</p>	<p>The Chair agreed and therefore the editorial office will initiate a comprehensive website review, remove redundancies, and standardize naming, formatting, and guideline sections.</p>
Future Publication Strategy/Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Xie recommended increasing the number of empirical research submissions 	



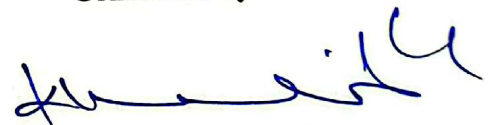
	<p>to strengthen academic contribution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Shahida Batool reminded that HEC requires journals to display articles under review for the upcoming issue. • Dr. Rabaud again supported themed special issues, especially on areas such as migration, involving multidisciplinary scholarship and foreign collaborators. • Dr. Arslan Rana also recommended launching special thematic issues to boost quality and readership. 	<p>It was agreed and would work on the feasible suggestions put forward by the esteemed Advisory Board.</p>
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- The board empowered the Editor in Chief to make decisions from time to time on urgent matters for smooth functioning.
- In the concluding remarks, the Chair and the UCP editorial team thanked all national and international Advisory Board members for their valuable time, suggestions, and contributions.
- Meeting was then adjourned sine die.
- The Advisory Board endorsed the decision to appoint additional Editors, namely Ms. Bushra Naz (replacing Dr. Rabia Farooqi for Psychology) and Dr. Shahzad Akhtar (for Political Science and International Relations).

Prepared by:

Kamil Shehzad Bakhsh
(Manager Correspondence)

Confirmed by:



Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt
Chair, Editor in Chief