

University proposes 4 new colleges for Mumbai

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MUMBAI: Mumbai University has proposed four new colleges for the city—two law colleges in south Mumbai, one college for fine arts and one for architecture. The university also wants to add skill development courses in a night college. Most other new colleges have been proposed for Thane, Ratnagiri, Pen and Sindhudurg.

The university's perspective plan this year is a shade different from what it has been for years. Instead of merely looking at geographical needs, it has mapped courses depending on local needs of areas—for instance, oceanography and fisheries courses in coastal areas.

The plan was cleared by the university senate meeting on Saturday. "This year, the state government has asked Mumbai University and SNDT University to draw up a five-year plan by taking inputs from various stakeholders—not only students, faculty and college managements, but also local industrialists, social workers and environmentalists," said a senate member. MU at present has around 700 affiliated colleges.

College for Film, TV & media proposed by Mumbai varsity

At Saturday's meeting, elections were also held to appoint senate members to various university bodies.

The MU's proposal includes a new night college for film, television and media course, two architecture colleges for every area

except Thane and Kalyan, an arts, science and commerce college each for Murud-Roha, Vadkhal-Pen, Ratnagiri city, Rajapur taluk and for Deoghar.

“This exercise (of taking inputs) was not scientifically done, but they have claimed to have taken feedback from over 3,000 people. Instead of travelling to these areas, officers merely sent questionnaires to some NSS students,” alleged a senate member. Another member, Sanjay Shete, said, “The previous year's plan had a provision to start 62-odd institutions but merely 22 college managements applied for some among them. There are not many takers for everything that the university sees a requirement for.”

Colleges have also been proposed for food products and processing and for travel and tourism. “This time, we have gone beyond the geographical area and looked at the local needs of areas,” said Deepak Mukadam, chancellor's nominee to the management Council.

According to district-wise analysis, there's demand for women's colleges, night colleges and law college in island city. Thane city and rural areas in Kalyan taluka and Bhiwandi taluka need support through additional colleges for law, architecture and pharmacy.