

GOA UNIVERSITY
Taleigao Plateau, Goa

Minutes of the IQAC Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2019 at 3:00 pm

A meeting of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) committee was held on 21 February 2019 at 3:00 pm under the Chairmanship of Prof. Varun Sahni, Vice-Chancellor at the meeting hall in VC's office with the following agenda:

- 1) Confirmation of the Meeting held on 28 September 2018
- 2) Revisiting RIF (Research Incentive Fund) scheme
- 3) Preparations for NAAC: A review
- 4) Hiring Social Media consultant
- 5) Website certification and AMC
- 6) Student Satisfaction Survey
- 7) Digitization of payments
- 8) Green initiatives
- 9) Any other matter with permission of Chair

The members who attended the meeting were

1. Prof. Varun Sahni, Vice-Chancellor	Chairperson
2. Dr. Nandita de Souza	External Expert
3. Shri Kirit Maganlal	External Expert
4. Prof. Sanjeev C. Ghadi	Member
5. Prof. Kaustubh R.S. Priolkar	Member
6. Prof. Bernard F. Rodrigues	Member
7. Prof. Koshy Tharakan	Member
8. Prof. Rahul Tripathi	Member
9. Shri M. Shreedhara, Officiating Registrar	Member
10. Prof. Anuradha Wagle, Controller of Examinations	Member
11. Shri Anselmo Rosa (Rep: Head, Computer Centre)	Member
12. Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay	Member Secretary; Director, IQAC; and Finance Officer

Shri Avinash Kumar, External Expert, was unable to attend the meeting.

Prof. R.V. Pai, Coordinator, NAAC committee, and IQAC OSD Dr. M.P. Tapaswi were special invitees.

Prof. Varun Sahni, VC and Chairperson, IQAC Committee welcomed the members of the re-constituted IQAC committee. He briefed on the activities and the work that IQAC is handling for information to the new members especially the external experts. The members deliberated on the agenda items as follows:

1. Confirmation of minutes of earlier meetings

The Member Secretary tabled the minutes of earlier meeting. The members confirmed the minutes.

2. Revisiting RIF (Research Incentive Fund) scheme

The Member Secretary presented information on the number of publications, comparative account of last five years, with faculty/department-wise breakup, including the incentives earned by the individual faculty, etc. The members noted the significant increase in the number of articles in the journals covered by Scopus/WoS databases and suggested for continuation of the scheme. However they suggested some modifications in view of the following:

a) If a journal article has more than one author as corresponding author and one of them is a GU faculty, the author from GU will be considered as regular author. His/her entitlement would therefore be Rs.40000 for Q1 journals and Rs.20000 for Q2-Q4 journals. This change would be effective with immediate effect. A revised circular be issued to this effect.

Action: Director, DRDRM

b) The members also felt that the incentives should be expressed in terms of 'redeemable points earned' rather than a monetary listing. Based on this suggestion, the Tables would be reformulated to indicate points with retrospective effect. The current rate would be Rs 1000 per point earned. This may also be brought to the notice in the revised circular.

Action: IQAC -- for redrafting points system

Action: Director RDRM -- issue of revised circular

c) It was also suggested that the Finance section may budget a line for this scheme for the subsequent financial years based on the experience of incentives earned and utilized in previous year.

(Action: Finance Officer).

d) The members noted that the number of publications from non-science departments (esp., social sciences, commerce and management) are on the lower side. The Chairman suggested that IQAC make a presentation to the faculty of these departments.

Action: IQAC

3. Preparations for NAAC: A review

Prof. R.V. Pai, Coordinator, NAAC committee briefed the members about the progress made in the preparedness for the NAAC Accreditation (4th cycle) that is due by September of 2019. He also informed the members about conducting a pre-NAAC Assessment exercise with four external experts in the next week (26-28 February 2019). This exercise was earlier scheduled in December but had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances at that time.

Action: Prof. R.VPai, and IQAC

4. Hiring Social Media consultant

The public involvement and perception about the University is becoming increasingly important with changing times. Accreditation and Ranking agencies do give a weightage to public perception. It is therefore important for a publicly-funded organization like Goa University. On the basis of a Note moved by IQAC, the Executive Council in its recently held meeting has approved the hiring of a Social Media Consultant by way of advertising for the position. Faculty members would generate

content for the consultant. Considering the importance of this activity, members suggested this be advertised on priority, before the code of conduct is put in force for the upcoming elections

Action: Joint Registrar, Administration. IQAC to provide draft for advertisement

5. Website certification and AMC

The members were informed about the new website that was put in place last year. However, its certification and AMC for the maintenance and augmentation of the features is yet to be done. Members recommended this be done at an early date and a report to this effect be tabled in forthcoming IQAC Committee meeting.

Action: HoCC

6. Student Satisfaction Survey

Under the revised assessment framework, NAAC would directly be conducting a survey of satisfaction by contacting students (past and present) for their satisfaction level. Accordingly, it was felt that the present students be sensitized about the same. The Chairperson also brought to the notice of members that the students are likely to get confused by receiving multiple mails to this effect because National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) is also going to conduct survey by the same title (Student Satisfaction Survey) almost at the same time when Goa University's accreditation process is on. Therefore it was decided that IQAC will conduct a survey but label it differently so that there is no confusion among students as to the source of these surveys.

Action: IQAC

7. Digitization of payments

The Finance Officer briefed the members that in line with the policies of the Government and part of modern practices, the University has switched over all its disbursement of payments by online mode only, to the members of the committee. Over 80% of the payments in February are made online. The recipients henceforth would get the payment directly to their bank accounts. The members expressed their satisfaction over this forward looking step.

8. Green initiatives

The members were informed that these practices also fetch small score in the Accreditation and Ranking exercises. Water harvesting and conservation, greening the campus (plantation), plastic free zone are some of the practices that are currently opted by the University. Use of solar energy, encouraging use of bicycles, etc., are being actively considered. Prof. Rodrigues briefed on the cashew plantations that are made on the campus. The problems of cutting grass after monsoons was also discussed.

Prof. Rodrigues reminded the members that there was a Plantation committee of the university that used to oversee the grass cutting and plantation exercise which is currently being handled by the estate division. It was felt that there is need to revive this committee and empower it to oversee these tasks.

Action: Prof. Rodrigues will move a note to this effect for the VC's consideration.

9. Any other matter with permission of Chairperson

9.1. Tenure of IQAC Committee: It was suggested that since the tenure of IQAC is only three years and the NAAC cycle occurs in 5 years it was worth considering that IQAC also have a term co-terminus with the NAAC cycle. The suggestion was welcomed, however,

since IQAC is a statutory body of the University and the constitution as well as the tenure of the committee has been spelt out in the Statutes SA-20(C) (9) (3b), further discussion and necessary approvals are needed from competent authority. It was decided to deliberate further on this after due consideration.

9.2. Students with learning disabilities: The external experts pointed out that the University needs to strengthen its preparedness for students who need special attention both in terms of policy, infrastructure and faculty sensitisation. In order to be prepared for this it was felt that the University should have a policy on special needs of the students. Dr. Nandita de Souza volunteered to draft a policy document with the help of a sub-committee that would have representation from all stakeholders.

Action: VC to appoint a committee for formulating this policy

9.3. Encouraging research on campus: A large number of faculty will retire in the next five years. This is because the faculty inducted at the time of foundation of University have reached a stage of retirement. The vacancies have not adequately been filled from time to time and that is likely to create a vacuum on the research arena even though the University is infused with the young blood. It was felt that the research experience earned by senior faculty needs to be harvested to benefit of University. In order to do so, it was suggested that highly productive faculty (in terms of research productivity) be given positions such as 'Emeritus/ Adjunct Faculty' so that their publications help mentoring younger faculty and maintain research productivity of the University. The suggestion was welcomed and a self-contained proposal was sought

Action: Registrar for following up on Adjunct Faculty Statute/Ordinance in EC

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairperson.

(Pranab Mukhopadhyay)
Director, IQAC