

Internal Quality Assurance Cell, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore

Minutes of the 29th Meeting of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Council, held on Monday, 12th December 2022, at 10:30 am in the Board Room, Ground Floor, Central Block, Bangalore Central Campus of the University.

In the Chair: Dr Fr Abraham V M, Vice Chancellor

Members Present

Dr Fr Abraham V M – Vice Chancellor: Chairperson
 Dr Fr Jose C C – Pro Vice-Chancellor
 Prof. Chandrasekharan K A – Director, IQAC: Secretary
 Dr Anil Joseph Pinto – Registrar
 Dr Johny Joseph – Controller of Examinations
 Dr Kennedy Andrew Thomas – Professor, School of Education
 Dr Balachandran K – Professor, Computer Science and Engineering
 Dr Fr Benny Thomas – Director, Admissions
 Mr Vijayan M S – Joint Managing Director, RESIL Chemicals Pvt Ltd (Attended Online)
 Mr Jugnu Uberoi – President, Christ University Alumni Foundation

Invitees Present

Dr John Joseph Kennedy – Dean, School of Arts and Humanities
 Dr Tony Sam George – Dean, School of Social Sciences
 Dr Tomy K Kallarakal – Dean, School of Commerce, Finance and Accountancy
 Dr Iven Jose – Dean, School of Engineering and Technology
 Dr Joby Thomas – Dean, Bangalore Yeshwanthpur Campus
 Dr George Thomas C – Dean, School of Sciences
 Dr Jyothi Kumar – Dean, Bangalore Bannerghatta Road Campus
 Dr Alex P Joseph – Associate Director, University Relations
 Dr Suparna Majumdar Kar – Associate Director, TLEC

Leave of Absence: Members

Dr Fr Jossy P George – Associate Professor of Computer Science
 Dr Fr Viju P D – Professor of Psychology
 Dr Kavitha D – Associate Professor of Professional Studies
 Dr Veerta Tantia – Assistant Professor of Commerce
 Mr Arya Dilip Shirke – Student Representative, BBA

Leave of Absence: Invitees

Dr Somu C S – Director, Strategic Planning and Implementation
 Dr Jain Mathew – Dean, School of Business and Management
 Dr Xavier Chelladurai – Director, HRDC

Declaration of Quorum: The Secretary declared the validity of the quorum and requested the Chairperson to conduct the meeting.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Fr Abraham V M, began the meeting with a silent prayer. He welcomed all the Council members and invitees present at the meeting. The Council took up the matters on the agenda.



Matters on the Agenda

1. To consider and approve the minutes of the 28th Meeting of the IQAC Council held on 06th September 2022 and to consider matters arising thereon.

The Council approved the minutes of the meeting of the IQAC held on 06 September 2022 as circulated with the Notice in "Annexure A".

2. To consider and approve the action taken report

Prof Chandrasekharan K A, Director IQAC, presented the proposals/suggestions made in the 28th IQAC Council meeting and the Action taken.

2.1. As per the suggestion from the Alumni President, Mr Jugnu Uberoi, the photographs of the IQAC Council meeting should be included in the minutes, and the meeting recordings should be documented.

2.2. Dr Iven Jose, Dean School of Engineering, suggested including the Quality of Research and Research funding in the Plan of Action. The Director of IQAC informed the forum that the Quality of Research and Research funding should be added to the plan of action for 2022-23.

2.3. Mr Vijayan M S, Industrialist and Mr Jugnu Uberoi, President Alumni, suggested improving Industry Institution collaboration.

Prof Chandrasekharan K A, Informed Industry Institute Interaction Cell (IIIC), has already been incepted in the University to initiate collaboration and requested Dr Iven Jose to present the status. Dr Iven Jose informed the forum that the IIIC had been vetted at the University level, and the policy framework is already in place. Departments and Schools can participate in industrial collaboration either through an MOU or joint activities. Prof Chandrasekharan K A requested Dr Iven Jose to add more details on the website so that other departments can be aware of IIIC.

Prof Chandrasekharan K A presented the Plan of Action proposed by the departments during the FDP and as suggested by the Council.

Plan of Action for 2022-23 discussed in the 28th Council meeting

- Implementation of NEP 2020
- Develop Strategic Plan 2023-28
- Strengthen the Data Management System and Digitization of activity monitoring and reports.
- Restructuring the Teaching Learning Enhancement Cell (TLEC) for effective contribution to NAAC criteria 1 and 2
- Strengthening the IQAC further for effective implementation of quality initiatives
- Restructure the Academic and Administrative Audit to provide validated data for the preparation of AQAR.
- Improving the performance in NIRF and other Rankings
- NBA Accreditation of Management programmes
- Review and redefine the role of centres to enhance the effectiveness

Plan of Action suggested by the Council members

- Establishment of Research and Development Cell (UGC guidelines)
- Improve the quality of Research and strengthen funding from external agencies
- Start programmes using incubation facilities and involving industries
- Improve Industry-Institution collaboration
- Extend Service Learning to all programmes



Prof Chandrasekharan K A informed that the Establishment of the Research and Development Cell (RDC) was as per the UGC guidelines. He requested Dr Anil Joseph Pinto, Registrar, to brief the status. The Registrar informed that he had written to the Director of Research and is initiating the process. By the end of January 2023, the university will have a document ready for the research and development cell. As per the UGC guidelines, all the Research activities should come under RDC. The University function as different Offices like Patent, Incubation, Consultancy etc. So, we need to map all these activities under RDC.

Prof Chandrasekharan K A pointed out the next agenda in the action plan is to Improve the Quality of Research and strengthen funding from external agencies, which Dr Iven Jose suggested. He suggested that this part would be implemented once the RDC starts functioning.

Regarding extending Service Learning to all Departments, Dr Anil Joseph Pinto informed that 14 departments were introduced to Service Learning in all the Undergraduate Programmes in the first phase.

Prof Chandrasekharan K A suggested including only the points relevant to the academic purpose in the action plan, which should be added in the AQAR for the Plan of Action for 2022-23.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto suggested Prof Chandrasekharan K A to interact with the Service Learning team and Dr Fr Jose C C to clarify what percentage of Programmes are introduced to Service Learning.

Mr Jugnu Uberoi suggested that the University should have monthly invitees from the industries to visit the facilities at the University. Through which we get more collaboration from external agencies like CSR. Dr Kennedy Andrew Thomas appreciated Mr Jugnu's suggestion and added that the Industrial visit should link to curriculum, teaching, and learning. He added that the faculty should be allowed to visit some industries and give some academic information to project the experience on a new dimension.

3. To review the status of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Assessment and Accreditation process.

Prof Chandrasekharan K A briefed the status of NAAC accreditation; the NAAC Peer Team Visited Off Campuses on 16th October 2022 and the Bangalore Campuses from 18 to 20 October 2022. On 26th October 2022, NAAC announced an accreditation score of 3.42 with a grade of A+. Some phrases or sentences in the Peer Team Report were not acceptable to the Institution, so the Institution decided to go for an Appeal. The institution submitted the Appeal on 31-10-2022 for 21 qualitative metrics out of 36. The institution opted for the personal presentation before the Appeal Committee, and is awaiting the response from the NAAC, as the status indicates "verification pending".

Prof Chandrasekharan K mentioned that in the NAAC portal, our previous accreditation is valid until December 2021, which may be a problem for students applying to state and central Universities. He also mentioned that the Registrar had already raised a query in the NAAC portal. Dr Anil Joseph Pinto clarified that the institution had received a letter saying that the validity is till December 2022; and the issue can be resolved by uploading the NAAC certificate on the University webpage.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto explained two potential outcomes of the appeal. The first scenario involves the Chairman agreeing with the Peer Team's report, with no modifications requested by the Appeal Committee. In this case, the Peer Team Report remains unchanged. The second possibility occurs when the Chairman does not agree to any changes proposed by the Appeal Committee,



but the Committee still believes a revisit is warranted. Dr Balachandran K, the Head of Department of Computer Science Engineering, added that we would send the institution's appeal report to the Chairman and the NAAC Peer Team Visit members. Generally, they adhere to the Peer Team's report and the accompanying score. However, if the Appeal Committee deems the University's appeal report relevant, the institution may be allowed to go for a revisit.

Prof Chandrasekharan K A also presented the recommendations given by the NAAC Peer Team, and added that the recommendations would be valid depending on the Appeal Report.

4. To take note of the External Academic and Administrative Audit.

Prof Chandrasekharan K A presented the Academic and Administrative Audit by an External Peer Team conducted on 07, 08 and 09 October 2022 and also gave the AAA team's recommendations. He added that it was a good experience, and the AAA team has provided a conservative score of 3.49. The AAA team has given comments that are important for the institution and the recommendation for quality enhancement as mentioned below:

- Outcome-based education is of recent origin at CHRIST hence constant monitoring for streamlining quality processes and enhancement.
- Identify and carry out a path-breaking search around national and societal needs themes.
- In their teaching-learning research and extension, universities must support attaining SDGs.
- Develop a unique model for higher education at scale leveraging technology yet retaining customisation like in the traditional Indian Gurukul system.
- Develop a model in collaboration with industry to ensure a constant flow of academic and industry talent to each other - Sabbatical with industry for faculty, sabbatical with academia for industry, for mutual benefit.
- Create a leadership pipeline by continuous investment in leadership coaching.
- Develop a financial model through IPR that minimises dependence on fee income.
- Constantly monitor and upgrade (a) a high concentration of talent (b) abundant financial resources, and (c) favourable governance to become the Institute of Eminence (IOE)
- Strengthen the alumni network and augment resource mobilisation and knowledge sharing.
- Biannual academic and administrative audit of every campus by an external agency to provide unbiased feedback to the university leadership team

Dr Iven Jose, Dean of School of Engineering, suggested that we quantify the recommendations and give a road map to it for the next 5 to 10 years. We need to identify how to achieve these goals and find out the time required for the same. He also suggested that we need to develop a financial model indigenously, such as the IPR model. He suggested creating a unique model for higher education and scaling, leveraging technology by retaining customisation.

Prof. Chandrasekharan K A informed that it was possible to implement all the recommendations, excluding the conduct of a biannual academic audit. Dr Balachandran K and Dr Iven Jose suggested that the academic audit should be conducted in the presence of one external member with expertise in this field. This will help identify the necessary changes to be implemented and fulfil the NAAC requirements. Dr Anil Joseph Pinto, the Registrar, suggested that the AAA should constitute a particular model. Prof. Chandrasekharan added that the model used for AAA should be the same as that of the internal audit and based on NAAC parameters. He also gave the opinion that each department should prepare a report based on the internal audit and submit it to the university. He suggested that the audit instruments have to be modified according to the NAAC model so that AQAR can use the same data and this way, the workload on the departments can be reduced, and the data will be more accurate.

Mr Vijayan commented that the IQAC must give more attention to identify core areas of improvement. He also mentioned that the University should be more efficient in collecting and managing data. Another suggestion Mr Vijayan gave was that IQAC must keep specific targets for 1 or 2 years and be accountable. He suggested an external or internal audit should be conducted seamlessly if accurate data is available. He stated that “the university should take tangible accountable milestone targets for the next 1 or 2 years”, which will reflect on the university's perception and scores.

Prof. Chandrasekharan K A mentioned that the strengths and weaknesses of each individual department must prepare the audit framework. He also pointed out that such departments should have provisions to exclude or include some of the matrices to their advantage. (For example, the departments which do not offer PhD). This would help obtain results based on each department's differences.

5. To take note of the report of the Internal Academic Audit.

In the absence of Dr Somu C S, Prof. Chandrasekharan presented the audit 2020-2021 report to the council. The audit was scheduled from 29 August 2022 to 5 September 2022. The audit was conducted by 33 teachers who participated as auditors in examining 43 departments. Prof. Chandrasekharan presented the scores obtained by different departments and brought to the notice that many departments needed to show more improvements.

The Vice-Chancellor insisted on changing the audit parameters per the requirements of NAAC. This would help in reducing the data collection workload for the department. He also said that he is looking for someone to lead the audit.

Dr Joseph Injody, the quality advisor, said that we should understand the NAAC and NIRF parameters and prepare the audit instrument accordingly, so that the data collection would be more efficient.



Mr Juganu Uberoi suggested that there should be a follow-up action, and the respective departments should be informed about their scores, and proper guidelines should be provided to improve their scores.

Prof. Chandrasekharan agreed with what Mr Juganu had said earlier and added that the IQAC office could call the departments individually and point out aspects that need improvement. He also presented the findings and suggestions received from the internal auditors.

6. To review the status of AQAR 2021-2022.

Prof. Chandrasekharan said that the AQAR data collection is in progress and the deadline might be extended for the submission of AQAR.

7. To review the implementation of NEP 2020.

Dr Iven Jose briefed the council about the progress of the NEP cell. The NEP cell constituted by Fr. Vice Chancellor has met 3-4 times formally to identify and discuss the current practices and the recommendations under the new guidelines. He mentioned that the University is registered under the Academic Bank Of Credit in the National Depository. Dr Iven added that the provisions for accepting students and students to move out are being worked upon according to the guidelines. He said that programs from the academic year 2022-23 would be under two major systems, which are already in place. He then said that the University provides lateral entries offered only by programs such as engineering. The new policy of UGC also mentioned how honours could be given, the guidelines for students who want to exit after completing 3-4 years, and for integrated PG courses. Dr Iven Jose pointed out that such provisions should be embedded into our curriculum. He suggested that the new curriculum is on the web page when the new Board of Studies is convened in February and March. He added that a guideline should be prepared after discussions if the institution plans to accept students or allow present students to move from the university.

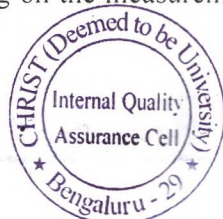
Prof. Chandrasekharan suggested Dr Iven Jose prepare a write-up on the NEP for the AQAR submission.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto suggested on NEP implementation that only after the UGC has published clear guidelines can decisions be made else it will affect the students. He mentioned that the new policies released would replace the CBCS. Another critical point was that a Single major would account for 60% of the total credit, and a second major will account for the remaining 40% of the total credits.

Prof. Chandrasekharan informed that the committee would have further discussions once the UGC releases the guidelines.

8. To review the curricular and teaching learning evaluation initiatives as reported by the TLEC.

Dr Suparna Kar informed the council that the TLEC has expanded and has 33 members. These include three core members and the remaining 30 representatives. She also mentioned that the primary focus of the TLEC is implementing OBE and policy guidelines for teaching, learning and assessment. TLEC is also working on the measurement of attainment, the first initiative of



which was the training of trainers workshop, which the school of engineering facilitated. She added that to measure attainment, a modified version of the NBA format had been adopted to measure attainment. She informed that all the campuses in the University except Kengeri and Yeshwantpur are given training on OBE attainment. TLEC has also conducted workshops with departments on assessments on a need basis. They also review course plans and assessment strategies to identify improvement areas to strengthen the University.

Prof. Chandrasekharan requested Dr Suparna Kar to prepare separate reports for the activities conducted by TLEC to upload in the AQAR and submit to the IQAC office.

Dr John Joseph Kennedy congratulated the TLEC for conducting the workshops and said it was very beneficial. He then pointed out that one observation that all the courses of three major program outcomes should be represented equally.

Dr Tony Sam George suggested having a combined department meeting before the NAAC visit, to agree on the program outcomes for each discipline. He further said that the system has completely ignored these guidelines.

Dr Suparn Kar explained the main reason for revising is to align with the graduate attributes and also the vision and mission of the University. She also mentioned that instead of looking at the program outcomes separately, it is better to club them together, so the student gets the most out of it when he graduates.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto congratulated the TLEC team for their efforts and mentioned that all their activities and decisions were well coordinated. He also had two observations, the first being that departments are trying to retrofit themselves into the framework and no national document exists on how to do the same. He then suggested that the TLEC evolve a more straightforward framework for the program outcomes. He also pointed out framing an advisory board for the TLEC headed by someone outside the TLEC. This advisory board will approve all the teaching-learning evaluation and curricular policies put forward by the TLEC. He also suggested that the board may include deans and heads of departments from essential schools and other advisors. Dr Johny Joseph agreed to the suggestions given by Dr Anil Joseph Pinto. He said the training programs should be brought to the advisory board and approved if necessary.

9. To review the research and development activities of the University.

In the absence of Fr. Joseph Varghese, Prof. Chandrasekharan presented the research and development activities of the University and said that there is an increase in the number of publications. Still, the only concern is that there should be an increase in revenue from the patents, and whether the patents should be commercialised.

Fr. Joseph Varghese said he has already told the IPR coordinators to speed up the patent granting process. He also mentioned that the University had reached the minimum number of publications required.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto suggested that there should be a realistic long-term plan which would help diversify the incomes and provide a better outlook for the University.



10. To review the professional development programs conducted during the Academic Year.

Prof. Chandrasekharan suggested that all the PDP activities conducted should have different titles. This would help in putting up a large number of PDPs. He also added that certificates must be attached with documents for uploading in the NAAC portal.

Fr. Jose C C mentioned that more clarification should be given to departments regarding organising activities.

The committee appreciated Dr Kennedy Andrew Thomas for the numerous programs he has conducted. Dr Anil Joseph Pinto mentioned the admiration Dr Kennedy Andrew Thomas received throughout the country.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto mentioned that if programs cannot be considered under any category in the AQAR and NAAC report, they should be continued as long as they are aligned with the vision and mission of the University. Prof. Chandrasekharan mentioned that any income from such programs could be included under consultancy while submitting the report. He also said that some of the faculties from the university should be encouraged to join the seminars conducted for other institutions; as such programs can be included under NAAC.

Dr Kennedy Andrew Thomas commented that it is a challenging task convincing the faculties to participate for the same. Other members of the council also agreed upon this.

Fr. Jose C C said that only if the faculty feel the need to attend these programs; they will opt out. He mentioned that the demand has to be created for the faculty without the intervention of the HoDs of the departments. The IQAC Director insisted that if such programs benefit the faculty, they should be mandated to attend these programs.

11. To discuss the preparation of Strategic Plans 2023-28.

The discussion was postponed to the next meeting as Dr Somu was absent.

12. To review the performance of the University in various Rankings.

The agenda was already discussed in the previous meeting.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto presented the rankings:

- Asia University Ranking: 601-650
- India: 81-85

He mentioned that retaining the 71st in NIRF rankings is going to be tough, but the numerous publications and patents should hold good; there are other areas required for improvement.

The Vice-Chancellor said that we are expected to be included in the TIMES higher education ranking in 2023 since the minimum number of publications required has been met.

13. Any other matter with the permission of the chair.

Prof. Chandrasekharan proposed that all data should be taken from the same source, avoiding any corrections or mismatches between data submitted to different agencies. Dr Anil Joseph Pinto




pointed out that there are exclusive and inclusive data concerning each criterion.

Mr Jugnu Uberoi asked the Deans to invite all the alumni who are IAS, IPS and IRS from their respective departments who are Christites for the family day.

The Vice-Chancellor again insisted that there should be guidelines that the IQAC should provide for the departments.

Prof. Chandrasekharan K A informed the Council that the next IQAC Council meeting would be held in March 2023. Fr. Abraham V M, the Chairperson, thanked all the Council members and invitees for their valuable suggestions and concluded the meeting.


Dr Alex P Joseph
Secretary


Vice Chancellor
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Dr Fr Joseph C C
Chairperson

