Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Minutes

&

Action Taken Report (ATR) for Academic Year (AY) 2015-2016
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Minutes

Venue: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Guest House Conference Hall
Amritanagar, Ettimadai, Coimbatore

Date : 22.08.2016
Day : Monday
Time : 10.00AM

The following members were present:

1. Dr. Sriram Devanathan, Chairman, IQAC
2. Prof. Prashant R. Nair, Vice-Chairman, IQAC
3. Dr. Sanjivi Arul, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Engineering, Coimbatore campus
4. Dr. Rajiv Prasad, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Business, Coimbatore campus
5. Dr. P. Kanakasabapathi, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Engineering, Amritapuri campus
6. Dr. M. Viswanathan, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Engineering, Amritapuri campus
7. Dr. Sudarslal S., IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Biotechnology, Amritapuri campus
8. Dr. P.V. Ramadas, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Ayurveda, Amritapuri campus
9. Ms. Soni Vivek, IQAC Coordinator, Department of Management, Amritapuri campus
10. Dr. Aneesh TP., IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Pharmacy, Kochi campus
11. Mr. Prasannakumar T., IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Arts & Sciences, Kochi campus
12. Mrs. Vandana M., IQAC Coordinator, Department of Management, Kochi campus
13. Dr. Rekha Bhat, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Arts & Sciences, Mysore campus
14. Mrs. P. Suja, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Engineering, Bangalore campus

The following members could not attend the meeting. Leave of absence was granted to them.

1. Mr. E.K.M. Nampoothiri, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Medicine, Kochi campus
2. Dr. Joe Joseph, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Dentistry, Kochi campus
3. Dr. Sheela Pavithran, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Nursing, Kochi campus
4. Dr. Kavya KC, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita Center for Nanosciences, Kochi campus
5. Dr. Pooja Sharma, IQAC Coordinator, Department of Management, Bangalore campus
6. Dr. Sridevi KV, IQAC Coordinator, Amrita School of Education, Mysore campus
The meeting was chaired by the Chairman, IQAC, Dr. Srim Devanathan. The meeting began with a prayer. The Chairman, IQAC extended a warm welcome to all the IQAC Coordinators from various campuses and schools of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.

The Vice-Chairman, IQAC briefed the IQAC on the sharing of the best practices of AMRITA with various institutions like Dhirubhai Ambani Institute for ICT, Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Sethu Institute of Technology, Virudhanagar etc part of the knowledge exchange of the IQAC. He also presented a report of the NAAC sponsored national seminar titled “Design of Curriculum for Sustainable and Societal Development organized by the IQAC and attached as Annexure 1

Item # 1: Consider the Action Taken Report (ATR) of various schools of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Resolution # 1: Resolved to confirm the Action Taken Reports (ATR) and inclusion in the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR)

Item # 2: Table the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) for the year 2015-2016 at the academic council
Resolution # 2: Resolved to table the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) for the year 2015-16 for the consideration of the academic council of the university

Item # 3: Organize various quality-related events at various campuses and schools
Resolution # 3: Resolved to organize at least one event per school per year as part of IQAC activities

Item # 4: IQAC as nodal office for National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of Government of India
Resolution # 4: Resolved that the IQAC coordinator and school-level IQAC to serve as the nodal office for National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of Government of India

Prof. Prashant R. Nair
Vice-Chairman IQAC & Secretary
Annexure # 1: Report of national seminar titled “Design of Curriculum for Sustainable and Societal Development”

A national seminar titled “Design of Curriculum for Sustainable and Societal Development” was held at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore campus on 12th and 13th August, 2016. Over 150 higher education experts from all over India participated in the event that was sponsored by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). They discussed and showcased various strategies and success stories that can enable institutions of higher learning to develop a curriculum focused on sustainable development and needs of the planet.

In her inaugural speech, the Chief Guest Dr. Sheela Ramachandran, former Vice-Chancellor of Avinashilingam University for Women, said: “While ancient India promoted learning for life and sustainability, modern education is merely an employment guarantee scheme. The challenge before educators is to face the innovative disruptions and technological infiltration which wean students away from sustainable development needed for a meaningful life. Educational institutes need to develop a curriculum which encourages students to use their head (cognitive), hands (skills) and heart (values).”

Dr. K. Sankaran, Registrar of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, said: “In higher education, it is important to focus on sustainable models that consider the delicate balance between the environment, society and economy. Students need to be educated in technologies that protect the environment. For example, the problem of global warming can be overcome through the use of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal and wind energies. These are sufficient to meet all our energy needs. Planting more trees may be good to consume carbon dioxide, but what happens to the trees after their lifetime? If they are burnt as firewood, the trapped carbon is back into the atmosphere. Even if the wood is buried, microbial action sets in and carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. Therefore, new technologies in preserving carbon in the wood are necessary. Also, there are reports of scientists combining carbon dioxide of atmosphere with silicate on the earth's surface to make cement rocks. If this technology is developed, it will be a breakthrough.”

Speaking about the need to include 21st century skills in the curriculum, Prof. Bhavani Rao, Director, AMMACHI Labs, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, said, “There is much debate on what skills are required for the 21st century where education and development are defined and directed by sustainability. Most educational think-tanks recommend core competencies like critical thinking and problem solving skills with character qualities built over the basic functional literacies across all verticals in education and training. Studies conducted by the world Economic Forum show that skill gaps are especially pronounced in low-income countries and recommend the use of technology to overcome these. Our pilot work of conducting 50 workshops for 1,200 students in Andhra Pradesh addresses these recommendations. The results have been outstanding. Our key takeaways in designing curriculum for 21st century skills are the intelligent and effective use of technology, along with a multi-disciplinary approach in both the content and pedagogical approaches. We now hope to scale our efforts to 40 schools in Andhra Pradesh as well as 60 CBSE schools in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.”
Dr. Sriram Devanathan, Head, Center of Excellence in Advanced Materials and Green Technologies, Amrita School of Engineering, Coimbatore, highlighted several successful innovations in sustainable development that have been evolved and implemented at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. A course on Environmental Studies has been mandatory for all undergraduate students. The institution is also putting emphasis on project-based learning, rather than relying solely on classroom lectures. It offers an elective course called “Live-in-Labs” in which a team of students develops technological or social solutions to problems in rural areas after spending significant field time in villages. There are also summer village internships where students spend two weeks in a village and help solve priority problems related to income generation, sanitation and hygiene, education, agriculture, and water.

Subsequent sessions involved focused presentations (via invited talks) on broad orientation towards sustainable development by Dr. Nikhil K. Kothurkar, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Amrita School of Engineering, Coimbatore; Innovations in education technologies for enhanced outreach by Prof. Kamal Bijlani, Director, Amrita E-learning Labs & Chief Architect of A-VIEW; United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by Prof. Anju Bist, Program Coordinator, Amrita Self Reliant Village; a creative course on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development by Dr. Sanjay Banerji, Professor Emeritus, Amrita School of Business, Coimbatore as well as numerous contributed papers.

The talks were followed by interactive Q & A sessions, which facilitated development of greater clarity for evolving action items - for design of content, design of pedagogy, alignment with SDGs, incorporation of field work and practical components, sensitization of students and faculty, and holistic perspective to create awareness and knowledge catering to the triple-bottom-line (ecology, economy and equity) - which would then ensure that development addresses all the required dimensions: social, technological, political, cultural, ethical and economic. The seminar was organized under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, by the institution's IQAC Coordinators, Dr. Sriram Devanathan and Prof. Prashant R. Nair.
Provide the Action Taken Report (ATR) based on the plan of action decided upon at the beginning of the year.

**Amrita School of Arts & Sciences – Amritapuri**
Conducted FDP and invited talks. Promote student involvement in extra-curricular activities.

**Amrita School of Biotechnology – Amritapuri**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan of Action</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A fully equipped and functional Sanitation Biotechnology and Cell Biology research labs</td>
<td>1. The research output and findings helped the investigators to also secure an Indo-Canadian project (IC-IMPACTS) on Water Sanitation worth Rs. 38.48 Lakhs.</td>
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<td>2. The researchers were able to submit five research grant proposals to various funding agencies with an estimated amount of 728.8 Lakhs.</td>
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<td>3. The other achievements include 10 B.Sc. dissertations, 7 M.Sc. theses, 14 poster presentations, 2 invited talks at the national level and 5 international presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modification of UG Physics, Chemistry Labs to provide additional space as facilities</td>
<td>With the change, more number of students could be accommodated simultaneously to perform lab-related activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Amrita School of Ayurveda – Amritapuri**

- The authority has applied for PG and faced inspections from the Apex Body to get the approval for PG Programmes
- Proper Actions have been taken to improve the infrastructure
Amrita School of Business – Bangalore
Infrastructure: New Space given for ASB staff and faculty at 6th floor

Amrita School of Business – Coimbatore
1. The PMS was restructured with adoption of ABDC (Australian Business Deans’ Council) approved journals as our benchmark for faculty publications.
2. All the course outlines were monitored. They were submitted in time with clearly laid out course objectives and evaluation criteria.
3. The suggestion was implemented by all the faculty members.
4. The main outcomes of this review process are: introduction of fractional credits, student tutorials as well as courses in the area of Business Analytics to strengthen our curriculum in alignment with the industry trend.

Amrita School of Pharmacy – Kochi
1. Improve Institution Industry Interaction: IIIPC committee (Industry Institution Interaction & Placement Committee) was constituted last year. This major activities carried out by the committee include:
   - 12 invited talks of various expertise every month for the students
   - Presentations at different schools & Colleges to promote admission
   - Visited various Pharmaceutical Industries for Mou for student training & placement.

Amrita School of Dentistry – Kochi
1) Definite improvement in the patient satisfaction levels in many of the departments.
2) Research methodology workshop conducted. Undergraduate students and interns encouraged to take up research and papers being prepared for publication.
3) More seminars, lectures in basic sciences, continuing dental education programmes conducted. Increased participation from postgraduates in outreach programmes.
4) Students were given opportunity to take part in more field activities.
5) Educational movies were screened. Efforts were made to instil values. Soft skill training is given to students.
6) Tobacco cessation cell was set up. Post graduates were trained in tobacco cessation activities and students were sensitized about the ill effects of tobacco. Improvement in outreach activities.

School of Nursing, Kochi:
- Conducted two day National Conference on Organ Transplantation: Together, Towards Tomorrow
- Increased the number of publications in indexed journals.

Amrita School of Business – Kochi
- To consolidate the student activities:
The student activities were better organized. A handing over was formally done by the second year students and committees were formed. For the most significant committees, formal selection process with faculty involvement was undertaken.

- Student activities included: Forum activities, Niyuki (Placement committee), Colloquium, Asthra, Omkara, Alumni relationship, library and social outreach.

- To further improve the efficiency of the examination process.
  - Refer sec 6.9

- Improve physical infrastructure:
  - Library expansion: A better equipped and more spacious library and reading room have been set up
  - Elective room: One seminar room and an elective room have been added

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**Amrita School of Arts & Sciences – Kochi**

Action plan taken with well-prepared academic calendar, staff delegation

**Amrita School of Arts & Sciences - Mysore**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan of Action</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To work towards introducing new PG programmes in the Dept. of Visual Communication</td>
<td>Three PG programmes are introduced in the Dept of Visual Communication to be commenced from 2016 onwards.</td>
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<td>Two Faculty Members with Ph D are appointed.</td>
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<td>A broadcast quality audio visual studio is setup with the following features:</td>
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<td>Sony 4k Cameras</td>
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<td>High End MAC Machine</td>
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<td>Powered Monitor Speakers</td>
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<td>Separate Audio-Video Suite</td>
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<td>High End Audio-Video Interface</td>
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<td>Fully Air-Conditioned Acoustic Cabins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Professional Cameras and Mixers</td>
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<td>Audio Booth and Lighting Console</td>
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<td>A dedicated lab exclusively for Visual Communication.</td>
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<td>Appointing more faculty members with Ph.D qualification.</td>
<td>Five Faculty members with Ph D qualification (Three in the Dept of Mgmt&amp; Commerce and Two in the Dept of Visual Communication) were appointed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vidyaanveshane</td>
<td>Vidyanveeshane – a series of seminars and workshops to give an exposure to the students of all streams and all classes was conducted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extending Placement Assistance to UG programmes and inviting more companies to the campus.</td>
<td>Placement assistance was extended to all UG students as well. A total of 233 offers were generated through over 20 companies visiting the campus. This service was also extended to the students of other First Grade Colleges in and around Mysuru by conducting pooled recruitment drive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction of Yoga session for all classes.</td>
<td>Yoga session was scheduled once a week in the timetable for all classes.</td>
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<td>Introduction of Blazers for UG students.</td>
<td>Introduction of Blazers for UG students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Request made to management for provision of a hall with a capacity of 300 for the conduct of Workshops and guest lectures etc.</td>
<td>A multipurpose hall (Amritamayi) with a capacity of 300 was made available for the purpose in the new block which is also used for conducting yoga classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other infrastructural augmentation</td>
<td>A new block is set up for placement and to facilitate visits of the recruiting companies.</td>
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<td>A bakery is set up to provide students with fresh supplies.</td>
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**Amrita School of Education - Mysore**

- Providing Placement services
- Contact Enrichment is the first step towards it
  - Content Enrichment is the first step towards it
  - Training Students - Mock interview, Communication skill
- Conduction of Campus Interview

Nanoscience:

1. Introduced strict lab safety measures
2. Introduced new standards for data documentation – digital and notebook based
3. Strict adherence to six monthly reviews

School of Nursing:

□ Conducted two day National Conference on Organ Transplantation: Together, Towards Tomorrow

□ Increased the number of publications in indexed journals.

School of Ayurveda, Amritpuri:
- The authority has applied for PG and faced inspections from the Apex Body to get the approval for PG Programmes
- Proper Actions have been taken to improve the infrastructure

School of engineering, Coimbatore:

**ECE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan of Action (As stated in Previous year IQAC report)</th>
<th>Achievements (At end of year)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiate Research in Agriculture Electronics</td>
<td>Internal Seed Grant Rs.2.55 Lakhs- Received in January 2016</td>
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<td>Received by Dr. C. Santhosh Kumar</td>
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<td>Dr. K. I. Ramachandran</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. K. A. Pradeep Kumar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. M. Ganesan</td>
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<td>Mr. R. Gandhiraj</td>
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<td>Project: Electromagnetic Studies on Coconut and Quality Evaluation by NDT Agency: <strong>ICAR</strong></td>
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<td>Amount: Rs.17.6 Lakhs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Staff: Dr. M. Jayakumar, Sabarish Narayan B</td>
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<td>Project Selected and Presented on October 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>To enhance Graduation of Ph.Ds</td>
<td>3 Scholars graduated from the department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Initiation in Automotive Electronics</td>
<td>M.Tech Automotive Electronics- Started in Collaboration with TCS.</td>
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<td>Vehicular Electronics Lab – Funded by TCS Set Up: Academic Block II: C-103</td>
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<td>Lab to be upgraded in the coming years.</td>
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<td>No. of Research Proposal Submitted to external funding Agencies</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Total Amount : Rs.5.6 crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of research Proposals Sanctioned:</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount: Rs.31.454 Lakhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Sponsored Workshops</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>
ASCOM

PG students completed their training at Amrita Television and the feedback was excellent.
Introduction of new course (B.Sc. Visual Communication) – Action under progress
FDP – Action under progress

School of Business, Kochi:

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  - The student activities were better organized. A handing over was formally done by the second year students and committees were formed. For the most significant committees, formal selection process with faculty involvement was undertaken.
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