

Minutes of the First Meeting of the newly constituted IQAC held on May 19, 2017

Members present

1. Prof. Alak K. Buragohain, the Vice Chancellor, DU	Chairperson
2. Prof. Surajit Kumar Ghosh, Director, IQAC, DU.	Member Secretary
3. Prof. Khanindra Pathak, IIT, Khargpur	Member
4. Ms Jahnabi Phookan, Director, Jungle Travels, Guwahati	Member
5. Mr. S.K (Raj) Barua, Mumbai, Former Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Discovery Channel, Singapore.	Member
6. Prof. Bhupati Das, Emeritus Professor, DU and Former MD, Numaligarh Refinery Limited and Former MD, Bharat Oman Refinery Limited	Member
7. Prof. M.N. Dutta, Registrar, DU	Member
8. Prof. Debo Kumar Chakraborty Head, Dept. of Economics, DU	Member
9. Dr. Nasmeem F. Akhtar, Director, Centre for Women Studies, DU	Member
10. Dr. Manas Pratim Barman, Asstt. Prof. Dept. of Statistics, DU	Member
11. Mr. Pankaj Borthakur, Deputy Controller of Examination (B), DU	Member
12. Dr. Binod Bora, Deputy Registrar (Academic), DU	Member
13. Prof. A.B. Rajkonwar, Dean, School of Com. & Management Studies	<i>Special Invitee</i>

The following members took leave of absence due to personal inconvenience

1. Prof. S.C. Kakaty, Head, Dept. of Statistics, DU	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member
2. Dr. Dip Saikia, Principal, Digboi College	Member
3. President, Dibrugarh University Post Graduate Students Union	Member

The first meeting of the newly constituted Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) (4th cycle of NAAC) was held on 19 May, 2017 at *Beekshan*, the Conference Hall of the University Guest House *Vishranta*. Prof. S.K. Ghosh, Director, IQAC, extended a warm welcome to the members and felicitated the new external members. Prof. Alak K Buragohain welcomed the members, especially the external members to the first meeting of the reconstituted IQAC. In his opening remark, Prof. Buragohain stated that higher education has undergone paradigm shift and in the changing milieu and the University is expected to perform in a manner in order to become nationally and globally competitive. Prof. Buragohain also referred to the recent accreditation of the University by the NAAC as an **A Grade** University and also the national ranking of the University at the **74 rank** done by the MHRD instituted National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). He appealed to the members, especially the external members for their valuable ideas and discussion.

I. Prof. Ghosh proceeded with the next agenda item relating to the *Overview of the functioning of the university.*

Discussion

1. Prof. Khanindra Pathak and Mr. S.K.Barua evinced keen interest in the Centre for Language Studies and enquired about the language programmes offered by the centre. Prof. Ghosh responded that at present the centre is offering programmes on Functional *Mishing, Karbi, Deori, Tai* and *Bodo* languages respectively. While appreciating these initiatives, the members recommended that steps be taken to make these local tribal language programmes more job oriented.

Mr. Barua, Prof. Pathak and Ms Jahnabi Phookan suggested that the university should explore for offering language programmes in *Myanmarese, Thai and Chinese*. Prof. Buragohain added that the Department of Economics has the UGC supported Area Study Centre for Myanmar and Bangladesh. A language programme on Myanmarese has also been advised by the UGC in its recent review meeting with the faculty members of the centre. Prof. Buragohain pointed out at the great significance of offering Language Study Programmes on Myanmar and other South East Asian languages in the accentuated focus on the Act East Policy of the Government of India. The members requested Prof. Buragohain to explore for Student Exchange programmes with the Universities from South- East Asian countries.

2. Prof. Buragohain drew the attention of the external members about the Self Financed academic programmes offered by the Centres of Studies with teachers on contractual engagement. The external members observed that the programmes offered by the centres have great market possibilities. Prof. Buragohain while appreciating the observation of the members pointed out at the severe fund constraints of these centres in attracting and retaining good faculty members. Prof. Pathak and Prof. Bhupati Das suggested that Detailed Project Plans (DPR) with long and short term strategies be worked out for strengthening the financial status of the Centres for Studies. Mr. Barua suggested that initially the DPRs be prepared with a few carefully selected centres. Prof. Pathak suggested *Workshop* may be organised for developing DPR with resource persons drawn from professional organizations. The external members have been unanimous in their observation that it's of critical importance to develop project proposals with absolute professionalism to convince the funding agencies.

Prof. Das referred to the great possibility of packaging Edutainment through the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Performing Arts and other Centres for Studies.

Resolutions I

- 1. The possibility to introduce a Language Programme on Myanmar maybe actively explored along with the other language like Thai and Chinese.**
- 2. The functional language programmes on *Mishing, Deori, Bodo* and *Karbi* (to be introduced shortly) be made more job oriented.**
- 3. Strategic plans for long term sustainability of the Centres for Studies maybe made in phases.**
- 4. Prospects for Edutainment with the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Performing Arts be explored.**

II. Critical Review of the Third Cycle of the NAAC and NIRF Results

Discussion

Initiating a discussion on the recent third cycle of the NAAC accreditation and the NIRF ranking of the university as an **A Grade University** and with a national rank at 74, Prof. Buragohain presented critical analyses of the NIRF ranking of the university. Since the NAAC accreditation is largely through subjective and qualitative approaches, Prof. Buragohain explained and presented a more quantitative analyses done through the NIRF. The presentation highlighted the enormous potential of the university in taking forward to even better national ranking. The University scored relatively much better in the parameters under consideration of the NIRF, viz., the Teaching Learning Resource (43.8/100), Graduate Outcome (69.95) and Outreach and Industry (66.98). However, it was pointed that the University Performance under the parameters of Research and Professional Practice and Peer and Public Perception need massive efforts to harness its actual potential through professional efforts. Prof. Buragohain in his presentation pointed out that except for the First ranked Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Jawaharlal Nehru University and thirteen other Universities of the country, amongst whom there are digital differences in the points scored in the five chosen parameters of the NIRF with respect to the points scored by the rest of the universities, the differences are **incremental** (decimal) with the large majority of the universities falling below the average score point of 41.92.

After an objective analyses of the presented data, the members expressed their opinion that faculty members should be strategic in sending their research work to only the internationally and nationally recognised Research Journals indexed in the SCOPUS, Web of Science and in the Journals recognised by the Indian Citation Index database for publication

Resolution II

- 1. Faculty members be motivated to publish only in the internationally and nationally recognised Research Journals indexed in the SCOPUS, Web of Science and the Journals recognised by the Indian Citation Index database for publication.**

III Academic and Administrative Audit for the year 2017

Discussion

Prof. Ghosh stated that the University had done its first ever Academic and Administrative Audit by external Experts in 2014 and the Audit is to be carried out every three years. Prof. Ghosh placed before the members a panel of experts proposed for the Academic and Administrative Audit to be done towards the end of this year. The members examined the proposed panel of Experts as presented below.

Proposed Panel of Experts for the Academic and Administrative Audit in 2017

1. Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra, Rector, JNU, New Delhi.
2. Prof. Anil Kumar, Former Director, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune and JC Bose Professor, Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
3. Prof. Ramesh Sharma, Dean, School of Life Sciences, NEHU, Shillong.
4. Prof. Nilima Bhagabati, Former Professor of Education, Gauhati University.
5. Prof. Shyamanta Moni Hazarika, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, IIT, Guwahati.
6. Mr. Samudragupta Kashyap, Columnist, Indian Express, Guwahati.
7. Prof. Barindra Kumar Sarma, Former Professor, Dept. of Physics, Gauhati University.

The members unanimously accorded its acceptance of the panel.

Resolution III

- 1. The Panel of Experts proposed for conducting Academic and Administrative Audit of the University in 2017 has been accepted.**

IV Industry- Academia Collaboration

Discussion

Prof. Ghosh informed the members that the University has been emphasizing on greater Industry- Academia collaboration. Towards this two Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) have been signed between the *Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)* and the *Brahmaputra Cracker Polymer Limited (BCPL)*, Lapetkata, Dibrugarh. Soon another two MoUs shall be signed with the Coal India Limited, Margherita and the Assam Oil, Digboi. Prof. Buragohain briefly narrated the key terms of references in these MoUs. The appointment of Prof. Bhupati Das, Former MD, NRL and Former MD, Bharat Oman Refinery Limited as an Emeritus Professor in the Dibrugarh University Institute of Science and Engineering (DUIET) and at the Centre for Management Studies (CMS) has a great impact on the University's effort to forge stronger Industry- Academia Interfacing. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested by the members that besides the students who have stints in the industries as Summer Interns, faculty members do need exposure of the industry ecosystem.

Prof. Das advised that the University may expedite the process for signing MoUs with the Indian Oil Corporation, Guwahati and Bongaigaon Oil Refinery. He also suggested that an in-house committee be formed to monitor the effective implementation of the activities envisaged in the MoUs entered upon with industries.

Resolution IV

- 1. Faculty exposure to various industries be explored.**
- 2. A Monitoring Committee be constituted for regular monitoring of the activities envisaged under the MoUs with the industries.**

V Innovation and Start-Up Enterprises

Discussion

Prof. Buragohain apprised the members that two Start-Up enterprises by the alumni of the university have been launched on the campus *viz.* **Green Agri-Biotech** producing Biofertilizers and Biopesticide, a Start Up venture by one of the *alumni* of the Centre for Biotechnology and **KB QUBE**, a Start-Up venture by five *alumni* of the Centre for Studies in Computer Science, providing e-Solutions have already started their activities through MoUs with the university. Prof. Buragohain referred to the IPR Cell of the university which is facilitating for the IPR related issues , *viz.*, Trade Mark, Copy Right and Patent, *etc.*, to the two Start-Up enterprises. Explaining the vision of the University to have a Science R & D Park on the campus through transformation of these ventures and others, Prof. Buragohain referred to the strategy of the University to bring up Start-Up enterprises on the tripod of the **Centre for Technology Innovation and Incubation**, the **IPR Cell** and the **Entrepreneurship and Skill Development** of the university.

The members took note of the development with much appreciation. Prof. Pathak pointed out at the bright possibilities of earning good fund for Start-Ups from the various agencies of the Government of India. Prof. Buragohain stated that *three Project Proposals* for Start-Ups have been submitted to the NITI Ayog for consideration under the *Atal Innovation Scheme*.

Prof. Pathak also pointed out about the possibility of entrepreneurship development in the sector of *Organic Tea, Green Tea and Herbal (Speciality) Tea*. He referred to the Tea Research Centre of IIT Kharagpur from where the Centre for Tea and Agro Studies of DU may obtain necessary technology guidance. Prof. Buragohain while appreciating the suggestion of Prof. Pathak, referred to the on-going production of Green Tea at the Mini Tea Factory fabricated for the Centre for Tea and Agro Studies by the university.

Resolution V

The members appreciated the effort of the university in encouraging entrepreneurship and recommended for further exploration to put up more Start-Ups on the campus on even stronger footing especially in the sectors of Tourism and Edutainment where the university has great opportunities.

VI Brief Review of the Academic Programmes

Discussion

Prof. Ghosh apprised the members that several new academic programmes are being planned from the next year. Notable among these is the B Tech Programme on *Fire and safety Engineering at the DUIET*. Prof. Buragohain explained that there is a huge market demand for professional Fire and Safety Engineers in the country. Only two Indian Universities, *viz.*, the Nagpur University and recently the Kochi University have started offering this course. The B.Tech. programme proposed by the university will be multi disciplinary with faculty members from the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, ME, CSc, EEC Engineering shall contribute to the teaching. Technology Experts available in the Assam Oil, Digboi and the NRL expressed their willingness to teach, supervise the core components on Fire Engineering and the Assam Oil has agreed to allow the practical parts of the course to be conducted at Digboi. Prof. Buragohain mentioned that the syllabus for the programme has been approved by the Academic Council, DU in its recent meeting. Prof. Pathak recommended that DU may explore the syllabi on Fire and Safety Engineering offered by Nagoya University, Japan and that of the Aberdeen University, the UK. The members appreciated the move made by the University in planning to offer a very important programme on Fire and Safety Engineering.

Prof. Das stated about the proposed academic programme on Petro Economics and Petro Enterprise by the faculty members of the Departments of Economics, Petroleum Technology and the Centre for Management Studies. Prof. Buragohain apprised that a few rounds of initial discussion have already been made where Prof. Das and the faculty members of the Department of Economics and CMS took part. Now a Technical Committee is being constituted to finalise the academic programme taking the academic support from Prof.

Munin Kakaty, Vice Chancellor, Rajib Gandhi University of Cooperative Studies, Sivasagar. Initially the course will be offered as an Audit Course, Prof. Buragohain added.

Professor Buragohain apprised the members that from July, this year the University is launching a Masters Programme on Health, Hygiene and Sanitation for Development under the C4D (Communication for Development through Behaviour Change) scheme of the UNICEF.

Ms. Phookan, made a strong point in recommending that the Post Graduate Diploma Programme on Tourism Management be thoroughly reviewed in order to make it an effective programme which has great potential in terms of entrepreneurship development and job opportunities for the students. The Vice Chancellor assured that it would be taken up with all earnestness soon.

Resolution VI

- 1. The proposed new academic programme be started on Fire and Safety Engineering by DUIET jointly with the Assam Oil and the NRL.**
- 2. The Audit Course Petro Economics and Petro Enterprise be developed also as a Short Term Course for personnel from the corporate sector.**
- 3. The Post Graduate Diploma Programme on Tourism Development presently offered by the Centre for Management Studies be subjected to thorough review to make it more attractive and effective.**

VII Transition to the Choice Based Credit (CBCS) Mode

Discussion

Prof. Ghosh briefly apprised the members about the requirement of the University to offer different courses under the CBCS as mandated by the UGC. Professor Buragohain stated that although the University began to offer courses on IPR, Human Right and Wildlife Photography under the CBCS for the PG students special measures shall be put in place to motivate the students to register these courses.

Prof. Pathak suggested that a subject on Entrepreneurship Development be explored both at the Undergraduate and the Post Graduate levels.

Resolution VII

A course on Entrepreneurship Development be offered at the UG and the PG levels under the CBCS Mode.

VIII Effective Pedagogy Using ICT

Prof. Buragohain initiated the discussion on ICT in pedagogy stating that there is an urgent need to embrace the robust technology platform of ICT for transaction of Teaching, Learning and Research. He requested Prof. Pathak, who is now involved with ICT based pedagogy, to place his suggestions. Prof. Pathak recommended that as a first step, we may explore

networking a few select colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University for conducting teaching, learning and Field Study through the ICT platform using the Moodle Server. He offered to facilitate the participation of 4-5 college Principals from the affiliated colleges in a Workshop on the subject being organised at Kharagpur IIT in July, 2017.

Resolution VIII

A strategic plan be worked out to network the colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University for effective pedagogy through ICT platform in phase wise manner.

IX Extension Services by the University

Discussion

Prof. Buragohain apprised the members that the university is the only University in the country so far to have entered in to a formal MoU with the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* and academic collaboration with the UNICEF for carrying out extensive awareness drive with the help of its huge pool of Human Resource of the students. He stated that Health and Sanitation Clubs have been formed in more than 204 villages for making them Open Defecation Free. While appreciating the efforts of the university in providing Extension Services to the Society, Prof. Pathak suggested that the university may also develop its Associated Villages as 'Clean Villages'. The members appreciated the recommendation.

Resolution IX

The Associated Villages of the University be developed as Clean Villages.

X Student Placement

Discussion

Prof. Ghosh made a brief presentation on the placement status of the university students over the last few years. Expressing their happiness over the slightly increasing trend in placement of the students through Campus Interview, the members recommended that special efforts be made for enhancing the Communication Skill of the students in English. Establishment of Language Labs be also given emphasis, the members suggested.

Resolution X

Special effort be made for enhancement of the Communication and other Soft Skills of the students for facilitating their recruitment after graduation.

XI Any Other Matter

Mr.S.K. Barua made a strong point that the university should make a move to document its development and news using different media. He suggested that the students and the faculty members of Centre for Mass Communication and Journalism may be engaged for this.

Resolution XI

The University is to make necessary arrangement for professionally document its development.

As all the Agenda Items have been thoroughly discussed in one of the longest meetings of the IQAC, the Director profusely thanked all the members for their whole hearted participation and for their invaluable suggestions in the discussion. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to and from the Chair

S. K .Ghosh
Director, IQAC

A. K. Buragohain
Chairperson, IQAC