

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

Minutes of the 30th Meeting of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Council, held on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Boardroom, Ground Floor, Central Block, Bangalore Central Campus of the University.

**In the Chair:** Dr Fr Joseph C C, Vice Chancellor

### Members and invitees Present

Members and invitees, as per the attendance list, were present.

### Leave of Absence

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

1. Dr Fr Benny Thomas, Nominee - Board of Management, Director, School of Law
2. Dr Fr Viju P D, Teaching Faculty, Professor, Department of Psychology
3. Mr Arya Dilip Shirke, Student, Bachelor of Business Administration

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

The Vice Chancellor, Dr Fr Joseph C C, began the meeting with a silent prayer. He welcomed the newly appointed members, Ambassador Venu Rajamony, Dr Anitha Suseelan, Dr Fr Lijo Thomas, Dr Bhavani S, and all the Council members and invitees to the meeting. He informed the Council that the Times Higher Education Asia 2023 has shortlisted the University for outstanding contribution to regional development. The agency will declare the results during the award ceremony in June in Singapore. He also congratulated the compilation team for their contribution. He requested the Council Secretary, Dr Alex P Joseph, to take up the matters on the agenda.

Dr Alex P Joseph thanked Dr Fr Abraham V M, former Vice Chancellor, Prof Chandrasekharan K A, former IQAC Director, and the former members Dr Balachandran K and Dr Kavitha D for their immense contributions to the Council.

### Matters on the Agenda

- 1. To consider and approve the minutes of the 29th Meeting of the IQAC Council held on December 12, 2022, and to consider matters arising thereon**

The IQAC Council approved the meeting minutes held on December 12, 2022, as circulated with the Notice in "Annexure A."

- 2. To consider and approve the Action taken report**

Dr Alex P Joseph, Director, IQAC, presented the suggestions made in the 29th IQAC Council meeting and the action taken. The first suggestion was to get details of the implementation of service learning. Dr Alex informed that, as informed by the Centre for Service-Learning, 11 departments have introduced the Service-Learning courses in their programmes, and nine departments have proposed introducing the Service-Learning during the upcoming academic year. He also said that the status needs to be updated on the University website.

The second suggestion was to constitute an Advisory Board for the Teaching Learning Enhancement Cell. An Advisory Council has been formed, with the Vice Chancellor as



the Chairperson.

### 3. To take note of the NAAC Appeal result

The Council was informed that the NAAC Peer Team visited the Institution from October 18 to 20, 2022, and NAAC declared the result on October 26, 2022. The University submitted the appeal against the peer team report on November 24, 2022. The Vice Chancellor presented the Appeal in person in front of the Appeal Committee at the NAAC office on January 09, 2023. The NAAC informed the University in an email dated January 12, 2023, that the Appeal Committee recommended the status quo. Hence, there was no change in the CGPA and Grade awarded to the University.

### 4. To discuss the mobilisation of diverse financial resources

Dr Alex P Joseph, IQAC Director, briefed the Council on the need to focus on diverse financial resources. He emphasised the need for the University to focus on diverse aspects like giving international exposure to faculty members, training and development, international exposure for research scholars, Infrastructure augmentation, freeships and scholarships, establishing Centres of Excellence, constituting Chairs, and enhancing corpus fund. Currently, 99% of the revenue of the University comes from tuition fees. Against this, the University must explore other financial resources, including Research Funding, Consultancy and Corporate Training, Commercialisation of Patents, Corporate Social Responsibility funds, Alumni Contributions, Endowments, and other Sources.

Dr Joseph C C, the Chairperson, requested that the members give suggestions. Mr Jugnu Uberoi enquired if there was any specificity to the duration and amount for constituting a Chair. Dr Anil Joseph Pinto, the Registrar, replied that the University must have adequate resources to appoint a Professor and Administrative Staff to constitute a Chair. The University is open for constituting a chair for up to ten years with a funding of Rs three crores. He also mentioned that the University received a Chair funded by one of the alumni and thanked the alumni president.

The Chairperson requested Ambassador Venu Rajamony to give his suggestions. Ambassador Venu Rajamony thanked the Chairperson, the Secretary, and the University for the invitation. He mentioned that he was glad to work and help the institution in every manner possible. He appreciated the alumni association's involvement and that of the alumni association president, Mr Jugnu Uberoi. He informed the quorum that the alumni association is the most significant contributor to the institution. They must be the first contact point for financial support and additional funding. He also added that the University should take the initiative in contacting the alumni of Bangalore, within India and abroad. A concrete proposal can be prepared and sent to the alumni and industry experts in a targeted manner to achieve the best results. He added that multinational, IT, and biotech companies could be approached for CSR funds through the alumni who are employees there. He suggested that the consulates based in India should be outreached to conduct various seminars, workshops, and conferences along with funding that can benefit the University in the long run. He also referred to Australian agencies conducting studies on the Indo-Pacific and suggested the School of Social Sciences could collaborate with those agencies to organise international conferences and other events. He suggested instituting endowments through the School of Law, where the leading lawyers can be approached to sponsor endowments.



Dr Joseph C C thanked the contributions of the alumni association and mentioned that the University received the CSR fund contributions from BOSCH and some law firms. He added that he had requested the departments bring learning partners and alumni to contribute. Mr Jugnu Uberoi, the alumni president, suggested that the University can constitute a committee and contact alumni worldwide. Dr Lijo Thomas added that the University should have international alumni chapters and engagements through which we can connect with alumni abroad. Dr Alex P Joseph informed the Council that the University has initiated steps to establish a new trust to mobilise CSR funds, and the auditors and accounts office are working on it.

**5. To take note of the Curricular and Credit Framework Design as part of implementing NEP 2020 at CHRIST**

Dr Alex P Joseph mentioned that UGC has published curriculum and credit framework guidelines for UG programmes as part of the NEP 2020 implementation. CHRIST has prepared a curriculum and credit framework design based on the UGC guidelines. He requested the Director of Teaching Learning Enhancement Cell (TLEC), Dr Tony Sam George, to brief the Council on the framework.

Dr Tony Sam George briefed the Council that after several rounds of discussions in the committees instituted for the purpose; the University has proposed three models considering the diversity of programmes at the undergraduate level in various schools of the University; programmes with a single major, two majors and two majors with a minor. He added that these decisions are made considering the UGC framework recommendations and the character of the University.

He also suggested that the framework offered by UGC can have slight modifications. He added that the current UGC course categories include majors, minors, interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary courses, and ability enhancement courses meant to support students.

He informed the Council that courses that build character are also included in the curriculum. Internships and research projects are also included as proposed in the UGC framework, as the fourth-year students who do very well in their first three years can pursue honours degrees with research. He added that students can apply for PhD programmes after completing four year honours with research programmes.

Dr Joseph C C informed that the University had researched and discussed the framework. Dr Anil Joseph Pinto, the Registrar, reported that the Karnataka government has fixed a minimum of 136 credits for two major programs, and the University needs to look into the credit requirements as per UGC norms.

**6. To discuss strategies to increase the admission of international students**

Dr Alex P Joseph explained the importance of admission of International students. He also mentioned that the UGC has published guidelines for Internationalisation of Higher Education in line with the National Education Policy 2020. Some ranking and accreditation agencies give weightage to the presence of international students in various programs in the institution. He requested Dr Fr Lijo Thomas, Director of the International Office, to brief the council on the strategies to increase the number of international students in the University. Dr Fr Lijo Thomas explained the statistics of international students during the last five years. CHRIST does not engage agencies for admission of international students; however, the University reaches out through



alumni ambassadors who enable school visits in different countries. The University also provides on-campus accommodation to international students in addition to scholarship schemes. He informed the Council that Computer science and BBA programmes are more popular among the international students.

Mr Jugnu Uberoi suggested inviting Consul Generals in Bangalore to the University and showcase the infrastructure and other resources available for the international students. Ambassador Venu Rajamony also highlighted some of the features of internationalisation as mentioned in the guidelines. He suggested that international alumni/ae may be used as moderators or encouraged to talk to prospective students of their regions on the facilities provided for short term courses and full fledged degree programmes. He suggested looking beyond the admission of international students to larger internationalisation of the campus. He also stressed on the need for collaboration and tie up with foreign universities for twinning programmes and student/faculty exchange.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto quoted the keywords 'internationalisation at home and internationalisation abroad' as mentioned in the UGC guidelines. He suggested that CHRIST may have to consider setting up off-shore campuses in countries where CMI has a mission focus. He also suggested a re-look at the fee structure in order to attract more international students.

#### 7. To take note of the status of Research at CHRIST

Dr Alex Joseph briefed on the status of research at the University and added that UGC had issued guidelines for establishing Research and Development Cells in higher education institutions. He invited Dr Fr Joseph Varghese, Director, Centre for Research, to give more details. Dr Fr Joseph Varghese mentioned that as of 2022-23, the University had approved Rs 77 Lakhs as seed money. The first instalment had already been distributed, and the second instalment was being distributed depending on the project reports. Dr Jain Mathew expressed concern over the small number of faculty, applying for seed money; he added that a greater number of faculty be encouraged to utilise the scheme.

Dr Fr Joseph Varghese informed that 57 faculty have applied for sponsored projects, based on the posters circulated and support given to submit the proposals. He informed that the Centre for Research was devising a scheme for internship training to be given to the faculty members. He added that in 2022-23 alone, the University had received 20 externally funded projects, with a sanctioned amount of Rs 981 Lakhs.

He presented the details of the Scopus-indexed publication from 2017 to 2023. 40% of these publications come from the Web of Science also. He added that we have a total of 1231 publications in 2022 alone.

Dr Fr Joseph C C informed that the University had achieved 4285 publications as of the previous week. He also congratulated the leadership of Dr Fr Joseph Varghese and all those who contributed, which helped the University to have a significant number of publications. Dr Fr Joseph Varghese informed that the University has crossed 100 publications per month.

Dr Anil Joseph Pinto expressed concern over sustaining the rapid growth of publications



in the future. Dr Fr Joseph mentioned that most publications are from 20% of the faculty members. Hence some training and empowerment are needed for the rest of the faculty community.

Dr Fr Joseph C C informed that the University should financially support and encourage the faculty to attend and participate in conferences and seminars at national and international levels. Dr Fr Joseph Varghese suggested that additional financial support may be provided to faculty who publish apart from reduced workload, flexibility, and freedom to utilise the fund will encourage them to produce quality papers.

**8. To review the status of the Annual Quality Assurance Report 2021-22**

Dr Alex P Joseph informed that with the support of Deans, Directors, Heads of the Departments, and the department IQAC coordinators, the Office of IQAC had coordinated the data collection from departments and Centres. He acknowledged the contribution of IQAC coordinators and administrative staff in this regard. He informed the Council that the NAAC had extended the date to submit AQAR to 31 May, 2023. The compilation of the data was in progress, and IQAC would submit it before the due date.

**9. To take note of the University's participation in AISHE and various ranking frameworks**

Dr Alex P Joseph briefed on the participation of the University in AISHE and various ranking frameworks. The University submitted the data related to academic programmes, faculty members, and publications to AISHE on 14-02-2023. He informed that in the survey, there were questions on the registration of the University in the Academic Bank of Credit and the inclusion of the Indian Knowledge System in the curriculum.

He also mentioned that the University participated in NIRF under the overall and discipline categories viz. Law, Engineering, and Management. In the previous year, the University was ranked 71.

The University also participated in other ranking frameworks like QS World Ranking, Times Higher Education Ranking (Impact, World University, and Asia), India Today-MDRA Ranking (Discipline and University), The Week Hansa Research, and World's Universities with Real Impact ranking. He thanked Dr Cecil Donald A, who coordinated the work.

**10. To discuss developing a strategic plan based on benchmarking exercise**

Dr Alex P Joseph informed that the University had organised a workshop on benchmarking exercises by Dr Srihari from Binghamton University. All academic coordinators, Heads of the Departments, and Centre heads participated in the workshop. He requested Dr Georgy P Kurien to brief the development of the benchmarking process in the University. Dr Georgy P Kurien mentioned that Dr Srihari explained the objectives for the University benchmarking. The goals were to establish analytical performance for the schools, departments, and centres to identify internal opportunities for improvement. The benchmarking would form the basis of the strategic plan of the University.

Dr Joseph C C appreciated the committee coordinating the benchmarking exercise. He



also noted that the current benchmarking exercise is a step toward strategic plan discussion.

**11. To discuss the conduct of Academic and Administrative Audits for the academic year 2022-23.**

Dr Alex P Joseph informed that as per the NAAC guidelines of IQAC, one of the quality assurance initiatives is the periodic conduct of Academic and Administrative Audit (AAA). So, the University needed to form a committee, and the committee had to suggest a modality to conduct the internal audit. He informed the Council that the committee shall review the present process and suggest improvements.

**12. Other matters**

Dr Alex P Joseph told the Council that the NAAC had revised the IQAC guidelines; based on that University had drafted the regulation and mentioned the significant changes. The existing regulation has 15 members; whereas as per the revised regulation, the IQAC Council will have 18 members, including members from the administration and other stakeholders.


He also presented on gaps pertaining to various metrics used in rankings and accreditations and suggested that measures are to be taken to attain the benchmarks.

Mr Jugnu Oberoi suggested having a policy for media coverage of University programmes. Dr Anil Joseph Pinto informed that the University had already drafted a policy for the same.

**13. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair**

Dr Fr Joseph Varghese suggested that in the context of benchmarking the University expectations, the University had to develop strategies schoolwise, especially regarding three areas: seed money projects, external research projects, and publications. Based on targets set, a clear outcome-based strategic plan has to be developed in these areas.

The Chairperson thanked all the members and invitees for their active involvement and contributions. Dr Alex Joseph thanked all the members for the support extended to IQAC.

  
Dr Alex P Joseph,  
Secretary

  
Dr Fr Joseph C C  
Chairperson

*Vice Chancellor*  
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