

Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Council of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) held at 3:00 pm, Tuesday, 19 August 2025, at Council Room, Central Block, Bangalore Central Campus.

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

Secretary: Dr Alex P Joseph, Director, IQAC

Members Present: Members and Invitees were present as per the attendance list.

Leave of Absence: Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

- Dr Kennedy Andrew Thomas
- Ms Rithu P Raj

Declaration of Quorum: The meeting commenced after the Secretary confirmed that the required quorum was met.

Opening Remarks

Dr Fr. Joseph C C, Chairperson, welcomed all the members and invitees to the meeting. The Vice Chancellor highlighted the University's achievements, including crossing 11,000+ Scopus-indexed publications, selection of the University under the Prime Minister's Vidya Lakshmi Scheme, impressive rankings in QS World Rankings, recognition in Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and WURI rank. The Vice Chancellor also acknowledged recent awards, such as the Economic Times Educational Excellence Award for Outstanding Private Deemed University, and expressed gratitude to the IQAC team for their contributions. The Vice Chancellor further mentioned the launch of international alumni chapters in Canada, Australia, U.S and Dubai.

Further to this, the agenda was taken up for discussion.

1. To consider and approve the minutes of the 36th Meeting of the IQAC Council

The draft minutes of the 36th IQAC Council Meeting held on 12 April 2025 had been shared with members in advance. The Council approved the minutes without any modifications.

2. To consider and approve the action taken report

Dr Elangovan, Associate Director for Research and Development Cell, presented initiatives taken to promote interdisciplinary research. Key measures included:

- ❖ Research internships for students in premier institutions
- ❖ Conference travel grants and postdoctoral fellowships
- ❖ Annual Research Day for recognising student achievements
- ❖ UG/PG interdisciplinary research grants and enhanced PhD fellowships
- ❖ Revised research incentive schemes focusing on high-quality publications (Q2 and above)
- ❖ Increased seed funding
- ❖ Promotion of SDG-aligned research initiatives
- ❖ Collaborative initiatives with ISRO, including plans for a student payload project

The Council appreciated the efforts and recommended tapping into CSR and alumni networks to further strengthen external research funding.

3. To take note of the status of the University in various rankings and awards

Dr Nithila Vincent, Advisor-Quality Assurance, briefed the Council on the University's performance in national and international rankings. Highlights included:

- ❖ QS World Rankings: Christ University has been ranked in the 1401+ category globally. First-time entry, one among the 54 institutions from India to be listed.
- ❖ WURI Rankings: Improved to 101 globally among 1253 universities; ranked 4th globally in Student Support and Engagement, 5th in Entrepreneurial Spirit, and 9th in Technology Development.
- ❖ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings: Maintained 801–1000 overall band, with improvements across multiple SDGs.

- ❖ India Today Best Universities: Ranked 4th overall among private multidisciplinary universities.
- ❖ Economic Times Education Excellence Awards: Declared Outstanding Private Deemed University.

The Council acknowledged the IQAC rankings team's contributions and encouraged further strategic participation in rankings.

4. To take note of the planned activities of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell for the academic year 2025–26

Dr Alex P Joseph, Director of IQAC, presented the plan for the year under five verticals: Rankings & Awards, Training & Development, Documentation & Audits, Publications, and Strategic Initiatives. Key highlights included:

- ❖ Training programmes for IQAC coordinators, HoDs, and administrative staff.
- ❖ Mentoring of an external institution starting September 2025.
- ❖ Organisation of a Registrar's Conference in November 2025 and a National Seminar in February 2026.
- ❖ Rankings and awards the University will participate in nine approved ranking frameworks. Departments may also participate in other rankings with prior consent from the Office of IQAC and the Office of the Registrar.
- ❖ Academic, green, energy, accessibility, security, and administrative audits are scheduled for the year.
- ❖ Release of the Administrative Manual, Annual Report, Coffee Table Book, and IQAC Activity Report.
- ❖ Strategic initiatives aligned with NEP 2020's five pillars: access, equity, quality, affordability, and accountability.

5. Deliberation on advancing industry-aligned educational process

Mr Vijayan MS, industry representative, suggested adopting an industry-focused approach by selecting specific industrial verticals (such as automobiles, agriculture, biomedical, pharmaceuticals, and IT) and developing dedicated curricula, training, and internships aligned with them. Mr Vijayan MS emphasised the growing role of Artificial Intelligence across disciplines and proposed introducing AI as a foundational course for all students. The Council discussed faculty training in AI, partnerships with corporates, and creating AI-based modules in various programmes. The Vice Chancellor informed

that a faculty awareness survey on AI would be rolled out, and a foundational AI course for students across disciplines will be introduced from the next academic year.

6. Deliberation on skills for the future – imperatives for higher education in India

Ambassador Venu Rajamony highlighted the critical need for reskilling and upskilling in response to technological disruptions, particularly AI. He emphasised strengthening critical thinking, communication, collaboration, innovation, and adaptability in students, while also calling for greater faculty development, curriculum reform, project-based learning, internationalisation, and investments in digital infrastructure. Ambassador Venu Rajamony urged Christ University to differentiate itself by ensuring every graduate possesses AI competence and future-ready skills. The Council acknowledged the suggestions and noted ongoing efforts under training for career and life skills, which integrates professional, communication, leadership, and digital skills for all students.

Any Other Matters with the Permission of the Chair

Members discussed employability initiatives, employee training in AI, and the University's responsibility in shaping ethical AI practices. It was also noted that new international alumni chapters were inaugurated, and efforts are ongoing to expand global alumni engagement.

Conclusion

Dr Alex P Joseph expressed his gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Council members, and the IQAC team for their dedicated efforts.

The Chairperson, Dr Fr. Joseph C C, thanked all members for their valuable contribution and appreciated the collective commitment towards quality enhancement.



Dr Alex Joseph,
Secretary



Dr Fr Joseph C C
Chairperson

Vice Chancellor
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
Bengaluru - 560 029

Director
Internal Quality Assurance Cell
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
Bengaluru - 560 029, Karnataka, India