

# **Mahatma Gandhi University**

## **Minutes of Meeting of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) held on 12.03.2025 at 03:00 pm in the IQAC Conference Hall**

### **Members Present:**

1. Prof.(Dr.) C. T. Aravindakumar, Vice Chancellor (in chair)
2. Dr. Sreejit C.M., Controller of Examinations
3. Prof.(Dr.) Robinet Jacob, Director IQAC
4. Dr. Syllas V.P., Joint Director IQAC
5. Prof.(Dr.) Beena Mathew, SCS, Dean & Member IQAC
6. Prof.(Dr.) Sajimon Abraham, SMBS, Member IQAC
7. Prof.(Dr.) R Harikumar Nair, SBS, Member IQAC
8. Dr. Toney K. Thomas, STS, Member IQAC
9. Dr. Josmin P. Jose, Marthoma College, Tiruvalla, Member IQAC (Online)

### **Agenda:**

The meeting commenced at 3:00PM, with the Vice Chancellor offering a warm and heartfelt welcome to all attendees. In the opening remarks, the Vice Chancellor and the IQAC Director jointly recalled IQAC's journey so far in the development and betterment of the University. They emphasized the importance of preparing a strategic vision plan to strengthen the University's infrastructure and academic excellence, aligning with UGC's focus on NEP implementation, the evolving NAAC accreditation framework and the highest level of competitive nature expected in the education field of the State due to introduction of private Universities.

### **1) CAS Promotion of Teachers**

Sl. No.	Name of Applicant	Present Post	Post to which CAS promotion sought	Recommended date of promotion	Remarks
1	Dr. Abhilash Babu School of Social Sciences	Associate Professor (Academic Level 13A)	Professor (Academic Level 14)	20.10.2022 FN	UGC Regulations 2018 (Assessment period 20.08.2019 FN to 21.08.2022 AN)
2	Dr. Madhulal M School of Management & Business Studies	Assistant Professor (Academic Level 10)	Assistant Professor (Academic Level 11)	22.08.2023 FN	UGC Regulations 2018 (Assessment period 20.08.2019 FN to 21.08.2023 AN)



## **2) Strategic development plans and required restructuring for the University in the wake of educational reforms.**

The meeting discussed the need to make Mahatma Gandhi University, a true multidisciplinary higher education institution with at least 3000 students (preferably 5000 students) in the wake of new educational reforms including NEP and potential influx of private Universities. After brainstorming, the meeting has prioritized the following solutions for achieving the mandatory requirement related to student strength in the University.

- A. Resolved to recommend starting Constituent Colleges under Mahatma Gandhi University/ converting existing affiliated colleges as Constituent Colleges with the permission of the Govt of Kerala. The meeting opined that integrated/FYUGP programmes can be started with the first three-year studies in the constituent colleges followed by the second phase of one/two-year studies in the related Schools/ Centres of the University where advanced lab/instrumentation/ teaching-learning/practical facilities are available for cutting-edge learning and research.
- B. The meeting resolved that structural changes are required in the wake of various challenges being faced by the University including need for critical mass of students and faculty members, need for land, building and other infrastructural resources for future development.

The meeting resolved to recommend to make an action plan for utilization of land and infrastructural facilities available in the campuses owned by the University in various places to create a win-win situation for expanding academic horizon of the University. MGU is listed by UGC as one among the 230 Indian HEI's eligible to offer twinning, Joint Degree and dual degree programmes due to its higher ranking and accreditation. The new programmes being introduced in tune with NEP 2020 can also be transformed into twinning, Joint Degree and dual degree programmes when they become institutions directly run by the University and it will reduce the huge direct student outflow to other countries, but enhancing student intake, mobility and employment opportunities of students of our university and the state.

The meeting resolved that the above recommendations can be implemented with the following modalities and results.

- i. More institutions with twinning, Joint Degree and dual degree programmes are to be brought under the MGU umbrella to make it a truly multidisciplinary HEI with more than 3000 students as stipulated in NEP.
- ii. The land, building and infrastructural facilities/resources owned by the University in various districts can be utilized to house the recently established and to be established academic schools /constituent colleges which doesn't have sufficient infrastructure.



- C. MGU is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian State University which got an NOC from UGC and Ministry of External Affairs to start an overseas campus in Qatar. The meeting resolved to start overseas campuses with necessary permission especially in Middle Eastern countries to cater to the huge higher education needs of expatriate Keralites who mainly hail from the districts of Central Kerala.
- D. The Peer team report of the NAAC 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle through which the University has secured the highest A++ Grade has instructed the University to have Engineering Education under its ambit. The Technological University Act (Clause 60, page No. 127) permits offering of technology related programmes directly by other state universities. In the wake of the above, the meeting resolved to recommend starting of engineering programmes in the appropriate campuses owned by the University in IIT model.
- E. The meeting opined that in the wake of educational reforms, new trends and requirements of the potential students, distinct pathways leading to educational success and meaningful employment may be offered by the University.
- ✓ For students capable of gaining admissions to various Schools/ Departments/Centres/Colleges (higher education pathway) may be provided cutting-edge facilities leading to career success and more facilities shall be constantly added.
  - ✓ Students who prioritize skill development based on their individual strengths and aptitude may be provided short-term industry-linked skill development programmes (skill development pathway), clubbed with vocational training, apprenticeship, Special Certifications, internships, hands on training etc to ensure career success and increased employment opportunities.

The UGC guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), which allows individuals to earn credits for knowledge, skills and abilities acquired through informal, non-formal or experiential learning which aligns with NEP 2020 and the National Credit Framework (NCrF), providing a pathway for individuals to formalize their earned expertise may be implemented through the Directorate for Applied Short-term Programmes (DASP).

The meeting resolved that the academic services of the Directorate for Applied Short-term Programmes (DASP) which is offering regular/part time Certificate, Diploma and Post Graduate Certificate /Diploma programmes by pooling the resources of various schools/ Centres of the University may be further expanded to affiliated colleges immediately as per the recent Syndicate decision. The Directorate has to focus on admissions as well as examinations with the responsibility of teaching -learning process with the colleges. The meeting also opined that the Centralized Online Examination



Centre of DASP established for the purpose is readily available to conduct round-the-year examinations with facilities for quick online evaluation and declaration of results.

New technology-oriented upskilling programmes coupled with industry linked internship can be developed and offered with the help of MGU Innovation Foundation, which will make MGU's academic offerings meaningful and job oriented.

- ✓ As part of the skill development pathway, skilled working professionals may be provided more and more higher education options in the form of fully online UG and PG programmes with global intake, which will help them in gaining career advancement.

School of Distance and Online Education (SDOE) may be strengthened further to offer huge number of UG and PG programmes to support the national and international knowledge seekers, thus diversifying University's academic offerings. The online UG and PG programmes of the University may be offered to regular students, who are advanced learners, as an additional degree at a subsidized fee.

- F. The meeting also resolved that clustering of academic Schools of the University with more infrastructure facilities can be done to offer FYUGP/integrated programmes to enhance the gross enrolment ratio.
- G. The above measures as part of a thorough restructuring of MGU will help it in the following ways:
  - Attainment of critical mass of students and faculty members.
  - Internationalization of MGU including overseas campuses, twinning/dual/joint degree programmes with international HEI's
  - Attainment of resource mobilization for present and future growth and attainment of financial sustainability.
- H. The meeting resolved to place these recommendations before the academic bodies for further deliberations and action which will help Mahatma Gandhi University to become a truly multidisciplinary University with mandatory student intake achieving international academic leadership.
- I. Further resolved to establish off campuses with finishing schools and International Schools of higher Learning to attract students from other states, NRI students and international students. The international schools of higher learning shall be equipped to offer graduate as well as post graduate programmes with global standards.



- J. Also resolved to create a programme-syllabus bank/ repository for effective implementation of programmes as per the requirement and demand.
- K. The meeting further resolved to expand open and distance learning in all possible areas after assessing the demand prevailing.

### **3) AQAR Data Collection And Submission**

It is noted that data collection and consolidation works, with respect to AQAR 2024 is ongoing in IQAC Section consulting with all the Schools/Departments/Centres. Since the AQAR submission window is closed for now, review and verification of the consolidated data will be scheduled as and when any intimation from NAAC is received on the opening of submission window.

### **4) Any other item permitted by the chair**

#### **A. Future of the New School of Advanced Design Studies**

It is noted that, in order to meet with the advancement in the field of Digital media and Visual media, establishment of a School of Digital Media and Visual Studies, in the name of former Vice Chancellor, Shri. U. R. Ananthamurthy, is detailed in the University Budget for 2025-26 with an allocation of 5 lakh Rupees. In view of this, it is decided to discontinue the proposal for the new School of Advanced Design Studies put forward in the IQAC meeting of 08.04.2024. Instead, courses within the new School of Digital Media and Visual Studies will be designed to address the latest developments in print and visual design as well.

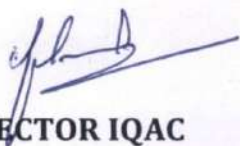
#### **B. Formation of a Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) Cell**

It has been decided to establish the SEDGs Cell according to UGC guidelines to ensure opportunities for inclusive, equal and quality higher education for SEDG students, similar to existing statutory bodies such as SC/ST Cell, Equal Opportunity Cell etc. It is noted that this is essential to earn points in the "Grading of HEIs" as part of the assessment for implementing NEP 2020, which will become a crucial component in the categorization of universities and other regulatory requirements of UGC.

#### **C. Appointment of a Chief Vigilance Officer**

It is proposed to nominate and appoint an individual as the 'Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO)' in accordance with the guidelines on Public Self-Disclosure by HEIs set by UGC; adherence to which is being verified by UGC stringently.

The meeting was concluded at 5:00 PM, with an acknowledgement of the efforts made by all attendees.



**DIRECTOR IQAC**



**VICE CHANCELLOR**

**VICE - CHANCELLOR**