

GOA UNIVERSITY

Minutes of the Advisory Committee of Internal Quality Assurance (IQAC)

A meeting of the Advisory Committee of IQAC under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Harilal B. Menon, was held on 17th September 2024 at 3.00 p.m. in the Council Hall, Administrative Block, Goa University.

The following IQAC members were present for the meeting:

Prof. S. Krishnan, Officiating Registrar
Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Director, Directorate of Digital Learning and Initiatives
Prof. Rajendra Gad, Director, Directorate of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
Dr. Vanita Patil Gaude, Finance Officer, Goa University
Shri Sameer Manohar Patil, Controller of Examinations
Shri Sanjay Bandodkar, HOCC, Goa University
Dr. Harip Khanapuri, Director, Directorate of International Cooperation and Exchange
Dr. Rupesh Patre, Director, Directorate of Student Placement and Alumni Relations
Dr. Ramrao Wagh, President, GUTA
Dr. Ajay R. Gaude, External Expert, Alumni, Senior Scale Officer of Goa Civil Services.
President, Goa University Campus Students Union
Prof. Sunder N. Dhuri, Director, DIQA/IQAC, Member Secretary
Prof. Vidhyadatta M. S. Verenkar, NAAC Coordinator (Special Invitee)
Prof. B. P. Sarath Chandran, NEP Cell Coordinator (Special Invitee)

External members Shri Kiran Mehta & Shri Damodar Kochkar could not attend the meeting. Asst. Librarian Mrs. Shambhavi N. Joshi was invited to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the members to the first meeting of IQAC and then requested the Member Secretary take up various agendas for the discussion.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2024.

Member Secretary noted that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th May 2024 were circulated to all members of IQAC, and there were no changes received from the members. Hence, he requested to confirm the minutes, and the committee confirmed the same.

Agenda 2: Coaching for aspirants of IAS competitive exams

The chairperson emphasized the importance of conducting IAS coaching for aspirants of Goa, which includes campus, college, and other candidates in the state). He mentioned that such UPSC coaching is needed in Goa as very few students have cleared UPSC exams, and many of them require some coaching support. Therefore, the University has taken the initiative to see the possibility of giving training to the students. He requested Dir-DSPAR to update the agenda. Dir-DSPAR informed us that his office has been working on this matter for more than a year now and has done an initial survey to identify the appropriate party who can conduct the coaching for students. He mentioned that after conducting a proper study, DSPAR identified M/s Chanakya Mandal Parivar, Pune, as the coaching service provider. He mentioned they would conduct

offline induction sessions and virtual interactive sessions for a batch of a minimum of 100 students. He mentioned that his office is working on modalities, and a whole program that suits Goa University's terms and conditions will be prepared. The external member, Dr. Ajay Gaude, said that this is a good initiative. However, all Government norms are to be followed in identifying the correct party; there should be no problems for the University. Dir-DSPAR informed that the necessary terms and conditions have been followed. He informed that quotations were invited from coaching service-providing centers. He mentioned that DSPAR has received seven quotations, and all these parties have a minimum of five years of experience, and then only the lowest party quotation was shortlisted following the procedure. He mentioned that no order has been released so far and that only after following due procedure and consulting authorities the decision would be arrived at. Dr. Ajay suggested that the Tribal Welfare Department could be approached to support the needy students as they have been supporting the students from tribal communities for competitive exams. He expressed that if the Tribal Welfare Department supports such students, it would be of great help to them. The chairman appreciated the suggestions of the external member and requested that Dir-DSPAR look into all points raised by the members and process the proposal accordingly.

Action: Dir-DSPAR

Agenda 3: Centralized Undergraduate exam

Hon. Vice Chancellor informed us that the University has proposed conducting the CET exam for all the students who are aspiring to be admitted to various undergraduate programs in the colleges. He felt that it would help the students and they could choose a nearby center, reducing the distance of travel. He further informed us that correspondence has been made to the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE).

Action: Deputy Registrar-Academic

Agenda 4: Issuing mark sheets at the end of coursework in the PhD program.

Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay suggested issuing the certificate to Ph.D. students upon completion of their coursework by the COE's office, which would help understand the performance of the students in their coursework. Vice Chancellor agreed, highlighting its usefulness in the PhD students' careers. Prof. Mukhopadhyay informed that such a system is already in place at some of the universities in India and recommended only giving a "pass" remark on the certificate to prevent fostering competition among students. Prof. Verenkar felt that attendance would be a significant factor, particularly for part-time students, as regular attendance may not be feasible for them, given that there are more part-time than full-time students. Prof. Gad supported the idea of giving a certificate; however, pointed out that there should be more clarity on deciding what should come on the certificate, the marks or credits. Prof. Dhuri mentioned that OA-40 has a provision to provide marksheets to the students upon completion of their coursework. The chairman requested the COE to comment on this aspect, and the COE agreed to issue a certificate to the candidate upon completion of PhD coursework. It was resolved that the exam section would issue the final certificate, and the certificate would reflect course names, codes, and the credits earned by the candidate, and no marks should be shown. The Chairman informed the COE to take the necessary steps in this matter.

Action: CoE office

Agenda 5: Briefing on NIRF ranking 2024 results

Member Secretary provided an overview of NIRF scores obtained by the University under each parameter. He informed that NIRF has not provided the split-up of the sub-parameters scores, and only the main category scores have been declared. He noted that the University has been ranked in the band 151-200 in the University category, while in the state public University category, the University has been ranked between 51-100. He informed that 2781 unique institutes participated in the NIRF 2024 ranking, with an increase of 303 institutions compared to last year. In the TLR category, the University has performed well. The TLR score is improved to 54.42 in 2024 as compared to 52.95 in 2023. The University score in the Perception category has increased substantially from 3.90 in 2023 to 13.63 this year. He mentioned that the scores of the RPP and GO categories are slightly decreased compared to the 2023 scores. It was noted that the overall score of the University has improved to 38.44 in 2024 compared to 37.96 in 2023. All members deliberated on the results and felt that in TLR, RPP & GO, where weightage is higher, the University should take the necessary steps to improve on these categories. Chairman informed that with an increase in the number of PhD guides, the PhD enrollment has increased. He informed that all faculty members are made aware of the importance of projects, quality publications and IPR activities. He mentioned that the number of project submissions to various funding bodies has improved in 2024. The university has been working on strengthening the infrastructure for research and academic programs in the last two years. The chairman instructed the increase in the number of online courses via DDLI. Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay mentioned that a meeting on MOOCs with Swayam and NPTEL would be organized. Additionally, the vice-chancellor asked CoE to bring to his notice the delays in the schools' submission of results. CoE informed that in some programmes of GBS, the results are slightly delayed. CoE informed that necessary instructions would be sent to the concerned schools in this regard. The chairman also informed us that the actual intake and sanctioned intake of students are affecting the NIRF scores, and hence, it would be ideal to look at these numbers considering the last five years' data. Prof. Gad recommended that Ph.D. fellowships be granted in the first year after registration, while Prof. Mukhopadhyay added that higher fellowship amounts could be considered. It was felt that many institutions provide fellowships once the students are admitted for a PhD, and hence, many of our good students go there for a PhD. All members supported this suggestion to increase the fellowship from Rs. 22,000 to Rs. 25000 per month and start the fellowship in the first year to attract full-time students on campus. The chairman appreciated the suggestions by the members and instructed Dir-DIQA to inform the concerned sections to initiate the process.

Action: COE, DDLI, DRDRM, DIQA

Agenda 6: NAAC Peer Team recommendations

The member secretary was informed that the NAAC peer team made ten recommendations, which the university had to fulfill before going for the next assessment. It was also informed that currently, 7 criteria guidelines are still valid, and the University can go for assessment before 26th Dec 2025, by which a cooling period of three years will be over. He also informed that the university is getting the experts' view on this aspect, and accordingly, the authorities will decide further. The following recommendations were deliberated, and the current status of each was discussed.

1. Research Park be established on the campus to promote more interdisciplinary approach in research and also Ph.D. enrollment be increased.

Chairman, the Vice-Chancellor informed that Research Park has been established and will be inaugurated soon. With Research Park in operation, students and the public will be able to incubate their ideas. He also mentioned that the University has proposed to introduce engineering programs like Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering, and the process is ongoing. He also informed that the number of PhD enrollment is increasing as many of the teachers have become recognized guides. In addition, many faculties are getting projects which will help increase the number of full-time PhD students.

2. The entire campus should be Divyang friendly and well-maintained with an eco-friendly approach, and fencing /walls should be made for greater safety.

Chairman informed in all the new buildings constructed recently are divyang friendly. These buildings include Faculty Block E, F, and G. The proposed buildings under the MERU project will be Divyang friendly. The SPAS building is almost ready and will be Divyang-friendly, with all the necessary facilities. The old buildings (Block A, D, C & D) are renovated wherever possible with Divyang-friendly facilities.

3. The use of ICT be enhanced to make the university fully digital.

The head of the computer center, Mr. Sanjay Bandokar, mentioned that the university has automated almost all administrative processes through the e-office file processing modules and that the e-office is functioning smoothly. Before its implementation, several training sessions were conducted for the employees. He informed that the University is currently in the process of e-Samarth implementation and mentioned that once all modules are created, the training sessions will be conducted for smooth functioning. He also informed that the admission module for GU-ART and other entrance tests is in its final stage.

4. More sports and cultural activities be promoted among students for their participation at national/international levels.

The chairman informed that the university has now appointed a full-time assistant sports director and other staff members to work in the sports division. In the last three years, several sports activities have been conducted for the University and college students. In addition, several cultural activities were organized by the schools. He requested Dir-DIQA to collect all the activity reports and keep them for record purposes. The University Students Council under the Directorate of Students Welfare and Cultural Affairs has also organized various events like the Ghumat Arati competition, Plateaunica, etc. The students have participated in intercollege, inter-university, state, and national events. Our students also participated in the National Games. The chairman informed that the University has also financially supported students in sports participation.

5. Alumni Association be registered, and its potential to be leveraged for greater support to the university.

Director DSPAR and DICE informed that the Goa University Alumni Association is now active. The membership drive has led to an increase in the number of life members. He also informed that several activities have been conducted under the association. Prof. Verenkar mentioned that the Chemistry Department Faculty and Alumni Association also have conducted various activities. The chairman informed the DSPAR to speed up the process of re-registration and organize the alumni meet like last year.

6. Humanities and Social Science departments need to enhance research productivity through research grants and quality publications.

The Chairman informed that the Humanities and Social Science disciplines are now performing well, and their output is increasing. In these disciplines, the majority of the permanent posts are filled, and most of the faculty members have registered for PhD, and they will be completed soon. He informed that several workshops have been organized for the faculty & students in these disciplines in research and other activities. The university has provided the IPR grants to faculty in social sciences and humanities. He appreciated that the research productivity and publications are increasing, and many of the faculty members are writing projects. He informed that the projects of 1.3 crores from agencies like ICSSR, Goa State Research Foundation, etc, have been sanctioned so far.

7. The university needs to mobilize more funds from industries and corporations through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The chairman informed that the university is receiving good responses from industries and corporations conducting activities under CSR. Recently, Deccan Chemicals has helped the University to enhance green initiatives on campus through CSR. In addition, several activities are happening in different schools under CSR initiatives. The various chairs are created by the Government of Goa and other private bodies, which benefit University students and the public.

8. Locally and globally relevant new degree programmes in emerging areas be introduced in line with NEP 2020 and also to promote sustainable development Goals of UN.

The university has implemented a NEP-2020 based curriculum for undergraduate and post-graduate programmes. Recently, the University started new programmes like MSc data science, MSc AI, BA French, BA Portuguese, MA Sanskrit, MA Public Administration, MSW, LLM. University will start integrated programmes in MA, MBA very soon. University is also planning to start engineering and integrated programmes on campus.

9. More students need to be attracted from across the states and other countries, with more hostels that meet international standards.

The chairman informed that due to the pandemic, student enrollment from other states and abroad was affected. The enrollment of students from other states and abroad has improved in the last two years. The university will construct three hostels for the students.

10. Blended education with more courses through online mode, Swayam platforms be promoted. Chairman informed that the university has already adopted the SWAYAM guidelines of UGC, and an ordinance for SWAYAM online courses is in place. For all the programmes, the option of students enrolling for SWAYAM courses is made available, and the number of students enrolling for such courses is increasing day by day. The university has adopted ABC guidelines, and student enrollment on the ABC portal is made compulsory for students. COE informed that the process of credit depositing on the ABC portal has also begun.

The Chairman requested that NAAC coordinator Prof. Verenkar review all recommendations and prepare the report before the assessment process starts.

Action: DIQA / NAAC Coordinator

Agenda 7: Briefing on proposed binary accreditation guidelines of NAAC

Prof. Verenkar, the NAAC coordinator, informed that NAAC has released a draft guideline for Binary Accreditation. He mentioned that in the new NAAC methodology, there would be ten criteria instead of seven criteria as in the current system. He informed that NAAC will release its final guidelines for binary accreditation very soon, while the guidelines of maturity-based guidelines will be released in Jan 2025 as per the information from NAAC. He mentioned that the university has to go through a maturity-based process, which would be more difficult than the current method. The binary methodology is based on input, process, and output data, and therefore, to capture all steps, continuous efforts and decisions need to be made from time to time to fetch the good points. The NAAC coordinator discussed the binary attributes of NAAC and suggested the formation of clubs at the discipline or each school level.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasized the need to enroll Ph.D. students who are committed to completing their studies. He observed that many students are leaving the PhD programme in between, which is not good for the students and the University. He further suggested that there should be more community-based research projects like "puran sheti" (farming). Prof. Sanjeev Ghadi informed that his school plans to conduct research on chronic kidney disease in Canacona since there has been no systematic study on this issue so far.

Prof. Verenkar informed that, as per the proposed guidelines, there should be a risk management plan. He suggested that the appropriate risk management plan should be ready, and sufficient corpus funds should be available from the university to take care of employees' salaries for 6-8 months. He also proposed to provide travel grants for the masters/PhD students to attend national or international sports events and conferences. He further mentioned that a satisfaction survey involving management, teachers, and principals has to be conducted. Prof. Verenkar mentioned that there is a need for a biomedical waste plant. Prof. Sanjeev Ghadi added that a biomedical waste committee had been constituted to monitor waste disposal and that an outside agency could be appointed to manage this task. Since these new guidelines will be very comprehensive and involve lots of new things, the Vice-Chancellor requested the NAAC coordinator to hold a full-day workshop on the new guidelines of NAAC once they are launched.

Action: DRDRM/Finance Officer/DR-Academics/DIQA/NAAC Coordinator

Agenda 8: AOB

As for AOB, there were no additional topics to discuss; the committee thanked all the external members for their participation and deliberations in the meetings of IQAC and for helping the University. The meeting ended with thanks to all.

Prof. Sunder N. Dhuri
Member Secretary, Dir-DIQA

Prof. H.B. Menon,
Chairperson & Vice-Chancellor

The action was taken on the items discussed in the meeting held on 29/05/2024

Item	Action Taken
UGC UTSAH portal	The necessary cells are created, and the center for IKS has been formed.
OBE	The OBE workshop was conducted, and the policy is being processed.
Different Rankings	Time-to-time monitoring and data collection
UGC CARE list policy	No changes are suggested. Konkani Journal could be encouraged as there are fewer numbers.
R&D projects and Patents	Several proposals were submitted to GSRF.