

Minutes of IQAC meeting at 1400 hrs, 29-09-2023 at the Conference Hall of the Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad

The following members were present:

1	Prof BJ Rao, Vice Chancellor, UoH	Chairperson	14	Prof Samarat L Sabat, Director RDC	Additional Member
2	Dr Devesh Nigam, Registrar, UoH	Registrar	15	Prof Ghanshyam Krishna, Director IoE	Additional Member
3	Mr Thukaram Porika, Controller of Exams (I/C)	Member	16	Prof Thirumal, Associate Director	Member
4	Dr N Varatharajan, Librarian, IGML-UoH	Ex-officio Member	17	Prof KK Kailash, Associate Director, Ranking	Member
5	Dr B Jagadeesh, IICT, Hyderabad	Alumni Nominee	18	Prof Anand K Kondapi, Director IQAC	Member Secretary
6	Dr Srinivas Orungati, Dr Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences	External Member			
7	Prof G Sridevi	Member			
8	Prof Manjari Katju	Member			
9	Prof V Subrahmanyam	Member			
10	Prof Ramulu Pillalamarri	Member			
11	Prof R Chandrasekhar	Member			
12	Prof Alok Singh	Member			
13	Prof Kota Arun Kumar	Member			

The following members could not attend the meeting:

1	Dr C Nirmala Raju	External Member	2	Dr Ullas S Kolthur, TIFR, Hyderabad	External Member
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The meeting began with a welcome address by the Director, IQAC. He thanked the outgoing member Prof P Sailaja, welcomed Prof Manjari Katju and Mr Thukaram Porika and spelled out the main agenda points.

The Chairman of the IQAC and Vice Chancellor, welcomed the members.

The agenda items were then discussed, and the following were resolved.

Item No. 1

The Director, IQAC presented an Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the IQAC Committee held on May 12, 2023. The minutes of IQAC committee meeting held on May 12, 2023, were approved.

Further, it was resolved that depending on the specificity of the agenda item to be discussed, if required, additional members will be invited as special invitees for the IQAC Committee meeting to share their expertise with the members.

Item No. 2

The Director, IQAC appraised the Committee of the various activities that the IQAC had done since May 2023.

The activities of the IQAC between May 12 to Sept 29, 2023, were discussed and approved.

IQAC protocol for recommending and forwarding journals proposed by faculty members to Nodal Officer, UGC-CARE:

- 1) The application in UGC CARE format will be sent to two experts in the subject area nominated by the Vice Chancellor. If it is a split verdict, then it will be sent to a third expert. The majority recommendation will then be sent to the VC for the final decision.
 - The Committee noted and confirmed the protocol for journal recommendations.

Item No. 3

Faculty empowerment and performance: Interaction of IQAC Team with faculty members of all Schools.

The Director, IQAC mentioned that the details were available on the agenda that was circulated and only highlighted the major concerns that faculty members raised during the interaction meetings.

The Committee noted the concerns and recommended the following:

- Should examine how other central universities are managing finances and advances, based on that a meeting may be organised with the Finance and Accounts
- Registrar informed that entrance examinations will be held in May – July. Also, there is a possibility of centralised counselling. UGC may bring a common academic calendar to all universities from next year. Thus, the disruptions will be minimised, and calendars will be followed as announced from 2024.
- RDC office has simplified consultancy plans in place, currently placed for feedback from the stake holders.
- RDC to scout for sponsorship/funds under CSR.
- Appreciates that majority of the Academic and Administrative units have uploaded their webpages on uohyd.ac.in domain. The new website framework proposed with the support of IoE will help provide more information to users and will also be more accessible and user friendly.
- Transport facilities will be enhanced.
- IoE incentive schemes are in place.
- Based on the proposals received from Academic Units (AUs) through School Boards, IQAC to prepare a draft representation to the UGC for consideration “(a) peer-reviewed full length conference papers of Computer Science and Management of

highly reputed conferences & (b) Scopus / Web of Science indexed Books/ book chapters" for inclusion and possible consideration for recruitment and CAS promotions.

Item no. 4

Quality issues in Journal Publications

The Committee agreed that the University must actively discourage publications with undesirable publishing etiquette and unfair practices. Only journals that follow good peer-review and research practices should be counted for recruitment and promotion.

The Committee also noted the menace of cloned journals and the need for Screening and Selection Committees need to be more vigilant.

The Committee recommends:

- a. In the interest of transparency, a UoH mandate on publications should be made available on the website. AUs adopt criteria commonly followed by Scopus (as given under) to identify cloned/fake/predatory journals and journals with questionable/poor publishing practices.
- b. The criteria include:
 1. Academic contribution to the field
 2. Clarity of abstracts
 3. Quality and conformity with the stated aims and scope of the journal
 4. Readability of the articles- spelling and grammar or irrelevant text.
 5. Citedness of the said journal- are articles from the journal cited by others.
 6. Editor standing
 7. Deviation from best practices including unprofessional looking web page of the journal, deviation from common editorial and publication standards.
 8. False and misleading information/claims including, journal metrics, incorrect addresses, misrepresentation of the editorial board, false claims of indexing and/or membership of associations and misleading claims about peer review.
 9. Transparency issues including little or no information on how editorial decisions are made, peer review is conducted, editors and members of their editorial boards are often unverifiable.
 10. Topic and authorship drifts include published articles are not in line with the journal's aims, scope of the journal being too vast/broad or does not fit the topic of the journal and main authorship is not from the community the journal intends to serve.
 11. Quality of journal webpages, Check URL- especially extension.
 12. Prominently state that they are in UGC-CARE and issue certificates.
 13. Catch-all subject coverage often outside original scope.
 14. Different location and language of the journal.
 15. Publications in A-4 size pages with minimum page setting and formatting.
- c. About the review of publications of applicants (CAS or direct recruitments) and determining whether they are eligible to be called for interview, it is resolved that:
 - The screening committee should follow minimum eligibility criteria as applicable under UGC regulations (For Example: UGC regulations, 2018). The above UoH mandate on publication criteria may be circulated by the Recruitment section as screening committee guidelines to the AUs.

- While reviewing an application, if the Screening Committee detects/observes issues relating to quality of the research publication or any other deviations from established and acceptable norms for scholarly publication and research, the Committee may register its observations about the lack of credentials in a separate note to the Selection Committee. The note will be placed along with the application for the review of the Selection Committee whenever there is an interaction with the candidate.

Regarding the review of publications for both CAS and Direct recruit applicants, following criteria will be followed by IQAC:

- i) All publications on or after June 14, 2019, will be assessed as per UGC CARE/ SCOPUS/Web of Science (UGC Gazette notification 2018 of minimum qualifications refers to peer-reviewed or UGC-listed journals. The EC Item No. EC: 189:2022: 11 resolved to consider the research publications only in the journals indexed in the UGC-CARE list publications, prospectively)
 - ii) All publications prior to June 14, 2019, will be first checked if they are in the UGC CARE/ SCOPUS/Web of Science/ UGC Cancelled list. If they are not in the "UGC CARE/ SCOPUS/Web of Science/ UGC Cancelled list", then the Screening Committee will review these publications and certify that the said publications can be considered as peer reviewed or not and counted under minimum eligibility conditions to be called for interview. If they are not considered as peer-reviewed they will go a negative list- details spelt out below.
 - iii) Every AU should maintain a data bank of Journals with questionable/poor publishing practices. These could include cloned/dubious/fake/predatory and so on as well as those that are not considered as peer reviewed. Once a journal is in this negative list, it will not be counted for any CAS or direct recruitment applications. The negative list of journals with questionable/poor publishing practices should be sent to the IQAC.
 - iv) Further, if the Screening Committee detects any malpractice/mischief/poor publishing practices in a UGC-CARE/SCOPUS/Web of Science journal, it should be flagged and brought to the notice of IQAC.
 - v) Any observation provided by the IQAC on the application should be referred back to the Screening committee and the latter should send respond within the time stipulated by the Recruitment Section. Final decision will be with the approval of the competent authority.
- The Committee approved this process.

Item no. 5

Draft AQAR 2022-23 was presented.

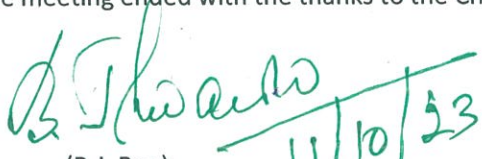
The Committee notes.

- CUET and NTA have led to large number of students moving in and out of the university. Need to rethink on how "dropouts" were being counted. Students leaving before the admission closes for other courses/programmes or universities should be counted as withdrawals and not dropouts.
- Expressed concern over the gap between enrolment and award of PhD degrees.
- Student progression data must be captured in a more efficient manner.
- Appreciates the prompt sharing of information by different AUs and Offices.

- Research funding should include individual funding received by students and faculty members for research, RDC will provide this information for updating in AQAR.

The members were requested to share their comments before 6th Oct 2023, based on the comments, the AQAR will be finalised and submitted to the Academic Council for consideration.

The meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair and members.


(B.J. Rao)
Chairman & Vice-Chancellor
11/10/23


(Anand K Kondapi)
Director & Member Secretary, IQAC
9/10/23