

GOVERNING BODY

2020-21

Minutes of Meeting

Day & Date: Saturday, 10th December 2020

Time: 4.00 PM

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Members present:

Chairperson - Mr. Suresh Goklaney – Chairman, Management Board
Mr. Kamal Bhawnani – Member, Management Board
Dr. Rajesh Thadani – Member, Management Board
Dr Sreela Dasgupta - Senior faculty nominated by Principal
Dr. Sushil Kulkarni - Senior faculty nominated by Principal
Dr. Anushree Lokur – University Nominee
Dr. V.S. Chatpalli – UGC Nominee
Dr Ashok G. Wadia – Principal & Ex-officio Member

Members absent:

Dr. Rupa Shah – Educationist, Nominated by Management
State Government Nominee – Awaited

Agenda

1. Passing of minutes of meeting held on 21.12.2019
2. Discussion on Action Taken Report
3. Ratification of M.Sc. Big Data Analytics Course
4. Ratification of Syllabi of even semesters
5. Innovative strategies adopted for Online teaching
6. Quality measures in Evaluation system
7. Passing of Financial Accounts
8. Any other matter

Principal Dr Ashok Wadia commenced the meeting with everyone's permission. He started by giving a brief overview of the activities conducted by the college in the pandemic period. He reminded all

that immediately after the last GB meeting in Dec 2019, the pandemic started setting in resulting in total lockdown from Mar 2020 onwards. To relieve mental anxiety and psychological stress due to uncertainty, messages of reassurances and updates from the Principal were put up on the college website for students and parents. Virtual meetings were held with faculty, students and parents and also with Principals of other colleges in the vicinity, for academic planning and exchange of ideas. Mr Kamal Bhavnani made a special mention of the motivational Jai Hind Anthem designed by SDU. A number of other activities conducted by staff and students for intellectual and social engagement, mental and physical well-being, were also mentioned. A noteworthy start-up by the students was procurement and distribution of masks to front-line workers. A number of social activities were also carried out, eg. supply of food and other daily provisions to the needy. e-Shodh, an online research meet was organised where students participated in large numbers from several notable colleges across the length of India. Admissions for the 2020-21 academic session had to be entirely conducted online which included display of prospectus on college website, form submission, scrutiny, counselling sessions, payment of fees, and other related administrative procedures. Teachers were trained for teaching on digital platforms by an Online Task Force –‘TEACH’ comprising of faculty members and thereafter classes began as early as August. Proctored end-semester examinations for undergraduate and postgraduate courses were conducted on the online platform successfully. Teachers were trained for conduct of such examinations with respect to its conduct, design and question paper pattern. Students were oriented through remedial classes, doubt-solving and mock tests. Students of end semesters in the first/second year of under graduation or first year of postgraduation were promoted by applying the relevant formula as devised by the University. In this regard, Principal Wadia mentioned that he had been an integral part of this design and had made a presentation for all colleges of University. All other backlog examinations were also conducted successfully on the online platform and results declared.

1. The minutes of the last Governing Body meeting held on 10th December 2019 was presented by Principal Wadia.

The minutes were ratified and passed.

Proposed – Principal Dr Anushree Lokur; Seconded – Mr Suresh Goklaney.

2. The Action Taken Report was presented and discussed. Dr Chatpalli expressed his appreciation of the various efforts taken by the college in dealing with current situation.
3. The M.Sc. Big Data Analytics course was next placed for ratification before the GB members.
Proposed – Dr Sushil Kulkarni; Seconded – Mr Kamal Bhavnani

Principal Wadia explained that this was a premier course in collaboration with TCS which was offered by only 6 other institutes in India and only one other, St Xavier’s College in

Mumbai. He said that a short course on Data Analytics had earlier been conducted by the college in collaboration with Deloitte. Looking at the huge response it generated, talks with TCS were initiated. The unique feature of this course at Jai Hind was that the course was offered to students from other streams also, such as BMS, BAF, BBI, BFM, BBI, Economics, etc. Such students needed to successfully complete a Bridge Course in either Maths/Statistics/ IT depending upon his background, before the commencement of the actual Data Analytics course. The total number of available seats was 30. The fees for the course was fixed at Rs 90,000/- only, on par with what St Xavier's College. The syllabus for the course was designed with key features from Mathematics and IT and hence is also of an interdisciplinary nature.

4. The Syllabi of even semesters of all courses were presented for ratification. They were passed unanimously.

Proposed – Dr Sreela Dasgupta; Seconded – Dr Rajesh Thadani

5. Principal Wadia expressed the various measures the faculty were encouraged to adopt and exercise to ensure a smooth transition onto the digital platform. Courses conducted by Inflibnet, MHRD, IIDE were streamed live, some of which were also made open to faculty from other colleges. Faculty was also encouraged to participate and benefit from Coursera, Harvard Online Courses, TCS-ION, etc. An online task force 'TEACH' was created from amongst the faculty for training and troubleshooting. Surveys were also conducted both for students and teachers to understand problem faced, if any and to suggest suitable remedial measures. The major problems faced by students and teachers were connectivity issues and bandwidth as well as screen time. Yoga sessions were conducted for this purpose to relieve strain. Dr Wadia suggested that blended learning seemed to be a good option and may be encouraged to continue.

6. The Examination Audit was next presented. Principal Wadia emphasized the huge challenge faced by all to conduct examinations in these pandemic times. Suggestions given during the audit process could not be fully implemented due to the current scenario but will be worked upon once normalcy returns. Dr Chatpalli once again appreciated the efforts put forth by the college in this direction.

Proposed – Dr Rajesh Thadani; Seconded – Mr Suresh Goklaney

7. The Financial Accounts were next passed.

Proposed – Dr Chatpalli; Seconded – Mr Kamal Bhavnani

Principal Wadia reiterated that although it was planned to increase the course fees from the academic session 2020-21, the decision to do so was not implemented due to the current

pandemic situation. The excess amount of the revised fees which were collected as part of the admission process was currently being refunded to the students.

8. Dr Wadia proposed the name of Dr Sreela Dasgupta, IQAC Coordinator and Academic Head, for the Governing body in place of Ms Petra Sequeira who had retired.

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

Dr Chatpalli remarked that UGC had now proposed the phase-wise reopening of colleges, subject to State government approval. Dr Wadia remarked that he was aware of this proposition. However in a place like Mumbai, it may not be possible to implement with immediate effect due to problems in commuting Local train service is the heart of transport in the city and that it is still not 100% functional for all. Moreover, colleges may face issues of bandwidth etc. due to which smooth conduct of online teaching may not always be possible. Moreover, the college has a number of students from outside the state even so far as Jammu & Kashmir, under the PM Scholarship fund, for whom it may not be possible to switch over to a complete offline mode.

In reply to Dr Chatpalli's query, Principal Wadia stated that there has been a marked increase both in the number of applications as well as the number of admissions this academic year.

Dr Anushree Lokur apprised the GB members that the University wished to implement the measures suggested by NEP especially with reference to empowering the colleges to become 'Degree Granting Institutes'. Dr Chatpalli remarked that it is indeed a relevant current issue and that work should begin in this direction eg. In Karnataka State, a task force has already been created for this purpose. Dr Wadia placed his observations and remarked that the NEP is without doubt a dynamic makeover for the educational scenario. He however observed and agreed with Dr Chatpalli that there are certain operational problems such as the quality standards that need to be set by the University for this purpose so that the Colleges issuing degrees will find validity in the international field. He emphasized the need to adopt greater quality measures especially by the autonomous colleges to ensure higher standards of excellence. This will ensure that the colleges will rise to international standards and the process of issuing degrees by these college will then be a natural outcome. Dr Wadia then requested Dr Chatpalli to address these issues through a virtual meet not only for the Jai Hind faculty but also for faculty from other colleges so that his vast expertise in this field can benefit all. He can maybe suggest an effective road map for the same. The suggestion was very much appreciated and approved by all GB members especially Dr Anushree Lokur.

Dr Chatpalli agreed and even offered to bring along another expert, Professor MK Shridhar for this purpose.

Dr Chatpalli said there was a need to improvise an Institutional development Plan. A strategy will then be required for its smooth implementation. Dr Wadia said that something similar to what Professor Vasudha Kamat had suggested in her 'Mentoring' talks to autonomous colleges , could be adopted.

Dr Anushree Lokur suggested that the suggestions given in NEP can be implemented effectively once a college identifies its strengths and weaknesses and accordingly works upon them. 'Short' and 'Long' term goals should be devised by the college for an effective implementation of NEP.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.
