

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

AIU HOUSE, 16 COMRADE INDRAJIT GUPTA MARG NEW DELHI -110002



RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Date: September 13, 2021

Time [11:00 A.M]

AIU House

New Delhi-110002

RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Chairman
Col. Dr. G Thiruvassagam
Vice Chancellor
Academy of Maritime Education and Training
(Deemed to be University)
&
President, AIU

Members

Prof Suranjan Das
Vice Chancellor
Jadavpur University
188, Raja S.C. Mallick Rd, Kolkata
&
Vice President, AIU

Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak
Vice-Chancellor
Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Technical University
Sector-11, Jankipuram Extension
Lucknow 226 031 Uttar Pradesh

Prof Prem Kumar Kalra
Director
Dayalbagh Educational Institute
Dayalbagh Agra-282 005 (UP)

Prof. Bikashchandra Singha Mahapatra
Vice Chancellor
Bidhan Chandra Krishi
Vishwavidyalaya Nadia (WB)

Prof. (Dr) Sunil Kumar Joshi
Vice Chancellor
Uttarakhand Ayurved University
Railway Station Road
Harrawala, Dehradun-248001
(Uttarakhand)

Prof (Dr.) P Kaliraj
Vice Chancellor
Bharathiar University
Coimbatore, Tamilnadu

Prof R V Raja Kumar
Director
Indian Institute of Technology
Argul, Khordha
Bhubaneswar-752050 (Orissa)

Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal
Secretary General, AIU
Member Secretary

Dr Amarendra Pani
Joint Director & Head, Research Division
AIU, Secretary

Association of Indian Universities Minutes of Research Committee Meeting

September 13, 2021

The meeting of Research Committee of the Association of Indian Universities was held on September 2021 at 11.00 A.M. The Meeting was held on blended mode. Online provision was created through the Zoom platform for the members who couldn't make it to attend the meeting in physical presence. Following members were present:

Dr. G Thiruvassagam Vice Chancellor Academy of Maritime Education and Training & President, AIU	Chairman (Physical Presence)
Prof Suranjan Das Vice Chancellor Jadavpur University, Kolkata & Vice President, AIU	Member (Virtual Mode)
Prof Prem Kumar Kalra Director Dayalbagh Educational Institute Dayalbagh Agra	Member (Virtual Mode)
Prof. (Dr) Sunil Kumar Joshi, Vice Chancellor Uttarakhand Ayurved University Dehradun-248001	Member (Virtual Mode)
Prof (Dr.) P Kaliraj Vice Chancellor Bharathiar University Coimbatore, Tamilnadu	Member (Virtual Mode)
Prof R V Raja Kumar Director Indian Institute of Technology Argul, Khordha Bhubaneswar-752050 (Orissa)	Member (Virtual Mode)
Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal Secretary General, AIU	Member Secretary (Physical presence)
Dr Amarendra Pani Joint Director & Head, Research Division AIU	Secretary (Physical presence)

Prof. Bikashchandra Singha Mahapatra, Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya couldn't join due to some prior engagement.

The Meeting commenced with Prof G Thiruvassagam, President and Chairman of the Research Committee extending a warm welcome to the members of the Committee and

providing a brief background about the meeting. The Chairman, in his briefing informed that just a couple of days before the list of National Institutional Ranking framework have been released. He suggested that the member universities should send the list of issues faced by them to AIU. The Research Division will compile the issue which will be represented to the Ministry of education for their redressal.

Thereafter, congratulated to Jadavpur University and Bharathiar University for achieving overall NIRF ranking eight and twenty two. The agenda items were presented by Dr Amarendra Pani, Joint Director & Head Research Division and Secretary of the Research Committee.

AGENDA

1. To Confirm the minutes of the Research Committee Meeting held on **June 12, 2020**.

Confirmed

2. To Consider the **Action Taken Report** on the Minutes of Research Committee Meeting Held on June 12, 2020.

Resolution:*(On Item No 19 of ATR relating to establishment of Indian Network for Internationalization of Education (INIE) for promoting Indian Higher Education Abroad and facilitating the interaction with other such Associations and Networks in the World, the Committee endorsed the proposal to place the Final Concept/Background paper before the GC in its forthcoming Meeting).*

(On item No 24 of the ATR regarding the proposal for organizing online Anveshan: Student Research Convention for the financial year 2021-22, the committee appreciated the programme and suggested that the outreach of the programme should be extended and efforts be done to invite participation from IITs, NITs, IIMs and other reputed organizations so that visibility of the programme will enhance.

*On Item No 14 of the ATR the resolution was passed in view of the increasing online activities collaboration with other Indian Service providers engaged in promoting online education may also be explored. In compliance to the resolution a proposal received from **Edunet Foundation** is under consideration. The Committee resolved that the programmes be promoted on the basis of a reasonable fee charged by Edunet foundation. However, the matter to be left to the universities to decide.*

3. To report the successful Completion of the Research Project *"Exploring the Concept of using Eligible Enrolment Ratio (EER) in Higher Education" as a Parameter for Measuring Access to Higher Education.*

Noted & Approved

4. To Report the Successful Completion of the AIU-QASPIR Joint Research Project on **"Preparedness of Indian Higher Education Institutions for Online Education"**.

Noted & Approved

5. To report the progress of the Research Project "**Student Development Index: Conceptualizing and Identifying Relevant Parameters**".

Resolution: It was resolved that the Concept Paper be finalised and the project be completed in two months.

6. To report the successful Launching of AIU-QEDEX online Professional Development programme for Faculty Members and Administrators of our Higher Education Institutions on December 10, 2020.

Noted & Approved

7. To report the Successful organisation of following the Webinars/Roundtables/ Seminars.

i. National Webinar on "**World University Ranking in Indian Context**" in collaboration with Shoolini University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh on **April 05, 2021**.

ii. International Webinar on "**Philanthropic Funding in Higher Education: Exploring the Opportunities**" on **May 17, 2021**, at 3.00 P.M.

(Note: An initiative directed towards sensitizing the leaders of our Higher Education Institutions about International Philanthropic Funding. The Webinar was addressed by some of the internationally acclaimed Academic Luminaries Lord Meghnad Desai, formerly with London School of Economics, and other eminent Philanthropic Fundraisers.)

iii. Launching of AIU-QASPIR study report Entitled "**Preparedness of Indian Higher Education Institutions for Online Education**" on **June 17, 2021**.

iv. AIU-PRIA Blended Training Programme on **Fostering Social Responsibilities** during January 05-08, 2021.

v. Webinar on "**Innovation in Learning**" in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on June 29-30, 2021.

vi. Coordination and facilitation of the participation of member universities in the Research project initiated by **Student Experiences in Research Universities (SERU) Consortium** in collaboration with O P Jindal University, Sonipat, Haryana.

Noted & Approved

8. To Report the Successful Coordination and facilitation of the Government schemes/programmes/Initiatives launched by Government Agencies both at National & State Level and International Agencies: -

i. Coordination and facilitation of participation of member universities in Second Edition of the **Global Survey on Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education**. This was in response to the call of International Association of Universities (IAU).

- ii. Coordination and Promotion and of implementation of National Innovation and Start-up Policy in universities and other higher education Institutions, launched by National **Innovation Cell, Ministry of Education and AICTE**.
- iii. Promotion and facilitation of participation of member university students in Ahmedabad Toy Design Week Scheduled during February 03-07, 2021 initiated by **Gujarat Student Startup and Innovation Hub (i-Hub)**.
- iv. Coordination and facilitation of participation of member universities in **Yukti2.0 (MoE, GOI initiative)** which will enable the government to ensure that innovators from education institutes are facilitated and suitable opportunities are extended to the innovations from HEIs.

Resolution: The Committee Recommended that in future the detailed outcome of the programmes such as number of participations, impact, etc be appraised to Research Committee.

9. To report successful completion of Five online training programme in collaboration with Martha Farrell Foundation (MFF) for the faculty members of AIU Member universities for generating awareness among the faculty members, administrative staff on '**Sexual Harassment Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal (POSH) Act, 2013**' and create safe campuses in universities. **This has become a monthly feature.** So far 250 universities have been covered.

Noted & Approved

10. To Report the Organisation of **Anveshan: National Student Research Convention** in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi Pradyogiki Vishwavidyalaya (RGPV) in online mode during December 15-16, 2020.

(Note: Anveshan: A pioneering Initiative of the Research Division of AIU was introduced in the year 2007. The objective was to promote the culture of research and innovation in universities by identifying, incentivising and nurturing the young research talents. It has received accolades and appreciation from the universities. It has become an annual activity of the Research Division. Every year five Zonal Level and One National Level Research Conventions are organised in which innovative research projects in five areas are invited which are assessed by a panel of three experts in Five fields viz. Basic Sciences; Engineering & Tech.; Agriculture Sciences; Health Sciences & Allied subjects; Arts, Humanities, Business Management, Commerce and Law. The winning projects are incentivised through cash awards along with certificates and mementoes.)

Noted with Appreciation & Approved

11. To report the progress in Establishment of **Indian Network for Internationalisation of Higher Education (INIHE)** Consortium.

(Note: Concept Paper including preamble, objectives, functions, membership eligibility conditions and criteria and procedure and governance structure,

etc., is finalised. The Concept paper is approved and endorsed by the Committee Constituted for the Purpose under the Chairmanship of Dr Rajan Welukar, VC, Auro University after a series of deliberations. Nominations to be sought from President, AIU to constitute an Empowered Committee to guide on the funds, membership fees, donations, subscriptions, etc)

Resolution: Already reported in Item No. 19 of the Action Taken Report. The Concept Paper to be placed before GC in its forthcoming Meeting

12. To report the progress of establishing Industry-Academia Interface: AIU Portal.

(Note: As compliance to the Resolution of the Governing Council, the Approach/Concept Paper was prepared and placed before the Governing Council. The Governing Council appreciated the Approach /Concept Paper passed resolution that the paper be circulated to member universities for remark/feedback. Accordingly, the Paper was circulated Member Universities of AIU for seeking their Comments. The date for receiving the Comments was June 15, 2021. As per the resolution, a committee is to be constituted for finalizing the Approach/Concept Paper along with the implementation Plan. The proposed Committee may please be constituted so that the remarks from the member universities can be placed.

Resolution: The Secretary General informed that CII has initiated a matchmaking process of 100 universities with 100 industries. It was resolved to undertake the activity in similar manner. The Academia Industry Interface portal to be integrated with the AIU Portal.

13. To report the progress of preparing a Country Paper as preconference input for UNESCO Third World Higher Education Conferences scheduled during **Mid 2022**.

*(Note: An invitation was received from UNESCO requesting AIU participation in the above event. It was decided to develop a country paper on 10 subthemes identified by UNESCO as run up to the main theme. For the purpose Ten Universities were identified and the Events were allocated to them. Each university was assigned a main theme and related subthemes as identified by UNESCO. The universities were requested to nominate their coordinators and inform AIU for further coordination. AIU recommended two speakers on each theme to the respective universities. The universities were also asked to finalize the dates and list of speakers to be invited. The First Consultative Meet in the Series was organized in collaboration with Sabitribai Phule Pune University on the theme "**International Cooperation to Enhance Synergies**" on May 17, 2021 in which some eminent speakers from Academia, industry and Apex Bodies in Higher Education were the speakers. The Second Consultative Meet in the Series was organized in collaboration with Sri Sri University an Online Conference entitled **Quality & Relevance of Programmes** on July 9, 2021. The Third Consultative Meet in the Series was organized in collaboration with Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra on the Theme "**Inclusivity, Equality and Equity in Diverse***

Population in the Education Sector" on July 18, 2021). Follow up is being done with other Seven Universities to complete the consultative meets and submit the reports to AIU)

Resolution: Resolved that the consultative Meet/webinar in other seven universities be expedited.

14. To report the progress of Creating the Consultancy Cell in AIU.

(Note: The Policy document including the template of agreement, criteria for selecting the consultants on merit, transparency factor, framing of detailed guidelines for selecting panel of consultants, legal aspects, constitution of committee for selecting panels of consultants, dispute resolution, selection and allocation of projects, ethics policy, term of reference, mechanism of determining the consultancy fee etc. for empanelling the Consultants with the purpose of providing consultancy services to member universities/institutions in the implementation of various policies/initiatives in higher education is prepared.

A committee may be constituted to finalize the Guidelines along with Terms and Conditions for engaging AIU Consultants. The final Guidelines may be placed before the GC for consideration.)

Noted & Approved

15. To report the Successful Publication of Indian Higher Education Profile for the year 2019-20

(Note: The Indian Higher Education Profile (2018-19) brought out by the Research Division as part of its database activities includes state wise Statistical Profile of Higher Education in two broad segments viz Demographic Information and Academic Profile. In crisply designed graphical presentations and charts the reports provides a glance of Higher education Structure, demographic profile such as population, literacy rate, projected population and educational profile like number of colleges and universities, accreditation status, grading and ranking of institutions, level and gender wise enrolments, gross enrolment ratio, gender wise number of teachers, intake capacity, teacher-pupil ratio, gender parity and facilities in campus in a consolidated manner. The data available in AISHE portal has been compiled, collated and the report is published in the report.

Noted with Appreciation & Approved

16. To report the Successful Completion and bringing out Publication of Following publication:

- i. Book on "Reimagining Indian Universities".*
- ii. COVID-19 Response Toolkit for Indian Higher Education Institutions.*
- iii. Protecting Academic Interest of Students During COVID-19 Pandemic and Sharing Best Practices.*

Noted with Appreciation & Approved

17. To Report the launching of following Awards/Schemes by AIU for the encouragement of Best Researchers, Best Teacher, Best Publication and Best All Rounder's in AIU member universities.

- i. **AIU - University Joint National/International Conferences**
 - AIU Funding 10,000/- per Conference.
 - AIU will suggest and arrange National and International experts and resource persons if the University needs assistance.
 - Conference Participants will be given certificate by the AIU.
- ii. **AIU Awards and Citation to the Best all-rounder University Student**
 - As recommended by the Vice-Chancellor of the University.
 - Citation & Award to be presented in the Convocation of the University.
- iii. **AIU Awards and Certificates in the name of 'Dr. Radhakrishnan Award' to the Best Teacher Researcher**
 - The Vice-Chancellors are to select, nominate and recommend the faculty.
- iv. **AIU Awards and Certificates to the Teacher for Publishing Article(s) with the Highest Impact Factor**
 - As recommended by the Vice-Chancellor of the University.
 - To be distributed in the Founder's Day/ Formation Day function of the University.
- v. **AIU Best PhD Thesis Awards**
 - This Award will be given to all the disciplines of the University.
 - The Vice-Chancellor has to select and recommend the Thesis.
- vi. **AIU – ICAR Agri-tourism Scheme for facilitating the Students Visit to Agriculture Universities for Awareness.**

(Note: AIU, as an academic think tank organisation of the country caters to the need of all stakeholders including the leadership position of the universities, institutional requirements and the students too. As a part of its initiative to encourage the students, teachers, researchers in the member universities, AIU has taken the decision to launch the Awards/Schemes along with funding support by allocating a fund of Rs 1 Crore for the year 2021-22. The schemes are directed towards encouraging the researchers, faculty members, students of the member universities for improving the quality and standards of teaching, learning, research and publication.)

The Teachers Students and Researchers will be incentivised with Certificates, Awards, and Medals. AIU will request the NAAC, AICTE

and UGC to recognize the Certificate of AIU for Grading and Accreditation.

Resolution: Prof P Kaliraj, VC, Bharatiyar University, Coimbatore proposed that one more Award i.e Technology & Product Transfer Award be introduced along with other awards.

For recognition of Awards launched by AIU, the organisations like UGC, AICTE, NBA, etc. be approached.

Regarding the Scheme on Agro Tourism it was resolved that the programmes should be of three days duration and should also be credit base to generate interest among students. Prof R. V Rajakumar, Director, IIT, Bhubaneswar suggested that the programme should not be restricted to universities only, rather it should be extended to industries, firms and social organisation for better impact.

18. To consider the launching of **AIU Journal of Higher Education**

(Note: After the establishment of Consortium of Academic Research & Ethics (CARE), which is charged with the responsibility of streamlining the academic publication quality and adherence of ethics in publication, there has been a subsequent drop in the list of recognised peer reviewed research journal in higher education in the country due to the fact that the proliferation of substandard and predatory journals has been derecognised. Even, out of the small list of journals recognised by CARE some are not maintaining regularity in their publication. Often, the Research Division receives queries from the Researchers, teachers from the universities regarding the recognised peer reviewed journals for publication of their research inputs, papers and articles. In order to fill this void, it is proposed to launch a Research Journal entitled as "AIU Research Journal in Higher Education. The detail proposal is in process)

Resolution: President informed that proposal is afoot for launching an AIU Journal on Higher Education. It was also informed that process of constituting the Editorial Board including internationally reputed academics including Nobel Laureates is on. Efforts will be made to get the journals recognised by CARE of UGC.

19. To consider the proposal for organizing online Anveshan: Student Research Convention for the financial year 2021-22.

Noted & Approved

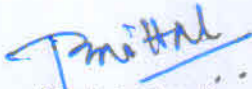
20. Any other Item with the permission of the Chair.


Resolution: To address in the issues encountered by the universities the proposal organising Roundtables of Vice Chancellor on Implementation of NEP 2020 was approved and the President informed that a Committee under the

Chairmanship of Prof S P Thyagarajan is already constituted to look into it.

Resolution: SDI gets incorporated in NAAC and NIRF.

Resolution: Some UGC-CARE list Journals not in the Scopus and hence not used for THE, NIRF which should be addressed.


(Pankaj Mittal)
Secretary General


(G Thiruvassagam)
President
