

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY ROHTAK

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON THE THEME "RANKING OF INSTITUTIONS AND ACCREDITATIONS" HELD ON 09-09-2015 AT 1.30 P.M IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ADJACENT TO OFFICE OF VICE - CHANCELLOR, MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY ROHTAK

A special meeting of a committee constituted to consider the draft (Annexure-A) and to give specific inputs on various issues raised in the document at (Annexure-B) enclosed with the letter F.No. 14-19/NEP/DO/2015 dated 26th August 2015 from NAAC on the theme "Ranking of Institution and Accreditation" was held under the auspices of Internal Quality Assuranace Cell of the University on 9th September 2015 at 01:30 p.m. in the committee room adjacent to Vice-Chancellor's office, Maharshi Dayanand University Rohtak.

The following members were present:

- 1. Prof. Sunita Malhotra, Dean Academic Affairs, M.D.University Rohtak
- 2. Prof. Gulshan Taneja, Director IQAC, M.D.University Rohtak
- 3. Prof. Kuldeep Chhikara, Director Career Counseling & Placement Cell, M.D.U. Rohtak
- 4. Prof. Pardeep Ahlawat, Coordinator IQAC, M.D.U. Rohtak
- 5. Dr Sunit Mukherjee, Director, Public Relations Office, M.D.U Rohtak
- 6. Dr Rakesh Gupta, Director, University of Health Sciences Rohtak
- 7. Mr Rajesh Jain, Industrialist (Managing Director LPS Bossard Pvt Ltd)
- 8. Mr Subhash Mahendru, Industrialist & President- Rotary Club Rohtak
- 9. Mrs Neelam Badhwar, President Inner Wheel Club, Rohtak
- 10. Dr Ashwani Dhingra, President M.D. University Teachers' Association
- 11. Narender Kumar, General Secretary M.D. University Non Teaching Employees Association
- 12. Mr Kuldeep Nara, Secretary M.D. University Alumni Association
- 13. Dr Sumeet Gill, Nodal Officer AISHE, M.D.U. Rohtak
- 14. Shalini Dhankhar, a student of Department of English & Foreign Languages, M.D.U. Rohtak

The committee deliberated at length on the Theme of "Ranking of Institutions and Accreditations" considering the draft (Annexure-A sent by NAAC) and the document (Annexure-B sent by NAAC). Outcome of the discussion on the questions in Annexure-A and Inputs on the issues raised in Annexure-B are as follows:

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Outcome of the Questions in Annexure-A

Question for Discussion

Should India focus its resources on research universities, including liberal arts and social sciences so as to improve the country's position in the global rankings?

Outcome of the Discussion

Research, in the areas of science and technology, liberal arts and social sciences, is the elementary obligation on the way to improve global ranking of any country and specifically requires adequate funding. India should focus on equitable distribution of funds for research across the spectrum of Universities. Moreover, bureaucratic bottlenecks need to be removed to further the cause of research. There is no harm if specific 'research' varsities are created solely for the purpose of research. Furthermore, positions of Professor (Research) be created and funded by UGC for research purpose only.

Question for Discussion

Should not India develop its own ranking system relying on indicators more suitable to Indian situation as other ranking systems have heavy weightage for perception/subjective factors in which Indian Universities lose out?

Outcome of the Discussion

India may develop its own national ranking system creating/identifying indicators based on Indian educational setting as well as keeping in consideration the global parameters for considerate situational analysis of the capabilities of the universities and students, which eventually will give an edge to the Indian varsities/higher education institutions to compete globally. Also, admissions of International students and global faculty be encouraged so as to enable India to be a Global Education Hub.

Question for Discussion

Accreditation has been made mandatory for all institutions (whether the institution is publicly funded or not)? Is this approach correct or not?

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Outcome of the Discussion

For maintaining quality of higher education and development of the standard of educational system in an innovative manner, all the institutions (no matters publicly or privately funded) should undergo the process of accreditation continually. Furthermore, to stop the mushroom growth of Private Universities, stringent eligibility conditions, monitoring system and mandatory accreditation must be in place. This way the so called 'Higher Education Institutions' which are nothing but shops will get exposed to the society and hence will automatically get closed due to the poor grading on accreditation.

Question for Discussion

How should we facilitate the process of accreditation to make the process more objectively verifiable and transparent?

Outcome of the Discussion

To make the process more objectively verifiable and transparent, the university resources, infrastructure, curriculum, faculty and all varsity related matters must be compulsorily uploaded on their websites along with the Internal Academic and Administrative Audit duly carried out by them and with justifiable logics for showing the proper utilization of the institutional resources.

The process of awarding 'grade' by NAAC (and the assessment thereof by NAAC Peer Team) must be made more transparent by declaring the score for each key aspect of every criterion by the NAAC Team itself before the head of the institution.

Question for Discussion

Should we focus on programme accreditation or institutional accreditation or both?

Outcome of the Discussion

Accreditation at the institutional level should be foremost. Moreover, if any department of an accredited institution is willing to get its programme accredited separately, may be allowed to do so for its personal standard sustenance.

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Inputs on the Issues Raised in Annexure-B

Issue

What changes could be suggested in the accreditation systems:

- > Having Independent quality assurance frameworks.
- > Having a unified higher education qualification frame work.
- > Role of State Higher Education Council and State Accreditation Council.
- > Changes in Methods of existing accrediting/ regulatory agencies such as NAAC, NBA, UGC, AICTE, CO A, DECI, NCTE, etc.

Input

There should be a unified higher education qualification framework. State Higher Education Council may verify various aspects of the Higher Education Institution falling in its jurisdiction through State Accreditation Council and then National level Accreditation may be carried out.

Issue

What are the hindering factors that make our higher education institutions fare poorly in world rankings?

Input

The committee identified the following hindering factors that make our education institutions fare poorly in world rankings:

- Lack of Institutional Autonomy, including financial autonomy,
- Lack of students' diversity in State Universities,
- Lack of International Students,
- Lack of Global faculty,
- Lack of collaborative ventures with national/interactions academic/research organizations,
- Lack of global trends in subject curriculum,
- Lack of Industry Academic Interface, and
- Lack of world class infrastructure resources.

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Issue

Suggest ways to help our Universities to achieve global standards.

- > Curricular and academic reforms- CBCS, credit transfer, student and faculty mobility, etc.
- > Promoting inter-disciplinary studies, research, innovation, entrepreneurship.

Input

The Committee suggested the following ways to achieve global standards:

- Getting global faculty, may be on visiting term basis.
- Admission of more International students.
- Tie-ups with International institutions.
- More academic flexibility in curriculum including CBCS.
- Credit transfer be allowed.
- Student Exchange Program & Faculty Exchange Program be facilitated.
- Include Corporate Sector experts/domain area experts from outside academia in syllabus formation.
- More Academic- Industry Interface.
- Enhancement of Skill Development in students.
- Inclusion of social immersion of students through Academia Community Interface.
- Establishment of Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Business Incubation centers in varsities.
- Promoting Inter-disciplinary research and studies. More Inter-disciplinary collaborative projects.
- Encouraging Moral, Ethical Value Education.
- Encouraging Global Educatinal Practices Like Case Studies Approach, Experimental Learning, ICT Enabled Teaching, Virtual Learning through MOOCs.
- Rigorous and continuous Internal Quality Maintenance & Monitoring mechanism.
- Establish/create Office Of Media Marketing/Public Relations & Corporate
 Affairs/International Relations for projecting Universities at global level.
- Inter-department mobility of the teachers and students i.e. within the institutions
- Student/Teachers Exchange Programmes among various institutions of the Countries and abroad.

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M.D. University, Rohtak