

Minutes of the IQAC meeting held on 09-06-16

Members Present:

Bro. George VJ
Bro. Jacob Ezhanikatt
Dr. Tony Sam George
Mr. Seby George
Dr. Surya Rekha S V
Ms. Sangeetha Reddy
Ms. Saritha Matthew
Ms. Sritha Sandon

Apologies:

Sr. Genevieve
Dr. Molly Joy
Ms. Karuna Bhaskar
Ms. Sreemoyee Sharma Pradhan
Bro. Matthew Panathanath

Proceedings:

Bro. George welcomed the members warmly and invited Bro. Jacob to lead the cell in prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed unanimously. The agenda was taken up subsequently.

Bro. George briefed the members about the Local Inquiry Committee (LIC) visit from Bangalore University that had visited the college. He mentioned that the visit was to look into regular temporary affiliation, permanent affiliation as well as seat enhancement. He mentioned that the committee had been pleased about the college and that the college meets all the norms for permanent affiliation. We are hopeful and continue to pray for the same. Permanent affiliation is a clear indication of growth and would be a milestone in the progress

of the college. If we do not succeed in obtaining permanent affiliation, it is unlikely that we would get a good grade from NAAC.

The next point discussed was about increasing the involvement of the alumni in college activities. There were several suggestions for this:

- Inviting the alumni for talks and guest lectures once in two weeks
- Updating the website and posting news regularly
- Write to them on and off, to keep in touch
- Conduct workshops for them, by them, continuing education for them
- Involve current students in documenting alumni activities; faculty could reduce their workload as such
- When students see a flow of alumni, they will also be more involved when they pass out
- Create chapters and one or two faculty could travel to meet the alumni in their home-front, rather than a huge group coming here to college
- Increase the communication, keep it regular
- Send letters of acknowledgement when they come for meetings, visits, etc... make them feel special

It was also noted that older alumni members are more likely to contribute.

The next topic take up was increasing self-growth of students. One suggestion was to have an intensive 3-day workshop in the beginning of the semester that would set the tone for the course work and for self-growth. The focus could be experiential work to increase self-awareness in various dimensions and reflective thinking. It was also mentioned that Christ College has a 2-credit program in the first two semesters that is aimed at personal and professional development. Students maintain journals and a facilitator helps process the entries in groups. In addition, there is also a personal growth laboratory in which students carry out experiential activities such as collages, journals, etc. This is followed by group therapy. It was noted that Montfort College mandates personal therapy right from the 1st semester and also carries out group therapy before the 3rd semester. The suggestion was to

make the workshop/ lab/ or other personal work mandatory. It could be accounted for as a value added program. Bro. George mentioned that it would be a good idea to tie up the same with marks for some paper such as skills to ensure that all students carry out the work seriously.

The next topic was incorporating life skills training for students. It was noted that the same processes suggested for personal work could be used for life skills training as well. Another suggestion was to tie it up with the psychoeducational workshops which are a part of the syllabus for the PC students.

The next matter discussed was mentoring. The question was how to enhance mentoring. Dr. Tony explained that one way of doing this was to allot each teacher with a group of students (about 8) to mentor. They would continue as research supervisors as well. The mentoring program would be 'sold' to the students as one that enhances academic and professional development. It could be incorporated into the timetable and attendance is taken regularly. Even use a mentoring handbook to determine how to structure sessions. If the student teacher ratio is too great, then workshops (less personal work) could be carried out. Dr. Tony mentioned that while it starts out as an academic and professional exercise, the nature of the relationship usually facilitates a lot of personal work as well. One suggestion was that personal work and mentoring could all happen in one go. It was also noted that students could reverse mentor teachers, teaching them digital skills that faculty members may not be very savvy in.

The next topic was to carry out a national conference. Bro. George suggested that it be an international conference instead. There was some discussion as to the benefits of organizing an international conference. It was noted that there should be some concrete result of the international conference in terms of joint research, proceedings that could be used as reference material, etc. The talk on publications also led to a discussion on the

quality of publications. Dr. Tony mentioned that many journals (especially open access) are predatory journals which do not review the papers, only publish it for the money. He cautioned the college not to publish in such journals as the reputation of the college as well as the concerned faculty member would be at stake. He mentioned that while considering publications, to look for Thomson Reuter's impact factor which is internationally renowned and also the only impact factor that UGC recognizes. He mentioned that UGC is also looking into where the publications are and not just how many publications are. Dr. Tony suggested that the college look up an article by Jeff Beall in Nature. He suggested that the national journals by NAOP and IAAP are both recognized internationally. Mr. Seby suggested that the list be put up on the college notice board so students could avoid these journals.

With regards to certificate programs, it was noted that there was a possible joint certification program with DIRECT (Chennai) on cognitive based interventions for children with special needs. Bro. George also mentioned that another proposal was also available for certification for SE (expand) which would help in work with trauma. Ms Sangeetha suggested that the objectives and competencies to be built from certification program (basics skills being currently offered by the college) should be clear. A needs assessment could be carried out and objectives could be based on that. Bro. George mentioned that Sangeetha would be taking charge of the certification program.

Dr. Tony suggested that faculty of Montfort College should be able to offer high-end programs which would increase the visibility of the college as well as the credibility of the faculty.

In other matters, it was suggested that the college could look into generating funds through certificate programs which would go a long way in retaining good faculty. It was also suggested to look at feeder programs such as MBA, MCom, UG programs that would become feeder programs to sustain the counselling and psychology programs.

It was also noted that the college had not applied for any funds to UGC despite the fact that came to light in the last meeting that with 2f status, we could still apply. Dr. Surya Rekha mentioned that UGC would grant funds even to individuals for minor as well as major projects. Dr. Tony mentioned that in addition to ICSSR and ICMR, even DST would fund projects that are focused on cognitive psychology related areas.

Since there were no other issues to discuss, Bro. George thanked the members for their suggestions and support and invited everyone to tea.

Recorded by

Sritha Sandon

