

Minutes of IQAC Meeting

Date: April 15, 2025; Time: 03:00 PM; Venue: C1 Block Meeting Room

Members Attended:

- Prof. John Varghese (Principal)
- Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo (IQAC Coordinator)
- Dr. Annu Malhotra (Convenor C1, Coordinator Surveys)
- Dr. Shamim Ahmed (Convener C2)
- Dr. Geetanjali Sethi (Convener C3)
- Dr. Pankaj Mishra (Convenor C4)
- Ms. Poonam Kalra (Convenor, C5)
- Dr. N. P. Ashley (Convenor C7)
- Brigadier Rajiv S. Williams (Member)
- Dr. Akshay Rana (Associate Coordinator)
- Mr. Adithya Rahul (SUS President)

Apologies for Absence:

- Dr. Chinkhanlun Guite (Bursar)
- Dr. Abhinav Gupta (Convenor, C 6)
- Mr. Sunil Issar (Member)

Points of Discussion:

1. With the permission of the Chair, the IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo, welcomed all members present for the meeting. He introduced Mr. Adithya Rahul, President of the Students' Union Society (SUS), to the members and thanked him for attending the meeting. Dr. Deo spoke about the importance of student involvement in IQAC activities, as students are the primary stakeholders in the academic life of the College.
2. Dr. Deo then presented the minutes of the previous IQAC meeting held on 17th October 2024 for the members' approval. The minutes were proposed by Dr. Shamim Ahmed and seconded by Dr. Geetanjali Sethi.

3. Brigadier Rajiv S. Williams, informed the Principal, Prof. John Varghese, and the other members present, about his recently published book. He presented a copy of the book to the Principal, who thanked him for the same and suggested that the book be placed in the College Library for the benefit of the wider College community.
4. Moving on to the agenda items, the Coordinator informed the members that the data collection process for Academic Year 2024–25 had been initiated. The IQAC forms for faculty members and students were currently live. In addition, with the support of the ROS, IQAC has successfully appointed Data Collection Specialists from various student societies to assist with society data collection. This initiative had significantly streamlined the process.
5. The Coordinator congratulated Dr. Geetanjali Sethi, Convenor of Criterion 3 (Research, Innovations and Extension), on her appointment as Dean of Research, and invited her to share her vision and future plans with the members. Dr. Sethi informed the members that, as per the National Education Policy (NEP) framework of the UGC, the fourth year of undergraduate studies will include a mandatory research component for students. In view of this, she emphasized the need for the College to proactively prepare for the same. She also suggested that all departments should begin planning accordingly. As a first step, she mentioned that the Department of Physics and the Department of Chemistry were planning to organize a *Summer Research and Innovation Programme 2025* during the upcoming summer break.
6. Continuing the discussion, Brigadier Rajiv S. Williams observed that there was considerable potential for collaboration with the Centre for Policy and Environmental Conservation (CPEC) for research. He offered his assistance in reaching out to CPEC, if required; and highlighted that such a partnership would strengthen the College's research activities and profile.
7. In response, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo requested members to work towards a structured framework for initiating and managing such collaborations. He emphasized that, under the upcoming four-year undergraduate programme, research dissertations and internships will become a mandatory component in the final year. Therefore, it was essential for both the Science and Arts departments to begin identifying relevant institutions, research centres, and sectors of industry, where students and faculty can actively engage in collaborative academic and research work.
8. Following this, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo tabled a draft of a set of indicators for the creation of Departmental Committees for Research and Internship prepared by Dr. Geetanjali Sethi, Convenor C 3, for discussion. Members found most of the draft in order but suggested the section on dissertation could be modified to suit the fourth-year requirements. It was agreed that Dr. Deo and Dr. Sethi could revisit the draft, and then forward it to the Principal for further action.
9. Dr. Pankaj Mishra raised the question of promotions and permanent appointments. He asked what progress had been made and emphasized the need to pursue this forthwith. He also brought to the members' attention the fact that the departments of Philosophy and Hindi did not have any permanent faculty members, which was a matter of serious concern and needed to be addressed urgently. He asked for clarification regarding the delay and also about role played by the IQAC in the appointment and promotion

process.

10. Dr. Deo clarified that the core responsibilities of the IQAC were preparing the Annual Quality Assurance Report and the Self Study Report (with documentation) across seven NAAC criteria; and enhancing teaching-learning standards. With regard to the latter, the IQAC could be asked by the Principal to contribute in any way to further that objective. Regarding its role in the ongoing faculty promotion process, which indeed is part of maintaining and enhancing the teaching-learning process, he informed the members that the Principal had appointed a committee of three faculty members, with the IQAC Coordinator as the convenor, to scrutinize promotion application forms, and forward them to him after verifying that they were in order. The scrutiny work for the applications provided by the Principal had been completed, and the committee had forwarded all the 14 forms thus scrutinized to the Principal for further action. Dr. Annu Malhotra, member of that committee, added that, at present, the IQAC's involvement was limited to the scrutiny of promotion forms.
11. Adding to the discussion, Dr. N. P. Ashley raised concerns regarding the proposed increase in faculty workload on account of the fourth year. He expressed his skepticism about the policy introduced by the University of Delhi and emphasized that a rise in teaching hours could have an adverse effect on the overall quality of teaching and learning within the University system. He recommended that the IQAC should formally approach the Staff Council to discuss the matter with the Principal. Additionally, he suggested that these concerns be communicated to the University for appropriate consideration. Supporting this recommendation, Dr. Pankaj Mishra proposed the formation of a legally empowered committee within the college to engage in structured negotiations with the University of Delhi.
12. Dr. Pankaj Mishra commended the IQAC for helping the Department of Sanskrit organize the recently concluded National Seminar on the notion of mother in Sanskrit Literature. He also expressed his gratitude to Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo for his consistent and unwavering support in facilitating the same.
13. Ms. Poonam Kalra raised the issue of poor student turnout in workshops and events, noting that students were often reluctant to attend and, at times, had to be brought in from classrooms. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo felt that one major reason for this could be the overlap between event timings and regular class schedules in the new circumstance when SEC and VAC courses now take up virtually all of the second half of the day which used to earlier be free for these activities.. Dr. Pankaj Mishra suggested limiting the number of events per day (two major and two minor) to avoid fatigue and improved engagement. Supporting this, Dr. Geetanjali Sethi recommended aligning events with the College timetable to optimise attendance without academic disruption.
14. Mr. Adithya Rahul raised concerns about the difficulties students face in obtaining attendance credits for their participation in Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA). Ms. Poonam Kalra acknowledged that there is ongoing confusion regarding ECA-related permissions and noted that the entire process needs to be managed better by sensitising all stakeholders. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo further stressed the importance of reducing the number of events to prevent overscheduling. He also highlighted the need for better coordination among societies, perhaps society collaborations, and proposed a more streamlined event planning system to avoid duplication

15. The meeting concluded with the Principal conveying his appreciation to Brigadier Rajiv S. Williams for presenting a copy of his latest book to the College and for offering valuable insights. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo, IQAC Coordinator, also extended his gratitude to all members for their active participation and substantive contributions to the IQAC.

Minutes prepared by

Dr. Akshay Rana
Associate Coordinator