

Minutes of IQAC Meeting

Date: October 17, 2024

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. Abhinav Gupta (Convenor, C 6)
- Brigadier Rajiv S. Williams (Member)
- Mr. Sunil Issar (Member)
- Dr. Akshay Rana (Associate Coordinator)

Apologies for Absence:

- Dr. Chinkhanlun Guite (Bursar)
- Dr. N. P. Ashley (Convenor C7)

Points of Discussion:

1. The IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo, welcomed all the members to the meeting. He thanked Dr. Ashutosh Dayal Mathur, the former Convenor of Criterion 2, who retired from service in AY 2023-24, for his invaluable contribution to the IQAC. He also welcomed Dr. Shamim Ahmed as the new Convenor for C 2 and expressed his gratitude to Dr. Ahmed for accepting the responsibility.
2. The approval of the confirmation of the Minutes of the previous IQAC meeting, held on 12 July 2024, were proposed by Mrs. Poonam Kalra and seconded by Dr. Pankaj Mishra.
3. Following the agenda points in order, Dr. Deo informed the committee that the IQAC was in the process of preparing the AQAR for 2023–24, scheduled for submission by December 2024. He reported that all subcommittees were working hard for timely submission.

4. Dr. Deo then apprised the members of the measures that were being taken to further improve and streamline the process of composing the AQAR, including those for preparing AQAR questionnaires tailored for faculty, students, societies and departments, and appointing student Data Collection Specialists for societies. Dr. Geetanjali Sethi and Ms. Poonam Kalra requested that faculty forms be circulated timely for better coordination and participation.
5. Dr. Deo also outlined the plan of events for AY 2024-25, which included IQAC flagship verticals such as the Faculty Seminar Series and Mental Health Initiative, focus areas like environment and gender, workshops and training programs, Hindi promotion workshops, support to departments and societies, etc.
6. Brigadier Rajiv S. Williams emphasized the importance of addressing mental health needs among the students and proposed that IQAC should initiate work towards a dedicated mental health forum. In response, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo informed the members that there had been a student-led initiative in 2018–19 aimed at formally establishing such a society. Principal had asked Dr. Deo to mentor this group. Building on this, and using alumni resources (Mr. Akash Mohapatra) and the help of the College counsellors Dr. Malar Suresh and then Ms. Sunetra Halder, a Mental Health Initiative/Unboxed was begun in 2022 as a collaboration between IQAC and SSL.
7. Moving to the next item on the agenda, the Committee noted the significant improvement in the College's NIRF ranking from 14th to the 3rd position. While members expressed some skepticism regarding the overall merit of such ranking frameworks, they agreed that if the institution chooses to participate, it must submit the best possible data.
8. Dr. Annu Malhotra, the Nodal Officer for NIRF, along with Dr. Akshay Rana, shared the strategy and action plan developed for NIRF 2025. As the committee reviewed the NIRF progress report presented by Dr. Rana, it was noted with concern that the College had hosted very few national or international seminars in the past year, with only the Physics Department organizing an international conference.
9. Further in this discussion, Dr. Pankaj Mishra voiced concerns over declining student enrollment in postgraduate programs. He also highlighted a decline in the institution's research publication output. In response, Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo requested Dr. Geetanjali Sethi, convenor C3, to work on a strategy to foster a stronger research culture within the College, both among faculty and students.
10. Continuing a discussion from previous IQAC meetings, Brigadier Rajiv S. Williams revisited the proposal to establish an AI Research Centre in the College. He suggested that beyond CSR funding, the College should consider a financial model that enables it to offer specialized courses and utilize its existing resources for the development of such a Centre. He suggested that Dr. Abhinav Gupta assess the feasibility of this initiative, gather relevant information, establish necessary connections and revert to the IQAC. In response, Dr. Gupta expressed reservations about the same, noting that

numerous high-quality online platforms were already providing accessible and up-to-date training in AI. However, he emphasized the urgent requirement for investment in high-end computational infrastructure to equip students and faculty to stay at the forefront, especially as existing curricula could quickly become outdated. He also expressed concern over the rigidity of the University of Delhi system, which limits the introduction of interdisciplinary academic programs. In the light of these constraints, Brigadier Williams offered to help in organizing a Hackathon in collaboration with NIIT, and Dr. Gupta agreed to coordinate its planning and execution.

11. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo informed the Committee that he was following up with Principal and Bursar regarding more funding for IQAC activities.
12. Upon opening the floor for any other matter, Dr. Pankaj Mishra raised concerns regarding the prolonged delay in permanent appointments and promotions. He pointed out that the College remains one of the few institutions yet to conduct interviews or initiate promotions to the rank of professor, a situation that has adversely affected faculty morale. Dr. Mishra enquired about the role of the IQAC in addressing such institutional concerns. Emphasizing the urgency of the situation, he called for the immediate intervention of Principal for an urgent resolution of the matter.
13. Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo assured the Committee that the matter would be brought to the attention of Principal for necessary action. He further confirmed that a dedicated committee had been constituted to oversee the scrutiny and of promotion application forms.
14. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Aditya Pratap Deo.

Minutes prepared by

Dr. Akshay Rana
Associate Coordinator