

ARMY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PUNE 411015

Minutes of IQAC meeting

Date: 08 Apr 2017

Place: Conference Hall

Time: 1140 hrs-1330hrs

Agenda Points

- a) Discussion on progress achieved as per set bench marks.
- b) Autonomy
- c) Other points from the members

The IQAC was re-constituted and the new members are:

1.	Dr. BP Patil	Chairperson (Principal)
2	Dr. Sujata Marathe	NAAC Coordinator AIT
3	Dr GR Patil	Member (HOD ETC)
4	Dr Sangeeta Jadhav	Member (HOD IT)
5	Prof Sunil Dhore	Member (HOD COMP)
6	Prof RS Verma	Member (HOD Mech)
7	Mr Ashok Kumar Singh	Member
8	Mr Khaladkar Manoj	Member (TPO)
9	Mrs U L Jagtap	Member (Librarian)
10	Lt Col S P Changotra(retd)	Member (Rector)
11	Mrs Kiran Khosla	Member (Warden Girls Hostel)
12	Mr RP Ambike	Member (Registrar)
13	Prof (Dr) MD Goudar	Member (External Expert from Academia)
14	Dr (Mrs)AV Kulkarni	Member(External Expert from Academia)
15	Mr Prashant Bhat	Member(External Expert from Industry)
16	Mrs Sandhya Tiwari	Member (Parent Representative)
17	Mr Gaurav Sinha	Member (Employer Representative)
18	Mr Baikunthnath Dwivedi	Member (Alumnus)
19	Mr Abhijeet Deogirikar	Member (Alumnus)
20	Ms Jasmine Cheema	Student Representative
21	Mr Yuvraj Singh	Student Representative

The NAAC coordinator welcomed the members and the meeting started.

AIT's achievements over the last one year namely, NAAC "A" grade, NBA accreditation, NIRF ranking of 77 and Best Professional college award from SPPU were appreciated.

Then progress on laid down benchmarks for the period June 2016 to date were presented by Dr Sujata Marathe.

Consistently Good Results

Results of Semester I for all years were discussed. A down ward trend in the result at this stage was observed. Dr Sujata Marathe pointed out that this was due to separate passing requirement in online and theory exam, and, in some cases difficulty level of the paper and missing data in the question paper. She told the committee members that corrective measures like mock tests and remedial classes have been conducted and the results are expected to improve by end of the academic year.

Mr Baikunthnath Dwivedi enquired about the root cause of the failures. Dr Sujata Marathe explained that in case of the first year the subjects with more failures were Graphics, Math- I, Basic Electronics Engg. and Chemistry. Mr Prashant Bhat mentioned that there are numerous software packages which could help the students in understanding Engg Graphics. Principal explained that it was the written exam that students find difficult. Dr Sujata Marathe said that the low result was seen across all colleges affiliated to SPPU and that AIT is among the top 2/3 affiliated Engg colleges.

In case of the second year Mechanical branch – Strength of Materials had poor results. Prof RS Verma mentioned that the students had scored very well in the online exams but the question paper was difficult and some questions had missing data. Dr Sujata Marathe mentioned that SPPU had taken a recent workshop to address these issues, wherein responsibilities of teachers during paper setting and assessment of papers was brought out.

Placements

The placements for the year 2016-17 were found to be on way to reaching the set benchmarks of 95% overall placements with more than 60% in core companies. Mr Prashant Bhat asked for clarification on definition of core companies. This nomenclature of Type A and Type B companies was explained by TPO. Mr Prashant Bhat felt that the nomenclature for categorization (Type A,B) is not proper and it may affect the student morale. However, TPO informed that this comparison was done with other affiliated private colleges of SPPU only.

Mr Prashant Bhat also mentioned that students should be motivated for higher studies unless hard pressed for seeking employment. Ms Jasmine Cheema mentioned that students in AIT prefer to work for a couple of years and then return to higher studies. Mr Prashant Bhat mentioned the need to remove this mental block. Also higher studies would improve the visibility of AIT internationally. Financial aid he said can be made available through proper agencies. Dr (Mrs)AV Kulkarni suggested to the TPO to encourage students to take up IAS/IPS exam apart from GATE and also motivate the students for entrepreneurship. Dr Sangeeta Jadhav mentioned that innovation and incubation cell exists, and various activities are carried out by this cell. Mr Prashant Bhat mentioned that students make good projects but they do not think in terms of business capitalization. Dr (Mrs)AV Kulkarni was of the opinion that the students should be given the basics of business entrepreneurship. Mr Abhijeet Deogirikar too felt that a broad based

exposure would be a good thing. Mr Prashant Bhat too felt that instead of creating buckets it is better to develop an ecosystem for all these allied activities. Dr (Mrs)AV Kulkarni also mentioned that startups need not be purely from the technical field. TPO mentioned about the Startup AIT business plan competition, and student projects like Fashion Villa, and Garage Khojo apps. Alumni startups have approached the college for placements too. Mr Prashant Bhat enquired if the students network with the alumni sufficiently. The student member mentioned about facebook connectivity. TPO informed about the Alumni meet, Dr Sangeeta Jadhav mentioned about other events conducted by Alumni which makes the connect stronger. Mr Yuvraj Singh and Ms Jasmine Cheema felt that year wise segregation in hostels has reduced the connect as earlier they were able to connect better with immediate seniors who in turn referred them to super seniors. Mr Gaurav Sinha said that Facebook was not the platform for a proper connect. TPO mentioned that the alumni website exists, but maximum number of alumni are on FB. TPO mentioned about business plan online competition and was open to improvements / new ideas. He also mentioned that as of now the connect is mostly motivated by placement prospects. The weak entrepreneur connect was attributed to the fact that AIT entrepreneurs were yet strugglers, was the opinion of Dr GR Patil. Principal then mentioned about sharing the success story of alumni on AIT website.

Higher Studies

The number of students appeared for GATE was displayed. There is no benchmark set as yet. With PSUs asking for GATE score the number of Mechanical students appearing for GATE has increased. In comparison the number of students from Computer and IT appearing for GATE are very few. TPO too informed the increase in interest of Mechanical and E&TC students in GATE. Mr Yuvraj Singh mentioned that Indian Navy too is asking for GATE scores. Mr Prashant Bhat pointed out the reliance of students on online material for preparing for competitive exams and lesser belief in the faculty. Mr Gaurav Sinha felt that students should also take up CAT, GRE and GMAT. Principal mentioned that the interest in CAT has gone down. Mr Baikunthnath Dwivedi pointed out that data should be provided. Mr Abhijeet Deogirikar pointed about high paying opportunities in the energy sector. With autonomy the college should try to capitalize on this. Mr Yuvraj Singh mentioned that students are also applying to BARC and ISRO for Research positions. Mr Baikunthnath Dwivedi mentioned that only 20-30% students are willing to meet the alumni. Mr Abhijeet Deogirikar stressed that care needs to be taken about those poor in networking.

Student representatives felt that awareness and motivation in the form of Guest Lectures on preparation for competitive exams like GATE, GRE, IES and on sources of funding for higher studies should be more frequent. Everybody felt that some bench mark for higher studies needs to be set.

Value Added Courses

Dr Sujata Marathe briefed about the value added courses. Mr Prashant Bhat enquired how was the value being ensured. HODs said that this was done by conducting a test at the end of the course conducted by the party to which the course was outsourced. Prof Sunil Dhore and Dr (Mrs)AV Kulkarni mentioned that bench marks need to be set and the outcome measured in addition to results. Mr Prashant Bhat opined that the industry should be called for value added courses and students' choice be considered. HODs said that students' choice was being considered when offering these courses and courses were being outsourced to external agencies. Mr Prashant Bhat said that latest software like NASTRAN should be taught. Principal informed that the costs of some of these software are very high and students are reluctant to pay. Mr Prashant Bhat was ready to extend help with software training in Mechanical Engg. He mentioned that some Mechanical software are known to only about 100 people. PLM can work with Mechanical students for training in these specialized software. Python should be taught in depth. Mr Prashant Bhat asked why college did not participate in SUPRA! He also suggested that students should take up certification like PMP and other globally valuable IT certifications. He is willing to share more info on these.

Mr Abhijeet Deogirikar mentioned that students should be able opt for special courses in which they have a chance of standing out. Coming to MOOC and other online courses Mr Prashant Bhat opined that they don't boost ones confidence, but Mr Baikunthnath Dwivedi differed on this aspect. It was felt that these courses depended from faculty to faculty and have a wide range of utility.

Mr Abhijeet Deogirikar suggested that special interview training would be beneficial. Gen Ajwani's GD/PI sessions with third year students were mentioned. Mr Prashant Bhat mentioned that there is a wide range of soft skill requirement. The same should be done branch wise. Also stress interviews need to be conducted.

Parent Opinion

The parent representative, Mrs Sandhya Tiwari, opined that students should take up social entrepreneurship, the types that touch lives, reverse brain drain, create happy and contented individuals rather than chase money. Dr Sujata Marathe mentioned about the various outreach programs and the Rrotract club activities of NSS club. It was decided to set a new benchmark for outreach activities which will be included from next IQAC meeting

Green Environment

The initiatives taken by college in last year like extension of capacity of 225 KW solar power plant by 125KW, installation of LED street lights etc. was brought out. Mr Prashant Bhat

mentioned that students should come up with white paper, study type reports on these projects. Principal mentioned that solar cleaner has been prototyped and patent obtained. Dr Sujata Marathe agreed that FE students could do study type project on existing solar projects of college.

R&D and Consultancy

The data on number of research projects completed and ongoing were presented. Dr (Mrs)AV Kulkarni mentioned that the college should go for UGC funded projects. Dr Sangeeta Jadhav said that we have applied for funding of minor projects since college has recognition under 2(f) and 12 (B). College can approach industry to sponsor some labs, Principal replied that 3DPLM and NVIDIA labs are sponsored. Dr (Mrs)AV Kulkarni said that faculty should publish research papers in SCI, Scopus and refereed journals.

Mr Prashant Bhat suggested that college should try to have a tie up with foreign universities as it will also help in getting funding.

Dr (Mrs)AV Kulkarni enquired about the wisdom behind covering 95% of syllabus as one of the bench marks. She opined that some part should be left to the students and the teacher should be just a facilitator. Dr Sujata Marathe said that this benchmark had been fixed in 2006 when IQAC was initially formed. This could be replaced with a new benchmark on 5% topics covered beyond syllabus.

Autonomy

Dr Sujata Marathe asked the external experts to give their views and suggestions on autonomy, since the college is planning to become autonomous from 2018-19. Prof (Dr) MD Goudar said that when going for autonomy, college should give more emphasis to project based learning(PBL), outcome based teaching, Blooms taxonomy, choice based system and provision for industrial training for about 6 months.

The NAAC coordinator thanked the members and the meeting concluded at 1330 hrs.