Minutes of IQAC meeting

Date: 31 Oct 2015   Place: Conference Hall   Time: 1130 hrs

Agenda Points
1. Discussion on progress achieved as per set benchmarks.
2. Technical knowledge of students (to conform to industry requirements).
3. Any additional inputs from the members

Minutes
The NAAC Coordinator Dr. Sujata Marathe welcomed the members and the meeting commenced at 1130 hrs.

Agenda Point 1

Discussion on progress achieved as per set benchmarks

- Syllabus coverage (95%)

- Consistently good results

- Placements benchmark (95%)

- Value added courses (one per semester)

- Promote extra and co-curricular activities(proposed (CCCBAS)

- Infrastructure up gradation

- E-learning facilities(one MOOC/online course per student)

- ICT (50% instructions)

- Green Environment Initiative:

- Promotion of research and consultancy culture

The NAAC coordinator informed the house about the action taken on the minutes of the last IQAC meeting.

Syllabus coverage: The syllabus coverage review is a regular end of term activity. The benchmark is met along with 10% coverage beyond syllabi.

Results: As per the points for action from the last meeting, students were counseled not to become complacent after scoring good marks in online exams as it has adversely affected the semester I results. Consequently, the pass percentage was found to be improved at the end of the academic year 2014-15.As previously suggested in the last meeting alumni have to be called to

speak to the BE students with the aim of improving results and attendance of BE students. Principal said that it will be done in the second semester.

The overall results are good, but because of the requirement of separate passing in theory the result has slipped down slightly. At the same time the number of students scoring more than 60% has gone up at all levels.

The NAAC coordinator mentioned that with the new of evaluation that is being introduced i.e., CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Assessment), we have to wait to see its impact on the result. The TPO wanted elaboration on this new system. The Principal explained about the system at length. Mr Navendu, the alumni member enquired about the internal marks component and Dr. Sanjay Patil wanted to whether there is relative or absolute grading. The Principal said that a relative grading system is very difficult to implement at the university level. The discussion also brought out how the system is going to be student friendly with lesser number of subjects required to be cleared in order to move on to the next year. Prof Mahesh Goudar explained that the progression will be subject to the student gaining the minimum number of credits as a prerequisite.

It was noted that the Computer Engg branch had better results than the other branches. Prof Goudar informed that that was the case more or less everywhere. Principal informed that the lowered priority for E&TC branch is reflected in low results. The suggested remedy in the last meeting, was that BE students should counsel and motivate their juniors. This was done in the first year classes and will be done in second year classes in the second semester.

Placements

The house expressed appreciation for placements. The set bench mark was almost met. (Set 95% with 50% in core and high end industries. Achieved 93% and 52%) There was an elaborate discussion on whether the 50% core and high end industries benchmark needs to be increased. The TPO elaborated at length at the pros and cons of this. He explained about the placement scenario in Type A (consulting, product, manufacturing, decision, auto etc and Type B companies(services, software testing etc) and also the capability of our students. He explained that a judicious balance is needed to be maintained and that the target of 50-60% in core industries is realistic and fair and it balances the employer and employee choices.

Mr Navendu suggested that we increase our focus towards PSUs. The TPO mentioned that students are being encouraged to appear for GATE. The Principal informed the house that it was being pondered if GATE could be made compulsory. Mechanical department specifically motivates its students to take up GATE. Mr Navendu informed that there were less available PSU options to the ETC branch students. He also enquired if these students could be motivated for higher studies. TPO explained about the current status of students taking up higher studies. The wards of JCO/OR opt for jobs rather than higher studies. Only about 5% students opt for higher studies. In other colleges this number is higher with about 10% or more students opting

for higher studies. Dr Sanjay Patil brought out to the notice of the house that the stipend for higher studies was good and comparable to starting salaries in core companies or some other companies and students can opt for it and take advantage to progress towards a better career, especially the students with lower package. Mr Navendu wanted to know the mechanism available for students to prepare for GATE. Principal informed about the infeasibility expressed by coaching institutes for low number of students in order to conduct coaching at AIT. As a result students attend GATE classes outside. Mr Gaurav made a point that at present most students plan for higher studies after working in a company for about 2 years. This planning and thought process is already in place when they are studying for engineering. College should therefore encourage more students to take up higher studies at an early stage so that they prepare for GATE exams. Also if loan is required for higher studies it can be paid off easily by virtue the good salaries they get after completing MS. Dr. Sanjay Patil informd that students don't necessarily have to pay for higher studies as some of them can get good scholarships.

The student members affirmed the idea for encouraging higher studies. The student also mentioned that it would be a good idea to work with startups.

Dr. Sanjay Patil enquired if any competency mapping is done by the college. The Principal mentioned about AMCAT and asked TPO to elaborate. The TPO explained in detail about AMCAT and the various parameters on which the aptitude assessment of the students takes place. The student member mentioned about its usefulness and how he has benefitted from the test. TPO informed that many colleges have opted for this and such kinds of other test. Though it may not be a fool proof test but serves a good purpose.

Dr. Sanjay Patil enquired about placements in the defense sector. TPO informed that the number was between 10-15. This is not because applicants are less but because the SSB does not compromise on its requirements. He also informed that the army is rethinking on whether to continue with UES in spite of the fact that the army faces a huge shortage of officers.

Prof Gaudar asked about the registration criteria for placements. TPO mentioned that the students should score above 50% of marks and maximum two backlogs, for registration. Mr A K Singh asked if the students are aware of this. The TPO affirmed that they were informed about this in the beginning of third year.

Internship benchmark of 50% was achieved

Infrastructure upgradation: Two new labs have come up in the IT department. One new lab has come up in the ETC department. The Civil Engg lab has been relocated and renovated. Work has been completed on a new flank of boys hostel.

Green environment initiative: A 225 kw solar photovoltaic power plant has been commissioned to augment electricity consumption and provide green energy. It is proposed to expand the solar

panels to all rooftops and move towards self sufficiency and take advantage of the NET metering policy announced by Govt of Maharashtra.

Research and Consultancy: NAAC coordinator informed that at present 15 BCUD projects are ongoing. For consultancies a target of 5% of the dept budget has been set. Principal mentioned that some more research proposals have been sent to UGC and result is awaited.

HOD IT explained about the activities of the Incubation and innovation cell and the efforts to initiate startups in partnership with some entrepreneurs. Dr. Sanjay Patil advised the Principal to check if any legal issues may arise as it may amount to commercial activity on educational land.

Agenda Point 2

 Technical knowledge of students

Value added courses. Some students have been doing this by themselves. Aso students have been told to do at least one MOOC/online courses by the time they reach final year. The same will now be reflected in the student's CCCBAS. Mr A K Singh enquired about the quality of these courses. The Principal said that these courses were good. The HODs are also guiding the students of their branches as to which courses they should opt for.

Internships

Prof Goudar expressed the fact that it was difficult to address industry requirement and university requirement in this connection. The issue had been discussed at the GB level of AIT and adequate compensation in attendance has been approved. That it was not practical by the university to make it compulsory was also discussed and also it would be a mockery with students bringing in false certificates when failing to get internships. A student member suggested online internships. It was noted that this may not be feasible for all branches, such things being more suited for IT or Comp branches. The student member informed the house about 'Technoplihia', which was suitable for E&TC students. Prof Goudar elaborated on his association with This organization and that it is not a very successful endeavor and also mentioned the commercial bent of the organization.

The duration of the value added courses as informed to the house was 40-80 hrs. HOD E&TC informed that this year based on demand from students four value added courses, C, C++ , JAVA and embedded systems and applications are being conducted. It was debated whether there was too much pressure on the students with so many activities expected from them. However the student member mentioned that the pressure was good as it prepares them for the future. Mr Gaurav and Mr Navendu expressed their views on these courses and suggested that the course be decided based on changing requirements from industry. It was brought out that the suggestions of the academic advisory committee and students recommendations are being kept in mind while deciding the value added courses.

Mr AKSingh wanted to know if the "Make in India" initiative can decide on the value added courses that could be offered to the students. Principal informed that there was a lack of clarity even as this was discussed at various forums. Prof Goudar threw light on TEJAS network and skill development program being implemented at his college. Under this program students completing the third level out of four are being offered 5.5 to 10 lakhs per annum. Principal asked Dr Goudar to give more information regarding this. He also elaborated on the BSNL program on skill development which about ten students from AIT are attending.

Agenda Point 3

Any additional points from the members

- Parent: Mrs Gireesan wanted that students be counselled and motivated for higher education. The current trend among AIT students was to opt for a job instead of higher studies. Principal informed that appropriate measure will be taken to motivate the present students in this regard. NAAC coordinator proposed that IQAC could set a bench mark in this respect also in the future meetings.
- Mr A K Singh wanted to know how the management could be sensitized towards further bettering the working environment. Prof Goudar pointed out that IQAC requires feedback from faculty too and it needs to be incorporated which can serve as inputs to the management.
- AKS enquired about the 'Quality Systems' adopted in MAE COE and how duplication of documentation is addressed. Prof Goudar informed that NBA, NAAC have been brought under ISO and the procedures are developed in such a way that duplication has been done away with.

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