

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

ON NAAC PEER TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT OF THE INSTITUTION

PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH

Reference: Fax from the office of the Chancellor, PU, dated 08 June 2016, asking for Action Taken by PU on the recommendations made by NAAC Review-2015

Recommendation 1 - IQAC be made proactive to enhance educational and research outcomes, consultancy potential and development initiatives.

Action Taken

IQAC has become proactive since academic year 2015-16 and has reached down to each and every department with each department having its own mini-IQAC. Director IQAC and Associate Director IQAC have been appointed for a period of three years to look after the activities of the IQAC.

Recommendation 2 - Each department must have at least six faculty members and efforts to be made to fill vacant positions expeditiously.

Action Taken

The effort to merge departments in a manner to enable each to have at least six faculty members is going on. Extensive discussions between various stake holders are in progress. In principle decision to bring together departments has been taken, and it stands implemented in some cases in form of small independent Centres being made part of larger Departments.

Recommendation 3 - Committee against sexual harassment needs to be more proactive.

Action Taken

Following efforts have been made to make Panjab University Committee Against Sexual Harassment (PUCASH) more proactive:

1. A new Panjab University Policy Against Sexual Harassment has been framed and implemented.
 2. The PUCASH is now processing and concluding all the complaints according to the prescribed procedure under the Act.
 3. The details of the PUCASH depicting the composition of the committee along with the contact details of the members have been displayed on the PU website as well as on the notice boards of different departments/ institutes/centers/hostels and other conspicuous places in the Panjab University campus.
 4. A lecture was organized for sensitization of Panjab University teaching and non teaching staff regarding the provisions of The Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act,2013.
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Recommendation 4 - M.P.Ed. course in Physical Education Department need to be recognized by NCTE and B.Ed. Special Education course from RCI, the regulatory bodies of the respective courses at the earliest.

Action Taken

Department of Physical Education has been granted recognition from the academic session 2016-17 for 2 year and approved intake is 40 students. Reference File No.: NRC/NCTE/Recognition/M.P.Ed./2016/144058-67 dated 03/03/2016.

The *Department of Community Education and Disability Studies* was having some shortcoming of human resources. In session 2015-16, the department had fulfilled the requisite shortcoming of human resources by appointing two Assistant Professors specialized in Learning Disability. Hence RCI gave its extension of approval for the session of 2015-16 (4 Semesters) to B.Ed. Special Education.

Recommendation 5 - Efforts to be made to improve demand ratio.

Action Taken

Huge publicity is given to the courses by advertising in the leading national newspapers, and posting on the social media (Facebook having more than 1.62 lakh likes). Good ranking of the university also highlighted the name of the university to attract students to this university. This year online admission process has been started for various PG programs in Social Sciences, Humanities, and Languages in addition to already existing online admissions. Admission to Honours School in Science departments CET(UG), and B.Com admissions are already online. The result of the online admissions is that we have witnessed a considerable jump in the number of applications for the admissions that are going on in July 2016.

Recommendation 6 - University should have more faculty with Ph.D degree in professional courses.

Action Taken

University has been encouraging its non-PhD faculty to go in for career advancement through doing a PhD. University has been hiring PhDs as faculty in most of Departments, few exceptions being the Dental College and UIET.

Recommendation 7 - Sanitation in hostel and other places, especially washroom should be improved.

Action Taken

The washrooms of the hostels have been improved and sanitation of the hostel is taken care of. As per requirement, washrooms are being upgraded. For new hostels, the sanitation maintenance work is being outsourced, which is very successful.

Recommendation 8 - More hostels should be constructed.

Action Taken

One hostel for International Students has already been made operational after the NAAC Team visit and one more hostel for girls is being constructed. As construction of one hostel for 400 residents requires an expenditure of Rs. 20-22 crores, Panjab University is trying to arrange funds for construction of more hostels via private public partnership mode.

Recommendation 9 - Consolidation of small cognate departments is needed for effective and efficient teaching, learning and research.

Action Taken

In principle decision regarding the same has been taken, the process of implementing the decision is going on in consultation with all stake holders. In this direction, three initiatives are in progress, one of them is integration of small centers line Nuclear Medicine, Nanotechnology, Public Health etc and second is the creation of "School of Asian, European, and Oriental Studies". Third initiative is establishing "School of Education" including Department of Education, Institute of Educational Technology & Vocational Education, Department of Community Education & Disability Studies, Department of Life Long learning & Extension, and Department of Physical Education.

Recommendation 10 - Comprehensive feedback by all stake holders needs to be introduced and analyzed.

Action Taken

The process of structured student feedback has been introduced. Departmental IQACs, where possible, also take feedback from other stakeholders, viz., alumni, employers etc.

Recommendation 11 - Academic programmes in the evening college need to be spread over longer duration and be strengthened and brought at par with regular programmes in the university.

Action Taken

Teaching work at the Department of Evening Studies-MultiDisciplinary Research Center (DES-MDRC) to which the NAAC made references in the name of 'evening college', commences from 3pm to 9pm (without break) and its Administrative Office functions from 2:15pm to 9pm (without break). The teachers are also available in their cabins to the research scholars and other students to guide and help them during the working hours. The department also participates in the PhD programme of the PU as any other department or research center. It has students for the Ph.D. programme in such subjects as English, Economics, History, Punjabi, Political Science. At present 43 research scholars are enrolled in Ph.D. programmes at the Department. In the light of the above mentioned information regarding the pedagogic research and extracurricular activities undertaken at DES – MDRC, academic programmes in DES-MDRC are spread over adequate duration at par with regular academic programmes in the University.

Recommendation 12 - Campus security needs to be strengthened.

Action Taken

Gated security system has been strengthened and entry of outsiders has been prohibited from May 18, 2016. As per the plan, the e-rickshaw facility has been provided at two of the university gates from where the entry of outsiders' vehicles is banned. The outsiders park their vehicles at the university gates where e-rickshaws are available to them. During the first phase, 30 e-rickshaws, which charges Rs.10 per ride, have been stationed and the (free) bus shuttle service has also been increased. This would usher in uniform parking facility to present an orderly and organized traffic and parking system on the Campus. CCTVs have been installed at Students' Centre and the process to install more CCTVs at sensitive locations has been started. The boundary walls of south campus have been raised so that they are not easily hopped.

Recommendation 13 - Annual self appraisal for faculty members needs to be introduced.

Action Taken

A new self appraisal proforma has been designed.

Recommendation 14 - Organize more entrepreneurship and skill development programmes.

Action Taken

'Centre for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship' (CSDE) is a newly set up centre to make large reform in enhancing skills to train workforce. It has One Honorary Director, Two Honorary Coordinators, and three Professors. This centre envisions Panjab University as the ultimate in skill development and nurturing entrepreneurial skills. Mission of the centre is to ensure employability through industry by developing necessary mechanism to bridge skill gaps and fostering new startups.

Web portal (csde.puchd.ac.in) is made operational to disseminate the activities and policies of the centre for the information of students and community. Nearly 50 staff members of the university are trained on 'Tally Accounting Skill' in a workshop on March 21, 2016. Centre in collaboration with industry has also published a report entitled 'The Impact of CCE on Student Proficiency – a study' which introduces a learning index named as 'PU-TCY Learning Index' to quantify the skills of the students. The report was released by Prof. H. Devraj, Vice-Chairman, UGC and Prof. Arun Grover, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University on April 26, 2016.

Centre has also started incubation for the startups. Currently two startups named 'Lenme' and 'Flow' are working from this incubation facility. Around 30 students are connected with these startups. These two are in advance stage of getting investment from established entrepreneurs. Few months ago, a visit to Cheema Boilers, Mohali had been made to promote collaboration between Panjab University and Cheema Boilers and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Thereafter, Centre for Policy Research, PU had arranged a visit of CMD of Cheema Boilers to IISc, Bangalore and this has been followed up a return visit by IISc Scientists to Mohali site and PU Campus in July, 2016.

Recommendation 15 - Governance structure especially in terms of appointment of Faculty Deans should be revised.

Action Taken

Three Sub-Committees have been constituted to suggest changes in the University Act, changes in the Regulations and enhancements in the delegations to the Vice Chancellor on behalf of the Senate. Each of these Committees have held several meetings, and they are in the concluding stage of submitting their recommendations. The three Committees are Chaired by Justice M.M. Kumar (Retd.), Justice B.B. Prasoan (Retd.) and Dean University Instruction, Prof. A.K. Bhandari. The outcomes of these Committees shall be forwarded to the Chancellor's office in due course.
