



USHA MARTIN UNIVERSITY, RANCHI, JHARKHAND

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Research Council dated 22-February-2021

The meeting of the 4th Research Council was held on 22nd February 2021 at 11.00 am through Google Meet. Following members were present in the meeting:

1. Prof. S.C. Garg, Vice Chancellor, UMU, Chair
2. Prof. Madhulika Kaushik, PVC, UMU, Member
3. Prof. Swarat Chaudhari, St Xavier College, Member
4. Dr Kumar Rajnish, Associate Professor, BIT Mesra, Member
5. Dr Alok Sahay, Director Campus, Special Invitee
6. Dr. Vinay Singh, Associate Professor, CS, UMU and Controller of Examinations(I/C), Member
7. Dr Arvind Hans, Associate Professor, Management, UMU, and Dean Faculty, Member
8. Dr Md Amir Khusru Akhtar, Associate Professor, Computer Science, UMU, and Dean, Research, Secretary

Following members could not attend the meeting due to their prior commitments:

1. Sh. Rajesh E Patro, Registrar, UMU, Member

RC 4.1 Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Chair

Calling the meeting to order, the Chairman extended a very warm and cordial welcome to all the members present on behalf of the University and on his own behalf. He expressed his gratitude to all present for participating in the meeting and giving the benefit of their expertise. He placed on record most sincere gratitude to Prof. G. P. Trivedi, Professor of Commerce, Ranchi University for helping the University in its infancy. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr K. Rajnish for accepting the request to continue to associate with RC and Prof. S. Chaudhari to continue to give benefit of his expertise to UMU. Before requesting the Dean, Research to present the agenda items, he shared a few developments in the University since the last meeting. The University has now shifted to its own campus in Angara and developed an excellent academic block. Hostels and other facilities are being developed for the benefit of the students. He said that

1. **Covid-19:** The University has passed through very crucial period. It was forced to resort to online teaching to escape the disruptive effects of Covid -19 on academic processes. The University sadly lost two senior colleagues to the pandemic and the Chair requested members to observe silence for two minutes in the memory of departed souls.

2. **Research accomplishments:** The University faculty published 29 research papers in journals. In addition, 10 book chapters were also published. Two faculty members earned PhD degrees (one from BIT Mesra, and the other from Ranchi University) and two have submitted their thesis (one in BIT Mesra, one in Ranchi University). The VC extended greetings to them all on behalf of the University. The University had approved 30 seed money projects valued at a total of ₹36.23 lakhs. Additionally, the institution received substantial funding and recognition, Consultancy income of ₹15 lakhs, and Sponsored projects worth ₹3 crores. Moreover, the faculty achieved a remarkable feat by publishing 1 patent. The University also established two research Chairs; one each for Agriculture and Sustainable Tribal Development and Innovations and Entrepreneurship

3. **PhD Admissions:** The entrance test for PhD admissions for 2020 was held on 23.8.2020 through online mode and the successful candidates were offered admission following UGC guidelines. Total 48 joined the PhD programme out of which 8 were provided fellowship. While internal faculty was associated in setting test items, external experts were associated in moderating these. The scholars of this cohort have been pursuing their Course work component comprising Research Methodology and Computers in Research courses. The examinations for these would be scheduled in the third week of March '21.

4. **PhD Thesis Submission:** VC informed the Council that he expected one research scholar under guidance of Dr. Vinay Singh to submit his PhD Thesis soon.

5 **Sponsored Research Projects:** The University shall have its first research project sponsored by the AIU. Some other projects have also been submitted by the faculty members to other funding agencies in the country.

6. **Academic Initiatives:** Several academic initiatives were taken by the University, including addition of professional programmes such as B Pharmacy, B(MLT), BPT, B. Sc (Agriculture) LLB, BBALLB, and LLM, etc. since the last meeting of RC. Though PG Diploma programmes on Data Science and IOT in computer science and Logistics and supply Chain Management in management were put on offer no student took admission in these probably because of lack of awareness. The faculty has now been advised to create sensitization and awareness for such programmes as these have futuristic dimensions as far as employment was concerned. The AC approved offer of B Sc (Nursing) and Diploma in GNM as well as Bed (Special Education) to aspiring learners.

7. Last but not the least, the University has now ceased its operations in Ranchi- Khunti road premises and moved to its own campus in Angara. It has beautiful academic building and play grounds for outdoor games such as volleyball, football, cricket, badminton, etc have been developed The students will be welcomed in the new campus from 1.3.21, following the directions of the State government.

8. The University had fixed semester fee for PhD at Rs 30000/. It now proposes to increase it to Rs. 40,000/.

The VC then invited Dean Research to share inputs if he has some more to add. The Dean Research informed the Council that UMU had been selected as nodal centre for Virtual laboratory by IIT, Delhi. This provides our learners opportunities to perform experiments in virtual space.

The chair then invited suggestions from the members on future directions for further growth of the University.

RC 4.1.1 The members appreciated the initiatives taken by the University during the pandemic in general as also the transparency exercised in the PhD programme. The members suggested that the University should undertake Action Research on Blended Learning and effectiveness of quizzes, assignments etc for Continuous Evaluation, Models on effective online teaching-learning, Measuring Learning outcomes, rural innovations, etc.

RC 4.1.2 When a question was raised about the conditions being followed for submission of PhD Thesis, it was clarified that the University follows UGC Guidelines.

Dr Khusro Amir, Dean Research, was then requested by the Chair to present the agenda items for the deliberations by the Research Council.

RC 4.2 To consider and approve minutes of the Third meeting of Research Council

RC 4.2.1 Dr. Amir informed the members that the third meeting of the Research Council was held on 7.06.2019 at the University Campus. The minutes of the meeting were circulated among the members: The Council had:

1. Noted and appreciated the practice of following UGC norms in UMU's PhD programme;
2. Approved the discipline-wise names of 38 candidates selected as the III cohort of the programme (Physics 2 Mathematics 2, Commerce 4, Management 3, Computer Science 7, English 7, Education 13) for enrolling in the PhD programmes of the University

The detailed minutes, as circulated, are placed at Annexure-1. The Dean Research proposed that as no comments or amendments to the minutes had been received, the same may please be approved as circulated.

RC 4.2.2 The detailed minutes, as circulated were approved and are placed at Annexure-1

RC 4.3 To report the status of Synopsis presentations and approval

RC 4.3.1 Dr. Khusro informed the Council that the University had enrolled six, 25 and 38 PhD scholars in the first, second and third cohorts in the 2017, 2018 and 2019 academic sessions. Of them many scholars seem to have dropped out for personal reasons. As recommended by the UGC, the University has created Departmental Committees for each department with respective HODs as Chairpersons. An external expert is also associated in each synopsis presentation. These Committees assess the synopsis of each candidate. (The VC and PVC are invariably present as observers.) So far 25 candidates have presented their synopsis and have been cleared and a few more are scheduled to present coming weeks. The details are given in Annexure 2.

RC 4.3.2 Dr. Khusro requested the Council to approve the recommendations of the DRCs.

RC 4.3.3 A member enquired whether the University provides access to e-resources to its PhD scholars. It was clarified that the university has been in a state of flux as all resources had to be shifted

from the earlier premises to the new campus. However, now that private intranet was been installed to enable access to Inlibnet resources, the situation shall normalize soon.

RC 4.4 To consider and approve Action taken on the minutes of the third meeting of RC

RC4.4.1 The item was taken up for discussion. Dr Khusro informed the members that the Action Taken on the decisions of the third meeting of the Research Council is placed in Annexure 3 for perusal of the members (There is no annexure 3, this matter is given in Annex 2. Later annexes are also missing)

RC4.4.2 The members perused the Action Taken on the decisions of RC and were satisfied by the compliance.

RC 4.5 To ratify the decision of the VC in approving Fourth cohort of admissions in PhD programme (August 2020 session)

RC4.5.1 Dr. Khusro informed the Council that due to Covid-19 pandemic, the University conducted its entrance test for the PhD programme online on 23.8.2020. 130 candidates appeared in the test (Management 14, Computer Science 06, Physics 05, Mathematics 06, Education 59, Agriculture 02, Chemistry 02 and English 14). In addition, 14 candidates with /NET qualifications were accorded exemption from written test as per UGC guidelines. All admission test papers were set by the internal faculty but to ensure quality, the University involved external experts to moderate papers of all disciplines. 50 candidates qualified in the test and following UGC directions, no F2F interviews were held because of disruption caused by Covid-19. The no. of successful candidates subject-wise was Management 14, Computer Science 06, Mathematics 04, Education 17, Agriculture 02, Physics 02 and English 05). In addition, 14 candidates having cleared NET were also considered (Management 02, Mathematics 01, Education 9 and English 02). So admission was offered to 64 candidates but only 46 joined the programme (Management 11 Computer Science 06 Mathematics 04, Education 21, Agriculture 01 and English 03). The Vice Chancellor approved the admission to all eligible candidates since RC was being reconstituted and could not meet to avoid Covid-19 infections.

RC4.5.2 Dr. Khusro further informed the Council that on the basis of existing teacher strength, UMU has 7 seats in Physics, 4 seats in Mathematics, Three in English, 11 in Computer science, 8 in Agriculture and 12 in Management. The University intends to appoint

one Associate Professor and two Assistant Professors in Education to meet the UGC requirements. He then requested the Council to ratify the decision of the VC.

RC4.5.3 The RC ratified the decision of the VC

RC 4.6 To draw the Panel of Co-guides

RC 4.6.1 Dr Khusro informed the Council that the Academic Council in its 10th meeting held on 11.9.2020 advised that in order to extend the pool of available research expertise, the University should draw a panel of external researcher-teachers who may act as co-guides. They should be active researchers with publications in refereed journals. Requests have been received from Dr R. C. Sharma, Associate Professor, Ambedkar University, Delhi, Dr. Madhuri Mahto, Assistant Professor Amity University and Dr Vivek Singh, Assistant Professor in Mathematics for enrollment as co-supervisors. They are active researchers and their resume are placed at Annexure 4—6. Ms Priyanka Pallavi, research scholar in English has requested the University to associate Dr Mahato with her as co-supervisor. Similarly, it is proposed to associate two research students (Mrs. Rashmi Rekha and Ms Rashmi Lugun) of Education (in Hindi Medium) currently associated with the VC, with Dr Sharma as co-guide.

RC4.6.2 The item was taken up for discussion. While approving the proposal, the RC advised that the University should in future consider enrolling co-guides for interdisciplinary research as well and make it as a part of Research Policy document.

RC 4.7 To consider research proposals for funding

RC 4.7.1 Dr. Khusro informed the Council that to strengthen research ambience in the University, the Management is putting great emphasis on research by the faculty. While research scholarships for PhD scholars were instituted and availed in 2019, it now proposed to sanction seed money for research projects of the faculty. Four research proposals were placed in the meeting of HODs (Academic) and the investigating researchers were asked to make their presentations. The following proposals were recommended

1. Design and Development of Smart Irrigation System by Dr Md Amir Khusro, Dr Vinay Singh and Dr Ritushree Narayan, Faculty of Computing and IT, Recommended seed money: Rs 45k
2. Setting up a Mushroom unit at UMU Angara Campus: Social Entrepreneurship by Ms Sarika Mishra and Jayita Dandapat, Faculty of Agriculture,

Recommended seed money: Rs 15k

3. Estimation of Heavy Metals in Soil Extracts and Crops Grown near Municipal Solid Waste Dump Sites of Ranchi and Risk Assessment, Dr Lopamudra Sathpathy and Dr Subrasekhar Chakraborty, Faculty of Agriculture, Recommended seed money: Rs 35k.

4. Working and Implementation of Biomedical Waste Laws: A Case Study in Ranch District, Tulika Sinha and Dr S. P. Singh, Faculty of Legal Studies, Recommended seed money: Rs 45k.

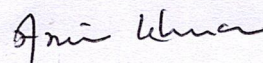
RC 4.7.2 The item was taken up for discussion and members enquired the whether the researchers would be expected to submit report of their findings or publish results/ file patents. Dr Amir explained that the purpose of granting seed money was to initiate faculties for writing research proposals for external funding. They would however be free to publish their results in a journal under aegis of UMU.

RC4.7.3 The members appreciated the idea of seed money being sanctioned and hoped that other members of academic fraternity would also be enthused to avail similar opportunities in future.

RC 4.8 Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

RC 4.8.1 No matter was discussed under this item.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair



(Dr Md Amir Khusro Akhtar)
Dean Research

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