

USHA MARTIN UNIVERSITY, RANCHI, JHARKHAND

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Academic Council dated 18-December-2018

The meeting of the 6th Academic Council was held on 18-December-2018 at 3.00 PM in Conference Hall in the University Campus. Following members were present in the meeting:

1. Prof. S. C. Garg, Vice Chancellor, UMU – Chair
2. Prof. L. N. Bhagat, Former VC, Ranchi University,
3. Prof. S. Chaudhari, St Xavier College, Ranchi
4. Prof. Madhulika Kaushik, PVC, UMU
5. Dr. Vinay Singh, Associate Prof., UMU
6. Dr. Arvind Hans, Associate Prof., UMU
7. Dr. Sharmistha Roy, A.P., UMU
8. Dr. Anupama Verma, AP., UMU
9. Prof. Viplaw K. Pandey, Registrar, Member Secretary

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

1. Prof. Vandana Bhattacharya

AC.6.1 Welcome and Information Sharing by the Chairman

At the outset, Prof. S. C. Garg, Vice Chancellor, extended a very warm and cordial welcome to all present on behalf of the University and on his own behalf. He expressed his gratefulness particularly to the external members for sparing their valuable time from them

busy schedules and giving benefit of their experience and expertise to UMU. He felt assured that with their continued support, UMU would succeed in its mission of providing high quality inclusive education at affordable cost to all in the state of Jharkhand, help reverse the process of brain drain and supplement the efforts of MHRD, Jharkhand in increasing the GER in higher education. Before requesting the Registrar to present the Agenda Items, he informed members that this was the third meeting of academic council in this academic session.

Thereafter, he shared various academic developments in the University since the last meeting.

- The Chancellor visited the University on 3.12.18 and interacted with the faculty as well as the students. He was happy to learn that the strength of the University was its dynamic and highly qualified Faculty, who believed in quality education and devoted themselves with full enthusiasm in academic as well as co-curricular activities.
- The outcomes of placement interviews conducted so far have very encouraging; four of our MBA students have been selected as Branch managers for the Jharkhand zone by Spoorti Spandan, one by Federal bank and another four would like to join their own businesses. The University has constituted a Placement Committee with two senior Academic Faculty members, Training and Placement Officer as Member Secretary and the Registrar as Chair. The Committee will evolve strategies for 100% placements of 4th Semester MBA students and internship of 2nd semester students. All MCA students have been placed for their internships.
- In the last meeting of VCs of private universities with the Secretary, MHRD, Govt. of Jharkhand held on 10th August, 2018, the VC had informed that the University management had signed an agreement for 31.6-acre land in Narayan Soso. The process of getting the land registered in the name of the University, as advised by MHRD, has now been completed and the mutation process is in progress. The ground-breaking ceremony for construction of buildings has as of now been scheduled for 18th January so that we can start our 2019 session in our own new campus. UMU would like all members to

grace the occasion. The VC requested the members to please keep this day free for UMU. The exact details shall be communicated in due course.

- As far as diversification of the academic profile of the University is concerned, UMU proposes to add B. Tech (CS, Mining and Mechanical), BSc. (Hons) Agriculture, B. Tech. CSE, BPT, BA (Journalism and Mass Communication) to the existing bouquet programmes at undergraduate, post-graduate and PhD level strictly in compliance with the regulations of national statutory bodies.
- The research scholars who joined in the first cohort appeared in the end of semester examinations on 15th September, the classes of the second cohort for course work began in August, 2018 and they are scheduled to appear in end semester examinations in January, 2019. The students of first cohort recently presented the progress of their work and made presentations with the VC/PVC in the Chair. A research under Dr Vinay Singh has published his first research paper. On his own behalf and on behalf of the AC, the VC congratulated the Scholar as well as Dr Singh. To ensure quality and monitor progress of work, the University has made submission of six monthly progress reports mandatory and the same has been duly impressed upon all scholars. UMU would soon constitute doctoral research committees for each student. Following the resignation of two faculty members in the beginning of this semester, their students have been reassigned to other teachers.
- The end-semester examinations for all programmes on offer began on 15th December and shall continue till 30th December. The AC had decided that to ensure transparency in conduct of examinations, external observers be appointed for each day of examination. The same has been implemented from this session and names of senior teachers from other HEIs were approved by the VC and one of them is present on each day of examination.

- Some teachers of the University have been approached by other HEIs in Ranchi to take classes as visiting faculty. The VC had accorded in principle approval, subject to approval by the AC and BOM. It is proposed to draft guidelines for undertaking such assignments.
- **Addition of Core faculty:** Due to increased number of programmes and specialisations within some programmes, the university recruited a few more full time teaching faculty members. All other faculty members are enrolled in PhD programme of BIT or Ranchi University. They have cleared their course work and the research work is at different stages of completion.
- **Development of Learning Management System:** The University is developing LMS system to promote ICT enabled blended learning. A training programme for the faculty was conducted on 30th November and 1st December by an expert from New Delhi under the guidance of Prof. Madhulika Kaushik, PVC. It is hoped that soon faculty would start loading their courses on the Moodle platform so that these become available to each student. However, access to these shall be regulated by the University.
- **Annual Raise:** The Finance Committee had in its meeting highlighted the importance of attaining self-sustainability without compromising quality of education and welfare of all teaching and non-teaching employees. The median of annual raise this year was in the range 4.5k to 6k. However, those charges with dual responsibilities were compensated with higher raise.

Thereafter, the Vice Chancellor invited suggestions from the members.

AC.6.1.1 The members appreciated the rapid progress made by the University in a short time in the offerings of academic programmes, including PhD, placements and acquisition of land. They advised that the University has started compiling its Annual Reports and put them on the website so that all information is easily available at the time of seeking NAAC accreditation.

The VC then requested the Registrar to present the agenda items. While making deviation from the past practice, the Registrar made power point presentation. The Council took the agenda items one by one for its consideration.

AC.6.2 To confirm the minutes of the Fifth meeting of Academic Council and matters arising out of minutes

AC 6.2.1 Prof. V. K. Pandey, Registrar, informed the Council that the minutes of Fifth meeting of the Academic Council held on 11.10.18 were circulated to all members soon after and are placed at Annexure. One of the members from CS faculty, UMU had informed the Chair that the suggestions of the AC about their courses were not explicitly reflected in the minutes. The Chair communicated the points which were inadvertently left out and suggested that the faculty should discuss these and report the action taken for the consideration of the members. With the inclusion of these comments, the minutes may be confirmed.

He also invited members to raise any matter arising out of the minutes.

(Annexure:1)

AC 6.2.2 The Council approved the minutes after deliberating on the suggested changes in CS courses.

AC 6.2.3 No issue was raised under matters arising out of minutes.

AC 6.3 Action Taken Report

The AC perused the action taken (Annexure 2) and expressed satisfaction on compliance of its decisions.

(Annexure:2)

AC 6.4 To consider and Approve Creation of Faculties of Health Science, Agriculture and Law

AC 6.4.1 The Registrar informed that while approving the offer of professional programmes such as LLM, BALLB in its meeting held in March 2018, the Academic Council had advised strict adherence to provisions of national statutory bodies. Accordingly, the University administration applied for approval of these programmes. While the approval has

not as yet been accorded, it is considered prudent to create Faculty of Law and Faculty of Health Sciences so that such programmes could be suitably located as and when approved and appointments of teachers in these faculties can be made accordingly. He proposed that Faculty of Law and Faculty of Health Sciences be created in the University.

AC 6.4.2 The Council appreciated that the University Administration was conducting itself as per the rule book, even in expansion and addition of new programmes. It approved creation of the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Health Sciences in the University.

AC 6.5 To consider and approve the proposal for launch of B. Tech (CS, Mining, Mechanical), Agriculture and Para-medical programmes

AC 6.5.1 The Registrar informed the Council that under the guidance of its statutory bodies, the University has been expanding in terms of enrollments and programme offerings. For instance, the University enrolled students in its programmes such as MBA, MCA, BBA, BCA, BCom, English (H), Diploma (CS, Mining, Mechanical, Civil and Electrical) and PhD programmes. Now that the University has acquired about 31-acre land in Narayan Soso (Angada) and construction of new campus is about to begin, it is proposed to upgrade offerings in Engineering to B. Tech in CS, Mining and Mechanical Engineering, once requisite infrastructure has been put in place. Moreover, in the last cycle of PhD admissions made in July 2018, there was significant demand for PhD in Education. To cater to such people, it would be desirable to offer these programmes for a pro-active institution such as UMU. Similarly, in a new state inhabited predominantly by tribal and disadvantaged population, it is extremely important to start Para-medical education programmes in health services. Also, to cater to predominantly agrarian society, it is important to create opportunities for agriculture education. The details shall be worked out by the expert committees and the recommendations shall be placed before the Council for further guidance.

AC 6.5.2 The Council deliberated the issues in detail and decided as under:

- para-medical programmes such as B. Pharmacy and D. Pharmacy, BSc (Nursing) and other job oriented short term programmes be launched but approvals of national statutory bodies be obtained wherever required before offering these;
- B. Tech (CS, Mining and Mechanical) be offered only after establishing lab facilities as per AICTE and its approval be obtained in due course, even if the same

is not mandatory for private universities. This would add value to current and future offerings and brighten job prospects for graduating students;

- PhD programme in education be offered strictly as per the 2016 UGC regulation and academic faculty be appointed as per NCTE guidelines;
- appointments in Law and other faculties be also made as required by the national statutory bodies; and
- BSc (Agriculture) should be offered under B Voc mode as a flexible modular programmes with multiple entry and exit points. The University should preferably look for partners so that field work can be done outside the University and our learners acquire requisite skills and competencies from field based experts.

AC 6.5.4 Subject to the above, the AC approved the proposal for launch of PhD programme in Education, B. Tech and other undergraduate programmes in Para-medical and agriculture after observing due diligence.

AC.6.6 To consider and approve the admitted number of students for the Academic Year 2018-19 for various programs.

AC 6.6.1 The Registrar informed the Council, the total number of students admitted for the Academic Year 2018-19 for various programmes and members confirmed the same.

AC 6.6.2 Prof. Pandey further informed that development of SLMs for these programmes would take time. Therefore, the University has signed an MOU with M/s Lakshmi Publications Pvt. Ltd, which is Delhi based. The University is also exploring the possibility of signing MOU with open universities such as OSOU, YCMOU, IGNOU, BRAOU so that the best quality materials are made available to the learners. In the meantime, the process for developing SLMs on the basis of OERs and MOOCs has been initiated but learner support would be technology based. The university commissioned the development of its own Learning management system which was a customized application of Moodle 3.5. The LMS

is now ready for use., and the University has trained its faculty in Learning Management System so that it can upload materials and other resources as well as offer learner support services through the platform.

AC 6.6.3 The Academic Council deliberated the issue in detail and advised that MOU should be entered into with well-established agency/publisher/institution(s) and that too till the time University develops its own materials. As a strategy, this would facilitate the University to be self-sustainable.

AC6.7 To consider and approve offer of short term vocational programmes with participation of industry

AC 6.7.1 The Registrar informed the Council that in the highly dynamic times that we live in, there is need for both academics and professionals to continuously upgrade their knowledge in order to increase productivity and remain relevant to their respective work arenas. He highlighted the fast emerging fields like AI and Machine learning and their resultant impact on the world of work as well as the world of learning, developments like 3 Dprinting, Data analytics, personal taxation and IOT, which are bringing about irreversible changes not only to the manufacturing sector but also the entire SCM industry.

AC 6.7.2 The Registrar further emphasized that a dynamic and proactive learning organisation such as UMU would like to plug the identified knowledge and skill gaps in the academic provisions and impart competencies required by the academic staff in various HEIs for the world of work in the 21st century. The University considers it prudent to develop some focused short term courses aimed at identified gap areas like AI and ML, Learning Analytics, critical thinking and problem solving, working in teams, leadership skills and more applied areas like personal finance, digital marketing, solar energy as alternative energy source, time management, managing work-life balance and stress management, etc.

AC 6.7.3 The Registrar proposed that the university may offer two short courses in each semester, based on the emerging interest and available expertise. Such short courses of two to three days' duration would be offered in the evening on part time basis in face to face mode by involving highly experienced faculty/professionals from the related fields as resource persons. Their delivery mode would be supported by technology enabled learner support.

AC 6.7.4 The Council approved the proposal.

AC 6.8 To consider and approve conduct of Faculty Development Programmes

AC 6.8.1 The Registrar highlighted that every higher education institution has to do something definitive about re-equipping its academic faculty with the much required competencies needed by the changing realities in the world of teaching-learning, learner assessment, outcome based learning and so on. With this understanding, UMU would like to offer for its own faculty as well as academic faculties of other HEIs in the region, at least one faculty development programme in each semester on the following felt gap areas

1. Technology supported new pedagogies
2. Using Open education resources in teaching-learning
3. Managing learner engagement and learner support
4. Outcome based learner assessment- Design and use
5. Academic writing/ Case writing
6. Using cases in teaching and learning

AC 6.8.2 The Registrar informed the Council that UMU would like to bring together eminent or use its internally available expertise as resource persons and hold these programmes in the workshop mode. By so doing, the University would ensure both sharing of expertise and practical hands on work through individual and group work.

AC 6.8.3 The Council liked the idea and appreciated the lead taken by the University. It advised that the programme should be announced in April/May and be kept for 2-3 days.

AC 6.9 To consider and approve the Minutes of IQAC held on 14.11. 2018.

AC 6.9.1 The Academic Council considered and approved the minutes of IQAC minutes held on 13.11.2018.

(Annexure:3)

AC 6.10 To report the FDP, Conference, and Seminars organized and attended by the faculty members of the University.

AC 6.10.1 The members of the AC were apprised about the same. The members appreciated the numbers of FDP, Conferences and Seminars presented which were attained by the faculties of the University in the previous Academic Year.

(Annexure:4)

AC.6.10 Any other matter with the permission of Chair

Member suggested that the University should seek NAAC approval as and when due but start preparations from now onwards as far as collating information and put the same on University website year-wise under various heads. To begin with the university may start uploading its Annual report on its website starting from the year 2017-18

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.



Prof. Viplaw Kishore Pandey

Registrar, UMU and Member Secretary

**Registrar
Usha Martin University**

CC to:

- **VC**
- **PVC**
- **External members**
- **All HOD's**
- **Special Invitees**