

Professor Om Prakash Mishra

Vice-Chancellor

University of North Bengal



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Open Invitation to all Members of NBU Community

I am glad to share with you the report of the Expert Committee to examine and suggest on the report of the NAAC Peer Team of June 2022 and to advise for necessary action to be undertaken by the University.

Every member of the University community including all the research scholars are encouraged to read the report and suggest suitable and remedial action and measures for qualitative improvement of academics and research in the University.

Action point in this regard is solicited from all members of the University community and this may be submitted through email to Prof. Ranjita Chakraborty, Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal. Her email ID as follows:

ranjitachakraborty@nbu.ac.in

The feedback and suggestions should be submitted within next two weeks.

Om Prakash Mishra
Vice-Chancellor

In communication to: The Heads/Directors of the Academic/Administrative Departments/Centres/Branches and all the Faculty Members/Officers/Non-teaching Staff Members/Research Scholars of the University of North Bengal

Expert Committee Report

University of North Bengal constituted an expert committee consisting of the following to examine and suggest on report and advise for the action to be undertaken by the University for NAAC Peer Team forth cycle report which gave the University the grade B++ with CGPA 2.82.

- 1) Dr. R. K. Chauhan, Former Secretary, UGC (Chairman)
- 2) Prof. B. K. Punia, Former Vice-Chancellor, MDU, Rohtak (Member)
- 3) Prof. Virbala Aggarwal, Former Chairperson, Dept. of Journalism & Mass Communication, H.P. University, Shimla (Member)
- 4) Dr. K. K. Mishra, Director, Accreditation and Quality Assurance Cell, Chitkara University, Punjab (Member)
- 5) Prof. Ranjita Chakraborty, Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal (Convenor)

The committee visited the University of the North Bengal from 26.04.2023 to 28.04.2023. All the members were physically present except Prof. B. K. Punia, who joined the meeting online. The committee examined the report of the NAAC Peer Team with reference to the available physical infrastructural facilities, academic attainments with reference to the seven parameters given by the NAAC. As per these parameters, the committee observed that the following aspects have not been properly looked into by the NAAC Peer Team or it got missed either in the presentation to the NAAC Peer Team or in the preparation of Self Study Report (SSR).

1. There are 90 academic Programs (81 Regular, 09 DDE) offered by the university. However only 37 programs have been considered by NAAC during data verification and validation process. M.Phil. courses are offered by 22 departments and Ph.D. program have been offered by 23 departments. These have been considered as 01 program for all departments instead of 01 program for each department separately for M.Phil. & Ph.D respectively. There are separate metrics for regular and DDE Programs in Dual Mode University. The University may be offering both regular & distance programs separately which may be indicated in the proposed SSR.
2. As per the updated SSR after DVV process, there are only 25.66% of the courses which are focusing on employability/entrepreneurship and skill development. They may be improved

further and more skill-oriented program need to be added in line with recommendations of National Education Policy - 2020.

3. A total of 65.87 % of courses are new courses only in last two years of the assessment period. This data does not seem to be consistent with the data given in the earlier paragraph of the report. Therefore, this data may be reviewed and reverified for all programs on the data template of NAAC.
4. Out of 81 programs, only 35 programs are being offered by various departments are under CBCS scheme. It does not seem to be consistent with reference to the presentation and interaction by various departments before this committee.
5. It has been indicated that the feedback has been collected from only one stakeholder. It does not seem to be correct. Approximately 5% of the students are placed as per the SSR, however feedback from Alumni and employer is not available. The feedback from Alumni and employer can be focused in addition to students and teachers' feedback. The Data Template uploaded was blank. The precaution to be taken care during the uploading of such Data Template during next due Cycle. The feedback so collected need to be properly examined and action taken need to be reported to the higher authorities/bodies of the University.
6. As per SSR, the demand ratio is very appealing and attractivewhich is good for the University.
7. There is no data consistency as the average number of seats filled have been reported 123.25% which does not seem to be justified.
8. The data related to learners of DDE division reported in different sections of the SSR has different values which does not seem to be justified. Totaling the same for the AY 2018-19, the count is 864. However, in profile section of the SSR it is more than 1100 learners. It needs to be relooked.
9. The student-teacher ratio is 1:15.66 which meets the required benchmark, however the data of teachers in Profile (254) and Extended Profile (196) are different,which needs to be reviewed.
10. The University has 100% automated examination system. However, the results are declared in 47.43 average days in last five years. University must work to expedite the process of evaluation, compilation and declaration of the results within 20 days of time.

11. The Learning outcome/graduation attributes and PO/CO Attainment processes to be improved and preferably to be automated so that such reports could be prepared and to be taken into account in various decision-making processes for curriculum revision etc.
12. The learner from DDE to be provided various support and facilities as per the regulations so that the students feedback from DDE vertical may be improved year by year.
13. Very few teachers have claimed for national/international fellowship schemes. This data needs to be reviewed and fresh information to be collected.
14. The University must formulate a mechanism to attract more funding from Non-Government Organisations and industry for the research projects.
15. Very few workshops/seminars have been conducted by the University on Research Methodology/IPR/Entrepreneurship etc. The University must take some resolution in its apex body to advise all its departments & DDE to focus on conducting workshops/seminars on Research Methodology/IPR/Entrepreneurship etc.
16. The University publishes many Research Journals which attracts numerous research articles from within the University and outside. The University may work for application for indexing of such journal in Scopus/WoS and UGC CARE List. The DoI, ISSN, and weblink to be sought for each article published and to be kept into the record as well as to be made available on a web page of the University for easy access.
17. A few E-Content is available online developed by teachers at the University. The University may focus in formulating a mechanism or policy to encourage the faculty members to develop such e-contents and apply for MOOC/SWAYAM/CEC/E-PG-Pathshala etc.
18. The University must encourage its teachers for attracting the industry and other corporate bodies to provide them with consultancy and corporate trainings.
19. The University SSR has reported 0 awards received by theuniversityteachers and students. During the interaction, it was found that the University has sufficient number of honors, awards and recognitions which needs to be re-verified and tabulated.
20. The University has limited active MoUs for collaborative activities for research, exchange and internship per year. The University must establish an Office of International Affairs to cater to the requirement on the guidelines as suggested by UGC.

21. The Committee agrees with the recommendation of the NACC peer team that the DDE division need to be further strengthened and also propagated.
22. The recommendation of the NACC peer team relating to library may be looked into as there is possibility of further improvement in the library. The present collection of the library is excellent but the day to day up-keep needs to be further improved. The online system of the library is working smoothly but the management with appropriate technical manpower need to be addressed.
23. The recommendation to improve the ICT enabled smart class room may be looked into periodic expansion of the same.
24. The recommendation to take the assistance of the Department of Mass Communication may be considered to increase the output for e-content development, provided they are equipped with the appropriate manpower and technology.
25. The committee has mentioned about encouraging participation of its students in Sports & Cultural activities. It appears that the proper recording of the existing sports and cultural activities have not been properly presented to the committee. It may be ensured that the proper recording of these activities is reflected in the proposed SSR.
26. The Alumni Association may be immediately registered with the Registrar Office of the State Government. The recommendation of the Peer Team for Registration and a separate account for contribution by the Alumni may be implemented immediately.
27. The institution has a clearly stated vision and mission which are reflected in its academic and administrative governance. However, the same to be made available to its stakeholders by means of awareness and also must reflect on the website and ERP/LMS portal for easy access to stakeholders.
28. The University may plan for short term & long-term Strategic Plan, resolved by its apex body and may start working for effective deployment accordingly. The same may be reflected in next cycle report.
29. The University must plan for strengthening the E-Governance in all its Teaching & Non-Teaching verticals. The University may develop or outsource the ERP/CRM/LMS applicable to meet the present requirement of teaching-learning processes and administration including student support services.

30. Very few teachers have been provided with financial support to attend conferences/workshops and towards the membership fee of professional bodies during the last five years. The University may work on formulating a mechanism to support the teachers to attend conferences/workshops and towards membership fee of professional bodies.
31. The Departments may be encouraged to organise professional development/administrative training Programmes for teaching and non-teaching staff. The Non-Teaching staff could be given special attention and should be provided with skill training to cater to the administrative requirements of the current needs of E-Governance.
32. The University has very limited Funds/Grants received from non-government bodies, individuals, philanthropists during the last five years. The University may focus on this aspect and plan to attract such funding from nearby industry and NGOs.
33. The University may create the facilities for alternate sources of energy and also plan for various energy conservation measures on solar energy, Biogas plant, Wheeling to the Grid (Net Metering), Sensor-based energy conservation and Use of LED bulbs/ power efficient equipment. The University may seek various support/subsidy from State Govt. / Central Govt.
34. The University may depute the Estate Officer to work for water conservation facilities such as Rainwater harvesting, Borewell/Open well recharge, Construction of tanks and bunds and also focus on Maintenance of water bodies and distribution system in the campus.
35. The University may prepare and display the prescribed code of conduct for students, teachers, administrators and other staff and may conduct periodic programmes on the same for awareness such as:
 - ❖ The Code of Conduct is displayed on the website.
 - ❖ There is a committee to monitor adherence to the Code of Conduct.
 - ❖ Institution organizes professional ethics programmes for students, teachers, administrators, and other staff.
 - ❖ Annual awareness programmes on Code of Conduct are organized.

Taking into account, the totality of the things mentioned above, the University had an opportunity to make an appeal to NAAC within one month of the announcement of the grade

result by the University. Unfortunately, that was not done and the time period prescribed by the NAAC has already expired. Therefore, no useful purpose will be served by making appeal to NAAC at this time. However, the University can apply for its reaccreditation after a due course of time as mentioned in the SSR manual. It came to the notice of the committee that the AQAR for the academic year 2021-22 has not been submitted so far. It needs to be submitted positively by 31st May 2023. The same should be adhered to with due approval of the Executive Council of the University.

The University should immediately take steps to improve the areas stated by the committee during its interaction with the faculty members and the other stakeholders and prepare a fresh Self Study Report at the earliest possible.

Dr. R. K. Chauhan
(Chairman)

Prof. B. K. Punia
(Member)

Prof. Virbala Aggarwal
(Member)

Dr. K. K. Mishra
(Member)

Prof. Ranjita Chakraborty
(Convenor)