**Minutes of 24th IQAC meeting held on 15th July 2022**

The meeting of IQAC began with a silent prayer. Rev Dr Praveen Martis SJ, Principal and Chairman of IQAC Committee welcomed all the members. Special welcome was accorded to the team of external experts Mr Allen C A Pereira- Former Chairman and Managing Director, Bank of Maharashtra and Illustrious Alumnus, Mr Gerard Peter Colaco, Partner, Colaco and Aranha, Mangaluru, Dr Rio D’Souza G L – Principal, St Joseph’s Engineering College (Autonomous), Vamanjoor. Mr Prakash Rao – Proprietor, Kalbavi Cashews, Mangaluru and Dr Kishori Nayak K, Professor, Department of English, Mangalore University, took leave of absence.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 December 2021 were read by the IQAC Coordinator Mr Sonal Steeven Lobo. He also read the Action Taken Report. The minutes and Action Taken Report were approved.

Principal Rev Dr Praveen Martis SJ presented the updates of the College since the previous meeting.

He elaborated on the rankings – The Outlook Icare Rankings and India Today Ranking and other awards received by the College - AMAR KONKANI, the Biennial Research Journal in Konkani published by our Konkani Institute bagged the prestigious SANDESHA LITERATURE AWARD (KONKANI) – 2021 and congratulated Rev Dr Melwyn Pinto SJ, for the same.

Principal also briefed the house on the 4th cycle of NAAC Re-accreditation and the preparations going on in the College, submissions of Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA) and Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) for the same. He specially thanked Dr Jayaprakash Gowda, the NAAC Co-ordinator, Dr Richard Gonsalves, Mr Naveen Mascarenhas and Mr Sonal Lobo for their hardwork and commitment.

Speaking on the new initiatives he made the mention of the inauguration of the Creche at St Aloysius College institutions, establishment of Advanced Instrumentation Centre sponsored by the 1971 golden batch of St Aloysius College alumni, launching of the new Career-oriented UG and PG programmes with four different shifts- regular, morning, noon and evening to cater to the varied needs of students. Special mention was made regarding the new programme offered by the Kannada Department-BA Kannada Major with Creative Communication and BSc (Visual Communication) to be introduced from 2022-23 and the use of electric buggies in the campus. Further, he mentioned the inauguration of the Philatelic gallery at SAC museum where we have a collection of around 60,000 stamps, development of the blood donation portal by students as an initiative to help needy people in the city. He also mentioned the creation of Mr MV Nair and Mr Venkat Endowment Fund of Rs 1 crore to cater to the educational needs of the children of the police personnel.

Speaking on the activities related to the Environmental Concerns, Fr Principal mentioned Indian Green Building Council -student chapter inaugurated by D B Mehta, groundwater recharging, Miyawaki project, cleanliness drives, plantation etc. Around 800 plus students of St Aloysius College took part in cyclo-walkathon to spread awareness on mental health, physical fitness and well-being, and campus bird count in the main campus and St Aloysius Institute of Management & Information Technology (AIMIT) centre.

He also briefed the members on the service-oriented activities taken up by the Centre for Social Concern, namely, blood donation, hair donation for cancer patients, NSS camps, street plays, anti-ragging awareness, vaccination drives etc.

Speaking about the progress in research, he informed the house about guideship being awarded to 7 more staff members making a total count of research guides to 30. Around 102 staff members have completed their PhD. Staff members have also received research projects from Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) which has also funded some workshops, seed money funded by Mangalore Jesuit Educational Society (MJES)for student research to help them in projects and encourage them to write research articles.

Speaking on National and International collaboration, the principal informed the members that there are 09 new MoUs signed, 3 faculty members sent to Catholic University of Valencia, Spian one student spent 6 months there and earned 12 credits in psychology, Fulbright scholarship where a student from SUNY Cortland has been conducting her project for 6 months at St Aloysius College, RISHI, a project on Resources for Internationalisation of Higher education institutes in India, week long research oriented training programmes for students at Poorna Prajna research institute, Bangalore.

Regarding Entrepreneurship, it was informed to the house that IMPETUS programme was organised where in five student projects have been selected for funding with seed money by the College. Principal also mentioned that college is working on start-ups and placements. Many companies have visited the campus a very good number of students are placed. Training programmes are organised for final year students which include aptitude test, communication and job preparation. Important activities were held which included career talks, Knowledge Factory and TEDxSAC.

Speaking on infrastructure, Fr Principal mentioned about the renovation and upgrading of the Music Room and the new fisheries and hydrobiology unit inaugurated in the department of Zoology.

Highlighting staff and student excellence it was informed to the esteemed members that Dr Richard Gonsalves received the Best Innovative Teacher Award, many faculty members have authored books. ‘Kendonians’ - a play produced by Mr Christopher Neenasam, Department of Kannada, is selected for two prestigious National Theatre Festivals - CGK memorial national drama festival at Bangaluru and International Theatre Festival at Hyderabad. ‘Awagath award’ has been conferred to Ms Sandhya Sirsikar from the Department of Hindi.

Speaking on student excellence, Principal informed the members that Deepthika J Puthran (II B.Com E - 203502) has won the medals in the ‘2021—Junior Equipped Powerlifting & Benchpress Championship’ held in Istanbul, Turkey.

SAHL ABDUL RAFEEQUE is the first student of St Aloysius College (Autonomous) to become Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Affiliate, passing all ACCA subjects while still pursuing his B.Com degree; many students have qualified F / P Level ACCA Examinations which was conducted from 6 December to 10 December 2021; students have secured higher rankings in IIT - Jam exams; participated in summer school and received fellowships. 5 NCC students represented the country in the Republic Day Parade and the College won the NCC best institution award.

Speaking on extracurricular activities, Fr Principal briefed the members on different leagues - music, art, dance, throwball and theatre at St Aloysius campus which has helped students exhibit their talents. Reimagining Internationalisation, a workshop was conducted for all Principals of Mangalore region to discuss better ways of collaboration with one other. IQAC in collaboration with IPSR organised a one-day-workshop on Underlying threads in Outcome Based Education.

Highlighting on future plans, especially regarding the Deemed to be University status, Fr Principal informed the house that the work is in progress and there is hope that it will soon be granted, he spoke about the introduction of new programmes like BSc (Psychology), (Food Science and Forensic Science), MSc (Clinical Psychology) and (Organic Chemistry) along with working on Zero waste campus.

After the presentation, Principal invited observations and suggestions from the members on various initiatives taken by the management.

Rev Dr Melwyn Pinto S J, Director of AIMIT observed that data regarding book published by faculty and student placements from AIMIT was not included in the presentation.

Mr Allen Pereira suggested to have a display of College publications and books on regular occasions in the campus which would attract many visitors.

Mr Gerard Colaco emphasised on the importance of acquiring knowledge in areas like geriatric care, substance abuse, alcohol deaddiction, Alzheimer’s and Dementia. As the focus and awareness on these concerns are not adequately addressed in Mangalore. He also suggested that BSc and MSc (Psychology) departments can offer internship programmes on these issues and help spread awareness on them.

In response Fr Principal said that some topics like drug and alcohol deaddiction are included in the syllabus, Dr Loveena Lobo also mentioned about the collaboration with hospitals and internship programmes which students attend.

Mr Gerard Colaco congratulated and appreciated the College for its progress in several areas in the last two years amidst challenging situation.

He spoke about the agricultural activities taking place around Mangalore and the harmful effects people face due to climate change which in turn affects the livelihood of people who depend on agriculture. Appreciating the strong science academia at St Aloysius College, he suggested if some science departments could identify the threats due to climate change that affect agricultural activities and help in providing awareness on better and effective methods of cultivation and thus make a significant contribution to society.

Mr Gerard Colaco appreciated the efforts by the Psychology department of the College with respect to counselling and helping students from other institutions too and suggested that the department can guide students to become professional career counsellors as it is the need of the hour due to prevailing psychological and stress related problems faced by students, and in future, there may be a need for therapists in the area.

He also mentioned about the importance the habit of reading and suggested to initiate certain steps to inculcate the love for reading among students, and also training students on Carnatic and western classical music.

Responding to above suggestions, Principal mentioned about the kind of research taking place in Fr Leo’s lab which has reached people, and regular meetings of students with psychology department, more than 30 plays being performed in the campus, a science play QED on a scientist’s perspective of the world. he also appreciated the Neenasam trained theatre artists and students and thanked them for their encouragement and support.

Mr Allen Pereira also gave the idea of renaming the term counselling and make it sound better as more students can seek help. In reply Fr Principal replied that it has been named Listening and Learning Centre’.

Keeping the establishment of Advanced Instrumentation Centre in the College in mind, Dr Rio D’Souza gave suggestions to have consultancy services as there is inadequacy of instruments and that this research facility will help students from other institutions as well. He also suggested preparation of brochure and send it to other colleges. Dr Mamatha replied that brochures of biochemistry and food science departments are ready and will be shared shortly.

He mentioned about BSc (Visual Communication) being the need of the hour and could be incorporated as a BVoc Programme subsequently.

He also sought clarification on the percentage of faculty having PhD and inquired if it is mandatory for the Assistant professor’s post.

Dr Rio D Souza also suggested to have vocational courses in aquaculture, gardening and nursery as these areas are gaining importance post pandemic.

Speaking on counselling he shared the method followed at St Joseph’s College of Engineering, Fr principal informed that the College has mentoring system where every staff is assigned a few students. They meet and get to know students and accompany them. Dr Rio D Souza also appreciated the progress done by the College and wished it will soon become a university.

Fr Principal thanked Dr Rio D Souza and said that the suggestions will be taken forward.

Principal also invited suggestions from the internal members. He said students are encouraged to work in the incubation centre and some have come up with their start up ideas. Student president Vijoy Cardoza presented his plan on the start-up regarding electric vehicles before the members, Dr Mamatha also appreciated the efforts put in by students where many of them approach staff members and seek guidance in building their projects.

Mr Allen Pereira mentioned that the Institute of Finance and Banking in Mumbai which offers diploma course and students can avail the same leading to better employability in the banking sector.

Dr Denis Fernandes, Director of Commerce and Management Block, informed the house about the programme launched by UGC for BCom students on banking sector along with 6 months internship programme.

Speaking on certificate courses Principal mentioned that from the next academic year students will have to compulsorily choose two add on certificate courses before they reach the final year of their undergraduate studies

Dr Narayana Bhat M, Director of Science Block, appreciated the valuable suggestions given by external members. He mentioned about the ‘Jalasanthe’ initiative by creating the WhatsApp group of ex-Aloysian CEO’s, ex-Aloysian doctors and also planning to have ex-Aloysian lawyers and CAs where students can join the group occasionally and seek consultancy if required. Speaking on NEP, he mentioned that he is being selected as an expert committee member by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council representing the only aided under graduate college in Karnataka and this was proud moment to the College.

Dr Ronald Nazareth, Dean of International Collaboration Cell mentioned that a team from Catholic university of Valencia, Spain will be visiting the College for further collaboration.

Rev Dr Melwyn Pinto S J informed members regarding the MOU signed with TCS for the MSc (Big Data Analytics) and the MSc (Software Technology) was in the process of signing MOU with Niveus company.

Dr Suresh Poojary, Director of the Research Development Cell (RDC) spoke about the RDC in the College and its activities like workshops, capacity building and applying for research grants. The main objective is to enhance research productivity. Having established the incubation centre in the college, he said that Commerce, Computer Science and Application departments can work on idea generation and start-ups, whereas Science departments must concentrate on innovations and patents.

Dr Alwyn D’Sa Registrar and Controller of Examinations proposed the vote of thanks.