



**Review Interaction Meetings on the Follow-up Action on AAA Report
with Departments and Faculty**

25th - 29th November 2024

(MU/REG/DEV(D5)/NAAC/2024 dt. 5-11-2024; IQAC)

Preamble:

1. The Academic and Administrative Audit, which is a mandatory component of any higher educational institution was conducted from 25th to 27th March 2024. The overall observations and the Department-wise observations were shared with all the Departments.
2. During April 2024, a Department-wise Follow-up was conducted by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Officers of the University, wherein major suggestions were given vis-a-viz the AAA report and recommendations.
3. Six months later, the University organized Review Interaction meetings scheduled over four days, from 25th to 28th November 2024. On 25th November the interaction with the Humanities Departments was conducted, on 26th it was Commerce and Management, Education and few Science Departments. On 27th it was the remaining Science Departments. On 28th the External Members compiled the Report.
4. The Departments were asked to present an ATR on the Follow-up Interactive meeting conducted in April 2024 and provide their perspective on pre-NAAC and post NAAC developments in the Department. The third task was to provide plans for the next 3 months, 6 months etc., vis-a-viz NAAC.
5. The series of Review meetings were held on four days from 25th to 28th April 2024, wherein the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Registrar Evaluation and Finance Officer interacted with Chairpersons/Coordinators, and members of the Faculty numbering more than 168 from 28 Departments offering 40 PG and 31 PhD Programmes.
6. The goal of this review exercise was to have an Action Taken Report from the Departments regarding the Department-wise AAA recommendations dt. 27th March 2024 and the suggestions given in the Department-wise Follow-up Interaction Meetings dt. 29th April 2024.
7. Prof. K. R. Chandrashekhar and Prof. Kishori Nayak were the External Members.
8. The overall suggestions given were as follows:

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor spoke about the importance of accreditation and ranking and the academic stock-taking exercise that is required. He stressed on the need for documentation as essential, as the entire process is based on Documents. Presentation skills of individual Departments to be improved. Such review meetings are the norm in all Universities and all Departments should develop their profiles for any kind of assessment. He appreciated the good research outcome through publications, patents and requested the Departments to provide good documentation of the same. He also stressed on the contributions of the Contract Faculty. In terms of outreach and extension activities, he urged

Departments to work within their specializations, take up socially-relevant projects and submit reports to relevant authorities. He provided the example of Pilikula Biological Park/Regional Science Centre where our former professors were involved in the entire establishment and have contributed significantly to make it what it is today. He urged concerned Departments to take up activities with the above organization again. He exhorted Departments to take up greening and cleaning activities in and around their Departments so that students imbibe the essence of living and studying in a green campus and the significance of the environment. The Vice Chancellor noted the need to collect data by the Data Officer with documents being submitted to the IQAC with repeated reminders to be sent to the Departments.

The Registrar noted that the University is built by academicians and it is a special honour to be a University teachers. Senior Professors were to motivate juniors to contribute to Department improvement. He also observed that data presentation was not up to the mark, and some metrics such as mentoring, MoUs, curriculum revision were lacking. He urged Departments to explore consultancy options to be explored in Dakshina Kannada on Tourism/Earthquakes/rural sports, or some Zilla Panchayath projects and provide expert suggestions for improvement, and enable interaction with Govt. departments. Earlier, several programmes have been suggested to various Departments for projects/consultancy including research matters. He noted that Chairs were financially sound and urged Departments to associate with Chairs such that the campus becomes a hub of activities by inviting degree college students such that they get exposure to campus in order to increase admissions and attract impressionable minds. He also urged student volunteers to Chairs so that they can engage in experiential learning for students as organizers, event managers, identify the Govt. department and work with them. He also advised to display books published by Prasaranga in Govt. events such that the University participates and fits into the bigger scheme of things.

Preliminary Observations by the Experts

Prof. Chandrashekhar emphasized on the need for preparation of project reports and document preparation in the NAAC process, whether it is for SSR or AQAR. He also noted that in future, Peer Team Visit is questionable, but the University should prepare for online visit. All were exhorted to work towards overall development of the University. He also noted the requirement of a Database management system (DBMS) or information management system (IMS) wherein reports of seminars, papers published could be submitted and reports should be done real time.

Prof. Kishori Nayak emphasized the importance of follow up to be done meticulously by the Departments, including SWOC analysis to bring out the outstanding characteristics of the Institution. She noted that the last NAAC Peer Team Visit was good, but that we were not up to the mark when it came to documentation. She said that the vision mission of the Department should be prepared and the research work being conducted be showcased for its societal impact. She acknowledged the need for publications and research teams, particularly from the Humanities Departments. She urged Departments to check the good practices that could be adopted from other departments. She emphasised on the need for Outcome-based learning, conduct of workshops on Outcome Based Education (OBE) and curriculum aligned with OBE.

The Experts emphasised on the need for Institutional Development Plan and suggested that the University could re-activate all the projects submitted under the Dr. V. S. Acharya Centre. Departments need to develop their profiles through research publications, collaborative research, outreach programmes or extension activities or engage students in experiential learning through field visits or Village/School adoption programmes. Faculty need to show progression by attending FDPs. Overall the University needs to improve at the national level and aim for Maturity Based Gradation Level accreditation.

Overall, 28 Departments offering 1 UG, 41 PG and 31 PhD programmes give brief presentations regarding the recent development of their Departments. Independent Department-specific suggestions were given to the Departments.

Closing Remarks

It was observed that SWOC Analysis is very much needed, so all Departments need to spell out their SWOC, such that it enables self-introspection as also the uniqueness or highlights of the Department to be focussed on. Future plans and vision mission of the department to be worked on. Departments were urged to study the AAA. Departments were urged to go through the AAA, read other Departments reports such that some of the best practices can be adopted.

Departments need to prepare ATRs specific to the AAA Recommendations and the AAA Follow-up Interactive meetings. Generic replies will not help the Department or the University in any way. A comparative analysis of other Departments can be done, so as to conduct an exercise of self-assessment. All faculty need to take demonstrate accountability towards the processes of accreditation and ranking and develop a systematic approach for corrective action. Professional team work within and across the Departments is needed such that the Department is presented well. Accreditation requires sustained preparation including documentation which cannot be done in the last minute. Departments are urged to conduct follow up meetings at the Departmental level and provide ATR on AAA and Follow up by conducting the Departmental Council meeting in the presence of Dean and submit immediate, short-term and future plans.

Assurance of quality needs to be done using data and documentation. Mangalore University is a well-established University with all the infrastructure and amenities for conducive academic and research environment, which is lacking in several Universities. Leveraging these advantages, faculty are urged to work together as a team, demonstrate collective ownership and accountability. Conduct Ideathons/hackathons and highlight the achievements. For accreditation also, project the Department with documentation being maintained as 75% of the work lies in the documentation.

The leadership of the University was appreciated for conducting this exercise. It is an exercise in self-assessment, where the Department/University stands and where the Department/University wants to be in terms of Accreditation. Academic assessment is the need of the hour, with PMEB and IQAC playing their roles of planning, monitoring and evaluation and quality assurance.


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