



Minutes of the 42nd Governing Body Meeting of St Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, held on 19th October 2013

Members present:

Rev. Dr S John Britto SJ, Rector and Vice-Chairman of the GB
Rev. Dr F Andrew SJ, Principal and Secretary of the GB
Rev. Dr S Sebastian SJ, Secretary of the College
Dr R K Chauhan, Former Secretary, UGC, New Delhi - (UGC Representative)
Dr S Raja, Deputy Principal
Rev. Dr M Arockiasamy Xavier SJ, Vice-Principal & Dean, School of Language and Culture
Rev. Dr G Lawrence Amalraj SJ, Director, JIM
Dr N Xavier, Staff Representative
Dr G Gnanasekaran, Staff Representative
Dr M Amaladasan, Dean, School of Basic Sciences
Dr G Melchias, Dean, School of Biological Sciences
Dr D Ravindran, Dean, School of Computing Sciences
Dr F R Alexander Pravin Durai, Dean, School of Management Studies
Dr S Alfred Cecil Raj, IQAC Coordinator
Rev. Dr G Wellington Fernando SJ, Controller of Examinations

The Vice-Chairman and Rector Rev. Dr S John Britto SJ called the meeting to order. An introductory prayer was recited by Rev. Dr M Arockiasamy Xavier SJ.

In his Welcome Address, Rev. Dr F Andrew SJ, Principal, highlighted the history of the College citing the 170th year of existence; Twin Jubilee Celebrations and the UGC's proposal on conferring Degree Awarding Status to the College. He welcomed the members individually to the meeting. Further, he mentioned the inability expressed by the following members to attend the meeting: Dr A Veeramani, Joint Director of Collegiate Education; Dr M Selvam, Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, Bharathidasan University; Rev. Dr G Pushparaj SJ, Coordinator for Higher Education, Jesuit Madurai Province, and Rev. Dr S Mariadoss SJ, Campus Treasurer.

In his Introductory Address, Rev. Dr S John Britto SJ, Vice-Chairman and Rector, highlighted the uniqueness of St. Joseph's College and appreciated the collective effort taken by Fr Secretary & Fr Principal, Deputy Principal and other administrators for having given a new dynamism and

resurgence in framing of a series of MoUs with Institutes of eminence from abroad and within the country, twinning programmes, introduction of mandatory library hours, plethora of orientation programmes to the teaching staff, sessions on pedagogy and enhancing language competence to staff as capacity building measures, revision of pay structure to management staff, efforts towards a green and clean campus, far-sighted plan and drive to create new construction in the place of ageing buildings.

Fr. Vice-Chairman highlighted the 'School Concept' which empowers staff and students on various avenues, such as,

- knowledge, skills and values;
- tailoring the academic programmes to the two layers of our student community i.e., slow learners and fast learners;
- interdisciplinary and interdependent initiatives;
- instilling decentralized academic and administrative autonomy;
- academic accountability of the Department and individual faculty;
- greater participation and transparency in institution planning and governance decision;
- evaluation and follow-up;
- facilitating innovation and creativity; and
- creating a flexible learning environment for slow and fast learners, and national networking and global connectivity.

He reminded the members of the fact that St. Joseph's College is unrivalled by any other Jesuit Institutions in Tamil Nadu as it is emerging as a new model. He urged the administrators to successfully implement the same from the academic year 2014-15. He emphasized the need and the capability of St. Joseph's College to go in for School Concept without any hitch. He called for immediate attention towards the need for having creative score cards in order to identify the school, if any that is yet to take off or struggling to achieve the target with regard to the School concept. He called for resourcing consultancy and expertise from appropriate sources if any school lacked such internal expertise. As several Universities introduced interdisciplinary curriculum, the School could either absorb or tailor those models according to their convenience.

Fr. Vice-Chairman insisted that rapid and speedy executive or administrative decisions could be undertaken to put finishing touches on the completion of the School Concept Curriculum, the revision of syllabus,

course design and curricular content. In case the faculty felt that they were not strong enough in these domains, subject experts elsewhere, from central and state institutions could be arranged to frame the above. Finally, Fr. Vice-Chairman earnestly solicited the total commitment from all the administrators, HoDs and the staff members in completing the preparatory phase on time and settle down on the deliverables so that the model School System took off and positioned itself before the National and International Jesuit fraternity. All the members of the Governing Body endorsed the views expressed by Fr Vice-Chairman and assured for the momentous launch of the School system from June 2014.

Dr G Gnanasekaran read out the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Governing Body held on 21st January 2013 and the action taken report. With regard to the release of sanctioned teaching posts, Fr Secretary, said that the College is awaiting for the orders from the Government. The minutes were passed.

Dr N Xavier presented the Minutes of the 37th Academic Council Meeting held on 8th April 2013 and the Action Taken Report. Dr R K Chauhan applauded the initiative of awarding marks for Library hours saying that it is being practiced nowhere in the country. Following Fr Principal's explanation Fr G Lawrence Amalraj SJ, opined that awarding of marks for Library hours, the utilization of the library facilities towards the learning dynamics should be ensured. The Body approved the minutes.

Fr M Arockiasamy Xavier SJ, Vice-Principal and Admission Officer, presented the data relating to the admissions made to UG, PG and M.Phil. Programmes of Shift I and II for the academic year 2013-14. He said that there was an increase in the admission compared to last year.

Fr G Wellington SJ, Controller of Examinations, made a graphical presentation of the examination results - April 2013 and pointed out the performance of the various categories, i.e., first generation; rural; urban; Dalits/Non-Dalits; Catholics/Non-Catholics and the students of English and Tamil medium. Fr Vice-Chairman called for appropriate planning for identifying suitable parameters to holistically evaluate the student as to how different he/she is as a person as he/she leaves apart from academic evaluation. He congratulated Fr Wellington SJ for the precise information delivered on the results, and systematic process of conducting the

examination and the ensuing innovation and reforms that would be part of ensuing School system.

Dr D Ravindran submitted the evaluative reports of the Examination Reforms and on Communicative English: Bridge Course. Certain inconsistency on the part of the faculty of School of Basic Sciences was pointed out when an evaluation was done on 'Examination Reforms'. The members unanimously felt that such lapse should not recur in future. Fr Vice-Chairman took a serious note of the delay of conceiving the concept of School by the School of Basic Sciences, he called for addressing the issue direct and point blank. Fr Principal noted that the School of Basic Sciences was moving slow, and unable to shift the mindset from the conventional departmental level towards the dynamic School concept. He continued to add that the necessary orientation will be given to the faculty concerned on this matter. It was suggested that use of dictionary by the students during the Bridge Course and other innovative measures are to be taken for the successful conduct of the Bridge Course in English. Fr Controller of Examinations emphasized on the frequency of Language Lab sessions in the pedagogy of the Bridge Course.

Dr M Amaladasan presented the result analysis reports of the various departments. Fr CoE informed the members of the provisions made available for the students admitted late to write the Mid-Semester Test and completing the CIA components. The house rejected the suggestion that 40% of the SE question paper might consist of questions from the tests. The house considered the majority view of the staff regarding the 'CIA minimum' rule. Fr Vice-Chairman directed Fr Principal to initiate a discussion on revisiting the 'CIA minimum' rule as a package to include all aspects of CIA. He called for a thorough evaluation of the issue, the nuances in the light of the old amendments and new proposals.

Dr G Melchias submitted the details of the Ph.D. enrolment from October 2012 till date. As on date, 270 Ph.D. scholars are doing their research at the college.

Dr F R Alexander Pravin Durai presented the grants received from the UGC from October 2012 till date, and the report on the utilization of the funds. It was stated that Rs.88,44,218/- was received from the UGC on various heads. He also presented the minutes of the Finance Committee

Meeting held on 17th April 2013 in connection with the autonomy grant budget for the year 2013-14. The Governing Body duly approved the statement.

The details of the recently instituted 15 Endowments and Scholarships by the donors were presented by Dr S Raja. Fr Vice-Chairman suggested for an inventory of the Endowments/Scholarships instituted in the yester years for programmes that are defunct now; the donors could be requested for their consent so that those Endowments/Scholarships could be continued for other programmes. Fr Principal echoed the suggestion that in future Endowments/Scholarships may be instituted the deposit of not less than Rs.75,000. Fr Vice-Chairman suggested that the College should honour the sentiments of the donors and suggest to them if they could contribute towards annual cash prize instead of smaller endowment deposits.

Dr D Ravindran submitted the details of the scholarships received by the students for the year 2012-13. A total number of 2916 students received various scholarships of Rs.1,32,25,767 from the Government and other agencies.

Rev. Dr S Sebastian SJ presented the details of the financial statement of the college for 2012-13 duly audited by the college auditor. Dr R K Chauhan wanted the Secretary to include the Audit Report with the auditor's remarks. Fr. Secretary responded saying that the college was awaiting the Government auditors to complete the job. The Vice Chairman brought to the notice of the august body about some items remaining blank and suggested to make available all the possible scholarships to the students.

Fr. Secretary made details on the change of administrators, the list of new appointees of teaching staff (aided and un-aided) and the appointment of aided non-teaching staff. He also said the salary of the aided teaching staff appointed against retirement vacancies were being paid by the College Management, and he informed the members of the efforts taken by the college with the Government in getting the salaries of the newly appointed staff released.

Dr S Alfred Cecil Raj presented the constitution of the following committees for ratification by the Governing Body: Students' Grievance Redressal & Anti-Ragging; Prevention of Sexual Harassment; Staff Grievance Redressal; Students' Discipline; Finance; Planning and Evaluation and Purchase Committees. Dr R K Chauhan suggested to include NGO representation in the Students' Grievance Redressal & Anti-Ragging and Prevention of Sexual Harassment Committees. Fr Vice-Chairman promised to rectify the lapse by including NGO representation in the ensuing sitting of the committees concerned.

Fr G Lawrence Amalraj highlighted the activities of the St. Joseph's Institute of Management on placement, admission, new infrastructure and other details. Fr Vice-Chairman appreciated the efforts taken by the Director.

Dr S Alfred Cecil Raj submitted the detailed report on **formation of Schools** highlighting the purpose behind the school system and other details on course pattern and the examination pattern. He also presented the innovation introduced and the problems encountered by various Schools for the implementation of the same. Fr CoE wanted the decelerating forces against the School concept must be identified and dealt with sternly. Fr Principal informed the members of the meeting he had with the Deans on the issue of slow progress shown by the School of Basic Sciences and assured the members that he will ensure the total compliance of the School with the rest. Fr Vice-Chairman supplemented his earlier remarks made on this matter and wanted the administrators to implement through executive and administrative decisions towards the successful launch of the School concept from the academic year 2014-15, the Examination Reforms and the parameters set for the IQAC within the set time frame of Jan 2014. He affirmed the irreversibility of the School System and the Governing Body unanimously approved his statement. He congratulated Dr S Alfred Cecil Raj, the IQAC Coordinator on the detailed presentation and the follow-up measures taken.

Rev. Dr F Andrew SJ briefed the members on the new initiatives taken and the recent happenings during the academic year: Introduction of CIA component 4 on 'Library Assignment'; Proposed MoUs with Concordia College, New York, USA & Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan and Twinning Programme with Pondicherry University; Appointment of a

P.R.O. Committee; Comprehensive external evaluation of SHEPHERD Programme; Proposal of offering 'Internship' to III UG students; 'Soft Skills' for III UG students; Proposal of constructing new Chemistry Block; Twin Jubilee Celebrations and associated Civic Function to be held in our campus in Feb 2014 ; Upgradation of the College Website with e-content details and user friendly software to monitor students' attendance; Degree Awarding Status by the UGC; Setting up of Campus Grievance Cell; and the activities of the Alumni Association. Dr. G. Gnanasekaran wanted to know why internship has been planned for UG programmes but not for the PG programmes. Fr Principal responded saying that internship for PG would be considered in the next stage.

Under 'Any other matter', Fr Principal informed the house that the Jesuit Higher Education Commission is considering its permission to start a new PG Programme, 'Masters of Bank Management' to be offered by the BBA Department. Dr. G. Gnanasekaran cautioned the members with certain apprehensions on the viability of the proposed course, and hence the house decided to wait on the matter. Fr Principal informed the members that the College is negotiating with the banks for setting up of ATM at the college premises.

Dr N Xavier requested to accord priority in admitting the fresh bachelors to the Shift-I PG Programmes and those students with B.Ed. qualification to the Shift-II PG Programmes because of the de-motivating influence. Similar sentiments were expressed by few other members. Fr Secretary pleaded not to allow such discrepancies in admission. Fr Vice-Chairman tried to enlighten the members that the GB took note of the issue. He also dwelt on the legal, entry and option angles of the issue while recognizing the difficulties faced by the teachers on the issue.

The Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr S Raja, who specifically thanked the UGC Nominee Dr R K Chauhan and all other members for their presence and contribution to the discussion of the apex body.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm with lunch.
