Minutes of the Governing Body meeting of Mar Athanasius College of Engineering, Kothamangalam held on 06.05.2022 in online mode.

The meeting was conducted in online mode using Google Meet.

Governing Body Meeting of Mar Athanasius College of Engineering Kothamangalam

When Fri May 6, 2022 11am – 12pm India Standard Time - Kolkata

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The meeting started at 11.00 a.m. The meeting was presided by Dr. Winny Varghese, Secretary, Mar Athanasius College Association and Chairman, Governing Body, Mar Athanasius College of Engineering. Following members were present in the meeting.

1) Dr. Winny Varghese, Secretary, Mar Athanasius College Association and Chairman, Governing Body, Mar Athanasius College of Engineering.
2) Dr. Mathew K, Principal and Secretary of Governing Body, Mar Athanasius College of Engineering.
3) Sri. Ajayan C, Additional Secretary, Higher Education Department, Govt of Kerala.
4) Dr. Shalij P R, Dean Research, APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University.
5) Dr. George Issac, Executive Committee Member, Mar Athanasius College Association.
6) Sri. Acy M Kottalil, Governing Board Member, Mar Athanasius College Association.
7) Dr. P V Joseph, Governing Board Member, Mar Athanasius College Association.
8) Sri. T J Thampi, Governing Board Member, Mar Athanasius College Association.
9) Dr. Bos Mathew Jos, Professor, Electrical & Electronics Engineering Department, Mar Athanasius College of Engineering.
10) Dr. Biju B, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department, Mar Athanasius College of Engineering.

The meeting started with a prayer. After the prayer, Principal welcomed all the members. Principal also introduced each of the board members present and stated that the Board has been reconstituted as per the norms of APJKTU. Following the welcome speech, Principal invited Dr. Winny Varghese, Chairman of the Governing body to address the meeting.

Dr. Winny Varghese informed that the college which was started in 1961 was completing 60 years or celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. The celebrations were to be in the academic year 2020-21. Due to covid pandemic, we were unable to celebrate it. Hence the Diamond Jubilee celebrations is postponed to the academic year 2022-23. He invited suggestions from board members to celebrate the jubilee with pomp and show. He reminded of the 10 days of Golden Jubilee celebrations which included national level exhibition, cultural programmes, seminars etc.

The Principal did a Power Point presentation. The college has a total of 174 faculty members, of which 39 members are Ph.D. holders and 47 members are pursuing Ph.D. programmes. He stated that at present more faculty members are showing willingness to pursue Ph.D. or in short the college is progressing in the right direction. Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical & Electronics Engineering departments are already NBA accredited for the period 2015 -2021 and 2021-2022. Electronics & Communication Engineering and Computer Science & Engineering departments are accredited for 3 years. ie (2019 - 2022).

Principal presented the results of the UG 2017-2021batch. He remarked that the initial pass percentage was 75.7 and after revaluation it has increased to 80.7. Regarding the academic performance index, we are doing better. The number of students completed their B.Tech Degree with honours is 182 for the 2017-2021 batch. This number is one among the top when compared to other similar colleges in Kerala. He mentioned the placement details for the period 2021-22. 510 students got offers from various companies in 2021. In 2022, till date it is 677 and placements are still in progress.

→ No. of students placed 2021- 304, 2022 – 410

→ No. of companies that has visited :2021- 55, 2022 – 81

In 2021-22, more than 25 programs were conducted and two student start-ups registered with IEDC MACE.

ASME, SAE and IEEE (International Society MACE Chapters)

ASME received many honours and international awards. The fabrication studio in the Mechanical department is functioning 24 X 7 and students are fully utilizing this facility. The SAE is also very active and has received many recognitions in the past year. Our IEEE chapter bagged more than 20 awards last year. The NPTEL chapter is also performing very well in the campus.

Thakshak (Annual Technical Fest)

In connection with Thakshak, we have achieved a milestone last year by entering into the India Book of Records and Asia Books of Records for making the biggest cloth mask.

Diamond Jubilee Hostel

This hostel was recently inaugurated. 172 students can be admitted into the new hostel. It has an automated kitchen and high standard facilities. At present we can accommodate 1000 students in the college hostel. Principal made a request to the management to further increase the capacity so that all students can be accommodated into the hostels.

Solar Plant

A 160 KW solar power plant was installed in the college and our campus will be fully functional with solar power after a year.

Smart Class Rooms

Conventional black boards in all the class rooms have been replaced with white boards. All classrooms are provided with LCD projectors with Wi-Fi connectivity. Interactive boards are also available in all departments.

Automation and Digital Payment System

We have developed in-house Leave Application software. Thus, application and managing leave has become paperless. We have recently added a digital payment system. For better administration, ETlab campus software has been integrated with hostel module, Placement module, CCE module etc. All fee collections have become online.

Research Activities

We have received a sum of Rs 47 lakhs for various projects during the past 2 years. This includes a major research funding from Naval Research Board.

At present we have 21 Research Guides and 31 Research Scholars. 7 scholars were awarded Ph.D. Principal also emphasized the need to enhance the number of such scholars.

Budget for the year 2022-23

We have planned for Rs. 48 crores as budget for the coming year. Principal also presented the budget.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Prof. Acy M Kottalil suggested that Jubillee Celebration can be during the month of December 2022 in case situation becomes conducive. Dr. Winny Varghese pointed out that all our jubilee celebrations were immediately after the monsoon in the month of September/October and this will also follow so. Mega events like International/National seminars should be conducted in December 2022. He insisted that a committee be formed which includes the Principal, Board Members from the Association and senior faculty members to discuss the programme.

Former Principal and Board member, Dr George Isaac recalled the Golden Jubilee Celebration. He said that the main focus was 100% participation of school students. This in turn prepared them for their higher education. They could visit our campus and see the facilities. This also motivates young talents to shape their future career. He also congratulated the Principal and the management for the efforts taken towards - a green campus, clean energy, paperless office, digital payment system, etc

Dr. P V Joseph appreciated the Principal, Teachers and Management for their hard work, integrity and efforts taken towards the institution.

NAAC Accreditation

The Principal spoke about the hard work that all faculties have carried out for the past one year for NAAC accreditation. Dr. Biju B, Associate Professor of the Mechanical Engineering dept. told that the registration on the NAAC site was done on the 25th of April 2022 and that we are in the process of reviewing. The first series of review meetings was completed on 27th April 2022. The second review meeting is going on and will be completed on 7th May 2022.We have launched our updated website on 5th May 2022 with the NAAC criteria requirements and we are planning to submit the institutional information for quality assurance report on 18th May 2022. We need to submit the SSR within 45 days. We are almost ready with the SSR and can submit the same within a month.

The Chairman added that we being NBA accredited need to be aware that presently multiple accreditations are needed for every institution. He reiterated that multiple accreditations and NIRF ranking would be the criterion for fund allotments in the coming years (near future).

NBA Accreditation

Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical & Electronics departments have applied for NBA accreditation. Dr. Surekha Mariam Varghese is in-charge of NBA accreditation. Dr. Bos Mathew Jos, Professor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering dept.

informed that UG courses of Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical & Electronics Engineering departments were accredited from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2018. ie for 3 years. Based on the compliance report uploaded and the expert committee visit report, the accreditation was extended for three more years (up to 30th June 2021). We have submitted the application for reaccreditation last year but the NBA expert committee has not yet visited. Hence NBA further extended the accreditation of these courses for 1 more year (up to 30th June 2022). We have to upload the application within 2 months. Electronics & Communication Engineering and Computer Science & Engineering was first accredited in 2019 for a period of 3 years.ie till 30th June 2022. These 2 departments have submitted the compliance report and is waiting for the verification process. The NBA team has informed that they will be visiting the college by the end of June 2022.

Technology Business Incubator

Dr. Biju B mentioned about the Innovation and Entrepreneurship cell (IEDC) of our college and its activities. He added that the cell is functioning very well. Kerala start up mission, a central agency of the government of Kerala for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities will be inspecting the cell activities and depending on its functioning, the cell would be upgraded to a Technology Business Incubator (TBI). The inspection was carried out and the agency have given consent to upgrade the cell to a TBI. A TBI will be given a sum of Rs 10 Lakhs for this purpose. We have already signed an agreement and an initial amount of Rs 5 lakhs will be released soon. The immediate requirement is to provide the cell with a space of 2000 square feet.

Dr. George Isaac expressed his happiness to hear about the cell being converted to a TBI. He said that more persons should come forward and support the coordinator so that business would spring up in the campus.

Chairman made remarks on Industry-Institution participation. He said though we have been speaking about participation for a long time it has yet to be materialised. He suggested to invite and also to interact with industry from the nearby states as Kerala has very few industries. He proposed to invite them to our campus for delivering good talks fruitful to all. In turn by visiting our campus we will be able to showcase the facilities of our campus. He urged to contact distinguished alumni and also to arrange a Global Alumni meet in our campus as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

Pending approval for new faculties

Due to changes in the AICTE norms and verdicts issued by various courts, we are facing a delay for the approval of some newly recruited faculties. We do have some of them working without salary for the past 2 years. To resolve this grave issue, the authorities from KTU have paid a visit to our campus for document verification.

Dr. Shajil P R responded by saying that some more data is to be verified to solve this issue completely. The same authorities would visit again to complete the data collection. Once this process is over, the university would be issuing their approval orders.

Government sanction for new courses

We have already applied for 2 courses- Robotics & Automation and Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning. It would be a great benefit in case both these courses are sanctioned.

Sri. Ajayan C, responded that sanctioning of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning is pending in the office of the minister. He pointed out that special recommendation from the finance department is needed for sanctioning. He hoped that the course will be sanctioned in the next academic year.

Increase of intake for MCA from 30 to 60.

We have applied to the AICTE seeking permission and awaiting the response. Dr. Bos Mathew Jos claimed that new faculty need not be recruited for this increase intake.

Chairman suggested that the Principal ought to meet the Education Minister and Finance Minister to clarify that further financial commitment is not required from the Government regarding this issue.

Prof. Acy M Kottallil proposed the vote of thanks to one and all.

The meeting came to an end by 12 noon.

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