

Ahmedabad University

Minutes of 49th Meeting of Board of Management held on 11th August 2023 through Zoom

- Members Present:
1. Professor Pankaj Chandra, Chairperson
 2. Professor Sankarshan Basu
 3. Professor Sunil Kale
 4. Professor Kaumudi Joshipura
 5. Mr Kiran Karnik
 6. Professor Darshini Mahadevia
 7. Mr Naishadh Parikh
 8. Mr BM Shah
 9. Professor Devanath Tirupati

- Leave of Absence:
1. Professor Raghavan Rangarajan
 2. Dr Balaji Srinivasan

Professor Pankaj Chandra welcomed the members to the meeting of the Board of Management of the University.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Management held on May 12, 2023, were approved. Action Taken Report is attached as an addendum to the minutes in the end.

2. Updates on the University Activities

Professor Pankaj Chandra presented update on the University. The presentation is attached.

- **Introduction of New Faculty:** Professor Chandra gave a brief introduction of six new faculty members who would be joining in the coming months and ten faculty who joined the University after the last meeting. This includes Professor Molly Kaushal who would be taking over from Professor Neelkamal Chapagain as the Director, Centre for Heritage Management.

Professor Chandra also updated the members about plans to start Ahmedabad University Press with Professor Pallavi Narayan joining as the Director of the Ahmedabad Writing Programme. She has vast experience of being associated with publishing houses. She will also start the process of setting up of the Ahmedabad University Press. The Press would be setup over a period of next 4-5 years and will allow us to publish our own books and other material.

The Times Higher Education (THE) Asia High Commendation Award for teaching and learning strategy for our Foundation Programme, Independent Study Period and experiential learning ENABLE pedagogy (Engagement and Application Based Learning and Education).

Several undergraduate students and alumni secured admissions to graduate programmes in reputed overseas universities and IIMs.

The **Career Development Centre** achieved placement of 100% students seeking jobs. Salaries offered to students demonstrate a positive trend across all programmes. The best performance was from the students of Computer Science and Engineering from the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

The **Centre for Inter-Asian Research** organized a successful conference, drawing participation of over 140 delegates representing 10 countries worldwide.

3. Learning lessons from Annual Review

Professor Chandra briefed the members about the issues that came out of the Schools Retreat and the University Retreat.

These are some of the issues that were discussed - Role of the Executive Provost, need for an Assistant Provost, deeper engagement with school Deans for various academic affairs including tenure of faculty, promotion of legacy faculty, annual evaluation of faculty, limited engagement of our Faculty of all schools with outside external organizations, less credits to faculty for teaching classes with fewer students and PhD courses, credits for large classes of 120 students was also highlighted, need for increase in research output, few faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management applying for grants, challenges in getting enough PhD students, Review of Schools through Advisory Boards.

Other issues encompassed challenges in outreach for graduate admissions, less ownership of school and faculty, the selection process for Masters programs, poor mathematics preparation for entry into undergraduate admission both among students coming from within and outside Gujarat. Additionally, there was a need to improve the experience during undergraduate admissions as well as graduate admissions, explore ways of bringing top industry leaders to campus, revamp the Chemical Engineering programme and develop an Electrical Engineering programme with a focus on electronics, and address placement-related issues such as skills, attitude, and capabilities.

4. Credit structure review based on UGC and the Government of Gujarat

Professor Chandra updated the members that the UGC has asked the undergraduate credits to be increased to 160 from the current structure that ranges from 120 credits to 145 credits for various programmes. The Government of Gujarat has increased the credit structure to 176.

The break-up of 160 credits curriculum proposed by the UGC vs. a detailed breakup of how we would like the credit structure to be, concentrating more on the multi-disciplinary aspect was presented to the members.

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Mr BM Shah mentioned that UGC is unaware of such requirement from the Government of Gujarat and may not necessarily support the 176 credits. They also talk about dual major undergraduate programmes.

5. Final Admission status and trends

Professor Devanath Tirupati presented the status of Admissions 2023 to the members.

The total number of undergraduate admissions so far met the targets while the process for BTech is still going on. The school-wise programme admission numbers were shared and discussed. IMS saw a drop in numbers and some cases of early exit were also recorded.

The number of graduate admissions and PhD programmes was still not in keeping with our projections. Enrolments to most graduate programmes were not satisfactory except the MBA. The background and quality of MBA enrollments has not changed much i.e., most students are from BBA and B.Com backgrounds and less from BTech background.

The presentation is attached.

6. Retention of Faculty: Issues

Professor Tirupati presented the issues faced in the retention of faculty. Reasons vary from compensation, difficulty in getting grants, demanding environment and involvement in academic governance. Members provided suggestions on how to address some of these issues.

With this, the members thanked the Chairperson and the meeting was concluded.

Signature of the Chairman



Ahmedabad University

49th Meeting of Board of Governors held on August 11, 2023

Action Taken Report

Sr No.	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action	Status
1	May 12, 2023 (48 th Meeting of Board of Governors)	Approval of BxMx Programme	Announced and admitted students in BxMx programme.	Closed
2	May 12, 2023 (48 th Meeting of Board of Governors)	Building initiatives on Inclusion and Diversity	A committee will be setup for Inclusion and Diversity, which would be chaired by Professor Preeti Maneck.	Closed

Panhej Chandra