

Minutes of the Governing Council meeting of CMS College Kottayam (Autonomous) (GC/19.04) held at 10 am on 22-04-2019 in the IQAC Conference Hall, CMS College.

Members Present

- 1) Very Rev. Daniel George, Bishop's Commissary, CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kottayam
- 2) Rev. John Issac, Clergy Secretary, CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kottayam
- 3) Rev. Jacob George, Bursar -CMS College Kottayam
- 4) Sri. Jacob Philip Monkuzhy - CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kottayam
- 5) Dr. Beena Mathew, M.G University Nominee
- 6) Dr. Mini Chacko, Vice Principal & HOD – Botany

Also present Dr. Roy Sam Daniel, Principal (**Ex-officio Secretary**)

Inconveniences of Most. Rev. Thomas K Oommen – Chairman Governing Council, Rev. Thomas Paikad, Dr. Varghese C Joshua, Dr. Soma Bandhopdhyay, UGC Nominee and Dr. K.K.Damodaran – Government Nominee to attend the meeting were recorded.

The meeting was presided over by Very Rev. Daniel George, Bishop's Commissary, CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, Kottayam. Principal welcomed the members. Chairman delivered introductory speech. Dr. Roy Sam Daniel, Ex-officio Secretary read the minutes of previous meeting (GC/19.03 dated 12.03.2019) and the members unanimously approved the same.

Action Taken:

1) Department wise Accreditation.

Member Secretary reported that, the department wise accreditation by the external peer team was conducted from 15th and 16th March 2019. It was reported that the accreditation process was a great success and made departments to identify the weak and strong areas. Certificates were distributed to each departments indicating their score.

After discussion, it was decided and entrusted Principal to arrange an open discussion with Head, Faculties of each Department, Management and an expert on NAAC Accreditation for analyzing the results of Department Accreditation.

2) Heritage Project.

Member Secretary reported that roofing work of three buildings – Principal Bungalow, College Chapel and Great Hall of CMS College Kottayam is going on and request for extension has been sent to UGC Bangalore.

Agenda: Item 1 Disciplinary action taken against Neeraj E.P and Ashish Karinooran.

Principal briefed the incident that took place in campus on 18th and 19th December 2018 which led to the dismissal of two students viz. Neeraj E.P and Ashish Karinooran for their involvement in the acts of ragging and other indiscipline, on the basis of the enquiry report of Anti Ragging Committee and the Domestic Inquiry committee..

Principal reported that a complaint against the principal of the college (appeal against penal action on ragging), was filed by the expelled students to the Board of Adjudication of Student Grievances (BASG) in Mahatma Gandhi University on 18-01-2019, stating procedural errors in ragging investigation by the Anti Ragging Committee. On receipt of the complaint, the Vice

Chancellor appointed Dr. Bismi Gopalakrishnan, Director of Department of Legal studies in the University, to conduct a preliminary inquiry. Dr. Bismi Gopalakrishnan, in her report suggested for appointing a three member inquiry commission for a detailed enquiry on the incidents and also suggested for the inspection of all documents of inquiry of the ARC in the college. However, disregarding the report of the preliminary inquiry, the matter was brought before the BASG.

In fact, as per the UGC regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009, paragraph 9.1.(c) (i) “an appeal against the order of punishment by the Anti Ragging committee shall lie in the case of an institution affiliated to, or constituent part, of a university, to the Vice Chancellor of the University”. In fact the purpose of overthrowing the report of the preliminary inquiry by Bismi Gopalakrishnan, changing the jurisdiction of the appeal authority on ragging from Vice chancellor to the BASG was to take a biased decision for protecting the interest of the expelled students who belong to the members of their political organization, with the support of student members in BASG.

Principal of the college was summoned before the BASG for hearing on the complaint against him. But neither the copy of the complaint against him nor the report of the preliminary inquiry was given to the principal by the University (copy of the preliminary report and complaint was given to the principal only after one month of BASG meeting and also after three repeated requests made by the principal to the university). The BASG obtained no written statement from the principal during the sitting, regarding the procedures of inquiry or on the incident of ragging, rather formed conclusions on a biased manner. Moreover the victim of ragging was not heard by the BASG. The BASG, with the influence /compulsion of student leaders in the meeting took a biased decision to save their allies who committed the acts of ragging. On the basis of the report of the BASG, the syndicate of the Mahatma Gandhi University in its meeting on 18th March 2019 decided to reinstate the students who were dismissed from the college for the acts of ragging.

The dismissed students along with a group of students from a student political organisation, in the leadership of the three student members of the BASG, trespassed the college on 19th March 2019 and threatened the principal to permit the dismissed student to write the semester examination, which had resulted in the interruption in the examination functions.

Since the decision of the university was not fair and biased, the principal informed Mahatma Gandhi University that a decision in this regard can be taken only in the Governing council of the college. This is because; as far as an autonomous college is concerned the Governing Council is the final authority in taking decisions on academic administration. In the meantime, the students approached the honourable high court. But the honourable high court did not interfere and gave no interim order to them as prayed for.

The council discussed the issue in detail and observed as follows:

1. The college has complied with all procedures as per the UGC regulations 2009 for curbing the menace of ragging in higher educational institutions and as per the Mahatma Gandhi University Student Code of Conduct Rules 2005.
2. Complaints were filed by the expelled students to the BASG of M G University, stating procedural errors in ragging investigation. As per the UGC regulations 2009 for curbing the menace of ragging in HEI, the appeal authority on matters relating to ragging is Vice

Chancellor alone and the appeal filed by the complainants is beyond the jurisdiction of the Anti Ragging Act.

3. Investigation done by the BASG was a biased one.

In view of this situation, the Governing council decided to uphold the decisions taken by the Anti Ragging Committee and the principal of the college, and to file a writ petition before the Honourable High Court. It was decided to inform this decision to the Syndicate of Mahatma Gandhi University along with a copy of the Anti Ragging committee Report, domestic Inquiry Committee report, Orders of disciplinary Action, and the Transfer Certificates.

Agenda:Item 2

Nomination of an expert to Academic Council.

Principal reported that Rev. Dr. Valsan Thampu, Former Principal – St. Stephens College, New Delhi has informed his inconvenience to continue in the Academic Council of CMS College

After discussion, it was decided to nominate Dr. Teena Annah Thomas, Principal – BCM College, Kottayam to the Academic Council of CMS College Kottayam (Autonomous). The council also expressed thanks to Rev. Dr. Valsan Thampu for his valuable contributions.

Agenda: Item 3

Admission 2019 – Approval of prospectus.

Principal presented a copy of prospectus for 2019 UG& PG admissions. Details of courses offered, eligibility for admission, fee structure and other mandatory aspects like Ragging related matters, sexual Harassment against women are included in the prospectus. It was reported that details of B Voc programmes are also included in the prospectus. After discussion the council approved the prospectus.

Agenda: Item 4

Other matters.

- a) Following decisions are taken relating to 2019 admissions.
 - Limit the course options in Management quota application form to two programs.
 - In Management quota, preference may be given to those who completed +2 in the current year and in Community Quota, preference may be given to the members of CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese.
- b) Principal reported that Dr. Mini Chacko was appointed as the Controller of Examinations by the Management. The council congratulated Dr. Mini Chacko.

Dr. Mini Chacko rendered vote of thanks. The meeting came to a close at 11.30am.

Dr. Roy Sam Daniel
(Ex-Officio Secretary)

Read and Confirmed

Most Rev. Thomas K Oommen
Chairman