

A meeting of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Birpara College with All Faculty and Senior Office Staff, held on 13 July 2020

* Meeting hosted on Google Meet

Agenda:

1. Confirmation of minutes of the previous IQAC meeting
2. Current status of the college
3. Admission to the new academic session (2020-2021)
4. Academic Plan of Action for the next session
5. Webinars
6. Miscellaneous

Total number of participants: 25

Minutes of the meeting:

The meeting began under the chairmanship of Teacher-in-Charge, Dr. Dil Kumar Pradhan.

The minutes of the previous IQAC meeting, held on 29 June 2020, were read and confirmed.

Under matters arising, the House was informed that two meetings of the Academic Council were held, on 1 and 8 July 2020, after the college received instructions from the University of North Bengal (NBU) on 30 June 2020 regarding U.G. Part-III Final Examinations (annual system). As per NBU instructions, internal assessments were held for all Part III courses and the marks uploaded on the NBU portal before the stipulated deadline of 10 July 2020. It was further reported that the Birpara College app had been found extremely useful in circulating instructions regarding internal assessments among Part III students.

Current status of the college:

Birpara College remains a quarantine centre in connection with Covid19 pandemic after being requisitioned by the Office of the Block Development Officer, Madarihat-Birpara Development Block, on 23 May 2020.

Admission to the new academic session (2020-2021):

The House was informed that work on the admission portal used for fresh admission was nearing completion. The college will remain prepared to admit a fresh batch of students in Semester 1 as soon as instructions are received from the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, and the University of North Bengal.

Regarding admissions of students of intermediate semesters (2 & 4) to the next higher semester (3 & 5, respectively), it was decided to wait until the pandemic situation is under control.

Academic Plan of Action for the next session:

The House was informed that the college has not received any instructions from NBU regarding classes for semesters 3 and 5. Under the circumstances, the House resolved that all departments would be urged to complete internal assessments of students in semesters 2 and 4 and remain prepared to start classes for the next higher semesters (3 and 5, respectively) as soon as said instructions are received.

Webinars:

The House was informed that the IQAC of Birpara College, together with the IQAC of Acharya Sukumar Sen Mahavidyalaya, Purba Bardhaman, will organise two online events in the month of July. The details of the events submitted to the House were as follows:

1. An International Webinar, titled "Gender Issues and Women's Rights" to be organised under an UGC directive (F.No.11/6-2020(GS) dated on 25th June 2020) on 20-21 July 2020.
2. An interactive session, titled "De-stress in Distress: Tackling Mental Health Issues During a Pandemic," with noted psychiatrist Dr. Suddhendu Chakraborty and clinical psychologist Smt. Tatini Datta on 26 July 2020. The session follows the plan of the IQAC, Birpara College to organise a counselling/interactive session for students and staff to help them cope with mental health issues during the lockdown

Promotional material for both events were being circulated among staff and students of Birpara College, as well as all institutions of higher education in north Bengal and beyond, through the Birpara College website, the Birpara College app, email and whatsapp groups.

The House was further informed that the Department of Sociology, Birpara College, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, Cooch Behar College and under the guidance of the IQACs of the two colleges, was planning an International Webinar in August 2020. The details of the said webinar would be decided in a joint organising committee involving members of both colleges.

Miscellaneous:

1. The House was informed that Sri Pranoy Dey has joined Birpara College as Assistant Professor in Geography on the forenoon of 13 July 2020 as per the recommendation of the West Bengal College Service Commission.
2. The House was informed that the results of the Birpara College App Feedback Contest had been declared. The contest was organised by the app developers and the Literary Club of Birpara College to keep the students engaged during the pandemic through extra-curricular activities.
3. The Literary Club of Birpara College submitted a suggestion to convert the existing students' wall magazine into an E-Magazine so that it can be published and read during the pandemic and resulting lockdowns.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.