

# AMITY UNIVERSITY

Established vide Maharashtra Act No. 13 of 2014, of Government of Maharashtra, and recognized under section 2(f) of UGC Act 1956.

## **MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING,**

**Held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 11 am**

**(Through Online Mode on ZOOM Cloud Meetings)**

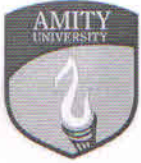
The meeting of the Governing Body was held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 11:00 AM through online mode on ZOOM Cloud Meetings.

**Following members were present in the meeting.**

1. Dr. Aseem Chauhan – Chairman
2. Lt. Gen. V K Sharma AVSM (Retd) – Member
3. Dr. D Selvamurthy – Member
4. Dr. S L Kothari – Member
5. Dr. Kamal Kant Dwivedi – Member
6. Dr. P B Sharma – Member
7. Dr. Padmakali Banerjee – Member
8. Mr. Bhushan Bajaj – Member
9. Mr. Pradeep Kumar – Member
10. Dr. H S Vyas – Member Secretary
11. Dr. Aparna Khanna – Special invitee.

**Following members could not attend the meeting due to their other commitments.**

1. Adv. Vijay Vaidya
2. Mr. Lalit Kshirsagar



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All the agenda points were discussed one by one and discussions and deliberations were recorded as under.

## Agenda – 1

### **Welcome Address by The Officiating Vice Chancellor of Amity University, Maharashtra, Lt. Gen. V K Sharma AVSM (Retd)**

The Governing body meeting began with the officiating Vice Chancellor thanking The President and Chancellor of Amity University Maharashtra Dr. Aseem Chauhan sir for sparing his valuable time to Chair the meeting of the Governing Body in spite of his busy schedule. Officiating Vice Chancellor welcomed all the members of the Governing body.

The Vice Chancellor informed all the members that the university is doing well and is on its way to excellence. Vice Chancellor informed the members of the Governing body that Amity University Maharashtra has secured position between 150 to 200 Universities of India, in NIRF ranking 2020. He informed that the university is offering as many as 57 undergraduate programs, 31 postgraduate programs and 36 PhD programs. We have 152 PhD research Scholars pursuing PhD degree at the University. We also have more than 4,700 students pursuing various courses at the University.

Vice Chancellor informed the members of the Governing Body that in spite of the pandemic, Amity University, Maharashtra, has seen more admission in 2020 as compare to the year 2019. Amity University, Maharashtra, is one of the most popular universities in Mumbai. We are poised now to undergo UGC inspection during the year 2020 – 21. Vice Chancellor also informed the members of the Governing Body that the University is marching forward in the area of research and Innovations with 4 Centres of Excellence already operational at the University. A number of Research Papers have been published, Patents Filed and Books authored by our faculties.

He stated that we are targeting that Amity University, Maharashtra, should secure position within top 100 universities of India as per NRIF ranking in the year 2021. With these forewords, Vice Chancellor sir requested the President and Chancellor of Amity University Maharashtra to give his opening remarks.

## Agenda – 2

### **Opening Remark by Hon'ble President and Chancellor Dr. Aseem Chauhan**



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In his opening remark President and Chancellor – Dr. Aseem Chauhan Ji highlighted to the members of the Governing Board that Amity University Maharashtra is the first private university in the state of Maharashtra. With that Amity Group has once again had a pioneering role in transforming the education sector in Maharashtra state. Amity Group has also been working with the Government of Maharashtra on number of different initiatives. Dr. Aseem Chauhan sir thanked Vice Chancellor for taking the role of officiating Vice Chancellor after the former vice chancellor Dr. D S Rao stepped down.

The President Dr. Aseem Chauhan said that he is proud of Amity University Maharashtra for what the university has achieved in a very short span of time. He stated that there are few peculiar strengths of AUM that we should try to harness. Maharashtra in general and Mumbai in particular is a strong hub of corporate activities, industrial R&D, Media & Mass communications, Advertising, Fashion, Financial Markets and Stock Markets. The university should draw upon the strengths of the region and local market to further strengthen the activities and vision of the University to achieve great heights and make it one of the most dynamic universities of the country.

The Chancellor sir stated that Amity University Maharashtra infrastructure is world class. We are now planning to expand the university by acquiring more adjacent land and increasing the footprint of the University. We can be very proud of the fact that we have some of the very qualified and dedicated people in our teams as Deans and Hols, faculty and staff members. Amity University, Maharashtra has a potential to become one of the largest universities of Amity group. For which we need to think creatively and understand what are the needs of the local market. This may include adding streams like vocational training, industry sponsored and backed research projects, collaborating with other institutes within Maharashtra like IITs and others. He requested the members of the Governing Body who have been associated with Amity University, Maharashtra right since its inception, and have always added value to AUM, to give quality inputs to strengthen the University. He briefed that Amity University, Maharashtra already has collaborative programs like RICS in collaboration with Royal School, UK and also CII with Tata Technologies Ltd. In insurance and capital market, we have MoUs with stock exchange. With these brief remarks he thanked the members of the Governing Body and stated that he looks forward for a fruitful discussion and quality inputs.

Lt. Gen. V K Sharma, the Officiating Vice Chancellor invited Registrar to take the discussion of Governing Body forward.

**Agenda – 3**



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## **Approval of Minutes of the Board of Management Meeting held on 26th November 2020., by The Registrar Dr. H S Vyas**

The Registrar, Dr. H S Vyas shared with the members of the Governing Body, minutes of agenda wise discussions, of the meeting of the Board of Management held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The members of the governing body unanimously approved the minutes of the Board of Management Meeting.

### **Agenda – 4**

#### **Approval of Audited Financial Accounts of Amity University, Maharashtra 2019-20., by The Registrar Dr. H S Vyas**

The Registrar stated that the compilation of the Financial Accounts of Amity University, Maharashtra for the financial year 2019 – 2020 is at its final stage and the same would be finalized and filed before the statutory due date.

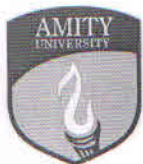
### **Agenda – 5**

#### **Presentation and Approval of Annual Report of Amity University, Maharashtra 2019-20., by The Officiating Vice Chancellor, Lt. Gen. V K Sharma AVSM (Retd).**

Taking the discussion of the Governing Body Meeting forward, The Registrar requested the officiating vice chancellor sir to please present the annual report of Amity University Maharashtra for the year 2019 – 20.

The Vice Chancellor sir presented the Annual Report of Amity University, Maharashtra to the members of the governing body through power point presentation. The presentation covered following points:

1. Vision Mission Statement of Amity University
2. Various Schools at Amity University Maharashtra
3. Student Section – Which covered the student strength at the campus and the admission report for the year 2019 – 20.
4. Honors & Achievements of the University. Under which the Vice Chancellor stated the University has secured position of being within 150 – 200 universities of India in NIRF ranking 2019, Earth and Space Exploration Program (ESEP), as part of Mars Amity Research Station Project (MARS), The Centre of Excellence in Astro



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- Biology has got a sanction from ISRO to launch a patrol consisting of 2 capsules of AUM of 10 Kgs free of cost. ESEP has established its operations in Ladakh and CII School has won the prestigious CII Scale Award at Pune.
5. Student Achievements. Under this The Vice Chancellor sir spoke of various prizes won by Amity University, Maharashtra students at national level competitions.
  6. Under Faculty Achievements, Vice Chancellor spoke about Dr. Dattatray Late, Associate Prof. – ASAS and Head of Centre for Nano Science and Nano Technology AUM who is judged within 2% scientists of the world in the field of Nano Science and Nano Technology. Vice Chancellor sir also spoke about the recognitions and achievements achieved by various faculties of AUM.
  7. Under Student Activities, Vice Chancellor sir spoke about Amity University, Maharashtra student's participation in various events at AUM like Aminova and Moot Court Competitions.
  8. Vice Chancellor spoke on various sports event conducted at Amity University, Maharashtra like Annual Sports Sangathan, Internal Hostel Competition and Inter-collegiate participations.
  9. Vice Chancellor sir gave a brief report on the examinations conducted at Amity University, Maharashtra and the summary of results declared.
  10. On PhD, Vice Chancellor sir informed the members of the Governing Body that 4 students have completed their PhD and are eligible to get their PhD degrees for 2019 – 20.
  11. Vice Chancellor shared a summary of the Continuous Scholarship recommended for AUM students and has being put-up to head office for approval.
  12. Vice Chancellor sir then presented a summary of the number of full-time Teaching Faculty, Non-Teaching Staff, Support Staff, Outsourced Staff and Visiting Faculties at AUM.
  13. On Infrastructure, Vice Chancellor sir spoke about the various infrastructural facility at AUM.
  14. Vice Chancellor sir touched upon the various research initiatives at AUM, Patents filed and status of funded projects and various MOUs signed by the University.
  15. Vice Chancellors sir informed the members of the Governing about Four Centres of Excellence operational at AUM
  16. Vice Chancellor sir mentioned about webinars, seminars, workshops and conferences conducted at University and attended by AUM Faculty.
  17. Vice Chancellor sir ended his Annual Report by sharing the placement report of the university by giving details of number of companies participated in the placement activities, number of students placed and the average salary of the placed students during 2019 – 20.



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The members of the Governing Body applauded the presentation of Annual Report of the Amity University, Maharashtra presented by The Vice Chancellor and unanimously approved the same.

## **Agenda – 6**

### **Presentation on Research Activities of Amity University, Maharashtra 2019-20., by Dean – Research, Dr. Aparna Khanna.**

Vice Chancellor sir invited Dean Research – Dr. Aparna Khanna to present to the members of the Governing Body the presentation on various research initiatives taken at the university during 2019 – 20.

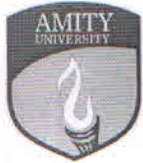
Dean Research – Dr. Aparna Khanna gave a detailed presentation on various research initiatives conducted at Amity University Maharashtra during 2019 – 20.

Dr. Aparna Khanna report covered aspects related to Projects, Publications, Patents and Copyrights filed, Details of MoUs Signed, Details of National / International Conferences, Workshops, webinars organized at Amity University, Maharashtra and attended by faculties, Details of various webinars, lectures & workshops that were organized at AUM and attended by faculties of AUM during lock-down period, Details of PhD admission and number of PhD scholars pursuing their research work at AUM, Books Published by AUM Faculties, Ongoing Collaborations, Awards and fellowship received by AUM Faculty, News Letter / Magazines published by AUM and details of Startups and other Technological developments at AUM.

The members of the Governing Body appreciated the research initiatives and activities happening at AUM.

With the permission of Chancellor sir, Dr. W. Selvamurthy congratulated Vice Chancellor and Dr. Aparna Khanna for wonderful presentations. Dr. Selvamurthy applauded the over-all efforts and initiative taken by AUM and stated that Amity University, Maharashtra is attracting the right talent as fellow members of Ramalingam Swamy is to join AUM is credible.

Dr. Selvamurthy suggested that we should start implementing the New Education Policy, the parts that does not require any statutory clearance. Amity University, Maharashtra should focus on achieving NIRF ranking of within 100 best universities of the country. Amity University, Maharashtra should start planning for NAAC accreditation by collating documents and placing the processes in place. By virtue of the location of being close to Mumbai, by default, Industry connect is very strong for AUM.



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The President and Chancellor Dr. Aseem Chauhan backed the thoughts of Dr. Selvamurthy, and stated that Amity University, Maharashtra has all the potential to do good in the field of Research and Publications. He further noted that although, Amity University, Maharashtra has submitted large number of projects for funding, but the yield is lower. Hence, AUM should look into that. He stated that Amity University, Maharashtra being close to Mumbai, should look at more industry projects than Government Projects. We must approach some corporate houses and target some large research projects. We should inform these corporates houses about the R & D facility that the University has built and the same can be outsourced.

## Agenda – 7

### **Suggestions from Members of Governing Body regarding Academic and Research Enhancement.**

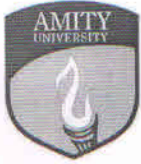
Vice Chancellor thanked Chancellor sir for his kind words of appreciation and directing the University. Vice Chancellor Sir requested for views and suggestions from the members of the Governing Body with regards to how to increase the excellence at the University.

Vice Chancellor sir invited Prof. Dr. P B Sharma to give his views and suggestions.

Prof. Dr. P B Sharma extended his congratulation to Vice Chancellor sir and highly distinguished team of faculty and staffs for the astounding success that Amity University, Maharashtra has achieved in such a small duration of time. Dr. Sharma stressed need to review the new model of academic delivery and new model of curriculum design to take note of the digital world that we have entered. Dr. Sharma stated that engagement of students is an area we should think about and ensure that a student taking admission in Amity University, Maharashtra is shaped as future leader and responsible citizens of global society.

Vice Chancellor Sir thanked Prof. P B Sharma for his valuable suggestions and then invited Shri Bhushan Bajaj to give his views and suggestions on Industry connect. The President & Chancellor Dr. Aseem Chauhan updated the members of the Governing Body, that Mr. Bhushan Bajaj is the first Director of Amity's First Technical Institute.

Mr. Bajaj, congratulated Amity University, Maharashtra for its excellent overall progress and growth in a short time of 5 years. Mr. Bajaj gave his first suggestion relating to pharmaceutical industry. In the light of vaccine packaging, it is well-known fact that 70% of the world requirement of the vaccine is manufactured and packed in India. All the vaccines are currently packed in glass bottles. Some big regulatory authorities have concern about the class



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packaging of the vaccine. Since chances of breakages in more in glass, and with that there is high degree of the vaccine getting contaminated with fine particles of glass, which can be very harmful. So recently an American company, has come out with packaging of vaccines in plastic bottles. They have already developed this technology and have first supplied their equipment to Glaxo Smithline in Australia. In India, recently two more projects have come up for manufacture of vaccines. One is Bharat Biotech and another is Cipla. Both these companies are manufacturing various vaccines and are packing the same in plastic bottles. Mr. Bajaj suggested that Amity University, Maharashtra should take up this project of developing the technology of packing vaccines in plastic bottles. Mr. Bajaj further shared that The Government of India has announced very big budget on indigenization program for component development for defense production in India. Mr. Bajaj suggested that Amity University, Maharashtra can prepare a core group and identify few items which we can develop indigenously and work with some well-established defense production facility in India. Additionally, Mr. Bajaj stated that even in food processing industry, Amity University, Maharashtra can develop an indigenize technology for processing the same with corporate tie-up.

Vice Chancellor Sir thanked Mr. Bhushan Bajaj for his valuable suggestions and then invited Shri Pradeep Kumar to give his views and suggestions on Industry connect.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar said that Amity University, Maharashtra can think of doing something in the cosmetic formulation and development arena. He stated that Mumbai, being the Industrial centre of the country, most of the big pharmaceutical companies are based in Mumbai and their R&D takes place either in Mumbai or in Bangalore. He added that Amity University, Maharashtra can think of adding some courses in Cosmetic as there is shortage of qualified cosmologists. Next on the Industry relationship, these cosmetic companies are looking out to outsource the research on cosmetic and health care front. Amity University, Maharashtra can do consultancy and can partner with some of them for formulation development using advance bio-ingredients and conduct research study. Mr. Pradeep Kumar said that if required, he can help Amity University, Maharashtra establish contact with some companies in this regard.

Vice Chancellor Sir thanked Mr. Pradeep Kumar for his valuable suggestions and then invited Dr. S L Kothari to give his views and suggestions on Industry connect.

Dr. Kothari stated that constitution of various regulatory bodies at Amity University, Maharashtra is commendable. He added that Institutional Bio-safety committee, Institutional Ethical Committee and CSCRO Certification are very





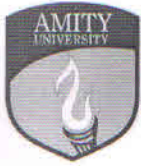
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important and timely constitution of these committees play a very important role in advance research activities in future. In this regard, setting up research committee on study of human cell and animal cell is also important and that can be done. Dr. Kothari stressed that Amity University, Maharashtra should ensure timely UGC compliances and must plan to apply for NAAC accreditation. Dr. Kothari wanted to know if Amity University, Maharashtra has IQAC cell. Dr. Kothari remarked that the way the number of students are increasing at AUM, are we geared up in terms of adding to the infrastructure to accommodate these students and also Amity University, Maharashtra should start recruiting qualified and experienced faculties who are active in research, innovation and consultancy tie-ups. Though Dr. Kothari admired the four centres of excellence already operational at Amity University, Maharashtra he remarked that some more centres of excellence could be created like Centre of Excellence in Bio-Similar and Bio-Economy. These centres will help Amity University, Maharashtra to establish tie up with pharmaceuticals companies in and around Mumbai. One important centre of excellence for Entrepreneurial may also be created.

Vice Chancellor Sir thanked Dr. Kothari for his valuable comments and added that IQAC is very much in place at AUM, and is already being constituted. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor sir also stated that construction of new hostel building has already begun which will add to the capacity of the students that can be accommodated. The process of recruitment of qualified and experienced faculty is on-going. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor sir then invited Dr. Padmakali to give her valuable comments and suggestions.

Dr. Padmakali stated that Amity University, Maharashtra has started with a good design. Being the first private university in Maharashtra, it is already been a front runner in so many different areas and already created a niche for itself specifically in the areas like the MARS project and the grant received from ICMR. Dr. Padmakali remarked that on seeing the student strength, the AIBAS & ABS school is leading. Hence, she sees a great scope for Amity University, Maharashtra to focus in the area of Management and Psychology. Dr. Padmakali remarked that with the New Education Policy announced by The Government of India, a lot of change and flexibility is expected to be brought in to the curriculum design and delivery. Starting a Centre of Excellence in Business and Psychology will add value to AUM. Dr. Padmakali added that school of media already operational at Amity University, Maharashtra can be further strengthened by adding courses likes film making etc. From the ranking perspective, AUM should concentrate on examination and results and how well the students of AUM are placed. Dr. Padmakali ended her remark by stating that she is happy to see the growth and achievements of Amity University, Maharashtra at such a young age.



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Vice Chancellor Sir thanked Dr. Padmakali for her valuable comments and suggestions and added that at Amity University, Maharashtra we have already initiated the system of choice-based learning in 31 programs. Vice Chancellor sir also stated that the focus of the university is surely on psychology program and the AIBAS school has had a number of programs conducted during 2020. Then Vice Chancellor sir invited Dr. K K Dwivedi to give his valuable suggestions.

Dr. Dwivedi referred to the opening remarks made by the Chancellor, and stated that the Amity University, Maharashtra was formed because of the locational advantage which can have great scope for vocational training and such opportunities. Though the University is already offering multiple UG, PG and PhD programs, there is still scope for running multiple Diploma and Certificate courses in keeping with the demand in the area. Dr. Dwivedi further stated that Amity University, Maharashtra should focus on improving its ranking in NIRF and should undergo NAAC accreditation. On the research front, Dr. Dwivedi stated that Amity University, Maharashtra should focus on the publications made by faculties in Scopus journals. He stated that there has to be faculty development programs specifically to handle projects, and training them for doing good quality research. Dr. Dwivedi stated that every faculty should know the top researchers in their area of interest in India and abroad. They should be able to connect with them and create a lab-to-lab partnership. Dr. Dwivedi insisted on having synergy within university and create inter-disciplinary projects and partnership.

Vice Chancellor Sir thanked Dr. Kamal Kant Dwivedi for his valuable suggestions.

## **Agenda – 8**

### **Any other point with permission of the Chair.**

Dr. Selvamurthy requested for permission of Chancellor sir to make some suggestions. The permission of the chair was granted. Dr. Selvamurthy mentioned that Amity University, Maharashtra can now focus on getting foreign students on campus from developing and African countries. Dr. Selvamurthy stated that Amity University, Maharashtra has started some courses in liberal art which is very unique. There is great scope to attract foreign students for the courses of liberal arts at AUM. Dr. Selvamurthy added that Amity University, Maharashtra should concentrate on competence building courses such that when we are running a full course in Mechanical Engineering, an add-on certification course in Automobile Engineering may be offered to the students, which will enhance their employability. Courses in niche area such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Convergence



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Technology etc., may be started. Amity University, Maharashtra should focus on student engagement in research and translational research. Amity University, Maharashtra should try to improve its visibility in social media. Dr. Selvamurthy ended his comment by stating that there is a need to create a synergy within the university and among other universities and institutions.

**Concluding remark by The President & Hon'ble Chancellor of Amity University, Maharashtra., Dr. Aseem Chauhan.**

The Chairman of Governing Body, President and Hon'ble Chancellor of AUM, Dr. Aseem Chauhan thanked all the members of Governing Body for giving valuable suggestions that are practical and result oriented and assured that we will incorporate and summarize these suggestions and see how these can be worked on. For implementing the ideas, Chancellor sir said that there must be right people at right place to work on the plans and implement them.

The Chancellor stated that though Amity University, Maharashtra is young, it needs to create an identity of itself. Having centres of excellence in good, however, the University must now develop cluster areas like film and television, financial markets, capital markets, stock exchange, banking, insurance, fashion etc. These clusters are relevant to the area in which Amity University, Maharashtra is located. Once cluster is created, we need to then create a task force to develop UG, PG & PhD courses in these areas and then there can be inter-disciplinary courses also within these clusters. Amity University, Maharashtra should now focus on offering more of diploma, certificate and executive education programs.

Second thought, Chancellor sir mentioned about improving our presence. He stated that we have great campus and infrastructure. To improve our presence in Mumbai City, we can better utilize and leverage more our City office. For brand building, Chancellor sir stated that we can partner with a good event management company, and for any major event happening in Mumbai, Amity can be a part of it in some way or the other.

Thirdly, Chancellor sir stated that we should have a strong emphasis and focus with the right manpower on student progression such as placement. We should hire Industry integration persons with good industry contacts. Student progression would also include identifying few of our most brilliant students, groom and hand-hold them, to get scholarships and get admissions in world's best universities for their higher studies.

Chancellor sir added that some efforts on vocational and certifications programs must be thought over. Opening a study campus in heart of Mumbai City, Pune, Nashik and Nagpur can be thought of. Further Chancellor sir said the



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we need to develop global thinking by entering into more international MoUs for student and faculty exchange program with top branded global universities.

On the university annual report, Chancellor sir stated that a mention on the convocation and our community connect and out-reach initiatives and program with the close-by villages should be mentioned. Some mention on the academia like our flexibility of academic systems, our curriculum and our quality control mechanism should be mentioned.

Vice Chancellor sir thanked the Chancellor sir for his advice and directions. The Vice Chancellor sir also thanked all the members of the governing body for sparing their valuable time to attend the meeting and for giving their valuable suggestions.

The meeting of the Governing Body ended with The Chancellor sir expressing his admiration for the efforts put in by The Vice Chancellor sir and stated that Lt. Gen. V K Sharma is a great administrator and added that Amity Group has great confidence on him and his leadership. Chancellor Sir wished all members a very happy new year.

**Dr. H. S. Vyas**  
**Registrar**



To:

- Chairman of the Governing Body
- Vice Chancellor
- All Members of the Governing Body

Copt to:

- Vice Chancellor Secretariat
- Office copy