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## APPROVAL AND PASSING OF THE MINUTES

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### 1.1.

#### MINUTES OF THE 61<sup>ST</sup> GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

The 61<sup>st</sup> Governing Body Meeting of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli was held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in Toulouse Hall.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

**Rev. Dr A. Thomas SJ**

*Chairperson of the Governing Body and Provincial, Jesuit Madurai Province, Dindigul*

**Rev. Dr Pavulraj Michael SJ**

*Rector and Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body*

**Rev. Dr M. Arockiasamy Xavier SJ**

*Principal and Secretary of the Governing Body*

**Rev. Dr K. Amal SJ**

*Secretary*

**Dr A. Gunasekaran (State Government Representative)**

*Regional Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Tiruchirappalli*

**Dr T. Senthil Kumar (University Representative)**

*Professor, Department of Botany, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli*

**Mr C. Selvam (Industry Expert)**

*Associate Vice President, KPIT Technologies, Pune*

**Rev. Dr K. Arockiam SJ**

*Province Coordinator for Higher Education, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli*

**Dr P. Rajendran**

*Deputy Principal*

**Rev. Dr L. John Peter Arulanandam SJ**

*Vice Principal*

**Rev. Dr P. Paulraj SJ**

*Director, St. Joseph's Institute of Management/ MBA*

**Dr F. R. Alexander Pravin Durai (Staff Representative)**

*Head, Department of Commerce*

**Dr S. R. Senthilkumar (Staff Representative)**

*Head, Department of Botany*

**Dr A. Rose Venis, Dean - IQAC**

**Dr A. Egbert Selwin Rose, Dean - School of Biological Sciences**

**Dr A. Anthony Eldred, Dean - School of Computing Sciences**

**Dr J. John Love Joy, Dean - School of Languages and Culture**

**Dr M. Julias Ceasar, Dean - School of Management Studies**

**Dr J. Charles, Dean - School of Physical Sciences**

**Dr K. Alex, Controller of Examinations**

Prof. P. P Mathur (UGC Representative), Vice Chancellor, Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha and Fr. A. M. Jayapathy Francis SJ, Treasurer, Society of St. Joseph's College were unable to attend the meeting.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Approval and Passing of the Minutes**

- 1.1. 60<sup>st</sup> Governing Body Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023
- 1.2. Action Taken Report
- 1.3. 47<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### **2. Recording of Matters Pertaining to Academic Activities**

- 2.1. Admission Particulars
- 2.2. Examination Results with Consolidated Report
- 2.3. Ph.D. Registration during 2022-23

### **3. Approval of the Financial Expenditure**

- 3.1. Receipt of funds from Central Government Agencies
- 3.2. Institution of Endowments/Scholarships
- 3.3. Details of Scholarships received by the students
- 3.4. Approval of the Main Financial Statement for the year 2022-23

### **4. Approval of Matters Related to Administration and General Interest**

- 4.1. New Assignments
- 4.2. New Appointments
- 4.3. Approval of the various committees
- 4.4. Report of the JIM

### **5. New Initiatives/Recent Happenings**

### **6. Alumni/ae Association**

### **7. Any Other Matter**

### **Prayer and Welcome**

The meeting began with a prayer led by Rev. Dr L. John Peter Arulanandam SJ, Vice Principal. Rev. Dr M. Arockiasamy Xavier SJ, Secretary of the Governing Body (GB) and Principal of St. Joseph's College introduced Rev. Dr A. Thomas SJ, Provincial - Jesuit Madurai Province and the

Chair of the GB. He also welcomed the members and expressed his gratitude to all the GB members for their constructive feedback that helped the college progress in the right direction.

### **Introduction and Initiation**

Rev. Dr A. Thomas SJ, Provincial, Jesuit Madurai Province chaired the Meeting. He initiated the meeting by highlighting challenges such as student placement, geopolitical conditions and in the larger picture, the role of Jesuit Higher Education. He called upon the members of the Governing Body to reflect on these challenges. He then invited Dr J. Charles, Dean - School of Physical Sciences, to present the minutes of the 60th Governing Body Meeting.

## **1. Approval and Passing of the Minutes**

### *1.1. Minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> Governing Body Meeting*

Since the minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> Governing Body Meeting was sent to all the members through email and also the hard copy of the same was given to the members present, Dr J. Charles presented a brief summary of the report. The minutes was approved and passed.

### *1.2. The Action Taken Report (ATR)*

Minutes of the ATR, presented by Dr J. Charles, was approved and passed.

### *1.3. Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting*

Dr J. John Love Joy, Dean - School of Languages and Culture presented the Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting. Fr. Provincial made a few observations about TANSCHÉ and the notion of autonomy that featured in the minutes after which it was approved by all the members and was passed.

## **2. Matters Pertaining to Academic Activities**

### *2.1. Admission Particulars*

Dr M. Julias Ceasar, Dean - School of Management Studies, presented the admission particulars for the academic year 2023-24. Mr. C. Selvam, Industry Expert, suggested that for the MBA programme a separate column for 'Sanctioned Strength' could be inserted in the tabular column.

### *2.2. Examination Results with Consolidated Report*

Dr K. Alex, Controller of Examinations, presented a detailed analysis of the March 2023 examination results. He highlighted department-wise and programme-wise student performance of the semester. He mentioned that in Shift I, the pass percentage for the courses 'English Literary Forms and Terms' and 'Mechanics' was only 37% and 45% respectively. He also noted that many BA Tamil students failed in General English – IV with their pass percentage marked at 38.8%. In the Shift II, there were issues with 'Self-Paced Learning' for both M.Sc. Chemistry and M.Sc. Physics students and BA English Literature students found difficulties with the course 'History of English Literature'.

Dr T. Senthilkumar, Bharathidasan University Representative, sought clarification on the remedial measures undertaken by the college for the slow learners. Fr. Principal responded that Remedial Coaching was initiated to scaffold the slow learners and a committee was framed to monitor their performance.

Mr C. Selvam opined that the expertise of the Department of Data Science could be used for Data analysis in order to understand the academic performance of the college better.

When he asked the reason for the low pass percentage in the departments of History and Vocational Programmes, Fr. Principal said that the major takers for the History department were sportspersons and the pass percentage for the Vocational Programmes was 75% and not the usual 50% followed by the college in general.

Dr A. Gunasekaran, Regional Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Tiruchirappalli Region, observed that the Shift II students performed better than their Shift I counterparts. Fr. Provincial requested to measure the correlation between attendance and academic performance because he felt that the two could be strongly correlated. Fr. Principal said that the assessment practices in Skill-Based programmes like B. Voc. could be made more practically driven than theory-based.

### 2.3. *Ph.D. Registration during 2022–23*

Dr A. Anthony Eldred, Dean - School of Computing Sciences, presented the details pertaining to PhD Registration 2022–23. He pointed out that there was one scholar in the Botany department who received a research fellowship. Fr. Rector noted that the department of HRM had no takers for the PhD programme and that the number of PhD registrations was not encouraging. Rev. Fr Provincial requested to note down the scholarships in the first column and the available seats in the department. Dr Arockiam, Province Coordinator for Higher Education, responded to Fr Rector stating that there were no new candidates in the HRM department as there were no research vacancies available in the department for 2022-23.

## 3. **Approval of the Financial Expenditure**

### 3.1. *Receipt of funds from Central Government Agencies*

Dr A. Egbert Selwin Rose, Dean - School of Biological Sciences detailed the funds received from various agencies from 01.03.2023 to 30.09.2023. Fr. Provincial suggested that the college should look into collaborating with the industry, especially departments like Computer Science, Data Science and Electronics, to help bring funds to the colleges. Fr. Principal mentioned that the college had initiated a tie-up with two companies. Mr C. Selvam suggested that the college could provide a platform for students and teachers to exhibit their skills/projects with a view to luring industries into collaborating with the institution.

### 3.2. *Institution of Endowments/Scholarships*

Dr F.R. Alexander Pravin Durai, Staff Representative, shared the details of the endowments instituted from 01.03.2023 to 30.09.2023. Fourteen endowments had been instituted to the tune of Rs. 21,40,000/- Fr Principal noted that 'St. Joseph Research Excellence Award' was instituted by the college management and not by the principal as mentioned in the document. He also added that 'Dr Cecil Endowment Lecture' had to be included in the list as the endowment fund was received that morning.

### 3.3. *Details of Scholarships received by the students*

Dr A. Rose Venis, Dean – IQAC shared the details of the scholarships received by the students from the Government and other agencies.

#### 3.4. *Approval of the Main Financial Statement for the year 2022–23*

Rev. Dr K. Amal, Secretary, St. Joseph's College, shared the details of the Main Financial Statement for the year 2022–23.

The reports on Financial Expenditure were approved and passed.

#### 4. **Approval of matters relating to Administration and General Interest**

##### 4.1. *New Assignments*

Rev. Dr K. Amal, Secretary, St. Joseph's College shared the details of the New Assignments for the academic year 2023-24.

##### 4.2. *New Appointments*

Rev. Dr K. Amal shared the details of the new appointments for the Academic Year 2023-24.

##### 4.3. *Approval of the Various Committees*

Dr S. R. Senthilkumar, Staff Representative, provided the details of the various committees of the college. Fr. Provincial asked the committees to conduct meetings frequently and enquired if the college policy allowed industry experts to be a part of the committee. Fr. Secretary responded that B.Com. (Honours), B. Voc. and M. Sc. Counselling Psychology programmes had industry experts as part of the committees.

##### 4.4. *Report of the JIM*

Rev. Dr P. Paulraj, SJ, Director – JIM, presented the details of the Joseph's Institute of Management. Mr. C. Selvam enquired about the placement details of JIM. Dr M. Alexander Pravin Durai suggested that the MBA department could mentor the Department of BBA as suggested by the NAAC peer team so that the BBA could be offered as a professional programme. Fr. Provincial also suggested that the strength could be increased to 30 for each section based on the infrastructural facilities.

The reports on matters relating to Administration and General Interest were approved and passed.

#### 5. **New Initiatives**

Dr P. Rajendran, Deputy Principal, St. Joseph's College, presented the New Initiatives of the college. Offering online courses to Jesuit Worldwide Learning was one of the poignant initiatives which was appreciated by the members. Mr. C. Selvam sought clarifications on the conduct of online courses to Jesuit Worldwide Learning. With regard to the five programmes proposed, Fr. Rector thanked the committees that conducted the feasibility study.

#### 6. **Alumni/ae Association**

Fr. Principal presented the report on the Alumni/ae Association and spoke extensively on programmes organised, the funds received and the scholarships given to the students.

#### 7. **Any Other Matter**

Fr Provincial left the floor open and the capsule of the discussions/observations are as follows:

- Mr. C. Selvam stated that the scholarship funds could be generated through the departments. He also said that the college in order to harness the employment

opportunities should provide scope and space for industries on the campus to operate constructively.

- Dr Rajendran said that 'All India Radio' had allotted 15 minutes on Fridays for SJC students. Fr. Provincial noted that the initiative could be included in the academic report.
- Fr. Arockiam enquired whether there was any opportunity for the HRM department to get CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) grants. The industry expert said that AI, Machine Learning, Data Science and any other related areas had the potential to attract funds and an industry-institute embedded lab could be a way forward.

Fr. Provincial, in his concluding remarks, noted that the volume of programmes organised by the college was significant and thanked the officials, the deans, the heads, the coordinators and the faculty for their contribution. He reiterated that student centrality was essential and more focus was required in the field of research. He suggested that research details of the college be included in the forthcoming General Body Meeting. To attract industries, the research accomplishments of the college were crucial and advised the inclusion of the research profile of the college on the website. The institution of a research conclave on campus was suggested to tap the research potential of the college. Rev. Fr. Provincial was happy about the college paying attention to the Start-Up Cell and said the efforts should be made to make it more visible. He closed his observations by stating that whatever the institution did on the campus could be a huge value addition to the society we live in.

Fr. Rector proposed the vote of thanks and the meeting ended at 12:40 pm.



## 1.2.

### ACTION TAKEN REPORT

**Offering New Programmes:** The College has submitted proposals for five new programmes and awaiting approval of the same from the university.

**Report on the Research Activities:** As suggested by Fr. Provincial, a section exclusively on the research details is presented in the Governing Body proceedings.

