



St. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

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College with Potential for Excellence by UGC | DBT-STAR & DST-FIST Sponsored College
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI 620 002, INDIA

MINUTES OF THE 64TH GOVERNING BODY MEETING

HELD ON 30TH APRIL 2025

The 64th Governing Body Meeting started with a prayer by Rev. Dr. L. John Peter Arulanandam SJ, Vice Principal, in Rev. Fr. P. Carty SJ Boardroom on 30.04.2025 at 10.35 a.m. Nineteen members were present. Rev. Fr. A.M. Jayapathy Francis SJ, Campus Treasurer and Dr. S.R. Senthilkumar, Associate Professor of Botany could not attend the meeting.

Members Present

Rev. Dr. A. Thomas SJ, *Provincial & Chairperson*
Rev. Dr. Pavulraj Michael SJ, *Rector & Vice-Chairperson*
Rev. Dr. S. Mariadoss SJ, *Principal & Member Secretary*
Rev. Dr. K. Amal SJ, *Secretary, St. Joseph's College*
Rev. Dr. K. Arockiam SJ, *Province Coordinator for Higher Education*
Dr. P. Ponmuthuramalingam, *RJDCE, Tiruchirappalli Region, Tiruchirappalli.*
Dr. G. Mathan, *Professor & Head, Dept. of Biomedical Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.*
CA. Dr. Pannai M. Karthikeyan, *Chairman, Pannai Group of Institutions & Companies, Dindigul*
Dr. F.R. Alexander Pravin Durai, *Vice-Principal & Associate Professor of Commerce*
Mr. N.M. Pushparaj, *Superintendent*
Dr. P. Rajendran, *Deputy Principal*
Rev. Dr. L. John Peter Arulanandam SJ, *Vice-Principal*
Dr. A. Rose Venis, *Director, IQAC*
Dr. K. Alex, *Controller of Examinations*
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 & Culture*
Dr. M. Julias Ceasar, *Dean, School of Management Studies*
Dr. J. Charles, *Dean, School of Physical Sciences*

At the invitation of Rev. Dr. A. Thomas, SJ, the Provincial & Chairperson of the Governing Body, Rev. Dr. Pavulraj Michael SJ, Rector & Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body welcomed the members and acknowledged the College's leadership in the field of education. He appreciated everyone involved in shouldering the administrative and academic responsibilities.

In his introductory remarks, the Chairperson, Rev. Dr. A. Thomas SJ observed that higher education stands at a crossroads, shaped by a top-down approach to policy-making and intensified efforts toward centralisation. Despite serving humanity for 181 years, the college is facing huge challenges: from student progression to enhancing employment opportunities in the VUCA world; and from staying relevant with curriculum innovation to addressing the diverse needs of the students.

Following the introduction, the Chairperson initiated the presentation and deliberations on the following agenda:

Agenda

- 64.1. Approval and Passing of the Minutes
- 64.2. Recording of Matters Pertaining to Academic Activities
- 64.3. Approval of the Financial Expenditure
- 64.4. Approval of Matters Related to Administration & Institutional Affairs
- 64.5. Achievements and Recent Happenings
- 64.6. Alumni/ae Association Report
- 64.7. Approval of Institutional Policies
- 64.8. New Initiatives
- 64.9. Any Other Matter

64.1. Approval and Passing of the Minutes

64.1.1. Minutes of the 63rd Governing Body Meeting

Rev. Dr. S. Mariadoss SJ, Principal and Member Secretary of the Governing Body, presented the minutes of the 63rd Governing Body Meeting. The minutes was approved and passed.

64.1.2. Action Taken Report

Rev. Dr. S. Mariadoss SJ, Principal & Member Secretary, presented the Action Taken Report. The report was approved and passed.

64.1.3. Minutes of the 50th Academic Council Meeting

Dr. A. Anthony Eldred, Dean – School of Computing Sciences, presented the minutes of the 50th Academic Council Meeting. The minutes was approved and passed.

64.2. Recording of Matters Pertaining to Academic Activities

64.2.1. Consolidated Report on Examination Results – November 2024

Dr. K. Alex, Controller of Examinations, presented the Consolidated Report on the results of the Examination held in November 2024. During his presentation, he highlighted the disappointing performance of the first-year undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Departments of Chemistry, Economics, English, Tamil, and Visual Communication. He also underlined the fact that departments like Commerce (Shift I), Counselling Psychology, Physics (UG) and BBA exhibited substandard performance with their pass percentage around 50%.

Rev. Dr. K. Arockiam SJ, Province Coordinator for Higher Education, sought clarification regarding the category-wise performance analysis, as well as the tallying of percentages. Dr. K. Alex, the Controller of Examinations, clarified that the data pertained to five independent variables, with the percentage representing the overall proportion of those variables within the dataset. Consequently, aggregating the totals of individual charts, each corresponding to a distinct variable, might yield misleading interpretations. Dr. F.R. Alexander Pravin Durai, Vice-Principal, suggested that the ambiguity could be resolved effectively by replacing the pie chart with a more relevant graph.

Fr. Principal emphasised that students' backgrounds - be it academic, socio-economic, or personal - should not be viewed as excuses for poor academic performance. He highlighted the importance of resilience, adaptability, and personal accountability of the faculty in achieving academic success. He insisted on strengthening the curriculum, teaching methodology, assessment practices and student accompaniment. Dr. P. Ponmuthuramalingam, RJDCE and State Government Nominee, observed that the performance of the first-year undergraduate students was alarming when compared to the results of the previous semester. Dr. G. Mathan, University Nominee, proposed that dedicated class hours for remedial sessions targeting slow learners be explicitly allocated and clearly indicated in the timetable. Rev. Dr. L. John Peter Arulanandam SJ, the Vice-Principal asked about the relevance of the reports given by the HoDs. In response, Fr. Principal said that the efforts undertaken by the departments appeared to have yielded limited results.

Dr. P. Ponmuthuramalingam asked about the significant disparity in pass percentages between the B.Com. Honours and BBA programmes, recorded at 80% and 40% respectively. Fr. Provincial explained that the higher entry cutoff for the Honours programme contributed to the difference. Fr. Principal noted that varying levels of student motivation could have also played a substantial role. He further suggested that in the next Governing Body meeting, the Controller of Examinations could also present the key observations. The report was approved and passed.

64.2.2. Report on MBA – JIM

Rev. Dr. P. Paulraj SJ, Director, JIM presented the report. Fr. Principal appreciated the report and suggested adding a section on the faculty development programmes. Dr. P. Rajendran, Deputy Principal, proposed that while presenting the placement details, a list of companies involved in the placement drives on the campus could also be included. Rev. Dr. P. Paulraj SJ responded that the MBA-JIM report used to be concise, and assured that any additional details deemed necessary would be incorporated. The report was approved and passed.

64.2.3. Report on Training and Placement Cell

Dr. J. John Love Joy, Dean – School of Languages and Culture, presented the report. Fr. Principal appreciated the efforts taken by the Placement Officer, Dr. M. Mahendran and noted that despite the efforts taken, the students did not show interest either in participating in the training programmes conducted or in taking part in the placement drives. Dr. G. Mathan asked for the placement percentage and requested its inclusion in future reports. The Deputy Principal suggested that placement details of the MBA-JIM could also be included in the report. The report was approved and passed.

64.3. Approval of the Financial Expenditure

64.3.1. Funds Received from State/Central Government Agencies

Mr. N.M. Pushparaj, Office Superintendent, presented the details of the funds received. The details were reviewed and passed.

64.3.2. Endowments Instituted

Rev. Dr. K. Arockiam SJ, Province Coordinator for Higher Education, presented the details. Fr. Principal reminded the members of the minimum required amount of ₹1,00,000 to establish an endowment, ensuring that the interest accrued would be sufficient to provide a reasonable honorarium. The details were reviewed and passed.

64.3.3. Jesuit Educational Support

Rev. Dr. L. John Peter Arulanandam SJ, Vice-Principal, presented the data. Dr. P. Ponmuthuramalingam, State Government Nominee, commended the management's generosity in providing scholarships amounting to approximately ₹1.5 crore. Fr. Principal also acknowledged the additional contributions made by the Alumni/ae Association. The details were reviewed and passed.

64.4. Approval of Matters Related to Administration & General Interest

64.4.1. Proceedings of the Standing Committee of the Governing Body

Rev. Dr. K. Amal SJ, Secretary of the College, presented the proceedings. Dr. P. Ponmuthuramalingam raised queries about the promotion of a few staff from Laboratory Assistants to Junior Assistant / Store Keeper. Mr. N.M. Pushparaj, the Office Superintendent, responded that the promotion had been granted in accordance with the Private College Regulations Act, 1976, and Government Order No. 11 dated 01.04.1989. The proceedings were duly approved and passed.

64.4.2. Resolution of the Standing Committee of the Governing Body

Rev. Dr. K. Amal SJ, Secretary of the College, presented the resolution. It was resolved to discharge Dr. A. Leo Rajesh, Associate Professor of Physics, from his responsibilities.

64.5. Achievements and Recent Happenings

64.5.1. Patents Granted

Dr. A. Egbert Selwin Rose, Dean – School of Biological Sciences, presented the details. While Fr. Provincial, the Chairperson, appreciated the increase in the number of patents granted, he also raised concerns about the quality of the patents. He emphasised that patents associated with the institution must uphold the highest ethical standards to avoid any potential damage to the institution's reputation. In response, Fr. Principal clarified that the majority of the patents were filed individually by faculty members. He further assured that those patents submitted under the institution's name were facilitated by the IPR Cell and had undergone appropriate scrutiny to ensure compliance with institutional and ethical guidelines. In future, patents filed in the name of the institution alone would be presented.

64.5.2. *Report on Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)*

Dr. M. Julias Ceasar, Dean – School of Management Studies presented the report. Fr. Provincial, the Chairperson, observed that the majority of the MoUs had been signed with Indian institutions, and he suggested that establishing collaborations with institutions of international repute could significantly enhance the academic standing and global visibility of the institution. Fr. Principal responded that the process of signing MoUs with a few international institutions had already been initiated.

64.5.3. *Report on Sports and Games*

Dr. J. Charles, Dean – School of Physical Sciences, presented the report. The report was approved and passed.

64.5.4. *Recent Happenings*

Dr. F.R. Alexander Pravin Durai, Associate Professor of Commerce & Vice-Principal, presented the details, and the details were reviewed and passed.

64.6. Alumni/ae Association Report

CA. Dr. Pannai M. Karthikeyan, Chairman, Pannai Group of Institutions & Companies, presented the report. The report was approved and passed.

64.7. Approval of Institutional Policies

64.7.1. *Policy on Information & Communication Technology*

64.7.2. *Policy on Plastic-Free Campus*

64.7.3. *Policy on Drug and Alcohol*

Dr. A. Rose Venis, Director – IQAC, presented all three above-mentioned policies. While presenting Item No. 64.7.1., Dr. A. Egbert Selwin Rose, Dean – School of Biological Sciences, suggested that the section addressing the use of Artificial Intelligence could be further elaborated on, given its growing relevance in academic contexts. In response, Fr. Provincial, the Chairperson, noted that the college might consider formulating a separate policy on AI in the future, based on emerging needs, rather than expanding the current section. While presenting Item No. 64.7.3., Dr. P. Rajendran, Deputy Principal, opined that the Penal Code could be included in the policy, for which Fr. Provincial responded that going into details about the Penal Code in the policy could involve legal implications. Instead, he suggested drafting a separate Code of Conduct document for staff and students. It was resolved that the policies be adopted as presented.

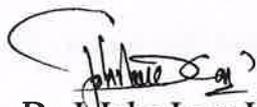
64.8. New Initiatives

Dr. P. Rajendran, Deputy Principal, presented the details. Fr. Provincial suggested that the title 'One-Rupee-a-Day Donation' be changed to 'One-Rupee-a-Day Scheme,' and that 'willing donors' be replaced with 'willing students.' Fr. Provincial suggested that the Students Council could be involved in the selection of eligible beneficiaries of the scheme, and Fr. Provincial stated that students would be involved starting from the upcoming academic year.

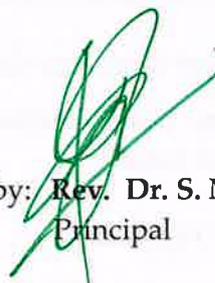
64.9. Any Other Matter

In his concluding remarks, Fr. Provincial expressed satisfaction with the college's activities - noting its steady progress and significant academic growth. He affirmed that the institution exemplified the distinctive hallmarks of Jesuit education.

Rev. Dr. S. Mariadoss SJ, Principal & Member Secretary, extended the Vote of Thanks and the meeting was formally concluded at 1:15 p.m.



Prepared by: Dr. J. John Love Joy



Approved by: Rev. Dr. S. Mariadoss SJ
Principal

