

**MINUTES OF XXXIX BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING
OF THE NORTHCAP UNIVERSITY
HELD ON 31ST JANUARY 2024 (WEDNESDAY) AT 11:30 A.M**

The following members attended the XXXIX Meeting of the Board of Management held on Wednesday, 31st January 2024 at 11:30 AM at The NorthCap University, Gurugram.

S. No	Name	Representing	Designation
1	Prof. (Dr.) Nupur Prakash	Vice-Chancellor	Chairperson
2	Smt. Indira Sharma (Attended Online)	Dy. Director Nominee of ACSHE & DGHE Govt. of Haryana	Member
3	Mr. Shiv Saran Mehra	Governing Body Member (Nominee of Sponsoring Body)	Member
4	Dr. Z. Daulet Singh	Governing Body Member (Nominee of Sponsoring Body)	Member
5	Mrs. Kavita Mishra (Leave of absence)	Non-Governing Body Member (Nominee of Sponsoring Body)	Member
6	Mr. N. K. Dewan (Leave of absence)	Non-Governing Body Member (Nominee of Sponsoring Body)	Member
7	Dr. Malini Eliatamby (Attended Online)	Nominee of Sponsoring Body	Special Invitee
8	Prof. Manoj Kumar Gopaliya	Teacher of the University (Nominee of Sponsoring Body)	Member
9	Prof. Archana Sarma	Teacher of the University (Nominee of Sponsoring Body)	Member
10	Prof. Rita Chhikara	Teacher of the University (Nominee of Sponsoring Body)	Member
11	Prof. G. R. Chandrashekhar	Teacher of the University (Nominee of VC)	Member
12	Prof. Sona Vikas	Teacher of the University (Nominee of VC)	Member
13	Commodore Diwakar Tomar (Retd.)	Registrar	Member - Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

WELCOME ADDRESS

The Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting. She specifically welcomed Smt. Indira Sharma, Dy Director, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Haryana and Dr. Malini Eliatamby who were attending the meeting for the first time. She thanked all the members for their continued support, and thereafter requested the Member Secretary to proceed with the agenda of the day.

Member Secretary presented the agenda items.

ITEM No. 1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE XXXVIII MEETING OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT held on 29 August 2023, circulated by email on 05 September 2023, enclosed as **Annexure 1**, including confirmation and progress on matters arising thereof.

(Member Secretary)

Action taken points of the previous meeting held on 29 August 2023 are summarized as under:

Agenda	Points in brief	Action Taken
Item No. 3	Admission update for the Academic Year 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of low admissions in BA(Economics), the 06 students were counselled to shift to other programmes like BBA or B.Com. 03 students shifted their programme, whilst 03 took withdrawal. • Students seeking withdrawal and refund of money were writing directly to the UGC with grievances, without informing the University, and the UGC in turn was asking the university for immediate action on refund of fees. As per decision in the last Board of Management meeting, a suitable communication was sent to UGC on 20 Sep 2023, clearly stating that the university has not refused refund to/ withheld original documents of any student, and is following all UGC guidelines pertaining to withdrawal of students. • BSc VFX and Animation, and BCA Media and IT programmes have been introduced in CME, under the Department of CSE. These programmes offer students diverse career pathways, including the opportunity to pursue roles as UI/UX designers.
Item No. 4	Analysis of Semester Result Jan-Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course wise failure report was shared by Dy Dean Examination with all HODs and Vice Chancellor on 31 Aug 2023. • Committee under the Chairmanship of Dean Academics was constituted to examine and propose remedial actions for reducing failure rates and detentions. The committee submitted its report on 15th September 2024. • Remedial actions were taken for the reappear students as per ppt report prepared by HODs for the same. Significant improvement was observed by SOL and SOET.
Item No. 5	Update on International Relations Office (IRO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCU Immersion Programme is scheduled from 12-17 Feb 2024, and detailed brochure has been shared with the participating universities. Response from foreign universities is not encouraging. Only one participant submitted the fee. • Booklet bringing out all international collaborations with various universities has been prepared and printed.

Item No. 7	Creation of Centre for Media and Entertainment (CME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booklet pertaining to CME with details of courses offered has been printed for use as promotional material.
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Points Discussed:

1. It was informed that the immersion program scheduled for 12th - 17th February 2024 had to be called off finally, because only one student paid the fee, though more had shown interest. Mr. Shiv Mehra opined that we should engage with Galala University and indicate that if minimum seven students opt for the immersion program, then the program can be scheduled in March 2024.
2. Ms. Malini Eliatamby conveyed that as Ramdaan was falling in the month of March, not many students would be interested to travel during that time. Mr. Shiv Mehra asked the IRO to discuss the same with Galala University and propose dates towards the end of February.
3. Mr. Shiv Mehra said that IRO should align their calendar with that of the foreign universities to elicit greater participation from the foreign students.
4. Mr. Shiv Mehra emphasized that Cintana Alliance should actively promote NCU with other member universities and share its willingness to enhance international student exchange opportunities with them. In particular, South American universities, universities of Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Turkey etc, could be actively considered.
5. Mr. Shiv Mehra appreciated the efforts of the International Relations Office in making the IRO Booklet, and requested that the Booklet be taken on record. He also brought out that the finalized CME Booklet should be printed in a fixed timeline. Dr Rita Chhikara informed that the same would be printed by 20th February 2024.

The members took note of the above and confirmed the minutes of the 38th Board of Management meeting held on 29th August 2023.

ITEM No. 2: ADMISSION INTAKE & FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25.

(Member Secretary)

Member secretary briefed all the members regarding admission intake & fee structure for the Academic Year 2024-25. Details of the same are as under:

INTAKE:

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
UNDERGRADUATE AND POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES				
S. No.	Branch	Intake 22-23	Intake 23-24	Intake 24-25
1	B Tech Computer Science Engineering Specialization options 1) Full Stack Development 2) Cyber Security & Forensics 3) Cloud Computing 4) Data Science 5) Gaming, Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)	540	400	450

	6) Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning 7) Blockchain 8) IOT & 5G			
2	B Tech Electronics & Communication Engineering Specialization options 1) Internet of Things (IoT) 2) Embedded systems and VLSI design	30	NA	NA
3	B Tech Mechanical Engineering Specialization options 1) Robotics & Automation	20	NA	NA
4	Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) Specialization options 1) Web Application Development 2) Mobile Application 3) Animation & Gaming (Discontinued in 2023)	100	60	50
5	Master of Computer Applications (MCA) (New Course launched in 2023)	NA	20	40
6	M Tech Computer Science Engineering Specialization options 1) Cyber Security & Forensics 2) Data Science			
7	M Tech Civil Engineering Specialization options 1) Structural Engineering 2) Construction Engineering & Management 3) Environmental Engineering			
8	M Tech Mechanical Engineering Specialization options 1) Mechanical Engineering 2) Thermal Engineering 3) Industrial & Production Engineering 4) Electrical Vehicles	20	20	40
9	M Tech Electronics & Communication Engineering Specialization options 1) Communication Engineering 2) VLSI Design			
	Total	710	500	580

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED SCIENCES				
S. No.	Branch	Intake 22-23	Intake 23-24	Intake 24-25
1	B.Sc Chemistry (Hons)	30	NA	NA
2	B.Sc Mathematics (Hons)	30	NA	NA
3	B.Sc Data Science	30	NA	NA
	Total	90	NA	NA

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LIBERAL STUDIES				
UNDERGRADUATE AND POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES				
S. No.	Branch	Intake 22-23	Intake 23-24	Intake 24-25
1	B.Com (Hons)	90	50	50
2	B.Com (Hons) Financial Markets	30		
3	BA (Hons) English	30	20	50
4	BA (Hons) Economics	30	20	30
5	BA (Hons) Psychology	50	30	50

6	MA Psychology (New Course launched in 2023)	NA	20	20
7	MA English*	NA	NA	30
8	BBA	120	60	100
9	BBA -Business Analytics	30	60	50
10	BBA -Digital Marketing	30		
11	BBA -Entrepreneurship & Family Business	30		
12	MBA Specializations in HR / Finance / Marketing / Business Analytics	50	30	Mentioned in School of Business below
	Total	490	290	380

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (2024)				
POST GRADUATE PROGRAMME				
S. No.	Branch	Intake 22-23	Intake 23-24	Intake 24-25
1	MBA Specializations in HR / Finance / Marketing	50	30	50
2	MBA- Business Analytics	NA	NA	50
	Total	-	-	100

SCHOOL OF LAW				
UNDERGRADUATE AND POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES				
S. No.	Branch	Intake 22-23	Intake 23-24	Intake 24-25
1	BBA – LLB (Hons)	120	60	120
2	LLB (New Course launched in 2023)	NA	30	60
3	LLM Specialization options 1) Corporate Law 2) Human Rights 3) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	20	20	20
	Total	140	110	200

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT				
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES				
S. No.	Branch	Intake 22-23	Intake 23-24	Intake 24-25
1	B.Sc Sound Engineering	NA	40	40
2	B.Sc Visual Communication	NA	40	40
3	B.Sc Visual Effects and Animation	NA	40	
4	BCA Game Development	NA	40	120
5	BCA Media and Information Technology	NA	40	
	Total		200	200
Final Total		1430	1100	1460

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION				
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES (ONLINE LEARNING MODES)				
S. No.	Branch	Intake 22-23	Intake 23-24	Intake 24-25
1	BBA -OL Mode	NA	50	50
2	B.Com-OL Mode	NA	50	50
	Total		100	100

*Approval Awaited

An Increase / decrease in intake within disciplines of 20% could take place within the total intake, without compromising quality and minimum eligibility criteria.

FEE STRUCTURE:

A copy of the approved fee structure will be submitted to the Government of Haryana in terms of Para 36 of Haryana Private Universities act, 32 of 2006 on approval.

Details of Fee Structure for the Academic Year 2024-25 is placed below:

ANNUAL FEE (IN Rs.)									
S.No	PROGRAMME	2022 - 23		2023 - 24		2024-25			
		INDIAN STUDENTS	NRI STUDENTS	INDIAN STUDENTS	NRI STUDENTS	INDIAN STUDENTS			NRI STUDENTS
		TOTAL ANNUAL FEE	TOTAL ANNUAL FEE	TOTAL ANNUAL FEE	TOTAL ANNUAL FEE	TUITION FEE	DEVELOPMENT FEE	TOTAL ANNUAL FEE	NRI / INTERNATIONAL FEE
1	B.Tech CSE	268000	382000	300000	428000	247200	61800	309000	441000
2	BCA	134000	206000	150000	230000	124000	31000	155000	237000
3	M.Tech (2 Years)	167000	218500	175000	NA	144000	36000	180000	NA
4	M.Tech (Part Time)	96000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
5	MCA	NA	NA	175000	NA	144000	36000	180000	276000
6	B.Sc (Hons) Maths	112000	159000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7	B.Sc (Hons) Data Science	144000	201000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
8	B.Sc (Hons) Chemistry	112000	159000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
9	BBA	191000	262000	220000	302000	181600	45400	227000	311000
10	BBA Digital Marketing	221000	290000	245000	321000	201600	50400	252000	331000
11	BBA Business Analytics	221000	290000	245000	321000	201600	50400	252000	331000
12	BBA Entrepreneurship & Family Business	221000	290000	245000	321000	201600	50400	252000	331000
13	B.Com (Hons)	149000	218500	170000	249000	140000	35000	175000	256000
14	B.Com (Hons) Financial Markets	149000	218500	185000	271000	152800	38200	191000	279000
15	BA (Hons) Economics	109000	164000	130000	301000	107200	26800	134000	310000
16	BA (Hons) Psychology	109000	164000	115000	173000	94400	23600	118000	178000
17	MA Psychology	NA	NA	150000	263000	124000	31000	155000	271000
18	BA (Hons) English	103000	154500	130000	315000	107200	26800	134000	324000
19	MA English*	NA	NA	NA	NA	124000	31000	155000	271000
20	MBA	355000	515000	425000	616000	360000	90000	450000	634000
21	BBA-LLB (Hons.)	179000	273000	195000	297000	160800	40200	201000	306000
22	LLB (3 Years)	160000	244000	160000	266500	132000	33000	165000	274000
23	LLM	123000	NA	205000	NA	168800	42200	211000	NA
24	B.Sc Sound Engineering	NA	NA	300000	NA	160000	40000	200000	316000

25	B.Sc Visual Communication	NA	NA	150000	NA	120000	30000	150000	230000
26	B.Sc Visual Effects and Animation	NA	NA	150000	NA	120000	30000	150000	230000
27	BCA Game Development	NA	NA	150000	NA	124000	31000	155000	237000
28	BCA Media and Information Technology	NA	NA	150000	NA	124000	31000	155000	237000
29	BBA in OL mode	NA	NA	50000	NA	NA	NA	50000	NA
30	B. Com in OL mode	NA	NA	50000	NA	NA	NA	50000	NA

*Approval Awaited

Points Discussed:

1. Dr. Sona Vikas highlighted ongoing discussions between the university and ACCA regarding the potential inclusion of B.Com (H) and B.Com (H) Financial Markets programs, coupled with ACCA certification, without imposing additional academic engagement on the NCU students. Under this arrangement, students would undertake nine courses at NCU, and credits earned from four ACCA courses would contribute to the overall credit framework of the program. Upon approval, the university would realign the total intake accordingly.
2. The Chairperson emphasized the need for the School of Management and Liberal Studies (SOM&LS) to allocate 3-4 specialized faculty members for Economics, given the significant interest among students in opting for this subject. Mr. Shiv Mehra pointed out that BA Economics (Hons) is amongst the most highly sought-after courses at Delhi University, and since not all students secure admission, there is a very high demand for alternative options. He stressed the importance of making this program attractive without compromising on the quality of students admitted.
3. Mr. Shiv Mehra highlighted the concern regarding non-approval of the MA (English) course with Ms. Indira Sharma, the representative of the Director of Higher Education, Govt of Haryana. He highlighted that amongst the eight new courses proposed for approval last year, seven received approval from DHE, and the MA (English) program has not been approved, and neither has any reason been given for not approving the course. Mr. Mehra also noted that the same program is currently offered at the undergraduate level, creating a gap for students aspiring to pursue a postgraduate degree in English. Ms. Indira Sharma acknowledged the issue and requested that the relevant correspondence be forwarded to her so that the matter can be reviewed at DHE. The Member Secretary said that the relevant correspondence would be forwarded by the end of the day.

All Members of the Board of Management took note of the above and approved the intake to various schools and the fee structure.

ITEM No. 3: UPDATE ON PLACEMENTS

(Director - CPAA)

Director CPAA briefed the Members on the following:

- a) Current status of Placements, progress and plans for the 2024 batch who have not been placed so far.
- b) A Calendar for the next two months for the activities being planned by the Centre of Professional Attachment & Alumni Engagement.
- c) Alumni Activities planned for the even semester (January – June 2024).

The following points emerged during the discussions:

1. Mr. Shiv Mehra conveyed the importance of the CPAA engaging in comprehensive discussions with companies to discern the specific skill sets they are seeking and to identify any existing gaps. This approach aims to enhance the likelihood of students securing positions through a better alignment of their skills with industry requirements.
2. Mr. Zorawar D Singh asked if there are any designated timeline, weeks / months, for which students are required to pursue certifications to enhance their eligibility for job positions, and how the students undertake these certifications. It was clarified that the Department HODs and CPAA guide the students based on the requirements of the companies. Director CPAA was directed to share the list of certifications required for enhancing employability of students with HODs.
3. Mr. Shiv Mehra brought out that CPAA should have a consolidated list of all the students who are pursuing different certifications at any point of time.
4. The Chairperson expressed concern on low number of companies that have visited the campus for placements so far and sought information on the names of the companies that have visited. Dr. Rohit Lather clarified that 62 companies have visited till date and 50 more are lined up to visit in the month of Feb/ March. He highlighted a shift in the hiring strategy of companies, indicating a move away from bulk recruitment. Instead, companies now focus on specific skill set requirements, conducting interviews accordingly. Dr. Rohit also brought out the impact of COVID-19 on the IT sector, where companies initially hired extensively due to requirements in those days, but are now downsizing their manpower.
5. Mr. Shiv Mehra emphasized the necessity for enhanced coordination between the CPAA and various departments to facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of companies' requirements. He also communicated the importance of conducting Exit Interviews with companies to obtain feedback, as that will facilitate a meaningful gap analysis for the purpose of identifying areas of improvement. Also, if the big companies are not recruiting, Tier 2 companies should be identified and called to the campus.
6. Dean Academics highlighted the importance of the CPAA identifying certification requirements set forth by companies at this stage itself, and sharing this information with the Heads of Departments (HODs) so that timely measures can be taken now itself. This collaborative effort would enhance the preparedness of students at the time of eventual placement opportunities.

Presentation of CPAA is enclosed as **Annexure 2**.

All members of the Board of Management took note of the above.

ITEM No. 4: TO APPRISE THE BOARD MEMBERS REGARDING THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR THE EVEN SEMESTER (JAN – JUN 2024) FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24.

(Dean Academics)

Dean Academics presented the Academic Calendar for the Even Semester (Jan-June 2024) of Academic Year 2023-24 for all Schools during the meeting for inputs and approval from the members. He brought out that NCU has now reverted to a single calendar applicable for all batches of all schools.

The academic calendar is enclosed as **Annexure 3**.

All members of the Board of Management approved the Academic Calendar for the Even Semester of Academic Year 2023-2024.

ITEM No. 5: CONDUCT OF CONVOCATION CEREMONY

(Member Secretary)

The Member Secretary brought out that the Convocation Ceremony for conferring degrees and awards to graduating students is the culmination of years of hard work by the students and is an important and solemn occasion for the university. In our efforts to continuously improve the convocation experience, based on past years convocation ceremonies, the conduct of future convocation ceremonies is proposed to be re-examined, and a fresh template for the same be adopted. In this regard, the Member Secretary presented two options for the conduct of the next Convocation Ceremony, as follows:

Option 1

Morning session

- a) The convocation ceremony with the Chief Guest be held in the University Auditorium in the morning session.
- b) All PhD students, post graduate students, medal winners, and young alumni/ best connected alumni awardees be felicitated 'on stage' during the ceremony.
- c) Parents of the above-mentioned students be invited to attend the ceremony.

Afternoon session

- a) Conferring of Degrees to balance undergraduate students to take place at School/ Department level in the afternoon session, with the Heads of Departments (HODs) overseeing the process. The Pro Chancellor and Vice Chancellor would make brief visits to all the venues to personally engage with the students, adding due prestige to the proceedings.

Option 2

Morning session

- a) The convocation ceremony with the Chief Guest be held in the University Auditorium in the morning session.
- b) All PhD students, post graduate students, medal winners, and young alumni/ best connected alumni awardees be felicitated 'on stage' during the ceremony.
- c) Parents of the above-mentioned students be invited to attend the ceremony.

Afternoon session

- a) Conferring of Degrees to balance all undergraduate students of 03 schools to take place in covered Pandal in the University Lawns.
- b) All students to be given degree 'on stage' during the ceremony.
- c) Parents of all students to be invited to attend the ceremony.

Post discussions, it was decided that a separate Core Group can examine the pros and cons of different options and recommend a suitable SOP for conduct of the Convocation Ceremony, which would then be approved in the next Board of Management meeting.

All members of the Board of Management took note of the above.

ITEM No. 6: EXPULSION FROM UNIVERSITY FOR ADOPTING UNFAIR MEANS DURING MAJOR EXAMS – TWO STUDENTS

(Member Secretary)

Two students (20BBA044) Tushar Rana and (20BBA019) Jatin Yadav were caught using unfair means during the major examinations conducted in Dec 2023. On examination it emerged that they were repeat offenders and had been caught using unfair means earlier also. Being repeat offenders, the students were expelled from the university with effect from 10 Jan 2024. **(Annexure 4)** The Member Secretary brought out that (20BBA019) Jatin Yadav has filed a plea in response to his expulsion, apologizing and admitting his mistakes, and seeking pardon and revoking of the expulsion, with the assurance that he would not indulge in unfair means and obey all rules and regulations of the university.

Point Discussed:

It was decided that the appeal of Jatin Yadav be forwarded to the Hon'ble Chancellor for his consideration.

All members of the Board of Management took note of the above and approved the same.

ITEM No. 7: UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTERS

(Member Secretary)

The Member Secretary briefed the members about the status of the court cases of the university, as follows:-

Punjab & Haryana High Court Chandigarh

- 1) **CWP-22262/2012 Reservation for Haryana Domiciled students and awarding of fee concession.** In the matter relating to Reservation for Haryana Domiciled students and awarding of fee concession, the petition has been listed as per the roster. The matter is clubbed with CWP 6229/2013 and is put as a regular matter. The case was listed for hearing on **21 July 2022**. Copy of the Interim order is enclosed as **Annexure 5**. The matter is now with the Supreme Court. The next date of hearing is not yet listed.
- 2) **CWP-6229/2013 Regulation of Admission & fixation of fee in Private Universities**
The University has challenged the Haryana Private Technical Education Institutions, Regulations of Admission of Fee Act 2012, as this act exercises control over admissions and fee through the Fee & Admissions Committee.

The University filed extraordinary writ jurisdiction 13602-13603 dated 07-12-2020, to stay the operation of the Haryana Private Technical Education Institution (Regulation of Admission and Fee) Act, 2012 and memo dated 12-11-2020 and 02-12-2020. This matter is also clubbed with CWP 2644 of 2021.

In 2022 the University had received a Memo No. 365 / A&FRC dated 07.07.2022 regarding the fixation / revision proposal for the Academic Session 2023-24, (enclosed at **Annexure 6**). Since the matter is sub judice, a reply on behalf of the University, by our legal counsel, was made to the Member Secretary of the Admission & Fee Regulatory Committee (copy enclosed at **Annexure 7**).

In 2023 too, the University received a similar Memo from Admission & Fee Regulatory Committee, Haryana (Memo no. 206 / A&FRC), dated: 22.03.2023, regarding schedule of submission of fee fixation / revision proposal for the academic session 2024-25, which is enclosed as **Annexure 8**.

All the details were shared with our Legal counsel, who drafted a suitable reply to the Memo dated 22 March 2023, which was then forwarded to the Admission & Fee Regulatory Committee. Copy of the letter sent is enclosed as **Annexure 9**.

Labour Court Gurugram

- 3) Following case pertaining to Notice Pay is in progress in the Labour Court, Gurugram. Details of these case is given as under:

a) Mr. Trilok Nath, Ex Technical Staff – Non receipt of Notice Period Pay

The individual is not eligible for notice pay, however gratuity to the individual has been paid. He was informed by Labour Officer Mr. Shushil Maan on 29.09.2020 that he should apply “Maang Patra” against the University if he is not satisfied with the reply. We have now received a letter from the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Circle 2, Gurugram, regarding “Maang Patra”. Detailed reply has been submitted to the Labour court on 27-01-2021. University has received a Notice for Appearance & Settlement of Issues from the Court of Mr. Amrit Singh (A.D.J.) Presiding Officer, Tribunal-cum-Labour Court-2, Sharam Shakti Bhawan, Near Mini Sectt., Gurugram and the Hearing was scheduled on 01.09.2021. The next date of hearing is awaited.

All members of the Board of Management took note of the progress of the legal matters.

ITEM No. 8: REPORTING MATTERS / INFORMATION POINTS

(Member Secretary)

1. Life Fellowship Award to Prof. Prem Vrat

We are delighted to share the remarkable achievement of our esteemed Pro-Chancellor, Professor of Eminence, and Chief Mentor, Prof. Prem Vrat, who has been honored with the prestigious 'Life Fellow Award' by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur on 18 December 2023. Prof. Prem Vrat's dedication to education, innovation, and excellence has been an inspiration to all of us at The NorthCap University. The 'Life Fellow Award' bestowed upon Prof. Prem Vrat reflects his unwavering commitment to academic excellence and his tireless efforts to push the boundaries of knowledge. It serves as a reminder of the high standards and values that he has instilled in all of us. We are immensely proud to have him as a guiding force at our institution. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Prem Vrat on this well-deserved honour.

2. Extension / renewal of contract granted to Prof. Swaran Ahuja, Advisor – Academic Affairs.

Prof. Swaran Ahuja, erstwhile HOD EECE and Dean Academics, currently Advisor – Academic Affairs, is employed on a contractual basis which has got renewed till 31 December 2024. The current appointment being held by him is a non-statutory post. The matter is placed before the members for ratification of extension of his period of contract beyond December 2023, for another period of one year, for engagement exclusively for Academic activities. The case be considered on merit.

All members of the Board of Management ratified the extension granted to Prof. Swaran Ahuja.

3. Strategic implementation of blended teaching-learning - The NorthCap University Gurugram has consistently demonstrated its commitment to innovative teaching and learning methods, continually striving for educational excellence. In alignment with this commitment, NCU has meticulously crafted a comprehensive plan to seamlessly integrate online teaching into on-campus programmes. This initiative spans across all three schools; SOET, SOM & LS, and SOL, and has evolved through extensive discussions among stakeholders at all levels. The action plan centre's around adopting blended courses (First-Year Courses: Face-to-face delivery for all first year UG courses, with up to 50% blended mode in PG programs. Second-Year Courses: 10% blended mode for UG (except law), up to 50% in PG with MOOC options. Third and Fourth-Year Courses: Minimum 15% MOOC mode in UG (except law programs) and PG programs). Practice Sessions for Blended courses retain the face-to-face approach, evaluated by the university. Equivalent external courses from reputed MOOC platforms have been identified to complement NCU courses in a blended mode. The Evaluation Process would comprise of university-conducted summative evaluations (Minor and major tests). Faculty assignments based on enrolment to maintain a reasonable student-to-faculty ratio, ensuring effective and quality evaluations aligned with NCU standards has been ensured. Detailed guidelines have been framed and quality assured through adherence to best practices for evaluations with regular compliance reports. Blended mode reduces face-to-face lecture commitments, allowing faculty to focus on research. Advanced learners can opt for up to 40% of total credits in Full MOOC Mode.

4. Convocation Ceremony – 15 December 2023

NCU, held its 12th Annual Convocation Ceremony for its various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes on 15 December 2023. The Chief Guest at the function was Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE. A total of 734 students were awarded degrees in their respective disciplines, including 429 from BTech, 4 from BSc Maths (H), 04 from BSc Data Science (H), 07 from BSc Chemistry (H), 07 from BSc Physics (H), 37 from BCom (H), 13 from BA Economic (H), 16 from BA Psychology (H), 87 from BBA, 64 from BBA-LLB (H), 11 from MTech, 28 from MBA, 9 from LLM and 18 awarded PhD. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to 28 candidates who were top performers in their respective streams.

5. HR Conclave 2023

Centre of Professional Attachment & Alumni Engagement (CPAA) organized 'HR Conclave 2023' at The NorthCap University on November 23rd – 24th, 2023. The theme was "Shaping the Future Workforce and Re-imagining Tomorrow's Workplace." The event brought together eminent HR professionals from the industry on a common platform where they shared their experiences and best practices on the topic "Hiring trends of corporate for campus." HR professionals interacted with the faculty and students from the engineering, management, and law disciplines. 388 students participated in the Conclave.

Details of guest who attend the Conclave are as mentioned below:

S. No.	Guest Name	Designation	Organization
1	Mr. Raj Gupta	General Manager HR	Tata Consultancy Services
2	Mr. Deepak Kapur	Vice-President Corporate HR	AVL India
3	Ms. Rishika Vohra	Manager Talent Acquisition Group	IGT Solutions
4	Mr. Abhishek Anand	Founder	Mentors Capital

5	Ms. Neetu Sidana Thapliyal	Director & Head Human Resource	Mazars
6	Ms. Rituparna G Vats	Director & HR Head	91 Mobiles
7	Mr. Brajesh Mandal	Senior Manager, HR-Business Partner	Lakshmikumaran and Sridharan
8	Adv. Mandeep Kalra (NCU Alumni)	Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Founder	Chambers of M.S. Kalra

The conclave helped: -

- a) Develop social capital at the NorthCap University and lay the corporate world's foundation to nurture the young minds of The NorthCap University.
- b) Create opportunities for students to get short-term projects, internships, placement, and various campus engagements.
 - Gain insights into the latest trends in the workforce and future workplace.
 - Network with industry professionals, peers, and experts
 - Participate in interactive workshops and discussions.
 - Explore potential career paths and opportunities.

6. Signing of MoU's

(a) MoU with BINUS University, Indonesia

The NorthCap University signed an MoU with BINUS University Jakarta, Indonesia on 21.09.2023. BINUS University, accredited by the Indonesian Accreditation Agency and hailed by QS, Times Higher Education and AppliedHE is an international university of repute with 12 campuses across various cities, and a thriving online campus for remote learning. BINUS holds QS World University Ranking, featuring stellar performances in Computer Science and Business Management.

(b) MOU with the Haryana Space Applications Centre (HARSAC) - NCU signed an MOU with the Haryana Space Applications Centre (HARSAC) on 22 November 2023. The MoU was signed by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nupur Prakash and Mr. Anup Kumar, Principal Scientist from HARSAC. The MoU marks a significant collaboration for fostering academic and scientific cooperation in the field of space applications and related research. This MoU outlines a framework for collaboration in various areas, including Research and Development (R& D), Academic Exchange Programmes, Training and Workshops Infrastructure and Resource Sharing. The NorthCap University is the first private university in Haryana to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HARSAC.

(c) MOU with Volkswagen Group Technology Solutions India

The NorthCap University and Volkswagen Group Technology Solutions India (VWITS) signed an MOU on October 9, 2023. This partnership brings a wealth of opportunities for our students, including hands-on internships, real-world projects, industry-relevant training, professional insights from industry visits, expert insights from guest lectures and much more. These initiatives are expected to collectively provide a well-rounded and industry-aligned education for our students.

7. Masterclass Series – 16.08.2023 - 31.08.2023

Master class series lectures were held from 16 Aug 23 to 31 Aug 23. People from various industries came forward to share their invaluable insights, wisdom and guidance. The following eminent speakers participated in the Masterclass series :

- Kapil Arora, Director, Grant Thornton
- Subhasish Acharya, Teacher, Consultant & Coach
- Noopurr R Chablani, Vice President, Mavcomm Consulting

- Hon'ble Justice Dharmesh Sharma, Judge, Delhi High Court
- Dr. Ranjana Kumari, Social Activist & Director, Centre for Social Research
- Shreya Arora Mehta, Officer on Special Duty, NALSA, Supreme Court of India
- Raj Gupta, GM, HR, Tata Consultancy Services
- Vidya Bhushan, Co-Founder, Dalchini Technologies

8. Apex Utsav 2023 – 02.09.2023

Department of Computer Science and Engineering successfully organised APEX UTSAV-2023 in collaboration with INOAUG (India Oracle Apex User Group) on 2nd September, 2023. Various delegates from the IT sectors, professionals, developers, NCU faculty and students participated in exploring the latest trends and best practices in Oracle APEX and engaged in thought-provoking discussions and hands-on training. The journey throughout UTSAV was marked by enriching interactions and the acquisition of valuable knowledge, setting the stage for limitless future possibilities.

9. FDP on Social Media: Exploring the importance of Social Media for Educators – 08.09.2023

The NCU faculty got an opportunity to attend a highly enriching Faculty Development Programme that delved into the realms of social media, featuring Prof. Sona Vikas, Head - School of Management and Liberal Studies and Anu Gulmohar, Digital & Content Marketing Specialist. Prof. Sona Vikas covered the topic of 'Intentional Networking through LinkedIn', wherein she talked about the important strategies and tips for creating meaningful professional connections on the world's largest professional network, LinkedIn. Her session was highly insightful and transformative. Ms. Anu Gulmohar discussed the 'Importance of Social Media' for the academicians of today. From fostering student engagement to sharing knowledge far and wide, her insights encouraged the NCU faculty to utilise the full potential of digital platforms.

10. International Conference on Smart and AI-Enabled Technology for Sustainable Development

The International Conference on Smart and AI Enabled Technology for Sustainable Development was held from 12.09.2023 to 13.09.2023 and was a big success. Shri B N Ramakrishna, Director of ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), was the Guest of Honour. He provided invaluable insights about using technology for sustainability and shared his experience about ISRO's recent success, the Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission in which he played a pivotal role. The conference provided a crucial platform for international researchers, academicians, and industry experts to unite and contribute to the advancement of Sustainable Development through Smart and AI-enabled Technologies. Addressing all pressing global challenges, the conference was a testament to the power of collaboration, knowledge exchange and innovation.

11. Teacher's Day Celebration

The event was conducted to recognise and honour the invaluable contributions of our mentors in lighting the educational path of countless students with their passion and dedication. Details of awardees on this occasion are as follows:

- Lifetime Achievement Award: Prof. Prem Vrat and Prof. Swaran Ahuja
- Best Academic Administrator: Prof. Sharda Vashisth, Prof. Anjali Garg and Prof. Manoj K Gopaliya
- Star Performer of the Year: Prof. Rita Chhikara

- Best Teacher: Dr. Shrutimita Mehta, Dr. Meghna Sharma, Dr. Prachi and Mr. Himangshu Rathee
- Best Researcher: Dr. Tejpal S Chundawat and Dr. Mona Aggarwal
- Emerging Team Leader of the Year: Prof. Sona Vikas

The multi-talented educators also regaled the NCU community with lively performances on stage.

12. Workshop on 'India's Tryst with Meditation: Strategies and Opportunities'

The Pro Bono Club at School of Law, NCU hosted a workshop on 'India's Tryst with Mediation: Strategies and Opportunities' on 16.09.2023. During the workshop, participants had the privilege of engaging with some of the finest minds in the industry. Mr. Hemant Batra, Vice President SAARC Law and Sr. Legal Consultant at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. led a riveting discussion on the 'Legitimacy of Mediation: Exploring its nature, scope and significance in Modern Dispute Resolution'. Adding to the discussion was Mr. Nitin Mittal, Cluster Head of Legal & Company Secretary - India SC/Pacific Region at Signify, who shared his invaluable insights into 'Mediation law and practice in India: Perspective of a General Counsel'. The workshop was an immersive experience that combined theoretical knowledge with practical skills and gave a deep understanding of Mediation as a powerful tool for resolving disputes.

13. Visiting Professor from Mapúa Malayan Colleges, Mindanao

Dr. Ann Perez from Mapúa Malayan Colleges Mindanao came to NCU as a visiting professor from 25.09.23 to 29.09.2023. Dr. Ann Perez is a leading expert in Climate Change, Sustainability and Green Audit. During her visit, she interacted with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nupur Prakash and had productive discussions with faculty members from the School of Management and Liberal Studies (SOM&LS), to explore potential research collaborations. She also had interactive sessions on sustainable finance with NCU's BBA and MBA students. Her expertise extended to PhD scholars, where she shared insights into contemporary research areas within the fields of finance and accounting.

14. Visit of delegates from Loyola Marymount University (LMU), Los Angeles.

The NorthCap University hosted a team of delegates from Loyola Marymount University (LMU), Los Angeles, California on 29.09.2023. Loyola Marymount University (LMU) is renowned for its academic excellence. With 55 major and 59 minor Undergraduate Degrees, 47 Master's Programmes, and a strong commitment to research, LMU is ranked #93 in National Universities and #12 in Entrepreneurship in the 2024 edition of US News and World Report. The following delegates from LMU visited NCU: -

Dr. Tina Choe, Dean of the Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering

Dr. Maureen Weatherall, Vice Provost

Dr. Ammar Dalal, Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Enrolment.

From NCU, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Nupur Prakash, Dy Dean International Affairs Prof. Sharda Vashisth, Dean Academic s Prof. Manoj Gopaliya; and other senior faculty members met with the team and discussed key pointers of collaboration between the two universities.

15. 'Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta - A Cleanliness Drive' on 01.10.2023

'Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta - A Cleanliness Drive' on October 1st at 10:00 AM at Carterpuri Village was undertaken as per the directives of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. This event served as a rallying cry for unity in the name of cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental awareness. Students and Faculty members from all schools participated in the cleanliness drive.

16. Workshop on 'Combating Acid attack: A Gender Neutrality'

The Pro Bono Club at the School of Law organized a workshop on 'Combating Acid attack: A Gender Neutrality' on 06.10.2023. Ms. Santosh Snehi Mann, Officer of Delhi Higher Judicial Services and Member Secretary of the National Legal Services Authority, and Dr. Navpreet Kaur, Co-Founder of the Laxmi Foundation for Acid Attack Survivors, shared their invaluable insights on the critical issue of combating acid attacks from a gender neutrality perspective.

17. Returning Mothers Conference 2023.

The NorthCap University hosted 'The Returning Mothers Conference 2023' in October 2023. The conference focused on rekindling lost talents and giving a boost to all those seeking a change of career. IEEE, University of Kansas and the World Bank's WePower Network were part of the Conference. The event featured luminaries like Prof. Prem Vrat, Prof. Purna Gaur, and Dr. Saifur Rahman and delegates from around the world.

18. Business School Conclave

International Relations Office hosted a Business School Conclave on 6th October for the engineering and management students. Some of the distinguished delegates from renowned Business Schools in the USA and Europe visited the campus. These included: -

- Dr. Shivraj Kanungo from School of Business, George Washington University
- Ms. Christine Gozdziaik from GIES College of Business, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Dr. Arman Davtyan from Graziadio Business School, Pepperdine University
- Ms. Amanda Barth from Raymond A. Mason School of Business, William & Mary
- Ms. Richa Agrawal from Bocconi University

19. NCU Research Scholar at the 'Frontiers of Optics' Conference at Washington, USA

Ms. Poonam Yadav, Research Scholar at NCU got an opportunity to shine in the world of optics and photonics in USA. Ms. Yadav was selected for a Student Leadership Conference on 'Frontiers in Optics' by OPTICA USA, which took place from 08 to 12 October 2023 at Washington. Her participation is a testament to her exceptional talent, as only 5 students from India were chosen for this honour.

20. National-level IC HACK 2.0

A team of NCU students, Vishal Jain, Lakshay Yadav, Utkarsh Singh and Satyawan Yadav emerged as the champions in the national-level IC HACK 2.0 event at Manipal University, Jaipur, organised by IEEE India Council, outperforming 300+ teams. Faculty Mentors were Prof. Anjali Garg, Dr. Anu Tonk and Dr. Pankaj Rakheja.

21. Winner Trophy for the Exemplary Performance (EP) Award under the 'Existing Buildings' category at 15th GRIHA Council Summit

The NorthCap University, Gurugram has been conferred with a 'Winner Trophy' for the Exemplary Performance (EP) Award under the 'Existing Buildings' category during the 15th GRIHA Council Summit with the theme "Empowering Sustainable and Resilient Communities" on 24th November 2023. This honour recognises NCU's efforts to have met sustainability goals and acknowledges the university's commitment to the cause of sustainable development.

22. Lifetime Teaching Achievement Award

Prof. Manjula Batra was conferred the Lifetime Teaching Achievement Award by the All India Law Teachers Congress on 17th December 2023. Honourable Mr Justice Swatanter Kumar, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India and former Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal presented the award. We are proud to have such a dedicated and talented professor shaping the next generation of legal leaders at our university.

23. STRIDE International Conference 2023

This hybrid event held on 14th – 15th December 2023, aimed to unravel the intricate connections between Sustainability, Technology, Resilience, Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship, with a global perspective on addressing contemporary challenges.

24. Interactive session on "Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace"

An interactive session on "Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace" was held on 22nd December 2023 in the University. University psychologist, Ms Priyanka Bhalla, guided attendees through insightful information, real-life case studies, and practical tips on recognising, preventing, and responding to harassment. Open discussions and Q&A sessions were also part of the event, fostering understanding, empathy, and a commitment to action.

25. The NorthCap University, Trademark Registration

Consequent to our collaboration with Arizona State University (ASU) a new logo was prepared and sent to The Registrar of Trademark, Delhi. The Registrar of Trademark, Delhi has raised some objections, which have been answered by the Advocate, who has filed the Trademark application. The case came up for hearing on 08 January 2024, but got postponed on the morning of 08 January 2024 due to administrative reasons. Case is now scheduled for hearing on 22nd February 2024.

26. 33rd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 25 Jan 2024

The 33rd meeting of the Academic Council was held on 25 Jan 2024. During the meeting, the proposal for revised curriculum of the MBA programs being offered by the NCU School of Business was deliberated and approved. Approval was also accorded to proposals for introducing new course on Juvenile Justice in the School of Law, pre-PhD courses in the Applied Mechanics department in Principles of Biochemistry and Biophysical Chemistry, and 3 new courses for PhD Scholars of the School of Management and Liberal Studies in the Jan - May 24 session in Introduction to Environmental Economics, Foundations of Accounting & Finance, and Financial Management for Managers.

27. Student Class committee meetings.

Student class committee meetings in respect of three schools i.e. SOET, SOM&LS and SOL were held on 03.10.2023, 04.10.2023 & 05.10.2023 respectively. Concerns and suggestions by the students, both academic & administrative nature were addressed. The meetings were attended by the Pro Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Registrar & Dean Academics besides all the HODs.

28. Turnover of faculty and staff members since the last Board of Management meeting held on 29 August 2023.

New Faculty & Staff members

FACULTY				
S. No	DEPT.	NAME	DESIGNATION	DOJ
1	SOB	Prof. Subhasish Acharya	Professor of Practice	01.09.2023
2	SOB	Prof. Rakesh Kumar Khandelwal	Professor of Practice	01.09.2023
3	SOB	Prof. Kalyan Bandyopadhyay	Professor of Practice	01.09.2023
4	SOL	Ms. Rituparna	Assistant Professor (Sel. Grade)	04.09.2023

		Bhattacharjee		
5	SOB	Prof. Hemalatha Chandrashekhar	Professor of Practice	25.09.2023
6	SOB	Prof. Vikram Behl	Professor of Practice	03.10.2023
7	SOB	Ms. Megha Goyal	Research Associate	03.10.2023
8	SOB	Prof. Deepayan Mohanty	Professor of Practice	16.10.2023
9	SOB	Prof. Raghava Rao Mukkamala	Joint Professor	01.12.2023
10	CSE	Dr. Tamalika Chaira	Associate Professor	02.01.2024
11	CSE	Ms. Vandana	Assistant Professor	08.01.2024
ADMIN				
S. No	DEPT.	NAME	DESIGNATION	DOJ
1	SOB	Ms. Simmi Tikoo	Director - Placements & Industry Collaborations	11.09.2023
2	COR	Mr. Vinay Singh Tomar	Executive Assistant	11.09.2023
3	SOB	Ms. Nikita Bhargava	Program Manager	20.09.2023
4	SOB	Ms. Baljeet Puneet Kapoor	Sr. Manager - Admissions (School of Business)	16.10.2023
5	COR	Mr. Mandheer Singh	Sr. Executive Assistant	01.11.2023
6	Admin.	Ms. Priyanka Bhalla	Psychologist	16.11.2023
7	Marketing	Ms. Devpriya Chauhan	Manager - Brand & Communications	20.11.2023
8	IRO	Mr. Deepanshu Rao	Sr. Executive Assistant	20.12.2023
TECHNICAL				
S. No	DEPT.	NAME	DESIGNATION	DOJ
1	CSE	Mr. Tej Singh	Technical Assistant	16.10.2023
2	Library	Mr. Sparsh	Library Assistant	02.01.2024

Faculty & Staff who Left

FACULTY

S. No	DEPT.	NAME	DESIGNATION	DOJ	DOL
1	CSE	Ms. Komal Jindal	Assistant Professor (Sr. Scale)	27.10.2022	15.09.2023
2	SOM & LS	Ms. Preeti Malhan	Assistant Professor	02.03.2023	15.09.2023
3	CSE	Dr. Sandeep Singh	Assistant Professor (Sel. Grade)	03.12.2009	16.09.2023
4	SOM & LS	Ms. Gauri Nagyal	Assistant Professor	16.08.2023	22.09.2023
5	SOL	Ms. Aishwarya Balodi	Assistant Professor	05.08.2023	28.09.2023
6	CSE	Ms. Sonal Saurabh	Assistant Professor	07.02.2022	22.11.2023
7	APS	Dr. Tarul Garg	Assistant Professor (Sel. Grade)	24.07.2018	24.11.2023
8	CSE	Dr. Anshul Bhatia	Assistant Professor (Sr. Scale)	08.08.2022	21.12.2023
9	CSE	Dr. Ruchika Lalit	Assistant Professor (Sr. Scale)	18.02.2022	21.12.2023
10	CSE	Dr. Anvesha Katti	Assistant Professor (Sel. Grade)	04.08.2020	22.12.2023
11	APS	Dr. C B Gupta	Professor	02.01.2021	28.12.2023
12	SOM	Dr. S K Breja	Professor	04.01.2021	30.12.2023
13	APS	Dr. Sakshi Gupta	Assistant Professor	17.09.2021	15.01.2024
14	APS	Dr. Sunita Sharma	Assistant Professor (Sel. Grade)	15.07.2013	15.01.2024
15	APS	Dr. Anubhav Raghav	Assistant Professor	14.02.2020	15.01.2024

16	APS	Dr. Gargi Dutta	Assistant Professor (Sr. Scale)	18.07.2022	15.01.2024
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ADMIN & TECHNICAL

S. No	DEPT.	NAME	DESIGNATION	DOJ	DOL
1	Registrar Office	Ms. Vandana Massey	Sr. Executive Assistant	01.06.2023	02.09.2023
2	Marketing	Ms. Anu Gulmohar	Sr Manager - Digital Marketing	10.01.2023	08.09.2023
3	Dean Office	Mr. Ram Asheesh Upadhyay	Sr. Executive Assistant	18.02.2013	14.09.2023
4	IRO	Mr. Varun Sharma	Sr. Executive Assistant - Intl' Affairs	10.10.2023	27.10.2023
5	Admin	Mr. Kesavadas Krishna	Assistant Security Officer	04.11.2022	10.11.2023
6	CPAA	Ms. Sonali Kakkar	Assistant Manager - Training	25.07.2022	14.12.2023

Points Discussed:

- HR Conclave 2023** – Mr. Shiv Mehra emphasized greater involvement of faculty in such events. He also conveyed that such events should be conducted once every two months. The Chairperson directed CPAA to share a detailed report of the event.

All members of the Board of Management took note of the above.

ITEM No. 9: FINANCE COMMITTEE RELATED MATTERS

(Member Secretary)

The Finance committee related matters discussed and approved during the last Finance Committee meetings were updated to the members, and the Minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on 17 October 2023 & 18 January 2024 are enclosed as **Annexure 10 & 11**.

All Members of the Board of Management took note of the above and approved the aforesaid Finance Committee related matters.

ITEM No. 10: ANY OTHER MATTER WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.

Following points were discussed with the permission of the Chair:

A) ISSUES PERTAINING TO CINTANNA

Mr. Shiv Mehra stated that during recent discussions with Mr. Chaitanya Chitta on 15 Jan 2024, the following issues were discussed, which need early resolution.

- Applicability of GST:** Mr. Shiv Mehra brought out that Mr. Chaitanya Chitta had stated that the current opinion of the experts is that GST will be applicable on payments being made by NCU to Cintana. He was in discussions with the tax consultants and would revert once a final decision in this regard is taken. It was brought out that the GST number will either be taken in the name of Cintana India and / or in the name of one of it's affiliates in India. An early response in this regard is essential for resolution of this important matter.

(ii) **Exclusivity Issue** : It was brought that there have been recurrent instances in the recent past of advertisements in newspapers by private universities located in Gurugram, which have featured the ASU Logo/ Mark in their advt., which is a breach of the exclusivity rights of NCU under the NCU – ASU License Agreement of February 2021. Whilst ASU believes that there is no breach of exclusivity, the five-member committee constituted in the university to examine the issue has conclusively established breach of exclusivity. Through mutual deliberations it was felt that the matter could be settled between NCU and ASU/ Cintana before legal recourse is considered. It was observed that despite the varying views of both parties, a viable & amicable compromise can be reached. One option suggested by Mr. Chaitanya Chitta was that the current Agreement be diluted wherein a) there will be no condition on Cintana to provide Secondees, b) the exclusivity clause of NCU in NCR & Haryana ('Territory' as per the NCU-ASU License Agreement of Feb 2021) can be removed. Instead, a revised agreement wherein a specific revenue sharing model/s can be considered going forward between both parties.

(iii) **Cintana-ASU Agreement**: It was informed that the Cintana - ASU Agreement, especially where Cintana is authorized to make certain promises / commitments on behalf of ASU to its partners and to recover money on their behalf, is still awaited. The same is required to be shared at the earliest.

(iv) **Appointment of Secondee**: The position of the strategic secondee continues to remain vacant.

B) OPTION OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST FOR THE ACCELERATED MASTERS PROGRAM IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING.

Mr. Shiv Mehra raised the matter with Ms. Malini Eliatamby, bringing out that the clause of English proficiency test exemption was not being followed by ASU. An NCU student enrolled in the master's program in Software Engineering has been mandated to take the Duolingo English proficiency test, even though as per the agreement it was to be waived off. Prof. Sharda thereafter provided an overview of the issue, highlighting that no response has been received from either ASU or Cintana despite constant follow-ups over the past one and a half months. Ms. Malini communicated her awareness of the situation and stated that they are working closely with ASU at different levels to resolve the matter. She indicated that the immediate solution involves instructing the student to undergo the English proficiency test for the time being. The Chairperson stated that a firm response needs to be provided by ASU/ Cintana in a fixed timeframe, and that the matter cannot be left open ended.

Prof. Sharda emphasized that in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the English proficiency test is to be exempted, acceptance of 12 credits confirmed, and the prescribed fee is fixed at \$29,000. However, contrary to these terms, the student is presently being asked to undergo the English proficiency test. Considering these circumstances, the parents of the student have now raised apprehensions regarding the compliance of ASU with the other committed benefits and are insisting on receiving written confirmation of compliance to all conditions directly from ASU.

Mr. Shiv Mehra conveyed his serious concern on the situation, emphasizing that the matter pertains to the trust vested in NCU by the students and parents, and non-adherence to the commitments is seen as a major breach of trust, thus undermining the intent and commitment of the university. Mr. Mehra stated that NCU cannot, and will not, afford such situations. He further highlighted that all collateral materials, including brochures and promotional content, have been developed in accordance with the stipulations outlined in the MOU, and the current developments have placed the university in a potentially embarrassing position. Students / parents can complain to the regulatory bodies and share the promises / collateral made, which are now been retracted. In this regard, Mr. Mehra sought clarification on ceasing all promotional activities until a viable solution is provided. He sought specific clarification about the availability of education loans as indicated by Mr. Chaitanya

and queried whether they would be available to the students. Ms. Malini suggested to hold on to the awareness sessions till such time they revert with a practical solution. It was accordingly agreed to suspend the promotion of the program till Cintana resolves the matter and urged Ms. Malini to impress upon ASU to honour the commitments made in the MOU and give the same in writing at the earliest.

Mr. Shiv Mehra requested that the record of discussions of the meeting held on 15 Jan 2024 with Mr. Chaitnya Chitta be taken on record.

C) RESERVATION IN ADMISSION AND FEE CONCESSION

The Member Secretary apprised Ms. Indira Sharma on the issue of reservation in Admission and Fee Concession as per provisions of Section 36 of the Haryana Private University Act 32 of 2006 (as amended upto 10 May 2012), given that The NorthCap University has collaborations/ MOUs with several foreign/ international universities, the university has been pursuing this matter with the DHE, Govt of Haryana vide several letters, requesting for a different percentage of students eligible for hundred per cent, fifty percent or twenty-five per cent fee concession. The Member Secretary highlighted that a total of 26 letters have been written to the DHE so far. The last letter was made on 19 Jan 2024. Ms. Indira Sharma asked for the relevant documentation to be forwarded to her for examination. The Member Secretary stated that the same would be forwarded by the end of the day.

D) PROPOSED AUDIT OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES OF HARYANA BY QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA.

The Member Secretary brought out that with reference to the Memo received from the Directorate of Higher Education **dated 16 Oct 2023** regarding conduct of Audit of Private Universities (Academic, Financial and Administrative audits) by the Quality Council of India, it was opined that the university is already undergoing several audits by appropriate bodies (regulatory as well as Govt nominated) to assess its financial, academic and administrative practices, and therefore an additional audit by the Quality Council of India would be a repetition of efforts and consume valuable time of all stakeholders. A letter bringing out the above was made to the Additional Chief Secy, Department of Higher Education, Government of Haryana on 10 Nov 2023, asking for the directive to be reviewed. Mr. Shiv Mehra further brought out that different regulatory bodies have been visiting the university like NAAC / UGC regularly. He questioned as to whether the Quality Council of India has the authority over and above the regulatory bodies to conduct an audit, considering the university's existing accreditations. The Chairperson underscored the university's NAAC "A" accreditation in the second cycle in 2022, which is valid till 2027. Additionally, she brought out that in 2023 itself, the university underwent 02 major inspections by UGC, one related to approval for offering programmes in ODL/ OL mode, and the other for accord of UGC 12(B) recognition, prompting a concern on the extent of audits a university is expected to undergo. Ms. Indira Sharma stated that she needs to examine the matter and requested for the relevant correspondence to be forwarded to her. The Member Secretary stated that it would be forwarded by the end of the day.

E) STATUS OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING AND ONLINE LEARNING PROPOSAL

The Member Secretary brought out that Section 5 of The Haryana Private Universities Act No 24 of 2014, does not permit the private universities of Haryana to offer programmes through the Open and Distance Learning mode, whilst the state public universities are allowed to do so. This section therefore is inconsistent with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and needs to be amended and aligned to NEP 2020. This differentiation between the Public and Private universities also needs to be addressed, considering that they both are governed by the same regulator viz. the University Grants Commission. There cannot be different rules for Public and Private Universities, given that the Private universities comply with the conditions of the UGC Regulations to offer these programmes in ODL/ OL mode, and this differentiation is tantamount to a discriminatory and unequal regime. The University vide several letters, the latest being of 04 Aug 2023 has written to the DHE seeking approval to offer programmes in the ODL mode. He also brought out that the private universities of

Haryana, as a unified body of the 'Association of Private Self-Financing Universities of Haryana', have also taken up the issue of amendment to Section 5 of the Haryana Private Universities Act No 24 of 2014. It was also brought out that if any amendment is required in the Act, the DHE is requested to do so at the earliest.

The members took note of the above and requested Ms. Malini Eliatamby to take suitable actions for serial (A) and (B) above, and Ms. Indira Sharma, representative of DHE, Govt. of Haryana to expedite responses to serials (C), (D) and (E) above.

There being no other points, the meeting ended at 1:15 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Commodore Diwakar Tomar NM (Retd.)
Member Secretary
Board of Management
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