

Kerala State Higher Education Council
Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Governing Body of the 4th Council held on 09.01.2024 at
KSHEC, Thiruvananthapuram

The 1st Governing Body meeting of the 4th Council was held on 09.01.2024 (blended mode) Dr. R. Bindu, Hon. Minister for Higher Education and Chairperson, KSHEC presided.

The Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education released the book entitled "FOUNDATIONS OF KNOWLEDGE AND INQUIRY ACROSS DISCIPLINES" (by Dr. Tara Mohanan and Dr. K P Mohanan) as recommended by the Expert Committee for Foundation Courses constituted by the Kerala State Higher Education Council.

The following members attended the meeting

1. Dr. R. Bindu - Hon. Minister for Higher Education
2. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M - Vice Chairman, KSHEC
3. Dr. Rajan Varughese - Member Secretary, KSHEC
4. Dr. M K Jayaraj - Vice Chancellor, University of Calicut
5. Dr. Bijoy Nandan - Vice Chancellor, Kannur University
6. Dr. C.T Aravindakumar - Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University
7. Dr. Mohanan Kunnummal - Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Health science.
Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala (i/c)
8. Dr. P G Sankaran - Vice Chancellor, Cochin University of
Science and Technology (i/c)
9. Prof. M. V. Narayanan - Vice Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya
University of Sanskrit, Kalady,
10. Dr. B. Ashok IAS - Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agriculture University (i/c)
11. Dr. Saji Gopinath - Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of
Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital
University Kerala),
Vice Chancellor, APJ Abdul Kalam Technological
University (i/c)
12. Dr. P. M. Mubarak Pasha - Vice Chancellor, Sreenarayanaguru Open University
13. Dr. Jiju P. Alex - Member of The State Planning Board
14. Sri. Sudhir K. IAS - Director, Collegiate Education
15. Prof. Jarugu Narasimhamoorthi - Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and
Research (IISER),Thiruvananthapuram
16. Dr. Sabu Thomas - Member - Executive Body, KSHEC
17. Dr. Rajasree M.S - Member - Executive Body, KSHEC
18. Dr. K. K. Damodaran - Member - Executive Body, KSHEC
19. Sri. Paul V Karanthanam - Member - Executive Body, KSHEC
20. Dr. P P Ajayakumar - Member - Executive Body, KSHEC
21. Dr. T. Muhammad Salim - Principal, Farook Training College, Kozhikode
22. Sri. Harilal - Non-Teaching Staff Member

Dr. Dinesh Kaippilly, Registrar, KUFOS was also present.

The following agenda was transacted and decisions taken at the meeting:

Agenda Item No.1 – Report on Implementation of FYUGP

After detailed discussion the report on implementation of Four Year Under Graduate Programme (FYUGP) was approved.

Resolved to constitute State Level Committee of Vice Chancellors to monitor the implementation of FYUGP in Universities/ Colleges. The Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education shall be the Chairperson of the committee.

Further resolved to convene a meeting of all the Vice Chancellors to review the steps taken to implement the Four Year Under Graduate Programme (FYUGP) in universities and remind them of the need for emphasizing the precedence of learning over teaching.

It was decided to prepare guidelines for restructuring B Voc. programmes in the context of the introduction of FYUGP from 2024-25 academic year.

It was also resolved to request the Government to grant additional funds to KSHEC to provide financial assistance to universities for conducting Curriculum workshops in connection with FYUGP.

Agenda Item No. 2 - Study in Kerala - International Higher Education Summit.

After discussion it was resolve to approve the following tasks in connection with the Study in Kerala initiative.

1. Plan of Action Meeting

Objectives

To discuss about the course of action for achieving the specific goals of “Study in Kerala”

Expected Participants

Members of the body/bodies of the KSHEC

Tentative Schedule

January 2024, Thiruvananthapuram

2. Consultative Meeting with international organisations and foreign universities

Objectives

To understand the priorities of the various foreign universities and colleges

Expected Participants

Leading policy experts and practioners, representatives of international organisations, representatives of diplomatic missions, universities and other agencies.

Tentative Schedule

February 2024, Thiruvananthapuram

3. Meeting with Ministry of Education Government of India and EdCIL Limited, Government of India

Objectives

To discuss about aligning the objectives of “Study in Kerala” with “Study in India”

Expected Participants

Minister for Higher Education, Kerala; Senior officials of the Department of Higher Education, Kerala; and senior officials of the Kerala State Higher Education Council

Tentative Schedule

February 2024, Delhi

4. Identification of eligible institutions to host foreign students in the State

Objectives

Finalise the requirements/criteria to host foreign students in universities and colleges

Expected Participants

Members of the body/bodies of the Council or a committee to be constituted by the Higher Education Council

Tentative Schedule

March 2024, Thiruvananthapuram

5. Consultative Meeting with select universities and colleges in the State

Objectives

To discuss about incentivizing institutions that host foreign students **Expected Participants**

Vice-Chancellors/Deans/Principals of institutions

Tentative Schedule

March 2024, Thiruvananthapuram

6. “Destination Kerala” International Conference

Objectives

Various Sessions on:

- Short-term international student mobility landscape: latest trends
- What initiatives are required to attract foreign students to Kerala?
- What could select institutions in Kerala do better to attract foreign students?
- How can Kerala’s economy and higher education system benefit from the inward mobility of short-term students?

Participants

Chief Minister, Kerala; Minister for Higher Education, Kerala; Senior officials of the Department of Higher Education, Kerala and the KSHEC; Staff of the KSHEC, leading policy experts and practitioners, representatives of international organisations, representatives of diplomatic missions, universities and other agencies such as Times Higher Education, QS World University Rankings, etc.

Tentative Schedule

Kochi or Thiruvananthapuram, April 2024

Agenda Item No. 3 - Report on changing student preferences in Higher Education.

Deferred

Agenda Item No. 4 - Report on Regulating Educational Consultancies.

Key Recommendations to Regulate Educational Consultancy Services in Kerala

- **Create a comprehensive database of out-migration of students:** Currently, there is no system in place to monitor the out-migration of students from the State to different States and countries. Establishment of a student registration portal under KSHEC/ NORKA Roots would be able to address this issue to a great extent. It should be made mandatory for all

categories of students who are going outside the State and the country to register with this portal.

- **Create a comprehensive database of education consultancy firms through proper registration process:** It is important to have a database of educational consultancy firms/agencies operating in Kerala.
- **State Authority for Student's Overseas Migration (SASOM) in KSHEC to Regulate the Educational Consultancies/Agencies:** Currently, most of the educational consultancy/recruitment services are offered by private firms/agencies that were registered as companies and societies. Many of them are registered outside the State. Majority of the students depend upon agencies that offer services that are not recognised by the State government. The interactions between these agencies and the students are generally informal in nature and therefore, it is important to have compulsory registration to all agencies functioning from the State. All the consultancy firms operating in Kerala should be made to register in the KSHEC to offer their services under the proposed State Authority for Student's Overseas Migration (SASOM). The registration process should be able to review the credibility of the services offered by the institutions by verifying the original agreements signed by the agencies with the institutional client outside the State and the country. Agencies that are operated without any agreements with institutions outside the State and the country should be put on a blacklist. The Authority shall also create awareness among different stakeholders to ensure out-migration of students in a transparent way.
- **Establishment of proper grievance redressal mechanism:** Aggrieved persons wishing to submit a complaint should be able to register their complaints through a formal mechanism constituted by the government.
- **Accountability for the fees paid by the students:** Agencies should be made liable for the commitments made at the time of facilitating the admission of students to an educational institution outside the State and the country. They should be held accountable for the fees they charge that are approved by the educational institutions.
- **Guidance to Students through a new Platform:** The Kerala State Higher Education Council should be entrusted to create a new platform that could provide impartial advice on choosing the recognised / accredited/ approved higher education institutions outside the State and the Country.
- **Promote studies in the area of student out-migration:** Detailed studies about student migration from Kerala are not available now. Even NORKA does not have a comprehensive database about students going out of the State for higher studies. It is important to promote research in this area.
- **Discussions with Ministry of Education and Ministry of External Affairs:** The government should push for establishing a national-level monitoring mechanism on student migration. The Union Ministry of Education and the Ministry of External Affairs should be able to work with different States and Indian diplomatic missions to increase the transparency of the admission process to ensure better learning outcomes for the students.
- **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), MoE, New Delhi** should collect data on interstate migration of students through their Data Capturing Format (DCF) to get a clear pattern of student migration within the country.

- **New Act to Regulate the Unlawful Activities of the Educational Consultancies:** It is important to have a new legal framework in the State to regulate the activities of educational consultancies established/and, or operating in the State of Kerala and to ensure that fair practices are followed by them. A draft legislation in this regard is prepared and forwarded to the Government.

Agenda Item No. 5 - Developing the digital repository for online study materials.

Present Status

Resolved to develop a state level Digital Repository for online study materials to provide quality course content to UG/ PG programmes of state Universities in collaboration with the Digital University of Kerala and other Universities.

Agenda Item No. 6 - Introduction of 4-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)

Reported the formation of the following Committee for the introduction of 4 year integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP).

Sl. No.	Name	Chairman /Member
1.	Dr. Mohan B Menon (Former Pro Vice Chancellor, Singapore National University) mohanbmenon@gmail.com	Chairman
2.	Dr. T. Mohamed Saleem, Principal, Farook Training College, Kozhikode 9496363353, 9778206739 principalfc1@gmail.com , rsalimt@gmail.com	Member
3.	Prof. Anil Kumar K. Regional Institute of Teacher Education Mysore dranilkumar67@gmail.com	Member
5.	Prof. (Dr.) Asha J.V., Professor & Head of the Department, <i>School of Pedagogical Studies, MGU, Kottayam</i> 9447043489 ashajv3@gmail.com , ashajv@mgu.ac.in	Member
6.	Prof. Suresh, Professor, Dept. of Education, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod 04902477234 drsureshkp@cukerala.ac.in	Member
7.	Dr. K. S. Sajan, Teacher's Training College, Ottapalam, Palakkad.	Member

	sajan@nssce.org Ph: 9496354916	
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Agenda Item No. 7 - Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) & SAAC – need for further Government incentive and support.

Resolved to recommend to the Government to institute Awards/ prizes for the all the 12 Categories – Overall, Universities, Colleges, Engineering, Management, Architecture, Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Nursing, Law and Teacher Education institutions ranked top (1st 2nd and 3rd position) in the KIRF ranking released every year.

Further resolved to urge the Government to take necessary steps to make SAAC accreditation mandatory for all unaccredited Higher Education Institutions including those in the self-financing sector.

Agenda Item No. 8 - E-Journal Consortium - Present status & future plans.

Resolved to continue the e-journal consortium with the financial contribution of the participating Universities. 50 percent of the funds shall be contributed by the participating Universities and the contribution of each university shall be determined on the basis of account specific usage statistics in consultation with the universities.

Further resolved to request the government to grant additional funds for pending payment towards e- journal consortium for the year 2021-22 amounting to Rs. 6,00,30,880 /- (Rupees Six crores thirty thousand eight hundred eighty only).

Agenda Item No. 9 - Revised Plan & Estimate Unnatha Vidhya Bhavan.

Approved the revised Plan and Estimate amounting to Rs. 129,500,000/- (Rupees Twelve Crore Ninety Five Lakhs only)

Agenda Item No. 10 - Report on Chief Minister’s NAVA Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship (CMNPF).

Resolved to request the government to exempt CMNPF monthly Fellowship payment from routine ways and means regulation of the Treasury.

It was further resolved to request the government to grant additional funds for CMNPF and contingency.

It was suggested to follow the reimbursement method for payment of contingency funds related to CMNPF.

Agenda Item No. 11 - Kerala Network for Research-Support in Higher Education (KNRSHE)
Item lifted.

Agenda Item No. 12 - Reporting - Minutes of the Executive Body Meetings held on 09.10.2023, 24.11.2023

The minutes of the Executive Body Meetings held on 09.10.2023 & 24.11.2023 were reported.

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The Global Science Festival Kerala (GSFK) 2024 -- Honoring Ceremony -Recognising Bhatnagar Award Winners

The proposal from Global Science Festival of Kerala (GSFK) for honoring Bhatnagar Award winners was discussed. It was decided to collaborate with GSFK in honoring the Bhatnagar Award winners.

The minutes were read and confirmed.

The meeting which began by 3.00 PM came to an end by 6.00 PM.



Vice Chairman



Member Secretary