

Interim Report on the functioning of Inter University Centres in state Universities

a) Observations:

1. One of the IUCs at CUSAT, which deals with Intellectual Property Rights and Patents, has been consistently performing well all along and as an inter-university centre of multi-institutional clientele. One in Nano-technology has been inactive for the past seven years and has started functioning. Another Centre dealing with Kerala Mathematics received only a small amount and its performance has not been noteworthy. In Kannur University, its only IUC has been performing well. MGU has the maximum number of IUCs (nine) and the one for Nano-science and Nano-technology ranks foremost in achievements. That is the only international inter-university centre. Others have been active but with uneven outcomes. Of the six IUCs of Kerala University the one dealing with Bio-informatics ranks foremost. It is functioning as an inter-university centre of cross-disciplinary and multi-institutional character. Others are not in the avowed track as yet.
2. Most IUCs do not have their Governing Council.
3. All universities have been largely supportive of their IUCs.
4. MG University's approach has been strikingly intrusive for the last three years and in various ways opposed to the construed spirit of autonomy. It indiscriminately changed the Directors of IUCs as an administrative imposition from above and with utter disregard for academic specialization, the most essential qualification. Such outrageous interferences have not been reported from any other university.
5. In the Calicut and Kerala universities specialists themselves decided to change the headship of IUCs by turn. In Kannur the Director continues even after the incumbent's retirement.
6. It is mandatory that all the host universities understand the concept, objectives and scope of the IUC and comply with the stipulated norms.

b) Suggestions/Priorities

1. It should be mandatory that the teaching/research faculty member with the required specialization, who designed and proposed the Centre or his/her nominee with specialization or the specialist nominated by the Executive Committee, becomes the Director of every IUC.
2. The present Governance Structure of the IUC is top-heavy and tripartite, which is unnecessary and impractical. Its governance must be bestowed upon the Executive Body consisting of the Academics and presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University concerned.
3. It is not practical for Ministers/the Chief Minister to be heading the Governing Council of each IUC and putting such great Offices in charge of small organizations, mostly less than regular Department of the University, is inappropriate. Instead, it may be appropriate to have them at the helm of Governing Council common for all the IUCs in the state.
4. It is important that all IUCs have their own structural space.
5. Every IUC should have separate budgetary allocation.