



SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)

(Established under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956)

Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade I Awarded Category - I by UGC

Founder: Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India)

Minutes of the 45th Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) meeting of Symbiosis International (Deemed University), SIU held on Tuesday, 26 March 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at Convention Centre, Hilltop, Lavale

The following members were present in the 45th IQAC meeting.

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Membership
1	Dr. Ramakrishnan Raman	Vice Chancellor	Chairperson: Head of the Institution
2	Dr. Hardik Vachharajani	Director, QMB	Director, IQAC
3	Dr. Avinash Kakade	Deputy Registrar, SIU	Senior Administrative Officer
4	Dr. Anita Patankar	Director, Symbiosis Centre for International Education (SCIE)	Senior Administrative Officer
5	Dr. Asmita Dani	Director, Academics, SIU	Senior Administrative Officer
6	CA. Supriya Deshpande	Deputy Finance Officer, SIU	Senior Administrative Officer
7	Dr. Sophia Gaikwad	Head, Symbiosis Teaching and Learning Resource Centre (STLRC)	Senior Administrative Officer
8	Dr. Dharmendra Pandey	Head, Quality Assurance (QA), SIU	Senior Administrative Officer
9	Prof. Harshad Gune	Head, Software Development, SIU	Senior Administrative Officer
10	Dr. Poornima Tapas	Professor, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIBM), Pune	Teacher Representative
11	Dr. Anirban Sur	Professor, Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT), Pune	Teacher Representative
12	Dr. Manjari Jonnalagadda	Assistant Professor, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts (SSLA), Pune	Teacher Representative
13	Ms. Lasya Vyakaranam	Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Law School (SLS), Pune	Teacher Representative
14	Mr. Pradeep Bhargava	Chairman, MECF Limited, Pune	Nominee from Local Society
15	Mr. Nilesh Nikam	Ex. Standing Committee Chairman, PMC	Nominee from Stakeholder
16	Ms. Kritika Mehrotra	Symbiosis School of Culinary Arts (SSCA) B.Sc.	Nominee from Student
17	Ms. Nivedita Dodeja	Symbiosis School of Banking & Finance (SSBF), MBA	Nominee from Student



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The following members could not attend the meeting due to their pre-occupation and were granted a leave of absence.

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Membership
1	Prof. Vinayak Shirgurkar	Management Consultant	Nominee from Management
2	Mr. Jaisurya Das	Co-Founder & Editorial Director, Pune365.com	Nominee from Industrialist
3	Ms. Kanisha Raina	Vice President, HR, Fiserv India Pvt Ltd	Nominee from Alumni
4	Mr. Jivesh Govil	Thought Leader, Global Visionary, and Experienced Strategy and Operations Leader, Yeritas Technologies LLC, Pune	Nominee from Employer
5	Ms. Sheetal Barde	Associate Professor, Symbiosis College of Nursing (SCON), Pune	Teacher Representative

The following members were special invitees.

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Membership
1	Dr. Prakash Rao	Head, Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability (SCCCS)	Internal Invitee
2	Dr. Om Prakash	Deputy Head, Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability (SCCCS)	Internal Invitee
3	Dr. Manikprabhu Dhanorkar	Head, Symbiosis Centre for Waste Resource Management (SCWRM)	Internal Invitee



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(Image-1: 45th IQAC meeting of SIU)

With the permission of the Chairperson, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ramakrishnan Raman, Director of IQAC Dr. Hardik Vachharajani, welcomed all the members to the 45th IQAC meeting.

The Director IQAC warmly welcomed an additional student representative, Ms. Nivedita Dodeja, who introduced herself as a current MBA student (Batch 2023-24) at Symbiosis School of Banking & Finance (SSBF).



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Members were taken through the agenda points of the 45th IQAC meeting by the Director, IQAC.

ITEM NO.1

To confirm the 44th IQAC meeting minutes held on Thursday, 14 December 2023.

The Director IQAC mentioned that the minutes of the 44th IQAC meeting held on Thursday, 14 December 2023, were placed before the IQAC members.

Members were then requested to provide inputs/suggestions/feedback for revision/amendments in the minutes of the meeting. Since there were no further inputs/suggestions/feedback for revision/amendments, the resolution was passed.

Resolution Item No.1: IQAC: 26.03.2024

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14 December 2023, be and are hereby confirmed.

ITEM NO.2

Review of the Action Taken Report (ATR) of the 44th IQAC meeting held on Thursday, 14 December 2023.

During the 44th IQAC meeting, the Director IQAC updated the attendees on the communication of resolutions from the meeting to the relevant Directors/Official, Institutes/Support, and Departments/Sections.

Resolution Item No.2: IQAC: 26.03.2024

Resolved that the actions taken on the resolutions as passed at the meeting on Thursday, 14 December 2023, be and are hereby noted.

ITEM NO.3

To update about the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) status for the A.Y 2022-23.

Dr. Dharmendra Pandey provided an update on the submission of AQAR for the A.Y 2022-23, that was submitted on 7 March 2024.

Dr. Pandey briefed about improvements in AQAR data collection and analysis, highlighting a shift to centralized data management at QMB with enhanced stakeholder training.

Resolution Item No.3: IQAC: 26.03.2024

The members acknowledged the efforts made by the QMB in handling the AQAR.



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ITEM NO.4

To update about the initiatives of the Quality Management and Benchmarking (QMB) department.

The Director of IQAC provided a brief overview of the new initiatives undertaken by the QMB department. The initiatives implemented by the QMB department are as follows:

1. Facilitated the development and review of the Quality Manual at the Dubai Branch campus of SIU, ensuring alignment with the requirements of the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA)
2. Initiated the development of the Symbiosis Accreditation Framework (SAF), mandated for implementation across all institutes and departments from the AY 2024-25
3. *Prakarsh* QMB session titled 'Distinguishing between Best Practices and Institutional Distinctiveness'.
4. Graduate Satisfaction Survey (Students and Stakeholders)
Mr Pradeep Bhargava suggested sharing the Graduate Satisfaction Survey (Students and Stakeholders) with all the institutes
5. Standardizing stakeholder feedback on curriculum and integrating through Moodle implementation from AY 2024-25

Dr. Anirban Sur shared his experience with the NBA accreditation process at Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Pune (SIT), and highlighted the rigorous nature of the NBA accreditation process, emphasizing its focus on OBE and the involvement of experienced assessors from diverse backgrounds.

Resolution Item No.4: IQAC: 26.03.2024

Resolved that members noted and appreciated the initiatives of the QMB department.

ITEM NO. 5

To discuss about the innovative practices and quality initiatives discussed in the QIC, adopted by the various institutes of SIU.

The Director IQAC gave a brief about the innovative practices and quality initiatives.

Sr. No.	Institutes	Quality Initiatives
1	Symbiosis Institute of Operations Management (SIOM)	Mock Investors Summit
2	Symbiosis Centre for Advance Legal Studies and Research (SCALSAR)	Research that drives excellence and impacts justice



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3	Symbiosis Centre of Management Studies (SCMS), Hyderabad	Assignment in video format
4	Symbiosis School of Culinary Arts (SSCA)	Sustainable Waste Management in SSCA Kitchen Labs Herb Gardening and Hydroponics
5	Symbiosis Medical College for Women (SMCW) and Symbiosis University Hospital & Research Centre (SUHRC)	Family Adoption Programme Health Check-Up Camp for Rural Pregnant Women Body Donation Awareness Programme FMT Moot Court:

Resolution Item No.5: IQAC: 26.03.2024

Resolved that members noted and appreciated the innovative practices and quality initiatives discussed in the QIC, adopted by the various institutes of SIU.

ITEM NO. 6

To inform about the establishment of institutes and departments of SIU.

The Director of IQAC informed all members about the establishment of institutes and departments within SIU.

1. The newly established institute, Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT) will commence operations at the Hyderabad Off-Campus Centre starting from the A.Y 2024-2025, under the Faculty of Engineering.
2. The creation of 'Symbiosis Records Department (SRD) within Symbiosis Society is set to operate from the Senapati Bapat Road campus in Pune.
3. A new initiative, the 'Bajaj Engineering Skills Training' (BEST) Centre, established at Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT) in Pune.

Resolution Item No.6: IQAC: 26.03.2024

Resolved that members noted the establishment of new institutes and departments of SIU.

ITEM NO. 7

Presentations on innovative practices and quality initiatives adopted at various departments of SIU.

The presentations from the following departments were delivered by their respective Heads at the 45th IQAC meeting.



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1. Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability (SCCCS) was presented by Head, Dr. Prakash Rao.
2. Symbiosis Centre for Waste Resource Management (SCWRM) was presented by Head, Dr. Manikprabhu Dhanorkar.

Dr. Prakash Rao led a presentation providing a comprehensive overview of SCCC, focusing on its establishment, vision, objectives, thematic areas, collaborations, funding, projects, and quality initiatives. SCCC primarily focuses on climate change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation through interdisciplinary research, policy analysis, outreach, and advocacy. Key thematic areas include Climate change and water, Climate Change and Health, Sustainable agriculture, Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Ecosystems, and Carbon Footprint Assessments. The centre's efforts span from studying climate change's impact on environmental health and ecosystems to researching mitigation strategies such as renewable energy adoption, net-zero emissions pathways, and sustainable resource management practices. SCCC also emphasizes community-based adaptation strategies and climate finance measures to build resilience and foster sustainable solutions across environmental, social, and economic domains.

Dr. Prakash Rao presented the alignment of SCCC's vision with National/Global policies, details of National and International Collaborators, proposals sanctioned for Research Grants, quality initiatives, and future research and policy advocacy plans (2024-27) during a presentation.

Dr. Rao requested QMB to help in benchmarking sustainability rankings. Dr. Dharmendra acknowledged the importance of benchmarking and requested. Dr. Rao to share the details so they can collaborate on this initiative.

Dr. Manikprabhu Dhanorkar, Head of SCWRM, gave a presentation on the centre's initiatives focused on waste research, consultancy, and training for environmental sustainability. Established in 2015 and fully operational since 2017, SCWRM specializes in waste-to-energy technology, bioprospecting, bioremediation, and waste valorization, collaborating with national and international organizations and receiving significant research grants. The discussion emphasized commercializing research findings, interdisciplinary collaboration, student engagement in impactful research, and integrating sustainable practices across sectors.



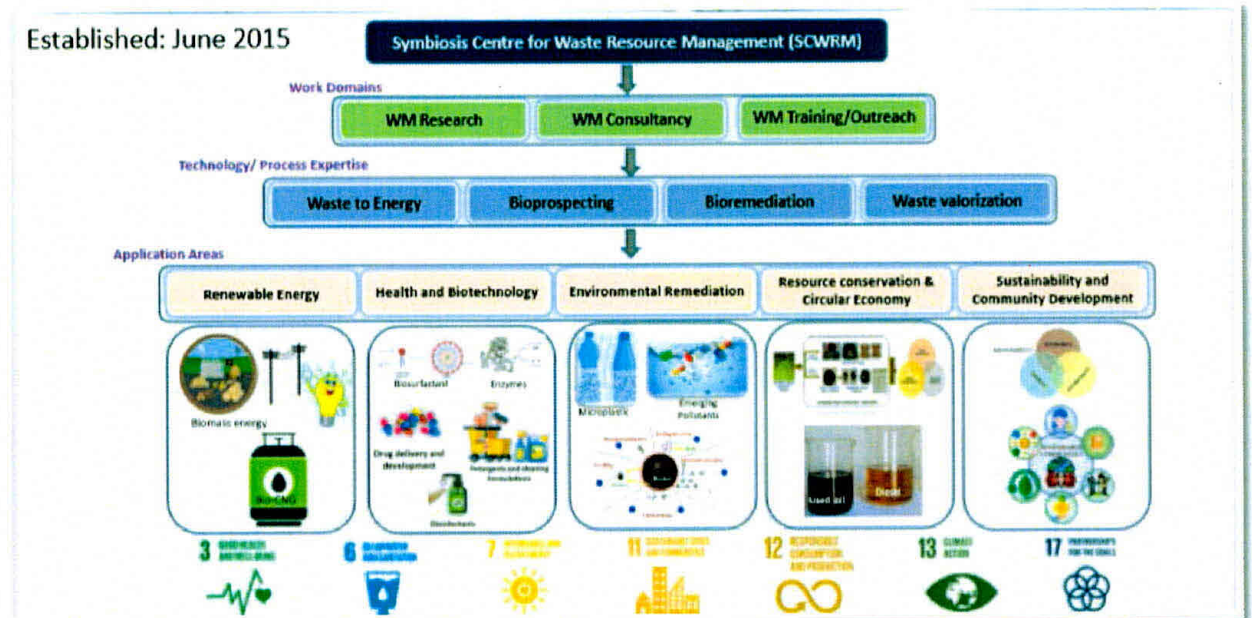
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Focus Areas of SCWRM



(Image 2- Focus Areas of SCWRM)

Dr. Manikprabhu Dhanorkar shared details about the research in Health and Environmental Biotechnology Science, as well as Research in Resource Management and Sustainability during a presentation. Additionally, he discussed the training, workshops conducted, future projects, and the way forward for SCWRM.

Mr Pradeep Bhargava appreciated the efforts and quality practices adopted by both departments.

Resolution Item No.7: IQAC: 26.03.2024

Resolved that the members acknowledged and appreciated the work done by SCCCS and SCWRM.

ITEM NO. 8

To seek suggestions/ feedback from all stakeholders.

There were a few suggestions by the student nominees and the stakeholder nominee.

1. Ms. Kritika Mehrotra, recommended that all students, especially those from SSCA, should undergo training in waste management and its conversion into energy, with a specific emphasis on food waste.
2. Ms. Nivedita Dodeja, proposed collaborative research on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She suggested collaborating with other departments, such as SSBF, to align research efforts with SDGs, especially in fields like finance where sustainability goals can address climate change. The idea of inter-institutional collaboration for research and projects related to climate change, SDGs, and data analysis was well-received by the members.



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3. Ms. Nivedita Dodeja expressed concerns regarding the challenges international students face, including restrictions related to PAN card requirements and difficulties in securing internships and placements. Suggestions were made to assist them in finding employment and offering alternative assessment methods. Director IQAC mentioned that SCIE provides all possible support to international students studying at SIU.
4. Mr. Nilesh Nikam, a stakeholder nominee, suggested that Symbiosis actively participate in the Joint Forest Management initiative led by the Forest Department in Pune. This participation would involve contributing to various initiatives such as plantation, water management, soil conservation, and enhancing green cover. The goal of this initiative is to utilize student participation effectively for activities like plantation, water and soil conservation, and other green initiatives. Additionally, the Honourable Vice-Chancellor mentioned that the Symbiosis Institute of Geoinformatics (SIG) can play a vital role in supporting these initiatives.

Overall, the meeting covered a range of topics from expertise alignment to international student support, research collaborations, and environmental initiatives, showcasing a holistic approach towards academic excellence, student welfare, and societal impact.

Resolution Item No.8: IQAC: 26.03.2024

Resolved that the suggestions were noted by the member for further action.

- i. **Resolved that Dr. Dharmendra Pandey will share the mail with all the institutes for the waste management training.**

Actionee - Dr. Dharmendra Pandey, Dr. Sophia Gaikwad, and Dr. Manikprabhu Dhanorkar

- ii. **Resolved that Dr. Manikprabhu Dhanorkar will collaborate with Mr. Nilesh Nikam to engage with the Forest Management initiative.**

Actionee - Dr. Manikprabhu Dhanorkar

Any other points with the permission of the Chair.

As there was no other point for discussion, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair and all present.

Dr. Hardik Vachharajani
Director of the IQAC

Dr. Ramakrishnan Raman
Chairperson

IQAC- 45/ 26/03/2024

Date: 02/04/2024