



Action taken on Academic & Administrative Audit (AAA) report

The Academic and Administrative Audit of the Department of Environmental Sciences has been undertaken by Dr. Sabu Joseph, Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences & Director, School of Earth Sciences, University of Kerala. The report was placed in the Department Council and has been analysed critically for developing strategic plans for qualitative improvement. The actions undertaken and the activities proposed in response to the Academic and Administrative Audit of the Department of Environmental Sciences is listed below.

Sl. No.	Suggestions in AAA report	Action taken
I	Programmes Offered	
1	The curriculum should have green skill technologies to improve the skills of the students and bridging the gap between academia and employability.	The curriculum of M.Sc. programme in Environmental Sciences has been revised in 2022. Courses on energy audits, environmental audits and green audits have been included in addition to remote sensing and GIS,
2	Attractive brochures of the programmes should be prepared highlighting the content and job opportunities and circulate among colleges and social media.	Action initiated
3	Generally, syllabus should be OBE based with programme specific outcome (PSO), course outcome (CO), and module outcome (MO).	The revised syllabus is OBE based with programme specific outcome (PSO) and course outcome (CO)
4	Examinations should be on time and results should be declared without delay. Dual mode of teaching may be preferred.	Action initiated for the publication of results without delay. Presently dual mode of teaching (both offline and online) is practiced.
II	Faculty	
1	Govt. sanctioned posts (at least Professor-1; Assoc. Professor-1, Asst. Professor-3) are very much needed to establish this Dept. into a teaching-cum-research department.	Proposal has already been submitted to the Government for sanctioning 6 regular posts (1 Professor, 2 Associate Professors and 3 Assistant Professors for this Department.
2	Permanent faculties, followed by Visiting Professors, Ad hoc faculties, Emeritus Professors can improve this ratio.	Action initiated and request has been forwarded for obtaining additional faculty to handle topics like Remote Sensing and GIS. Also the provision of incorporating Visiting /

		Emeritus Professors will be seriously considered.
3	It is better to select faculties with PhD holders in diverse areas of env. Sciences. One faculty from geoscience with experience in remote sensing, GIS, disaster management is also needed to address these global and national issues	Action has been initiated for appointing a faculty with Ph.D. and experience in remote sensing and GIS. Interview for the post is completed and offer letter is getting ready.
4	Try to get permanent faculties as early as possible for sustainable development of dept.	Requests has been forwarded for obtaining Govt sanctioned posts
5	Permanent faculties can take part in various government funded programmes	Requests has been forwarded for obtaining Govt sanctioned posts
III	Research	
1	Need to address cutting-edge areas like climate change and its impacts, waste management, microplastics etc.	Research areas have presently been oriented to the application of biochar in agriculture, which is a carbon sequestration initiative. Also, studies on microplastics in coastal sediment samples is progressing.
2	Try to get infrastructural and lab development fund outside the university (State and Central funding source).	It has been listed as a priority matter for consideration.
3	Need to improve publications. Student projects are encouraged to publish in journals.	It has been listed as a priority matter for consideration. Students' projects with quality outcomes will be published.
4	Encourage to have patents.	Patenting activities will be initiated after appointment of permanent faculty members in the Department.
5	Consultancy at department level and/or faculty level should be encouraged.	Presently the Department is offering free consultancy and advocacy services to affiliated colleges and other institutions in the areas of green auditing, The department has decided to offer such facilities in a professional way by imposing charges from the proponents.
6	National/international funding is encouraged. MOU should be encouraged which covers faculty and student exchange programmes.	National/ international funding is possible if the appointment of faculty is initiated against Govt sanctioned posts. It is constantly persuading to get regular posts sanctioned in this department.
7	fund from outside the university (State and Central funding source)	Funding is possible if the appointment of faculty is initiated against Govt sanctioned

		posts. It is constantly persuading to get regular posts sanctioned in this department.
IV	Students	
1	Encourage students to publish papers in peer reviewed/indexed journals.	Students are encouraged to publish their M.Sc. project work in peer reviewed/ indexed journals. Some studies have already been published. It has been listed as a priority matter for consideration in the forthcoming years.
2	Encourage male also to study basic and applied sciences.	Male students are encouraged to join the programme during the time of admission
3	Students should be motivated to go for research programmes in cutting edge areas of research.	It is a mandate of the department. In recent times, there is a progressive improvement in the number of students who are undertaking research in areas like micro plastics, climate change, wild life conservation and management etc.
V	Support Staff (Strength, Adequacy etc.)	
	At minimum level, One Section Officer, one Assistant, one peon is needed.	Services of one Section officer, one peon is attained. The department is constantly persuading to get one Assistant post sanctioned in this department.
VI	Teaching- learning & Evaluation	
	No comments	The department is in a constant move to improve upon the teaching-learning and evaluation process
VII	Feedback Mechanism	
	Teacher performance should be improved based on students feedback. Teachers should update content of teaching in tandem with current env issues.	The feedback of teacher performance is discussed with the teachers for strategic actions and to update content of teaching.
VIII	Activities of the Department (conduct of seminar, workshops, student enrichment programmes, extension activities and other beyond scholarly activities)	
	Need more programmes (seminar, conference, workshops etc.) in interdisciplinary areas in collaboration with other departments/research institutions.	Seminars are usually conducted institutionally in areas of global and national significance. The department will seriously consider in future the conduct of more programmes in priority areas, especially in collaboration with other departments / research institutions.
IX	Infrastructural facilities of the Department	
	Need class rooms with basic facilities like internet, projector etc. Also look for smart class rooms, theatre class rooms etc.	Both PG class rooms are provided with internet facilities and power point projectors. A smart class room has been set up. The proposal for a theatre class room will be submitted to the university, soon.

XI	SWOC	
1.	Strength	
	Need to be improved. For students, the gap should be bridged between academia and employability by providing green skill technologies.	The revised course / curriculum offers hands on experience to students in areas like energy audits, green audits, environmental audits and EIA. These add on courses along with technical expertise in remote sensing / GIS will help the students to overcome employability issues in future.
2.	Weakness	
	The course should be converted to regular mode with regular and sufficient number of faculties etc	Proposal has already been placed before the Government to convert the course / department into a regular mode. The proposal is under consideration.
3.	Opportunity	
	Research should be focused on cutting edge areas in interdisciplinary sciences	The M.Sc. project / dissertation work undertaken by the students in recent times is made to focus on cutting edge areas of environmental science having interdisciplinary nature.
4.	Challenges	
	Initially identify priority areas in research, do some pilot projects with the help of students and look for collaborative publications.	It has been listed as a priority matter for consideration.
XII	Future plans	
	Chalk out sustainable strategies to achieve the goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will pursue in a higher way to bring the academic / administrative setup of the department in a regular mode. • Will focus on more quality academic practices, seeking better national / international collaborations • Will bring in collaborative research in priority areas of environmental sciences • Will initiate more programmes for the students (soft skill programmes, ability enhancement programmes etc), which will empower them to attain better career with higher service mindedness.




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