

To,
Prof. D.S Rawat
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
Kumaun University
Nainital

Subject: Administrative and Academic and Administrative Audit Report -2024

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the Academic and Administrative Audit Committee that carried out April 26 and 27 2024. Enclosed herein is the report for your review and necessary action.



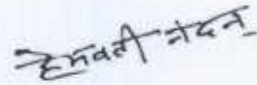
Prof. P C Joshi
Former V.C
Delhi University, Delhi



Prof. J.P Pachauri
Former V.C
Himalayiya Uni. Dehradun



Prof. M Ramananda Singh
Kirori Mal College
Delhi University, Delhi



Prof. Hemvati Nandan Pandey
HNB Central University
Garhwal, Srinagar



Report on External Academic and Administrative Audit Sir JC Bose Campus, Bhimtal & DSB Campus, Nainital (Dated: 26-27th April 2024)

In the pursuit of excellence and continual enhancement of academic and administrative standards, Kumaon University proudly embarked on an extensive Administrative and Academic Audit, spanning two days from April 26th to April 27th, 2024. This monumental undertaking represents a concerted effort by the institution to evaluate and elevate its operational efficiency, academic prowess, and overall effectiveness in fulfilling its educational mandate.

Against the backdrop of rapid advancements in higher education and evolving societal needs, Kumaon University recognizes the paramount importance of ensuring transparency, accountability, and excellence across all facets of its functioning. As a cornerstone of this commitment, the Administrative and Academic Audit serves as a comprehensive mechanism to scrutinize and optimize every aspect of the university's operations, from administrative processes to academic programs, infrastructure, and student services.

At its core, the Administrative and Academic Audit epitomizes the university's unwavering dedication to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, quality, and relevance. It reflects a proactive approach towards self-assessment and continuous improvement, aligning with the university's overarching mission to empower students, foster innovation, and contribute meaningfully to society.

Throughout this audit, esteemed members of the audit committee, comprising distinguished academicians, administrators, and experts from diverse fields, meticulously examined every facet of the university's functioning. Their impartial scrutiny and invaluable insights will serve as catalysts for transformative change, guiding the university towards greater efficiency, efficacy, and excellence.

This audit represents not just a routine evaluation exercise, but a pivotal moment in the university's journey towards academic distinction and institutional excellence. It embodies the spirit of self-reflection, self-correction, and self-improvement that lies at

the heart of Kumaun University's ethos, driving us towards new horizons of achievement and impact.

Committee Members

1. Prof. PC Joshi, Chairman
2. Prof. J P Pachauri, Member
3. Prof MSM Rawat, Member
4. Prof. Ramanand Singh, Member
5. Prof Hemwati Nandan, Member
6. Prof Mahendra Nath, Member
7. Shri Sarad Sant, Member
8. Shri Durgesh Dimri, Member Secretary

Audit Overview

Over two days, the External Academic Audit committee meticulously assessed various departments across both campuses. Each departmental audit involved presentations by department heads, showcasing facilities and academic initiatives. The audit prioritised not only academic excellence but also the institution's societal contributions through research and outreach.

Major Findings

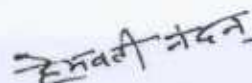
1. **Infrastructure & Facilities:** Departments like Chemistry, Physics, Pharmacy, and Biotechnology showcased advanced laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. These departments demonstrated a strong commitment to facilitating cutting-edge research and practical experimentation. The presence of modern infrastructure underscores the institution's dedication to providing students and researchers with the necessary resources for academic and scientific advancement. From specialized instruments to specialised workspaces, these departments prioritize creating conducive environments for exploration and innovation.
2. **Outreach & Extension Activities:** The Geography and Himalayan Museum departments emerged as leaders in community engagement and knowledge dissemination beyond the confines of the campus. Through a variety of initiatives, including workshops, exhibitions, and community outreach programs, these departments have significantly enriched the understanding of regional geography and cultural heritage among local communities. By fostering dialogue and collaboration with external stakeholders, they have effectively bridged the gap between academia and society, contributing to sustainable development and cultural preservation efforts in the region.

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3. **Documentation:** Across various departments, meticulous documentation practices were observed, ensuring comprehensive records of academic activities, research endeavors, publications, and student progress. Particularly noteworthy were the Biotechnology and Chemistry departments, which maintained extensive portfolios showcasing their research contributions and scholarly achievements. Such systematic documentation not only facilitates accountability and transparency but also serves as a valuable resource for academic planning, assessment, and accreditation processes.
4. **Student-Teacher Interaction:** Departments such as Commerce, Political Science, Hindi, and Sociology demonstrated a strong emphasis on fostering meaningful student-teacher interactions through robust mentorship programs. These programs provide students with individualised attention, guidance, and support, nurturing their intellectual and personal growth. By cultivating mentor-mentee relationships, these departments create a conducive learning environment where students feel valued, empowered, and encouraged to explore their academic interests and aspirations.
5. **Extracurriculars & Ancillary Facilities:** Departments such as Physical Education, Yogic Science, Music, Home Science, and Drawing & Painting play integral roles in nurturing students' holistic development beyond academic pursuits. Through a diverse range of extracurricular activities, workshops, and events, these departments provide platforms for students to explore their talents, interests, and passions. Facilities like the AN Singh Hall and Seminar Hall (Arts) serve as vibrant hubs for cultural, artistic, and intellectual exchange, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among students and faculty members alike. Such ancillary facilities complement formal education, enriching the overall educational experience and contributing to students' overall well-being and personal growth.

Recommendations

1. **Modernization of Labs:** To ensure that Humanities and Arts departments remain at the forefront of academic innovation, it is recommended to prioritise the modernization of research facilities. By upgrading laboratories and equipping them with cutting-edge technology and resources, these departments can better meet the evolving needs of students and faculty members. Additionally, the establishment of a language lab presents a valuable opportunity for students to enhance their linguistic skills and should be actively utilised to its full potential.
2. **Increased Outreach Programs:** Expanding outreach initiatives across departments is essential to broaden the institution's societal impact and foster greater community engagement. By forging stronger ties with industries and external organisations, students can benefit from practical exposure and gain insights into real-world challenges and opportunities. Moreover, enhanced industrial involvement can significantly enhance students' prospects for



placement and career advancement, thereby enriching their educational experience and future prospects.

3. **Enhanced Inter-Departmental Collaboration:** Encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration is vital for creating a holistic academic environment that fosters innovation and cross-disciplinary dialogue. Faculty members should be encouraged to collaborate across departments to leverage diverse expertise and perspectives in addressing complex research questions and societal challenges. Seed funding provided to faculty members should be strategically utilized to support collaborative research projects that have the potential to yield high-impact outcomes. Furthermore, efforts should be made to increase the publication of high-impact papers by faculty members and research scholars, thereby enhancing the institution's research profile and academic reputation.

Conclusion & Suggestions

The External Academic Audit has underscored the institution's unwavering dedication to academic rigor, infrastructure quality, and holistic education. To build upon our strengths and further elevate our academic ecosystem, several key suggestions are proposed.

- Timetables should prominently display class schedules, ensuring easy access and clarity for students and faculty members alike.
- Additionally, the timetable must include designated slots for remedial classes, providing support for students who require additional assistance.
- By integrating remedial class slots into the timetable, we can prioritize student success and academic progress, ensuring that all learners receive the support they need to excel.
- Recognizing the scholarly achievements of faculty members and research scholars, it is advisable to establish displays showcasing notable publications within the institution. This initiative will not only celebrate academic excellence but also inspire and motivate others to pursue impactful research endeavours.
- To honour outstanding contributions and achievements within the academic community, the establishment of a "Wall of Fame" is suggested. This dedicated space can feature accolades, awards, and notable accomplishments of faculty, students, and alumni, serving as a source of inspiration and pride for the entire institution.
- To promote efficiency and ease of navigation within labs and libraries, clear signage and organisational systems should be implemented. This includes labelling instruments, chemicals, and resources in labs, as well as organising book sections alphabetically in libraries. Such measures will enhance operational efficiency and create a conducive learning environment conducive to academic success.

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