

Minutes of the External Quality and Accreditation Committee (EQAC) Meeting

Date: Saturday, 5th April 2025

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Venue: Conference Hall, A-Block, BFGI Campus

Chairperson:

- **Dr. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal**, Chairman, Baba Farid Group of Institutions (BFGI)

Co-Chairperson:

- **Dr. M. P. Poonia**, Campus Director, BFGI

Distinguished Members Present:

- **Lt. Gen. (Dr.) S. P. Kochhar**, Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
- **Prof. (Dr.) Devi Singh**, Former Director, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow
- **Prof. (Dr.) S. S. Pattnaik**, Vice Chancellor, Odisha State Open University (*Joined Online*)
- **Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Sharma**, Pro-Chancellor, Graphic Era University, Dehradun
- **Prof. (Dr.) Ujjwal Kumar Kalla**, Department of Electrical Engineering, NIT Delhi

Members in Absentia:

- **Dr. Chander Mohan**, Former Scientist H, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India (*Inputs Received*)
- **Sh. HS Cheema**, CMD, Cheema Boilers, Chandigarh (*Inputs Not Received*)
- **Prof. (Dr.) Rajender Sangwan**, President, Raffles University, Neemrana, Alwar, Rajasthan (*Inputs Not Received*)
- **Prof. (Dr) Ranvinder Sandhu**, Former Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies, GNDU, Amritsar (*Inputs Not Received*)
- **Dr Kushwinder Kumar**, Pncipal, Khalsa College of Education, Amritsar (*Inputs Not Received*)
- **Mr. Manish Verma**, Co-founder & CEO, AngelBlue Holdings Pvt Ltd (*Inputs Not Received*)

Special Invitees:

- **Dr. Jayoti Bansal**, Principal, Baba Farid College of Engineering and Technology (BFCET)
- **Dr. Manish Bansal**, Principal, Baba Farid College (BFC)

- **Dr. Sachin Dev**, Principal, Baba Farid College of Management and Technology (BFCMT)
- **Dr. Mangal Singh**, Principal, Baba Farid College of Education (BFCE)
- **Dr. Manoj Kumawat**, Associate Dean, IPR & Startup, NIT Delhi
- **Mr. R. S. Dhanoa**, Assistant Director (Administration), BFGI
- **Dr. Vivek Sharma**, Head, IPR Cell, BFGI
- **Dr. Atul Kant Piyooosh**, Professor, Civil Engineering, BFGI

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks / Academic Autonomy

Presented by: *Dr. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal, Chairman – BFGI*

Discussion / Decision

Dr. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal, Chairman of BFGI, warmly welcomed all members of the External Quality and Accreditation Committee (EQAC) and other invited dignitaries to the 2nd EQAC meeting. He began the session on a positive note, sharing a brief background of the institution's journey over the past two decades. He highlighted the challenges encountered during this journey and elaborated on the relentless efforts undertaken by BFGI in its pursuit of academic excellence. A special emphasis was placed on the institutional goal of achieving autonomous status and the strategic initiatives being implemented to realize this objective. The EQAC members acknowledged and appreciated the commendable progress and consistent efforts of BFGI under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Dr. Dhaliwal and his dedicated team.

Agenda Item 2: EQAC Report Presentation / Institutional Development Plan

Presented by: *Dr. M. P. Poonia, Campus Director – BFGI*

Discussion / Decision:

a) Dr. M. P. Poonia, Campus Director of BFGI, presented the detailed EQAC report, covering the following key areas:

i. About BFGI

- *Journey of BFGI*
- *Achievements of BFGI*

ii. Institutional Development Plan

- *Short Term Plan*
- *Medium Term Plan*
- *Long Term Plan*

iii. **Action Taken Report** on the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd March 2024

iv. **Initiatives Taken:**

- *Student Development Plan*
- *Faculty Development Plan*
- *Research*
- *Innovation*
- *Academic Autonomy*
- *Miscellaneous Initiatives*

b) Following the presentation, the EQAC members suggested that the Institutional Development Plan be revisited every year, especially with regard to its classification into short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives. They recommended refining the plan to enhance its focus with respect to rapid enhancement in educational pedagogies, learning outcomes and ensure a more strategic approach to be relevant.

c) The experts emphasized that the development plan should be flexible strong in its core values. The plan must align with the institution's core strengths and address both regional and national educational needs.

Agenda Item 3: Proposed New Academic Programs / Defence-Related Courses / Strengthening CRPC

Expert: *Lt. Gen. (Dr.) S.P. Kochhar, Director General – COAI*

Discussion / Decision:

a) The committee acknowledged and appreciated the proposed long-term academic programs for the session 2025–2026. However, it was suggested that short-term courses should also be introduced in alignment with emerging needs.

b) Lt. Gen. (Dr.) S.P. Kochhar proposed the following actionable points:

- **Broadening the Academic Scope:** Emphasis should also be laid on courses in **Behavioural Sciences**, along with the already proposed long-term programs.
- **Defence-Oriented Programs:** Introduction of **defence-related academic programs** was strongly recommended.
- **Online Master Faculty Model:** To manage future faculty demands, the concept of “Online Master Faculty” should be adopted. Eminent professionals may be attracted through **scholarships or honorary chairs**.
- **Student Exchange Programs:** BFGI should initiate structured **student exchange programs** for academic and cultural enrichment.

- **Language & Communication Training:** Courses for **local language experts/translators** should be developed.
- **Media & Communication Skills:** Programs in **Public Relations, Content Writing, and Product Development** should be considered.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Dr. Kochar consented that his organization will **depute two employees** to impart long-term training at BFGI.
- **Corporate Relations and Placement Cell (CRPC):** A **dedicated cell** for industry collaboration and placements must be established. He emphasized that **placement must remain a top priority**, as it directly affects students' career prospects.

Agenda Item 4: Brand Building / Faculty Training & Recruitment / Identification of Institutional Core / New Academic Programs / Part-Time Ph.D. / Campus Residences

Expert: *Prof. (Dr.) Devi Singh, Former Director – IIM Lucknow*

Discussion / Decision:

Prof. (Dr.) Devi Singh provided a comprehensive set of suggestions aimed at strengthening the institutional framework and future growth strategy of BFGI. The key points discussed are as follows:

a) Brand Building & Credibility

- The foundation of brand building must be rooted in the **credibility and quality** of the institution. Efforts must focus on delivering consistent academic outcomes and stakeholder satisfaction.

b) Faculty Recruitment & Training

- Considering the large student intake, a **comprehensive recruitment strategy** must be developed to ensure adequate and qualified faculty strength.
- There is a need to **raise the academic bar**, with active involvement of **industry-experienced faculty**.
- Faculty training through **online platforms** such as NITTTR, SWAYAM, ARPIT, and CEC must be institutionalized.

c) Identification of Institutional Core

- A focused effort should be made to **identify core strength areas** of BFGI which will drive its growth and positioning.
- Clear **long-term strategies** should be laid down based on these identified academic and research niches.

d) Curriculum & Academic Enrichment

- **Courses in Writing Skills** should be added across programs.
- Introduction of **multidisciplinary programs** and **entrepreneurship-oriented courses** aligned with **local economic needs** is essential.
- Each program should include **local economy–based projects** to foster contextual learning.
- **Project-Based Learning (PBL)** methodology should be embedded into the teaching-learning ecosystem.
- A **Teaching-Learning Centre** may be established to train faculty on effective pedagogy and communication skills.

e) Communication Strategy

- While promoting **regional language use for classroom engagement**, faculty and students should also be trained to meet **international standards of communication**.

f) Research & Ph.D. Initiatives

- Part-time Ph.D. registration for faculty should be encouraged.
- BFGI must strive to become a **recognized Ph.D./research centre** under MRSPTU.

g) Student Diversity & National Outlook

- Student admissions must be **diversified PAN India** to enhance institutional exposure and peer learning.

h) Campus Infrastructure

- Expansion of **residential facilities** for students and faculty is recommended to boost productivity and retention.
- An **agriculture innovation zone** or experimentation facility may be initiated on 5–6 acres of land.

i) Student Activities & Support

- A **weekly institutional slot** during academic hours should be designated for club and student-led activities.
- An **Endorsement Fund** should be created to support **meritorious and financially needy students**.

Agenda Item 5: Entrepreneurship & Emerging Tech Courses / HRDC / Academic Autonomy / Research & Innovation / Online Education / Faculty Retention

Expert: *Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Pro-Chancellor – Graphic Era University, Dehradun*

Discussion / Decision:

Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Sharma provided a detailed roadmap for strengthening BFGI's academic ecosystem through entrepreneurship promotion, technology integration, and faculty development. The key highlights of the discussion are:

a) Entrepreneurship & Community Engagement

- A **School of Entrepreneurship** at BFGI was appreciated; however, it was proposed to align it with the region's mindset and social needs.
- The school could offer **Certificate/Diploma courses** in **entrepreneurship capacity building**, and social responsibility programs on the lines of **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**.
- Courses focused on **youth migration and skill-building** should be introduced to address community aspirations.

b) Academic Planning for Future Faculty

- **Selected UG/PG students**, who are likely to pursue teaching careers, may be given **additional coursework** to prepare them for academic roles.

c) Collaborations and Networking

- A **one-week training program** for BFGI Principals, 20 faculty members, and 20 students to network with counterparts at **Graphic Era University** was recommended.

d) Integration of Emerging Technologies

- AI is becoming foundational across disciplines. **AI, Data Science, IoT, Cyber security, and Analytics** should be included as **add-on certifications** across all programs.
- **Communication Skills**, especially writing, should be embedded into the curriculum through structured, longitudinal programs.

e) Online & Flexible Education

- **SWAYAM** and **Digital Open University** tie-ups should be utilized to enhance online learning.

- **Optional online classes** in emerging fields beyond academic hours should be introduced, even if uptake is limited to 10%.

f) Faculty Grooming, Retention & Recruitment

- In-house **faculty grooming** programs should be conducted to improve retention.
- **Spouse employment opportunities** may be explored to support faculty retention.
- **Bond provisions** can be considered for faculty who avail quality enhancement support.
- **Professors of Practice** should be invited, and the **HRDC** must be further strengthened.

g) Academic Autonomy & University Status

- Implementation of these forward-looking reforms necessitates **academic autonomy**.
- Gaining **University status** for BFGI was strongly recommended as an enabler for transformation.

h) Start-up & Innovation Ecosystem

- Faculty should play active roles in the **start-up ecosystem** as **mentors or partners**.
- The management may consider **equity participation** in promising start-ups through **seed funding**.

i) Research Development

- Establish a **Research Centre** with **6–8 quality researchers** as full-time research faculty.
- These experts would guide students and faculty, increasing the institute's research output.

j) Rankings & Accreditations

- A dedicated **team of faculty** must be identified to lead efforts for **NIRF and other accreditations**.
- Regular **workshops** should be conducted to build awareness and action plans.
- BFGI should **aspire to be in the top 100 NIRF institutions** through strategic hiring and publication of research papers.
- Recruit more **Ph.D.-qualified faculty members** to enhance academic standing.

k) Curriculum Enrichment with Online Platforms

- **Mapping of SWAYAM courses** with existing curriculum is essential to leverage national digital platforms effectively.

1) Interdisciplinary & Social Outreach Centres

- New centres focused on **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Women Empowerment, and Community Development** should be set up.
- These centres will promote **interdisciplinary research, local engagement, and institutional branding**.

Agenda Item 6: New Courses / Online Degree Program / OBE / SDGs / Peer Learning / Ph.D. Registration / Industry Connect

Expert: *Prof. (Dr.) S. S. Pattnaik, Vice Chancellor – Odisha State Open University*

Discussion / Decision:

Prof. (Dr.) S. S. Pattnaik offered several constructive suggestions to strengthen academic quality, align with national education trends, and promote inclusive and futuristic education at BFGI. The major points discussed are:

a) Curriculum & Course Innovation

- Emphasis was laid on incorporating **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** in the academic framework.
- Courses in emerging areas like **Post-Disaster Management, Digital Comics, and Augmented Reality–Virtual Reality (AR-VR)** should be introduced to meet future skills demand.

b) Online and Flexible Learning

- Faculty members should be encouraged to pursue **Online Degree Programs** and **digital courses** offered by **Open Universities** to build competencies and stay updated.

c) Professors of Practice

- Engagement of multiple **Professors of Practice (PoPs)** completing a combined **90-hour contribution** was suggested. Their teaching hours can be counted toward the **Student-Faculty Ratio (SFR)**.

d) Outcome Based Education (OBE)

- All **student activities** conducted within departments must be **assessed and mapped to OBE parameters** for effective learning outcome measurement.

e) Faculty Upskilling for Interdisciplinary Teaching

- Faculty members from **Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering** departments can undertake **6-month online certification programs** (offered by IITs or NPTEL) in Computer Science.
- After completion, these faculty members will be eligible to **teach computer-related courses**, enabling interdisciplinary teaching and optimal resource utilization.

f) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & 21st Century Skills

- Faculty members must be oriented with **UN SDGs, Critical Thinking**, and the concept of **Complex Engineering Problems** (as per NBA guidelines).

g) Faculty Peer Learning Culture

- Encourage **peer learning among faculty** through structured interactions and collaborative tasks like **assignment design, question paper creation**, and teaching innovations.

h) Promotion of Research & Ph.D. Registration

- Faculty members should be **motivated and supported** to pursue **Ph.D. registration**, strengthening the institution's research credentials and academic standing.

i) Industry-Academia Linkages

- Active efforts must be made to enhance **industry partnerships** to **bridge the gap** between academic curricula and industry expectations.
- Such collaborations may also support **student internships, live projects, curriculum feedback**, and **faculty-industry immersion**.

Agenda Item 7: Brand Ambassadors / Short Films

Expert (In Absentia): *Dr. Chander Mohan, Former Scientist H, DST, Govt. of India*

Discussion / Decision:

Although Dr. Chander Mohan could not join the meeting in person, his suggestions were shared and deliberated upon for enhancing the visibility and public image of BFGI.

a) Appointment of Brand Ambassadors

- BFGI may initiate the **Brand Ambassador program** by identifying and appointing ambassadors from within a **50 km radius**, especially targeting nearby schools.
- The ambassadors may include:

Muktsar Road, Bathinda (Punjab), India – 151001

- **School Students**
- **Students and Alumni** of BFGI
- **Faculty members**
- **Friends of the Institution / Well-wishers / Local influencers**
- Their role will be to **promote Brand BFGI** in their respective circles using online, offline, and community engagement methods.

b) Short Film Development

- A **high-quality, visually engaging short film** (smart, sharp, but concise) is to be developed to showcase **Brand BFGI**.
- The focus areas of the film should include:
 - **Visionary leadership and dedication of the management**
 - **State-of-the-art infrastructure**
 - **Future-ready faculty and cutting-edge facilities**
 - **Industry collaborations and employability outcomes**
 - **Vibrant co-curricular and extra-curricular activities**
 - **Cost-effectiveness and value proposition** in comparison with other regional institutions

Action Points:

- The **Public Relations Office**, in collaboration with the **School of Entrepreneurship**, will initiate the **concept development and production planning** of the short film.
- A framework for the **Brand Ambassador program** will be drafted and shared in the next EQAC meeting for finalization and launch.

Agenda Item 8: Training of Faculty & Students / Project Videos / Improved Products / Licensing of Patents / Alumni Network

Expert: *Prof. (Dr.) Ujjwal Kumar Kalla, NIT Delhi*

Discussion / Decision:

Prof. (Dr.) Ujjwal Kumar Kalla offered several actionable suggestions to enhance technical competencies, strengthen institutional innovation capacity, and foster industry-academia collaboration.

a) Training on Visio Software

- Specialized **training programs for faculty and students** on **Microsoft Visio Software** should be organized to enhance their ability to design, diagram, and visualize systems and workflows.

b) Project Video Documentation

- All final year and notable student projects should be **documented through short videos** (2–3 minutes) showcasing the problem, solution, implementation, and results.
- These videos will serve as **learning aids for junior students** and can also be used in marketing, exhibitions, and placement initiatives.

c) Product Improvement through Surveys

- A **structured product feedback survey** may be conducted to assess existing student-developed or campus-used products.
- Based on identified gaps, students and faculty teams will work on **redesigning and developing improved prototypes or products**.

d) Patent Licensing with Caution

- The institute must exercise due diligence in **licensing of patents** to ensure proper valuation, rights protection, and potential commercialization opportunities.
- A **patent advisory committee** may be formed for this purpose.

e) Strengthening Alumni Network for Industry Connect

- BFGI should **deepen alumni engagement**, particularly with alumni working in industry, to:
 - Facilitate **knowledge sharing**
 - Enable **internship and placement opportunities**
 - Enhance **mentorship and technical collaboration**
- Regular alumni-student **interaction forums** (virtual or on-campus) should be institutionalized.

Action Points:

- BFCET will propose a **training calendar** for Visio and similar tools.
- The Innovation and IPR Cell will design a **protocol for project video documentation and patent evaluation**.

- Alumni Affairs Cell will prepare a **roadmap for structured alumni engagement** aligned with industry interface goals.

Agenda Item 9: Other Points, if any

a) Guidance for Club Coordinators

- Dr. Manoj Kumawat (NIT Delhi) will be sharing a **presentation (PPT)** to guide the club coordinators in effectively planning and executing club activities throughout the academic year.

b) Comprehensive Activity Calendar

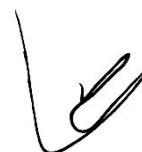
- A **comprehensive activity calendar** for each student club shall be developed and submitted by the respective team of club coordinators.
- The calendar will include **monthly targets, event timelines, responsibilities, and performance metrics.**
- This initiative will help in enhancing **structured student engagement and leadership development.**

Agenda Item 10: Closing Remarks

a) The **Chairperson, Dr. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal**, and **Co-Chairperson, Prof. (Dr.) M. P. Poonia** expressed their heartfelt **gratitude to all committee members, external experts, and invitees** for their meaningful participation and **valuable suggestions.**

b) The meeting concluded with a **vote of thanks** by Prof. (Dr.) M. P. Poonia, who acknowledged the collaborative spirit and emphasized the **importance of timely implementation** of the discussed initiatives.

Time of Conclusion: 6:00 PM



Dr. M. P. Poonia

(Campus Director)