

Review Committee Report of HSS Department at IIT Ropar

4 February 2014

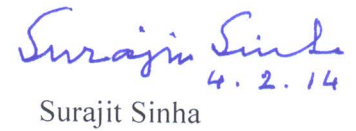
(Review Committee visited IIT Ropar on 27 January 2014)

We are thankful to IIT Ropar for the opportunity to interact with its faculty and students in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, and share our perception of the strategies that would help it to achieve academic excellence. In our judgment, this Department has potential for growth. And we list below our recommendations that the stakeholders concerned may do well to consider:

1. A clear vision statement for achieving academic excellence and societal relevance needs to be put in place.
2. In identifying thrust areas and recruiting faculty, be mindful of the diverse HSS offerings required for the Undergraduate Programme as well as the Department's own commitment to outstanding scholarship and research excellence.
3. Active scouting to bring in the best available faculty in the country and overseas is called for. More important, make an attractive package of incentives available that would bring in faculty and help in their retention.
4. The Department needs to be proactive in recruiting quality doctoral candidates, providing them with a nurturing research environment, and training them for productive careers in academics and related social organizations.
5. While the research output of the Department is fairly impressive, the faculty needs to be encouraged to publish in major international journals.
6. Since most faculty members are young, it may be a good idea to give them the benefit of mentorship, either with renowned faculty in the country or overseas.
7. Workshops in Research Methodology and Academic Writing can also be arranged at least once a year for the benefit of young faculty and Ph.D. scholars.
8. With critical faculty strength, initiating Master's programmes in the existing disciplines and relevant interdisciplinary areas, and Dual Degree and/ or Dual Major UG programmes with other Departments, would help in revitalizing the Department. If these programmes are well-designed, they would have greater relevance to the market compared to similar programmes elsewhere in the country and make the prospective students employable. Further, these programmes would also help sustain the Ph.D. programme in providing a possible source of well-trained candidates.
9. Faculty should be encouraged to bring in sponsored projects, wherever possible. The few projects available in the Department are noteworthy.
10. There is a serious need to augment the existing library resources. Besides books and journals, electronic journal archives and databases such as CMIE are necessary.
11. Students may be given more funds and Academic Leave for attending national/international conferences, data collection and library visits in the country.

12. JRF holders pending the release of the UGC scholarship may be given financial assistance with the condition of recovery later.
13. Parity in Ph.D. scholarship with the Physical Sciences must be maintained, as is done in other IITs and UGC.
14. Provision for adequate sitting space and computer terminals for Ph.D. scholars needs to be worked out.
15. Research scholars who commute to the campus may be allowed to avail of the Institute transport like the bus services on a monthly/yearly payment basis.


G Neelakantan
04/02/2014


Surajit Sinha
4.2.14