

EXPERT COMMITTEE REPORT – PRIVATE UNIVERSITY
The Assam Kaziranga University, Koraikhowa, NH-37, Jorhat, (Assam)

Part – I – Preliminary

(i)	Constitution of the Expert Committee	Name and Address	Position	Contact No.
		Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti Fellow, National Academy of Sciences Department of Electrical Engineering Jadavpur University, Kolkata 700 032	Chairman	09830092189
		Prof. Debangshu N. Das Deamn, Faculty of Engineering and Technology Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar	Member	09436220201
		Prof. G. Singaiah Department of Management North Eastern Hill University TURA Campus, Chandmari 794 002	Member	08575459393
		Prof. Sattar Hussain Chairman, Department of Chemical Engineering Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh – 202 002	Member	09258385343
		Dr. Narendra S. Chaudhari Director, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology South Ambazari Road, Nagpur Maharashtra Pin- 440 010	Member AICTE nominee	09422802961
		Dr. N. Gopukumar Deputy Secretary UGC, SWRO, Bangalore	Coordinating Officer	9980824269
(ii)	Date(s) of the Visit	20 th and 21 st February, 2014		
(iii)	Any other information (Non-participation of members, any special factor or situation/difficulties relevant to the report	All members participated		

Part – II – Introduction

(i)	Brief Introduction of the University	The Assam Kaziranga University has been established by the
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		Assam Private University Act 2012 (Assam Act No. VII of 2012) vide Gazette Notification No. LGL.102/2011138 dated 11 th April 2012 as a State Private University with a mandate to disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional, research and extension facilities in emerging areas of higher education with a focus on professional education.
(ii)	Date of Establishment of the University	11 th April 2012 (Annexure I)
(iii)	Brief description of the University and its faculties/courses	<p>The Assam Kaziranga University is a State Private University governed by the Assam Private University Act 2007. It offers the following courses</p> <p>School of Engineering & Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M.Tech (Mechanical Engineering) • M.Tech (Civil Engineering) • B.Tech (Mechanical Engineering) • B.Tech (Civil Engineering) • B.Tech (Electrical Engineering) • B.Tech (Electronics & Communication Engineering) • B.Tech (Computer Science & Engineering) <p>School of Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD • MBA • BBA Hospitality & Tourism • BBA Global • BBA • B.Com <p>School of Computing Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M.Sc. (IT) • M.Sc. (IT) Integrated • B.Sc. (IT) • BCA <p>School of Basic Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD • M.Sc. Physics • M.Sc. Chemistry • M.Sc. Mathematics
(iv)	Brief description of the Trust/Society that governs the University	The University has been promoted by the Trust under the banner of The North Eastern Knowledge Foundation (NEKF) and founded in the year 2012 by the Khetan and Goel Industrial Groups. The social sensitivity and entrepreneurship of both the groups have helped them to contribute back to the society.

Part – III – Summary Report

A. Legal Status

(i)	Is the University duly established under the law and as required in the UGC Regulations?	The University has been duly established under the law and as required in the UGC Regulations. The Assam Kaziranga University established under "The Assam Kaziranga University Act 2012"; Gazette Notification No. LGL.102/2011138; dated 11 th April 2012 (Annexure II)
(ii)	Is the Trust/Society involved in promoting the University sufficiently focused on educational activities and independent of their business or any other interest, if any	The Trust NEKF is focused on its educational activities and is independent of their business. It is not involved in any other initiatives apart from the University.

B. Organization Description

(i)	Does the University abide by UGC Regulations on Off-Campus centres?	The University does not have any off-campus centers
(ii)	Does the University abide by UGC Regulations on Off-Shore Campus Centres?	The University does not have any off-shore campus centers
(iii)	Does the University offer courses under Distance mode with the approval of competent authority of the Government of India?	The University does not offer any programs under the distance mode.

C. Academic Activities

(i)	Are the Courses offered by the University narrowly focused or adequately diverse?	Yes, the courses offered is adequately diverse ranging from technology, management, computing sciences and basic sciences.
(ii)	Are the list of courses for the award of degree as per the Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956?	Yes
(iii)	Is the sanctioned intake as per the norms / intake sanctioned by the concerned statutory council(s)/UGC?	Yes, The intake is sanctioned by Governing Board
(iv)	Whether courses run are approved by concerned Statutory Council(s)?	Yes, the technical programs are approved by the AICTE. (Annexure III)
(v)	Are there adequate support facilities for students, especially for disadvantaged students?	Support facilities for disadvantaged students needs to be improved
(vi)	Are the students adequately informed?	Yes, through notice boards, university website and emails.
(vii)	Is there a Grievance Redressal Mechanism and is that working properly?	Yes, the Assam Kaziranga University has constituted a Grievances Redressal Committee comprising of five members of the University. In addition to this the University has also appointed an "Ombudsman" for redressal of grievances of students.
(viii)	Is the University following proper	The Assam Kaziranga University is following procedure for

	procedure for formulation and revision of curriculum on periodic basis?	formulation of curriculum. As it is in the second year after establishment the university is yet to undertake a revision
(ix)	How regular, fair and transparent is the Examination System?	The University follows Academic Calendar. A copy of the Academic Calendar & Examination Rules is annexed as Annexure IV . However, the Committee suggests that a moderation committee with external experts will augur well for the University.

D. Admission Process

(i)	Does the University follow fair and transparent procedure for admission?	Yes. Admissions related details are available on the University website (www.kazirangauniversity.in). Admission to MBA is based on the score obtained in MAT/CAT/CMAT/ATMA. For B.Tech admission is based on wighted average of engineering admission test score (CEE/AIEE/JEE) and in Board exams. It is suggested that merit may be given due importance.
(ii)	Do any special reservation on quota clearly laid down policy?	Yes, the SC/ST reservation is as per the Assam Govt. Reservation Policy.

E. Fee Structure

(i)	Are the students sufficiently informed about the fees and charges payable?	Yes. The entire break-up of the fee structure is very clearly mentioned in the University website (www.kazirangauniversty.in)
(ii)	Does the University follow its own declared policy in collecting any fees or charges or are there some charges over and above the publically stated fee structure?	There are no hidden charges and nothing is charged over and above the publically stated fee structure.
(iii)	Is the mode of fees collection transparent or are there complaints of payments without receipts?	The mode of fee collection is transparent. Online payment option may be facilitated. As stated by the University authorities no complaints were received regarding payments without receipts so far. There were no such complaints from the students during the interaction between the Committee and students.
(iv)	Are the fees reasonable as compared to costs involved in running the programmes and to other similar institutions?	The fees charged are reasonable based on the cost involved in running the programmes
(v)	Is the fee structure based on a policy or guidelines laid down by the Government?	The fee structure is as per the Assam private University Act 2007, which direct the University to form an internal fee fixation committee and the recommendation is implemented. A certificate from the Vice Chancellor to this effect is enclosed (Annexure V)

(vi)	Is there any indication of the University being run solely or primarily for commercial gains?	There is no such indication that the University is run for commercial gains.
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F. Faculty

(i)	Does the University follow Pay Scales and Service Conditions laid down by the UGC?	Yes, the University follows the Pay Scales laid down by the UGC. But service conditions are not followed in totality.
(ii)	Is the faculty well qualified and well trained for the courses?	The faculty members are reasonably qualified, but needs adequate training. Many of them have Ph.D. or are pursuing for the same. Many faculty members have international experience from top Indian & global educational institutions.
(iii)	Is the proportion of permanent faculty adequate or is the University being mainly run by deploying contractual faculty / guest faculty / part-time faculty?	The number of faculty is adequate for the courses being run by the university. The current student teacher ratio is 1:13. But all faculty members are on contractual basis The university also deploys visiting faculty and subject experts for a more enriching learning experience.
(iv)	Has the University followed due process of recruitment of faculty?	Yes. The requirement of faculty comes from the Deans of the respective schools. This is again approved by the VC in the Academic Council Meet. The University advertises in national and local daily (Annexure VI) and also puts in the university website. The applications received are selected on the basis of merit.

G. Infrastructure

(i)	Are the following infrastructure facilities adequate? a) Land & Building b) Class rooms c) Laboratories & Equipment d) Library	Yes, the total land area available is 23 acres (Annexure VII) Total carpet area available is 11815.35 Sq.m. Total number of classrooms available is 18. Total number of Tutorial is 7. No. of Titles: 928 No. of Volumes: 7675 National Journals: 139 The Library is managed by a Library Management System Multimedia PC : 10 units Reading Room : 110 sq.m
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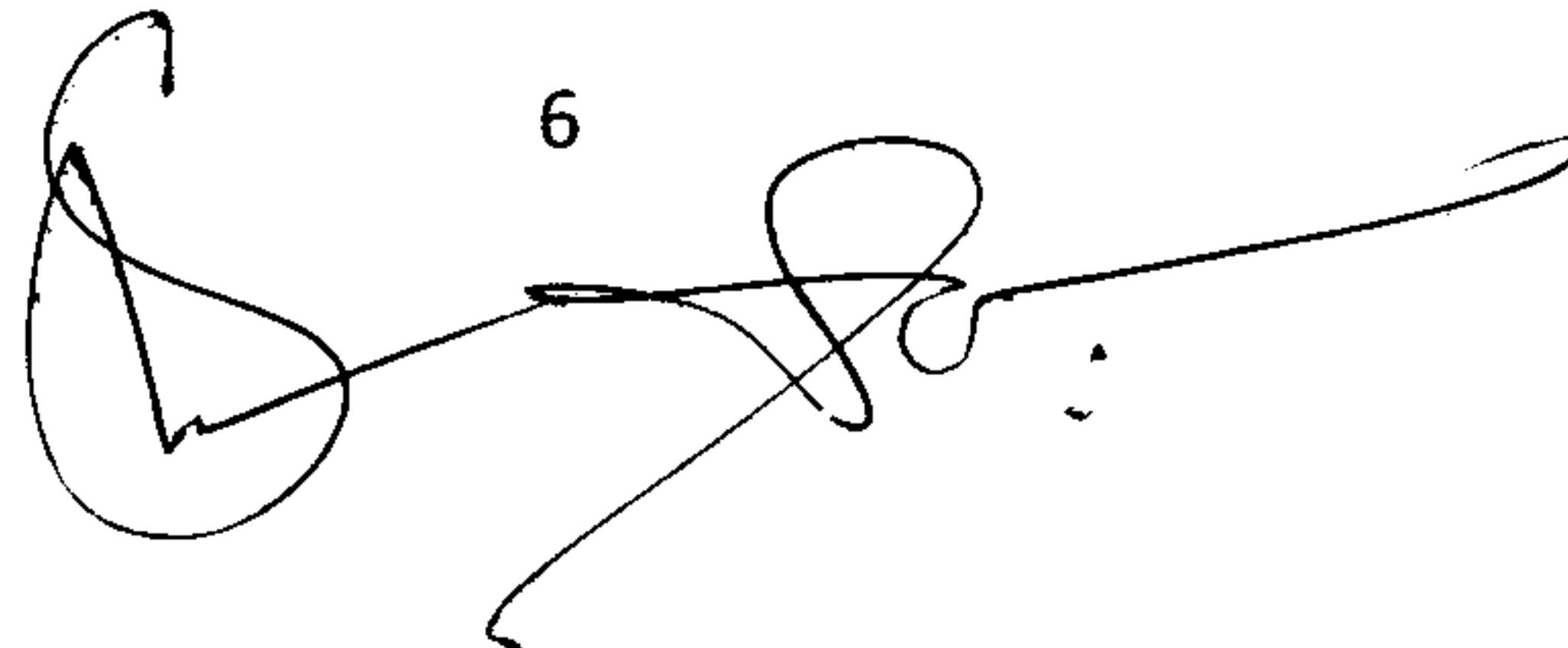
	<p>e) Sports facilities</p> <p>f) Residential accommodation including hostels</p>	<p>Total area – Library & Reading Room: 473 Sq.m.</p> <p>Yes, Facility for indoor games like table-tennis, carom, chess and separate gymnasium for boys and girls are available in the boys and girls hostels respectively.</p> <p>Facilities like lawn tennis, badminton, basketball volleyball, football, cricket are provided. However, other outdoor sporting facilities need improvement</p> <p>The University has entered into an agreement with North Eastern Educare and Research Pvt. Ltd. to provide hostel facilities to its students and residential facilities to faculty & staff.</p> <p>At present there are 3 separate hostels blocks two smaller blocks for girls & one larger block for boys to accommodate approximately 600 students. A new hostel for boys is being constructed.</p> <p>Each floor has sufficient number of toilets and bathrooms. The rooms are well furnished, airy with proper house-keeping facilities. Potable water supply is available in the hostels. The hostels are also equipped with generators for power backup.</p>
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H. Financial Viability

(i)	Does the University has adequate and independent funds?	The audited statement of North Eastern Knowledge Foundation, Jorhat, the trust which is governing the University is enclosed (Annexure VIII).
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I. Governance System

(i)	Are various authorities and bodies responsible for the governance of the University in place and working regularly and properly?	<p>The Assam Kaziranga University Act, 2007 sets the governance model for the University. The prominent bodies entrusted to provide governance include; Governing Body, Board of Management & the Academic Council. Eminent personalities from academia, industry and social life represent these bodies.</p> <p>(The composition of the above bodies, the statutes,</p>
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		<p>ordinance and HR manual are appended in Annexure IX)</p> <p>The meetings of the above bodies of the University were held as per the provision of the Act, Statutes & Ordinances as under:</p> <p>The Governing Body meetings were held on 16th July 2012 (1st), 12th Feb 2013 (2nd) & 7th Dec 2013 (3rd).</p> <p>The Board of Management meetings were held on 10th July 2012 (1st) & 20th Nov 2013 (2nd).</p> <p>The Academic Council meetings were held on 30th May 2012 (1st), 6th July 2012 (2nd), 14th January 2013 (3rd), 30th July 2013 (4th), 7th August 2013 (5th), 25th September 2013 (6th) & 13th Nov 2013 (7th).</p> <p>It is also suggested that the University should have Registrar, Finance Officer on full time basis for better governance</p>
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J. Research Profile

(i)	How would you rate the research profile of the University in terms of Research Orientation, environment, facilities and output?	As a new and upcoming university, Kaziranga University is taking necessary initiatives to strengthen research capabilities.
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K. Miscellaneous

(i)	Is the Non-Teaching staff adequate, well qualified and paid as per the norms of the concerned State Governments?	Non-Teaching staff is appointed on contract basis. Leave rules for non-teaching staff may be properly considered as per the directives of Government from time to time.
(ii)	Do the academic results show evidence of independent and rigorous evaluation prior to the issue of degrees?	A rigorous and transparent evaluation system is in place. Moderation may be improved by incorporating external members.
(iii)	Has the University obtained necessary and desirable accreditations	Not eligible for accreditation since it is a one and half year old university.

L. Strengths and Weaknesses of the University

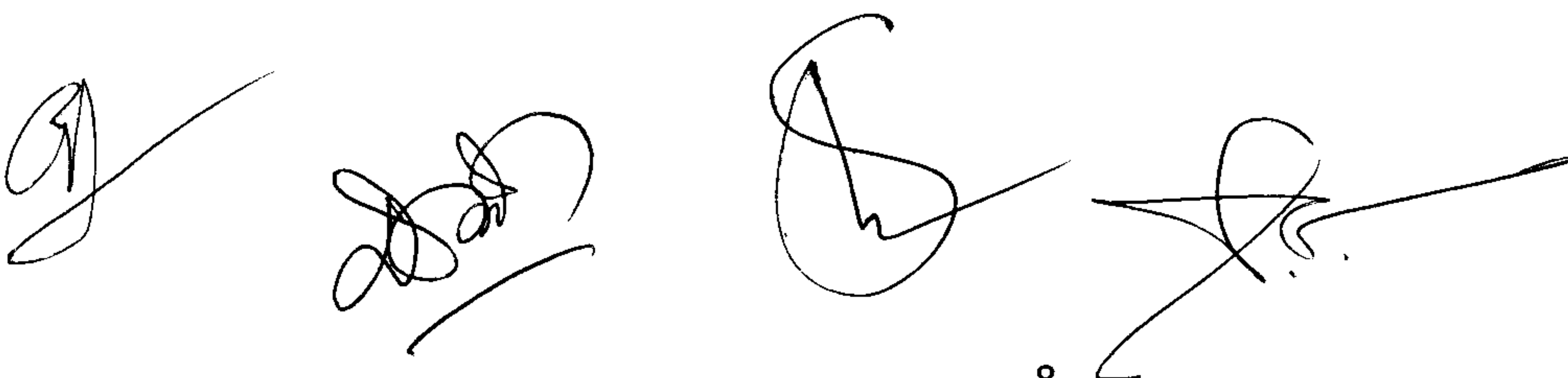
(i)	Strengths of the University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical infrastructure is good and well maintained • Academic environment is congenial and student friendly • Public perception, as per the feedback given by students, is good.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic-industry initiatives is in progress • Attempts are being made to promote research • some of the faculty members are with international exposure • Corporate backed university i.e. strong financial support • Residential facilities for students and faculty/staff • Academic collaboration with top institutions in India & abroad (University of Cambridge, UK (ESOL); NTU, Singapore for Global Immersion Program (MBA); Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai and Confederation of Indian Industry – CII among others. • Location advantages Untapped education market of the north east India
(ii)	Weaknesses of the University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty is being appointed on contract basis which is likely to hinder the academic growth of University • Lab equipments are relatively inadequate • Scholarships are relatively insufficient • Internet speed is low • Quality books and journals are insufficient

Part – IV – Recommendations

A. General Observations and Suggestions (Please avoid repetitions of the point mentioned above)

- Buildings should be friendly to physically challenged
- Common rooms for girls may be made
- Incentives to teachers for academic excellence may be provided
- Bank facility may be established in campus
- Study material may be given in the intranet
- Faculty preferably be appointed on permanent basis
- University should encourage teachers to pursue Ph.D by providing required support



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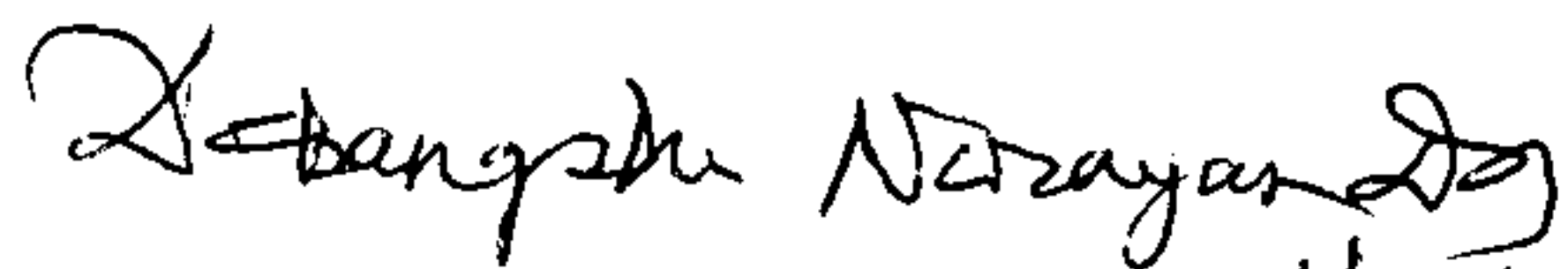
- B. Operations recommendations which require satisfactory compliance by the University before issue of Approval Letter

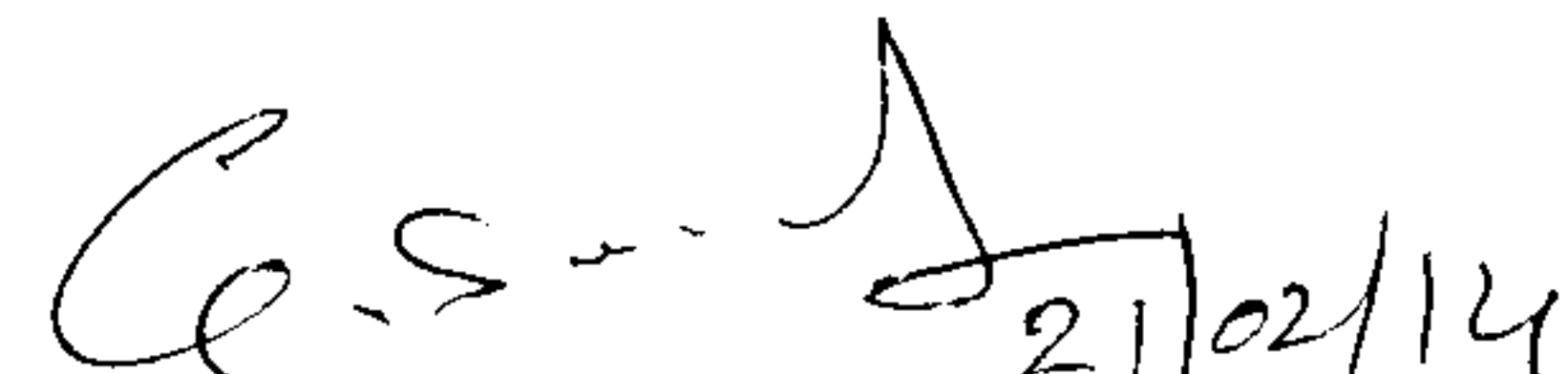
The Committee recommends that the University take necessary initiatives so that a minimum of 50% of teachers be appointed on a permanent basis

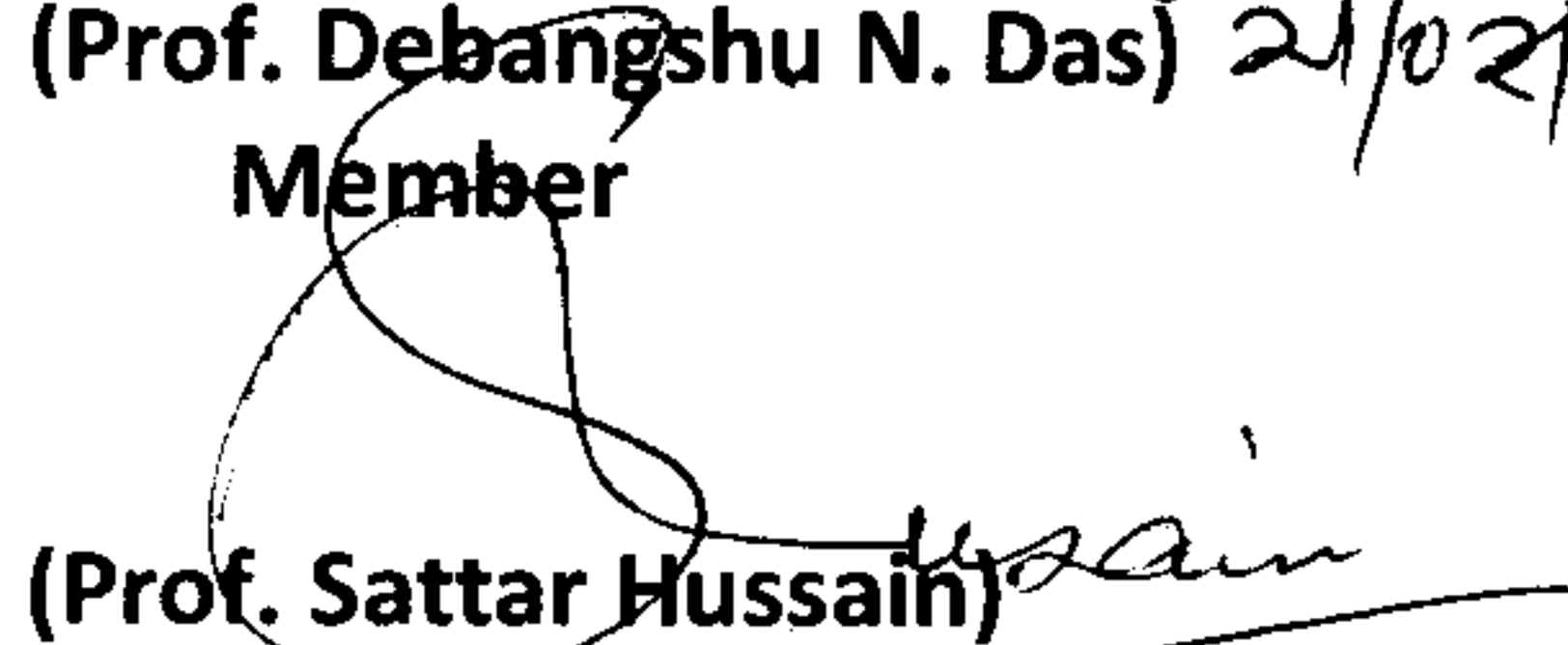
- C. Final Recommendation (Whether the University should be granted approval Letter / approval letter subject to compliance / should not be granted approval letter

The Assam Kaziranga University, Koraikhowa, NH-37, Jorhat (Assam) should comply with the above point at "B" before granting of approval letter



21-02-2014
(Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti)
Chairman


(Prof. Debangshu N. Das) 21/02/14
Member


21/02/14
(Prof. G. Singaiah)
Member


(Prof. Sattar Hussain)
Member
21.02.2014


(Prof. Narendra S. Chaudhari)
AICTE Nominee


(N. Gopukumar) 21/2/14
Co-ordinating Officer