

GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION, ASSAM
KAHILIPARA::: GUWAHATI-19

No. DHE/OSD/Misc/2023/12

Dated: Kahilipara, 29th March, 2023

From : Dharma Kanta Mili, ACS
Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

To : Nodal Principals
All Districts

Sub : **Regarding study and submission of Academic Clustering modalities of Colleges**

Respected Principal,


With reference to the subject cited above, I have the honour to inform you that as per resolutions of meeting held with Hon'ble Adviser, Govt. of Assam in Higher Education department is proposing the concept of academic clustering of Colleges for optimal utilization of available resources in the best interest of the student fraternity.

In this regard, you are requested to make a detailed study of the modalities of academic clustering of colleges, as per the minutes of meeting enclosed herewith, by forming academic clusters in your district and submit a detailed report by 9th May, 2023. (preferably by e-mail to: dheofficial.documentation@gmail.com)

Moreover, you are also requested to prepare the report in due consultation with the concerned Principals of your district who will be part of the proposed academic clusters in addition to other stakeholders, as deemed necessary.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully



Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Memo No: DHE/OSD/Misc/2023/12-A

Dated: Kahilipara, 29th March, 2023

Copy to:

1. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Higher Education Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for information.
2. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister, Education Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for appraisal of the Hon'ble Minister.
3. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Adviser, Education Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for appraisal of the Hon'ble Adviser.
4. The P.S. to Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Higher Education Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for information.
5. Concerned Principals, selected colleges for Academic Clustering for information and necessary coordination with the concerned Nodal Principals of your district.
6. The President, Assam College Principals Council for information and necessary action.
7. The Secretary, Assam College Principals Council for information and necessary action.
8. The President, Assam College Teachers' Association for information and necessary action.
9. The Secretary, Assam College Teachers' Association for information and necessary action.
10. Guard file.


Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF
HON'BLE ADVISER EDUCATION, BLOCK C, 2ND FLOOR
DATE: 7TH APRIL, 2023 TIME: 3:00 PM

- (1) TeamLease presented on Apprenticeship programme for UG students of Colleges in the spirit of ***Earn while they learn***, which was accepted per say and the modalities of proposal would be thoroughly analyzed and will be accordingly communicated to Team Lease through AMTRON.
- (2) Additionally, possibility of Internship/Apprenticeship programme with Sector Skill Council/ Skill India Initiatives and PMKVY 4.0 to be thoroughly studied.
- (3) The matter of Clustering of Colleges was discussed and following observations were made:
 - (a) Academic Clustering of Colleges was unanimously agreed upon in principle, as per UGC guidelines, within colleges lying in geographical proximity.
 - (b) Requisite data will be sought from colleges (approximately ranging from 3-5 years).
 - (c) Initially, movement of Faculty members across the colleges within a cluster was proposed subject to logistical considerations.
 - (d) PTR to be considered for clustering of Departments and faculty movement.
 - (e) Conditions in UGC guidelines to be considered factoring in the feasibility vis-à-vis the ground realities in Assam.
 - (f) The operational issues, administrative matters, feasibility and willingness of colleges to be incorporated in a cluster is to be studied by a committee constituted by the Department of Higher Education.
 - (g) As the clusters will be formed, the concerned Board of Directors will constitute a committee for mapping of papers within the colleges of the cluster for due intimation to the concerned University.
- (4) A pilot study can be considered in few (three/four) clusters (ranging from Rural to Urban centers) to understand the challenges and issues to streamline the process in the long-run.
- (5) Need to formulate Uniform guidelines and standard principles for clustering of colleges factoring in the concerned Affiliating Universities and other stakeholders for academic related matters only.
- (6) Focused on Academic Clustering, clusters to be identified by Nodal Principals in each districts in due consultation with the concerned Principals and be submitted to the Directorate on or before 19th April, 2023.
- (7) In addition to Urban centers, clustering of colleges is to be considered in rural areas as well to extend the multi-disciplinary benefits to students under NEP-2020.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the chair.

