

**Minutes of the web-meeting of Honourable Chairperson, BOG with esteemed Members of BOG and Senate of SPAV conducted on July 21, 2020 at 2.00pm onwards:**

The Honourable Chairperson, BOG welcomed all the esteemed members of BOG and Senate of SPAV and spoke a brief introduction stating the journey of SPAV in the past years and purpose of conducting the joint meeting. Then the Director, SPAV informed the august gathering about the various activities carried out by the School during the challenging time of 'lock-down' period in the previous months due to COVID-19 pandemic. After appreciating the commendable efforts put up by the School in all these past years and also under this challenging situation, the Honourable Chairperson, BOG invited comments/ suggestions from the esteemed members regarding the way forward for SPAV to become as one of the leading Architectural Institutes in India in the changing scenario, which is being unfolded before us. The Chairperson asked all the members, "What should be the uniqueness of SPA Vijayawada; whether it should be Education, Research or quality Faculty and students. She also invited the suggestions for improving the research at SPA Vijayawada and invited the suggestions from the esteemed members, the same are listed below:

**Shri Dean Gabriel D'Cruz:**

- Due to its geo-political location, SPAV should inculcate among the students the practice of architectural and planning profession in an inclusive manner with integration of both urban and rural communities and areas.
- Design pedagogy should focus on more practical solutions for the society rather than training the students to cater to only the rich section of the society.

**Dr. Harimohan Pillai:**

- Research programs, avenues offered for the same and the numbers of research scholars involved are key to developing a unique USP for SPA Vijayawada.
- The usual and time tested conduct of a research work is under the charge of a Doctoral Committee comprising of the project supervisor, HOD and some experts in the field of research. Progress of a scholar is evaluated by this committee through sittings, discussions and presentations, sometimes in the presence of an external expert.
- It is important to give latitude to the scholar for certain self-motivation to continue the pursuit of research energetically. For this it is suggested that a framework of criteria be created for Self-Assessment and Peer Review based assessment by group of scholars pursuing research within SPAV, as the first stage of control and regularization of progress of work. This way progress of each scholar will become a shared concern of all the scholars enrolled, as a community, encouraging them to help each other improve their work through seminars, crits, discussions etc. This could happen in the first year of research work, under the observation of a group of Doctoral Committees, thus bringing together the doctoral faculty also on one platform.
- Second year onwards individual researchers may get into a more focused and time bound completion of work under the charge of individual Doctoral Committees.
- Increasing digitally enabled work and learning environment also calls for a novel kind of faculty appointment by SPAV, called 'Virtual Faculty Positions' in which experts and professionals could be engaged 'virtually' using the digital mode of communications.
- The above initiative could also save much on travel, accommodation, VISA logistics etc. and open the windows to effectively conduct 'Learning from Home' under the new normal conditions prevailing these days due to the global pandemic spread.

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- SPAV Library and Documentation division could also look into the possibility of creating and publishing with consent of doctoral scholars globally, a new kind of publication with subject matter as 'Stories on How Researches are Done' which could become highly motivating to the research scholars.

**Smt. Amita Baig:**

- On asking about the unique selling point of SPA Vijayawada, she responded on the planning of Future Cities addressing the Post COVID situation and the issues of migrant populations need to be made a part of the course-curriculum of the School.
- Content creation for online courses in areas such as history of architecture, building services, etc. need to be done to attract the students by arousing their curiosity and to nurture their creativity.

**Shri Sanjay Prakash:**

- Systematic effort should be made by the School to create SPAV as an institute of excellence in Architectural Research and Documentation by carrying out the work in a focused manner.
- To achieve the goals and missions as per the Vision statement, the School need to outline the plan of action in a time-bound step by step achievable manner.

**Shri. Rajiv Mishra:**

- There is a need to conduct Orientation Sessions for Doctoral Guides and research scholars to do a better guided hand holding of students so as to make the journey on the Doctoral Path enjoyable for every candidate.
- Effort should be made to create quality research archives for SPAV.
- To encourage the participation and contribution of Virtual Faculty Members and Online PhD Sessions on Research Design and methodology that aids in the nourishment and the Growth of the institution.

**Shri Satish Chandra:**

- SPAV has both the intellectual and physical infrastructure, the potential of which should be realised by the students and faculty members by contributing more to the society through education, research and consultancy by the School.

**Dr Ajay Khare:** All SPAs need to improve upon their ranking in NIRF. He further added that SPAs need to be ahead of IITs and NITs. They need to open up the Doctoral programme in a big way. The faculty need to attract more and more research scholars. If each faculty takes up full time research scholars, these can be used for teaching as well.

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