



Central University of Himachal Pradesh
Dhauladhar Parisar -2, Dharamshala, Kangra (H.P)

Minutes of Meeting

SPARSH Committee of Central University of Himachal Pradesh
held on 22nd February 2023

A meeting of SPARSH Committee members was held on 22nd February 2023 in the Committee Room, Dhauladhar Parisar-2 at 11:30 am. The following members were present at the meeting:

1. Dr. Gitanjali Upadhaya, Assistant Professor (Chairperson)
2. Dr. Preeti Singh, Assistant Professor (Member)
3. Dr. Jyoti, Assistant Professor (Member)- Online
4. Ms. Ashima Rani, MTS (Member)
5. Ms. Shagun, CUHP20RDEDU08, SOE (Member)- Online
6. Ms. Jyoti Thakur, CUHP20ENV11, SOE&ES (Member)- Online
7. Ms. Vinita Kaundal, CUHP20PLS532, School of Life Science (Member)- Online

The agenda item and the decision taken unanimously in the meeting is as below:

Agenda Item 1: Regarding recommendations of the UGC Committee on Women Safety and Security

The meeting was convened to discuss the recommendations of the UGC Committee on Women Safety and Security received via email on 10th February 2023. The matter was placed before the committee members for discussion. As Central University of Himachal Pradesh is committed to provide safe and congenial environment for female students, it was decided unanimously to forward the following suggestions for ensuring that the university adheres to the recommendations of the UGC-

1. **UGC recommends that details of the SPARSH and University Complaints Committee shall be put up in prominent places, on the notice boards of all departments, offices, hostels, and auditoriums (Point).**

It is suggested that all the campus coordinators shall be directed to ensure that posters and brochures containing the details of SPARSH and University Complaints Committee are displayed at all the prominent places, on the notice boards, offices. Wardens of girls' and boys' hostels may also be directed to display the list of SPARSH and UCC on the notice-boards.

2. **The UGC recommends that, in order to ensure the safety of female students and employees, female security guards (Point 8)**
3. **on each campus of the university shall be appointed and CCTV cameras shall be fixed at the main gates, corridors and open spaces (Point 11)**

Keeping in view safety and security of female students and staff, female security guards on each areas like canteen, on all campuses are required.

A University Level Committee shall be formed to ensure that a handbook is provided to the newly admitted students containing a list of all important helpline numbers of SPARSH members, UCC members, student counsellors, anti-ragging cell, proctor office, medical emergencies, health centre, canteen and other university authorities to be approached in case of need. It shall also include detailed information about rules and regulations regarding proper conduct and behaviour in the university.

1. Student counselors to be appointed in case there is a need of counselling the newly admitted students. (Point 1)
2. A professional counsellor to be appointed to ensure professional services are available on the campus to address the psychological and emotional concerns of the students.(Point 2)
3. Proper sanitary staff deployed to ensure sensitization and hygiene facilities for women.(Point 4)
4. A sufficient number of female security guards needs to be hired from credible security firms for each campus and hostels of the university.
5. Proper lighting facilities in the restrooms and adjoining areas. Ensure no dark stretches anywhere in the campus. (Point 5)



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6. Each campus needs to be equipped with a primary health care centre along with an ambulance facility, in each campus to ensure women's safety by having the primary and emergency health services within the campus.
7. A system of issuing passes to all visitors on each campus and hostel is needed to be in place.
8. Facility of childcare centres and creches with trained personnel at subsidized rates required (Point 12)
9. Hostels with contemporary amenities like mess, canteen, clean restrooms, self-service laundry rooms fitted washing machines, Wi-Fi, lounge, entertainment facilities for indoor games, and reading rooms, etc (Point 13).
10. Appointment of Food Safety Officials Regular checks by the food safety officials in all canteens and hostels of the university (Point 14)
11. Complaint/grievance boxes to be put up in discreet locations in all buildings of the institution.
12. A dedicated Gender Equality Wall shall be maintained in each campus and hostels. Students shall be encouraged by the departmental heads and wardens to express their views on a daily basis to orient fellow students and staff members towards the need to build gender-inclusive societies. (Point 19)
13. Gender inclusive curriculum to be promoted in each department to provide equal career opportunities, irrespective of gender.
14. A revised curriculum as per NEP 2022 should create ample space for vocational skill development (Point 24). Therefore, a course on entrepreneurship should be introduced for female students.
15. Instructions to all departmental heads to ensure the usage of gender-inclusive language for all official communications. (Point 26)
16. All facilities in women cells should be specially-abled friendly for female students and employees.(Point 29)

Agenda Item 2: Celebrate Awareness Month on 'Gender Equality' on the occasion of Women's Day from 1st March to 31st March, 2023

The Committee decided unanimously the following activities to celebrate Women's Day in its true spirit:

- a. This has been observed in the previous events that very small number of students and staff are able to participate and attend the events organized by the Apex Committee due to the geographical distances of three campuses. To observe Women's Day in true spirit, it is requested that all the departmental heads shall be directed to organize events and raise awareness about gender issues on the occasion of International Women's Day in their respective departments in the month of March 2023 i.e. from **1st March 2023 to 31st March 2023**. The reports of such events will be compiled by the SPARSH Committee and will be presented before the Honorable Vice Chancellor on 31st March 2023.
- b. To celebrate International Women's Day on **7th March 2023** (8th March Holiday), all the Campus Coordinators and Warden's of Girls' and Boys' hostels may be directed to designate a dedicated "**Gender Equality Wall**" (as recommended by UGC) and inaugurate on 7th March 2023. This Gender Equality Wall shall be maintained by campus based SPARSH and UCC Members where all students and staff shall be encouraged to express their views on gender issues on a regular basis. This may be visited by the higher authorities and/or the SPARSH members on 7th March 2023 as the inaugural of the "Gender Equality Wall" in all campuses and hostels of the University.
- c. The SPARSH Apex Committee and UCC Members would be visiting the NGOs in the nearby areas of Dharamshala in the month of March 2023 to interact and felicitate women who are working on the ground level and creating value for the upliftment of deprived women in society.
- d. To edit a book on Women Issues to be published by the end of March 2023.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Dr. Gitanjali Upadhaya
Chairperson, SPARSH

CC:

1. PS to VC for information please.
2. Registrar, Central University of Himachal Pradesh
3. All SPARSH Apex Committee Members