

### **5.3.2 Presence of Student Council and its activities for institutional development and student welfare.**

- Each constituent department of the university has 2 nominated representatives for each batch (4 representatives per department at least) who lend a supportive hand to the extra-curricular activities of the departments round the year. Be it celebration of national or international events, or celebration of different Pujas such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Navaratri, Basanta Panchami etc or organisation of field trips and visits for the batches, observation of annual days of the departments, these representatives play a pivotal role. They also help the authorities in finalising the schedule of examinations ensuring that the students do not miss out on examinations beyond the university, may be for a fellowship, or for higher studies or for a placement. They constitute a students' council and are a part of all university level activities too.
- These students, who are the natural leaders, lend a hand in the smooth functioning of the university too. They act as student volunteers in all the university level events such as the University Foundation Day, Convocation, and Research Conclaves etc. During 2018 and 2019, when the University celebrated its Platinum Jubilee, completing 75 years of its establishment, these student leaders took the initiative in the celebrations. Their cooperation and support has been praiseworthy in all these occasions. They also act as the bridge between the students and the administration in bringing the relevant issues of the students before the authorities and in arriving at a solution at the earliest.
- Students' Union Elections were last held during 2016 – 2017 academic session. Thereafter, elections for constitution of a Students' Council (or Students' Union, as it is referred to in our state) has been banned in the state by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha owing to large scale students' unrest following infighting among various groups, and, last but not least, the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic.