



Kate Travis <kate@retractionwatch.com>

Formal complaint regarding unethical research incentive denial by Woxsen University – Impact on academic integrity and accreditation standards

Dr Mohd Asif Shah <mohdasif.shah@woxsen.edu.in>

Sat, May 16, 2026 at 8:23 AM

To: "contact.ugc@nic.in" <contact.ugc@nic.in>, "equivalence-cell@ugc.gov.in" <equivalence-cell@ugc.gov.in>, "ugc.technical@infnlibnet.ac.in" <ugc.technical@infnlibnet.ac.in>, "info@naacindia.org" <info@naacindia.org>, "helpdesk@naac.org.in" <helpdesk@naac.org.in>, "ms@aicte-india.org" <ms@aicte-india.org>, "membersecretary@nbaind.org" <membersecretary@nbaind.org>, "registrar-coa@gov.in" <registrar-coa@gov.in>, "legal-coa@gov.in" <legal-coa@gov.in>, "coa-admn@gmail.com" <coa-admn@gmail.com>, "renewal-coa@gov.in" <renewal-coa@gov.in>, "bciinfo21@gmail.com" <bciinfo21@gmail.com>, "dlebc@gmail.com" <dlebc@gmail.com>, "aibe.helpdesk@gmail.com" <aibe.helpdesk@gmail.com>, "support@aacs.edu" <support@aacs.edu>, "accreditation@aacs.edu" <accreditation@aacs.edu>, "membership@aacs.edu" <membership@aacs.edu>, "info@efmdglobal.org" <info@efmdglobal.org>, "americas@efmdglobal.org" <americas@efmdglobal.org>, "cee@efmdglobal.org" <cee@efmdglobal.org>, "asia@efmdglobal.org" <asia@efmdglobal.org>, "iacbe@iacbe.org" <iacbe@iacbe.org>, "info@acbsp.org" <info@acbsp.org>, "sparscale@acbsp.org" <sparscale@acbsp.org>, "amba-accreditation@amba-bga.com" <amba-accreditation@amba-bga.com>, "gadmin@pti.in" <gadmin@pti.in>, "uni@uniindia.com" <uni@uniindia.com>, "info@aninnews.in" <info@aninnews.in>, "dakul.s@ians.in" <dakul.s@ians.in>, "rti-pmo.applications@gov.in" <rti-pmo.applications@gov.in>, "diradp@mea.gov.in" <diradp@mea.gov.in>, "minister.inb@gov.in" <minister.inb@gov.in>, "moeit@gov.in" <moeit@gov.in>, "minister.sm@gov.in" <minister.sm@gov.in>, "app-hrd@gov.in" <app-hrd@gov.in>, "pstosm@gov.in" <pstosm@gov.in>, "mosedu-jc@gov.in" <mosedu-jc@gov.in>, "mosedu-ss@gov.in" <mosedu-ss@gov.in>, "mosedu-ad@gov.in" <mosedu-ad@gov.in>, "secy.dhe@nic.in" <secy.dhe@nic.in>, "secy.sel@nic.in" <secy.sel@nic.in>, "as-school.edu@gov.in" <as-school.edu@gov.in>, "jsad-moe@gov.in" <jsad-moe@gov.in>, "prachi.p@gov.in" <prachi.p@gov.in>, "srija.a@nic.in" <srija.a@nic.in>, "ddgstats-sel@gov.in" <ddgstats-sel@gov.in>, "js-dosel2026@nic.in" <js-dosel2026@nic.in>, "cm@karnataka.gov.in" <cm@karnataka.gov.in>, "governor.rbblr-ka@gov.in" <governor.rbblr-ka@gov.in>, "min-higheredu@karnataka.gov.in" <min-higheredu@karnataka.gov.in>, "secyegov@karnataka.gov.in" <secyegov@karnataka.gov.in>, "team@retractionwatch.com" <team@retractionwatch.com>, "abritis@retractionwatch.com" <abritis@retractionwatch.com>, "kate@retractionwatch.com" <kate@retractionwatch.com>, "alicia@retractionwatch.com" <alicia@retractionwatch.com>, "avery@retractionwatch.com" <avery@retractionwatch.com>
Cc: Vishal Khurma <vishal.khurma@woxsen.edu.in>, "Dr. Raul Rodriguez" <raul.rodriguez@woxsen.edu.in>, Veen Pula <veen.pula@woxsen.edu.in>, Office of Research and Development WoU <research@woxsen.edu.in>, FundsInfo-WoU <FundsInfo-WoU@woxsen.edu.in>, Vice President's Office <vp.office@woxsen.edu.in>

Respected Authorities,

I write to bring to your attention a serious ethical breach by Woxsen University, a private university in India, regarding the denial of legitimate research incentives to faculty members. This case is not merely an individual grievance, it reflects a potential systemic issue that undermines academic integrity, exploits researchers, and compromises the credibility of accreditations granted to such institutions.

Summary of the case:

I joined Woxsen University in October 2022. On 17 March 2023, I was informed that my patent incentives were being unilaterally reduced from ₹40,000 to ₹17,500 per patent, a reduction of over 56%. Despite this, I agreed in writing based on management's assurance that payments would be cleared by June 2023. I also complied with a directive to stop publishing further research papers in affiliation with the university.

Despite repeated follow-ups over nearly four years with the VP, R&D Office, Registrar's Office, and multiple other officials, no payment was made. On 20 April 2026, the R&D Office outrightly rejected the payment, citing a contract clause that states "*decisions regarding honorarium payment will be finally decided by the R&D Office*", a clear misuse of the clause to deny legitimate dues.

I also gave the VP three separate written warnings of my intention to escalate the matter publicly, on 13 October 2024, 21 March 2025, and 3 June 2025. No action was taken.

The broader concern:

Woxsen University actively reaches out to academicians and researchers, both nationally and globally, encouraging them to publish papers and file patents under the university's affiliation. These outputs are then used by the university to secure and maintain prestigious national and international accreditations (including NAAC, NBA, AACSB, EFMD, BGA, IACBE, ACBSP, and others).

However, once the research outputs are produced and the university has benefited from them for accreditation purposes, the promised incentives are denied or delayed indefinitely. This constitutes:

- 1. Breach of contract and ethical misconduct**
- 2. Exploitation of researchers**
- 3. Fraudulent use of research output for accreditation without honouring corresponding obligations**

If such practices are allowed to continue, it will:

- Discourage genuine research in India**
- Damage the credibility of accreditations granted to such institutions**
- Mislead students, parents, and international collaborators about the ethical standards of accredited universities**

My formal request to all concerned bodies:

In light of the above, I respectfully request that you:

- 1. Take note of this complaint and the supporting evidence I am prepared to provide.**
- 2. Investigate the research incentive policies and practices at Woxsen University.**
- 3. Withhold, suspend, or reconsider any existing or future accreditations granted to Woxsen University until a transparent, fair, and enforceable research incentive framework is established and past dues are cleared.**
- 4. Issue a general advisory to all accredited institutions clarifying that denial of legitimate research incentives to faculty will be treated as an ethical violation affecting accreditation status.**

I am attaching relevant documentary evidence, including:

- Offer letter and my acceptance**
- Emails relevant to the case.**
- Records of follow-ups with VP, R&D Office, and others**
- Messages sent to VP and CEO.**

I am willing to provide further clarification or additional documentation as required by any of the authorities addressed above.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. I look forward to your intervention to uphold the integrity of academic research and accreditation standards in India.

Sincerely,

With Warm Regards

Dr Mohd Asif Shah






Adjunct Faculty,

School of Business,

Woxsen University,

Kamkole, Sadasivpet, Hyderabad, Telangana, India, 502345

6 attachments

-  **Woxsen University Signed Offer Letter.pdf**
359K
-  **LikedIn Messages of CEO Woxsen University.pdf**
787K
-  **LikedIn Messages of Vice President Woxsen University.pdf**
471K
-  **My 59 Publications On Their Website.pdf**
12770K
-  **My Emails To Woxsen University and Thier Responses.pdf**
5140K
-  **Details of Papers and Patents Published..xlsx**
23K