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MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY AT YMCA CULTURAL CENTRE, 1 JAI SINGH ROAD, NEW DELHI 110 001 ON MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1988 AT 14.00 HOURS.

The following were present:

- 1. Prof. G. Ram Reddy, Vice Chancellor - Chairman
 - 2. Prof. E.V. Chitnis - Member
 - 3. Prof. M. Santappa - Member
 - 4. Prof. Shahid Siddiqui - Member
 - 5. Dr. (Mrs) Jyoti H. Trivedi - Member
 - 6. Prof. M.V. Pylee - Member
 - Shri. K. Narayanan, Registrar - Member
- Secretary**

Prof. B.S. Sharma, Prof. D.D. Joshi, Prof. R.J. Garde, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Shri. C.R. Pillai, Director (Planning and Teachers Affairs) and Shri. S.N. Sharma, Finance Officer attended the meeting by special invitation.

Before the agenda was taken up for consideration, Prof. M. Santappa conveyed the felicitations and good wishes on behalf of the Planning Board and on his own behalf to Prof. G. Ram Reddy on his appointment as Vice-President of the Common Wealth of Learning. He also wished to place on record the valuable contributions made by Prof. Reddy in shaping and developing a premier national institution like the IGNOU.

Prof. Ram Reddy, while reciprocating the sentiments expressed by the members, thanked them for their valuable assistance and without which it would not have been possible for him to discharge his responsibility of building up the university.

The Board then took up the agenda for consideration;

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 31, 1988.

8.1.1 The minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Planning Board held on October 31, 1988 were confirmed.

ITEM NO.2 TO CONSIDER A NOTE ON THE FORMULATION OF THE EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN OF THE UNIVERSITY.

8.2.1 The Planning Board considered the document prepared by Shri. C.R. Pillai, Director (Planning & Teachers Affairs) which had been circulated to the members earlier. The Board congratulated Shri. Pillai on the excellent work done by him.

8.2.2 During the course of discussions on the proposed framework for the eighth plan, the following points were made:

(i) The conceptual framework envisaged in the document to provide a new thrust to the programmes and courses of the University involving education and training in functionally useful areas was a bold initiative. The University should take immediate steps to concretise this framework into an innovative programme of action.

(ii) The most important requirement for framing courses in functional areas is the preparation of teaching - learning materials. Active involvement of employing agencies is essential for preparing such material. The University should therefore initiate a dialogue with major employing agencies to identify specific manpower needs, the type and nature of courses that can be formulated etc.

(iii) Involvement of these agencies is also essential in the programmes of education and training. Recognition of industrial and training establishments, etc, as study centres has to be considered.

(iv) Establishment of a network of Open University and Distance Education institutions, involving also the Directorates of Correspondence Courses of Conventional Universities would be a major effort at widening access to socially relevant education as well as at restructuring the programmes offered by the conventional system.

(v) If the proposed programmes have to be successfully implemented, it is necessary to secure the involvement of the State Governments and Universities who will have to make appropriate

provisions in their Statutes, etc to enable them to participate in the network. and to seek accreditation of their courses, etc. It would therefore be necessary to discuss this matter with the State Governments.

8.2.3 The Planning Board endorsed the framework proposed in the document and decided that the following Committees may be constituted to prepare detailed plans:

- 8.2.4
1. Committee for Courses, Programmes, Methodology and Students Support Services;
 2. A separate Committee for Engineering, Technology & Health Sciences.
 3. A Committee for evolving Management Structures.

8.4.2 The Planning Board authorised the Vice-Chancellor to constitute the Committees as indicated above.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL ON RESEARCH FACILITIES AT IGNOU.

ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER INFORMALLY THE DRAFT ORDINANCES ON:

- (i) M. Phil Programme
- (ii) P.hD Programme
- (iii) Recognition of Research Laboratories/Research Institutes as Centres to guide research under the IGNOU.

8.3&4.1 The above two items were taken up together for consideration. Members welcomed the proposal to institute programmes leading to research degrees of the University. They felt that the research programmes of the University should not be conceived entirely on the pattern of those offered by the conventional Universities. During the course of discussions, the following specific points were made:

- (i) It will not be possible for the University to provide in-house facilities for taking up discipline

based research programmes. Most of the research work for degree programmes will therefore have to be done outside the University, in research laboratories, industrial establishments, and other centres which can provide adequate facilities.

(ii) The University should permit competent professionals, including serving personnel, to register for degree programmes without necessarily linking registration requirements to **pre-**determined academic qualifications.

(iii) To begin with, the University need to set up only one Board for Research Studies. **All Schools** can be represented on the Board. Such a Board can also provide an interdisciplinary approach which is very essential to the type of research that the IGNOU should promote.

(iv) **As** in the case of other programmes, there should be some flexibility in respect of matters like admission requirements, duration, recognition of **supervisor/guide**, etc **in the** case of research programmes.

B.3&4.2 As far as the draft ordinances were concerned, members suggested certain specific amendments. **These are:**

(a) In the ordinance on the **M.Phil** Degree Programme, the **following** amendments may be made:

(i) In para 9.3 the word "defence" in the last sentence of the paragraph may be substituted by the word "presentation".

(ii) In Para 10.1 the word "four" appearing after the words "with **panel** of not less than" and before the word "external examiners" be substituted with the word "two".

(iii) Paragraph "13" may be renumbered as paragraph "12".

B.3&4.3 In the Ordinance on the Doctor of Philosophy (P.hD) Programme, the

following amendments may be made:

- (i) In para 3(1) (b), the words "or at a place recognised by the University" be inserted after the word "University" and before the punctuation mark ";".
- (ii) In para 7(1) of the above Ordinance, the word "five years" appearing therein may be substituted by the words "eight years".
- (iii) In para 12.3, the sub paragraph beginning with the words "If the candidate decides to reply to the points/observations.... shall be referred to viva-voce Board" and in its place the following be added:

"If the candidate decides to reply to the points/observations raised by an examiner and if the reply is neither accepted by the examiner nor retrieved by the candidate the matter shall be referred to the Fourth Examiner. The Fourth Examiner shall get the report from the previous Examiners for his views before the matter shall be referred to the viva-voce Board".

8.3&4.4

In the Ordinance relating to recognition of the Research Laboratories, the following amendments may be made:

In the heading, the word "Industry" be added before the word "Research Laboratories" and the words "Research Centres" be added after the words "Research Institutes".

8.3&4.5

In paragraph "1", the word 'Industry' be introduced before the word "Research Laboratory" and the words "or a Research Centre" be added after the words "a Research Institute".

- 8.3&4.6 The Board recommended that the Vice-Chancellor may take necessary action to get the draft ordinances revised in the light of the observations/suggestions made by the Board.
- 8.5 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON INTRODUCTION OF A PROGRAMME ON MASTER OF ARTS IN PRINT JOURNALISM.
- 8.5.1 The proposal was considered by the Planning Board. The Chairman explained that there was a demand from several quarters that the existing programme in Creative Writing may be converted into a programme on journalism. The Planning Board felt that it may be better for a wider course in Communication and not restricted only to Print Journalism. The Planning Board expressed the view that a programme should be a modular one beginning with a Certificate and building up to a Diploma and then to a Degree. It was decided that the proposal be referred to the Director, Communication Division for further action.
- ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES REGARDING "DEVELOPING THE UNIVERSITIES AS A BRAIN BANK OF THE STATE AND THE COMMUNITY".
- 8.6.1 Noted.
- ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER THE LETTER FROM WEST BENGAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES HAVING DEGREES/DIPLOMAS AWARDED BY THE OPEN UNIVERSITIES.
- 8.7.1 The Planning Board considered the proposal. As a University established under an Act of Parliament, the IGNOU is competent to award certificates, diplomas and degrees which correspond to similar awards made by any other university. For all purposes, therefore, the degrees of the IGNOU are comparable with the degrees of other universities. In regard to the proof of age the Planning Board noted that degree certificates issued by the Universities do not mention the age of

the candidate. It was, therefore, not necessary for the IGNOU to introduce a new practice of recording the age of candidates on the degrees. The Board also noted that the birth certificate as the proof of age is being progressively insisted upon and that it may not be necessary for educational institutions to serve this purpose. The Planning Board desired that a suitable reply may be sent to the UGC in this behalf.

ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON INTRODUCTION OR OTHERWISE OF THE FACILITY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF GRADES, RE-EVALUGTION ETC.

8.8.1 The Planning Board considered the proposal. The Board was of the view that the matter came within the jurisdiction of the Academic Council and therefore, it should be placed before the Academic Council for a decision. The Board however felt that the candidate should be given the advantage of his better performance in the area of improvement of a grade in the course.

ITEM NO.9 TO REPORT FOR INFORMATION/APPROVAL THE CONSTITUTION OF EQUIVALENC COMMITTEE.

8.9.1 The Planning Board suggested that this proposal may be referred to the Academic Council for its decision.

ITEM NO.10 TO REPORT FOR INFORMATION THE SCHEDULING OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AND FIXING OF PRIORITIES IN COURSE DEVELOPMENT.

Noted. The re-scheduling of the programmes as contained in the programme was noted.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Prof. G. Ram Reddy
Chairman

