

MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY AT K-76, HAUZ KHAS, NEW DELHI-110 016 ON NOVEMBER 19, 1990 AT 11.00 HOURS

The following were present:

- 1. Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swamy, Vice Chancellor - Chairman
- 2. Prof. R.N. Mishra - Member
- 3. Shri Upendra Vajpeyi - Member
- 4. Dr Vina Mazumdar - Member
- 5. Prof. I.V. Rao - Member
- 6. Prof. H. Shanmugham - Member
- 7. Dr N.C.B. Nath - Member
- 8. Sri C.R. Pillai - Member
- 9. Dr. R.K. Grover - Member
- 10. Dr. P. Renga Ramanujam - Member
- 11. Shri K. Narayanan, Registrar - Member Secretary

Prof. A.K. Jalaluddin, Dr. L.M. Nath, Dr T.S. Papola, Miss Amrita Patel and Dr A.B. Bose could not attend the meeting.

Pror. D.D. Joshi and Prof. R.J. Garde. Pro-Vice Chancellors were present as special invitees.

Shri t.J.G. Prasada Rao, Dy. Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Member-Secretary.

Before any item of the agenda was taken up, the Vice-Chancellor extended a cordial welcome to all the members of the Planning Board followed by a brief introduction of the members.

The Vice Chancellor explained briefly about the powers and functions of the Planning Board stating that the Board is an interface between the University and the Public and functions as a principal planning body of the University.

Thereafter, the items of the agenda were considered.

ITEM NO.1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD 014 AUGUST 28, 1989.

9.1.1 The minutes of the 8th meeting of the Planning Board held on August 28, 1989, were confirmed.

ITEM NO.2 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT EIGHTH PLAN PROPOSALS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

9.2.1 Before the item was taken up for discussion, the Vice Chancellor requested Shri C.R. Pillai, Director, Planning to briefly outline the proposals.

Shri Pillai explained in brief the salient features of the proposals and added that the plan was prepared six months back and, therefore, inevitably, some changes would be required before the document is finalised.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that the University has a twin responsibility: it functions as an open university and secondly it must also function as an apex body for the coordination and maintenance of standards in distance education, a function similar to that assigned to the University Grants Commission. The University has done well with reference to its functions as an Open University but so far as the responsibility for maintenance of standards in distance education is concerned nothing substantial has been achieved although the Board of Management, at several meetings, considered this issue. With these observations the Vice-Chancellor requested the members to discuss the proposals.

9.2.5

After a detailed discussion, the following points emerged:

- i) The proposal for coursewise registration, instead of programme-wise admission, was endorsed by the Planning Board. The Planning Board was of the view that the objective of the University to provide an innovative system of education which is flexible and open in regard to methods and pace of learning can be operationalised only if students are permitted to phase their studies according to their convenience. In other words, the programmes of the University should be so structured that it is possible for students to plan their studies by distributing the curriculum load in a manner convenient to them.
- ii) The implementation of the policy of coursewise registration would involve determination of fees separately for each course and charging only for those courses for which a student registers. The Planning Board was of the view that, if operationalisation of this decision involves any practical difficulties, it should be implemented in a phased manner beginning with selected programmes from the year 1972.
- iii) The Planning Board suggested that provision should be made to recognise courses/programmes offered by specialised institutions/professional organisations as

part fulfilment of the programmes of the IONOU, or for the purpose of development of materials for its courses. The University should also consider launching of Ph.D. programmes in areas like Management.

- iv) The Planning Board welcomed the suggestion for establishing and developing an open university/distance education network to widen access to higher education programmes of an acceptable quality for all those who wish to pursue higher education.
- v) The University should develop courses in the area of communication especially for the development of skills in writing, investigation and analysis. Such courses should be developed on an inter-school basis wherever possible.
- vi) The University should continuously review its courses from the point of view of adequacy in terms of content, and also relevance. It would be useful if the University could consider formulation and launching of sub-university level courses in order to enable adult learners who have had no previous education to enhance their knowledge and competence and compete for admission to higher education programmes. Launching special programmes in Mathematics and Sciences should be considered in this context.
- vii) The University should try to develop strong interfaces not only among the Schools in the University but also with other human resource development agencies. A Task Force could be set up to initiate a dialogue with various developmental agencies for determining the type and nature of programmes to be launched.
- viii) The University should consider fulfilment of its social responsibility by launching special programmes for women as well as those living in backward rural & remote areas, etc. The proposed school of Health sciences should be set up early. The Planning Board also approved the proposal made by the Indian Nursing Council for the introduction of a Post-B.Sc. Nursing Programme in principle.
- ix) The University should make all efforts to assure the quality of programmes offered by it as well as those offered by the proposed

network. In this context, the board welcomed the proposal to establish mechanisms for coordination and determination of standards for the open university system as well as for accreditation of the programmes and courses.

- x) The Board felt that the projected enrolment of 2.50 lakh students in 1994-95 will require to be reviewed. The University had assumed an enrolment of 1.20 lakh in 1990-91. Since the actual enrolment will be around 80,000 only during 1990-91, the projections for the subsequent years should be reviewed. It was felt that it would be realistic to assume a total enrolment of 2 lakh in 1994-95.

7.2.4 With the above recommendations/observations, the Planning Board approved the Eighth Five Year Plan proposals.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER A NOTE ON THE FORMULATION OF ANNUAL PLAN FOR 1991-92

7.3.1 The Planning Board considered the Annual Plan Proposals for 1991-92 and observed that the Annual Plan should conform to the broad guidelines outlined in the 8th plan document. The Board observed that the Annual Plan should specifically focus on:

i) Consolidation and strengthening of the programmes already launched, and enlarging the range of courses available to students within those programmes;

ii) Introduction of the programmes which have already been committed; and

iii) Launching of new programmes.

7.3.2 As far as the launching of the new programmes are concerned, the Planning Board suggested that the University might consider:

i) identification of the functional requirements for a wide spectrum of jobs and the development of learning packages based on the knowledge and skills required for the performance of those jobs;

ii) securing the active participation of industry, research establishments, professional bodies, voluntary organisations, etc. in the process of education, namely, design and development of courses, preparation of materials, and also the delivery of programmes through study centres

located in the participating establishments; and  
iii) assigning the task of material development and preparation to course teams set up in selected institutions on a contractual basis.

9.3.3 It was pointed out during the discussion, that the active enrolment during the year 1991-92 will cross 1 lakh. At the current rate of per capita expenditure, namely Rs.2000, a total provision of Rs.20 crores will be required for supporting an enrolment of 1,00,000 students. The Planning Board noted that the current level of non-plan Expenditure can support about half of this enrolment. Accordingly, a provision of about Rs. 10 crores will be required for supporting the additional enrolment of 50,000 students under Plan grant from the Government.

9.3.4 The Planning Board recommended that construction of the permanent buildings of the University should be initiated without any further delay. It recommended an outlay of Rs.5 crores for the construction programmes in the Annual Plan for 1991-92. A provision of Rs. 1 crore was recommended for purchase of equipment and Rs.1.50 crore for supporting the networking arrangement involving three other Open Universities functioning at present.

9.3.5 The Planning Board recommended a total Plan outlay of Rs.17.50 crores for the year 1991-92.

ITEM NO.4 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT, "IGNOU: RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT", OF A COMMITTEE OF THE PLANNING BOARD WHICH REVIEWED THE FUNCTIONING OF THE UNIVERSITY IN OCTOBER 1989.

9.4.1 The Planning Board noted the report of the Committee which reviewed the functioning of the University and the suggestions/recommendations made by it.

ITEM NO.5 NOTE ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE UNIVERSITY IN RESPECT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES.

The Planning Board noted the report on the progress made by the University in respect of academic programmes. The members appreciated the document as it gave an over all picture concerning the University with reference to the programmes launched, the programmes under preparation, and the statistical data of student enrolment etc.

ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM THE INSTITUTE OF TOURISM & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT.

The Board noted that the programme of training about

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which the Institute of Tourism and Travel Management had made the proposal has already been held and therefore no action was necessary at this stage.

ITEM NO.7 TO REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR UNDER SECTION 10(3) OF THE IGNOU ACT IN LAUNCHING 'COMPUTERS IN OFFICE MANAGEMENT' AS A DIPLOMA PROGRAMME.

9.7.1 It was explained that the programme "Computers in Office Management" was originally planned as a Certificate programme but subsequently made a Diploma Programme taking into account the course content as also the duration of the programme. The action of the Vice-Chancellor announcing it as a Diploma Programme was ratified by the Planning Board.

ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON A TWO YEAR POST BASIC B.Sc (NURSING) DEGREE PROGRAMME FROM THE INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL.

9.8.1 The Vice Chancellor explained in brief the proposal of initiating a B.Sc.(Nursing) Degree Programme for serving nurses who have under taken a general Nursing Education Programme. The programme would form a part of the School of Health Sciences which is to be operationalised soon. He also pointed out that the programme when launched would meet a pressing demand since the formal system can train only eight thousand nurses in a year as against an estimated demand of 80,000 nurses.

9.8.2 The Planning Board approved the proposal in principle and authorised the Vice Chancellor to initiate steps like appointment of Expert Committees, etc, after discussing the matter with the Indian Nursing Council.

ITEM NO.9 TO CONSIDER THE POLICY RELATING TO INTRODUCTION OF IGNOU COURSES/PROGRAMMES IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES.

9.9.1 The Planning Board considered a note on the policy relating to introduction of IGNOU courses/programmes in the regional languages. The matter was considered in the context of a proposal made by the Government of Gujarat to the University to offer its programmes in Gujarati language. The State Government agreed to provide the cost of translation and printing of the material and also the cost involved in the establishment of additional study centres.

9.9.2 As a national open university, the programmes and courses of the IGNOU should be available to all students from all parts of the country. It is, therefore, likely that other State Governments would also suggest introduction of IGNOU courses in their

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regional languages. It was therefore felt that the IGNOU should evolve a long-term policy in the matter.

9.9.3 The Planning Board made the following observations:

- i) The IGNOU should encourage the availability of all its programmes and courses through the medium of all regional languages in the country.
- ii) -It will not be operationally feasible for a single institution like the IGNOU to simultaneously deliver all its programmes and courses through all the regional languages.
- iii) In fulfilment of its responsibility for the promotion and coordination of open university/distance education system in the Country, the IGNOU should encourage either a State Open University or the Directorates of Distance Education of existing conventional universities, to introduce and promote distance education programmes through the regional languages in each State.
- iv) The Open Universities/Directorates of Distance Education in all the States together with the IGNOU should develop a network which will provide a pool of academic resources that can be shared by all members of the network.
- v) It shall be the responsibility of the members of the network to make available the programmes and courses from the network in different regional languages and organise the delivery system to support such programmes.
- vi) When such a decentralised system is brought into existence, the IGNOU can consider both financial and academic support to the members of the network in the organisation of various programmes.

9.9.4 The Planning Board recommends that the above observations may be taken into consideration while formulating the policy on introduction of courses in regional languages.

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

V.C. Kulandaj Swamy  
Vice Chancellor

