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MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD AT UNIVERSITY OFFICE, IGNOU CAMPUS (CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK-8), NEW DELHI-110 068, ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1994, AT 11.00 HOURS.

The following were present:

1. Prof. **V.C. Kulandai Swamy** - Chairman
Vice-chancellor
2. Prof. A.B. Bose
3. Prof. G.S. Rao
4. **Dr Malavika Karlekar**
5. Dr A. Jamal Kidwai
6. Prof. J. Philip
7. Er T.V. Kunnunkal
8. Prof. S.S. Dhillon
9. **Dr K. Anjanappa**, Member-Secretary
Registrar

Dr N.C. Nigam, **Dr S. Kacker**, Prof. Ram G Takwale, Dr S. Ramachandran, Dr L.K. Deshpande, **Dr S. Kannan** and **Dr B.B. Khanna** could not attend the meeting.

Dr S.K. Gandhe, and Prof. C.L. **Anand** (Pro-Vice-Chancellors), and Shri C.R. Pillai attended the meeting as special invitees.

Before the items on the agenda were taken up, the Chairman **extended** a warm welcome to the new members of the Planning Board; **Dr Malavika Karlekar**, **Dr T.V. Kunnunkal**, Prof. A. Jamal Kidwai, Prof. A.B. Bose, Dr S.S. Dhillon and Prof. G.S. Rao.

The Vice-chancellor also informed the Planning Board that Prof. M.M. Pant, Prof. R.K. Grover, Shri C.R. Pillai and Dr P. Rengaramanujam have retired from the **membership** of the **Planning Board** on the expiry of their term of office. The Planning Board placed on record **its** deep appreciation of the significant contributions made by these members to its deliberations.

The following agenda items were considered:

- ITEM NO.1. TO CONFIRM **THE MINUTES** OF THE **15TH** MEETING OF THE **PLANNING BOARD** HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 1993.
- PB 16.1.1 The Member-Secretary informed that no **comments** have been received from **the members on the minutes**. The Planning Board confirmed the minutes of its 15th meeting held on October 20, 1993.

ITEM NO.2

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOBAL FOR **ENGLISH** FOR PRACTICAL **PURPOSES/FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH** (EITHER ELECTIVE OR NON-CREDIT).

PB 16.2.1

On a request from the Vice-chancellor, Prof. G.S. Rao explained the salient features of the proposed programme. He stated that the programme **was** initially conceived both as an elective course and aa a non-credit course. However, the faculty of the School of Humanities subsequently reviewed the matter and decided to offer it only as an elective for the BA Degree programme. **It** could **also** be developed later as a certificate programma and then **as** a Diploma. He clarified that the existing faculty in the School will undertake the entire work relating to the development of course materials and that no additional staff was envisaged; the estimated cost of **Rs.1000** per student indicated in the proposal would be the expenditure per student to be met by the University.

PB 16.2.2 In the discussion that followed, **the** following views were expressed:

- (i) Members generally welcomed the proposal and felt that it would meet a felt need and encourage the mobility of **personnel** engaged in various occupations across states and regions. It would be particularly useful for people who have pursued, or are pursuing their higher education **programmes through the** medium of regional languages.
- (ii) The programme will also be useful to students pursuing **IGNOU's** programmes in professional fields like tourism, management, engineering etc as an additional course over and above the prescribed curricular structure for them.
- (iii) IGNOU being an Open University, should provide greater flexibility in its programme and course offerings. Since functional English has relevance and utility, many people would be interested to take it as a non-credit course. It would, therefore, be appropriate to offer the course **both** as a credit as well as a non-credit course.
- (iv) The University follows a differential fee structure in that professional programmes are offered with less or no subsidy while some of the socially relevant programmes are heavily subsidised. It is becoming **increasingly**

difficult for the University to find resources to provide highly **subsidised** education and therefore cost effectiveness is an important consideration while developing and launching new programmes.

- (v) A clarification was sought as to whether functional English could be offered **as** an elective for BA English students. It was **clarified** that in various professional areas **such** as medicine, engineering law etc., functional English is becoming increasingly relevant. It was pointed out that a distinction needs to be made between the need for proficiency in English for practical purposes and the need for communication and literature in professional fields.

PB 16.2.3

After considerable discussion, the Planning Board decided that the programme though generally welcome needs further examination and review in the light of the observations made at the **meeting** and that it may be resubmitted after the review **as** mentioned above, for further consideration.

ITEM NO.3

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CONSUMER PROTECTION.

PB 16.3.1

The Planning Board considered the proposal. A clarification was sought about the structure of the programmes leading to the award of Certificates, Diplomas and Post-graduate Diplomas. It was clarified that the University follows a modular pattern in which different modules in appropriate combinations can lead to the award of **certificates**, diplomas and degrees. Each module consists of a specified number of courses, and each course has a specified number of credits. A credit **is** equivalent to 30 hours of study time. A certificate programme has 12-10 credits, a diploma **programme** has 24-36 credits and the **Bachelor's Degree programme** has 96 credits.

PB 16.3.2

In the course of discussion, the following views were expressed:

- (1) When a new programme is proposed, it is necessary that its objectives are **defined** with a greater degree of precision and **clarity**. Such a definition of the objectives would help better appreciation of the content, structure, level, potential client groups etc.,

(ii) If the objective of the proposed programme is to promote awareness, the methodology for preparation of course materials should be appropriate to that objective. It would be desirable to identify experts, activists from **NGO** groups, etc., and associate them with the preparation of the course material.

(iii) It was clarified that the course materials for most of the programmes are written by external course writers and that the core faculty of the University is mainly concerned with their transformation into **self-instructional** material.

(iv) It may be appropriate to design the programme as a Diploma in Consumer Protection instead of a **"PG Diploma"** since a **PG Diploma** implies that a body of knowledge already exists. Further, the proposal envisages enrolment students after **10+2** as also graduates. In that case, the prefix "post-graduate" may not be appropriate. Since **the University** follows a modular pattern, it may be desirable to devise a certificate level programme to begin with and add another module later to make it a diploma programme.

PB 16.3.3

Taking into account the views expressed, the Planning Board approved the proposal with the following suggestions:

(i) It would be desirable initially to design and develop one or two courses of four-six credits as awareness programme.

(ii) Efforts should be made later to develop a certificate programme and then a diploma programme. The course content for both the certificate and diploma programmes should be clearly spelt out.

(iii) The content of the programme should be carefully structured to incorporate all relevant knowledge about consumers' rights and privileges as also **relevant** provision of law.

(iv) The Certificate programme should be open to both graduates as well as students who have completed **10+2**. No prior educational requirement may be insisted upon for those who wish to pursue it only as an awareness programme.

(v) The diploma programme when launched may not be classified as "Post Graduate Diploma in Consumer Protection" since 10+2 candidates are proposed to be admitted. If restricted to degree holders, it can be a Post Graduate Diploma.

ITW NO.4 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES IN TOURISM STUDIES.

PB 16.4.1 The Planning Board considered the proposal to launch Diploma Programmes in Tourism Studies. It was noted that the proposal envisages the launching of the following Diploma Programmes, namely:-

- 1) Diploma in Environmental Tourism
- 2) Diploma in cultural Tourism
- 3) Diploma in Tourism Marketing

PB 16.4.2 The Vice-Chancellor requested Prof. Kapil Kumar, the coordinator of the programme, to present the details and to respond to the members' observations. He explained that the Planning Board had earlier approved a certificate programme in Tourism Studies which was designed as the first module of the diploma programme. The certificate programme has already been launched and about 1800 students have been admitted. Before the finalisation of the certificate programme and also during the course of preparation of materials for it, he has had extensive interaction with the representatives of tourism industry, Government Departments at the Centre and in the States and other agencies. From this interaction, it was evident that the industry is feeling the shortage of trained manpower in different specialised aspects of tourism development. It was on the basis of this interaction that the proposal to launch 3 separate diploma programmes in three major specialised areas of Tourism has been made. These diplomas will be open to those who have successfully completed the certificate programme and involve the development of two additional 8 credit courses each in the proposed areas of specialisation.

PB 16.4.3 During the course of discussion, the following points were made:

- 1) Tourism is a growing industry; there is acute shortage of trained manpower in this field. The proposed programme would therefore respond to a felt need.

ii) Since a certificate programme has already been launched and the next module leading to a diploma is now proposed, **the** advisability **of** introducing specialisations at the diploma level may be reconsidered. A better alternative **might perhaps** be to **introduce** a general diploma programme in Tourism Studies, followed by advanced diploma programmes in specialised areas later.

iii) The certificate programme has been prepared mainly with foundation courses in tourism. What can be added to this programme are mainly the specialised areas of environmental tourism, cultural tourism, tourism marketing, etc. The foundation courses already developed **are of** a diploma level and there is no scope for developing more advanced courses in those areas. The specialised courses would respond to the demand in the market.

PB 16.4.4 After some discussion, **the** Planning Board resolved that the programme be offered as **Diploma** in Tourism Studies on a modular pattern. **The** certificate programme will be the first module; including the certificate programme, the diploma may consist of 36 credits. **A** second module leading to diploma should also have a core component and a component of 6-8 credits to be chosen from the courses in the areas of specialisation proposed. **The** diploma could also indicate the area of specialisation chosen by the student.

ITEM NO. 5 TO **CONSIDER** THE PROPOSAL ON **CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME** ON POPULATION STUDIES.

✓ **PB 16.5.1** The Planning Board considered the proposal. During the course of discussion, **the** following views were expressed:

(i) There are specialized **institutions** and departments of universities engaged in population studies. It is, therefore, **necessary** to indicate **more precisely** the focus of the programme and the client groups for whom it is intended.

(ii) In the education sector, both at the school level and at higher education **level**, programmes of population education have been launched which have also received support from UNFPA (United Nations Population **Fund**). Under this programme, population **research**

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centres **have** been set up in several universities with a view to producing material which **can** be used for promoting awareness among people. It would be worthwhile to consult the agencies involved, namely, **UGC, Ministry of Health, UNFPA** etc. on their experience in **this** area.

(iii) The office of the Registrar-General of **Census** conducts training programmes on demography and population studies. **While** some of these programmes are focused mainly on enumeration for the project staff engaged in census operations, there are training programmes for core staff of the Registrar-General's office on various **aspects** of **demography**. It would be useful to have a more **intensive dialogue** with the office of Registrar-General of Census to identify the potential **client** groups and settle **the** focus of **the** programme accordingly.

PB 16.5.2 The Planning **Board** decided that the School of Social Sciences may take **the** initiative in organizing a consultative meeting to which representatives of major **agencies** and organizations (**Registrar-General** of census, **UGC, UNFPA, NCERT** etc.) may be invited and review the scope and nature of the programme. The revised proposals, after such consultation, may be placed before the Planning Board for consideration.

ITEM NO.6 TO **CONSIDER** THE PROPOBAL ON NATIONAL INCOME ACCOUNTING.

PB 16.6.1 Prof. S K Singh was invited to the meeting to introduce the proposal. **He** explained **that** the programme was designed **for** the benefit of secondary school teachers teaching national income accounting at the secondary school stage, students who are pursuing **B A (Hon)** programme **in** Economics who have to learn national income accounting and professional accountants, executives and others who wish to acquire knowledge in the area of national income accounting.

PB 16.6.2 In the 'discussion that followed, the following **views** were expressed:

(i) Institutions like the Indian Statistical Institute and the Central Statistical Organization are running training programmes **on computation** of national income and also on

theoretical **aspects** involved. **These** programmes are mainly focused on **persons** working in Central Statistical Organization, Directorates of Economics and Statistics etc. In the light of the experience of these programmes, it has to be considered whether IGNOU can sustain a viable **programme** in **this** area.

(ii) While the programme is well conceived, it is doubtful whether it can attract sufficient client groups. Perhaps an effort could be made in consultation with major organizations concerned with secondary school teachers like the NCERT,, CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas etc. to make a quick assessment of the possible demand from secondary school teachers for this programme.

(iii) **The** programme has been described as a Post Graduate Certificate. **However,** the eligibility conditions **indicate that** those who passed 10+2 could be enrolled possibly with **B.A.** students in view as potential clients. In that case, the level of **the** programme may require a review.

PB 16.6.3

The Planning Board decided that the proposal may be accepted in principle and that the details of the programme, especially the target groups and its viability may be considered further in consultation with the organizations concerned with secondary school teachers (**NCERT, CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas** etc.). The possibility of these organizations providing some incentive to teachers enrolling in this programme may also be explored with them.

ITEM NO.7

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON POET-GRADUATE DIPLOMA ON PUBLIC POLICY.

PB 16.7.1

At the request of **the** Vice Chancellor, Dr. Pradeep Sahni, Reader in Public Administration, who was invited to this meeting, presented **the** proposal. According to him, he has been in constant touch with senior officials of .the Department of Personnel and Training and Chief Secretaries of Governments of Haryana and **Panjab** and also representatives of state institutions of public administration. All of them, he stated, responded favourably to **the** proposal and have even assured that they would sponsor a number of officials **for**

participation in the programme. He stated that the major target groups on whom the programme will be focused are in-service personnel working in various ministries, state governments and training institutions. The programme would also aim at enrolling unemployed graduates.

PB 16.7.2

During the course of discussion, the following points were made:

- (i) Government agencies have been running a large number of training programmes. The past experience has been that government functionaries at various levels are not very enthusiastic about training unless some incentive for career advancement or rise in pay is assured. It would, therefore, be worthwhile to obtain definite **commitments** from various governmental organizations to sponsor a certain number of candidates if the **programme** has to be sustained for at least five years.
- (ii) It is doubtful **whether** this programme would attract unemployed graduates. **The present** policies of liberalisation and deregulation would necessarily imply a progressive decline in the growth of employment in the **government** sector. It would not, therefore, be advisable to launch a programme with focus on employment opportunities for fresh graduates in government sector.
- (iii) **Areas** in Public Policy Analysis, Policy Research etc. are very important. However, not much attention is being given in **teaching** and research to these areas in our country. It would, therefore, be appropriate to emphasize **the** need for teaching and research in this area.
- (iv) The IGNOU has a specific mandate to respond to the educational needs of the disadvantaged sections of the society especially those living in remote and rural areas, house-wives etc. The programme now proposed does not have any **specific** focus on these target groups and, **therefore**, it has to be considered whether **such programmes should** be accorded any priority or whether such programmes should be taken up only if **there** is sponsorship and funding from **the concerned** employer groups.

PB 16.7.3

After some discussion, the **Planning Board** decided that the School of social **Sciences** may convene a consultative conference to which representatives of the Department of **Personnel and Training** at the Centre and in the states and major training organizations (**IIPA, State Institutes** of Public Administration etc.) and organizations engaged in policy research, are invited. After a detailed consideration of the **various** issues **involved** at such a conference, the proposal, if necessary, be reformulated and placed before the **Planning Board** for consideration.

ITEM NO.8

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON CERTIFICATE **PROGRAMME** ON **EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**.

PB 16.8.1

Introducing the proposal, the Vice Chancellor explained that the present proposal was formulated by the School of Social Sciences which envisages a certificate programme on **Empowerment** of Women. The **School** of Continuing Education of the University, to which the Women's Education programmes are attached, is also contemplating the introduction of a programme on Women and Development. Since the programmes in Women's Studies are essentially inter-disciplinary in nature, it would be necessary to develop appropriate mechanisms and procedures for developing and launching **inter-disciplinary** programmes in this area. The Vice Chancellor suggested that the Directors of the School of Social Sciences and the School of Continuing Education may discuss their respective programmes and develop a **common** approach to its finalization and launching a common inter-disciplinary programme.

PB 16.8.2

During the **discussion** on, this subject, it was suggested that since the programme proposed by the School of Social Sciences has already been formulated in sufficient detail and considering the importance of this area and the **IGNOU's** own emphasis in addressing the educational needs of women, the proposed programme may be taken up as soon as possible.

PB 16.8.3

After **some discussion**, the **Planning Board** decided that the Directors of the two Schools, namely, **School** of Social Sciences and the **School** of **Continuing** Education, should discuss the programme and prepare a **Common** strategy and approach to the development of a composite inter-disciplinary programme in this area and place the proposal before the **Planning Board** at its next meeting. The Board **approved** in general the launching of a

programme in the general area of women's studies. Principally it must be the effort of the School of Continuing Education and School of **Social Sciences**. Other schools may **be approached** when POUND necessary. Vice-Chancellor may convene the **first** meeting of the two schools and assign the coordinating **responsibilities**. The School of Continuing Education may take it up with **Vice-Chancellor** and Director (School of Social Sciences).

Before concluding the meeting, Members noted that **Prof V C Kulandai Swamy**, Vice Chancellor and Chairman of the Planning Board would be demitting office on completing his term on July 13, 1994. The members noted the significant contribution made by Prof V C Kulandai Swamy to the growth and development of the University and **its** emergence as one of the largest **distance** education institutions with an international reputation. The Planning Board placed on record its deep appreciation **of** the contributions made by Prof V C Kulandai Swamy.

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

V.C. KULANDAI SWAMY
Vice-Chancellor

