MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD, 
IGNOU HELD ON MARCH 6TH 2006 AT 11:30 AM. IN THE CONFERENCE 
ROOM, BLOCKS, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI – 110 068

The following were present:

1. Prof. H.P. Dikshit Chairperson
2. Prof. N.R. Madhav Menon Member
3. Prof. (Ms.) Surabi Banerjee Member
4. Shri. Shravan Patel Member
5. Prof. Anu Aneja Member
6. Dr. E. Vayunandan Member
7. Dr. P. Shiva Swaroop Member
8. Shri. Dalip Kumar Tetri Member
9. Prof. S.C. Garg Special Invitee
10. Shri. Bhaskaranarayana Special Invitee
11. Prof. Madhulika Kaushik Member Secretary

Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, Prof. N. Mahmood Quraishi, Dr. D. Padmanaban, Prof S.K. Aggarwal and Dr. (Ms.) Anjoo Saran (Upadhyaya) could not attend the meeting.

Dr C.G. Naidu, Deputy Director and Shri R. Sudarsan, Analyst were present to assist the Member Secretary.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting of the Planning Board. The Chairman introduced the new members and placed on record, his appreciation for the contribution made by the outgoing members Prof. B.S. Saraswat, Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Dr. Masood Parveez, Ms. Poonam Bhushan, Dr. Kamalakar Singh, Prof. S. Neelamegham, Dr. J.P. Singh, Prof. A.K. Sharma, Prof. A.S. Narang and Prof. Beena Shah.

He informed members about his meeting with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), and other Honorable Judges of the Supreme Court along with Prof. Madhava Menon and the request received from the Dental Council of India to offer programmes in dental education in collaboration with IGNOU. The Chairman requested Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro-Vice Chancellor to present the agenda items.

PB.31.1 To confirm the minutes of the 30th meeting of the Planning Board held on April 4th 2005 and to note the action taken thereon

PB.31.1.1 Prof. S.C. Garg apprised the members that minutes of the Thirtieth meeting of the Planning Board were circulated...
the Members and no comments had been received from the
members. He proposed that the minutes be deemed to be
confirmed as circulated

PB.31.2 The Board confirmed the minutes as circulated

PB.31.3 Presenting the action taken report on the minutes of the 30th
Meeting of the Planning Board. Prof. S.C. Garg mentioned
that the School of Continuing Education has taken initiatives
for developing a Programme on Gender studies. Masters
Programmes in Public Administration, Public Policy
Sociology, Economics and the certificate programme in ICT
Application in Libraries have been launched among others in
the month of July 2005.

The board was also informed that the School of Agriculture
is developing two programmes Diploma in Dairy Technology
and Diploma in Meat Technology and that the School of Law
is engaged in Programme development related to Cyber
Law. Patent Law etc

PB.31.2 To consider and confirm the recommendations of the
26th, 27th & 28th meetings of the Academic Programme
Committee, a Standing committee of the Planning Board
respectively and the subsequent action taken report

PB.31.2.1 Prof. S.C. Garg explained the rigorous method followed in
developing IGNOU Programmes and reported that in the
26th, 27th and 28th Meetings of the Academic Programme
Committee, a total of 5 Phase-II forms were approved for the
next Phase and Eleven Programmes were approved for
launch.

The Board was also informed that due to personal initiative
of the Chairman and VC, IGNOU Prof. H.P. Dikshit, a
Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IGNOU
and LBSNAA (Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of
Administration, Mussoorie) for offer of mutually agreed
programmes and an Edusat supported network of 131 SIITs
has been created for videoconferencing and another network
of 850 primary schools to help improve the quality of
education has been established in a record time of three
months.
Prof. S.C. Garg apprised the Members about the significance of the Programme "Post Graduate Diploma in Community Cardiology". He said that many doctors will be equipped with competence to attend to the needs of the rural India through this Programme.

PB 31.2.2 While confirming the minutes of the APC, the Board appreciated the efforts made by the University in improving the access of education to remote areas and wider cross section of our people.

PB 31.3 To present a report on the 17th Convocation of IGNOU held on 18th February 2006.

PB 31.3.1 It was reported that during the 17th convocation, the University awarded Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates to 75,174 students and Conferred D.Sc degree (honoris causa) to Padma Shree N.R. Narayana Murty, Chairman and Chief Mentor, Infosys.

Prof. S.C. Garg informed that the University has in the past few years shifted the center of gravity of educational programmes to Postgraduate and Research. He informed the Members that in the last 3 years, 12 Post Graduate Programmes and 12 Ph.D Programmes were added to the list of IGNOU Programmes. He reported that IGNOU now offers 125 Programmes through 1400 Study Centers with the core faculty of about 325 in 11 Schools of Studies. A copy each of the University profile, VC’s report and Convocation address were provided to all members.

PB 31.3.2 The Planning Board noted the report and expressed its appreciation for growth, quality and excellence.

PB 31.4 To inform the Planning Board regarding the recommendations of the Academic Council and the action taken thereafter.

PB 31.4.1 Prof. S.C. Garg apprised the Board of the decisions taken in the Thirty-Third and Thirty-Fourth Meetings of the Academic Council. The Board was informed that all mapr Programmes like MBA, MCA have been fully revised, upgraded and shelf life of all courses has now been fixed at 5 years. The revision exercise has therefore been institutionalized as a continuous process. The Board was also apprised of the
interest shown by two Chinese Universities in associating with IGNOU for offering two IGNOU’s IT programmes in China. where the complete cycle of course offer, evaluation and certification has to be done by IGNOU. The PVC drew the attention of the Members on the teacher training efforts successfully implemented by the University.

PB.31.4.2 The Planning Board noted the minutes of the Academic Council.

PB.31.5 Any other matter

PB.31.5.1 With the permission of the Chair. Prof. S.C. Garg requested the members to suggest directions for future development in the University, in view of the impending preparations of Me Eleventh Plan proposals.

PB. 31.5.2 Prof. N.R. Madan Menon appreciated the effort made for establishing the School of Law and highlighted the need for offering legal and paralegal programmes through the Distance mode. He welcomed the initiatives taken by the Vice Chancellor with the Chief Justice of India and Senior Judges of the Supreme Court to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of Programmes to meet the requirements of the Judges and other functionaries associated with Judiciary. He emphasized that IGNOU can deliver law programmes through electronic grid, which has been proposed for connecting all Courts. He suggested that Edusat supported delivery of programmes can provide the much required continuing education for the Judges with less pressure on their judicial time. He said that the government has already allotted Rupees one thousand crore for computerization of court records, judicial system is now ideally placed to use the potential of IGNOU.

Providing compelling statistics about the need and supply gap of Paralegal professionals in the country. Prof. Menon advised that IGNOU should develop a Paralegal services Assistance Programme. He also suggested that IGNOU could explore the possibility of offering Bachelors programme in law for all categories of learners except those intending to practice in a court of law as Bar council recognition is required only for enabling the graduates to practice Law. He also suggested that IGNOU should develop a certificate course in Citizenship Education. Prof. Menon was requested to provide a detailed note on these inputs.
Shri. Shrvan Patel endorsed the views of Prof. Menon. He emphasized that IGNOU Programmes should have global inputs and orientation, as India is experiencing significant economic growth. He suggested that the University should develop programmes in Population Studies, Mediation, Arbitration, Risk Management and Insurance etc.

Mr. Bhaskaranarayana briefed the activities and achievements of IGNOU especially with respect to Satellite supported Education. Briefing the Board about the developments in Edusat related initiatives he highlighted the successful network of educational Institutes. Engineering colleges established in the North Eastern states and in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Responding to the Chairman's request about IGNOU's participation as a user for the next satellite venture of ISRO, he assured the University that that ISRO would extends full cooperation in implementing required technology for the benefit of its learners and the larger goal of social development, which is the common objective of both the organizations.

The Chairman appreciated the suggestions and desired that a working group be constituted to develop 11th Plan proposals. The Board authorized the Chairman to constitute the Group.

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

(H.P. DIKSHIT)
Chairman