

**Minutes of the Eleventh meeting of the Equivalence Committee held on 06.11.2015 at 12 O'Clock in Conference Room of VCO Complex, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068.**

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Following members were present:

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| 1. Prof. Sushma Yadav, Pro-Vice-Chancellor                            | - Chairperson     |
| 2. Prof. B.S. Saraswat, SOS   | - Member          |
| 3. Prof. Srilatha, Director, SOMS                                     | - Member          |
| 4. Prof. Srinivas Kumar, Director, SOET                               | - Member          |
| 5. Director, SOCE (represented by Dr. R.P.Singh, Associate Professor) | - Member          |
| 6. Dr. A.K. Gaba, Director, SOVET                                     | - Member          |
| 7. Prof. M.S.S. Raju, B.Com & B.Com(A&F) Prog.Coordinator             | - Member          |
| 8. Dr. Shiv Kumar Vyas, SOET  | - Member          |
| 9. Ms. Anjali Ramtek, Prog.Coordinator, Management Programmes         | - Member          |
| 10. Dr. Subodh Kesharwani, B.Com (F&CA) Programme Coordinator         | - Member          |
| 11. Dr. Madhulika P. Sarkar, B.Com (CA&A) Programme Coordinator       | - Member          |
| 12. Shri Ajay Mahurkar, Convenor, BDP CDN Committee                   | - Member          |
| 13. Shri Sambhav Srivastava, Evaluation Officer, AIU                  | - Special Invitee |
| 14. Shri S.K. Sharma, Registrar, SRD                                  | - Member Secy     |

Prof. D. Gopal, Director, SOSS, could not attend the meeting.

Dr. S.K. Pulist, Dy. Director, Mrs. Jyoti Kumar, Dy. Registrar, Shri K.K. Kutty, Consultant, who is handling with Equivalence/Recognition matters in SRD and Mrs. Bharti Kharbanda, SO (Equiv. Cell) were present to assist the Committee.

At the outset the Chairperson, Equiv. Committee welcomed the Members and urged them that IGNOU, being an Open University, must take an open minded approach while deciding recognition/equivalence in comparison to the conventional universities in such matters. Thereafter the Chairperson asked the Member Secretary to take up the agenda items.

The following items were taken up for consideration and decision.

**Item No. XI.1**

- X1.1.1 To note the Action Taken Report on the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Equivalence Committee held on 31.07.2014.
- X1.1.2. Dr. Shiv Kumar Vyas observed that the last line of the minutes under point no.X.5.2 be deleted, to which the Chairperson agreed.
- X1.1.3. Dr. A.K. Gaba, Director, SOVET, explained in detail as regards ATR on point no. X.9.3. He informed the Committee that Chairman, University Grants Commission, vide letter D.O. F.1/2015 (CM) dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 addressed to the Vice-Chancellors of all the Universities has circulated '**Guidelines for Curricular Aspects, Assessment Criteria and Credit System in Skill based Vocational Courses under NSQF**', which is to be implemented by all the Universities in the country. Therefore, a separate item on the subject is not required to be placed before the Equivalence Committee.

- XI.1.4. With the above remarks, the Equivalence Committee noted the Action Taken Report on the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31.07.2014.
- XI.2.1. To consider and approve recognition of 4(four) year 'Diploma in Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery' (DHMS) and 'Licentiate of Court of Examiners in Homoeopathy' (L.C.E.H) conducted by State Boards/ Councils of Homoeopathy in the country and acquired up to the year 1983, as equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree for purposes of admission to IGNOU's M.Sc. (CFT) programme.
- XI.2.2. The Equivalence Committee considered and resolved to recommend to the Academic Council to accord recognition to 4(four) year 'Diploma in Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery' (DHMS) and 'Licentiate of Court of Examiners in Homoeopathy' (L.C.E.H) conducted by State Boards/ Councils of Homoeopathy in the country and **completed prior to enforcement of Homoeopathy (Diploma Course) Regulations, 1983, as equivalent to a Bachelor's degree for purposes of admission to M.Sc. (CFT) and other Master's Degree programmes wherever the eligibility criteria is a Bachelor's Degree.**
- XI.3.1. To consider and approve recognition of American High School Diploma accredited by North West Accreditation Commission (NWAC), USA, in United States of America and other parts of the World as equivalent to 10+2 qualification for purposes of admission to IGNOU's Undergraduate programmes.
- XI.3.2. During discussion the Committee desired to know the validity of recognition granted by AIU to Modern Public School, Rishab Vihar, Delhi (Sl.No.3 of para-3 of the agenda note), to which the Evaluation Officer, AIU, has clarified that **recognition of one year accorded to the School has already elapsed**, hence the names of remaining seven Schools only mentioned in AIU's letter dated 28/10/2015 may be considered. He further informed that AIU will send a clarification letter in this regard separately.
- XI.3.3. The Equivalence Committee considered and resolved to recommend to the Academic Council to accord recognition to **12 year American High School Diploma accredited by North West Accreditation Commission (NWAC), USA, in United States of America and other parts of the World as equivalent to 10+2 qualification for purposes of higher studies in IGNOU; subject to the condition that the High School Diploma is offered through the following 7(seven) Schools only, as of now, if it is obtained in India:**



1. Shivalik Hills Senior Secondary Public School, Urban Estate, Phase I, Jalandhar (Punjab)
2. Swarajaya Sr. Secondary School, 60 Ft. Road, Alwar (Rajasthan)
3. Reshmi International School & College, Sarswatipur Kusnoor Road, Gulbarga (Karnataka)
4. St. Fateh Singh International School, Mour Mandi Bathinda Road, Distt. Bhatinda (Punjab)
5. GLM International School, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
6. Swaminarayan Academy, New Rander Road, Adajan, Surat (Gujarat)
7. Sambhram Pre-University College, Bangalore (Karnataka).

XI.4.1 **To consider Credit Transfer (external credit transfer) of courses offered under B.Com(A&F) for Chartered Accountancy students, B.Com(F&CA) for Cost Accountancy students and B.Com(CA&A) for Company Secretaryship students (only the components of the respective Institutions) for those students who have dropped out from the respective collaborative programmes and joined IGNOU's normal B.Com programme.**

XI.4.2 Director, SOMS, and B.Com(A&F) Programme Coordinator informed the rationale behind placing the item before the Equivalence Committee, which was done as per resolution of the Academic Council's Standing Committee at its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11.10.2014 (ACSC 38.15.2, ACSC 38.16.2 and ACSC 38.17.2) and on the recommendation of the School Board of School of Management Studies at its 30<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 22.07.2013.

XI.4.3 The Committee was informed that the external credit transfer recommended by the School Board against the courses of all the three collaborative institutions (established by the respective Act of Parliament) – B.Com(A&F), B.Com(F&CA) and B.Com(CA&A) is within the purview of the **existing external credit transfer policy of the university framed for Bachelor's degree programmes**. Detailed scheme of credit transfer recommended by the School Board and placed before the ACSC is enclosed in the Annexure [Annexure-I(a), I(b) & I(c)]. Besides, this is in conformity with Clause-4 of the MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for credit transfer scheme of ICAI component of B.Com(A&F) programme.

XI.4.4 Prof. M.S.S. Raju, Programme Coordinator of B.Com and B.Com(A&F) informed the Committee that the credit transfer scheme be made applicable to the drop out students of Chartered Accountancy, Cost Accountancy and Company Secretaryship as well who join IGNOU's normal B.Com directly without having joined the specialized B.Com programmes offered in collaboration with the three Institutions.

- XI.4.5 The Equivalence Committee resolved to recommend to the Academic Council to consider for implementation of the external credit transfer scheme framed by SOMS and approved by the School Board - **B.Com(A&F) for Chartered Accountancy students, B.Com(F&CA) for Cost Accountancy students and B.Com(CA&A) for Company Secretaryship students** - as per Annexure-I(a), I(b) & I(c). This would be over and above the normal internal credit transfer of courses of IGNOU components of the respective specialized B.Com programmes.
- XI.5.1 **To report the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor for accepting 2(two) year Bachelor's degree acquired up to June 4, 1986 in terms of UGC letter D.O. No.1-15/2015(CPP-II) dated 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.**
- XI.5.2 The Equivalence Committee noted the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor under Clause-3 of Ordinance 5 in implementing **acceptance of 2 year Bachelor's degree for purposes of higher studies in IGNOU as per terms and conditions envisaged in UGC's letter D.O. No.1-15/2015(CPP-II) dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015.**
- XI.6.1 **To report the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in including the names of Rajkiya Institute of Open Schooling Uttar Pradesh (RIOSUP), Lucknow and Central Institute of Open Schooling Uttar Pradesh (CIOSUP), Lucknow, in the list of 'Unrecognized School Boards'.**
- XI.6.2 During discussion on the item, Shri Sambhav Srivastava, Evaluation Officer of AIU, informed the Committee that a meeting was convened by the Secretary to Govt. of India, Deptt. of School Education, M/o Human Resource Development on various measures to be taken by the Government to curb the activities of **'Unrecognized School Boards'** operating in the country. It was informed that the list of 72 **'Unrecognized School Boards'** published by IGNOU was presented by the General Secretary, Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE), which was very much appreciated by all Members present in that meeting.
- XI.6.3 The Equivalence Committee appreciated the hard work done by SRD in bringing out the list of 72 **'Unrecognized School Boards'** and also noted the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor under Clause-3 of Ordinance 5 for incorporating the names of **Rajkiya Institute of Open Schooling Uttar Pradesh (RIOSUP), Lucknow and Central Institute of Open Schooling Uttar Pradesh (CIOSUP), Lucknow** in the list of **'Unrecognized School Boards'**, as per Annexure-II.



- XI.7.1 To consider the matter of recognition of 'B.Sc. Economics & Management' and 'B.Sc. Banking & Finance' of London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) [University of London (External Study Programme)] offered through an 'Off Campus' Centre in India, i.e. Indian School of Business & Finance (ISBF), B-26, Okhla Phase-I, New Delhi, for purposes of admission to IGNOU's Management and other Post-graduate programmes.
- XI.7.2 Evaluation Officer, AIU, informed the Committee that Association of Indian Universities has not accorded recognition to the **External Study Programmes of London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of London, offered through an 'Off Campus' Centre in India** in the absence of any Government Policy to accredit such collaborative programmes of Accredited Foreign Universities/Institutions offered in India in collaboration with any academic institution in the country. The Committee was also informed that a similar case was considered by the Equivalence Committee at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28.11.2007 and had resolved **not to accord recognition to such collaborative programmes** of Accredited Foreign Universities offered through an 'Off Campus' Centre in India.
- XI.7.3 The Equivalence Committee resolved to recommend to the Academic Council **not to accord recognition to the External Study Programmes of London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of London, offered through an 'Off Campus' Centre in India** in the absence of any Government Policy to accredit such collaborative programmes of Accredited Foreign Universities/Institutions offered in the country.
- XI.8.1 To consider and approve the matter of recognition of '**5 (five) year Diploma in Architecture**' awarded by D.C. Patel School of Architecture, Vallabh Vidya Nagar, Gujarat, as equivalent to B.Arch for purposes of admission to IGNOU's Master's Degree programmes.
- XI.8.2 The Committee was informed that the item was originally placed before the Equivalence Committee at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28.06.2013 and is re-submitted as a fresh item for consideration in the light of the resolution of the Equivalence Committee at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31.07.2014 (X.1.3).
- XI.8.3 Director, SOET, and Dr. S.K. Vyas appraised the Committee that '**5 (five) year full time Diploma in Architecture**' awarded from 1985 onwards is considered equivalent to B. Arch degree as per norms of the Council of Architecture and the Notification issued by M/o Human Resource Development.
- XI.8.4 The Equivalence Committee considered and resolved to recommend to the Academic Council to accord recognition to '**5 (five) year Full time Diploma in Architecture**' awarded by D.C. Patel School of Architecture, Vallabh Vidya Nagar, Gujarat, awarded from 1985 onwards as equivalent to B.Arch for purposes of admission to IGNOU's Master's Degree programmes.

- XI.9.1 To consider the matter of recognition of BBA awarded by Kardan Institute of Higher Education, Kabul, Afghanistan for purposes of admission to IGNOU's Master's Degree programmes.
- XI.9.2 The Committee was informed that the item was originally placed before the Equivalence Committee at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28.06.2013 and is re-submitted as a fresh item for consideration in the light of the resolution of the Equivalence Committee at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31.07.2014 (X.1.3).
- XI.9.3 Evaluation Officer, AIU, informed that the name of Kardan Institute of Higher Education, Kabul, Afghanistan is not found in the list of International documentation – World List of Universities, hence unable to comment on the status of the Institution.
- XI.9.4 The Equivalence Committee discussed the matter at length and resolved to recommend to the Academic Council **not to accord recognition of BBA awarded by Kardan Institute of Higher Education, Kabul, Afghanistan for purposes of admission to IGNOU's Master's Degree programmes.**
- XI.10.1 To consider the matter of recognition of **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION** awarded by Sr. Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia, as equivalent to +2 stage qualification for purposes of admission to IGNOU's Undergraduate programmes.
- XI.10.2 The Committee was informed that the item was originally placed before the Equivalence Committee at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28.06.2013 and is re-submitted as a fresh item for consideration in the light of the resolution of the Equivalence Committee at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31.07.2014 (X.1.3).
- XI.10.3 Evaluation Officer, AIU, informed that South Australian Certificate of Education (12 year duration) awarded by Sr. Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia is considered equivalent to +2 stage qualification of an Indian Board.
- XI.10.4 The Equivalence Committee considered the item and resolved to recommend to the Academic Council to **accord recognition of South Australian Certificate of Education (12 year duration) awarded by Sr. Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia as equivalent to +2 stage qualification for purposes of admission to IGNOU's undergraduate programmes.**

X1.11 **To report IGNOU's Degrees/Diplomas recognized by Sister Universities/ PSUs / Regulatory Bodies/ Judiciary etc.**

X1.11.1 Prof. B.S. Saraswat explained in detail and urged the Chairperson to place on record the efforts made by Shri K.K. Kutty of SRD, which convinced the University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, to issue a Corrigendum pertaining to **minimum age of 18 years (as against 21 years originally notified by the Railway Board)** for admission to BPP for acquiring Bachelor's Degree under non-formal stream. Railway Board issued the Corrigendum vide Notification No. E(NG)-II/2013/RR-1/8 (RBE No.22/2015) dated 18/03/2015, which states that *"...educational qualification obtained through distance education mode from Open University without undergoing formal education is acceptable for the purpose of employment in the Railways; provided the candidate is not below the age of 18 years at the time of admission."*

X1.11.2 The Equivalence Committee places on record the hard work done by Student Registration Division, especially the concerned official Shri K.K. Kutty, in getting the recognition of IGNOU Degrees by Sister Universities/ Regulatory Bodies/ Judiciary etc.

X1.11.3 Further, the Committee noted with utmost satisfaction the equivalence/ recognition granted to IGNOU's Degrees/Diplomas by Sister Universities/ Regulatory Bodies/ Judiciary etc. indicated in the agenda note, especially **recognition of IGNOU's 2 year M.A. Degree in English accorded by the University of Kerala**, which has been achieved after **5½ years** of rigorous persuasion.

  
Chairperson