

**MINUTES OF THE 120<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON APRIL 12, 2014 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM, NEW VCO BLOCK, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068**

The following were present:

1	Prof. M. Aslam, Vice-Chancellor	- Chairman
2	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Pro-Vice Chancellor	- Member
3	Prof. D.B. Phatak	- Member
4	Dr. Anil Wali	- Member
5	Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak	- Member
6	Prof. G. Sundar	- Member
7	Er. R.K. Gupta	- Member
8	Prof. Avadhesh Kumar Singh	- Member
9	Prof. S.R. Jha	- Member
10	Dr. Sanjeev Pandey	- Member
	Prof. S.V.S. Chaudhary, Registrar (Admn.)	- Secretary

The Secretary (Higher Education), Ministry of HRD, Secretary, I & B, Prof. Ram G. Takwale, Prof. Bakul Dholakia and Dr. (Ms.) Ruth Manorama, members of the Board could not attend the meeting. Dr. P. Prakash and Prof. Sushma Yadav, Pro-Vice Chancellors and Sh. L.M. Pandey, Finance Officer attended the meeting as Special Invitees.

Shri Vinod Kumar, Asstt. Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Secretary.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the 120<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Management. He specially welcomed Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. S.R. Jha and Dr. Sanjeev Pandey, Members, BOM who were attending the meeting of the Board for the first time.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, also placed on record the appreciation for the valuable contributions made by the outgoing members, Prof. E. Vayunandan and Dr. S.K. Mohapatra during their term as Member of the Board. Before the Items on the Agenda were taken for consideration, the Chairman presented before the BOM a brief account of the important activities undertaken by the University since the 119<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BOM which was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

At the very outset the Chairman drew the kind attention of the members of the Board towards the inaugural statement made on 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 1985 by the then Prime Minister of India and quoted, *“Our endeavour is that in India, the poorest, the most backward children receive the best possible education, and in this direction today, we are here to take a step forward. This Open University will extend educational opportunities to all the corners of the country.”*

He also referred to the Preamble of the IGNOU Act which states, *“An Act to establish and incorporate an Open University at the national level for the introduction and promotion of open university and distance education systems in the educational pattern of the country.”*

The Chairman then referred to the High Power Committee Report on “Review of programmes, their organizations and mode of delivery in terms of its mandate”, which was approved by the Board of Management in its 113<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2012 which stated that, ***“Mandate does not envisaged IGNOU entering the field of formal class room based education either to supplement efforts of, or to compete with traditional Universities offering formal education. On the contrary, IGNOU mandate is to expand educational opportunities by reaching out to large numbers of people in respect of their places, age, prior education and such other constraints that restrict participation in higher education.”*** He also referred to the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi judgment delivered on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 in ‘AERO Vs IGNOU’ which also reaffirmed that, *“----- It would therefore be difficult to dispute that the University had no legal authority to enter into any agreement/MOU/arrangement, to set up study centre/institutions/colleges, for imparting education by way of a face to face programme, where the students are required to attend regular classes and are taught in person, nor can the University on its own impart education by way of such a classroom programmed. The University is mandated, by its charter i.e., the Act by which it was set up, to **impart education only through school/distance mode of learning.**”* He reiterated that IGNOU is making all the possible efforts to initiate various educational interventions within the above given mandate.

The Chairman apprised the Board about major activities taken by IGNOU between November, 2013 to April 2014 which among others included conduct of the December Term End Examination; streamlining of International operations; holding of Conference of Ambassadors/High Commissioners of African countries; organizing conference of Coordinators from various Jails; signing of MoU with North-Eastern States to train 24,715 teachers; implementation of the Project for training 33,599 teachers from Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS); signing MoC with National Health Mission to train health functionaries from 21 districts of Haryana; supporting students placement and enhancing job opportunities. He also explained the new strategies adopted to reach unreached through its regional

network and web-teleconferencing with Regional Centres. He further stated that for July 2013 session, IGNOU had opened admission for only 153 programmes against more than 400 programmes previous years but registered a growth of about 15% in enrolment as compared to previous year. Similarly in January 2014 admission, the enrolment registered a growth of about 11% compared to January 2013.

The Board highly appreciated the various initiatives taken up by the Vice-Chancellor towards the streamlining of the activities and overall growth of the University. The Board complimented the Vice Chancellor for the leadership and direction he has provided to this institution.

The Secretary, BOM thereafter presented the agenda items with the permission of the Chair.

**ITEM NO. 1 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 119<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON NOVEMBER 30, 2013 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT THEREON**

**BM 120.1.1** The Secretary informed that the Minutes of 119<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Management held on 30.11.2013 were circulated to all the members of the Board but no comments on the Minutes were received. He further informed that the Action Taken Report on the various decisions taken by the Board at the 119<sup>th</sup> meeting is placed along with a copy of the minutes of the meeting as Annexure to the Agenda Item No.1. He proposed that the Minutes of the 119<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board may be considered for confirmation.

**BM 120.1.2** The Minutes of the 119<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 30.11.2013 were confirmed. However, following observations were made on the ATR:-

Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak referred to Item No.42 (Res. No.119.1.2) and wanted to know the status of the recommendations made by the Board regarding Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre and BAASLS programme. He also felt that a fresh notification need to be issued regarding Convenor for the Committee constituted on the issue of award of dual degree to BAASLS students so that the final report of the Committee appointed by the Board on the subject could be submitted within two months.

The Chairman explained the status of various actions taken by IGNOU in the matter. While the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment were formally informed about disengagement of ISLRTC from IGNOU as reported in the previous BOM , all support and other facilities are

being provided to ensure that existing BAASLS students complete their course for which they would get a degree from UCLAN. As per the decision of the Board, a Certificate of Participation is being issued to these students. The Chairman also informed the Board that IGNOU has spent a huge amount from its own resources over and above the fee share received, to provide necessary support needed to facilitate BAASALS students to complete their programme of study.

In the light of the experience of this programme, the BOM felt that before starting any such new programme there should be an independent application of mind at the Board' level, in future.

**BM 120.1.3** The Board also took note of low enrolment in some of the programmes offered by IGNOU and impressed upon the Academic Programme Committee, a Standing Committee of the Planning Board, to ensure that all such programmes where enrolment is very low should be identified and reviewed.

**BM 120.1.4** The Board noted the Action Taken/Status Report on the various decisions taken at the 118<sup>th</sup> and 119<sup>th</sup> meetings, and confirmed the Minutes of the 119<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 30.11.2013.

**ITEM NO.2 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 83<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 09.4.2014**

**BM 120.2.1** The Board noted that most of the recommendations of the Finance Committee were first examined and recommended by the Establishment Committee at its 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 07.4.2014. The Board also discussed the following recommendations of Finance Committee/EC in particular, while approving the recommendations of the FC:

- (i) **Creation/revival of 04 posts of Joint Registrars:** The BOM discussed creation/revival of 4 posts of Joint Registrar-one each in Material Production and Distribution Division, SED, Administration Division and Finance & Accounts Division. These posts are being revived in the pay scale of PB-IV with GP Rs.8900/- and shall be filled 50% by promotion and 50% by direct recruitment. The Board fully appreciated the need for revival these posts in the context of increase in the workload in these Divisions and also the need for having a technically experienced persons in the Division such as MPDD etc.

- (ii) **Creation of a post of Financial Advisor:** The BOM discussed the creation of a post of Financial Advisor in addition to the existing post of Finance Officer in the pay scale of PB-IV with GP Rs.10,000/-. The Board noted that the role of Financial Advisor vis-à-vis the Finance Officer has already been defined by the Finance Committee. The Finance Officer was to look after the routine matters related to Finance & Accounts with reference to the budgets provided, while as the Financial Advisor will advise the Vice-Chancellor /BOM on the crucial financial matters of the University. The Board appreciated the need for the post to advise the University on its policies related to various financial matters and approved the proposal. The need for 2 senior positions was also felt for the purpose of maintaining continuity in the financial matters, which was very crucial. The post is proposed to be filled on deputation basis.

The Board also endorsed and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee and also felt that Statutes of the University needed to be amended, accordingly.

- (iii) **Revival of the post of Chief Engineer:** The BOM discussed the revival of the post of Chief Engineer in pay scale of PB-IV with GP Rs.10,000 to supervise the entire construction, and maintenance works of the University. The BOM also discussed the proposal that the existing construction and Maintenance Division (CMD) be divided into two distinct Units i.e. (i) Construction Unit and (ii) Repair and Maintenance Unit. The existing post of Chief Project Officer would head the Repair and Maintenance Unit, while the Construction Unit will be placed under an Executive Engineer and both the Units shall be under overall control of the Chief Engineer.

The Board fully appreciated the requirements of the University in the context of proposed massive expansion during 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and the proposal of the University to construct its own buildings for Regional Centres. The Board appreciated the need to fill up the post on deputation basis by a qualified and experienced Engineers from CPWD/State PWD/PSUs etc, not below rank of Superintending Engineers and approved it. The Board also reiterated that other vacant positions in CMD may be filled on priority basis. The Board also advised that the organizational structure which will function under the proposed position of Chief Engineer may also be discussed in the Works Committee and give a final shape.

- (iv) **Revised rates of remuneration for the Consultants:** The BOM discussed the need for revising the rates of remuneration/honorarium for various categories of consultants. The Board was informed that an internal examination of this issue including the outcome of a committee constituted earlier has revealed need for revising the rates. It was also felt to have some sort of classifications for engagement of Academic and Non-academic Consultants. Accordingly it was proposed that the Academic Coordination may engage Sr. Consultants, Consultants and Academic Associates/Project Associates. Similarly, in Non-academic there could be Sr. Consultants, Consultants and Administrative Associates. The Board was also informed about the proposed revision of rates to be paid to the Consultants/Associates which generally also conform to the rates notified by the UGC. It was also proposed that there is a need for enhancement in the age from the present 65 to 70 years. The Board approved the proposal both for enhancement of rates as per the table given below and also enhancement in the age from 65 to 70 years for hiring services of Consultants/Associates.

Designation		Rates of Remuneration (in Rs.)		Minimum experience in the relevant field
Academic	Non-Academic	Part-time	Full-time	
Sr. Consultant	Sr. Consultant	25000-35000	50000-70000	10 years
Consultant	Consultant	20000-30000	40000-60000	5 - 7 years
Academic Associate/ Project Associate	Administrative Associate	15000-25000	30000-50000	-

- (v) **Creation of the post of Chief Security Officer:** The Board was informed that the University has recorded spectacular growth in terms of infrastructure facilities as well as student enrolment, and that University has a very large campus at the Hqrs equipped with very advance level office equipments and also a large number of staff quarters. The present security set up based at Hqrs. was found to be insufficient to handle the diverse security concerns of the University. It was therefore proposed that University should create a senior position of a Chief Security Officer in the scale of pay PB-IV with GP Rs.10,000/-. The position may be filled on

deputation basis from amongst the officers not below the rank of DIG level in the State Police establishment or equivalent level officers from Defence Forces and Para Military Forces like BSF, CISF and CRPF etc.

The Board approved the proposal. The Board also desired that the Chief Security Officer to be appointed in the aforesaid manner should also look after the requirement of providing training and re-orientation of the Security Guards and Security Supervisors deployed in the University for security purposes.

- (vi) **Creation of the post of Estate Officer:** The BOM discussed the creation of the post of Estate Officer. It was noted that the Financial Code adopted by the University, with the approval of the BOM has already provided for the position of Estate Officer in the University with the responsibility of management of University estates, which includes its land, buildings, and other assets at the Hqrs. and the RCs. Maintenance of the records of the assets so created was also an essential components of the responsibility of the Estate Officer. The Board was informed that inspite of a clear provision in the Financial Code, the post was not operated so far and the work was handled by CMD/CPO.

The Board appreciating the need for having a Estate Officer in position and approved the proposal to be filled in through deputation basis for fixed terms as the Group A level with PB IV 37400-67000 with GP 8900/-. The Board also approved that till such time the post is filled up, the responsibility of an Estate Officer could be assigned to a faculty as an additional responsibility.

- (vii) **Revision of honorarium payable to Inquiry Officers and Presenting Officers:** The BOM discussed the revision of honorarium payable to Inquiry Officer and the Presenting Officer. The Board was informed that the proposal in this regard was also placed before the Establishment Committee and that the Committee observed that the remuneration payable to the Inquiry Officers and Presenting Officers needed rationalization. The Board also noted that the rates of GOI as notified by DOPT were kept in view while suggesting the revision of these rates. The Board approved the revised rates of remuneration payable to the

Inquiry Officer and the Presenting Officer as per the table given below :

<b>(A) Honorarium to Investigating Officer (existing rates Rs.15,000-40,000)</b>	<b>Proposed Rates</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1. <b>Part-time I.O.</b> (Serving Officer of IGNOU/Other Deptts.)	Rs.5,000-10,000*	As per DoPT rates
<b>2. I.O. (Retired)</b> (a) from a post with GP Rs.10,000 and above, when case is very complicated involving serious charges of graft, indiscipline involving Senior Officers.  (b) from a post with GP up to Rs.8700 when case is complicated involving serious charges of graft, embezzlement, indiscipline by officers up to Group-B level.  (c) In other cases of departmental proceedings	Rs.50,000-75,000*  Rs.25,000-50,000*  Rs.15,000-25,000*	DoPT rates provides a long range of Rs.15,000-75,000
<b>(B) Honorarium to Presenting Officer (existing Rates Rs.4,000 to 7,500)</b>	Rs.5,000-10,000*	As per DoPT rates
<b>(C) Secretarial Assistance (existing Rates Rs.5,000)</b>	To be provided by IGNOU (Rs.5,000 to 7,500* to be provided to departmental Steno/PA assisting I.O.). In case, IGNOU is unable to provide secretarial assistance, the allowances as per DOPT norms will be provided.	DoPT provides for Rs.30,000 per case, if assistance is not provided by Department
<b>(D) Transport Allowance (No provision in the existing notification)</b>	Transport will be provided by IGNOU on actual basis. However in case IGNOU is unable to provide the transport, the rates as per DoPT will hold good.	DoPT provides Rs.15,000 to 40,000

\* To be decided in each case, depending on the complexity of the case, number of sitting and time taken in completion of the inquiry with the approval of the Vice Chancellor.

**BM 120.2.2** After the above deliberations on various items the Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee made at its 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on 09.4.2014. A copy of the Minutes of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Finance Committee placed as **Appendix-1**.

**ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER THE LETTER RECEIVED FROM MHRD REGARDING VISITOR'S NOMINEES ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY**

**BM 120.3.1** The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board was informed about the letter dated 18.3.2014 was received from MHRD and addressed to Vice-Chancellors of 39 Central Universities regarding Victor's nominees on their Finance Committees. The Board noted that as per the Statute 11(1)(vi) the Finance Committee of IGNOU will have only two persons to be nominated by the Visitor on the Finance Committee. The Board also noted that this composition of Finance Committee cannot be changed unless there is an amendment brought in the Statute of IGNOU. It was also felt that perhaps this letter was not intended for IGNOU which is not receiving grants from MHRD as other Central Universities are receiving and also that IGNOU does not come under the administrative purview of UGC. The Board resolved that a response may be sent to MHRD explaining the above position.

- ITEM NO. 4**
- (i) TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE MADE AT ITS 71<sup>ST</sup> MEETING HELD ON 21.11.2013**
  - (ii) TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE MADE AT ITS 72<sup>ND</sup> MEETING TO BE HELD ON 07.04.2014**

**BM 120.4.1** The Board considered the recommendations of the Establishment Committee made at its 71<sup>st</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> meetings held on 2.11.2013 and 7.4.2014 respectively and confirmed the minutes. The Board also noted that many of these recommendations having financial implications were also approved by the Finance Committee of the University as per Agenda Item No.2 of this meeting. Copies of the minutes of aforementioned meetings of the Establishment Committee are placed at **Appendix-2 & 3**.

**ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR RECRUITMENT/APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF REGISTRAR (ADMINISTRATION) AND SOME ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

**BM 120.5.1** The recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings for appointment to the posts of Registrar (Administration), Director

(Academic Coordination Division), Director (Electronic Media Production Centre) and Assistant Professor in Nursing (SOHS) were placed before the Board by the Chairman. The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings, as per details given below:

### 1. Registrar (Administration)

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee</b>
01.2.2014	Appointment to the Post of <b>Registrar (Administration)</b> in the pay band of Rs.37400-67000 with Rs.10,000/-	Shri Ernest Samuel Ratnakumar J <u>Waiting List:</u> 1. Shri Sudhir Budakoti 2. Shri Arvind Kumar Verma

### 2. Teaching/Academic Positions

<b>Dates of Meeting</b>	<b>Positions</b>	<b>Name(s) recommended</b>	<b>Selection Committee's remarks</b>
19.2.2014	Appointment to the post of <b>Director, Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC)</b> in the pay band of Rs.37400-67000 with AGP Rs.10,000/-	Dr. Iftekhhar Ahmed	--
20.2.2104	Appointment to the post of <b>Director, (Academic Coordination Division)</b> in the pay band of Rs.37400-67000 with AGP Rs.10,000/-	None found suitable	The Committee felt that the post could be re-advertised and suggested that a gist of role and responsibilities assigned to Director, ACD by IGNOU should be adequately reflected under "desirable" in the next re-advertisement.
12.3.2014	Appointment to the post of <b>Assistant</b>	Ms. Rohini Sharma	Pay as per rules.

	<b>Professor in Nursing, SOHS</b> in the pay band of Rs.15600-39100 with AGP Rs.6000/-	<u>Waiting List:</u> 1. Ms. Seema Sachdeva 2. Mr. Neeraj Kumar	
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The BOM was informed that the response to the advertisements made for the above administrative position including ACD, Planning & Development, EMPC and International Division is very poor because eligibility/qualification prescribed are those, which UGC has mainly prescribed for teaching positions. The BOM appreciated the concern and observed that till these qualifications/experiences required are reviewed, the fresh advertisements may carry a column on the job specifications for each position to attract the relevant persons.

**ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO WRITE OFF THE LOSS OF RS.99,794/- DUE TO FIRE WHICH BROKE OUT IN STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE IN THE NIGHT OF 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013**

**BM 120.6.1** The item was taken up for consideration. The Board approved the proposal to write off the loss of Rs.99,794/- on account of a fire which occurred in the Student Services Centre of the University on 26.8.2013.

**ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF DEPUTATION OF FINANCE OFFICER, IGNOU**

**BM 120.7.1** The Board approved the proposal for extension of deputation of Shri L.M. Pandey (IRS), Finance Officer for a further term of one year w.e.f. 01.6.2014 till 31.5.2015. The Board noted that the cadre controlling authority in his case viz. the Central Board of Direct Taxes had given the cadre clearance for a period of 4 years & 7 months which expires on 31.12.2014. The Board, therefore, authorized the University to take up the matter with his cadre controlling authority i.e. CBDT for cadre clearance for another term of five months w.e.f. 01.01.2015 to 31.5.2015 to enable him to complete the term of deputation of 5 years in the University.

**ITEM NO. 8 TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION TAKEN BY BOM IN ITS 119<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD ON 30.11.2013 (BM. 119.25.1) IN THE MATTER OF GRANT OF EOL/DEPUTATION TO PROF. S.K. PANDA**

**BM 120.8.1** The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board reviewed its decision taken at the 119<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 30.11.2013 vide Res.No.119.25.1 allowing Prof. S.K. Panda to avail of the period over

and above the total admissible period of 5 years EOL. The Board while approving the decision of the Vice-Chancellor to permit him for a deputation with NCTE for a period of one year from 27.11.2013 also allowed him to continue on deputation till a total period of five years i.e. 3 months 20 more days from 28.11.2014 till 17.3.2015, as Prof. Panda had earlier availed an EOL for a period of 3 years 8 months and 10 days.

Keeping in view, the importance of the position held by Dr S.K. Panda on one hand and existing Leave Ordinances of the University on the other, the Board of Management decided that Prof. Panda should be advised to apply for extension of his EOL beyond 5 years i.e. beyond 17.3.2015 in order to complete his tenure as the Chairperson in NCTE. This request by Prof. Panda should be made three months in advance as per provision in Leave Ordinances of the University for consideration of BOM.

**ITEM NO. 9            TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REVISED GUIDELINES FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED PROFESSORS IN THE UNIVERSITY**

**BM 120.9.1**            The revised guidelines for re-employment of Professors as recommended by the Committee headed by Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, the then PVC were taken up for consideration. The Chairman felt that there was a need for adopting an approach which ensures dignity in considering the cases of senior Professors for re-employment and at the same time an objective process as laid down in the guidelines is also followed. Therefore a consent of the concerned Professor for re-employment may be obtained at least six months prior to their retirement and then accordingly a proposal for the purpose be placed before the Board of the Studies of the concerned School. Some members pointed out that Para 4(a)(i) of the Guidelines related to assessment criteria prescribed some stringent conditions which may lead to problems. It was felt that this para needed to be dropped altogether. Some other members felt that the formation of the para may be replaced by a phrase, “Research work done during the last five years prior to superannuation”. The Board, after a detailed deliberations decided that para 4(a)(i) may be replaced by ,” “Research work done during the last five years prior to superannuation”. With these changes the BOM approved the revised guidelines for re-employment of Professors in the University after superannuation. A copy of the revised guidelines approved for re-employment of Professor is placed at **Appendix-4**.

**ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE EMPC RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

**BM 120.10.1** The Chairman informed the BOM that a short interim report was just submitted by the Committee. It seems that the Committee has not been able to finalise the report. The Board did not consider it feasible to discuss the interim report and instead granted extension of time to the Committee to complete its work and submit a final report within two months.

**ITEM NO. 11 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE HIGH POWER COMMITTEE FOR REVAMPING OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (RSD) OF THE UNIVERSITY**

**BM 120.11.1** The Chairman informed the BOM that the report of the RSD revamping Committee was received only on 11.4.2014 evening and that it has not been signed by all the members. The Board was also informed that he has also received two mails from the two members namely Dr. B.K. Goirala and Prof. Janardhan Jha expressing their reservations on some portions of the report. Both the members have not agreed on the recommendations made in the report to raise the retirement age from 62 to 65 in view of the facts that Hon'ble President of India in his capacity as a Visitor has not approved this proposal sent to him earlier through MHRD. Dr. B.K. Goirala has also indicated that one more chapter needs to be added which will work out a plan for migration for the medium and the long term. Under these circumstances, it was not advisable to treat it as a final report to be placed before the BOM. However, keeping in view the interest of academics in the University, the Chairman allowed a discussion on the subject.

The members of the Board spoke at length on the subject and their views are summarized as under :

- a. There is a need to look into all the issues including retirement age so as to keep their motivational levels intact.
- b. The matter regarding segregation of two cadres was settled as early as in 1990 and therefore, the service matters concerning the academic cadre is being dealt under separate rules.
- c. While entry level for two cadres is the same, the mode of recruitment particularly the composition of selection committee and nature of duties are entirely different. So far, twice options were given to all, either to join teaching cadre or to continue in the academic cadre.

- d. Due to the acute shortage of teachers after the implementation of reservation policy, a decision was taken to enhance the age of retirement of teachers from 62 to 65 years. This decision was taken by the Govt. of India. The matter therefore cannot be brought under the purview of the Board of Management.

Therefore in the light of the above, it was not possible/advisable for the BOM to take any decision in the matter of age of superannuation for academics. However, Board unanimously felt there was a need for the Career Advancement Scheme to be extended to the academic staff of the University from AGP of Rs.9000/- to Rs.10000/-.

The Board also felt that the question of revamping of entire RSD needs to be seen in the context of developing an ICT base system to formulate a critical support system for various operations of the University. The Board therefore, directed the Committee that

- a. The committee may keep age of superannuation of Academics out of their purview.
- b. The Committee should have a detailed deliberations in the light of suggestions received from some of the members on revamping of RSD and suggest specific means and also incentives that could be provided to the cadre to make them more effective and keep their motivational levels intact.
- c. The Committee may submit a complete report on the subject at the earliest within a fixed time frame.

**ITEM NO.12      STATUS OF THE ENQUIRY PROCEEDINGS INITIATED AGAINST DR. R. SUDARSAN, DY. DIRECTOR (UNDER SUSPENSION)**

**BM 120.12.1 (i)** When this item was taken up for consideration, the Chairman withdrew from the meeting. The proceedings of this item were conducted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, Member, BOM.

The representations dated 24.03.2014 and 11.04.2014 addressed to the Chairman, Board of Management by Dr. R. Sudarasan, Dy. Director (under suspension) were placed before the Board along with the Order Sheet No.9 dated 24.03.2014 from Shri A.N. Bokshi, Inquiry Officer. The matter was discussed by the Board in detail in the light of these two representations and Order Sheet No.9 (nine). Shri N.P. Singh, (Dy. Registrar) Presenting Officer in the case of disciplinary proceedings against Dr. R. Sudarsan, Dy. Director (under suspension) was invited to present the status of the enquiry proceedings in this case. Shri N.P.

Singh informed the Board that as per the decision of the Board of Management taken at its 118<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15.6.2013, disciplinary proceedings were initiated against Dr. R. Sudarsan, Dy. Director, P&DD (under suspension). Shri A.N. Bokshi, Retd. Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of HRD was appointed as Inquiry Officer. Shri N.P. Singh, Dy. Registrar, IGNOU was appointed as Presenting Officer in the case. Accordingly, a notice was served to the Charged Officer on 19.8.2013 along with the copy of Charge-sheet and other relevant documents by the Inquiry Officer. The Charged Officer was also directed to submit the written statement against the article of charges and the name of Defence Assistant to defend his case.

- (ii) As per the Order Sheet No.9 (Nine) dated 24.3.2014 received from the Inquiry Officer, 9 hearings have been held in this case. The Charged Officer, Dr. R. Sudarsan appeared before the enquiry in all the hearings. However, despite several opportunities given to the Charged Officer by the Inquiry Officer, he failed to submit the written statement till date to the Inquiry Officer.
- (iii) The Board was also informed that the Charged Officer and Defence Assistant have also levelled charges of bias against the Inquiry officer and the Presenting Officer appointed by the University in his case. The charges are:
  - i) Not releasing the subsistence allowance and also not reviewing the suspension.
  - ii) Not conducting the enquiry as per approved norms prescribed by the DoPT.
- (iv) The Board was also informed that the Charged Officer is making misuse of the official e-mail facilities against the University and that his physical presence in the Planning & Development Division is causing hindrances in the smooth conduct of the enquiry.

**BM 120.12.2**

The Board considered the charges of bias levelled by the Charged Officer against the Inquiry Officer, particularly the charges enumerated above, in the light of the Order Sheet No.9 dated 24.3.2014 of the Inquiry Officer, Shri A.N. Bokshi and the above representations dated 24.3.2014 and 11.4.2014 received from Dr. R. Sudarasan, Dy. Director (under suspension). As regards the release of subsistence allowance the Board noted that the subsistence allowance is regularly being released to the Charged Officer.

**BM 120.12.3** The Board was satisfied with the enquiry being conducted by the Inquiry Officer following the prescribed rules on the subject. The Board noted that the sufficient opportunities were given to the Charged Officer but the Charged Officer failed to submit the written statement till date.

**BM 120.12.4** The Board further observed that all the charges of bias levelled by the Charged Officer in this case were unsubstantiated and misleading in nature and, therefore, rejected the charges of bias against the Inquiry Officer. The Board in its considered opinion held that there was no bias against the Charged Officer. On the part of the Ld. Inquiry Officer and reposed its full faith in the integrity, impartiality and fairness of the Ld. Inquiry Officer and advised the Ld. Inquiry Officer to proceed with the enquiry and complete as expeditiously as possible, preferably by conducting enquiry on day to day basis.

The Board advised the Charged Officer to cooperate in the matter for smooth conduct of proceedings and avail all the available opportunities to present his case and his defence.

**BM 120.12.5** The Board further decided as under:

- (i) The Charged Officer shall not be allowed to use the official mail facilities etc. against the University and be refrained from issuing bulk mails.
- (ii) As regards the enhancement of subsistence allowance or otherwise to the Charged Officer, the Board was informed that the matter is under consideration. The Board directed that the matter of enhancement in the rate of subsistence allowance or otherwise as per the Rules be decided by the respective division at the earliest and conveyed.
- (iii) The Board further resolved that Dr. R. Sudarsan shall be attached to Registrar (Administration) with immediate effect.

**ITEM NO.13 TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL MADE AT ITS 62<sup>ND</sup> MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 11, 2014**

**BM 120.13.1** The Board noted the decisions taken by the Academic Council at its 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 11.4.2014. A copy of the minutes is placed as **Appendix-5**.

**ITEM NO. 14 TO REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF PROF. SRIKRISHNA DEVA RAO**

**BM 120.14.1** The Board noted the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in accepting the resignation tendered by Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao w.e.f. 12.11.201, waiving the notice period of 3 months.

**ITEM NO. 15 TO REPORT THE EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF MEMBERSHIP OF ER. R.K. GUPTA ON THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UP TO 26.8.2014**

**BM 120.15.1** The Board noted the extension of the term of membership of Er. R.K. Gupta on the Board of Management till 26.8.2014.

**ITEM NO. 16 TO RATIFY THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT UPWARD MOVEMENT SCHEME (UMS)/MODIFIED ASSURED CAREER PROGRESSION SCHEME (MACPS) ON PLACEMENT BASIS TO THE DRIVERS WITHOUT RESTRICTION OF PERCENTAGE OF POSTS**

**BM 120.16.1** The Board ratified the action taken by the University with approval of the Vice Chancellor in implementing the DoPT Scheme of placement of Drivers in Grade-I, Grade-II and Special Grade on completion of specified number of years, with a modification that percentage of post in each grade needs to be waived.

**ITEM NO. 17 TO REPORT THE MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATIONS (MOCS) SIGNED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOME STATES IN THE NORTH EAST REGION AND SIKKIM**

**BM 120.17.1** The Board ratified the action taken by the University in signing the Memorandum of Collaborations (MOCs) with the following Education Departments/Institutions in North-Eastern Region and Sikkim:

- i) School Education Department, Government of Mizoram
- ii) Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim
- iii) State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Government of Manipur
- iv) Department of Education, Government of Arunachal Pradesh

**BM 120.17.2** The Board approved and appreciated the initiatives taken by the University for capacity building of teachers at elementary, primary and upper-primary levels through ODL particularly in North-Eastern States and Sikkim.

**ITEM NO. 18 TO REPORT THE NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS MADE BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR ON THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

**BM 120.18.1** The Board noted the nominations of members made by the Vice Chancellor on the Standing Committees of the Board of Management viz, the Establishment Committee, Purchase Committee, Works Committee, Student Services Committee and Grievance Redressal Committee, as authorized by the Board at the 98<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ITEM NO. 19 TO REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN REGARDING ISSUE OF NOTIFICATION ON THE ENTITLEMENTS OF VICE CHANCELLOR, PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR AND ADVISOR TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR**

**BM 120.19.1** The Board noted the action in notifying of the guidelines in respect of the certain entitlements of the Vice Chancellor, the Pro-Vice Chancellor and the Advisor to the Vice Chancellor. A copy of the notification dt.30.12.2013 is placed as **Appendix-6**.

**The following Items were tabled by the Vice Chancellor/Chairman**

**ITEM NO. 20 DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED UNDER MoUs**

**BM 120.20.1** The Vice-Chancellor tabled the Item. The Board of Management in its 113<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2012 had taken a decision with regard to various face-to-face courses conducted by the University in collaboration with various institutions through MoUs. It was decided that the face-to-face courses were beyond the mandate of the University and accordingly it was resolved that the said courses be immediately stopped. However, with a view to avoid any difficulty for the existing students, who were already under going such face-to-face courses, the Board of Management took a lenient view and allowed the existing students to complete their programmes in which they have been enrolled. Since the MoUs were kept in abeyance as decided by BOM, Sri Angla Parmeshvari Education Trust and Indian Institute of

Aeronautical Engineering (SAPET), AERO and others who were offering B.Tech. and other Programmes went to Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and other Courts against the decision taken by the IGNOU. In its judgment dated 23.07.2013, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi stated that *“it would therefore be difficult to dispute that the University had no legal authority to enter into any agreement/MOU/Arrangement to set up Study Centres/Institutions/Colleges for imparting education by way of face-to-face programme where the students were required to attend the regular class and are taught in person..... The University is mandated by its charter i.e. the Act by which it was set up to impart the education only through open School/Distance Mode of learning. In fact, this exactly was the view taken by the BOM of the University. Therefore, the MOUs/Agreements/Arrangements entered into by the University with Petitioners or with SAPET were illegal being ultra vires to the provisions of IGNOU Act”*. The Hon'ble High Court in later part of its judgment also observed *“it would therefore be wholly unfair and unjust to the students if they are not allowed to complete their study and they are made to lose at least one or may be two precious years of their educational career. The interest of the students being paramount consideration in such matters, the Court would be failing in its duties, if, in the facts and circumstances of this case it does not protect their interest by giving such direction as would safeguard their interest and at the same time avoid perpetuation of illegality which the University as well as other parties to the MOUs had committed.”* The Hon'ble High Court also directed CBI to conduct the enquiry.

#### **BM 120.20.2**

The IGNOU was also issuing certificates under the above direction of the BOM to those students who had qualified through its Community Colleges where the examination was not conducted by IGNOU but by the institutions themselves. Taking cognizance of this judgment, IGNOU filed an Affidavit in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi seeking direction and guidance from the Hon'ble High Court as to whether IGNOU should continue to distribute Degrees and Diplomas to the students whose examinations were conducted by respective organizations. This Affidavit was slotted for hearing on 1.4.2014. However, after brief discussions the Ld. Judge postponed the hearing for 1.5.2014.

The students instigated by SAPET and others who had enrolled themselves in various programmes under the MOUs signed between IGNOU, SAPET, AERO attacked the officials and damaged the VCO building and other properties demanding the declaration of results as they had enrolled themselves in 2012 before the above MOUs were put on hold.

**BM 120.20.3** Keeping in view the above situation, IGNOU sought legal opinion from two Senior Advocates namely Shri Sandeep Sethi and Shri Shankar Raju whether the above judgment of the Hon'ble High Court prohibits issuance of certificates by IGNOU to those students who have enrolled themselves in various programmes in 2012 and whose examinations were conducted by IGNOU in accordance with the Statute and Ordinances. Both the Senior Advocates gave their advise that "Despite commenting adversely on face-to-face programme mode, yet there is no embargo or impediment imposed upon the University not to declare the results of students pertaining to academic sessions prior to 2012-13. Since the entire issue and the stand of IGNOU is being considered by the Hon'ble High Court in LPA, the University may declare the results of students upto academic sessions January 2012. This shall not effect any right of bonafide students and also does not compel the University to act illegally as against the Act or Statute. Nevertheless, any Certificate, diploma, degree awarded or the result declared due to sub-judice LPA can be subjected to its final outcome. The declaration of the result should carry a caveat to the effect that the declaration of the results further shall be subjected to any further orders in the pending appeals and that declaration of the results would not create any special equity in favour of the students or the collaborator institution."

The above legal opinions were considered and discussed by the BOM.

**BM 120.20.4** The Board decided that the pending results of the students enrolled upto January, 2012 session be declared with the above caveat and they also be allowed to appear in the examinations. The Board also suggested that IGNOU may consult the legal expert as to whether there is need to file a supplementary Affidavit to keep the Hon'ble High Court informed about the above decision.

**ITEM NO.21 MISUSE OF IGNOU INTERNET SPACE AVAILABLE TO ITS EMPLOYEES IN ARRANGMENTS WITH GOOGLE**

**BM 120.21.1** The Board was informed that there were instances of misuse of available internet space provided to IGNOU employees in arrangement with Google. It was also pointed out that some employees of the University are misusing the facility made available to them by the University. They use this official facility for spreading misinformation.

**BM 120.21.2** The Board fully appreciated the concern of the University and authorized the Vice Chancellor to issue suitable directions to all the officers/employees of the University to refrain from such misuse and authorized the Vice Chancellor to take appropriate disciplinary action against the erring officers.

## **ITEM NO. 22 REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES**

**BM 120.22.1** The Board was informed that there are instances where the representations of various employees are directly addressed to the President (Visitor) and other higher authorities without exhausting the existing redressal mechanism of the University and at times without keeping university informed of such representations. This was despite the fact that arrangements for redressal in the shape of a Standing Committee of the Board of Management namely Grievance Redressal Committee was already in place. The Board was also informed that in its 73<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on 25.10.2002, the Board had decided that *“the faculty addressing their representations directly to the Hon’ble Visitor, the Hon’ble Minister, MHRD or any other organization/official be advised to refrain from this practice. In case of none-adherence to the advice, they will be liable for disciplinary proceedings under the rules. However, for genuine grievances, involving statutory violations, the members of the staff are advised to route their representations through proper channel so that the University’s views are also made available to the concerned authorities.”*

**BM 120.22.2** The Board reiterated the above decision taken earlier and advised that the above circular be re-issued for strict compliance by the employees of the University and that Grievances Redressal Mechanism at the University level be further strengthen.

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

**( M. Aslam )**  
Chairman