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MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1996, AT 1100 HOURS AT CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK - 8, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI 110 068.

The following were present:

1. Prof. R.G. Takwale, Vice-Chancellor, Chairman
2. Prof. Mihir Bhattacharya
3. Shri. N.V.K. Murthy
4. Prof. S.K. Verma
5. Ms. Nirmala Deshpande
6. Dr. S.K. Gandhe
7. Prof. B.S. Sharma
8. Prof. Pandav Nayak
9. Prof. Kapil Kumar
10. Dr. P.K. Mehta

Dr. Tilak R. Kem, Registrar - Secretary

Shri P.R. Dasgupta, Shri Bhaskar Ghose, Shri C.K. Birla, Shri Kapil Sibal and Prof Prabhat Patnaik could not attend the meeting.

Prof. Rakesh Khurana and Prof. Janardan Jha, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and Shri C.R. Pillai, Director (Planning & Development) attended the meeting as special invitees.

Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Dy. Registrar (Governance), was present to assist the Board.

The following items were considered:

- ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON DECEMBER 27, 1995 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.
- BM 45.1.1 When the item on confirmation of the Minutes was taken up, a view was expressed that full details from the Central Vigilance Commission may be obtained so that implications may be studied before putting the decision vide Resolution No. BM 44.8.1 into operation.
- BM 45.1.2 The Board was informed of some minor corrections in the dates of joining and confirmation of teachers recorded in the Minutes of the

Establishment Committee which were considered by the Board under Item No.17. The Board took on record the corrected dates in respect of the following two persons as under:

	<u>Date of</u>	
	<u>Joining</u>	<u>Confirmation</u>
1. Sh Ashish Aggarwal	4-11-1993	4-11-1994
2. Dr Ruchika Kuba	31-08-1994	31-08-1995.

BM 45.1.3

With the above observation, the Board confirmed the minutes of its 44th Meeting held on December 27, 1995. The Board also noted the action taken on the minutes.

ITEM NO. 2

**TO CONSIDER THE PROJECT FOR MASS EDUCATION IN COMPUTERS - OPEN LEARNING APPROACH.**

BM 45.2.1

It was noted that this item came up for discussion in the last meeting held on December 27, 1995, and the Board, while approving the proposal in principle, sought certain clarifications. The matter was considered with reference to the clarifications given in the Agenda Note. In the discussion that followed, the following views were expressed:

- i) Since the Project proposal envisages substantial investment, a detailed study of the financial aspects, including a forecast of financial budgeting for the next 4-5 years, would be necessary.
- ii) While noting that the proposal is in consonance with the objectives of the University, the suggestion made in the last meeting about undertaking a 'self-study' by the University in the decennial year may be appropriate.
- iii) The Project envisages an innovative approach in offering computer programmes and if IGNOU fails to take step in this direction expeditiously, private and international distance education institutions may take the lead in offering such programmes.
- iv) A built-in monitoring mechanism needs to be developed so as to ensure proper checks in the implementation of the programmes. The proposed Steering Committee may additionally

be given this responsibility.

- v) The fee structure should be such that courses on awareness may be charged lesser rates and those for skill acquisition with employment potential higher rates.
- vi) Since the proposal was originally mooted through the Extension Council, the roles of the School vis-a-vis the Extension Centre needs to be spelt out.
- vii) The question whether the courses, apart from English, should be offered in Hindi and other regional languages also was considered. It was clarified that to begin with the courses will be offered only in English and in two years' time some of the courses may be on offer in Hindi.
- viii) The location of centres in the pilot project may have a proper geographical mix including North-East. It was clarified that since the proposal envisages covering the whole country in its full potential, the proposal mooted as a pilot project with three centres may be accepted.

BM 45.2.3

After a detailed discussion, the Board resolved that:

- i) the launching of the pilot project at three centres, namely, Delhi, Dehradun and Pune be approved;
- ii) the seed money of Rs.40 Lakhs be earmarked which may be released in instalments as per requirement;
- iii) the Vice-Chancellor be authorized to appoint a Steering Committee under his chairmanship consisting of around 10 persons with experts/professionals drawn from the related fields; in addition, two representatives of the Board, namely, Prof B.S. Sharma and Prof Mihir Bhattacharya be members of the above Committee;
- iv) the Steering Committee shall be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the pilot project and may appoint, where considered necessary, sub-committees to advise it on any matter; and

- v) the Steering Committee shall keep the Board informed of the progress of the Pilot Project through periodic reports.

**ITEM NO. 3**

**TO REPORT ON THE REPRESENTATION SUBMITTED TO THE EDUCATION MINISTER BY THE JOINT FORUM OF IGNOU TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF.**

**BM 45.3.1**

The Vice-Chancellor briefly explained that the MHRD desired the Board to consider certain allegations made in the Memorandum submitted by the Joint Action Forum of the Teaching and Non-teaching staff of the University to the Minister for Human Resource Development. The following are the five specific issues on which the Board's attention was drawn:

1. Appointment of Pro Vice-Chancellor (STRIDE)
2. Appointment of Director (DEC)
3. Misuse of University Land
4. Non-maintenance of Stock Registers
5. Wasteful Expenditure

**BM 45.3.2**

There was a free and frank discussion on the above issues and the decisions/observations of the Board on each item is indicated below:

**(1) Appointment of Pro Vice-Chancellor (STRIDE)**

The Board noted that the comments of the University on the appointment of Pro Vice-Chancellor (STRIDE) clearly indicate the factual position. It was also noted that the Board had reviewed the matter in subsequent meetings and that a Statute providing for the position of Executive directors has been formulated and submitted to the Visitor for his approval. Doubts were expressed on the advisability of redesignating PVC (STRIDE) as Executive Director. Taking a pragmatic view with related issues into consideration, the Board decided that the Pro Vice-Chancellor (STRIDE) be treated as having been appointed under Statute 3 in reversal of its earlier decision. The three-year tenure appointment of Prof B.N. Koul as Pro Vice-Chancellor under the provisions of Statute 3 would be deemed to have been come into effect from 12-1-1995 when the present Vice-Chancellor took over office. It was, however, decided that before the above proposal is finally implemented, the Vice-Chancellor may obtain legal opinion on the matter so as to avoid any legal complications in future.

## **(2) Appointment of Director (DEC)**

The Board reiterated its stand that the appointment of Directors is covered under the provisions of Statute 4. Since the present appointment of Dr V.S. Prasad was made by the Board as per the provisions of Statute 4, the issue of violation of any Statute in this case does not arise.

## **(3) Misuse of University land**

The Board took note of the fact that it had agreed to the setting up of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) at IGNOU and had agreed to provide office accommodation and certain other services. Subsequently the CEMCA requested the University for providing residential accommodation to four of its senior officers. The University, having considered the matter in the appropriate forums, namely, the Works Committee and the Board of Management, has decided to rent out to CEMCA four Type V quarters. The spirit behind such a decision has to be seen in the context of agreed collaboration with an international organisation, namely, the Commonwealth of Learning and the advantages of CEMCA having its location at IGNOU. Such a gesture, it was felt, would further strengthen the collaborative spirit between both the organisations. Therefore, the allegation that this arrangement involves violation of the terms and conditions of the land acquisition deed, the Board noted, has no basis.

## **(4) Non-maintenance of Stock Registers**

The Board expressed serious concern in the slow progress being made in the matter of reconciliation of stock registers with the stock. The Board desired that the Vice-Chancellor may set up a special squad to complete the stock verification and reconciliation expeditiously. The Board further desired that the Vice-Chancellor may report to the Board in the next meeting the steps initiated for expediting the work and a completion report as soon as the work is completed.

## **(5) Wasteful expenditure**

The Board was informed that the residences of the Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors have been furnished as per the provisions in the Statutes. While it is true that no norms have been laid down

for such furnishing, the underlying factor behind such furnishings is that the appointments of Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors being tenure appointments, the houses should be so furnished as to have the facilities required for immediate occupation. It may be noted that the furnishings and equipments provided in these residences are the property of the University. While a suggestion was made that norms be laid for such furnishings, it was generally agreed that the scale of furnishing of these residences be left to the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor.

**ITEM NO. 4                      TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF ONE OF ITS MEMBERS ON THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

BM 45.4.1                      The Board authorized the Vice-Chancellor to nominate, on its behalf, a member of the Board of Management on the Search Committee for the post of Executive Director.

**ITEM NO. 5                      TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE ON CAREER ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHERS.**

BM 45.5.1                      The item was withdrawn.

**ITEM NO. 6                      TO CONSIDER THE COMPUTER PURCHASE FROM CMC.**

BM 45.6.1                      The Vice-Chancellor explained in brief the salient features proposed in the Agenda Note. While the matter was under discussion, a view was expressed that since purchase of expensive equipment is involved whether all the formalities stipulated in the Financial Code have been followed. It was explained that the Computer Maintenance Corporation (CMC) has been chosen on the recommendation of a Committee which analysed nine short-listed companies out of the 30 companies which bade for providing consultancy in the matter of computerized tasks. The CMC, which is a Public Sector Undertaking, would act as an expert agency for system integration and computerisation of University and would acquire necessary computer systems for the purpose.

BM 45.6.2                      The Board approved the proposal and noted that the total value of the order would be in the range of Rs.67 Lakh.