

Research and Development of academic programmes are concerned.

BM 54.10.3

With the above observations, the Board approved the minutes of the 5th meeting of the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) Management Committee.

ITEM NO. 11

TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 1997.

BM 54.11.1

The Board considered and approved the minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Establishment Committee (a Standing Committee of the Board of Management) held on November 6, 1997 (Appendix 2). The Board in particular gave specific approval to the following :

- i. Reclassification of the post of Joint Registrar in the Material Production and Distribution Division as Joint Director together with qualifications for the post.
- ii. While approving the adoption of recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission for Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' personnel in principle, the Board decided that their implementation be effected after they are cleared by the MHRD.
- iii. Adoption of revised Roster System of the Reservation policy announced by the Govt. of India.

ITEM NO. 12

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO DECLARE THE TRANSPORT CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. AS THE OFFICIAL TRANSPORT AGENCY OF IGNOU.

BM 54.12.1

The comments of the Education Secretary were read-out. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor briefly explained the salient features of the proposal. It was stated that enquiries revealed that there is hardly any transport agency which has all India coverage as that of Transport Corp'n. of India Ltd (TCI). Also, University's experience with some of the transport agencies engaged earlier was not good. With decentralisation of the despatch of study materials through the Regional centres, assured bulk delivery to Regional centres became urgent and necessary. Considering all the issues involved, the Board approved the proposal for engaging the TCI Ltd as the official transport agency of the University for a period of three years.

**ITEM NO. 13** TO REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NETWORKED AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY, 1998.

**BM 54.13.1** As part of the 50th year of India's Independence, the Indira Gandhi National Open University is proposing to hold an international conference on Networked and collaborative learning during February 16-18, 1998 in New Delhi. The Conference venue will be Jamia Hamdard Convention Centre.

**BM 54.13.2** The aim of the conference will be to explore new models, new partnerships and new technologies for collaborative and networked learning, a new paradigm in open and distance learning. The conference is expected to be attended by about 80-90 delegates from India and abroad (50 persons from India and 30-40 persons from abroad). An organising committee has been constituted for the conference under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor. The expected expenditure for the conference would be Rs.7-8 lakhs.

**BM 54.13.3** The Board approved the proposal for organising the International Conference on Networked and Collaborative Learning. The Board also approved the estimated expenditure of Rs.7-8 lakhs for the conference.

**ITEM NO. 14** TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN THE CASE OF PROF. M.M. PANT, DIRECTOR, SOCIS FOR HIS DEPUTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY.

**BM 54.14.1** The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in granting permission to Prof. M.M. Pant, Director, School of Computer & Information Science proceeding on deputation for a period of five years to the Department of Industrial Development under the Ministry of Industry, in the event of his appointment as Controller General of Patents.

**ITEM NO. 15** TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN ALLOWING EXTENSION OF DEPUTATION FOR A PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS IN RESPECT OF DR. P.N. PANDIT.

**BM 54.15.1** The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in extending the deputation period of Dr. P.N. Pandit, Reader in English to the Government of Kyrgyzstan under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme for a period of two months, i.e.,

till 31-01-1998. The case has been recommended by MEA, Government of India also.

**ITEM NO. 16 TO REPORT ON THE ENGAGEMENT OF DR. M.K. MAGAZINE AS CONSULTANT (FULL TIME) BEYOND TWO YEARS.**

BM 54.16.1 The Board had earlier approved the engagement of Dr. M.K. Magazine, a retired professor of Civil Engineer, REC Srinagar as full time consultant w.e.f. 01-11-1995 for a period of two years.

BM 54.16.2 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in engaging Dr. M.K. Magazine as Consultant (Full Time) for a period of six months w.e.f. 01-11-1997 beyond two years on the same terms and conditions.

**ITEM NO. 17 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN THE PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTRE - BETACAM VCRs AND PORTABLE TUNER.**

**ITEM NO. 18 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN THE PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTRE - MAINTENANCE OF BETACAM VCRs AND VIDEO CAMERAS.**

BM 54.17/18.1 The comments received from the Education Secretary on items 17 & 18 were read out.

BM 54.17/18.2 The Vice-Chancellor stated that the amounts expended (proposed under item 17 and 18) were from the budgetary provisions which had duly been approved by the appropriate authorities like the Finance Committee and the Board of Management and that the purchases were made after following proper procedures laid down in the Financial Code like calling of tenders, etc. Since the amounts involved exceeded the delegated powers of the Vice-Chancellor, the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in approving the purchases is being brought before the Board for ratification.

BM 54.17/18.3 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in (i) the purchase of spare parts for Betacam VCRs and Portable Tuner amounting to Rs.12,04,272/- (US\$33,452); and (ii) the purchase of spare parts for Maintenance of Betacam VCRs and Video Cameras amounting to Rs.17,59,100/- (plus Sale Tax).

**ITEM NO. 19      TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON THE NEWLY CREATED POSTS OF JOINT REGISTRAR.**

BM 54.19.1      The Vice-Chancellor explained that the Board had, at its earlier meeting, created 4 (four) posts of Joint Registrar on the non-academic side. Since all the positions at the level of Director/Registrar are tenure positions, it was felt appropriate to have a second line of senior positions like Joint Registrar to provide continuity and stability when the top positions become vacant.

BM 54.19.2      The proposal placed before the Board had two options: whether these positions should be 100% promotion based or whether there should be 25% and 75% ratio between direct recruitment and promotion. Noting that most of the senior level positions are in the category of academic and taking into account also the prospects of stagnation at the Deputy Registrar level, the Board decided that the positions of Joint Registrar be on 100% promotion through selection by Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) as provided in the R&P Rules for Group 'A' positions.

BM 54.19.3      As a sequel to this decision, the Board approved the proposed amendment to R & P Rules for Group 'A' posts as indicated below :

"100% promotion through selection by Departmental Promotion Committee from amongst the Dy. Registrars in the Pay Scale of Rs.3700-5700, with 8 years of regular service in IGNOU."

**ITEM NO. 20      ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OPEN EDUCATION NETWORK (OPENET).**

BM 54.20.1      The proposal was considered. The Vice-Chancellor explained briefly outlining the salient features mentioned in the Agenda Note. It was stated that the concept of an OPENET was given more concrete expansion with the setting up the Distance Education Council (DEC) in 1992 and that during the last five years the DEC has given considerable attention to operationalise the concept of OPENET. Some of the efforts initiated include: sharing of programmes and courses with the open universities, developing norms and guidelines for standardisation of the processes including programme development, structure of programme, credit system, grading pattern and methods of delivery of services among the open universities,

etc. The DEC also supported the open universities to augment their capacity in developing the receive-end facilities for tele-conferencing through TDCC Channel. The OPENET which was initially a concept of sharing programmes and facilities is developing rapidly into a major communication network using modern technologies both in computers (LAN, WAN) and data, voice and image transmission through VSATS.

BM 54.20.2

A much larger network encompassing a wide range of education and training programmes is also being discussed among agencies such as MHRD, UGC, AICTE and the IGNOU/DEC. This larger network will be known as the Indian Training and Education Network for Development (INTEND). While the implementation of this larger network as a major project in the 9th Plan is still under discussion, the establishment of the OPENET for which efforts have already been initiated several years ago and is being implemented in stages has to be further strengthened. Since a communication network linking IGNOU with three State Open Universities is already in operation during the last three years, it is now possible to extend this network to include four more State Open Universities which have since been set up. As and when the larger INTEND is developed, it will be possible to integrate the OPENET with INTEND. For the present, the UGC has also shown interest in developing the backbone for university level networking.

BM 54.20.3

Keeping the above considerations in view, it has been proposed to expand the existing OPENET.

BM 54.20.4

Pending finalisation of the 9th Plan, it is considered necessary to initiate the steps to implement the project. The IGNOU and the UGC have agreed to earmark some part of their 9th Plan allocation to meet the initial expenditure on the development of the backbone for the OPENET. The maximum resources that are likely to be available in 1997-98 may not exceed Rs.30 Crores. The contribution from IGNOU would be of the order of Rs.10 Crores. The UGC is also likely to contribute a similar amount. Some contribution is also expected from the MHRD and the AICTE.

BM 54.20.5

Prof. Janaradan Jha, Pro Vice-Chancellor, who was invited to the meeting gave technical details and the time tabled for implementation of the initial phase of the project.



BM 54.20.6

During the discussion, the following views were expressed:

- (i) Development of the OPENET as a modern communication network is an excellent initiative.
- (ii) It should be undertaken as a project and its management structure should be defined.
- (iii) The DEC should take lead in the implementation of the project and its management.
- (iv) Consultations with the State Open Universities may be held on the proposal and their views also be incorporated in the project.

BM 54.20.7

With the above observations, the Board approved the proposal to earmark a sum of Rs.10 Crores from the current year's plan allocation of Rs.28 Crores for the expansion of the OPENET.

ITEM NO. 21

**TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST OF DY. DIRECTOR (QUALITY ASSURANCE) IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.**

BM 54.21.1

The Board considered and approved the following qualifications for the post of Dy. Director (Quality Assurance) in the Planning and Development Division :

**Dy. Director (Quality Assurance)**

- (a) A Ph.D. Degree with a Master's degree (55% marks or B grade in any discipline).
- (b) At least 5 years experience at a supervisory level in such areas like educational planning and management, formulation and implementation of educational development programme with knowledge and experience in the application of quantitative techniques in performance analysis/quality standard maintenance.

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

(R.G. TAKWALE)  
Vice-Chancellor