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MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, HELD IN THE UNIVERSITY OFFICE AT MAIGAN GARHI, NEW DELHI 110 068 ON MONDAY, DECEMBER, 30, 1991 AT 11.00 HRS.

The following were present:

1.	Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swamy, Vice-Chancellor	Chairman
2.	Prof. H.P. Dikshit	Member
3.	Dr S.K. Gandhe	Member
4.	Prof. Rakesh Khurana	Member
5.	Prof. B.N. Koul	Member
6.	Prof. V.V. Mandke	Member
7.	Prof. R.N. Mathur	Member
8.	Prof. Pandav Nayak	Member
9.	Prof. M.B. Menon	Member
10.	Prof. M.L. Bhatia	Member
11.	Dr. A.W. Khan	Member
12.	Dr. (Mrs.) S. Taneja	Member
13.	Sh. K. Murugan	Member
14.	Prof. M.M. Pant	Member
15.	Dr. K. Gopalan	Member
16.	Dr. P.P. Gupta	Member
17.	Dr. Lalitha Kameswaran	Member
18.	Dr. T.S. Saraswathi	Member
19.	Dr. R.V.R. Chadrashekhara Rao	Member
20.	Dr. K.S. Karnik	Member
21.	Shri K. Narayanan, Registrar	Member-Secretary

Dr. S.S. Kalbagh, Prof. Ashok Chandra, Shri T.K. Balaji, and Prof. M.V. Pylee could not attend the meeting.

Dr. K. Anjanappa, Registrar (Admissions), Shri. D.C. Pant, Director (Evaluation), Shri C.R. Pillai, Director (P & TA) were present by special invitation.

Before the agenda was taken-up for consideration, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed the new members of the Academic Council as well as those who were attending the meeting for the first time.

The following matters were considered:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON JULY 5, 1991.

AC 5.1.1 The minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 5th July, 1991 were confirmed subject to the following corrections:

In para 4.4.2, the last sentence be substituted with the following:

"The Council also suggested that the details of the proposed course in Technology Management may be spelt out in detail, and that the possibility of developing appropriate programmes in this area might be considered".

**ITEM NO. 2 TO REPORT FOR INFORMATION CERTAIN DECISIONS OF THE
PLANNING BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 1991.**

AC 5.2.1 The Chairman briefly appraised the Council about the up-dating of the 8th plan document in the context of the modified time-frame for the plan, namely, 1992 to 1997. The Council noted that the revised plan document has been approved by the Planning Board. With regard to the proposed programme in law for every day life, the details have still to be worked out and the proposal will be brought before the Academic Council as soon as matters like content, structure, etc. are finalised. In this connection, the Council noted the observation made by Prof. R.V.R. Chandrashekhara Rao that the Andhra Pradesh Open University was already offering a programme in law and that the APOU would be willing to collaborate with the IGNOU in developing the proposed programme.

AC 5.2.2 The Council noted that the remaining items considered by the Planning Board have been included in the agenda as separate items.

**ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR LAUNCHING A PG
DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN JOURNALISM AND MASS
COMMUNICATION.**

AC 5.3.1 The proposal for launching a post-graduate diploma programme in Journalism and Mass Communication was considered. The Chairman explained that there has been a persistent demand for launching a programme of this type from various quarters and that the Planning Board had recommended consideration of such a programme in 1989. The details of the programme now being developed were explained by Prof. H.P. Dikshit, PVC and Prof.A.W. Khan, Director, Communication Division.

AC 5.3.2 During the course of discussions on this item, the following points were made by members in regard to

the various aspects of the programme:

- (1) Educational broadcasting may be considered as an elective course in the programme.
- (2) The programme should have some components relating to language proficiency, use of computers and greater professionalism in the field.
- (3) The programme should make some provision for the development of media focussing on children.
- (4) The need for providing practical experience as part of the programme should be considered.
- (5) The apportionment of marks for practicals and assignments may be looked into.

AC 5.3.3

The Chairman explained that the expansion of the media demanded trained personnel in journalism, mass communication and also educational broadcasting. The proposed programme would help meet this demand to some extent. In this context, it was noted that the programme of post-graduate diploma in Public Relations offered by the APOU has certain components which could be appropriately incorporated in the IGNOU programme. It was also suggested that the proposed programme should be considered in the perspective of developing a Masters level programme in Journalism and Mass Communication. It was pointed out that the weightage for assignments, term-end examinations and practicals should be looked into in more detail when the ordinance on evaluation is framed.

AC 5.3.4

The Council, approved the programme and resolved that the comments made by members at the meeting may be taken into consideration while finalising the details of the programme.

ITEM NO.4

TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EQUIVALENCE COMMITTEE.

AC 5.4.1

The Chairman informed the members that normally it should be the Equivalence Committee's recommendations that should be considered by the Academic Council. In the present case, the matter was referred to a sub-committee of the Equivalence Committee and the recommendations of the sub-

committee are placed directly before the Academic Council. The Chairman observed that in future, the recommendations of only those Committees which were appointed by the Academic Council should be placed before it.

AC 5.4.2

While considering the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, the Council considered the scope of exemption being granted. It was pointed out that if a student was granted exemption from pursuing a course, he should not be required to appear and qualify in the examination for that course. Transfer of credits would become meaningful only when exemptions are granted both from course work as well as from examinations. On the other hand, it was stated that considering the wide variations in standards and performance levels obtaining in various institutions in the country, and the absence of a mechanism for accreditation of various qualifications on the basis of uniform indicators, it would not be advisable at present to grant such exemptions. After some discussions, it was decided that till such time as mechanisms are developed at the national level for accreditation of courses, the University may continue with its present practice of exempting students from course work subject to the condition that they appear and qualify in the relevant examination. This would enable the University to maintain the standards of its programmes.

AC 5.4.3

The Academic Council approved the exemptions recommended by the sub-committee in respect of the candidates for the courses shown against each as given in Appendix-I.

ITEM NO.5

TO CONSIDER THE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMME IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE.

AC 5.5.1

The details of the programme were explained by Prof. Pandav Nayak, Director, School of Social Sciences. While considering the content and structure of the programme the following points were made:

- (1) The School of Social Sciences may consider the use of the elective course in research methodology already on offer from the School of Management Studies and the School of Education, rather than developing an entirely new course for the programme.
- (2) The value of credits for various courses might be reviewed keeping in view the extent of work required to be put in by the student.
- (3) To the extent possible, there should be a uniform norm for credits for the Masters Degree Programme offered by the University.

AC 5.5.2

The Chairman explained that when the duration of the Master's degree programme was one year, it would generally consist of 30 or 32 credits. If the content of the programme required more credits, it should follow that the duration of the programme should be correspondingly extended.

AC 5.5.3

The Academic Council approved the content and course structure of the Post-Graduate Programme of Library and Information Science and resolved that the points made above be referred to the School Board for further consideration while finalising the details of the courses.

ITEM NO.6**TO CONSIDER THE COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE BSc NURSING PROGRAMME**

AC 5.6.1

Prof. H.P. Dikshit explained the broad details of the programme. He informed the Council that the numbers of certain courses have been changed and that for the present, the Academic Council consider the content of the courses in theory for approval. The details of the courses involving practicals have not been finalised and they will be brought up before the Council as soon as they are worked out.

AC 5.6.2

While considering the proposal, the following points were made:

- (1) The course is meant only for inservice nurses.

- (2) In accrediting the hospitals at which the nurses have to undergo training, care should be taken to specify the type of hospitals.
- (3) The mini-research project proposed for this programme for B.Sc. (Nursing) would present difficulty in finding guides to help the students.
- (4) A term paper may be considered in place of the mini-research project.
- (5) The aspects of sterilisation, maintenance of asepsis, barrier nursing, and operation theatre maintenance should be included in the content. In admitting candidates to the course a distinction should be made between hospital nursing and public health nursing. Private nursing practitioners may be permitted to enroll in public health nursing only. Nurses working in accredited hospitals may be permitted to join the hospital nursing programme. Dr. (Mrs) Lalitha Kameswaran, Member, stated that she would go through the paper in greater detail and communicate her comments on the programme.

AC 5.6.3

The Academic Council approved the content and structure of the proposed programme in Nursing and suggested that the above comments and those to be received from Dr (Mrs) Lalitha Kameswaran be considered by the School Board.

ITEM NO.7**TO CONSIDER ACADEMIC ORDINANCES**

AC 5.7.1

The Academic Council noted that the authority competent to frame ordinances was the Board of Management and that the recommendations of the Academic Council were being sought on those ordinances which related to academic matters.

AC 5.7.2

While considering the ordinance on Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates the following points were made:

- (1) In clause 1 (iv) of the Ordinance, The words "Bachelors degree in" may be substituted by the words "Bachelors Degree in Arts, Commerce, Science with the following subjects:"

(2) Under Clause 1 (vi) the following may be added after item (h):

"i) Diploma in Operations Management " and the existing Diplomas in Rural Development and Computer Applications be redesignated as (j) & (k) respectively.

(3) Under Clause 1 (vii) (c) the words "counselling and" be deleted as the programme is only a Certificate in Guidance.

AC 5.7.3 The Academic Council recommended that the draft ordinances on Recognition of Examinations /Degrees, Fees payable by students and Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates with the above amendments as per Appendices II, III & IV, may be submitted to the Board of Management for approval.

ITEM NO.8 TO RATIFY THE REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO DIPLOMA IN COMPUTERS IN OFFICE MANAGEMENT.

AC 5.8.1 The Council ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in modifying the eligibility criteria for admission to the Diploma programme in Computers in Office Management. The Council, however, desired that the requirement of experience in "office management" needs to be clarified to eliminate the possibility of any ambiguity about the type of experience required of the candidates. The Council suggested that the matter may be re-examined and brought up for further consideration as far as future admissions are concerned.

ITEM NO. 9 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS - PROJECT WORK AND TERM END EXAMINATION FOR THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

AC 5.9.1 The proposal on the guidelines for evaluation of student assignments, project work and term end examination for the Diploma programme in Rural Development was considered. It was noted that a general ordinance on Evaluation which is being separately framed would deal with all aspects of student evaluation. A view was expressed that, as far as possible, multiple choice assignments

should be done away with.

AC 5.9.2 The method of evaluation adopted for the Diploma Programmes uses only the letter grades and therefore the question of converting the percentage points into letter grades does not arise. The Council approved the guidelines for evaluation of student assignments and project work with the above modification.

ITEM NO.10 **TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN FOR HOLDING OF TERM-END EXAMINATIONS IN JUNE AND DECEMBER.**

AC 5.10.1 The Academic Council endorsed the decision taken by the Vice-Chancellor that henceforth the term-end examinations will be held only twice a year, in June and December.

ITEM NO.11 **TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN TO POSTPONE CERTAIN EXAMINATIONS OF THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES.**

AC 5.11.1 The Academic Council ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in postponing certain examinations, the reasons for which were explained at the meeting.

ITEM NO.12 **TO INFORM THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL ABOUT THE HOLDING OF THE 3RD CONVOCATION IN APRIL, 1992.**

AC 5.12.1 The Chairman informed the Council that the third convocation was tentatively scheduled to be held on April 25, 1992. He also informed the Council that normally in all conventional Universities results of the examinations are approved by the Syndicate after they are considered by the Board of Examination. It would be advisable that the IGNOU establishes a convention that the results of the examinations are approved by a designated authority before the awards are given. Before the last convocation, this matter was brought before the Academic Council. It would therefore be appropriate that the examination results are formally approved by the Academic Council in future.

AC 5.12.2 The Council noted the number of students who have become eligible for awards upto June 1991 examinations, and approved the award of Degrees and Diplomas to them. In respect of the candidates who had appeared in the September 1991 examinations and whose results are yet to be received, the Academic Council authorised the Vice-Chancellor to award the degrees and diplomas and report the matter to the Council at the next meeting.

ITEM NO.13 TO CONSIDER THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY'S PROPOSALS FOR ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN WATER RESOURCES AND ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

AC 5.13.1 Prof. V.V. Mandke broadly highlighted the contents of the programme, the course structure and the target groups for which the programmes are designed. The following points were made during the discussions on this item:

- (1) The programme in Water Resources should have some components on the use of satellite technology for locating ground water resources.
- (2) Aspects of pollution control should also form part of the courses in the programme.
- (3) Use of new materials for construction should be emphasised along with the use of new technologies.
- (4) The programme should not concentrate only on technological aspects; the human and social aspects should also be emphasised by incorporating appropriate contents in the courses.
- (5) The use of the word 'modules' be reviewed in order to ensure uniformity of terminology in describing the structure of various programmes.
- (6) The practice of adopting or adapting the courses produced by one School for the programmes developed by another School should be encouraged and developed. For instance, the School of Engineering and Technology should consider utilisation of the courses in

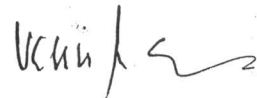
Science produced by the School of Sciences for the programmes in Engineering, rather than producing such courses independently.

- (7) There should be some correspondence between the title of a programme and its content. For instance, a view was expressed that the management component in the Construction management programme was much less than its technology component, and therefore, the programme should appropriately be called Advanced diploma in construction technology. On the other hand, it was also pointed out that a substantial part of the contents of the programme related to the functional needs of the supervisory personnel in construction industry and therefore the programme fell legitimately in the area of construction management.

AC 5.13.2

The Academic Council approved the proposals for launching the programmes of Advanced Diploma in Water Resources and Construction Management, and also the broad content and structure of the proposed programmes. The Council also decided that the points made at the meeting be referred to the Expert Committee and the School Board for consideration and their views be brought up before the Council.

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



(V.C. KULANDAI SWAMY)
Chairman