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**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD IN THE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE AT MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110 068 ON THURSDAY, MAY 28,
1992 AT 1100 HOURS**

The following were present :

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| 1. Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swamy, Vice-Chancellor | Chairman |
| 2. Prof. H.P. Dikshit | |
| 3. Dr S.K. Gandhe | |
| 4. Prof. C.L. Anand | |
| 5. Prof. B.N. Koul | |
| 6. Prof. V.V. Mandke | |
| 7. Dr Jasbir Jain | |
| 8. Prof. M.B. Menon | |
| 9. Prof. R.K. Grover | |
| 10. Dr R.K. Bose | |
| 11. Prof. Ashok Chandra | |
| 12. Dr Lalitha Kameswaran | |
| 13. Prof. M.V. Pylee | |
| 14. Dr K.S. Karnik | |
| 15. Dr T.S. Saraswathi | |
| 16. Shri S.S. Kalbag | |
| 17. Dr M.M. Pant | |
| 18. Dr (Mrs) S. Taneja | |
| 19. Shri K. Murugan | |
| 20. Shri K. Narayanan, Registrar | Member-Secretary |

Prof. Pandav Nayak, Prof M.L. Bhatia, Shri P.P. Gupta, Dr K. Gopalan, Prof. R.V.R. Chandrasekhara Rao, and Shri T.K. Balaji could not attend the meeting.

Dr K. Anjanappa, Registrar (Admissions), Shri D.C. Pant, Director (Evaluation), Shri C.R. Pillai, Director (P&TA) and Shri V. Rama Rao, Engineer Incharge, (Communication Division) were present by special invitation.

Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Deputy Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Member-Secretary.

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

The following items were considered:

**ITEM NO.1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE
ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON DECEMBER 30, 1991.**

AC 6.1.1 The minutes of the fifth meeting of the Academic Council held on December 30, 1991 were confirmed

after it was ascertained from the Member-Secretary that no comments have been received on the minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT ACADEMIC ORDINANCES REGARDING (i) CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE; AND (ii) DISCIPLINE AMONG STUDENTS IN RELATION TO UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

AC 6.2.1 The Academic Council considered the drafts of the following two ordinances, which were examined by a Committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor under the Chairmanship of Dr S.K. Gandhe Pro Vice-Chancellor:

- (i) Conduct of Examinations and Evaluation of Student performance
- (ii) Discipline among students in relation to University Examinations

AC 6.2.2 Initiating the discussion on the ordinance on Conduct of Examinations the Vice-Chancellor stated that assignments form an important component of the student evaluation system of the IGNOU and that it has a significant pedagogical value. Counsellors are expected to give exhaustive comments on the assignments done by the students so that they benefit from such comments. It is, therefore, imperative that submission of the required number of assignments is a pre-condition to take term-end examinations. The Academic Council noted that Clause 8(1) of the draft takes care of this aspect and therefore Clause 3(4) be deleted.

AC 6.2.3 In the general discussion on the item, the following views were expressed:

- (i) The paper setters may be requested to submit along with the questions, the marking scheme also. If necessary, an enhancement in the existing remuneration may be considered for this purpose. A suggestion was also made that the existing rates of remuneration payable to paper setters, moderators and evaluators do not compare favourably with those obtaining in other conventional universities, and require to be revised.
- (ii) A suggestion was made that IGNOU, with its diversity of courses, may experiment with open book examination system. While acknowledging the need for such bold and innovative reforms in the examination system, the Council felt that it was too early at this stage, to consider the introduction of such

measures.

- AC 6.2.4 (i) The Council modified the composition of the Moderation Board referred to at Clause 7(1), as below after a detailed discussion:
- (a) Director of the School concerned. Chairman ex-officio
 - (b) Professor of the Discipline concerned, and if there is no Professor, the senior most teacher in the discipline concerned. Member
 - (c) Three experts in the discipline/specialisation, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, of whom two shall be external and one, internal. Members
- (ii) The Council noted that the presence of the Director of the School on the Moderation Board will provide uniformity in moderation among all disciplines in the school.

AC 6.2.5 With the above modification to Clause 7 (1) of the Ordinance on Conduct of Examinations and Student Evaluation, the Academic Council approved the two ordinances, namely, -

- (i) Conduct of Examinations and Evaluation of Student Performance; and
- (ii) Discipline among Students in Relation to University Examinations

which are placed at Appendix-I.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONS (CCI)

AC 6.3.1 At the request of the Chairman, Prof. M.B. Menon briefly explained the salient features of the proposed Certificate programme in Curriculum and Instruction:

- (i) The programme is devised on modular pattern which can, at a later date, be incorporated if necessary into Diploma or degree Programmes as well.

(ii) It is primarily meant for inservice teachers-primary, secondary and higher secondary levels covering such aspects as curriculum, instruction, evaluation, with special emphasis on the subject taught by the concerned teachers.

(iii) The objective of the programme is to:

(a) Promote an understanding of new developments in curriculum, instruction and evaluation; and (b) develop ability to apply these concepts to curriculum development, teaching and evaluation in the context of specific school subjects and sectors.

(iv) The programme comprises 4 courses, each of 4 credits, two of which are compulsory. The other two courses can be selected from two sets of 4 and 9 courses respectively. The 16 credit programme can be completed in a minimum duration of 6 months.

AC 6.3.2

In the discussions that followed, the following views were expressed:

(i) It was suggested that active collaboration may be necessary with NCERT, a national institute concerned primarily with different levels of school education. The IGNOU may explore the possibility of drawing upon the vast faculty potential that the NCERT has for developing course materials.

(ii) Course ES 215-Teaching of General Science-could be so devised as to develop teaching competence in individual science subjects. A similar approach could be adopted in course ES 216 - Teaching of Social Studies also.

(iii) Subjects like Commerce and courses in the vocational stream also need to be included in the programme.

(iv) Courses for training adult educators are very-important and some thought should be given to this aspect and possible collaboration with the National Institute of Adult Education and similar bodies might be considered.

(v) The programme as envisaged may, for the present, be restricted to primary/secondary teachers and adult education workers. Since at higher secondary level disciplines are more

clearly defined, it may be advisable to devise a separate programme for higher secondary teachers.

AC 6.3.3 While agreeing in principle to the proposal, the Council desired that the School Board of the School of Education may consider the above views in finalising the programme structure and bring the matter before the Academic Council for approval.

ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGING THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE PROGRAMMES - DIPLOMA IN DISTANCE EDUCATION AND DIPLOMA IN HIGHER EDUCATION

AC 6.4.1 The Vice-Chancellor requested Prof. B.N. Koul to present the item.

AC 6.4.2 Prof. Koul explained that the Diploma in Distance Education (DDE) was launched in 1987 and the Diploma in Higher Education (DHE) in 1992, and that the entry qualification prescribed for both the programmes was Post-Graduate Degree in any discipline or professional degrees such as MBBS or BE. The DDE and DHE are, therefore, third level programmes and it is only appropriate to rename them as Post Graduate Diploma in Distance Education and Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education.

AC 6.4.3 The Academic Council decided that the programmes of Diploma in Distance Education and the Diploma in Higher Education shall henceforth be known as Post Graduate Diploma in Distance Education (PDD) and Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education (PDH) respectively.

ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER THE FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE PROGRAMME ON CERTIFICATE IN GUIDANCE.

AC 6.5.1 The Academic Council considered the proposal on the fee to be charged for the Programme in Certificate in Guidance. It was noted that the fee proposed was at par with the other certificate programme, namely, Certificate in Food and Nutrition.

AC 6.5.2 During the discussions on the subject, it was generally agreed that the University's fee structure needs to be reviewed from time to time. It was felt that the fee charged should have some relation to the costs involved in the production of print materials as well as audio-video programmes. A review of the fee structure should take into account the costs of infrastructure created, the costs involved in the production of materials and also the target groups to which the programmes are addressed. For example, there could be

differential rates of fees for programmes in management which attracts serving managers and those in education which are designed for primary school teachers.

AC 6.5.3 The Council agreed that there is a need to take a fresh look at IGNOU's fee structure for which some study needs to be made. The Vice-Chancellor said that this aspect would be looked into and that the matter will be brought before the Council at an appropriate time.

AC 6.5.4 The Council, taking into consideration that the programme of Certificate in Guidance has already been announced, approved the proposed fee of Rs.200/- for the programme (Rs.50/- per course).

ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF RETURNING THE EVALUATED PROJECT REPORTS TO THE CANDIDATES - DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH.

AC 6.6.1 The Vice-Chancellor stated that this matter was placed at an earlier meeting of the Academic Council but its consideration was deferred.

AC 6.6.2 After a detailed discussion, the Council decided that:

(i) A general permission may be given to students to publish the projects submitted by them to the University in part fulfilment of the diploma programme in Creative Writing in English. It should, however, be made explicitly clear that students should not, in any manner, make any reference to the university in their publication.

(ii) when a project is sent to evaluators, they may be asked to send brief comments on the project separately for sending them to the student concerned for his information. However, the original of the project with evaluator's comments on it should not be returned to the students.

ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER ASSIGNMENT OF DISCIPLINES TO THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AND SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES.

AC 6.7.1 The Academic Council decided that the discipline of Computer and Information Science which was hitherto assigned to the School of Engineering and Technology be now assigned to the School of Computer and Information Sciences. Similarly, the disciplines of Health Science and Nursing will

stand assigned to the School of Health Sciences.

ITEM NO.8

TO CONSIDER THE CHANGE IN THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR ADMISSION TO MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES.

AC 6.8.1

(i) The Vice-Chancellor explained that the University offers the following management programmes at present:

- a) Diploma in Management (5 courses)
- b) Advanced Diploma in Management (6 courses)
- c) Specialisation Diplomas in the following areas
 - Human Resource Management)
 - Financial Management)
 - Operations Management) 5 courses
 - Marketing Management) each
- d) Integrative module (5 courses)

(ii) A student who takes the above programmes sequentially and successfully completes 21 courses will be eligible for an MBA Degree. The minimum qualification for admission to the Diploma in Management is at present a Bachelor's Degree with 3 years supervisory experience; for non-graduates, six years of supervisory experience is essential. All admissions are made through an entrance test. There is provision for direct entry to specialisation diplomas for which the qualifications are Bachelor's Degree with 3 years supervisory experience or a professional degree in engineering/technology, medicine etc or professional qualifications in accountancy/cost and works accountancy etc. or a Master's Degree in any subject.

(iii) The proposal now placed before the Academic Council envisages:

- (a) there would be no changes in the entry requirements for the programme of Diploma in Management;
- (b) admission to all other diploma programmes would be restricted to graduates, and only those who possess at least a Bachelor's degree would be eligible for the award of the MBA degree;

- (c) the Advanced Diploma in Management and the Specialisation Diplomas may be redesignated as Post Graduate Diplomas, namely,

Post Graduate Diploma in Management (ADIM previously)

PG Diploma in Human Resource Management

PG Diploma in Financial Management

PG Diploma in Operations Management

PG Diploma in Marketing Management

AC 6.8.2

Reacting to the above proposal, the members expressed the following views:

- (i) In respect of all awards and qualifications, since comparisons are made with those of the conventional system, the redesignation of the existing programmes as post-graduate diplomas, and prescribing a degree as a necessary qualification for admission would be desirable.
- (ii) the award of a professional degree like the MBA to students who do not possess a Bachelor's Degree may be viewed with scepticism. If the MBA Degree of IGNOU is to be widely accepted, it would be necessary to follow the conventional pattern to a certain extent till IGNOU can stand on its own.
- iii) the stipulation that a Bachelor's degree as a necessary requirement to register for a post Graduate Diploma in Management or for an MBA Degree will be a retrograde step since the open university system envisages democratisation of education by opening access to all those who seek higher education.
- (iv) Even in the conventional system, especially in such institutions as the IITs, there are integrated programmes leading to Master's degree without the award of a Bachelor's degree and the IGNOU's MBA programme should be treated on that basis.

AC 6.8.3

The Academic Council decided that :

- (a) Admission to the programme of Diploma in Management may continue as before.

(b) The Advanced Diploma in Management may hence forth be redesignated as Post-graduate Diploma in Management.

(c) The 4 specialisation diplomas may be redesignated as:

- PG Diploma in Human Resource Management
- PG Diploma in Financial Management
- PG Diploma in Operations Management
- PG Diploma in Marketing Management

(d) Admission to the Post Graduate Diploma in Management and any one of the PG specialisation Diplomas should be confined only to those who possess at least a Bachelor's Degree;

(e) Only those who possess at least a Bachelor's Degree would be eligible for the award of an MBA Degree of the IGNOU.

AC 6.8.4 The Council also decided that the above changes in the admission requirements would be effective only from the session starting in January, 1994.

ITEM NO.9 TO REPORT ON THE HOLDING OF THE THIRD CONVOCATION.

AC 6.9.1 The Academic Council noted that the Third Convocation of the IGNOU was successfully held on April 25, 1992 and that Shri Arjun Singh, Minister for Human Resource Development, addressed the Convocation as Chief Guest. The Council noted that the following students who qualified in various programmes, were awarded the Diplomas/Degrees at the Convocation:

	Total	in person	in absentia
DIM	2147	438	1709
ADIM	900	225	675
DHRM	126	43	83
DFM	136	44	92
DMM	163	55	108
MBA	143	100	43
BLS	310	154	156
DDE	141	29	112
DCE	48	07	41

AC 6.9.2 The Council also noted that 793 candidates qualified for the Certificate in Food & Nutrition.

ITEM NO.10 TO REPORT ON THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY.

AC 6.10.1 The Vice-Chancellor informed the Council that the IGNOU and the Pondicherry University have signed a Memorandum Of Understanding on May 15, 1992 which envisages the mutual recognition of courses and the transfer of credits (Appendix II). The Pondicherry University has adopted course based credit system which would help the contracting institutions to transfer credits for courses designed and developed by either of them. According to the Memorandum Of Understanding, a student who has satisfactorily completed a course offered by the IGNOU can claim credit for that course from the Pondicherry even though the latter is not offering such a course. Thus, the agreement, besides enabling transfer of credits, enlarges the choice of courses available to the students of both Universities.

AC 6.10.2 The members expressed happiness over this very significant, progressive and bold step taken by Pondicherry University and IGNOU. They suggested that the possibility of establishing similar arrangements with other Universities should be explored. This is all the more important because at present mobility of students from one University to another even within a State is difficult let alone between Universities located in different parts of the country. The members felt that the signing of the Understanding between the University of Pondicherry and IGNOU should be widely publicised so that many more Universities could be encouraged to consider similar steps.

AC 6.10.3 The Vice-Chancellor said the following steps could be taken in this behalf:

- (i) He would write a letter to the Chairman, UGC with a request to recommend the proposal to other Universities.
- (ii) A similar request would be made to the Secretary, Association of Indian Universities.
- (iii) He would also write to all Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities to begin with, and to other Universities later.
- (iv) Attempts would also be made to draw the attention of the press to this innovative proposal.

ITEM NO.11 **TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR OFFERING THE COURSES OF NUTRITION FOR THE COMMUNITY (8 CREDITS) AND ORGANISING CHILD CARE SERVICES (8 CREDITS) AS INDEPENDENT COURSES IN 1993.**

AC 6.11.1 At the request of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. B.N. Koul briefly explained the proposal. At present the courses on Nutrition for Community and Organising Child Care Services, each carrying 8 credits, are offered as application - oriented courses within the Bachelors Degree Programme. It was considered that since these courses are of general interest and have potential of income generation, it may be advisable that these courses may also be offered as independent courses. The following options were proposed:

- (1) A candidate may complete either of these courses and the University may award certificates of completion to those who successfully complete the course.
- (2) A candidate may offer both the courses and accumulate 16 credits in which case the University may award a certificate with an appropriate name to all the candidates who complete both the courses successfully.
- (3) The courses may be made available as non-credit courses without provision of student support services for whosoever wants to take them.

AC 6.11.2 Members generally welcomed the idea. The Vice-Chancellor stated that this could be yet another innovative step by IGNOU in the sense that University offers knowledge to interested candidates without insistence on their sitting for examinations or issuing certificates. There could be a wide range of such courses which people may like to take as non-credit courses. For example, *courses in Health care would be of interest to a large number of people even though they may not be interested in acquiring qualifications.*

AC 6.11.3 The Academic Council agreed to the proposal in principle and desired that details may be worked out and brought before it for further consideration.

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



V.C. Kulandai Swamy
Vice-Chancellor