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MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1996, AT 1100 HOURS IN THE 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. Dr S.K. Gandhe
3. Prof Rakesh Khurana
4. Prof Asha Kanwar
5. Prof R.K. Grover
6. Prof M.B. Menon
7. Prof V.V. Mandke
8. Prof R.K. Bose
9. Prof Pandav Nayak
10. Prof M.M. Pant
11. Prof (Mrs.) Prabha Chawla
12. Dr (Mrs.) Neela Jagannathan
13. Shri C.R. Pillai
14. Dr Madhulika Kaushik
15. Dr Geeta Kaicker
16. Shri Akshay Kumar
17. Prof A.K. Sharma
18. Prof Namvar Singh
19. Dr Ravinder Kumar

Prof Janardan Jha, Prof U.R. Ananthamurthy, Prof P.S. Doodhar, Dr K. Subramanian, Shri B.S. Bhatia, Dr Arun Guha, Shri G.S. Modi, Prof Tushaar Shah, Dr V.B. Kulkarni and Shri T.R. Kem, Registrar (Member-Secretary), could not attend the meeting.

Shri D.C. Pant, Director (SRED) attended the meeting as a Special Invitee.

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

Before the items of agenda were taken up, the Vice-Chancellor extended a cordial welcome to the following new members:

- (i) Prof A.K. Sharma
- (ii) Dr Neela Jagannathan, Librarian
- (iii) Dr Ravinder Kumar

The following items were considered (Item 11 to 14 listed in the agenda are to be taken as 10 to 13 in the Minutes):

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON OCTOBER 5, 1995 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

AC 14.1.1 It was stated that no comments were received from any member. However, one of the members, who is also a Director of School, brought to the attention of the Chairman that in accordance with Resolution No. AC 13.4.4, the School Boards were to consider the Research Policy and offer their comments. He further stated that he had received the copy of the Research Policy only very recently from the Officer on Special Duty and that it was discussed only at the School level and not in the School Board. It was clarified that administrative action was taken much earlier and that an extract of the decision of the Academic Council under reference was sent to all the Directors of School in November, 1995 for taking action. This was noted.

AC 14.1.2 The Minutes of the 13th meeting of the Academic Council held on October 5, 1995 were confirmed. The Council also noted the action taken on the Minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE ORDINANCE ON PH.D PROGRAMME
&
ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE ON M.PHIL DEGREE PROGRAMME.

(Item Numbers 2 & 3 were considered together.)

AC 14.2&3.1 The Vice-Chancellor briefly introduced the item. He stated that consequent to the adoption of the Research Policy, it has become necessary to modify the existing Ordinance on M.Phil and also make a new Ordinance on Ph.D. It was further stated that in terms of the provisions of the Statutes, a new Ordinance or an amendment to an existing Ordinance or repealing of an Ordinance on any matter affecting the academic functioning of the University could be considered by the Board of Management only after a draft of such proposal has been first considered, and approved by the Academic Council. The Vice-Chancellor stated that the Committee appointed by him for the purpose of framing the said Ordinances has submitted a single Ordinance for the Research Degrees of M.Phil and Ph.D and consequently, if the suggested draft

Ordinance is considered and approved by the Academic Council, the existing M.Phil Ordinance would stand repealed.

AC 14.283.2 In the discussion that followed, the following views were expressed:

- (i) Research Council should be a statutory body with adequate representation for academics.
- (ii) Would a single Research Council be able to do justice to the varied research topics covering the large number of disciplines/specialisations. Would it not, therefore, be advisable to follow the pattern of conventional system with a Board of Research Studies for each discipline?
- (iii) Concern was expressed that only Professors and Readers were given automatic recognition for conducting research leaving out the Lecturers.
- (iv) The expression "exceptional cases" in Para 3.3.2 covering 'other employees' may be deleted so that opportunity be equally open to all employees.
- (v) Concern was expressed about a possible conflict in operational terms between the School Boards and the Area Committees. (Clause 2.2.1(iv) needs to be clarified).

AC 14.283.3 Responding to the views expressed, the following points were clarified:

- (i) there should be no bar to allow Lecturers to guide research provided they have a Ph.D degree with five years post-doctoral experience;
- (ii) School Boards will have ample freedom in topics covering the disciplines assigned to Schools. But where topics of inter-disciplinary nature are concerned, the matter will be considered by the Area Committees;
- (iii) a more liberal view may be taken for Lecturers guiding research leading to M.Phil degrees; and
- (iv) teacher representation on the Research Council may be enhanced but such representation need not necessarily be

confined to IGNOU teachers only.

AC 14.2&3.4

The Academic Council, having considered the views expressed and the clarifications given, decided as follows:

- (i) Approved the draft Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes in principle;
- (ii) Authorised the Vice-Chancellor to incorporate such of the suggestions as are considered appropriate; and
- (iii) Authorised the Vice-Chancellor to submit the finalized draft Ordinance to the Board of Management.

ITEM NO. 4

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE NORMS AND STANDARDS IN RESPECT OF:

- (I) COMPUTER EDUCATION**
- (II) MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES**
- (III) TEACHER'S EDUCATION (B.ED)**

AC 14.4.1

Before the item was discussed, a point was made that there is a variation in the titles of the three programmes presented in the agenda note. The titles should have been stated in the agenda note as given in the three papers. This was noted.

AC 14.4.2

The Council discussed the authority of Distance Education Council (DEC) as a statutory body under the IGNOU Act and emphasised the need to look into its role vis-a-vis the role of other statutory bodies such as AICTE, NCTE and IMC. Some members expressed their concern regarding overlapping of roles and powers of these agencies including DEC. It was pointed out that Academic Council has to look at the norms and standards developed by DEC from the point of view of its adoption in the concerned schools/academic programmes in the University as it has no jurisdiction over the adoption of these in other open universities and distance education institutions.

AC 14.4.3

The Council adopted the norms and standards developed for Computer Education, Management Programmes and B.Ed programme and approved these for being adopted by the concerned schools of the University. It directed the concerned schools to look into its programmes and support infrastructure and make necessary changes, if any, to accommodate the approved norms and standards of the DEC.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE (1) OF STATUTE 9 REGARDING MEMBERSHIP OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL.

AC 14.5.1 The Academic Council considered the amendment to Clause (1) of Statute 9 and approved the proposed amendment. A Statement giving details of the existing provisions, proposed amendment and the Statute after amendment is placed at Appendix - 1.

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 1 ON THE CONVOCATION.

AC 14.8.1 The Academic Council considered and approved the amendment proposed to Ordinance on the Convocation for adding the following additional Clause as Clause 6(A):

*6A. Such students who have passed their examinations and who have been issued their degrees/diplomas on payment of prescribed fees on request before the Convocation as are unable to present themselves in person at the Convocation, shall be admitted to the Degrees/Diplomas in absentia by the Vice-Chancellor."

ITEM NO. 7 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSFER OF CREDITS OF THE COURSES QUALIFIED BY THE STUDENTS IN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES.

AC 14.7.1 The Academic Council noted and ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in implementing the policy guidelines on transfer of credits with regard to the courses qualified by the students in Management Programmes. The general policy guidelines are placed at Appendix - 2.

ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE SPECIALISATION (MAJOR IN A PARTICULAR DISCIPLINE) OF BA, B.COM/B.SC PROGRAMME AND THE NATURE OF CERTIFICATE (DIPLOMA) TO BE ISSUED.

AC 14.8.1 The item was considered. The Council also took note of the views expressed by the Director (SR&ED) and the Director, School of Sciences. While accepting the proposal in principle, it was decided that a small Committee with PVC - II as Chairman may examine all the issues and make a report to the Academic Council.

ITEM NO. 9 TO REPORT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

- AC 14.9.1 The Academic Council noted that the 7th Annual Convocation will be held at the Sanchar Kendra, IGNOU, on Saturday, May 11, 1996 and that Justice Ranganath Misra, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, will be the Chief Guest and deliver the Convocation address.
- AC 14.9.2 The Academic Council noted that the Convocation will also be held simultaneously at Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Madras through tele-conferencing mode via satellite.
- AC 14.9.3 The Council took on record the Statement showing the number of students eligible for award of degrees/diplomas and those who would be eligible for the award of University gold medals in different programmes (Appendix - 3). The Academic Council further authorised the Vice-Chancellor to include in the list all those candidates who would be eligible for the award of degrees/diplomas till the date of Convocation and a Report may be made in the next Academic Council giving the exact number of the degree/diplomas awarded as also the exact number of gold medals awarded.

ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER THE METHODOLOGY FOR PROCESSING THE RESULT OF COURSE 4 - PROJECT WORK OF THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN NUTRITION AND HEALTH EDUCATION.

- AC 14.10.1 The matter was considered by the Academic Council. While accepting the proposal in principle, the Academic Council decided that the Vice-Chancellor may appoint a small committee consisting two or three members to examine the issues and report to the Academic Council.

ITEM NO. 11 TO CONSIDER CHANGE OF NOMENCLATURE OF DIPLOMA IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

- AC 14.11.1 The Academic Council noted that the School Board of the School of Continuing Education, at its meeting held on August 25, 1995, took a decision that the Diploma in Rural Development should be named as Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development. The Academic Council approved the above change of nomenclature.

ITEM NO. 12 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS FOR CONVOCATION AT HEADQUARTERS.

AC 14.12.1 Consequent to the holding of the Convocation simultaneously at five Regional Centres with the main function at the headquarters, it was proposed that the relevant portions of the Regulations of the Convocation, namely, Clause 14, 16 and 22 need amendment. It was also noted that Clause 17 also requires amendment if the amendment proposed to Clause 16 is accepted. The Council also approved the Programme to be followed by the five Regional Centres.

AC 14.12.2 The Academic Council, having considered the matter approved the amendments proposed to Clause 14, 16, 17 and 22 of the Regulations of the Convocation. A Statement giving details of the existing provisions and the Clauses after amendment is indicated in the Statement at Appendix - 4.

ITEM NO. 13 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR ON ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES/REFRESHER COURSES/SUMMER INSTITUTES, ETC.

AC 14.13.1 The Academic Council considered the report of the Committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor concerning certain issues relating to Orientation Programmes/Refresher Courses/Summer Institutes, etc. for teachers in the context of Career Advancement Scheme. While accepting the recommendations made by the Committee, the Council decided that the following changes be effected:

- (i) In para 8 of the recommendations, the responsibility for deputing people for participation in Orientation Programmes should be that of the University.
- (ii) Para 10 of the recommendations : The specific date mentioned in the Clause may be deleted to make it general.
- (iii) The points mentioned in the last two paragraphs of the recommendations should also form part of the main recommendations.

AC 14.13.2 The recommendations of the Report incorporating the suggestions/corrections indicated above is placed at **Appendix - 5.**

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


(R.G. TAKWALE)
Vice-Chancellor