

IGNOU

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE
ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON FEBRUARY 09, 2001, AT
11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK - 8,
IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI - 110 068.

The following were present:

- (1) Prof. V.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor - Chairman
- (2) Prof. A.K. Agarwal
- (3) Prof. V.R. Jagannathan
- (4) Prof. S.C. Garg
- (5) Prof. N.V. Narasimham
- (6) Prof. M. Aslam
- (7) Prof. Shobita Jain
- (8) Prof. Manohar Lal
- (9) Dr. Neela Jagannathan
- (10) Dr. R. Sreedher
- (11) Dr. R.P. Rausaria
- (12) Ms. Kameshwari Murthy
- (13) Dr. Ruchika Kuba
- (14) Dr. M.V. Lakshmi Reddy
- (15) Dr. Anita Dighe
- (16) Shri P.V. Suresh
- (17) Dr. D.K. Choudhry
- (18) Dr. Subhasis Maji
- (19) Shri C.R. Prasad
- (20) Dr. George John
- (21) Dr. J.M. Parakh
- (22) Ms. Anuradha Mohit
- (23) Dr George Mathew
- (24) Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Registrar - Member Secretary

Prof. M.B. Menon, Prof. Prabha Chawla, Shri V. Suresh, Shri M.S. Verma, Prof. Abad Ahmad, Dr. Ila Pathak, Mrs. Vibha Parthasarathi, Prof. Madhulika Kaushik, Dr. Sarala Gopalan, Prof. M. Khajapeer, Ms. Usha Rai, Shri N. Ram, Prof. Kapilashrami and Prof. B.S. Saraswat could not attend the meeting.

Prof. Ram Pratap, Director (Planning) attended the meeting as Special Invitees.

Shri D. Deb, Assistant Registrar (Governance), was present to assist the Council.

At the outset, the Vice-Chancellor extended a warm welcome to the members. He conveyed the New Year's greetings to the members as it was the

first meeting of the Academic Council convened in 2001. Thereafter, the Vice-Chancellor gave a brief account of some of the important developments concerning the University. These developments are summarized as under:

- (i) There has been a considerable increase in enrolment in admission to various programmes/courses. As on date the enrolment figure for 2001 for various programmes/courses is around 3 Lakhs as compared to 1.90 Lakhs in 2000. The study shows that the rise in enrolment for professional courses³ like computer and management courses is continuously increasing. These courses alone account for around 70% of the total enrolment.
- (ii) The distribution of enrolment has also been undergoing a change from urban areas to rural areas gradually. Earlier the bulk of students used to be in the Metro Cities and the State Capitals generally. Now, the reach of the University has extended to smaller towns and remote areas including the North-East Region.
- (iii) The School of Education has started Ph.D. Programme in Education commencing from January 2001. This is the Phase-I of the Programme where the students with M.Phil qualifications are eligible to apply. The other Schools, especially, School of Social Sciences, School of Management Studies and School of Sciences will also offer Ph.D. Programmes in near future.
- (iv) From January 2001, the Post Graduate Programme in English has been launched under the School of Social Sciences. A good response from the students has been received and it is stated that 5050 number of students have already been enrolled in 2001.
- (v) The IGNOU have undertaken certain new initiatives. These initiatives are as under:
 - (a) The University has opened more Regional Centres in the States of the North-East Region under the North-East Project funded by the MHRD.
 - (b) Efforts are afoot for offering some of the existing programmes of the University into regional languages especially to cover the remote and weaker sections. To start with regional languages, Khasi, Manipuri can be explored for this purpose.
 - (c) The University plans to offer new programmes to meet the needs and requirements of societies in different regions of the country especially remote areas.

With these observations, the following items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 24TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 01, 2000 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

AC 25.1.1 The item was considered. Registrar informed that comments were received from members on certain resolutions recorded in the Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the Academic Council held on September 01, 2000. With the permission of the Chair, he read out the comments. The Council considered the comments and the following corrections/modifications are made to the Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the Academic Council:

(i) It was informed by the Registrar that a Review Committee under Resolution No.AC 24.18.2 will be constituted after the new Vice-Chancellor assumes the charge of office.

(ii) Under Resolution No.AC 24.7.2, a new point has been included as under:

"AC 24.7.2(v) - The University should evolve policy guidelines for using inter-disciplinary programmes so that all programmes of similar nature are offered by the University from one School taking into account the expertise available there."

(iii) Under Resolution No.AC 24.1.1(iv) The para will stand modified. The resolution will now read as under:

"AC 24.1.1(iv) - The Academic Council approved the concept of IGNOU Consultancy Services in principle. The details and procedures to be adopted in offering consultancy services will be finalized by the Committee to be constituted by the Vice-Chancellor as per details given in the proposal."

AC 25.1.2 With the above corrections/modifications, the Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the Academic Council held on September 01, 2000 have been confirmed.

ITEM NO. 2

TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON 'COURSE CODES AND COLOUR SCHEME CODES'.

AC 25.2.1

The Item was considered. Prof. Ram Pratap gave a brief background leading to the recommendations of the Committee on 'Course Codes and Colour Scheme Codes'. It was informed that all programmes/courses needed an uniform and specific codes so that they do not overlap with each other as also to indicate clearly the level of programmes/courses, the discipline and the nature of courses. Proper codification will also help in reference to service, retrieval and classification of information on students and study material.

Prof. Ram Pratap, briefly, informed that the recommendation has two parts - first part indicates the level of the programme like Certificate or Post Graduate Certificate, etc. and the second part indicates the special area of the programme.

AC 25.2.2

After some discussion, the following points were made by the members:

- (i) Programme Cores and Programme Codes are different in its meaning and implications as also Degrees and Diplomas are different from each other. It was suggested that this difference should be specifically reflected in the proposed scheme of colour and codes.
- (ii) The guidelines as recommended by the Committee on 'Course Codes and Colour Scheme' should be implemented uniformly across the board.
- (iii) Directors of the Schools concerned should be included in the discussion with regard to implementations of the recommendations of the Committee before finalizing the Course Code and Colour Code for any programme/course.

AC 25.2.3

The Vice-Chancellor referred to a provision in the UGC Act which says that all degrees offered by the recognized universities under the UGC are required to obtain approval of the UGC before its implementation. The UGC had already circulated the guidelines for this purpose. He also mentioned that IGNOU being a mega

University cannot ignore its international dimension so as to keep some uniformity in international standards of codifications. However, he agreed that for internal purpose, the recommendations of the Committee should be accepted with the stipulation that all the suggestions offered by the members with regard to recommendations of the Committee should be noted and any modification/changes made thereof in the implementation of the scheme be informed to the Academic Council.

AC 25.2.4

Keeping in view the above observations, the Council noted the Report of the Committee and accepted the recommendations of the Committee.

ITEM NO. 3

TO CONSIDER THE MATTER RELATING TO SUPPLY OF REVISED STUDY MATERIAL TO INDIAN STUDENTS OF POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DISTANCE EDUCATION (PGDDE).

AC 25.3.1

The Item. was considered. Prof. P.R. Ramanujam, Director (STRIDE) was invited to present a brief background of the proposal. He gave a brief background of the matter related to supply of revised study material to Indian students of Post Graduate Diploma in Distance Education (PGDDE). It was informed that the proposal for revision came from the experts on the subject. The internal faculty of STRIDE and the invited experts met together and revised the material. Thereafter the feedback from students was also taken into account and further revision was done based on the feedback. More than 50% of the course materials have already been revised. It was sated that as the academic session started from January 2001 and that the materials have been sent to the students with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor be ratified.

AC 25.3.2

Having considered the background, justification and urgency of the proposal, the Council gave post facto approval to the revision of study materials and its supply to Indian Students of Post Graduate Diploma in Distance Education (PGDDE).

ITEM NO. 4

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 6TH AND 7TH MEETINGS OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE.

AC 25.4.1

The Item was considered. Registrar informed the members that the Academic Programme Committee is a Standing Committee of the Planning Board. Being a Standing Committee, it acts on behalf of the Planning Board relating to consideration and approval of all academic programme proposals. It was informed that there were no comments received on the minutes of the meetings.

AC 25.4.2

The Council approved the Minutes of the 6th and 7th meetings of the Academic Programme Committee held on October 12, 2000 and November 22, 2000 respectively.

ITEM NO. 5

TO CONSIDER THE DETAILED PROGRAMME REPORT (DPR) FORM (PHASE-3) RELATING TO CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN HIV AND FAMILY EDUCATION.

AC 25.5.1

The Item was considered. Prof. G. Thomas of the School of Continuing Education who was invited to present the proposal, gave a brief background and justification of the proposal. In the course of discussion, the points raised by the members were noted as under:

- (i) The Certificate Programme in HIV and Family Education is having wide social importance in the present scenario of the Indian society. Particular reference has been made to the slum dwellers and uneducated people who will be immensely benefited if this programme is launched. Nonetheless, there is a need to develop these programmes in different regional languages so that the awareness and knowledge can be generated among a large section of the population.
- (ii) There were certain queries from some members regarding title of the course and the type of course (compulsory/ optional). In this context, a point was raised with regard to social and family attitude and behaviour aspect which is not apparently reflected in the course.
- (iii) One of the suggestions was that optional part of the course curriculum may not be necessary at this

stage as the programme is more of an awareness programme rather than professional.

- (iv) Regarding target groups/clientele, it was pointed out that the target groups for the programme is not clearly ascertained separately.
- (v) The members had some reservation regarding the discipline title, namely, 'Health and Social Welfare Chair'. It was stated that it is not a discipline as indicated in the Phase-3 format.
- (vi) There was a general consensus among the members that the Programme in HIV and Family Education is socially relevant and desirable.

AC 25.5.2

In response to the points made by the members, the following clarifications were noted:

- (i) That it is a Certificate Course and that four courses out of seven are ready.
- (ii) The first batch of students who will be admitted to this programme will not have the facility of optional course.
- (iii) The target groups for this programme are clearly stated in the programme objectives as School Teachers, NGO Functionaries, Para Medical staff and Parents of adolescents.
- (iv) The Director, School of Continuing Education and also the Programme Coordinator of the proposed programme agreed to take into consideration the valuable points made by the members and make necessary modifications wherever needed.

AC 25.5.3

In his observations, the Vice-Chancellor made following remarks:

- (i) The proposal deserves to be treated more as a general programme than as professional programme.
- (ii) A need has arisen to clearly lay down the procedures/policy with regard to the level of the course as the number of the programmes/courses offered by the University is large and on the increase.

- (iii) The structure of the programme may initially be started with four compulsory courses and thereafter proceed to offer the optional courses for special category/targets.
- (iv) The proposal may be revised in line with the modifications suggested.

AC 25.5.4

Keeping in view the above observations/comments, the Council made the following decisions:

- (i) The DPR Form Phase-3 relating to Certificate Programme in HIV and Family Education is approved in principle and directed the School to submit the proposal with necessary changes incorporated in the proposal to the Academic Programme Committee.
- (ii) The Council authorized the Academic Programme Committee to consider the issues raised in the Academic Council in relation to this programme and take necessary action thereafter.

ITEM NO. 6

TO CONSIDER THE DETAILED PROGRAMME REPORT (DPR) FORM (PHASE-3) RELATING TO DIPLOMA IN NURSING ADMINISTRATION.

AC 25.6.1

The Item was considered. Miss Rita Sarkar, Lecturer of the School of Health Sciences gave a brief background, objectives and rationale of the proposal. Also, Prof. A.K. Agarwal, Director, School of Health Sciences made the following points:

- (i) The Course in Nursing Administration and Nursing Education are already in existence.
- (ii) The Medical Council of India, the apex body for the purpose of recognition and maintenance of standards, has raised certain reservations about the programmes relating to medical professional in distance mode. The matter is being discussed with the MHRD who have shown interest in Distance Education.

AC 25.6.2

While commenting on the recognition and equivalence of

IGNOU programmes and courses, the Vice-Chancellor informed the members that certain developments have taken place lately in these areas. In this context, he mentioned the following points:

- (i) An agreement has been reached between All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and IGNOU for the development, recognition and approval of areas relating to technical education.
- (ii) It has been further agreed that Joint Council involving the members from both the organizations will be constituted soon.
- (iii) The University should take steps to get recognition/approval of apex bodies like Medical Council of India/Indian Nursing Council in relation to programmes offered by the School of Health Sciences.
- (iv) The Vice-Chancellor also mentioned that clearance by the NCTE, the apex body for the purpose of standard and recognition was ensured before launching programme of B.Ed. by the University.

AC 25.6.3

After some discussion, members raised certain points. These are:

- (i) The University may take into account the requirements of the various national/state statutory apex bodies for maintaining educational standards.
- (ii) The School concerned should initiate steps/process to impress the councils to accredit the programmes through the Distance Education with a view to approve the same.
- (iii) The DPR Form (Phase-3) needs to be revised and resubmitted in the proper format.

AC 25.6.4

Keeping in view the above observations, it was decided that the DPR Form (Phase-3) is required to be resubmitted for consideration.

ITEM NO. 7

TO CONSIDER THE DETAILED PROGRAMME REPORT (DPR) FORM (PHASE-3) RELATING TO CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME ON PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF DISPLACEMENT, RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION.

AC 25.7.1

The Item was considered. Prof. Shobita Jain, Director, School of Social Sciences gave a brief background of the proposal. In this context, the following points were mentioned:

- (i) All development projects involve directly or indirectly the possibility of displacement of the inhabitants of that area.
- (ii) Development projects need to carry with it the conditions of resettlement and rehabilitation component in the Project.
- (iii) It is estimated that there are 10,000 people involved in this type of operations in India at present.
- (iv) The delivery of the proposed programme, it is stated, will be made through internet only.

AC 25.7.2

After detailed discussion, the following points were made by the members:

- (i) The past experience of programme like MCA through internet is a pointer to the situation that IGNOU is yet to fully equip its infrastructure with necessary facilities to offer courses through internet mode.
- (ii) Regional Centres of IGNOU are not equipped properly nor the students who would be desirous to opt for the course may have proper computing facilities available at their homes.
- (iii) The University does not have a chat server nor mail server.
- (iv) It was stated that the Post Graduate course offered by the University is generally one year course and not six months as proposed.

AC 25.7.3

Director, School of Social Sciences made the following clarifications to the points raised during the discussion:

- (i) All the points made by the members merit consideration and therefore the points have been noted.
- (ii) Chat session can be made possible through the facilities available at EMPC vis-à-vis the telecast facilities of Gyan Darshan.
- (iii) The programme can be launched as an experiment and improved upon with the experience gained over time. It was agreed that usage of the term Participation in Discussion Forum (PDF) will be modified.
- (iv) It was also stated that the advertisement will be suitably modified to indicate that the students who have access to internet and computers will be eligible to apply for the Programme.

AC 25.7.4

The following additional points were also made by a member:

- (i) The programme should take into account the disadvantaged groups and weaker sections of the society.
- (ii) All programmes, new or existing, offered by the University need to be sensitive to women's issues and areas concerning the disabled sector of the society.

AC 25.7.5

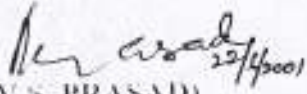
Keeping the above observations in view, the DPR Form (Phase-3) relating to Certificate Programme on Participatory Management of Displacement, Resettlement and Rehabilitation was approved in principle.

was to make the course on par with the courses of the other universities so that IGNOU students are not put to hardship and extra burden.

AC 25.9.2

With the above observations, the Council approved the restructuring of M.A.(Hindi) Programme.

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


(V.S. PRASAD)
Vice-Chancellor