

IGNOU

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY - NINTH MEETING OF THE
ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON JUNE 23, 2003 AT
11.00 A. M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK - 8,
IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI - 110 068.

The list of members present and who did not attend the meeting are given at **Appendix - 1**.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the 29th Meeting of the Academic Council. He specially welcomed the following new members of the Academic Council and said that he looked forward to their co-operation and valuable contribution to the deliberations in Council :

1. Prof. G. Thomas
2. Prof. S.B. Ghosh
3. Prof. Beena Shah
4. Prof. A.S.Narang

The Vice-Chancellor also placed on record Council's appreciation for the academic contributions made by the following retiring members:

1. Prof. Prabha Chawala
2. Prof. Shobita Jain
3. Prof. Ram Pratap
4. Dr. S.B. Arora
5. Sh. Vikram Chandra

The commencement of proceedings of the meeting started with the presentation of the **PREAMBLE** by the Chairman.

PREAMBLE

We are very pleased to inform the Council about the special efforts being made by the faculty members, Directors and the Pro Vice Chancellors to revise and update our existing programmes and to add some new dimensions relevant to contemporary developments both nationally and internationally. We have also identified some new areas of our interventions, which are relevant and important but have not received adequate focus and attention. We would like to share some of these initiatives in the following issues with the members of the Council and seek their consideration.

1. There is an increasing realization about the importance of providing education in the area of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for different target groups of learners in our country from scientists to industrialists and even practitioners of Law. Sometime ago we started negotiations with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) at Geneva for developing some joint programmes for our own country and region. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has approved our proposal for development of a Centre for IPR Education through Distance Mode. The Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr. Mashelkar has also showed considerable interest and as an outcome of our discussions with experts, we are in the process of launching an awareness course in IPR from July 2003.
2. Agriculture sector employs nearly 70% of our population and it seems that for sparsely distributed and well spread community of farmers and other functionaries in the agriculture sector, Distance education programmes should be most effective and sustainable. Our capability of strengthening such programmes through radio and television broadcasts further puts us in a unique and privileged position to make some successful interventions in this important sector. It is in this background that the University appointed Prof. Panjab Singh, former Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) as the Director of the Centre for Extension Education. We are also in the process of establishing a School of Agriculture in our University. We have thus been interacting with different Departments and Ministries like the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Horticulture and Food Processing, Department of Animal Husbandry and Live Stock etc. We are very pleased to mention that we have received very encouraging response from these Ministries and Departments and our proposals are under active consideration for approval by the Government of India. We have initiated the process of brainstorming sessions to identify future areas of our intervention in the form of a variety of programmes from certificate level to PG degree level in areas such as horticulture, agriculture policy, post harvesting, water resource management, etc. where we can make a successful dent in

collaboration with the corresponding Ministries, ICAR, Agriculture Universities and other organization and institutions.

3. In general the education in law in our country is directed towards providing eligibility qualifications for practicing lawyers. But the complexion and complexities of education in law is changing very fast and it is strongly felt that even for the practicing lawyers there are some important learning requirements for new and emerging dimensions like those related to IPR, Rights and Responsibilities of Good Citizenry in the form of Certificate, Diploma, PG degree Programmes etc. We would like to take up such programmes when we set up a new School of Law.
4. The Council would also be pleased to learn that the District Primary Education Programme-Distance Education Programme (DPEP-DEP) which was to be over on June 30, 2003 is being extended for future by the Department of Literacy and Primary Education and shall be operated from our campus beyond June 30, 2003 under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All) Plan of the MHRD. We are conducting counseling under this project through teleconferencing. We are also initiating action on development of Teachers' Training Programmes in collaboration with the NCET and State Governments for in service untrained teachers.
5. The Council was also informed of a very serious national concern about some of the substandard and nonviable Distance Education Programmes that seem to be provided by a few institutions in the Country. These programmes adversely affect the quality of education and credibility of Distance Education System itself. Some such institutions are operating from the conventional and technical institutions covered by the University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education. Since IGNOU has a mandate for determining and maintaining Standards in distance Education in the country, we have been making efforts to address this problem with the collaboration and support of other important organizations like the University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education. We are very pleased to report that the Chairpersons of these organizations along with the Vice-Chancellor IGNOU in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Distance Education Council, recently agreed to jointly sign a letter addressed to all the Vice-Chancellors/Heads of Institutions as a first joint initiative in this direction (copy of the letter is placed at Appendix - 2). We will pursue it further.

Decisions on the Preamble

The Council greatly appreciated these initiatives and efforts being taken by IGNOU and considered these as important steps taken for future development of IGNOU to achieve the University's mission. The Council specially appreciated the proposed interventions in Intellectual Property Right, agriculture, in-service teachers' training programme, etc. The Council desired that inter-school and

inter-disciplinary academic efforts in IGNOU should be further strengthened. The Council also suggested new initiatives for education on environment, sustainable development, etc. The Council also emphasized the need for strengthening research in distance education in the University.

The initiative to seek and ensure cooperation of major organizations like University Grants Commission and All India Council of Technical Education was considered path breaking and will go a long way in future development of the distance education in the country.

The Chairman then requested Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor to present the agenda items formally.

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 28TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2002 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON

AC 29.1.1 Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor presented to the Council an action taken report on the minutes of the 28th meeting of the Academic Council and proposed that the minutes of the meeting may be confirmed.

AC 29.1.2 Prof. Garg also highlighted the following important decisions of the 28th meeting and the present status in the matter:

- (i) Establishment of Inter-University Consortium for Technology Enabled Flexible Education and Development (IUC-TEFED). He informed the Council that as per the approval of the Academic Council the draft Ordinance on Inter University Consortium for Technology Enabled Flexible Education and Development (IUC-TEFED) was put up to the Board of Management for approval. The Board appreciated the initiative of the University. However, it directed that the issue of autonomy be reviewed in the larger context by a Sub-Committee including the status of EMPC, STRIDE, etc. The Sub-Committee is in the process of finalizing the draft and the recommendations would be put up to the Board of Management for its consideration and approval in due course.

- (ii) Another highlight of the Minutes was the event of 14th Convocation organized by the University on 22nd February, 2003 where, besides the 78,454 students who were awarded the degrees/diplomas, etc., the University has conferred the *honoris causa* degrees on Sir John Dennial, ADG, UNESCO and Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Chairman, ISRO.

AC 29.1.3 The Committee noted the action taken on the decisions of the 28th Meeting of the Academic Council and appreciated the important highlights and confirmed the Minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH MEETINGS OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE HELD ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2002, 15TH FEBRUARY, 2003 AND 8TH APRIL, 2003 RESPECTIVELY**

AC 29.2.1, Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor made a brief presentation on the Minutes of the 6th, 7th and 8th meetings of the Academic Council's Standing Committee held on 28th December, 2002, 15th February, 2003 and 8th April, 2003 respectively. He explained that the Standing Committee has made several important recommendations for consideration and approval of the Academic Council:

- (i) Reaching the Unreached: With a view to extend the reach of people beyond district level, the University has taken a major initiative by launching B.A. Degree programme on pilot basis in the North Bihar region. It is proposed to further extend the project to other backward areas particularly the North-East, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, based on the experiences so gained.
- (ii) Change of Academic Session: The academic session of IGNOU is being shifted from January to July and aligned with conventional system. Initially, a few select programmes have been chosen but if all goes well, same will be gradually done for other programmes.
- (iii) Revision of fee structure of various programmes: The fee for the various programmes were fixed a long time back. Due to increase in operational costs, paper and printing costs and in view of non-receipt of non-plan

grants, the fee were due for revision. The University with the approval of the Standing Committee has revised the fee of the most of the existing programmes by a modest range of 20% on an average. The revised fee structure has become applicable with January, 2003 admissions.

- (iv) Period of validity of the registration for BDP programme: At present the University has a provision of upto 8 years for completion of BDP programme. It has been observed that learners tend to lose interest over such a long period. Moreover, the syllabus become obsolete and redundant by the time such students complete their programme. This also creates unnecessary burden on the system. The University has, therefore, decided to reduce the maximum period to six years and extend re-register facility upto four chances to clear the left over papers in two years.
- (v) Setting up a Centre for Research and Innovations in Distance Education (RIDE): The RIDE would be developed as a full-fledged nodal forum at national level for a very high level collaborative research in ODL, interdisciplinary research and facilitating innovations in these areas with the provision of facilities for having extension and publications.
- (vi) Withdrawal of the component of assignments from all Certificate Programmes: Prof. Garg pointed out that the assignments in the case of certificate programmes did not serve the desired purpose. Besides, the University was paying heavily towards the evaluation of the assignments, almost three times of what other institutions were paying and were thus uneconomical. The proposal to withdraw the assignments was arrived at after a series of discussions and a brainstorming session organized by the University.
- (vii) Decentralisation of Project Evaluation: The projects form a compulsory part in many programmes. These were introduced to provide experience in learning by doing. However, the University initially centralized the evaluation of projects. With increase in student population, the task became unmanageable and began to inconvenience the learners. Therefore, it was considered advisable to decentralize the activity at Regional Centres with necessary guidelines. It has shown positive results.

Prof. Garg requested the Academic Council to consider these important issues and accord its specific approval.

AC 29.2.2

The Academic Council after detailed discussion on the several decisions resolved to approve the recommendations of the 6th, 7th and 8th meetings of the Academic Council's Standing Committee. The Council specially welcomed the decision of the University to establish the Centre for Research and Innovations in Distance Education (RIDE) by the University and hoped that once the Centre becomes functional, it would be a true national resource centre in the area of ODL. The Council also accorded the specific approval to these new initiatives and important decisions taken by the University on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

AC 29.2.3

The Council approved the decision on the reduction of maximum period from the present 8 years to 6 years for completion of BDP programme. In respect of reduction of period for extension from 8 years to 2 years, the Council advised that an analysis based on the actual number of students not completing the programme in stipulated time be undertaken. The Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take a decision about period of extension accordingly.

AC 29.2.4

During discussions on the recommendations of Standing Committee, members suggested that the University should strive to introduce more inter-disciplinary programmes. The Chairman appreciated the suggestions.

ITEM NO. 3

TO REPORT ON 14TH CONVOCATION HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2003

AC 29.3.1

The item was taken up for discussion with a brief presentation by Shri D.C. Pant, Pro Vice-Chancellor. He informed the Council that the University held its 14th Convocation on February 22, 2003, where 78,454 students, who had qualified for award of degrees/diplomas, were awarded certificates. This was the highest number of awardees in a University at one time. Besides, the University also conferred degrees, Honoris Causa on Sir John Dennial, ADG, UNESCO and Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Chairman, ISRO at the Convocation. The Council was also informed that the Convocation was held

simultaneously at Regional Centres through tele-conferencing mode.

AC 29.3.2 The Council noted the Report with satisfaction and appreciation.

ITEM NO. 4 **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROGRAMME DESIGN AND DETAILED PROGRAMME REPORT FORM (PHASE-3) OF THE PG DIPLOMA IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY**

AC 29.4.1 Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor made a brief presentation. He explained that the School of Sciences was developing a PG Diploma Programme in Analytical Chemistry (PGDAC). The main objective of the Programme was to train the prospective learners in the theory and practical skills for chemical analysis, adopting the modern analytical methods and equipments. The programme shall be of interest to the pharmaceutical industry and chemistry labs. Prof. Kannan, the Programme Coordinator was invited to present the highlights of the programme and clarify details.

AC 29.4.2 The item was discussed in detail. The Council noted that the proposed Programme fee is not enough to make it self-supporting; it would need substantial subsidy. It was, therefore, emphasised that in view of the fact that the University receives no non-plan grants from the Government, it would be advisable to look for support for the Programme from outside. In the meantime, the School may also explore the possibility of joint offering with Hyderabad University and work out an arrangement to utilise their course material and lab facilities.

AC 29.4.3 The programme was not approved as such. School was also asked to explore the possibilities of collaboration with other institutions either on sponsorship basis, or in joint partnership.

ITEM NO. 5

TO REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN DECENTRALISING THE SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION OF FINAL PROJECT REPORTS OF BCA AND MCA PROGRAMMES TO REGIONAL CENTRES

AC 29.5.1

Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor explained that the University had decided to decentralize the evaluation of the project reports in respect of programmes where the projects were a compulsory component of the programme. The work has been assigned to the Regional Centres for which proper guideline have been evolved and circulated.

AC 29.5.2

The Council ratified the action taken by the University.

ITEM NO. 6

TO REPORT ON THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEME FOR CONVERSION OF BCA (OLD SYLLABUS) IN THE BCA (NEW SYLLABUS)

AC 29.6.1

The item was taken up for discussion with a brief presentation by Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor. The Council ratified the decision taken by the University in the matter.

ITEM NO. 7

TO APPROVE CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS IN THE GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS OF TEACHERS/ACADEMICS FOR SANCTION OF EXTRA ORDINARY LEAVE AND DEPUTATION

AC 29.7.1

The item was discussed. Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor explained in detail the need for the proposal and modifications sought to be implemented in the exist guidelines as per the **Appendix - 3**.

AC 29.7.2

The Council approved the guidelines and advised that necessary changes may be incorporated in the Ordinances.

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


Member-Secretary