

MINUTES
of the
THIRTY NINTH (SPECIAL) MEETING
of the
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
held on
March 17, 2007



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068

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MINUTES OF THE THIRTY NINTH (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2007 AT 1.00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK-8, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI – 110 068.

The following were present:

1. Prof. V.N.Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor	-	Chairman
2. Prof. J.M.Parakh	-	Member
3. Prof. Pardeep Sahni	-	Member
4. Prof. Parvin Sinclair	-	Member
5. Prof. M.C.Sharma	-	Member
6. Prof. Anu Aneja	-	Member
7. Prof. N.V.Narasimham	-	Member
8. Prof. S.B.Arora	-	Member
9. Shri Shashi Bhushan	-	Member
10. Prof. B.S.Hansra	-	Member
11. Prof. A.S.Narang	-	Member
12. Prof. Renu Bhardwaj	-	Member
13. Dr. T.K.Jena, Reader	-	Member
14. Dr. Annu J.Thomas	-	Member
15. Dr. N.Venkateshwarlu	-	Member
16. Dr. Kamal Vagrecha	-	Member
17. Dr. Eisha Kannadi	-	Member
18. Shri S.K.Arora	-	Member
19. Prof. S.K.Panda	-	Member
20. Shri V.K.Arora	-	Member
21. Dr. C.K.Ghosh	-	Member
22. Dr. Srikant Mohapatra	-	Member
23. Prof. Kamlesh Mohan	-	Member
24. Prof. Vijay Kapur	-	Member
25. Dr. S.S.Rathi	-	Member
26. Prof. O.P.Mishra	-	Member
27. Prof. Anil Bhattacharya	-	Member
28. Prof. S.Sivakumar	-	Member
29. Dr. O.P.Dewal	-	Member
30. Prof. B.S.Saraswat, Director, ACD	-	Member-Secretary

Dr. P. Srinivas Kumar and Ms. Suneet Kashyap represented the School of Engineering and Technology, and the School of Law, respectively.

Prof. Vijayshri, Prof. N.Balakrishnan, Prof. S.Sadagopan, Prof. Trilochan Pradhan, Prof. T.K.V.Subramanian, Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, Prof. K.K.Mohammed Yusuff, Prof. Aravind Kumar, Prof. Sridhar Gadre, Dr.T.R. Srinivasan could not attend the meeting.

Sh. K.D.Sharma, Section Officer, Academic Coordination Division was present to assist the Member-Secretary.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the 39th Meeting of the Academic Council. He welcomed the newly co-opted members to the Academic Council and hoped that the Academic Council will be benefited by their experience and guidance in enabling the University in achieving its goals. He further informed that this special meeting of the Academic Council had been convened to consider the matters relating to the 18th Convocation of the University, which was being held at 2.30 p.m. He congratulated the University community, students, teachers and academics and other staff for the same, as the Convocation signified the culmination of their efforts.

The following agenda items were taken up:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE LIST OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED FOR AWARD OF GOLD MEDALS, DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES IN THE 18TH CONVOCATION AND OTHER GOLD MEDALS, LIKE INDIAN BANK SPONSORED MEDALS FOR ‘BEST RESEARCH PAPERS’, ‘BEST SERVICES AWARD’, ‘INNOVATION IN OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING’, PROF. RAM REDDY MEMORIAL MEDAL FOR BEST SCORER IN SOCIAL SCIENCE SUBJECTS.

AC 39.1.1 The Chairman informed that the 18th Annual Convocation of the University was being held on Saturday, the 17th March, 2007 at the Headquarters as well as at 30 Regional Centres simultaneously, through the tele-conferencing mode for awarding Gold Medals, Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates to the candidates who have qualified for getting the same during the Term-End Examinations held in **December, 2005 and June, 2006.**

The statement showing the number of students eligible for 18th Convocation (**1,11,699** as on **27.2.2007**) is placed at **Annexure-1.**

52 students have been identified for the award of Gold Medals, as per criteria approved by the Academic Council. The list of Gold Medalists is placed at **Annexure-2.**

(i) The following Research Papers had been recommended by a Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor for the award of Indian Bank sponsored Medals :

The Best Research Paper for the award of Gold Medal:

“Role of Defects in Transport through a Quantum Dot Single Electron Transistor” by Dr. K.P. Singh, Dr. Subhalakshmi Lamba, Dr. Sushil Lamba and Prof. S.K.Joshi published in J. Applied Physics, 2006, 99, 124503 (124)

The Second Best Research Paper for the award of Silver Medal:

“A Study of Student Attrition and Completion of Distance Education Programmes of IGNOU” by Dr. P.K. Biswas and Ms. G. Mythili published in Indian Journal of Open Learning, 2006, 15(2), 165-175.

- (ii) For the award of Gold Medal in **“Innovation in Open and Distance Learning”**, the work of ***‘Instructional Design’*** by Dr. Ajit Kumar, Reader, School of Engineering & Technology, has been recommended by a Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor.
- (iii) Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi, Enrol.No.041564356, meritorious student in M.A. History, has been identified for the award of Prof. G. Ram Reddy Memorial Gold Medal for the best scorer in Social Science subjects.

Certificates will be conferred upon the following Regional Centres for **Best Services Award-2006** as per specimen placed at **Annexure-3**. However, Gold Medal will not be awarded during the 18th Convocation.

1. Bhubaneshwar
2. Kolkata
3. Delhi-2
4. Aizwal
5. Cochin

Mr. Stalin Thomas Thermadom (Enrol.No.031843005), a student of **B.Com.** has been chosen for ‘**Prof. Grover award for the Best Student**’ of **B.Com. from among the Physically challenged category.** The award has been constituted by an Endowment Fund of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh only) donated by Prof. R.K.Grover, former Professor/Director, School of Management Studies, which has been considered and approved by the Board of Management at its 86th Meeting held on 01.04.2006 (BM 86.12.1). Since no Physically Handicapped student in M.Com. Programme has been found eligible for the award, Mr.Thermadom will be given a cash award of **Rs.3000/-** as approved by the Board of Management.

AC 39.1.2 The Academic Council approved the statement of eligible students, gold medalists and specimen certificate placed at **Annexure-1, 2 and 3**, respectively.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR TO WORK OUT THE MODALITIES FOR SELECTION OF THE STUDENTS FOR AWARD OF PROF. G. RAM REDDY MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL FOR THE BEST SCORER IN MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE SUBJECTS.

AC 39.2.1 The Chairman informed that the Academic Council’s Standing Committee at its 22nd Meeting held on 21.02.2007 had considered and approved the proposal for award of Prof. G. Ram Reddy Memorial Gold Medal for the best scorer in Master’s Degree Programmes in Social Science subjects beginning from the 18th Convocation (ACSC 22.8.2). The ACSC further resolved that a Committee may be constituted by the Vice-Chancellor to work out the modalities for selection of the student eligible for award of Gold Medal. In pursuance of the decision of the ACSC, he constituted a committee which met on 28.2.2007. A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee is placed at **Annexure-4.**

AC 39.2.2 The Academic Council considered and approved the recommendations (**Annexure-4**) of the Committee for selection of the students for award of Prof. G. Ram Reddy Memorial Gold Medal for the Best Scorer in the Master’s Degree Programmes in Social Science subjects.

ITEM NO. 3 TO NOTE FOR INFORMATION THE PROPOSAL OF INTRODUCTION OF EXAMINATION FEE.

AC 39.3.1 The Chairman informed that it has been observed that a large number of students submit their examination forms for appearing in the Term End Examination (TEE), but do not actually appear in the examinations, thereby resulting infructuous expenditure on making arrangements for conduct of examinations for such students. During the year 2005-06 i.e., in December 2005 TEE and June 2006 TEE, a total of 5.67 lac students applied for examination but only 3.28 lac students have appeared in the TEE.

The matter was considered by the Board of Management at its meeting held on 26th February 2007. The Board approved introduction of an Examination Fee of Rs.50/- per course from December 2007 TEE onwards to ensure that only those students who actually intend to appear in the examinations are permitted and to avoid infructuous expenditure. The SRE Division will devise the modalities for introduction of Examination Fee which will be implemented with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

AC 39.3.2 The Academic Council approved the introduction of Examination Fee of Rs. 50/- per course from December 2007 TEE onward. The modalities for introduction of Examination Fee will be devised by the SRE Division which will be implemented with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

ITEM NO. 4 TO NOTE FOR INFORMATION OF THE PROPOSAL FOR INTRODUCTION OF RE-EVALUATION OF ANSWER-SCRIPTS.

AC 39.4.1 The Chairman informed that the University has been receiving several requests from the students for re-evaluation of their answer-scripts, who are not satisfied with the Term-End Examination results communicated to them, instead of the current arrangement of re-checking. The matter has been placed before the Board of Management at its meeting held on 26.2.007 and has approved the introduction of re-evaluation from June, 2007 TEE onwards by charging Rs. 300/- per answer script.

AC 39.4.2 The Academic Council approved the introduction of re-evaluation of answer-scripts from June 2007 TEE onwards. The SRE Division will finalize the modalities for introduction of re-evaluation of answer-scripts with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE GUIDELINES FOR AWARD OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS.

AC 39.5.1 The Chairman informed that the Board of Management at its 36th Meeting held on 24-2-1994 approved the proposal on the procedure should be followed for selection of candidates for Junior Research Fellowships in the University. Further the Board of Management and Planning Board approved the research policy of the University in principle to institute a scheme of 10 Research Fellowships and 05 Research Associateships each during the Eighth Plan for its implementation from the year 1995, 1996 onwards for a period of five years. Subsequently the Research Council of the University while considering the proposal for reviving the research activities in the University constituted a Sub-Committee with certain specific terms of reference. The Committee at its meeting held on 30.4.2001 made recommendations for offering the Junior Research Fellowships (JRFs) by each discipline in a School. Though the recommendations regarding offering of the 03 JRFs were not placed before the Research Council/Academic Council earlier, there were presented in the status paper on research activities of the University placed before the Research Council at its 8th Meeting held on 21.11.2006 and the Research Council resolved that JRFs be awarded on specific request from disciplines. A Committee was constituted by the Vice-Chancellor for framing the guidelines for award of Research and Teaching Assistantships. The Committee framed the guidelines for IGNOU-DEC Research and Teaching Assistantships. The candidates will be registered in the University for Ph.D. Degree under the rules of the University/ a State Open University.

The draft guidelines prepared by the Committee were placed before the Board of Management at its 89th Meeting held on February 26, 2007. The same have been approved by the Board.

AC 39.5.2 He further informed the members about this unique scheme which has been introduced by the Indira Gandhi National Open University for the Research Scholars to gain experience in the working of the system along with their research. He also informed that this scheme will help to create a pool of talented research scholars/capable manpower for the ODL system in the country with advanced training in both research and teaching in ODL. He allayed the fears of members that the scheme is intended for replacing teachers.

AC 39.5.3 The Academic Council considered and approved the guidelines for IGNOU-DEC Research and Teaching Assistantships approved by the Board of Management (**Annexure-5**).

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ‘MODULE ON ODL FOR DISTANCE LEARNERS’ AND ‘TRAINING MODULE FOR ACADEMIC COUNSELLORS’ HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2007.

AC 39.6.1 The Chairman informed that the Academic Council at its 37th Meeting held on November 22, 2006 considered and approved the proposal to have a compulsory component of Theory, Practice and Technology of Open and Distance Learning for all learners in IGNOU. The Academic Council approved the proposal subject to the following:

- (i) a Committee of experts in the ODL Pedagogy and Technology will deliberate the matter and its recommendations will be placed before the School Boards for integrating this compulsory course following the existing procedure;
- (ii) focus of the course should be study skill oriented in use of educational and media technologies; and
- (iii) as the programmes are offered at certificate, diploma, undergraduate degree, post-graduate degree and doctoral level, there cannot be uniformity of contents of the proposed course as the requirements of each category of learners would be different.

In pursuance of the above decision of the Academic Council, an Advisory Committee was constituted by the Vice Chancellor. The Committee met on January 23, 2007 and drafted the syllabi of the two modules “Pedagogy, Science and Technology of Open and Distance Learning” (a Core Module for Distance Learners of Open University System) and Training Module on “Training of Academic Councilors”.

AC 39.6.2 During the discussion, it was pointed out that the syllabi placed before the Academic Council require detailed consideration by the School Board of Schools of Studies so that a proper module can be offered to the learners.

AC 39.6.3 The Chairman advised the members to send their inputs to the Chairman within 15 days, so that decision in the matter could be expedited.

ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MOU SIGNED BY IGNOU AND THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA (ICAI) TO JOINTLY OFFER B.COM. WITH MAJOR IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE AND M.COM. IN FINANCE AND TAXATION DEGREES BY GRANTING EXEMPTION TO CHARTERED ACCOUNTANCY STUDENTS.

AC 39.7.1 The Chairman informed that the Institute of Chartered Accountant of India (ICAI) requested IGNOU to grant exemption to Chartered Accountancy students for undergoing B.Com. and M.Com. programme of IGNOU on qualifying first stage and final stage of Chartered Accountancy course, respectively. The Vice-Chancellor constituted an Expert Committee to examine the proposal from IGNOU's point of view and to work out the details of the scheme, if practical in consultation with ICAI. The expert team in consultation with the ICAI made the following unanimous recommendations:

- 1.To prepare an exemption scheme to Chartered Accountancy students for undergoing B. Com. and M. Com. programmes of IGNOU.
2. To workout new B. Com. and M. Com. programmes exclusively for these students instead of preparing programme structure under the existing credit transfer scheme of IGNOU.
3. To provide flexibility to the students to pursue B. Com./M. Com. and Chartered Accountancy simultaneously.

AC 39.7.2 The Expert Committee prepared new scheme of B.Com. with Major in Accounting and Finance and M.Com. in Finance and Taxation exclusively for Chartered Accountancy students. The scheme has been approved by the Vice-Chancellor. A formal MoU was signed between the ICAI and IGNOU on 12th March 2007 to collaborate and launch these programmes from the July 2007 academic session.

AC 39.7.3 The Academic Council approved the MoU (placed at **Annexure-6**) signed between IGNOU and ICAI to offer B.Com. with Major in Accountancy and Finance and M.Com. in Finance and Taxation to be offered exclusively to Chartered Accountancy students from July 2007.

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

(V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai)
Chairman