

**MINUTES**

**of the**

**FORTY SECOND MEETING**

**of the**

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**held on**

**DECEMBER 31, 2007**



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

## IGNOU

### MINUTES OF THE FORTY SECOND MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2007 AT 2.30 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	–	Ex-officio Chairman
2.	Prof. Omprakash Mishra, Pro-Vice-Chancellor	–	Ex-officio Member
3.	Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Pro-Vice-Chancellor	–	Ex-officio Member
4.	Dr. D.K. Choudhry, Pro-Vice-Chancellor	–	Ex-officio Member
5.	Prof. Basir Ahmad Khan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor	–	Ex-officio Member
6.	Dr. Latha Pillai, Pro-Vice-Chancellor	–	Ex-officio Member
7.	Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Director SOSS	–	Ex-officio Member
8.	Prof. Sunita Malhotra, Director, SOS	–	Ex-officio Member
9.	Prof. S.B. Arora, Director, SOHS	–	Ex-officio Member
10.	Prof. Manohar Lal, Director, SOCIS	–	Ex-officio Member
11.	Prof. B.S. Hansra, Director, SOA	–	Ex-officio Member
12.	Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Director, SOL	–	Ex-officio Member
13.	Prof. P. Srinivas Kumar, Director (I/c), SOET	–	Ex-officio Member
14.	Prof. Bimla Kapoor, SOHS	–	Member
15.	Dr. Pushplata Tripathi, Reader, SOS	–	Member
16.	Dr. Neerja Chadha, Reader, SOCE	–	Member
17.	Dr. S.K. Yadav, Reader, SOA	–	Member
18.	Shri M.P. Mishra, Lecturer, SOCIS	–	Member
19.	Prof. M. Aslam, Director (I/c), NCIDE	–	Member
20.	Prof. P.R. Ramanujam, , Director (I/c), IUC	–	Member
21.	Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director (I/c), NCDA	–	Member
22.	Dr. V. Venugopal Reddy, Regional Director	–	Member
23.	Dr. C. Thangamuthu, Ex-Vice-Chancellor	–	Member
24.	Dr. S.S. Rathi, University of Delhi	–	Member
25.	Prof. Kamlesh Mohan, Punjab University, Chandigarh	–	Member
26.	Prof. Vijay Kapur, University of Delhi	–	Member
27.	Prof. Anil Bhattacharya, Kolkata	–	Member
28.	Shri Ravi Kanth, Joint Director, EMPC	–	Member
29.	Shri S.K. Arora, Librarian	–	Ex-officio Member
30.	Dr. Srikant Mohapatra, Registrar, SRE,	–	Ex-officio Member
31.	Prof. B.S. Saraswat, Director, ACD	–	Member Secretary

Prof. Madhu Tyagi attended the meeting on behalf of the Director, SOMS, Prof. M. Aslam and Prof. P. Srinivas Kumar, members also represented the Director, SOCE and Director, SOET, respectively.

Prof. N. Balakrishnan, Prof. Trilochan Pradhan, Prof. T.K.V. Subramanian, Prof. Sridhar Gadre, Prof. S. Sadagopan, Prof. Kapila Vatsyayan, Prof. Arvind Kumar, Prof. S. Sivakumar Prof. N.V. Narasimham, Director, SOMS, Prof. Renu Bhardwaj, Director, SOH, Prof. M.L. Koul, Director, SOE, Prof. Gayatri Kansal, Director, SOET, Prof. Anu Aneja, Director SOCE, Prof. B.B. Khanna, SOMS, Dr. Sutapa Bose, SOE and Shri Z. Yanthan, SOSS could not attend the meeting.

Shri 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 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council. He accorded a special welcome to the new members, namely, Prof. C. Thangamuthu, Prof. M. Aslam, Prof. P.R. Ramanujam, Prof. Renu Bhardwaj, Prof. Gracious Thomas, Prof. Bimla Kapoor, Dr. Pushplata Tripathi, Dr. Neerja Chadha, Dr. S.K. Yadav, Dr. Sutapa Bose, Shri M.P. Mishra, Dr. Venugopal Reddy and Shri Ravi Kanth, who were attending the meeting for the first time. He also placed on record the appreciation of the Academic Council for the contributions made by the outgoing member, Prof. J.M. Parakh. The Chairman also extended greetings to all the members on the eve of the New Year, 2008.

The proceedings of the meeting were initiated with the presentation of a special item from the Chair.

**SPECIAL ITEM: 19<sup>th</sup> IGNOU CONVOCATION, 2008: CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREES.**

**AC 42.0.1** The Chairman apprised the members that the 19<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University would be held on February 16, 2008, and on this occasion, he proposed to confer honorary degrees on distinguished personalities. Statute 22, on the conferment of honorary degrees envisages that “all proposals for the conferment of honorary degrees shall be initiated by the Vice-Chancellor who, after consultation with the Academic Council and the Board of Management, shall submit the same to the Visitor for confirmation”.

**AC 42.0.2** The Chairman consulted the members about his proposal of conferment of honorary degrees. He requested the members to keep the proposal confidential as it also involved consultation with the Board of Management, seeking concurrence of the recipients and approval of the Visitor in consultation with the Ministry of HRD, etc.

**AC 42.0.3** The Academic Council concurred with the proposal of the Chairman for conferment of honorary degrees.

The Chairman then invited the Member-Secretary to present the items on the agenda.

**ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON**

**AC 42.1.1** The Member-Secretary informed the Council that the minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2007 were circulated to the members and the following comments have been received from Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Pro-Vice-Chancellor regarding Item Nos.23 and 41.

1. AC 41.23.3, also incorporate the decision that the School Council and School Board of SOHS have to look into the issue and give their recommendations. Till then, this will not be taken to the Board of Management.
2. AC 41.26.2, the enhancement of fees that was approved was upto a maximum of 10%, depending on the target audience of the programme.

**AC 42.1.2** The Academic Council considered the comments received and decided to modify the relevant resolutions as follows :

**AC 41.23.3** The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal for creation of two separate Schools, i.e., the School of Medical Sciences and the School of Nursing Sciences. The School Council and the School Board of SOHS have to look into the issue and give their recommendations. Till then, this will not be taken to the Board of Management.

**AC41.26.2** The Academic Council considered and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee for enhancement of fees upto a maximum of 10%, depending on the target audience of the programme, across the board from the January 2008 cycle for fresh admissions, and the revised fees for re-registration will be made effective from the July 2008 cycle.

**AC 42.1.3`** The Academic Council confirmed the minutes (**Annexure-1**) of the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting held on August 27, 2007 with modification to resolution No. AC 41.23.3 and AC 41.26.2 as above. The Action Taken Report on the decisions of the meeting was noted.

**ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR RELAXATION OF MINIMUM AGE FOR ADMISSION TO IGNOU'S BACHELOR'S PREPARATORY PROGRAMME.**

**AC 42.2.1** The Member-Secretary informed the Council that as per the UGC Regulations for grant of first degree through non-formal/ distance education, no candidate shall be eligible for admission to the first degree course through non-formal/ distance education unless he/ she has attained the age of 18 years. Accordingly, the cut-off date for calculating the age of 18 years for admission of candidates to IGNOU's Bachelor's Preparatory Programme (BPP) had been fixed at October 1 for the July session and April 1 for the January session by the Academic Council (AC 34.2.6). He further informed that the boys of the Boys Sports Company pass standard X at around 15 to 16 years of age and there is no educational facility for standard XI & XII available to them. Therefore, the Boys Sports Company had requested the University to permit the boys under 16 years of age to pursue IGNOU's BPP, as a special case, so that they could appear for Bachelor's Degree subsequently when they enrolled into the army or otherwise.

**AC 42.2.2** As the matter was rather urgent, the opinion of the members of the Academic Council was sought by circulation. However, no clear decision emerged. Therefore, the proposal was being placed before the Council at this meeting.

**AC 42.2.3** The members discussed the proposal in some detail and decided that a committee appointed by the Chairman should examine the proposal in greater detail. The recommendations of the committee would be placed before the Academic Council for a decision.

**ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2007.**

**AC 42.3.1** The Member-Secretary informed the Council that the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee was held on December 17, 2007. The ACSC examined 41 Agenda Items and approved the following :

1. Phase Zero Forms for the revision of ERD-01: Rural Development, an elective course for BDP, MS-01: Management Functions and Behaviour course, and the Certificate programme in Information Technology.
2. Phase-3 Form for the 2<sup>nd</sup> revision of PGDMCH programme.

3. Phase-3 Form for the PG Certificate in Endodontics, PG Certificate in Agriculture Policy, Certificate Programme in NGO Management, PG Certificate in Oral Implantology, Certificate in French Language, PG Diploma in Research Management, PG Diploma in Book Publishing programmes.
4. Revised pro-rata re-admission fees for various programmes except MP and MPB&F.
5. Award of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bachelor's degree, change in number of credits permitted in AOC in BDP, weightage of assignment component in BPP, abolishing of intensive counselling and removing restrictions on number of learners for having the usual number of counselling session at all learner support centres, removing the restrictions as regards the number of learners attending practicals for holding practical spells for programmes/courses having practical components, re-evaluation of MBA project, entrance examination for intake of MCA/BCA students, credit transfer policy for MCA/BCA programmes and CS-54 & CS-51 in lieu of MS-4 and MS-51 of MBA and *vice-versa*, moving from offer of stream courses to a pool of elective courses in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of the MCA revised programme, revision of pro-rata fees for re-submission of BCA/MCA project reports, credit transfer for BCA (new) syllabus to BCA (new) syllabus, last time offer for MCA old students to re-register, to reduce pass percentage for all courses of MCA revised and BCA programmes, conduct of separate Term-End practical examination for CS-68, CS-69/CS-061 and CS-74.
6. The decision of the School of Humanities for including the Editorial Unit in the English discipline in SOH.
7. Award of Ph.D. degree to Ms. Preeti Sharma.
8. To add a supplement to MEC-005, cancellation of the SDM (DOM/PGDOM) already awarded, and in exchange issue a fresh SDM in the chosen specialization to the learners of MBA programme.
9. Certification of non-credit short-term training programmes/need based programmes, revised Evaluation Methodology for Certificate in Health Care Waste Management, Joint Diploma programme, "Teacher Diploma (Primary)" from "Diploma in Primary Education" of IGNOU, matter relating to evolving a mechanism for submission, evaluation and monitoring of assignments in order to prevent malpractices, and
10. Amendment to Ordinance 9 on Conduct of Examination and Evaluation of Student Performance.

**AC 42.3.2**

The Academic Council considered and approved the minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting (**Annexure-2**) of the ACSC with a slight modification to the resolutions ACSC 24.31.2 and 24.31.3. The modified resolutions read as follows :

ACSC 24.31.2: Prof. Parvin Sinclair, PVC, opposed the idea of reducing the pass percentage because it would lead to a loss of credibility of the IGNOU students in employment and in admission to higher studies, etc.

ACSC 24.31.3: The ACSC considered the proposal and decided that the committee of external experts to be appointed in pursuance of ACSC24.18.3 would examine the proposal. The recommendations of the committee would be placed before the ACSC for a decision.

**ITEM NO. 4**

**TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 9 ON CONDUCT OF EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE.**

**AC 42.4.1**

The Member-Secretary apprised the members that on the recommendation of the Task Force on Student Support Services, it was envisaged that an Examination Committee having the following composition be constituted:

Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Incharge of SRED	- Chairman
Convenor, BDP Coordination Committee	- Member
Two Directors of Schools nominated by the Vice-Chancellor	- Members
Registrar, SR&ED	- Convenor

He further informed that the Examination Committee would perform the following functions :

- (a) Monitor the programmes and the conduct of Term-End Examinations and Entrance Tests.
- (b) Monitor the results and ensure timely declaration of results.
- (c) Ensure timely receipt and incorporation of assignment awards.
- (d) Review various statistical reports generated by SRED.
- (e) Perform such other functions as may be entrusted by the Vice-Chancellor from time to time.

**AC 42.4.2**

The ACSC at its 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on December 17, 2007 had approved the amendment to the Ordinance 9 on Conduct of Examinations and Evaluation of Student Performance.

**AC 42.4.3** The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal to amend Ordinance 9 on the Conduct of Examinations and Evaluation of Student Performance (**Annexure-3**).

**ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-3 FORM FOR MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.ED.) PROGRAMME.**

**AC 42.5.1** The Member-Secretary informed the Council that the Phase-3 Form for the Master of Education (M.Ed.) programme had been received from the School of Education. The programme had been conceived, designed and developed jointly by the Distance Education Council and the National Council for Teacher Education, and had been approved by the School Board of School of Education at its 25<sup>th</sup> meeting (Emergent) held on November 5, 2007.

**AC 42.5.2** The Academic Council considered and approved the Phase 3 Form for the M.Ed. programme subject to finalization of the delivery mechanism (**Annexure-4**).

**ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SOCE REGARDING SHIFTING OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OF EMPC TO THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM & NEW MEDIA STUDIES.**

**AC 42.6.1** The Member-Secretary informed the members that two academic programmes namely Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism & Mass Communication and Post Graduate Diploma in Audio Programme Production (PGDAPP) developed by the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) had been on offer through the School of Continuing Education (SOCE) since 1996 and 2004, respectively. Another academic programme, MA in Mass Communication, approved by the School Board of SOCE was also under development. In view of the creation of the School of Journalism and New Media Studies (SOJNMS), the School Board of School of Continuing Education had approved the proposal to shift these programmes to the SOJNMS – a natural academic home for them.

**AC 42.6.2** During the discussion, it was pointed out that there were some other programmes, eg., BSW, DAFE, CAFÉ, MSW (under development), PhD in Women's Studies of the School of Continuing Education; CTS, DTS, BTS,BHM, MHA, MTM and PhD in Tourism of the School of the Social Sciences; PG Diploma in Translation of the School of Humanities which could also be transferred to the newly created appropriate Schools, i.e. School of Social Work, School of Gender and Development Studies, School of Tourism, Hospitality Service Sectoral Management, School of Translation Studies and Training, etc.

**AC 42.6.3** The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal of transferring the programmes noted in AC 42.6.1 and AC 42.6.2. to the Schools proposed and all other such programmes would be transferred to their natural homes. The Chairman clarified that this decision pertained to the programmes and NOT to the coordinators of the programmes.

**ITEM NO. 7 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN APPROVING THE CRITERIA TO IMPLEMENT 50% FEE CONCESSION FOR AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES.**

**AC 42.7.1** The Member-Secretary apprised the members that the Academic Council in its 41<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 27.8.2007, while considering the matter relating to a 50% fee concession for Agriculture Programmes (AC 41.16.3), decided that the candidates who required assistance might be identified and a fee concession up to 50% might be given to them, decided on a case-to-case basis. The School of Agriculture had proposed the following criteria for giving the fee concession:

- a) all the candidates from the rural areas shall be entitled for 50% fee concession subject to production of domicile certificate;
- b) the urban students below the poverty line may be given a 50% fee concession subject to production of an income certificate.

The Vice-Chancellor had approved the criteria above as proposed by the School of Agriculture. Since the admission session for all Diploma Programmes of the School of Agriculture was the January session, the decision above could not be included in the Student's Handbook & Prospectus for January, 2008. However, the School had written to the Regional Directors to charge Rs. 8800/- for the current session.

**AC 42.7.2** The Academic Council considered and ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in approving the criteria to implement a 50% fee concession for Agriculture programmes.

**ITEM NO. 8 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN LAYING DOWN THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES UNDER THE RESEARCH AND TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP SCHEME.**

**AC 42.8.1** The Academic Council was informed that with the approval of the Research Council (RC.9.2.2 and RCSC 2.14.2), Academic Council (AC.39.5.3) and Board of Management (BM 89.41.2), the University had introduced a

Research and Teaching Assistantship Scheme with an objective of attracting the best talents into teaching-cum-research in the areas of open and distance learning/teaching and research in discipline-based as well as general, open and distance learning pedagogy. Applications were invited in the month of April, 2007 for the award of Research and Teaching Assistantships in all the disciplines, for which about 3500 applications were received. As the number of applications was rather large, the following criteria were prescribed by the Vice-Chancellor for the initial shortlisting of applicants:

**For General category candidates:**

Age Limit	25 years as on 1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2007
% of marks required in all examinations from secondary onwards	60% and above

**For SC/ST/PH category candidates:**

Age Limit	30 years as on 1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2007
% of marks required in all examinations from secondary onwards	50% and above

**For Women Candidates:**

Age Limit	30 years as on 1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2007
% of marks required in all examinations from secondary onwards	60% and above for General category and 50% and above for SC/ST/PH category

After the initial shortlisting, the applications were sent to the Schools concerned for taking necessary action for the selection of candidates.

After meeting with the Directors of the Schools, the following composition of the Selection Committee was approved by the Vice-Chancellor:

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| 1. Vice-Chancellor  | - | Chairman |
| 2. Pro-Vice-Chancellor associated with the School concerned                       | - | Member   |
| 3. Director of the School concerned   | - | Member   |
| 4. An External Expert identified by the School & nominated by the Vice-Chancellor | - | Member   |
| 5. Professor/Reader of the discipline concerned                                   | - | Member   |

**AC 42.8.2**

The Academic Council ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in laying down the eligibility criteria and selection procedure for selection of candidates under the Research and Teaching Assistantship scheme.

**ITEM NO. 9 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE ON RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES OF THE UNIVERSITY.**

**AC. 42.9.1** The Academic Council was informed that with an objective of encouraging research and providing greater thrust to research, a committee chaired by the Vice-Chancellor reviewed the Ordinance and Guidelines for the PhD programme, and made several recommendations which were considered and approved by the RCSC, at its third meeting held on 30.11.2007. This had necessitated amendment to certain clauses of the Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes. A statement showing the existing clauses, proposed amendment and the clauses after amendment is placed at (Annexure-5). The amendment to the Ordinance had been approved by the Research Council in its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting held on December 31, 2007.

**AC 42.9.2** The Academic Council considered and approved the Guidelines for the PhD Programme and amendment to the Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes of the University as approved by the Research Council (**Annexure-5 & 6**).

**ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-3 FORM FOR DIPLOMA IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION (REVISED VERSION).**

**AC 42.10.1** The Member-Secretary informed the Academic Council that the School of Continuing Education had submitted the Phase 3 Form for the Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education (Revised version). Broadly speaking, the Diploma programme addressed two vulnerable groups of the society in two different ways:

- a) Children in the critical age group 0-8 years as the subject matter of the Diploma programme; and
  - b) Women who would largely comprise the clientele (learner group) for the programme.
- ◆ By providing pre-service training to professionals in the sector of ECCE, the Diploma would fulfill the University's objective of providing specific need-based education and training opportunities for continuous professional development and skill upgradation. Also, by addressing women learners, it would fulfil the University's mandate of providing higher education to large sections of the population, but particularly to disadvantaged segments of society.

- ◆ By having children in the age group 0-8years and their optimum development through ECCE services as its subject matter, the Diploma programme would address the national goal of achieving Education for All, by creating a trained cadre of ECCE educators. Numerous studies had established the link between quality pre-school education and retention and performance in the primary grades.

The Phase-3 Form and the course structure of the Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education (Revised Version) would be reported to the School Board of the School of Continuing Education at its next meeting.

**AC 42.10.2** The Academic Council considered and approved the Phase-3 Form for Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education (Revised version) placed at **(Annexure -7)**.

**ITEM NO. 11 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-3 FORM FOR CERTIFICATE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (MENTAL RETARDATION, VISUAL IMPAIRMENT, HEARING IMPAIRMENT & CEREBRAL PALSY).**

**AC 42.11.1** The Academic Council was informed that the School of Continuing Education had submitted the Phase 3 Form for Certificate in Early Childhood Special Education (Mental Retardation, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment & Cerebral Palsy). These would be four independent Certificate Programmes – one each in the four disability areas. Each Certificate Programme would be of one year duration and worth 24 credits.

The Certificate Programme in each of the four disability areas had been developed with the broad objective to equip the learners to work as a member of an interdisciplinary team providing early childhood special education to children up to six years of age in home based, centre based, and school based settings. The successful completion of the programme of study would enable the learners to register as ‘personnel’ with the Rehabilitation Council of India.

The development of the four Certificate Programmes would be in accordance with the University’s objective of “widening access by offering high quality innovative and need based programmes at different levels, especially to the disadvantaged segments of society at affordable costs by using a variety of media and technology.”

The Phase-3 Form for Certificate in Early Childhood Special Education (Mental Retardation, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment & Cerebral Palsy) would be reported to the School Board of School of Continuing Education at its next meeting. The Phase-3 Form had been placed before the Academic Council directly to expedite the work.

**AC.42.11.2** The Academic Council considered and approved the Phase-3 Form (**Annexure-8**) for Certificate in Early Childhood Special Education (Mental Retardation, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment & Cerebral Palsy).

**ITEM NO. 12 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO FACILITATE SUCH STUDENTS OF MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES WHO ARE SHORT OF 2% MARKS OF OVERALL 55% MARKS.**

**AC 42.12.1** On the request of the Member-Secretary, the Registrar, SRE&D, apprised the members that the Academic Council at its 41<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2007 had approved that students of Bachelor's and Master's Degree programmes, who had completed their programme but fell short of 2% marks for securing Ist or IInd Division might improve the percentage by fulfilling the eligibility conditions for this purpose. Based on the feedback from the students of Master's Degree programmes, it was felt that those students who were short of overall 55% marks, which was mandatory in Master's Degree to undertake research or teaching assignments in any of the universities/institutions and to appear for the UGC's NET examination had been deprived of the opportunity to improve their percentage. To facilitate such students, it was proposed that students of Master's Degree programmes, who were short of 2% marks of overall 55% marks might also be given an opportunity to improve the percentage on the same conditions as approved by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendations of the committee constituted to finalise the modalities in this regard.

**AC 42.12.2** The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal to facilitate such students of Master's Degree programmes who were short of 2% marks of overall 55% marks.

**ITEM NO. 13 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE LIST OF CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE, DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION TO BE HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2008.**

**AC 42.13.1** The Registrar, SR&E, informed the Council that 91460 candidates had been found eligible for the award of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates at the 19<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University to be held on February 16, 2008. The number of eligible candidates might change due to finalization of results of some more candidates, the exact number of which would be reported to the Academic Council at the next meeting.

**AC 42.13.2** The Academic Council approved the proposal and the list of eligible students (**Annexure-9**) with the direction that Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates might be awarded to all candidates who become eligible till the date of Convocation and the same may be reported to the Academic Council as supplementary list.

After transaction of items on the regular agenda, the Chairman apprised the members that during the last one year several innovative measures have been taken to improve the efficiency of the system. With the introduction of a token examination fee of Rs. 50 per course, not only more than Rs. 4.00 crore had been collected as examination fee, another Rs. 1.8 crore had been saved by avoiding wasteful expenditure. Introduction of provisions of re-evaluation and early declaration of results had led to greater learner satisfaction. Further, it was planned to declare the results of TEE Dec. 2007 in a period of 60 days. However, the results of the June 2007 TEC of more than 95% learners could be declared only in a period of 90 days. With the cooperation and support of all concerned, sustained efforts would be made to achieve the target of 60 days to declare the results.

The Chairman further observed that only 5% of the skilled workforce in the country was certified whereas the percentage of certified skilled workforce in developed countries was as high as 90%. At the same time, a vast pool of knowledge and variety of skills were available even in illiterate people of our country which they had acquired through family or community practices. Thus, there was a need for assessment and certification of prior learning at tertiary level. The Chairman would form a committee, to evolve a procedure for assessment and certification of prior knowledge and skills, and requested Prof. K. Mohan to be a member of this committee.

The Chairman then invited suggestions from members of the Council for further improvement of the system. Prof. Kamlesh Mohan suggested that there was a need of periodic monitoring by the faculty at the headquarters of assignments and practicals at study centres. She also suggested that materials should be developed for neo-literates to sustain their interest in reading and learning. The Registrar, SR&E informed the members that observers are deputed to oversee the conduct of Term-End-Examination at study centres. Also, twice every year the faculty and academics from Headquarters and Regional Centres deputed as Observers during the Entrance Test for admission to B.Ed. and MBA programmes get an opportunity of visiting study centres. So far as the suggestion for development of materials for neo-literates was concerned, it would be considered by the School of Extension and Development Studies. Prof. M. Aslam suggested that programmes on Edusat may be made more interactive

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

**(V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai)**  
**Chairman**