

## **MINUTES**

**of the**

**SEVENTYTH MEETING**

**of**

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Held on**

**25<sup>th</sup> September 2018**



**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068**

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**IGNOU****MINUTES OF THE SEVENTYTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 AT 11:00 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, RADHAKRISHNAN BLOCK, IGNOU, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110 068.**

The following were present in the meeting:

1. Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU	-	Chairperson
2. Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain, VC, Tezpur University, Tezpur	-	Member
3. Prof. Subha Shankar Sarkar, VC, NSOU, Kolkata	-	Member
4. Prof. Kameshwar Nath Singh, VC, UPRTOU, Allahabad	-	Member
5. Prof. Jagat Bhushan Nadda, Director, CEE , Delhi	-	Member
6. Prof. Avinash Chandra Pandey, Director, IUAC, Delhi	-	Member
7. Prof. Sudha Rao, former VC, KSOU, Mysore	-	Member
8. Sh. A. K. Garg, Director, DMRC, Delhi	-	Member
9. Prof. Arun Kumar Sinha, Ex. VC, Patna University, Patna	-	Member
10. Prof. Ramesh Chandra, Professor, Delhi University, Delhi	-	Member
11. Prof. Arvindeakshan Sandram, former PVC MGAHV, Wardha	-	Member
12. Prof. Rajan M. Welukar, VC, G.H. Rasoni University, Raichur	-	Member
13. Prof. Saket Kushwaha, former VC, LNMU, Mithila & Prof. BHU	-	Member
14. Prof. Satyakam, Director, SOH, IGNOU	-	Member
15. Prof. Swaraj Basu, Director, SOSS, IGNOU	-	Member
16. Prof. Saroj Pandey, Director, SOE, IGNOU	-	Member
17. Prof. M. S. Nathawat, Director, SOS, IGNOU	-	Member
18. Prof. Madhu Tyagi, Director, SOMS, IGNOU	-	Member
19. Prof. S. B. Arora, Director, SOHS, IGNOU	-	Member
20. Prof. S. K. Yadav, Director, SOL, IGNOU	-	Member
21. Prof. B K Pattnaik, Director (oftg.), SOPVA, IGNOU	-	Member
22. Prof. M K Salooja, Director, SOA, IGNOU, IGNOU	-	Member
23. Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Director, SOJNMS, IGNOU	-	Member
24. Prof. J. K. Srivastava, Director(oftg), SOTHSSM, IGNOU	-	Member
25. Prof. Nilima Srivastav, Director, SOGDS, IGNOU	-	Member
26. Prof. P.V.K. Sasidhar, Director, SOEDS, IGNOU	-	Member
27. Prof. Anju Sehgal Gupta, Director (oftg.), SOFL, IGNOU	-	Member
28. Dr. Heena K Bijli, Director, SOCE, IGNOU	-	Member
29. Dr. V. V. Subrahmanyam, Director, SOCIS, IGNOU	-	Member
30. Dr. R.S.P. Singh, Director, SOVET, IGNOU	-	Member

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| 31. Dr. Rose Nembiakkim, Director, SOSW, IGNOU                  | - Member           |
| 32. Dr. Rakhi Sharma, Director, SOET, IGNOU                     | - Member           |
| 33. Dr. Jagdish Sharma, Director, SOTST, IGNOU                  | - Member           |
| 34. Dr. Boyina Rupini, Director, SOITS, IGNOU                   | - Member           |
| 35. Prof. Pardeep Sahni, Professor, SOSS, IGNOU                 | - Member           |
| 36. Prof. B. I. Fozdar, Professor, SOS, IGNOU                   | - Member           |
| 37. Prof. S. Srilatha, Professor, SOMS & Registrar (SRD), IGNOU | - Member           |
| 38. Dr. O.P. Dewal, Associate Professor, SOJNMS, IGNOU          | - Member           |
| 39. Dr. Harish Kumar Sethi, Assistant Professor, SOTST, IGNOU   | - Member           |
| 40. Dr. Rachna Agarwal, Assistant Professor, SOVET, IGNOU       | - Member           |
| 41. Dr. Anand Gupta, Assistant Professor, SOL, IGNOU            | - Member           |
| 42. Dr. Seema Chandhok, Librarian, IGNOU                        | - Member           |
| 43. Prof. T U Fulzele, Director, P&DD, IGNOU                    | - Member           |
| 44. Dr. Uma Kanjilal, Director, IUC, IGNOU                      | - Member           |
| 45. Dr. Bini Toms, Director, SSC, IGNOU                         | - Member           |
| 46. Dr. Purnendu Tripathi, DD, VCO, IGNOU                       | - Member           |
| 47. Dr. S. Raja Rao, RD, RC - Vishakhapatnam, IGNOU             | - Member           |
| 48. Dr. S. G. Swami, Registrar (I/c), SED, IGNOU                | - Member           |
| 49. Dr. Dev Kant Rao, Director (I/c), ACD, IGNOU                | - Member Secretary |

Prof. Smritikumar Sarkar, former Vice Chancellor, University of Burdwan, Burdwan; Prof. B.P. Khandelwal, former Chairman, CBSE; and Prof. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Professor, School of Commerce & Management, Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota, the external Members of the Council could not attend the meeting.

Prof. Parvin Sinclair, SOS; Prof. Manjulika Srivastava (I/c), Director, IQAC & Defence Unit; Prof. Ravi Shankar, Finance Officer, and Dr. M. Shanmugham, Director, RSD attended the meeting as Special Invitees. Dr. Vandana Varma, Asst Director, ACD was present to assist the Member Secretary.

At the outset, Dr. Dev Kant Rao, Member Secretary of the Academic Council welcomed the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nageshwar Rao. He informed that earlier Prof. Nageshwar Rao as acting Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU chaired 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Academic Council and 39<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> meetings of Academic Council's Standing Committee. He also welcomed other Members of the Academic Council and requested the Chairperson to make his opening remarks.

Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU and the Chairperson of the Academic Council greeted all the Members of the Academic Council to its 70<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Welcoming the newly co-opted Members, he introduced them to the Council by making a mention of their contribution to the higher education system in the country viz., **Prof. Vinod**



**Kumar Jain**, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University; **Prof. Subha Shankar Sarkar**, Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata; **Prof. Kameshwar Nath Singh**, Vice Chancellor, Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad; **Prof. Jagat Bhushan Nadda**, Director, Consortium for Educational Communications (CEC), UGC, New Delhi; **Prof. Avinash Chandra Pandey**, Director, Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), UGC, New Delhi and former Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand University; **Prof. Arun Kumar Sinha**, former Vice-Chancellor, Patna University, Patna; **Prof. Sudha Rao**, former Vice Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University, Mysore; **Prof. Rajan M. Welukar**, Vice Chancellor, G.H. Rasoni University, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, and former Vice Chancellor, Mumbai University and YCMOU, Nashik; **Prof. Ramesh Chandra**, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi and former Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi; **Prof. Smritikumar Sarkar**, former Vice Chancellor, University of Burdwan, Burdwan; **Prof. Saket Kushwaha**, a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and former Vice Chancellor, Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga; **Prof. B.P. Khandelwal**, former Chairman, CBSE; **Prof. A.K. Garg**, Director (Operations), DMRC, New Delhi; **Prof. Arvindakshan Sandram**, former Pro Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha; and **Prof. Pawan Kumar Sharma**, Professor, School of Commerce & Management, Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota. He also welcomed other new members of the Council, namely, Dr V V Subrahmanyam, Director, SOCIS, IGNOU, Dr Seema Chandok, Librarian, IGNOU and Shri S G Swami, Registrar, SED, IGNOU.

The Academic Council put on record its welcome to the newly appointed members of the Academic Council as well as appreciation for the contribution made by the outgoing members in transacting the business of the Council in a meaningful manner.

The Chairperson expressed his gratitude and appreciation to his predecessors, namely, Prof. M. Aslam, former Vice Chancellor, IGNOU and Prof. Ravindra Kumar and Prof. S. B. Arora, former acting Vice Chancellors, IGNOU for their contribution towards providing guidance and directions to the University.

The Vice-Chancellor then highlighted certain issues and developments that will have a bearing on the functioning of the University:

1. The University has started offering its programmes as per University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017. Despite closing the admission on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 this year, the enrollment to various programmes of the University has been impressive with a growth of about 17 per cent over previous Academic year.
2. The University is gearing up to undertake re-structuring of courses and other features including learner support centres, learner support system, conducting examination, staff structure etc. that would be required in line with UGC (ODL) Regulations. University has constituted a Committee to review the UGC (ODL)





Regulations, 2017 with regard to IGNOU. Report of the Committee is being placed before this Council.

3. IGNOU has started using social media for the benefits of its learners and to reach out and connect to learners who are widely spread geographically, economically and socially. Facebook and Twitter accounts have been created where information on dynamic basis is being updated. Students and other stakeholders are also getting all the information through these social media platforms.
4. Steps are being undertaken by the University for revision of programmes and courses in order to cope with the ongoing developments in the subject area and the industry requirement. The University is taking steps to implement the Choice Based Credit System of UGC that has been adopted by the University in 2015 itself. The Academic Council has already deliberated the variations especially credit structure mechanism between the earlier CBCS format and that given in ODL Regulations in its 68<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
5. With a view to ease out the pressure of study material distribution, the University has initiated the process of distributing Digitized course material through APP and emails. The University has decided to give a discount of 15 per cent in fee to those students who opt for digital Study materials.
6. With the increasing importance, disciplines like Yoga, Sanskrit, Vedic studies etc, the University is planning to offer new courses.
7. The University is also working hard to minimize students' grievances. Efforts are being made to have an integrated mechanism of handling learners' grievances.
8. The University is organizing a Conference on "Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence" in collaboration with RFRF, UGC, AICTE, JNU, IGNTC, etc. at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This Conference would be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the India. It would be primarily attended by the Vice Chancellors of Universities and Directors of Institutes.
9. The University is planning to organise its 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation soon. More than 2 lacs 08 thousand students are likely to be awarded Degrees/diplomas during this convocation.

The Chairperson then invited Dr Dev Kant Rao, Director (I/c), AC and the Member Secretary of the Council to make a brief presentation about Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). A powerpoint presentation was made by the Member Secretary. Responding to the presentation on IGNOU, the Members of the Academic Council appreciated the University for the great stride it has taken over a period of time. They also put on record the contributions made by the University in growth and development of the Open and Distance Learning System in the Country. Areas of concern were also being identified by them. They appreciated the quality of IGNOU's learning resources.

It was also suggested to strengthen placement initiatives and develop a strong alumni network. The members also mentioned the importance of proper planning and learner support in furthering the growth of ODL system and IGNOU. Reposing their faith in the leadership role provided by IGNOU in ODL system, the Council offered its full support and guidance and wisdom in future also. Insights and vision of members of the Planning Board were also shared with the council placed at **Annexure 1**.

The chairperson then invited the Member Secretary to transact the business of the Council, as under:

**ITEM NO. 1 To confirm the Minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 and to note the Action Taken thereon – reg.,**

AC 70.1 .1 The Member Secretary informed that the 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council was held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The Minutes of the Meeting were circulated to all the members for their comments/observations. No comments have been received on the Minutes.

The Member Secretary also presented the Action Taken Report on the decisions of 69<sup>th</sup> Academic Council.

AC 70.1.2 The Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 as given in **Annexure 2** and noted the Action Taken thereon.

**ITEM NO. 2 To consider the Minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Councils' Standing Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and to note the Action Taken thereon – reg.**

AC 70.2.1 The Member Secretary informed that the 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee (ACSC) was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Minutes were circulated to the Members of ACSC. The comments have been received from Prof. Nita Mathur, SOSS and Member of ACSC with respect to Item No. 46.36. She has requested that the second para under ACSC 46.36.1 may be corrected as follows:

The Course Coordinator of the above programme informed the ACSC that the sub-title of Unit on Rationality may be read as "Regional, Politics/State" instead of "Regional, Ideology and Power".

Member Secretary further informed that the decisions taken by the ACSC with regard to the Item No. ACSC 46.31 and 46.55 have been placed as separate Agenda Items before the Council. Further, the decision taken vide Item No. 46.44 is being further examined with regard to approvals of Statutory Authorities viz. NCTE etc.

The Member Secretary also presented the Action Taken Report on the decisions of 46<sup>th</sup> Academic Council's Standing Committee.





AC 70.2.2

The decisions taken by the Academic Councils' Standing Committee in its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting were discussed in detail. After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council decided as under:

1. ACSC 46.8.2: Academic Council accepted the request of Director, School of Agriculture (SOA) to continue with the title "Advance" in the course titles RDR-101, RDR-102, and RDR-103, of the Course work of Ph.D. programme in Dairy Science & Technology.
2. ACSC 46.16: The Council noted that the SOPVA, in various other Certificate level programmes, has a very low enrolment. Therefore, the School should take immediate and strategic steps to enhance the enrolment.
3. ACSC 46.19.3: Academic Council requested the Director, School of Journalism and New Media Studies (SOJNMS) to place the proposal before the next meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee.
4. ACSC 46.26.2: Academic Council accepted the request of Director, SOGDS to acknowledge that Elective courses (i) MWG-011 : Women in the Economy, and (ii) MGSE-009: Gender Issues in work Employment and Productivity, have been adopted from School of Gender and Development Studies (SOGDS) by Economics Discipline of School of Social Sciences (SOSS) in their MA Economics Programme.
5. ACSC 46.30: Academic Council did not accept the request of Director, SOITS for re-consideration of the decision of ACSC (vide ACSC 46.30.3) and directed the School to re-submit the proposal as per decision of the Academic Council's Standing Committee.
6. ACSC 46.31: The decision of Academic Council has been recorded separately vide Item No. AC. 70.7.
7. ACSC 46.36.1: Academic Council accepted the request of Prof. Nita Mathur, SOSS and decided that the sub-title of Unit on Rationality may be read as "Regional, Politics/State" instead of "Regional, Ideology and Power".
8. ACSC 46.44.2: The decision of Academic Council's Standing Committee would be subject to necessary approvals from respective Statutory Authorities, wherever required.
9. ACSC 46.55.2: The decision of Academic Council's Standing Committee has been recorded separately vide Item No. AC. 70.11.



Action Taken Report: It was pointed out that a few Schools of Studies/Divisions have not submitted the Action Taken Report with respect to the decisions taken by the Academic Council's Standing Committee at its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Academic Council impressed upon the respective Schools/Divisions, to be more proactive in submitting the Action Taken Reports in time.

- AC 70.2.3 With above observations and emendations, the Academic Council approved the Minutes of Academic Council's Standing Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 as given in **Annexure 3** and noted the Action Taken thereon.

**ITEM NO. 3 To apprise the initiatives taken by the Consortium for Educational Communications (CEC), UGC for educational knowledge dissemination using media and ICT- resources – reg.,**

- AC 70.3.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that the Consortium for Educational Communication, popularly known as CEC, is one of the Inter University Centres set up by the University Grants Commission with the goal of addressing the needs of Higher Education through the use of medium of Television alongwith the appropriate use of emerging Information Communication Technology (ICT).

The Chairperson invited Prof. J. B. Nadda, Director, CEC for apprising the activities undertaken by the CEC to the council.

- AC 70.3.2 Prof. J. B. Nadda, Director, CEE, New Delhi made a presentation before the Council. He informed that CEC, one of the Inter University Centres set up by the University Grants Commission, is a nodal agency to coordinate, guide & facilitate such Educational production at the National level. There are 21 Media Centres across the country under the umbrella of CEC.

CEC is one of the largest repositories of digitised educational content in the country, and also the National Coordinator for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for SWAYAM platform of MHRD and also for SWAYAM Prabha DTH channels offering a bouquet of 11 educational channels in various disciplines.

The Digital Media Library at CEC is a Central Repository of all the Educational Video Programmes produced by the Educational Multimedia Research Centres set up by UGC in the Universities and Institutions of Higher Education across the country. The Media Library houses all the Masters Tapes of the educational video programmes, e-Contents and LOR's produced on various subjects and is a storehouse of a wealth of knowledge.



CEC has a collection of more than 20000 Educational Video Programmes on various formats like U-matic Cassettes, Betacam Cassettes, CD's, DVD's, Mini-DVD's and PD's/OD's (Optical Discs) which consists of the categories of collections like enrichment video programmes, syllabus oriented programmes like the University video lectures, e-Contents and LOR's which are available both in English and Hindi. The CEC also has a repository of more than a thousand e content lectures covering Programmes in various broad areas. The CEC also has a Learning Object based repository. All these resources of CEC can be accessed by visiting the website of CEC at <http://cec.nic.in/Pages/Home.aspx>

He then offered to provide all the contents available with CEC. He mentioned that several Universities and Institutes are using CEC resources and have entered into an agreement for the same. However, all these are conventional Institutions having limited outreach. IGNOU being a National Open University, has a countrywide outreach and would be better placed to use these resources at national level. He assured that being a Govt body, all these resources would be for free and CEC would not charge any money for that. He also clarified that IGNOU can adopt/adept these resources as per its requirements.

- AC 70.3.3 After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council in-principle approved the collaboration between IGNOU and Consortium for Educational Communication for use of CEC content by IGNOU.

**ITEM NO. 4 To report the renewal of MoU between Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) and IGNOU - SOMS**

- AC 70.4.1 The Member Secretary informed that the University was having an MoU between Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) for offering programmes in the sector of Banking & Finance. The said MoU between Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) and IGNOU has been renewed on August 28, 2018. The MOU was signed for the first time in 1998. The renewal of MoU with IIBF has been in principle approved by the School Board of School of Management Studies (SOMS) in its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting held on May 18, 2018.

- AC 70.4.2 The Academic Council noted the renewal of MoU between Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) and IGNOU. A copy of the MoU is placed as **Annexure 4**.

**ITEM NO. 5 To report the signing of MoU between IGNOU and BSE Institute Limited (BSEIL) for Non Credit Awareness Programmes - SOMS**

AC 70.5.1 The Member Secretary informed that the School of Management Studies (SOMS), IGNOU and BSE Institute Limited (BSEIL) have signed an MoU on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 for development and launching of Awareness Programme (Non – Credit) in Capital Markets, Mutual Funds and GST. The MoU has been noted by the School Board of School of Management Studies in its 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on December 15, 2017.

AC 70.5.2 The Academic Council noted the signing of MoU between IGNOU and BSE Institute Limited (BSEIL) for development and launching of Awareness Programme in Capital Markets, Mutual Funds and GST. A copy of the MoU is placed as **Annexure 5**.

The Academic Council suggested the School to explore the possibility of offering Credit based programmes in place of Non-credit programmes. It also advised the School Board of SOMS to categorically mention its 'approval or otherwise', of such MoUs in place of merely taking 'note' of the same.

**ITEM NO. 6 To apprise the Status Report of the activities undertaken by the Defence Unit – Defence Unit**

AC 70.6.1 A comprehensive status note of the activities undertaken by the Defence Unit of the University was presented by the Director, Defence Unit, Prof Manjulika Srivastava. A copy of the presentation is enclosed as **Annexure 6**.

AC 70.6.3 The Academic Council noted the status of activities undertaken by the Defence Unit of the University as presented by the Defence Unit of the University.

**ITEM NO. 7 To consider the non 10th and non 10+2 holders of Associate Degree (Advanced Diploma) to register into the 3rd Year of B.A./B.Com./BTS along with BPP under project Gyandeeep – Defence Unit**

AC 70.7.1 The Member Secretary informed that the Defence Unit received a communication from the Indian Army (Gyandeeep) vide their letter no. B/25420/GD/AG/PS-1 dated 30th August, 2017 wherein at point no. 2(c) they expressed their agreement for 'Starting Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP) for non 10+2 candidates who meet the minimum age requirement of 18 years. The Academic Council, with regard to commencing registrations under Vertical Mobility (Gyandeeep) into the 3rd Year of BA, B.Com. & BTS of the students who are non 10+2 and awarded 'Statement of Marks' of the Associate Degree (Advanced Diploma) under Gyandeeep, was informed that:

1. The Vertical Mobility into 3rd year of BA, B.Com., BSc (Hons) in



Applied Sciences of the successful students under Akashdeep and Gyandeeep commenced since July 2015 session and onwards with the approval of 64th Academic Council held on 10th July, 2015.

A meeting of the Joint Committee of IGNOU & Armed Forces, Army-IGNOU Academic Committee and Air-Force IGNOU Academic Committee was held on 8th October, 2015 wherein it was resolved to permit the successful students of Gyandeeep and Akashdeep who are non 10+2 to register for the BPP and 3rd Year of BA/B.Com programme under Vertical Mobility with a concessional fee of Rs. 500/- on request of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The same was reported in the 65th meeting of the Academic Council of the University held on 21st March, 2016.

2. Further, the Academic Council in its 66th meeting held on 8th September, 2016 accorded approval for offering BPP for the existing non 10+2 candidates enrolled upto January 2012 and having awarded Associate Degree (Advance Diploma) in Science under Akashdeep for their Vertical Mobility into 3rd Year of BTS & BSW programme.
3. At present, based on the consent of Indian Air Force and approvals of the Competent Authority/Bodies, students of Akashdeep who are non 10+2 and awarded Associate Degree (Advance Diploma) are permitted to register into the relevant 3rd Year of B.A., B.Com., BTS & BSW with BPP simultaneously.

In view of above, a proposal was placed before the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee (ACSC) held on 24th May 2018 to consider the following:

- a. Granting approval to permit registrations into 3rd Year of B.A./B.Com. along with Bachelor Preparatory Course (BPP) to those learners who have attained at least 18 years of age and are Non 10+2 and have been issued 'Statement of Marks' of Associate Degree (Advanced Diploma) in Arts/Commerce under Gyandeeep in the current ongoing session itself.
- b. Granting a fee concession to such students and permitting them to register with a concessional fee of Rs. 500/- for the BPP, as has been provided to their counterpart Akashdeep learners.
- c. Approving commencement of registrations into 3rd Year of BTS along with Bachelor Preparatory Course (BPP) to those learners who have attained at least 18 years of age and are Non 10+2 and have been issued 'Statement of Marks' of Associate Degree (Advance Diploma) in Arts/Commerce/Science under Gyandeeep in the current ongoing session itself.

The ACSC in its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting suggested that the proposal may be placed before the Academic Council for its consideration, since the earlier decision was taken by it.

AC 70.7.2 After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council considered and approved the proposal of Defence Unit as under:

(i) permitting registrations into 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of B.A./B.Com./BTS along with Bachelor Preparatory Course (BPP) to those learners who have attained at least 18 years of age and are Non 10+2 and have been issued 'Statement of Marks' of Associate Degree (Advanced Diploma) in Arts/Commerce under project Gyandeeep from the current ongoing session. This facility of BPP, however, would not be allowed for registrations into 3<sup>rd</sup> Year B.Sc. (Applied Sciences) programme and the eligibility criteria approved by the School Board of SOS would be adhered to.

(ii) Granting a fee concession to such students and permitting them to register with a concessional fee of Rs. 500/- for the BPP, as has been provided to their counterpart Akashdeep learners.

(iii) This scheme shall be applicable only to existing students enrolled upto January 2012 session.

**ITEM NO. 8 To ratify the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the provision of Re-admission for the students enrolled into 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of BA/B.Com/B.Sc. (Hons. in Applied Sciences)/BTS/BSW through vertical mobility scheme of Gyandeeep and Akashdeep after lapse of validity of registration – Defence Unit**

AC 70.8.1 The Member Secretary informed that the Defence Unit has informed that they have been receiving a number of grievances in respect of provisions of re-admission after lapse of validity of registration provided under the vertical mobility/lateral entry under the Gyandeeep and Akashdeep schemes. As of now, some of the learners who re-registered into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of BA/B.Com/B.Sc. (Hons. in Applied Sciences)/BTS/BSW through vertical mobility scheme of Gyandeeep and Akashdeep in the July 2015 sessions could not complete the programmes within the stipulated time frame of 03 years and have been continuously contacting the Defence Unit for guidance in the issue.

Further, the Board of Management at its 118<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2013, while accepting the recommendations of the Review Committee on Community College Scheme, had resolved that "*As per the Army community college scheme, these students have to complete*



*32 credits to earn a Bachelor's Degree. The Scheme is part of the MoU with Army and Scheme of lateral entry was approved by the Academic Council. Students eligible for admission to BA 3<sup>d</sup> year through lateral entry shall be treated as IGNOU students and admission, examination and support services will be provided through IGNOU".*

Since the matter was related to Student Registration Division, the proposal was forwarded to SRD. The SRD placed the matter before the Vice-Chancellor, who approved the proposal for provision of re-admission for the students enrolled into 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of BA/B.Com/B.Sc. (Hons. in Applied Sciences)/BTS/BSW through vertical mobility scheme of Gyandeep and Akashdeep after lapse of validity of registration, which has been extended for a period of one year only. Accordingly, the SRD has notified the same vide No. IG/SRD/R-I/Ver.Mob/Re-admission/2018/8883 dated September 5, 2018 with the detailed rules and guidelines of Re-admission.

- AC 70.8.2 The Academic Council ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the provision of Re-admission for the students enrolled into 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of BA/B.Com/B.Sc. (Hons. in Applied Sciences)/BTS/BSW through vertical mobility scheme of Gyandeep and Akashdeep.

**ITEM NO. 9 To apprise the Digital Initiatives of the University – IUC**

- AC 70.9.1 A comprehensive status note on the Digital Initiatives taken by the University was placed before the Academic Council for its appraisal. A copy of the same is placed as **Annexure 7**.
- AC 70.9.2 The Academic Council noted the status of digital initiatives taken by the University as reported by the Inter University Consortium of the University.

**ITEM NO. 10 To consider and approve the Report of the Committee for Revising the Existing Phase Forms and Programme Approval and Launching Process- reg.,**

- AC 70.10.1 The Academic Council was informed that consequent upon issuing of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 detailing therein the procedure of Programme Launching process and approval; and also the deliberations in the 68<sup>th</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> meetings of Academic Council on revising the existing Phase forms and simplifying the Programme approval process, the Vice Chancellor had constituted a Committee for revising the existing Phase Forms and Programme Approval and Launching Process in light of the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017.

Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Convenor of the

Committee, outlined the proposed changes in approval mechanism for new Academic programmes and revision of the existing programmes/courses. The proposed mechanism would consist of Two Forms for seeking approval from School Board, Planning Board (PB)/its Standing Committee (APC) and Academic Council, as per the Statutes of the University, namely, Programme Proposal Form (PPF), and Programme Development Form (PDF). Further, the Programme Project Report (PPR), as given in the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017, would be annexed with the Programme Development Form and would be placed before the School Board followed by Academic Council for their approval, as essentially required by the UGC (ODL) Regulations 2017.

There would be a single Form, Programme Revision Form (PRF) for revision of existing programme/course / addition of new course(s) to an existing Programme.

The concise details of the revised Form would be as under:

S. No.	Form	Purpose
1.	Programme Proposal Form (PPF)	The first Form for initiating the proposal for development of a New programme. This Form would require approval of the School Board followed by Planning Board / Academic Programme Committee.
2.	Programme Development Form (PDF)	The second Form for development of the New programme. This Form would include all stages and details of programme development process including curriculum, courses, admission & evaluation criteria, time lines, etc. This Form would require approval of the School Board followed by Academic Council.
	Programme Project Report (PPR)	As a mandatory requirement for approval of UGC, this Form would include details emanating from Programme Proposal Form and Programme Development Form. This Form would be annexed with Programme Development Form and would require approval of the School Board followed by Academic Council.



3.	Programme Revision Form (PRF)	This Form would be for revision of existing programme or addition of new course(s) to the existing Programme. This Form would require approval of the School Board followed by Academic Council (only if the revision is more than 30%).
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The Forms (PPF, PDF and PPR, and PRF) were placed before the Council for its consideration.

AC 70.10.2 The Council was also informed that these revised Forms were also placed for consideration of the Planning Board at its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Planning Board has approved the revised Forms for Programme Proposal, Programme Development and PPR, and Programme Revision/addition of course(s) to existing programmes with the observations to retain the provisions of consent from operational Divisions for determining the cost involved and direct participation in the content development process.

AC 70.10.3 After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the revised Forms, namely, Programme Proposal Form (PPF), Programme Development Form (PDF) and the Programme Project Report (PPR), and Programme Revision Form (PRF) as approved by the Planning Board at its 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018. A copy of the PPF, PDF & PPR, and PRF is placed as **Annexure 8**.

**ITEM NO. To consider Creation of new Disciplines as under:**

**11**

- (i) Discipline of Defence, National Security and Strategic Studies (DNSS) in School of Social Sciences – SOSS**
- (ii) Discipline of Linguistics in School of Humanities – SOH**
- (iii) Discipline of Philosophy in School of Humanities – SOH**

AC 70.11.1 The member Secretary informed that there are three proposals for creation of three new Disciplines in the Schools of Studies, namely:

**(i) Discipline of Defence, National Security and Strategic Studies (DNSS) in School of Social Sciences**

The proposal with regard to creation of Discipline of Defence, National Security and Strategic Studies emanates from the 68<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council, held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The School Board of the School of Social Sciences in its 69<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018 has approved the proposal in principle. The proposal has been recommended by the Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 46<sup>th</sup>

meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**(ii) Discipline of Linguistics in School of Humanities**

The proposal of the School of Humanities for establishment of the Discipline of Linguistics has been approved by the School Board of Humanities at its 57<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 7th September 2018.

**(iii) Discipline of Philosophy in School of Humanities**

The proposal of the School of Humanities for establishment of the Discipline of Linguistics has been approved by the School Board of Humanities at its 57<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 7th September 2018.

The University has been offering two programmes (B.A. in Philosophy and M.A. in Philosophy) under School of Inter-Disciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Studies (SOITDS). The SOITDS has objected to the proposal to house the discipline in the SOH.

- AC 70.11.2 The Academic Council discussed the matter and decided that the proposals should be first placed before the Planning Board for its consideration.

**ITEM NO. 12 To apprise the Report of the Committee to review the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulation, 2017 in the context of IGNOU – reg.,**

- AC 70.12.1 It was informed that the University Grants Commission vide Gazette Notification dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017, had notified the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017. The matter was discussed at length in the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018, and after detailed deliberations, it was resolved that in order to safeguard the interest of the learners, but without circumventing its authority enshrined in IGNOU Act, as required by UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017, the University would submit its application on online portal of DEB-UGC for existing programmes on offer/offered by the University as per existing norms and guidelines including Credit weightage followed by the University.

Vide Notification F.No. AD/2/NA/807, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018, a Committee had been constituted by the Vice Chancellor under the Chairpersonship of Prof Parvin Sinclair, SOS to review discrepancy of ODL regulations and IGNOU programmes towards taking up the matter with MHRD and the UGC. Subsequently, the Academic Council at its 69<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018, had resolved that the recommendations of the Committee may be placed before the next meeting of the Council.

The Report of the committee was placed before the Council. The



Report has been presented in two Sections:

Section 1: Issues pertaining to the autonomy of the University, which needs to be taken up with the MHRD and the UGC; and

Section 2: Discrepancies and difficulties in the implementation of the UGC (ODL) Regulations at IGNOU, which needs to be represented to the MHRD and the UGC.

- AC 70.12.2 The Academic Council noted the Report of the Committee to review the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulation, 2017 in the context of IGNOU and decided that the recommendations of the Committee may be forwarded to University Grants Commission / Ministry of Human Resources Development for their consideration. A copy of the Report of the Committee is placed as **Annexure 9.**

**ITEM NO. 13 To consider re-scheduling of Examination of 2463 In-Service Teachers of Govt. of Tripura enrolled in D.El.Ed. Programme of IGNOU- SOE**

- AC 70.13.1 The Director, School of Education informed that IGNOU has enrolled 2463 in-service Teachers for D.El.Ed. Programme after signing an MOC with SCERT, Govt. of Tripura on June 26, 2014, renewed in 2017 in pursuance of RTE Act. The Teachers admitted in July, 2017 would complete the 2 year Programme in June, 2019. In view of the amendment in the RTE Act in August, 2017 stipulating that State Governments will have to ensure that all Teachers acquire the essential qualifications by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 and no further extension would be given for the same, letters were sent to all State Governments by MHRD pointing out that any Teacher who does not possess the minimum qualification (D.El.Ed) by 31<sup>st</sup> March would not be allowed to continue in service beyond 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 and procedure for dismissal shall be initiated against such Teachers.

Following this, School of Education (SOE) received a letter from SCERT, Govt. of Tripura requesting IGNOU to hold exams for the 2463 students in the month of December, 2018 instead of June, 2019 so that the Teachers could attain the desired qualification by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 and are not dismissed from service.

The matter was examined by a Committee comprising the representatives of SOE and RSD and SED, which recommended as under:

1. The request of the Govt. of Tripura for holding the examination in December, 2018 instead of June, 2019, may be taken up in the light of the amended RTE Act by the Parliamentary, making it mandatory



for all State Governments to ensure that all in-service Teachers at elementary level attain their essential qualifications (D.El.Ed.) by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019, failing which it will be incumbent on State Governments to dismiss them from service. This amendment was introduced in August 2017 after signing of MoC and admitting students.

2. National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), the principal agency for offering the Programme to untrained in-service teachers under the RTE Act (nearly 16 lakhs, under the aegis of MHRD) has already been offering an 18 month D.El.Ed. Programme to meet the deadline of March, 2019 for completing the Programme.
3. The examinations may be held in December, 2018 with the provision that they would continue the academic session till March 2019 to enable the Teachers to complete their Practical etc. In this way, the loss in the academic year would be only for 2 months i.e., April and May, 2019. June being the month in which exams are held. Consequently, the duration of the 2 year diploma would be compressed to 22 months instead of 24 months and the Programme would end in March 2019 instead of May 2019.
4. Intensive counseling may be conducted in the months of October-November, 2018 at the DIETs and SCERT to take care of learning which would have taken in April and May 2019, had the programme proceeded as per the Academic Callender. IGNOU shall make all arrangements to address all the academic issues related to the Programme in this period.
5. The students would submit their assignments before taking the examinations as is the requirement for taking the exams.

The Director, SOE informed that NIOS has obtained approval from NCTE as well as from MHRD to complete their prescribed D.El.Ed. Programme in 18 months to meet the deadline of March, 2019.

- AC 70.13.2 The matter was discussed in detail. The Academic Council, keeping in view the circumstances and interest of the enrolled in-service Teachers, was of the opinion to consider the request of the State Govt of Tripura. For that, the Academic Council decided that School of Education must seek permission from NCTE/MHRD as permission was being sought by NIOS and authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take a final decision on matter.

**ITEM NO. To consider and approve the Enhancement of examination fee from Rs.120/- to Rs.150/- per Course - SED**

- AC 70.14.1 The Member Secretary informed that presently, the University is charging Rs.120/- per Course towards examination fee for term-end






examination (both for Theory and Practical). Huge expenditure is involved in the preparations, conduct of examinations and post – examination preparations annually which comprises activities such as payment to Examination Centres for arrangement of exam invigilation, etc., evaluation of answer scripts, printing of answer books and OMR sheets, expenditure on packing and postage, expenditure on deputing Observers & Flying Squads and other incidental expenditure.

Further, in view of the UGC (ODL) Regulations 2017, the University is required to further strengthen the infrastructure for conduct of examination including installing CCTVs during examination time in all Examination Centres. The University conducts term-end examinations at about 900 examination centres for 25 days both in the morning and evening in the months of June and December every year. Installation/hiring of CCTVs on a mega scale would involve huge expenditure taking into account the number of Examination Centres and number of days/sessions.

The examination fee was last revised to Rs. 120/- per course for Indian students through Finance Committee in its 86<sup>th</sup> & 87<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 09.06.2015 and 27.11.2015, respectively and approved by the Board of Management in its 124<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23.01.2016.

In order to meet out this additional expenditure for the purposes specified above, there was a need to enhance the term-end examination fee for both theory and practical examinations for the Indian students from the existing fee of Rs.120/- per course to Rs.150/- per course from the Term-end Examination, June 2019 onwards.

The Examination Monitoring Committee constituted for Term-end Examination, June 2018 in its meeting held on June 13, 2018 recommended for the enhancement of examination fee from Rs. 120/- to Rs.150/- per course. The Proposal has also been placed before the Finance Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 and has approved the same.

AC 70.14.2      The Academic Council approved the Enhancement of examination fee from Rs.120/- to Rs.150/- per Course from the Term-end Examination, June 2019 onwards.

**ITEM NO. 15      To consider the Report of the Committee on Extension of the Validity of the Registration Period of the Students of BTME Programme - SRD/SOET**

AC 70.15.1      The Member Secretary informed that School of Engineering and Technology (SOET) had submitted a proposal for extension of the

validity of registration period of the students of Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering (BTME) Programme. The minimum duration of the programme was 4 years, however, the maximum duration with the valid registration was upto 8 years. After the expiry of maximum duration, the students were given re-admission for 2 years immediately after the maximum duration, as per University's norms. Even after 2 years of grace period, there were students who still had 50% or less course(s) left unfinished (s), could not take re-admission in the programme to complete their balance courses as the programmes was put on hold since 2010 as per the decision of Board of Management. The matter was placed before the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of the School Board of SOET. The School Board approved the proposal.

Accordingly, the proposal was submitted to ACD for placing it in ACSC, however, ACD requested the School to get the matter first examined by SRD and SED, as decided by the 42<sup>nd</sup> ACSC held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 on similar matter under FDDI. Taking the reference of 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of ACSC in the similar matter, SRD, SED and SOET had convened the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 and deliberated the issue and recommended two years extension to those learners with the backlog of not exceeding 50% of courses on paying the pro-rata fee with December, 2019 as the last term examination for BTME Programme subject to certain conditions. The recommendations of the Committee of SRD, SED and SOET were placed before the then Vice Chancellor, who had approved the the same on 16.1.2018. On approval of the Minutes of the Committee, the SRD gave the facility for extension on payment of pro-rata fee for the then ensuing term-end examination in June 2018. The matter was simultaneously placed before the ACSC in its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

The ACSC deliberated on the matter at length and observed that the School has not submitted the details of number of students, cumulative, admission cycle wise and centre-wise, having 50% or less courses, timeline under which each centre carried out/stopped lab facility; as well as detailed status of Engineering programme; if there had been any Court cases, guidelines for re-admission in such cases etc., before the ACSC/ or even Vice Chancellor so as to take a holistic view of the matter. These details need to be compiled and placed before the Competent Authority for taking a decision. Therefore, the ACSC decided to refer the proposal back to the School Board of SOET. The ACSC also decided that till such time a final view is taken by the Academic Council, the fee so received by the SRD from such students may be returned and any further admissions stopped.

The SOET discussed the matter with the Vice-Chancellor in a meeting





dated 30.05.2018 attended by the Heads, Officers and faculty of VCO, SRD and SOET and it was decided that a Committee be constituted under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Professor, SOS. The Committee has submitted its Report containing following recommendations:

1. To extend the validity period of registration up to December, 2019, of all those students admitted to the BTME programme through ODL from January 2005 session onwards who had registered for all the four years, irrespective of the number of courses completed till date.
2. No pro-rata fee be charged for students belonging to the 2005-2009 batches, as the onus of conducting the laboratory courses and having the assignments assessed lies with IGNOU. The 2010 batch will pay for registration up to December 2019, as applicable under the existing normal re-admission provision.
3. SOET will take the responsibility for preparing and uploading the fresh assignments, evaluating the assignments, and undertake all other academic activities required for supporting the left-over students to complete the BTME programme by December, 2019.
4. SOET will prepare the schedule for the laboratory courses for all the five designated PSCs, and inform all the affected 3160 students accordingly. SOET will also continuously follow up, and monitor the academic activities in particular, at the five designated PSCs with the Regional Centres concerned.
5. Since the recommendations given above are problem and programme specific, these recommendations shall not be considered as precedence for any other academic programme offered by the University.

AC 70.15.2 The matter was discussed in detail. The Academic Council opined that Engineering programmes, like other programmes, have a minimum and maximum duration and should be run within the prescribed norms and guidelines of AICTE. The school should be more cautious in following the norms of regulatory body. Therefore, the Academic Council decided to refer it back to the School Board of SOET to re-examine the same. The Academic Council also decided that the concerned Programme Coordinator(s) would submit an Affidavit that the extension of the validity of registration period of the programme is being made strictly as per the AICTE norms to protect the interest of our engineering graduates.

**ITEM NO. To consider special re-admission for (i) Diploma in Civil Engineering Programme DCLE(G), (ii) Diploma in Mechanical**  
**16**



**(Tabled Item)**      **Engineering (DME) students for two years, and (iii) considering students of Degree and Diploma Programmes under IGNOU-VIEP to clear their left over subjects beyond duration - SOET**

AC 70.16.1      The Item was taken up with Item No. 15.

The School of Engineering and Technology (SOET) submitted a proposal for considering special re-admission for (i) Diploma in Civil Engineering Programme DCLE(G), (ii) Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME) students for two years, and (iii) considering students of Degree and Diploma Programmes under IGNOU-VIEP to clear their left over subjects beyond permissible maximum duration.

**(i) Diploma in Civil Engineering (DCLE(G):**

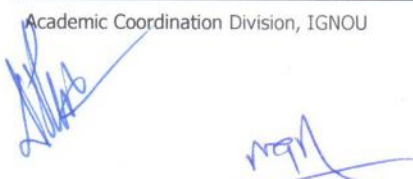
Diploma in Civil Engineering programme [DCLE(G)] was first launched in January 2006. The last batch was admitted in July 2010. Students of all batches have completed their maximum duration of 5 years. Students of all batched have exhausted the provision of extension of validity of registration for two more years after completion of maximum duration. But there were a few students who have not been able to complete their programme because of certain reasons. Such students have requested for providing them some more time to complete their programme. Keeping in view their request and the fact that the programme is not on offer for fresh registration, the School of Engineering and Technology (SOET) has proposed that a provision for special re-admission may be made for these students with following features:

- (a) Validity of special re-admission period: 2 years i.e. January, 2019 to December 2020
- (b) Provision of submission of assignments and the project report at SOET
- (c) Provision of appearing in term and examination (TEEs) during two years validity period i.e. TEEs in June 2019, December 2019, June 2020 and December 2020.

SOET has also proposed that this special re-admission facility may be offered only to those students who have already registered for all three years of study and have completed successfully their 50% of the courses.

**(ii) Diploma in Mechanical Engineering:**

Diploma in Mechanical Engineering programme (DME) was first launched in January 2009. The last batch was admitted in July 2010. Around 3023 students were admission in DME programme and around





850 students successfully completed the DME programme. Students of all batches have completed their maximum duration of 6 years. They have also exhausted the provision of extension of validity of registration for two years after completion of maximum duration. There were a few students who have not been able to complete their programme because of certain reasons.

Such students have requested for providing them some more time to complete their programme. In view their request and the fact that this programme is not on offer (i.e; programme is on hold since 2011) for fresh registration and credit transfer also, students are unable to take fresh registration to complete their backlog courses. So, SOET has proposed that a provision for special re-admission may be made for these students with following features:

- (a) Validity of special re-admission period: 02 years i.e. July 2018 to June 2020;
- (b) Provision of submission of assignments and the project report at SOET;
- (c) Provision of appearing in term end exams (TEEs) during the two years validity period i.e. TEEs in June 2019, Dec 2019 and June 2020.

### (iii) Degree and Diploma programme under IGNOU-VIEP

IGNOU-VIEP signed an MoU dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 to launch Vertically Integrated Engineering Programmes (VIEP) and to develop programmes in the area of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, and Computer Science in order to promote professional education in the country through use of various educational methodologies. There were only two admission cycles in these programmes in year 2010 and 2011. However, as per the decision of the Board of Management IGNOU on 2012, the Admission in IGNOU-VIEP was kept on hold from 2012 onward and stopped further admission. Degree and Diploma student's registration data from 2010 and 2011 Session is as under:

S. No.	Programme Code	Number of Students Enrolled	Pass out Till date	Yet to Complete
1.	DMEVI	3982	1120	2862
2.	DCSVI	195	25	170
3.	DELVI	2925	919	2006
4.	DECVI	480	126	354
5.	DCLEVI	1170	343	827
6.	BTMEVI	1398	414	984
7.	BTCVI	364	114	250

8.	BTELVI	875	246	629
9.	BTECVI	531	185	346
10.	BTCLEVI	754	198	556
Total		12674	3690	8984

The SOET has proposed that special permission may be granted to students to appear in their left over subjects in the Term End Examination in order to clear their degree and diploma beyond completing their maximum duration. The School Board of SOET in its 56<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 14.05.2018 has approved the proposals vide item No. 56.5, 56.20, and 56.21.

- AC 70.16.2 The matter was discussed in detail. The Academic Council opined that Engineering programmes, like other programmes, have a minimum and maximum duration and should be run within the prescribed norms and guidelines of AICTE. The School should be more cautious in following the norms of regulatory body. Therefore, the Academic Council decided to refer it back to the School Board of SOET to re-examine the same. The Academic Council also decided that the concerned Programme Coordinator(s) would submit an Affidavit that the extension of the validity of registration period of the programme is being made strictly as per the AICTE norms to protect the interest of our engineering graduates.

**ITEM NO. 17 To consider inclusion of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in various course curricula of IGNOU, as per the direction of UGC vide letter F.No. 6-5/2017 (SCT) dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – NCDS**  
(Tabled Item)

- AC 70.17.1 The Member Secretary informed that the University received a letter from UGC letter F.No. 6-5/2017 (SCT) dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 with a direction to include rights of persons with disabilities in the curriculum in the Colleges and Universities in terms of Section 39 (2) (f) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPD) Act of 2016.

Section 39 (2) (f) of Chapter VIII on Duties and Responsibilities of Appropriate Governments of the RPD Act (2016) specifies as follows:

*"Ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are included in the curriculum in universities, colleges and schools"*

In view of the above, an expert committee was constituted to discuss and finalize the course content and also to discuss its implementation. As mandated in the RPD Act (2016), and as recommended by the Committee, the National Centre for Disability Studies (NCDS) has proposed that the IGNOU learners will be sensitized about the rights of persons with disabilities through an add-on course. The content outline



and evaluation methodology as decided by the expert committee was placed before the Council.


The NCDS has proposed the following with regard to launching of the course / Implementation:

- (i) Self Learning Materials will be prepared by NCDS by following IGNOU guidelines.
- (ii) The course will be implemented in two phases. While in the first phase the course content will be included in all the new/future programmes of IGNOU and programmes under revision. For ongoing programmes, NCDS will hold meetings with the Programme Coordinators of each School for incorporating the contents of the proposed course in their respective programme/courses.
- (iii) Some of the ongoing programmes in Education, Social Work, Health, Psychology, etc might have some content on disability. The additional content, if any, can also be included without much effort.
- (iv) NCDS will provide resource support to the Programme Coordinators/Schools through a pool of experts. The experts may be drawn from within and outside IGNOU.
- (v) The evaluation of the knowledge gained by the learners will be through assignments which can be prepared and evaluated by a pool of experts. Simultaneously, faculty members from each School will be oriented about the course content who will, in due course, take over the assignment preparation and evaluation work.
- (vi) After incorporating the contents in the programmes, the Programme Coordinators will share the same with NCDS for smooth implementation.

AC 70.17.2 After deliberations, the Academic Council directed the Schools of Studies to place the same before their respective School Boards for their consideration.

The Council put on record its appreciation for the work done by the Academic Coordination Division in successful coordination of the meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Chair was endorsed by the Council at the end of the meeting.

  
**Prof. Nageshwar Rao**  
**Chairperson, Academic Council**

