MINUTES

of the

SEVENTY SIXTH MEETING

of

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Held on

09th APRIL, 2021

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068

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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 09TH APRIL AT 11:00 AM IN THE 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. R.P. Das, Pro VC, IGNOU	-	Member
3.	Prof. Satyakam, Pro VC, IGNOU	-	Member
4.	Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Pro VC, , IGNOU	-	Member
5.	Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, Pro VC, IGNOU	-	Member
6.	Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain, VC, Tripura University	-	Member
7.	Prof. Akhilesh Kumar Pandey , VC, Vikram University	-	Member
8.	Prof. K.N.S. Yadav, Former VC, UPRTOU	-	Member
9.	Prof. Saroj Agrawal, Professor of Chemistry (Retd.)	-	Member
10.	Prof. Kandarpa Das, VC, KKHSOU	-	Member
11.	Prof. N.C. Gautam, VC, MGCGV	-	Member
12.	Prof. Ramesh Chandra, Ex. VC, Bundelkhand University	-	Member
13.	Prof. Sanjay Kumar (Satyarthi), Principal, Daman College	-	Member
14.	Prof. M. Krishnana, VC, MKU, Madurai	-	Member
15.	Prof. Kuldip Chand Agnihotri, VC, CUHP	-	Member
16.	Prof. M.B. Shukla, Professor (Retd.), M.G. Kashi Vishapeeth	-	Member
17.	Sh. Anil Kumar Jain, Chief Executive Officer, NIXI	-	Member
18.	Prof. Debal K. SinghaRoy, Professor, SOSS	-	Special Invitee
19.	Prof. Manjulika Srivastava, Director, CIQA	-	Special Invitee
20.	Prof. S. R. Jha, Professor, SOS	-	Special Invitee
21.	Dr. Srikant Mohapatra, Director, EMPC	-	Special Invitee
22.	Prof. Pity Koul, Director, SOHS	-	Member
23.	Prof. Sujatha Varma, Director, SOS	-	Member
24.	Prof. K. Ravi Sankar, Director, SOMS	-	Member
25.	Dr. R. P. Singh, Director, SOCE	-	Member
26.	Dr. V.V. Subrahamanyam, Director, SOCIS	-	Member
27.	Prof. K. Elumalai, Director, SOL	-	Member
28.	Prof. S.K. Yadav, Director, SOA	-	Member

29. Prof. Malati Mathur, Director, SOH - Member
30. Prof. Rashmi Sinha, Director, SOSS - Member
31. Prof. D. Venkateshwarlu, Director, SOE - Member
32. Prof. A.K. Gaba, Director, SOVET - Member
33. Dr. Ashish Agarwal, Director, SOET - Member
34. Dr. O.P. Dewal, Director, SOJNMS - Member
35. Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, Director, SOTHSM - Member
36. Prof. Rose Nembiakkim, Director, SOSW - Member
37. Prof. Himadri Roy, Director, SOGDS - Member
38. Prof. B.K. Pattanaik, Director, SOEDS - Member
39. Prof. R. P. Pandey, Director, SOTST - Member
40. Prof. Shachi Shah, Director, SOITS - Member
41. Dr. Govindaraju Bharadwaza, Director, SOPVA - Member
42. Prof. Neera Kapoor, Professor, SOS - Member
43. Prof. Uma Medury, Professor, SOSS - Member
44. Prof. Pramod Kumar, Professor, SOH - Member
45. Dr. K. S. Arul Selvam, Associate Professor, SOJNMS - Member
46. Dr. Sanjay Agarwal, Associate Professor, SOET - Member
47. Dr. Reeta Devi, Assistant Professor, SOHS - Member
48. Dr. Gaurav Singh, Assistant Professor, SOE - Member
49. Dr. Mansi Sharma, Assistant Professor, SOL - Member
50. Dr. Pankaj Khare, Director, P&DD - Special Invitee
51. Dr. Seema Chandhok, Librarian, L&DD - Member
52. Dr. M. Shanmugam, Director, RSD - Member
53. Dr. Siran Mukerji, Deputy Director, Noida - Member
54. Sh. V. B. Negi, Registrar, SED - Member
55. Dr. Himansu K. Bose, Registrar, SRD - Member
56. Dr. Dev Kant Rao, Director, ACD - Member Secretary

Prof. T.V. Kattimani, VC, Central Tribal University, AP and Prof. H. Venkateshwarlu, VC, Central Univ. of Kerala, the external co-opted members of the Council; and Prof. B. B. Khanna, Director, International Division; Dr Nandini Sahu, Director, SOFL; Dr. Anjali C. Ramteke, Associate Professor, SOMS; and Dr. B. Sukumar, Regional

Director, RC-Trivandrum could not attend the meeting. Dr. Vandana Varma, Assistant Director, ACD was present to assist the Member Secretary.

Dr. Dev Kant Rao, Director, Academic Coordination Division and the Member Secretary of the Academic Council greeted all the members of the Academic Council and informed that the present meeting, is the first offline meeting, after last two Academic Council meetings conducted through virtual mode. He then requested the Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council for his opening remarks and progress made by University since last Academic Council meeting.

The Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council, welcomed all the members to the 76th meeting of the Academic Council and informed that two new Pro-Vice Chancellors, Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Professor, Library Science and Director, Centre for Online Education and Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, Professor and Head, Department of English, Rohelkhand University, Bareilly have joined the University. He welcomed them to the Academic Council. The Chairperson also welcomed the distinguished incoming co-opted members of the Academic Council namely, Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain, Vice-Chancellor, Tripura University; Prof H. Venkateshwarlu, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala, Kerala; Prof. Akhilesh Kumar Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Vikram University, Ujjain; Prof. T.V. Kattimani, Vice-Chancellor, Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh (CTUAP); Prof. K.N.S. Yadav, Former Vice Chancellor, UPRTOU, Allahabad and presently at University of Patanjali Yogpeeth; Prof. Saroj Agrawal, Professor of Chemistry (retd.); Prof. Kandarpa Das, Vice-Chancellor, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Patgaon, Prof. N.C. Gautam, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidhyalaya, Prof. Ramesh Chandra, Ex. Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand University & presently, Professor of Chemistry, University of Delhi; Prof. Sanjay Kumar (Satyarthri), Principal, Daman College, Daman; Prof. M Krishnana, Vice-Chancellor, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai; Prof. Kuldip Chand Agnihotri, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala, Prof. M.B Shukla, Retd Professor, M.G. Kashi Vishapeeth, Varanasi, Shri Anil Kumar Jain, Chief Executive Officer, National Internet Exchange of India. He also welcomed the Special Invitees to the meeting, namely, Prof. Debal K SinghaRoy, SOSS; Prof. Manjulika Srivastava, Director, CIQA; Prof. S. R. Jha, SOS; Dr. Srikant Mohapatra, Director, EMPC; and Dr. Pankaj Khare, Director, P&DD.

The Chairperson also welcomed newly joined members of the Academic Council, namely, Prof. R.P. Singh, Director, SOCE; Dr. Ashish Agarwal, Director, SOET; Prof. Himadri Roy, Director, SOGDS; and Dr. Govindaraju Bharadwaza, Director, SOPVA; Prof. Neera Kapoor, SOS; Prof. Pramod Kumar, SOH and Prof. Uma Medury, SOSS; Dr. K.S. Arul Selvam, SOJNM; Dr. Anjali C. Ramteke, SOMS Dr. Sanjay Agarwal, SOET; Dr. Reeta Devi, SOHS; Dr. Gaurav Singh, SOE and Dr. Mansi Sharma, SOL; Dr. B. Sukumar, Regional Director, Regional Centre- Trivandrum and Dr. Siran Mukerji, Deputy Director, Regional Centre - Noida.

The Vice Chancellor then expressed his gratitude to the outgoing members of the Council, namely, Prof. Subhasis Maji, former Director SOET; Dr. Heena K. Bijli, former Director, SOCE; Prof. Nilima Srivastava, former Director SOGDS; Prof. Sunil Kumar, former Director SOPVA; Prof. Anu Aneja, SOGDS; Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur, SOITS; Prof. P.V.K. Sasidhar, SOEDS; Dr. Gobindaraja Bhardwaza, SOPVA; Dr. Mita Sinhamahapatra, SOA; Dr. Deepanwita Srivastava, SOFL; Dr. Saumya, SOSW; Dr. OP Sharma, Director, NCIDE; Shri Ravikanth, former Director, EMPC; Dr. Bharat Bhushan, RU & Director, SSC and Dr. Hema Pant, RSD for their valuable contribution in Academic Council.

Detailing the progress made by the University that since last meeting of the Academic Council held on November 18, 2020, the Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council informed that, amongst others, following activities have taken place:

1. The University was accredited by the National assessment & Accreditation Council, with A++ grade and a score of 3.56.
2. The University would be holding 34th Convocation on 15th April 2021. The Hon'ble Minster of Education, Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' ji has consented to deliver the convocation address. In the Convocation about 2,37,839 students would be awarded the degrees.
3. Hon'ble Minister has inaugurated the Bhumi Pujan and Shilanyas ceremony of the Regional Centre buildings, viz. at Port Blair, Aizawl and Rajkot.
4. University had conducted the December Term End Examination in pen and paper mode from February 8, 2021 to March 15, 2021 at around 900 examination centres all around the country.
5. Even though the number of fresh registration have reduced, marginally, there is an increase in the number of re-registered candidates in December 2020 Session.
6. The University has introduced MA (Folklore and Culture Studies) since January 2021 session.
7. University has started B Lib (Online) programme from January 2021 session.
8. University is also planning to start MA (Jyotish) and MA (Music) from July 2021 session.
9. University has started PG Diploma in Animal Welfare which is eliciting good response in terns of enrollment. The programme has been appreciated by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Mrs. Menaka Gandhi ji.
10. The University has prepared NEP implementation plan which is being placed before the Academic Council for its consideration and suggestions as a separate agenda.

11. The Alumini Association of the University has also been registered.

12. University is having more that 100 Swayam Courses and 16 Online Programmes and a good number of students have enrolled in these programmes.

The Vice Chancellor then requested Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Pro-Vice Chancellor to make a presentation about IGNOU especially in the context of online and digital initiatives to apprise the new co-opted members about the University.

Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Pro-Vice Chancellor made a detailed presentation on the background of the University, including its objective in terms of inclusiveness, mandate of reaching to unreached, country wide and overseas jurisdiction, organizational structure, infrastructure at Headquarters and regional services network, national and international recognition, collaborations with different countries especially Pan Africa recognition, IGNOU as National Coordinator for Swayam and Swayam Prabha platform; exemption from UGC (Open & Distance Learning and Online Regulations), 2020, receiving five star ranking for Innovations in Education and various other initiatives, especially the digital initiatives taken by the University including webcast, WEAS, Gyan wani, Gyan Darshan, Gyan Dhara channels, Mobile App, more than 100 online courses, multi platform integration to reach out to the learners, inhouse LMS etc. resulting in A++ grade in NAAC Accreditation for next five years since January 2021.

The members of the Academic Council congratulated the University for the achievement especially for the initiatives taken by the University to reach out to the learners during the lockdown period due to COVID 19 in 2020. They also proposed certain suggestions as under:

1. Though most of the learners are well connected with internet and are able to receive education through online mode, however, IGNOU being a mega University, should also take steps for those learners who are either not connected to internet or such facilities are poor in the remote far flung areas. Therefore, IGNOU should continue to provide alternative means of instruction like interactive video cassettes/audio cassettes etc. which would supplement the online education for those students who are located in remote places without internet connectivity.

2. IGNOU being pioneer in many educational initiatives, can start using Artificial intelligence (AI) for imparting education. The Artificial Intelligence could be a powerful tool for curriculum development and translation of study material in regional languages using softwares etc.

3. In Regional Centres located in North Eastern States like Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura etc. more state-of-the-art ICT facilities may be created for offering

programmes to remotest places in such states as majority population of learners are located in very remote areas.

4. The material of IGNOU may be uploaded on Cloud based platforms and its link may be provided to registered students of IGNOU. By this facility, the country-wide and overseas students can watch the material/lectures any time as per their convenience.
5. There may be a mechanism, called Remedial week, just before the start of Exam during which whatever is left out of syllabus can be covered before the examination. Also complete syllabus of the programme may be summarized in that week to help the students in revising the content and clearing their doubts.
6. Since, the IGNOU is also mandated to open its campus overseas, there is a possibility to open its off campus in Lesotho, a South African country, so that Open & Distance Learning may play a crucial role in educating the people in that country.
7. Alumini Association which has been registered now, should be strengthened.
8. The University should penetrate its wings to the tribal areas for their upliftment and bringing them in mainstream.

The Academic Council transacted the following business:

ITEM NO. 1	**To confirm the Minutes of the 75th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 18th November, 2020 and to note the action taken thereon – ACD**
AC 76.1.1	The Academic Council was informed that the 75th Meeting of the Academic Council was held on 18th November 2020 and the Minutes were circulated to all the members for their comments/observations. No comments have been received on the Minutes. The Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decision taken in the 75th meeting of the Academic Council held on 18th November 2020 was also placed before the Council.
AC 76.1.2	The Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of the 75th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 18th November 2020 **(Annexure 1)** and noted the action taken thereon. ***Action: ACD***
ITEM NO. 2	**To apprise the Institutional Accreditation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (1st Cycle) with a grade of A++ by National Assessment and Accreditation Council**

	(NAAC) – CIQA
AC 76.2.1	Director CIQA made an elaborative presentation before the Academic Council. The Director, CIQA informed that UGC vide its regulation 'University Grants Commission (UGC) ODL Regulations, 2017' made it mandatory, for all the Open Universities, to apply for Assessment and Accreditation (A&A) by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) within one-year from 29th April, 2019 i.e. launch of the NAAC Manual for Open Universities. In view of the Regulations, the institutional data of IGNOU was filled up in the IIQA format on NAAC portal and submitted on 16th October, 2019, which was approved by NAAC on 9th January, 2020. Afterwards, IGNOU finalized the Self-Study Report (SSR) with the help of University Officials posted in Schools/Divisions/Centres/Units and uploaded the Self-Study Report (SSR) on NAAC Portal (online) on 7th March 2020. IGNOU pre-qualified the SSR as communicated by NAAC on 08th December, 2020 and accordingly, the NAAC Peer Team visited the University on 5-7 January 2021 at its headquarters at New Delhi and three Regional Centres (RC Delhi-03, RC- Cochin and RC Lucknow) and their Learner Support Centres (02 under each of the three RCs). After the assessment, the NAAC on its portal on 8th January, 2021 declared that the Indira Gandhi National Open University scored CGPA 3.56 with a grade of A++ for next five years (1st Cycle) **(Annexure 2: NAAC Grade sheet and Certificate)** .
AC 76.2.2	The Vice Chancellor & Chairperson, AC put on record the appreciation of the Council on the efforts made by all the teachers, academics and staff of the University for working hard to achieve the targeted grade of A++ in the NAAC assessment & Accreditation. He further apprised the Council meetings of CIQA were being held regularly to implement the suggestions given by the NAAC Team and the Status Report in this regard shall be submitted to Academic Council for its information and consideration.
AC 76.2.3	With the above appraisal, the Academic Council noted the Institutional Accreditation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (1st Cycle) with a grade of A++ with the CGPA of 3.56 by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). ***Action: CIQA***

ITEM NO. 3	**To apprise the exemption of Indira Gandhi National Open University from applicability of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 – ACD**
AC 76.3.1	The Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council informed that the University Grants Commission vide its notification dated September 04, 2020 had notified the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 which lay down the minimum standards of instruction for the grant of degrees at the undergraduate and post graduate levels and grant of post graduate diploma, through Open and Distance Learning mode and Online mode. Vide its letter No. 1-19/202 (DEB-I) dated March 25, 2021, the University Grants Commission has informed the decision taken in its 550th Commission meeting held on February 18, 2021, vide which Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been exempted from the application of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, with effect from 4th September 2020, academic session 2020-2021 and onwards till further orders.
AC 76.3.2	The Council was further apprised that in view of exemption of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) from the application of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, the Ministry of Education had asked IGNOU to develop its own guidelines for offering programmes through ODL mode as well as for Online programmes. In view of this, the University has already developed its guidelines and the same have been approved by the Academic Council in its 75th meeting held on 18th November 2020 and subsequently by the Board of Management in its recently held meeting on March 24, 2021. The Open and Distance Learning and Online learning offered by the University was being monitored under the strict guidance of Ministry of Education.
AC 76.3.3	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council noted the exemption of Indira Gandhi National Open University from applicability of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and appreciated the efforts made by the University in this direction **(Annexure 3)**.

	Action: ACD
ITEM NO. 4	**To consider and adopt the University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021 – ACD**
AC 76.4.1	The Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council informed that the University Grants Commission vide its notification No. F. 1-100/2016(MOOCs/e-content), dated 25th March 2021 had notified the University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021 which were in supersession of the UGC (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulations, 2016. The Academic Council in its 66th Meeting held on 8th September 2016 had adopted the Gazette Notification No. 295 dated July 20, 2016 of UGC (Credit framework for online learning courses through SWAYAM) Regulation, 2016. The Chairperson further informed the Council that the said regulations lay down the minimum standards of the SWAYAM based online credit courses, Evaluation and certification of credit-based MOOCs and Credit Mobility of SWAYAM based Courses. Vide these amended Regulations, the total course being offered in a particular programme, in a semester, through the online learning courses offered through SWAYAM Platform is extended from 20% upto 40% (forty per cent), by an institution. Institutions have been directed to take appropriate action for adoption of MOOCs courses through SWAYAM platform for the benefit of the students. The University was already the National Coordinator for Swayam platform and for Swayam Prabha and more than 100 Swayam courses have been launched by University during the last one year.
AC 76.4.2	After detailed discussions, the Academic Council approved the adoption of the University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021 by the University **(Annexure 4)** ***Action: COE & Schools of Studies***
ITEM NO. 5	**To consider and approve the Programme Development Form and syllabus of MA Jyotish programme with an exit option in**

	as PG Diploma in Jyotish –SOH
AC 76.5.1	The Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council informed the Council that the School of Humanities was in the process of development of Master of Arts in Jyotish programme. The said programe has been approved by the Academic Programme Committee in its 60th meeting held on 22nd Jan 2021 and the syllabus of the programme has been drawn up by the Expert committee in its meeting held on 22nd February 2021. The Programme Development Form (PDF) of MA in Jyotish programme has been approved by School Board of School of Humanities in its 63nd meeting held on 8th March 2021. In line with the New Education Policy as well as the policy of the University, an exit option has been provided in the form of PG Diploma in Jyotish. The Academic Council was further informed that the University was planning to launch MA Jyotish programme from July 2021 session.
AC 76.5.2	The Academic Council discussed the matter at length. It was suggested that since Jyotish was a combination of four different area i.e. Astronomy, Astrology, Meteorology and Medicine, hence, the programme may be renamed with some prefix or suffix rather than simply 'Jyotish'. Further, it was suggested that the study material of the programme and option for giving exam may also be explored in Hindi, English and if possible in Sanskrit as its origin is from Sanskrit. The Programme coordinator assured to place the suggestions before the Experts for their consideration.
AC 76.5.3	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the Programme Development Form and syllabus of MA Jyotiosh programme with an exit option in the form of PG Diploma in Jyotish. ***Action: SOH***
ITEM NO. 6	**To consider and approve the internal Credit Transfer Policy for Master of Computer Applications (MCA) Programme to MCA (New) Programme – SOCIS**
AC 76.6.1	The Director, SOCIS informed that the Master of Computer Applications (MCA) Programme was being revised and the new MCA programme of 2 year duration with 80 Credits, would be on offer from January 2021 admission cycle onwards. As per the credit transfer policy of the University, there was a provision for internal credit transfer of maximum 40 credits, out of 80 credits (50% transfer of credits only). The MCA programme prior to present

revision was of 3 year duration with maximum duration of 6 years, however, some of the students who could not complete the earlier MCA were requesting for Credit transfer of some of the courses of MCA. In view of that, the internal credit transfer policy for MCA (offered from 2005 to 2020) to MCA (new) programme was approved by the School Board of School of Computers and Information Sciences (SOCIS) in its 52nd meeting held on Feb 18, 2021. The scheme of Credit transfer would be as under:

Credit Transfer from MCA (old) (3yrs) to MCA (New) (2yrs)						
Course Code	**Title of the Course**	**Credit**	**Credit Transfer (CT)**	**Course Code**	**Title of the Course**	**Credit**
MCS-031	Design and Analysis of Algorithms	4	CT	MCS-211	Design and Analysis of Algorithms	4
MCS-013 & MCS-033	Discrete Mathematics & Advanced Discrete Mathematics	2+2 =4	CT	MCS-212	Discrete mathematics	4
MCS-034	Software Engineering	3	CT	MCS-213	Software Engineering	4
MCS-042	Data Communication and Computer Networks	4	CT	MCS-218	Data Communication and Computer Networks	4
MCS-032	Object Oriented Analysis and Design	3	CT	MCS-219	Object Oriented Analysis and Design	4
MCS-051	Advanced Internet Technologies	3	CT	MCS-220	Web Technologies	4

	MCS-035	Accountancy and Financial Management	3	CT	MCS-225	Accountancy and Financial Management	4
	MCSP-060	Project	16	CT	MCSP-232	Project	12

AC 76.6.2	After due deliberations, the Academic Council approved the internal Credit Transfer Policy for transfer of Credits from Master of Computer Applications (MCA) (old) Programme to Master of Computer Applications (MCA) (New) Programme. ***Action: SOCIS & SRD***
ITEM NO. 7	**To consider and approve the internal Credit Transfer policy for Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA) Programme to PGDCA (New) Programme - SOCIS**
AC 76.7.1	The Director, SOCIS informed that the Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA) Programme, is a stand-alone programme consisting of 10 courses (no. of Theory Courses–6, no. of Practical Courses–4) worth 32 credits with an aim to prepare the students to aim for a programmer level/web developer in a software company to design and develop small business application software or lab personnel/technician in institutions or freelancer to develop software projects. Admission for PGDCA (New) programme was on offer from January 2021 admission cycle onwards. The PGDCA programme was under revision with following internal credit transfer /exemption policy from PGDCA (old) to PGDCA (New). The same has been approved by the School Board of School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS) in its 52nd meeting held on Feb 18, 2021. The credit transfer scheme from PGDCA (old) to PGDCA (new) would be as under:

Internal Credit Transfer/Exemptionfrom PGDCA to PGDCA (New)						
Course Code	**Title of the Oourse**	**Credit**	Credit Exemption (CE)/ Credit Transfer (CT)	**Course Code**	**Title of the Course**	**Credit**
MCS-	Problem Solving and	**3 + 2**	Credit Exemption(	MCS-	Programming in C	4

	011 and MCSL-017	Programming C and Assembly Language Programming Lab		CE)	201	and Python	
	MCS-012	Computer Organization and Assembly language Programming	**4**	CT	MCS-202	Computer Organisation	**4**
	MCS-022	Operating System Concepts and Networking Management	**4**	CT	MCS-203	Operating Systems	**4**
	MCS-024 and MCSL-025	**Object Oriented Technologies and Java Programming** Lab (based on MCS-021, 022, 023 & 024)	**3 + 4**	CT	MCS-206	Object Oriented Programming Using Java	**4**
	MCS-23 and MCSL-025	Introduction to Database Management Systems Lab (based on MCS-021, 022, 023 & 024)	**3 + 4**	CT	MCS-207	Database Management Systems	**4**
	MCS-021	Data and File Structures	**4**	CT	MCS-208	Data Structures and Algorithms	**4**
AC 76.7.2	After due deliberations, the Academic Council approved the internal Credit Transfer policy for transfer of credits from Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA) (old) Programme to PGDCA (New) Programme. ***Action: SOCIS***						

ITEM NO. 8	**To consider the proposal for award of Degrees/Diplomas/ Certificates to eligible students who have completed their programme during December 2019 and June 2020 Term End Examinations, in 34th Convocation of the University – SED**
AC 76.8.1	The Council was informed that the Statute 21 of the IGNOU Act 1985 on Convocation provides as under: "The Convocation of the University for conferring of degrees or diplomas or for other purposes may be held in such manner as may be prescribed by the Ordinance." As per Ordinance on the Convocation, the Convocation for the purpose of conferring degrees/ diplomas shall ordinarily be held once a year at Delhi or at such Regional Centre(s), and on such date(s), as may be decided by the Vice Chancellor. Clause 5 of Ordinance on the Convocation under Statute 21 of the IGNOU Act, also provides as under:- "The students who have passed their examinations in the year for which the convocation is held shall be eligible to be admitted to the convocation:" Accordingly, about 237839 students who have completed their Ph.D./M.Phil./Masters degree/Bachelor's degree/ Diploma/ Certificate programmes in Term End Examinations held during December 2019 and June 2020 would be eligible for award of Degrees/Diplomas in 34th Convocation, as under (as on 09.4.2021): PROGRAM — TOTAL BACHELORS — 95371 MASTERS — 84017 M.PHIL — 10 DIPLOMAS — 35574 CERTIFICATES — 22814 PH.D. — 53 TOTAL — 237839
	The Vice Chancellor further informed that the University would be holding the convocation on April 15, 2021 and Hon'ble Minister of Education, Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" ji has very kindly consented to deliver Convocation address virtually.

AC 76.8.2	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the proposal for award of Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates to eligible students who have completed their programme during December 2019 and June 2020 Term End Examinations, in 34th Convocation of the University and authorized the Vice Chancellor for accepting the proposal for award of Ph.D. degrees till the date of the Convocation. ***Action: SED***
ITEM NO. 9	**To Consider and ratify/ approve the award of M.Phil/Ph. D. Degrees to 39 Students –SED**
AC 76.9.1	The Academic Council was informed that: 1. On the recommendations of the External Evaluators and the Board of Examiners and as per the decision of the Academic Council, Notifications in respect of Thirty-Nine (39) Ph.D. degrees students for award of Ph.D. Degrees and Five (05) M.Phil. degrees students for award of M.Phil. Degrees in various Disciplines across the Schools have been issued by the Students Evaluation Division (SED) with the approval of the Vice Chancellor. 2. Clause 12 of the Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes inter-alia envisages that "A student shall be awarded the M.Phil/Ph.D Degree, with the approval of the Academic Council, provided that the corresponding evaluation report given by the Examiners is satisfactory". 3. The Academic Council at its 64th Meeting held on 10th July, 2015 had approved to issue Notifications to M.Phil/Ph.D. students on successful completion of their viva voce examination with the approval of the Vice Chancellor in order to mitigate the hardship faced by the students (AC 64.21.1).
AC 76.9.2	The Academic Council ratified/approved the action taken by the Vice Chancellor to approve notifications in respect of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degrees to 39 Students **(Annexure 5).** ***Action: SED***
ITEM NO. 10	**To consider and approve the exit option with a PG Diploma in the existing MA English Programme –SOH**
AC 76.10.1	The Academic Council was informed that in accordance with the provisions in National Education Policy, School of Humanities has

	introduced modular scheme in MA English Programme with an exit option to award PG Diploma after completing 40 credits worth of study hours with atleast 5 courses of eight credits each (with 2 compulsory courses and a number of electives to choose from), however, for MA degree, Students need to do 2 compulsory courses and 6 electives of 8 credits each, totaling up to 64 credits in all. The proposal also envisaged a modular approach by placing certain courses in modules both for the MA and the PG diploma. Students who wish to specialize in a particular genre/area would benefit from this approach. Further, the Director, SOH informed the Academic Council that with the existing modules, it would be possible to offer four PG Diplomas (in British Literature, New Literatures, Writings from the Margins, Writings from India) to students who wish to enroll for a PG Diploma only, however, reworking of syllabi was not required as it would utilize existing materials to the best advantage. The proposal of introducing exit option in MA English Programme has been approved by the School Board of School of Humanities in its 63rd meeting held on 08th March 2021.
AC 76.10.2	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the Programme Proposal Form and proposed programme structure of PG Diploma programme and exit option in the existing MA English programme at PG Diploma level. The School would submit the PDF and PPR form of these PG Diploma progrmmes for record of the Academic Council. ***Action: SOH***
ITEM NO.11	**To consider and adopt the University Grants Commission Notification considering CA/CS/ICWA qualifications equivalent to PG Degree -RU**
AC 76.11.1	The Academic Council was informed that the University Grants Commission vide its Notification D.O No.9-35/2016(CPP-II) dated 15th March 2021 notified the equivalence of CA/CS/ICWA qualifications equivalent to PG Degree **(Annexure 6)**. The decision of equivalence was based on the recommendation of an Expert Committee constituted to consider the qualifications being awarded by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and the Institute of Cost Accountants

	of India i.e. Chartered Accountants (CA), (CS) Company Secretaries and Cost and Works Accountants, respectively (ICWA).
AC 76.11.2	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the adoption of the University Grants Commission Notification dated 15th March 2021 considering CA/CS/ICWA qualifications equivalent to PG Degree by the University in the discipline of Management and Commerce. ***Action: RU***
ITEM NO. 12	**To consider and approve the implementation plan of New Education Policy in the University -ACD**
AC 76.12.1	The Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council informed that the University has developed its implementation plan for implementing provisions of New Education Policy in the University under the Chairpersonship of Prof. K. B. Das, former Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU. Prof. S.R. Jha made a brief presentation about the NEP implementation plan of IGNOU **(Annexure 7)**.
AC 76.12.2	The Council was further informed that in view of multi-disciplinary approach as suggested in NEP document, IGNOU has 21 School of Studies which account for various disciplines and a number of subject experts as faculty. Further, most of the existing undergraduate programmes on offer by the University have been developed with the collaborative efforts of some Schools of studies and the University has ample opportunity to provide courses at Undergraduate and postgraduate levels in different disciplines like Engineering & Technology, Agriculture, Vocational education etc. With regard to opportunity of multiple entry and exit option in various progarmmes, it may be noted that the University has policy of lateral entry and exit option in almost 10 programmes on offer and University was working to add more in near future. Another major provision of New Education policy was Academic Bank of Credits. The University has already approved the Course-wise Registration and Certificate Scheme, which allows anybody who was not a regular student of the university, to get enrolled in an isolated course of IGNOU, and after successful completion of the course, get certification. IGNOU was already having Credit transfer scheme in place, however, in light of Academic Credit Bank provision under NEP, the University was reviewing its credit transfer scheme.

	Professional development of a teacher has also been brought under focus in New Education Policy, the University has already initiated online progrmme on Swayam platform of 2-4 credit programmes of professional development for anybody in the country. Another important aspect was to integrate the quality vocational education which was regulated by certain Regulations on Vocational Education, so University was trying to develop programmes under skill development in tune with these Regulations with the help of School of Vocational Education in the University. Further, the University has been using Information and Communication Technologies for student support services and it was already in place. As far as to enhance the quality of formative assessment, the formative assessment has been an integral part of IGNOU's assessment scheme. This scheme has already been implemented and no programme on offer deviates from the already established evaluation scheme. As far as to encourage high quality research and innovations in tune with the provisions of New Education Policy, the University strongly recommended to integrate M.Phil. and Ph.D. programme and accordingly, the University has already discontinued the M.Phil. programme. The University would be having only one research degree i.e. Ph.D. henceforth. Several administrative improvements like single window mechanism have been created to streamline the administrative and financial bottlenecks so that the faculty can pursue their Research projects.
AC 76.12.3	The matter was discussed at length. Several suggestrions were received, some of which were as under: 1. Background paper should be developed for each programme wherever entry and exit scheme was being introduced, so that other Open Universities may get benefitted out of this pioneer work. 2. Since the quality of study material of IGNOU is internationally recognized, IGNOU should go for MoUs with other Regional Universities for translating this high-quality material into various regional languages. 3. There should be an online mechanism to empanel Academic Counsellors to facilitate effective delivery of education. Process of

	approval of counsellor should be finalized at Regional Centre level to ease out the process. 4. The credit transfer policy in Open & Distance Learning should be in tune with regular mode of education. 5. In a programme with multiple entry and exit option, the content of every module should be self-sufficient, self-contained and self-sustained so that the student should gain sufficient knowledge as a professional. Each module should be independent.
AC 76.12.4	After detailed deliberations, the Academic council approved the implementation plan of New Education Policy in the University. ***Action: ACD***
ITEM NO. 13	**To consider and confirm the Minutes of 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th Meetings of the Research Council held on held on 27th June 2017, 23rd January 2019, 25th October, 2019 and 8th September, 2020, respectively –RU**
AC 76.13.1	The Academic Council was informed that in term of the provisions of Statute 9A (a), Powers of the Academic Council which states that "all matters relating to research shall under the overall guidance and supervision of the Academic Council, be the responsibility of a Research Council ..", the Minutes of 25th , 26th , 27th and 28th Meetings of the Research Council held on 27th June 2017, 23rd January 2019, 25th October, 2019 and 8th September, 2020, respectively are placed for confirmation.
AC 76.13.2	The Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th Meetings of the Research Council held on held on 27th June 2017, 23rd January 2019, 25th October, 2019 and 8th September, 2020, respectively. ***Action: RU***
ITEM NO. 14	**To consider and approve the proposal for implementing Online Counselling for IGNOU Students-reg.,**
AC 76.14.1	The Vice Chancellor informed that counseling, an important and integral component of the teaching-learning process in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) System, was being, so far, conducted at the Study Centres spread across the country through face-to-face mode. However, with increasing spread of information and communication technology and easy accessibility of web-based technologies, it was

	now possible to provide synchronous online academic support to the learners. The conduct of the online counselling by the University during Covid-19 Pandemic during 2020 had been found very useful and cost effective, wherein about 45283 online counseling sessions were conducted successfully. A scheme of online counseling for IGNOU learners enrolled in various ODL programmes was also presented before the Council.
AC 76.14.2	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the following: 1. ICT based synchronous online counselling be conducted by the University by employing various multimedia modes such as Online Counselling, Gyandhara, Gyanvani, SWAYAM PRABHA, etc. WEAS, and other digital platforms keeping in view the requirement of the programme and target group. 2. All ODL Programmes having 200 or less enrolments in a particular admission cycle, would have 100% online counselling from the headquarters, using ICT based digital means. 3. All other high enrolment programmes (having an enrolment of more than 200 in an admission cycle) would have a mix of face to face and online counseling (70% face-to-face counselling at the Study Centres and 30% online Counselling using ICT based digital means). 4. The Online Counselling will be made available through a single window platform. The sessions will be planned by the Schools/Programme Coordinators in consultation with the RSD. Online Counselling Sessions will be well structured and well planned with a proper schedule of sessions. ***Action: Concerned Schools of Studies/Regional Services Division/Regional Centres etc.***

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

(Nageshwar Rao)
Chairperson