

PART MINUTES IN RESPECT OF ITEM NOS. FC 87.4 AND 87.9 OF THE 87th MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 27th NOVEMBER, 2015 AT 12.00 NOON IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, VICE CHANCELLOR'S BLOCK, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI.

The following were present:-

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao	Vice-Chancellor	Chairman
2.	Prof. Sushma Yadav	Pro-Vice-Chancellor	Member
3.	Shri S.P Goyal	Joint Secretary (TEL), MHRD	Member
4.	Prof. K.N. Tripathi	Member, BOM, IGNOU	Member
5.	Shri M.P. Gupta	Additional Secretary (Retd.)	Member
6.	Prof. P. Srinivas Kumar	Director, SOET	Member
7.	Mrs. Vidya Sonal	Finance Officer	Member Secretary

Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, MHRD could not attend the meeting. Sh. Sudhir Budakoti, Registrar (Admn.) attended the meeting as 'Special Invitee'.

FC 87.4 To consider and approve the Revised Estimates 2015-16 and the Budget Estimates 2016-17.

87.4.1 The Secretary informed that in accordance with Statute 11(6) of the Statutes of the University, the Financial Estimates are to be placed before the Finance Committee for consideration and thereafter to be submitted to the Board of Management for approval.

Accordingly, the University prepared the Revised Estimates 2015-16 and Budget Estimates 2016-17 as per details given below:

Operational Fund (Non Plan)

	Estimated Revenue Realization	Estimated Budget Provision
Revised Estimates 2015-16	632.70 Crore*	598.45 Crore
Budget Estimates 2016-17	667.09 Crore**	667.09 Crore

**** Includes the carry forward balances of Rs. 146.70 Crore of the previous year and token grant of Rs. 1.00 crore from MHRD.**

**** Includes Rs.34.25 Crore as proposed receipts to be carried forward from 2015-16 and Rs.122.84 Crore token grant from MHRD.**

Development Fund (Plan)

	Grant approved by MHRD	Estimated Budget Provision
Revised Estimates 2015-16	110.0 Crore*	352.68 Crore
Budget Estimates 2016-17	110.0 Crore**	385.90 Crore

* Under two heads viz. Rs. 99 Crore under Development Grant to IGNOU other than NER, Rs. 11.00 Crore under Development Grant to IGNOU in NER.

** Anticipated allocation by MHRD for 2016-17 is based on the actual approved allocation of Rs. 110.00 Crore for 2015-16.

A power point presentation on the above mentioned Revised Estimates 2015-16 and Budget Estimates 2016-17 was also made by Sh. U.C. Bisht, Asstt. Registrar (Budget), F&A Division.

87.4.2

After detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended the Revised Estimates 2015-16 and Budget Estimates 2016-17 for approval of the Board of Management as under :

Operational Fund (Non Plan)

Revised Estimates 2015-16 of Rs.598.45 Crore against the estimated revenue of Rs.632.70 Crore (including carry forwarded balance of Rs.146.70 Crore of the previous year and Rs.1.00 Crore token grant from MHRD).

Budget Estimates 2016-17 of Rs.667.09 Crore against the estimated revenue realization of Rs.667.09 Crore (including Rs.34.25 Crore as proposed receipts to be carried forward from 2015-16 and Rs.122.84 Crore token grant from MHRD).

Development Fund (Plan)

After detailed deliberations, the Committee is of the view that the proposed estimates are on higher side in view of the past trend of expenditure. The Committee recommended to reduce the Revised Estimates 2015-16 and Budget Estimates 2016-17 as follows:

- Revised Estimates 2015-16 at Rs.252.68 Crore against the approved Budget allocation by MHRD for Rs.110 Crore. (The estimated difference of Rs.142.68 Crore will be met from internal resources of IGNOU and also pursue the matter with MHRD for release of additional grant).
- The Budget Estimates 2016-17 has been proposed at Rs.277.90 Crore.

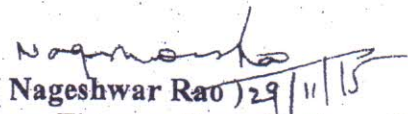
In order to operationalise the Revised Estimates 2015-16 & Budget Estimates 2016-17, the Finance Committee confirmed the part Minutes of this item.

FC 87.9 To consider the Audited Annual Accounts of the University for the Financial Year 2014-15.

87.9.1 The Committee was informed that as per Section 29 of IGNOU Act, a copy of the audited accounts and the audit report have to be submitted to the Visitor after obtaining the approval of the Board of Management. The same set is also to be submitted to the MHRD for laying it before both the Houses of Parliament, once approved by the Board of Management.

87.9.2 The Finance Committee gone through the responses to the Paras mentioned in the Separate Audit Report (SAR) and suggested the remedial/corrective measures to overcome the deficiencies being pointed out by the audit from time to time.

87.9.3 In view of the urgency to submit the Audited Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2014-15 to MHRD, the Finance Committee confirmed the Minutes of this item and recommended the same for approval of the Board of Management.


 (Nageshwar Rao) 29/11/15
 Chairman, Finance Committee

**F.No.5-25/2015-DL
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Distance Learning Section**

New Delhi Dated 07.12.2015

Reproduced Copy of the MHRD Letter

To,

The Vice-Chancellor (I/c)
IGNOU, Maidan Garhi
New Delhi – 1100068

**Subject: Minutes of the 87th Meeting of the Finance Committee Meeting
27.11.2015-reg.**

S.No.	Item No.	Comments of MHRD
3.	87.9.1: The Committee was informed that as per Section 29 of IGNOU Act, a copy of the audited accounts and the audit report have to be submitted to the Visitor after obtaining the approval of the Board of Management. The same set is also to be submitted to the MHRD for laying it before both the Houses of Parliament, once approved by the Board of Management.	87.9.1: The Committee was informed that as per Section 29 of IGNOU Act, a copy of the audited accounts and the audit report have to be submitted to the Visitor after obtaining the approval of the Board of Management. The same set is also to be submitted to the MHRD for laying it before both the Houses of Parliament, once approved by the Board of Management. JS (TEL) further desired that all the provisions of Section 29 of the IGNOU Act shall be complied with by the University in letter and spirit.

The University is requested to bring out the changes/modification in the Minutes of the 87th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27.11.2015 before confirmation of the same as detailed above.

Yours faithfully,
SD/-
(B.K. Bhadri)
Assistant Educational Adviser (DL)

In the 123rd (Emergent) meeting of the Board of Management held on 8.12.2015, the members had made few observations/suggestions pertaining to Annual Report/Annual Accounts including Budget Estimates of the University for future reference

(A) Annual Report

- (i) As regards the listing of the Publication of Research Papers/Articles by the faculty and other academic staff in the Annual Report, it was suggested that, in future, the list of Research Publications be categorized into different categories viz. publications in referred journals, non-referred journals, books, chapter(s) in books, research papers in Conferences/Seminars/ Workshops etc.
- (ii) In view of the large number of Programmes with low enrolment, it was suggested that the University should look into the reasons for this state of affairs and initiate measures to improve the situation.

(B) Annual Accounts

The Board agreed to the suggestion made by one of the members that the University should create a Centralized Data Base of students and other information related to student support services and directed the Finance Committee to make dedicated budgetary provision for its creation in the Budget Estimates 2016-17, while it reviews the same in its future meeting. The Board was of the view that the large number of students in the system can be served better and the affairs of the University can be managed more efficiently using such a Centralised Data Base and ICT.

(C) Others

- (i) The University is facing difficulties in offering new academic programmes due to inordinate delay in receiving the approval from the Distance Education Bureau (DEB) of UGC.
- (ii) The Board was informed that the University is having the faculty and academic staff strength of more than 400 eligible Research Supervisors who can contribute to knowledge creation through M.Phil and Ph.D Programmes. The University is not offering its Research Degree Programmes for the last one year due to non-receipt of approval of UGC of its (revised) Ordinance on the Research Degree Programmes. The members of the Board expressed serious concern on the issue. The Board

opined that IGNOU, being an Autonomous Institution under the Ministry of HRD and mandated to offer academic programmes including research degree programmes as per the provisions of the IGNOU Act, must start its research degree programmes as early as possible.

The Board decided to adopt a Resolution in this regard containing concern of the members of the Board on IGNOU not being allowed to offer its Research Degree Programmes. The said Resolution is placed at **Appendix-4**. Some members of the Board were gracious enough to help the University in this matter by taking up this issue at the highest level with MHRD as well as UGC.

- (iii) While deliberating on the Agenda of the meeting, the members observed that the revenue receipt of the University from students' fee was declining despite enrolment being gradually increasing. The members were informed that the fall in the revenue receipt from students' fee has been caused due to restraint placed on the University in respect of offering programmes in professional areas such teachers' education (B.Ed, M.Ed) and Engineering & Technology Programmes by the respective Regulatory Bodies. Although the University has been following the norms and guidelines prescribed for professional programmes by the Regulators such as NCTE and AICTE, of late, these regulatory bodies have either imposed a ceiling on the number of students which can be admitted in a particular programme or have completely denied permission to the University to offer these programmes. *The representative of the MHRD informed the Board that the Ministry would take up the matter with the concerned Regulators.

(*Revised by the Board in its 124th meeting held on 23.1.2016, as per observations of the MHRD vide its letter dt.31.12.2015)

The Resolution regarding Research Degree Programme passed by the Board of Management of IGNOU in its 123rd meeting (Emergent) held on 8.12.2015

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established by an Act (THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY ACT, 1985) of Parliament at the national level. **Universities are the places of teaching - learning and creation of knowledge and IGNOU is no exception in so far as these broad objectives of universities are concerned.** The IGNOU Act specifically stipulates, as quoted below, that the University will provide for research activities:

1. Section 5.1 (i) provides *for instruction in such branches of knowledge, technology, vocations and professions as the University may determine from time to time and make provision for research.*
2. Section 5.1 (v) provides *to determine the manner in which distance education in relation to the academic programmes of the university may be organized.*
3. Section 5.1 (xiv) stipulates *to make provision for research and development in educational technology and related matters.*

Further, the First Schedule of the IGNOU Act, containing the Objects of the University, says that *'the University shall endeavour through education, research ... to play a positive role in the development of the country'*.

The University has been offering academic programmes including the Research Degree Programmes (M.Phil and Ph.D) in compliance of these provisions since 1990s and has established itself as the premier Open Distance Learning (ODL) Institution in India. **The Research Degree Programmes of IGNOU were started after approval of an Ordinance to that effect by the Statutory Bodies of the University. IGNOU has teaching and academic staff strength of 549 in position who can effectively guide research in 21 Schools. More than 100 Professors having a standing of more than 10 years in the field of ODL mode of education are with the University.** The M.Phil / Ph.D research was carried out in a number of disciplines viz. English, Hindi, Library & Information Sciences, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Chemistry, Life Sciences, Statistics, Mathematics, Geography, Biochemistry, Physics, Education, Nutritional Sciences, Child Development, Rural Development, Home Science, Engineering, Management, Commerce, Nursing, Health Sciences, Computers, Agriculture, Law, Vocational Education, Performing and Visual Arts, Gender Studies, Tourism, Journalism, Foreign Languages and Social Work in the University. **This expertise in terms of capacity building in research is a unique feature, perhaps difficult to find anywhere in the world in the ODL system.**

The Research Degree Programmes of the University which were in operation for more than a decade received a jolt due to the UGC Gazette Notification of 2009

which contains 'Regulations on Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of M. Phil and Ph. D Degrees'. These Regulations inter-alia envisage that

"Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations or any other Rule or regulation, for the time being in force, no University, Institution, Deemed to be University and College/Institution of National Importance shall conduct MPhil and PhD Programme through Distance Education Mode"

IGNOU immediately examined the provisions of UGC Regulations and expeditiously decided to incorporate all the features of UGC provisions in IGNOU Research Ordinance so that "no deviation from UGC policy in research" is strictly observed. **IGNOU Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes has already been approved by all the Statutory Bodies of the University.** The modified Ordinance has been referred to the Ministry of HRD for its approval and subsequent suggestions of MHRD were incorporated in the Ordinance. The Board was also informed that, in view of the UGC now being the Regulator for the ODL Institutions also, the said modified Ordinance on Research Degree Programme of IGNOU has been referred to the UGC for their comments and observations. It was further informed that the Ministry is regularly reminding the UGC to send their comments and observations on the Research Ordinance at the earliest so that further necessary action can be initiated and IGNOU is able to restart its Research Degree Programmes. Unless the modified Ordinance is implemented, IGNOU would not be in a position to restart its M. Phil and Ph. D.

The Board also noted that other than the requirement of Course Work which IGNOU has also made mandatory in its modified Ordinance and which has to be transacted meticulously, **it is difficult to distinguish the M. Phil and Ph. D Programmes pursued in 'face-to-face mode' and 'ODL mode'.** To earn the M. Phil or Ph. D degree, a student has to work as an individual under the guidance of Supervisor(s). Further, IGNOU provides admission in research programmes through entrance test, Pre-PhD course work of 32 credits, two Seminars in addition to one pre submission seminar, evaluation of PhD thesis by three examiners etc. Therefore, IGNOU as an ODL Institution meets all the requirements prescribed in the above mentioned Gazette Notification of UGC and it should not be prevented from offering M.Phil and Ph.D programmes. **It is learnt that this provision of not allowing M. Phil and Ph. D Programmes through 'ODL mode' was reviewed by UGC in its 479th meeting held on 8th July 2011.** The minutes of the said meeting, vide item 2.05, allowed M.Phil / Ph.D Programmes through ODL mode, subject to the condition that UGC Regulations are strictly observed. **The outcome of this meeting is yet to be notified.**

(*Revised by the Board in its 124th meeting held on 23.1.16, as per observations of the MHRD vide its letter dt.31.12.15)

It may be worth to mention that although IGNOU's mandate to impart education as envisaged under IGNOU Act is 'ODL Mode' ***but in case** of M.Phil/Ph.D. programmes, the same are conducted by the University in the same way and manner as done and conducted by any of the 'Conventional University System'. Further, in the absence of allowing research to IGNOU faculties, their academic and professional growth has practically been hampered and not only this, in future, they won't qualify for promotions in future as prescribed under UGC Regulations (API Scoring etc.). Further, no qualified faculty would be joining ODL Mode Universities in the country, if UGC does not change its ***view point** towards research through ODL Universities in the country.

Board was apprised of all the above details. The members of the Board expressed strong sentiments that, in the absence of Research Degree Programmes, IGNOU is not able to meet one of its major objectives i.e. creation of knowledge through research. Members also observed that research output of any University is one of the important parameters for accreditation / rating of a University by national and international agencies. If **IGNOU** is not permitted to offer M. Phil and Ph. D Programmes of its own, it is bound to suffer and its standing among the Universities will be diminished for no fault. It was also noted that University needs to offer M.Phil and Ph.D Programmes due to its national jurisdiction and global recognition of the pioneering work it has done in the field of ODL Mode of education.

Members of the Board carefully assessed the entire situation and concluded that the situation would be resolved if UGC/MHRD would notify the UGC decisions of the 479th meeting and approve the Ordinance submitted by **IGNOU** duly approved by all Statutory Bodies of the University.

The Board of Management resolved that UGC/MHRD be requested to notify the decisions of the 479th meeting of UGC and approve the ordinance submitted by IGNOU duly approved by all Statutory Bodies of the University to enable IGNOU to offer M.Phil and Ph.D programmes at the earliest.
