



MINUTES OF THE 125TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JULY 23, 2016 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM, NEW VCO BLOCK, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068

The following were present:

1	Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor (I/c)	- Chairman
2	Prof. J.S. Rajput	- Member
3	Prof. Vasudha Kamat	- Member
4	Prof. K.N. Tripathi	- Member
5	Dr. A Surya Prakash	- Member
6	Prof. S. Srilatha	- Member
7	Prof. Kapil Kumar	- Member
8	Dr. P. Sivaswaroop	- Member
	Shri Sudhir Budakoti, Registrar (Admn.)	- Secretary

The Secretary (HE), MHRD, Secretary, I&B, Shri Ramji Raghvan and Shri Hitesh Deka, Members of the Board could not attend the meeting.

Shri Manish Sabharwal had tendered his resignation from the membership of the Board of Management of the University vide his letter dated 15.7.2016 (**Appendix 1**).

Shri Vinod Kumar, Deputy Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Board.

The meeting of the Board of Management began with the Chairman welcoming the Members to the 125th Meeting of the Board. He introduced Prof. Kapil Kumar and Dr. P. Sivaswaroop, as the new members who were attending the meeting of the Board for the first time.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, also placed on record Board's appreciation of the valuable contributions made by Prof. Nageshwar Rao, as the erstwhile Vice Chancellor (I/c). He informed the Board that Prof. Nageshwar Rao, on being appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Uttarakhand Open University, had been relieved from the University w.e.f. 28.04.2016. The Chairman also placed on record the appreciation of the valuable contributions made by the other outgoing members, viz. Dr. Anil Wali,

Prof. S.R. Jha and Dr. Sanjeev Pandey, whose terms on the Board of Management had expired on 19.2.16, 27.3.16 & 27.3.16 respectively.

In his prefatory remarks the Chairman exhorted the Open Learning Community to stand steadfastly in support of the parity claim of the ODL System with other modes of teaching-learning transaction. He specifically made a mention of the Self Learning Material produced by the ODL System as its hallmark feature and its easy availability in the public domain for a most rigorous scrutiny of its quality and communication ability. It was therefore unfortunate, he said, that even today the Open Learning Community was receiving step motherly treatment which was hurting the Community at large. In this rather gloomy outlook, he said the New Education Policy was a laudatory document for its expansive coverage, meticulous treatment of all the vital components of education and resurrection of Open Learning, and as one of its key arms, the restoration of the dignity of IGNOU as the foremost Open University of India. For this, the Chairman thanked Prof. J.S. Rajput who was a member of the team that had formulated the New Education Policy.

The Chairman, after these prefatory remarks, requested the Secretary to present the agenda for the consideration of the Board. At this juncture, the Secretary, instead of presenting the agenda referred to a letter from Dr. R. Sudarsan, Deputy Director, Planning and Development Division of the University addressed to the Chairman, Board of Management alleging serious violation of CVC rules by the Board of Management in closing the vigilance case against Prof. Kapil Kumar way back in November 2012 and questioning the validity of his nomination as a member on the Board in May 2016, the lawful credentials of this member against the backdrop of a defamation libel, the validity of the status of the Vice Chancellor (I/c) as also questioning the legality of the proceedings of the Board for a period extending to ten years now. The Secretary was immediately advised by all the members of the Board to not digress from the presentation of the agenda.

At this point the Chairman apprised the members of the Board that the said letter had been addressed to him as the Chairman, Board of Management and was being looked into in accordance with the rules and that the Secretary had been duly informed of this on 22nd July 2016. The Chairman also informed the Board that matters concerning Dr. R. Sudarshan's conduct were already listed in the ATR (BM 125.1.2 (29)) and he would present related issues at the time of considering the ATR.

The Chairman informed the Board that certain observations on the Agenda had been received from the Secretary (HE), MHRD, in the evening

yesterday, vide letter No.F.5-15/2016-DL dated 22.7.2016 and a copy of these observations was placed for the consideration of all the members. It was decided by the Board to consider these observations at the time of deliberating on the relevant agenda items.

The following Agenda was, subsequently, presented before the Board:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF 124TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2016 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT THEREON

BM 125.1.1 The Secretary informed the Board that the Minutes of 124th Meeting of the Board of Management held on 23.1.2016 were circulated to the members of the Board on 04.2.2016. The MHRD vide its letter No. F.5-30/2014-DL dated 22.02.2016 had communicated the observations/comments on the minutes of the 124th BOM meeting. Some observations/comments on specific resolutions of the BOM minutes had also been received from Prof. J.S. Rajput, Prof. Vasudha Kamat and Dr. Anil Wali, Members of the Board. The comments/observations and further clarifications thereon were now placed before the Board for its consideration, as per Annexure-IV of the Agenda.

The Board considered the observations of MHRD on the minutes of 124th meeting of the Board and the clarifications thereon made by the University. The Board resolved to adopt the same for implementation.

BM 125.1.2 The Board noted the Action Taken Report on the minutes of 124th meeting, as per details given below :

VC's Presentation (Point No. 4) – The University vide letters F.No. IG/VCO/MHRD/15 dated 5th October 2015, F.No. IG/VC (SOET)/3569/2015 dated 21st September 2015, F.No. IG/VC (SOET)/ 3569/2015 dated 6th October 2015; and F.No. IG/VCO/MHRD/16 dated 11th April 2016 had informed the Ministry of HRD about hardship faced by the University due to recognition matters.

VC's Presentation (Point No. 11) – The Vice Chancellor counseled Shri Sudir Budakoti and motivated him to take his role as the Registrar (Admn.) sincerely and perform his

duties with utmost dedication as suggested by the Board and in accordance with the Act, Statutes and Ordinances of IGNOU.

Item No. 1 – The Board noted that the separate Notifications on (i) Committee for establishment of an Internal Quality Assurance System to strive for quality and excellence in the University, and (ii) Committee to examine the use of expertise of DEC staff in the best interests of IGNOU had been issued vide note dated 26.4.2016. The Board also noted that the recommendations of the Committees had been approved by the Vice Chancellor for implementation.

The Board also noted that the IGNOU-AISECT MoU was duly approved by the Statutory Bodies of the University.

Item No. 2 – The Board noted that the University had approached the UGC vide letters dated 9.3.16 & 5.4.16 with regard to re-starting of M.Phil/Ph.D programme in the University. The Board was further informed that a separate agenda item in this regard was also placed before the present Board for consideration.

The Board also noted the progress regarding the development of ICT Enabled Data Management System Report in the matter.

Item No. 3 – The Item regarding repatriation of PVCs was reported and no further action was required.

Item No. 4 – The Board noted its approval on the recommendations of the 86th & 87th Finance Committee meetings held on 09.06.2015 and 27.11.2015 respectively and the same had been conveyed to F&A Division for necessary action and compliance.

Item No. 5 - It was informed to the Board that the replies to the charge sheets issued to Dr. Pankaj Khanna and Prof. P.C. Basak had been received and the same would be placed before the Board along with all other papers related to the issue that were being collected by the concerned Division.

Item No. 6 – Regarding the charge sheet issued to Shri M. Rajamannar, the Board was informed that the reply from Shri Rajamannar was still awaited. The Board directed that the action in the matter be informed in its next meeting.

Item No. 7 – The Item was reported and the decision of the BOM regarding restriction of grant of extension of EOL in respect of Dr. R.P. Singh had been communicated to him.

Item No. 8 – The Item regarding ratification of action taken by the Vice Chancellor regarding sanctioning of EOL in respect of Prof. Anjila Gupta and Prof. C.B. Sharma was reported and no further action was required.

Item No. 9 – Regarding the expansion of the SSC, a Standing Committee of the BOM, the Board directed to expedite the same.

Item No. 10 – The Board expressed its displeasure on the delay for issuing the charge sheet to Shri Vijay Kumar M., Asst. Registrar and directed immediate action in this regard.

Item No. 11 – The 29th Convocation of the University could not be held due to the relieving of Prof. Nageshwar Rao, former Vice Chancellor (I/c) from the University enabling him to join the Uttarakhand Open University. However, the degrees/diplomas duly signed by Prof. Nageshwar Rao, were awarded to the students *in absentia*, as per the provisions under Regulations for Convocation. The Board noted the action taken in the matter.

Item No. 12 – The Board noted the action taken report on the 73rd and 74th Meetings of the Establishment Committee, a Standing Committee of the BOM, held on 10.4.2015 & 17.12.2015 respectively.

Item No. 13 – The Board noted that the Notification nominating Dr. Hitesh Deka, Vice Chancellor, Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University, Guwahati on the BOM had been issued on 4.3.2016.

Item No. 14 – The Board noted that a notification dated 17.3.2016 on the constitution of the Works Committee, a Standing Committee of the BOM, had been issued. It was informed that the next meeting of the new body of the Works Committee was being scheduled shortly.

Item No. 15 – The Board noted the acceptance of resignation of Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Director, EMPC by the Vice Chancellor and no further action was required.

Item No. 16 – The Board took a serious note of the delay in issuing the charge sheet to Dr. Pankaj Khare, Dy. Director, P&DD in time. The Board felt that the directions of the BOM in such matters were not being taken seriously and the action required in the matter was getting delayed unduly. The Board resolved that the University must adhere to the compliance of the Board decisions in time bound manner. The Board directed that the charge sheet to Dr. Pankaj Khare should be issued without further delay. The Chairman assured that necessary action in this case would be taken urgently.

The Board also expressed the view that the meetings of the Board of Management should be called more frequently and preferably at the intervals of three months. The Chairman assured the Board that the frequency of the meetings would be increased in accordance with this suggestion.

Item No. 17 – The Board noted the clarification regarding signing of MoUs as per the Guidelines issued in this regard.

Item No. 18 – The Chairman briefed about the setting up of nine (09) Overseas Study Centres and also that two other Centres, namely Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea, had been given the approval by the Visitor.

Item No. 19 – Regarding the request of Dr. R.C. Sharma for withdrawal of his resignation and converting the same into EOL, the Board was informed that a separate item in this regard had been placed before the present Board. The

matter was discussed in detail. The Board decided to deal with the matter strictly as per the extant rules. The Board further authorized the Chairman/Vice Chancellor to take necessary action accordingly and report the same to the BOM.

At this point, it was mentioned that there were certain issues pertaining to Leave Rules that needed to be looked into, e.g. the Sabbatical Leave and the requirement of having attachment with some other institutions. The members recalled that the Board had already constituted a Committee on Leave Rules and its recommendations were not placed before the Board so far. The members expressed their concern and directed the Secretary of the Board, i.e. Registrar (Admn.), to place all the relevant documents and recommendations of the Committees constituted by the Board along with the agenda items for information/consideration of the Board. The Board re-emphasized that the Report of the Leave Rules Committee must be placed in its next meeting and the other related issues would be discussed with the teachers. Any other changes, if required, would be undertaken subsequently.

Item No. 20 – The Board noted that the Office Orders already contained the words “till further orders”. Therefore, no further action in the matter was required.

Item No. 21 – The Chairman recalled that the Secretary (HE), MHRD vide letter dated 22.07.2016 had forwarded comments on various Agenda Items for consideration before approving the minutes of the 124th meeting of the BOM held on 23.01.2016. His observations regarding Item No.124.21 and No. 124.22 were given below :

“While considering the promotions given to the faculty and academic staff, the extant rules of the Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) duly approved and notified by the Statutory Authorities of the university might have been complied with and also taken into consideration the requisite guidelines/rules/policy framed and approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) from time to time on such matters. However,

there is no mention about the criterion adopted by the university in recommending the CAS promotions to its faculty and academic staff. Moreover, in the absence of the date of eligibility of the CAS promotion (as 'Remarks' Column is blank), the question of approving the recommendations does not arise. It appears that the administration wing of the faculty and academic staff has taken this important aspect in a very casual way, which should have been avoided in such important service matters of the employees of the university."

Observations on Item No.124.22 :

"While considering the promotions given in respect of Group-A non-academic positions, the extant rules of the Ordinance on Departmental Promotion duly approved and notified by the Statutory Authorities of the university might have been complied with and also taken into consideration and requisite guidelines/rules/policy framed and approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) from time to time on such matters. Further, the posts against which promotions have been referred in are sanctioned posts in the university by the competent authority.

However, there is no mention about the criterion adopted by the university in recommending the promotions through DPC to its Group-A non-academic positions. Moreover, in the absence of the date of eligibility of the DPC (as 'Remarks' Column is blank in most of the recommended promotions), the question of approving the recommendations does not arise."

The Board was informed that the necessary promotion/placement orders in respect of teachers/academics & Group-A non-academic officers had already been issued in pursuance of the policy adopted by the Board from time to time as per the guidelines issued by the MHRD/UGC/DoPT and for the officers as per the R&P Rules duly approved by the BOM and the MHRD earlier. The Board noted the contents of the comments for Item

Nos.124.21 & 22 as referred to above and deliberated upon them in detail. It was resolved that the matter would be re-examined in the light of the extant rules of the University and the result of the examination would be duly informed to the Board and to the Secretary (HE), MHRD.

Item No. 22 – The Chairman took up the matter relating to the recommendations of the DPC in respect of Group-A non academic positions which were duly approved by the 124th BOM held on 23.1.2016. He informed that in the case of promotion of four Asst. Registrars namely, Shri Vinod Kumar, Shri Kamal Dev, Shri K.K. Mohan and Shri J.S. Pattathil to the post of Dy. Registrars, the promotion had been given on **temporary basis** by the Registrar (Administration) – Shri Sudhir Budakoti without citing any reason, despite the order of the Vice Chancellor to issue the promotion orders on regular basis and also in spite of the fact that the positions of four Dy. Registrars were available on regular basis and the aforesaid four incumbents fulfilled the eligibility criteria on completion of 13 years of service in the cadre of Asst. Registrar.

The Chairman further informed that in defiance of the decision of the Board of Management as well as that of the Vice Chancellor, Shri Sudhir Budakoti, Registrar (Administration) did not at any stage bring the same to the knowledge of the Vice Chancellor either in discussions or on files.

At this stage it was also pointed out that in violation of the DoPT rules, the Group-B & C DPCs were not held timely and the decisions were delayed for no valid reasons which unduly and adversely affected the motivation of the employees besides leading to an adverse status in both financial as well as job situation. It was mentioned that cases of such delays had come to the Grievance Redressal Committee, a Standing Committee of the BOM, whose reports were placed as a separate agenda item.

The Chairman also noted a representation received from a member of the BOM concerning Registrar (Admn.). The Secretary tried to explain his position on this matter. The Board members were, however, of the opinion that the

matter needed to be investigated, as it was a serious issue. The Board, therefore, resolved that an inquiry be initiated in this matter and the Chairman may take appropriate administrative action for ensuring the fairness of the investigation.

The Board further reiterated that the four incumbents mentioned above, be issued regular promotion orders as per rules.

Item No. 23 – Secretary (HE), MHRD observations on Item No.124.23 :

“Before considering the recommendations of the High Power Committee constituted by the Board of Management (BOM) for revamping of Regional Services Division (RSD), the letter No.5-1/2016-DL dated. 5.7.2016 addressed to the Vice Chancellor (I/c), IGNOU may be taken into consideration and discussed in the current Board meeting for seeking guidance and further directions before implementing the same.

Pending decision of the BOM on MHRD’s letter under reference, the decision on the minutes may accordingly be deferred.

In view of above, Item No.124.21, 124.22 and 124.23 should be re-examined at the University level in light of the above mentioned comments and should be put up in the next meeting of the Board of Management of the University with full justification for consideration of the Board.”

The Board was informed that the letter dt. 5.7.2016 had been placed under separate agenda item for consideration by the Board.

The Board desired that result of the examination on the above matters should be placed for its consideration at the next meeting and that the Chairman may take up the matter subsequently with the MHRD.

Item No. 24 – The Board noted the action taken report in respect of Prof. S.K. Panda's case and also the outcome of the case filed by Prof. Panda in the Hon'ble High Court.

Item No. 25 – The Board applauded the action taken report in the matter of e-Gyankosh and desired that such initiatives be strengthened further.

Item No. 26 – The Board noted the action taken report in the case of Shri M. Rajamannar.

Item No. 27 – The Board was informed that Dr. V.S.P. Srivastava had superannuated on 31st January 2016. The decision of the BOM in this regard had been reported to the CVC for information.

It was pointed out that there were many cases in which the complaints were treated as on-going vigilance inquiries and the employees of the University were unduly harassed. The Board resolved that the Vigilance Cell of the University should strictly adhere to the rules & regulations of the CVC. The Board further resolved that a report should be submitted to the CVC on bi-monthly basis about the existing cases so that action could be initiated in time bound manner. The Board being the disciplinary authority empowered the Chairman to take note of all such pending cases as on date and keeping in view the CVC rules settle the cases.

Item No. 28 – In the case of Dr. S.S. Jena, the Board was informed that a copy of the MHRD Complaint Committee Report had been provided to the Charged Officer for seeking his response. The response in this regard had been received and was placed before the Board for consideration. The Board was also informed that Dr. Anita Priyadarshni had also sent a representation to the Chairman, BOM in this regard. The Board was of the view that since the response containing 49 pages along with its Annexures may not be possible to be examined in this meeting, the same may be sent to the members in sealed envelope so that they may go through it and take a decision on the matter in the next Board meeting.

Item No. 29 – In the case of Dr. R. Sudarsan, the Board expressed the view that appropriate action should be suggested in the light of the enquiry report, the incumbent's reply and the views of the sub-committee. The Board authorized the Chairman to propose action and bring it before the Board for consideration so that a final decision may be taken accordingly.

At this juncture, the Chairman apprised the Board that Dr. R. Sudarsan had been making unsubstantiated and malicious allegations against many officials and teachers of the University regularly and also giving wide publicity, to these unsubstantiated allegations, through e-mails and letters to various external agencies without exhausting, for the redress of his grievance, if any, the internal channels of the University thereby damaging the image of the University and defaming the officials and teachers (vide letters/emails dated 22nd July 2016, 1st July 2016, 23rd June 2016, 14th June 2016, 13th June 2016, 23rd May 2016, 7th June 2014, 7th April 2014, 11th April 2014 and 18th July 2012).

The Chairman further informed the Board that in a disreputable instance of this kind Dr. R. Sudarsan had alleged, without any tangible evidence, about Prof. Satyakam, Director, Research Unit that **“huge amount of money had exchanged hands in order to award Ph.D Degree to Mr. Pankaj Khanna”** a Deputy Director in the Planning Division of the University (vide letter dated 6th May, 2016). Prof. Satyakam had forcefully denied this allegation and requested the Vice Chancellor to seek evidence from Dr. R. Sudarsan about his allegations and take appropriate action in the matter (vide letter dated 9th May, 2016).

The Chairman now decided to provide a gist of the letter by Dr. R. Sudarsan, Deputy Director, Planning & Development Division (dated 13th July, 2016) where he had levelled allegations against the Board of Management for closing a vigilance case against Prof. Kapil Kumar way back in November 2012 and Prof. Kumar's nomination to the Board of Management in May 2016 as well as his appointment as Chairperson of various Committees of

IGNOU. Dr. R. Sudarsan had further alleged that the appointment of Prof. Ravindra Kumar as Vice Chancellor (i/c) was also illegal. The Chairman also informed the Board about a handwritten note given to him by Dr. R. Sudarsan (unsigned and undated) and marked “*Very Very Urgent and Confidential*” making allegations against the Vice Chancellor of inaction against a retiring teacher of the University, Prof. S.C. Garg, and also implicating the Director (i/c), ACD and the Vice Chancellor of complicity in trying to help Prof. Garg. Dr. R. Sudarsan had threatened, in this handwritten note, to hold Prof. Ravindra Kumar (Vice Chancellor i/c), Prof. Manjulika Srivastava (Director i/c, ACD and Prof. B. B. Khanna (CVO) collectively responsible for allowing Prof. S.C. Garg to retire without taking any action on the CVC Report and his own complaint.

The Board took serious view of the unsubstantiated allegations made by Dr. R. Sudarsan against the above officials. The Board noted that in the past also Dr. R Sudarsan had been suspended.

The Board directed that Dr. R. Sudarsan, Deputy Director, Planning & Development Division should be placed under suspension with immediate effect and resolved that a disciplinary inquiry be instituted to examine the above matter under Rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules. Accordingly, this resolution of the Board of Management was noted as **BM 125.0.1** below.

Item No. 30 – The Board noted the action taken report regarding constitution of a Committee.

Item No. 31 – The Board was informed that the University was also following the scheme for re-employment of superannuated Professors as mentioned in the UGC guidelines. The MHRD had been communicated accordingly. In view of this, the Board desired that the MHRD be requested to expedite the matter on priority basis.

Item No. 32 – The Board noted the action taken in the case of Prof. Rakesh Vats and opined that the matter be decided administratively.

Item No. 33 – The Board noted the action taken report which clarified the observations made by the MHRD in the matter also.

The Chairman assured the Board that keeping in view the orders of 1987 of the DoPT in relation to this matter he would administratively examine the issue and wherever needed would withdraw/issue necessary orders for implementing the 1987 decision regarding withdrawal of CPF.

BM 125.1.3 The Board noted the Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 124th meeting of the Board of Management held on 23.1.2016 and confirmed the minutes with the above observations/modifications/directions.

BM 125.0.1 The Board decided that Dr. R. Sudarsan, Deputy Director, Planning & Development Division should be placed under suspension with immediate effect with a disciplinary inquiry to begin under Rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules.

ITEM NO.2 TO REPORT THE RELIEVING OF PROF. NAGESHWAR RAO, EX. VICE CHANCELLOR (I/C) TO JOIN THE UTTARAKHAND OPEN UNIVERSITY AS THE VICE CHANCELLOR AND HANDING OVER THE CHARGE TO PROF. RAVINDRA KUMAR, SENIOR-MOST PROFESSOR AMONGST DIRECTORS OF SCHOOLS

BM 125.2.1 The Board noted the relieving of Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Ex. Vice Chancellor (I/c) to join the Uttarakhand Open University and handing over the charge to Prof. Ravindra Kumar w.e.f. 28.4.2016.

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 88TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20.6.2016

BM 125.3.1 The minutes of the 88th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 20.6.2016 were placed before the Board for consideration.

The Board was informed that the proposal vide Item Nos.88.3 of the recommendations of the 88th Finance Committee regarding the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2015-16 had been approved by the Board through Circulation. No comments have been received from the members of the Finance Committee on the minutes of 88th meeting.

BM 125.3.2

The Board was informed that the MHRD vide its letter dated 22.7.2016 had put a condition that the clarification on the points raised by the MHRD vide its letter dated 16.6.2016 were suitably incorporated in the final minutes of 88th Finance Committee meeting. The same was being done and would be placed before the next Finance Committee when the minutes were to be confirmed. One of the BOM members pointed out that the investment of the University funds were limited to few banks with different interest rates and this might have resulted in loss of interest to the University. The Board instructed that all Nationalized Banks be approached for investments. The Board welcomed the suggestions.

The Board was also informed about the formation of a Committee to review the financial management of the University. The Board appreciated the efforts made in this regard.

Item No.88.6 regarding budget allocation from 20.83 crores to Rs.50.83 crores under the Head (office building) in budget estimate 2016-17 had attracted MHRD observations and had not been approved. It was noted that the desired raise in this allocation was almost 2.5 times which, in the opinion of MHRD, vide its letter dated 22.7.2016, was unduly high and should not have been placed by the concerned division as a table item for Finance Committee to consider. It was also observed by MHRD that no justification and bifurcation of the items on which the money had to be expended had been given by the concerned division. Moreover it was not clear if this matter had been approved by the Works Committee of the University. The matter was placed before the Board.

BM 125.3.3 The Board decided to accept the observations of the MHRD. It was also resolved, that as decided by the Finance Committee, a Comprehensive Inquiry should be instituted to look into the following among other related issues:

- (i) Delays in constructions
- (ii) Status of constructions
- (iii) Enhancement in estimates
- (iv) Cases of arbitration
- (v) The task performance of CMD officers; and
- (vi) Review the staffing pattern and job analysis of the CMD

The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee made in its 88th meeting held on 20.6.2016 with the above observations. A copy of the Minutes of the Finance Committee is placed as **Appendix 2.**

- ITEM NO. 4**
- (A) TO CONSIDER THE MHRD LETTER NO.F.61-19/2015-DL (U) DATED 3RD MARCH 2016 REGARDING IMPROVING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND STRICT COMPLIANCE OF RULES/PROCEDURES IN THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES**
 - (B) MHRD SUGGESTIONS FOR ACADEMIC AUDIT AND RELATED MATTERS VIDE ITS LETTER NO.5-1/2016-DL DATED 5.7.2016**

- BM 125.4.1**
- (A) The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board noted the contents of the MHRD letter dated 3.3.2016 forwarded to the Vice Chancellors of all Central Universities regarding improving financial management and strict compliance of rules/procedures in the Central Universities. It was informed that the instructions/provisions given in the MHRD letter were being followed in the University.
 - (B) Further, the Board was apprised of the contents of the MHRD letter dated 5.7.2016 regarding the status report of the School of Studies of IGNOU

and 57 Regional Centres of IGNOU. The Board noted that the Ministry had desired to have an urgent Academic Audit of IGNOU's existing Schools and Regional Centres specifically in the context of ICT supported ODL education system in the prevailing circumstances and taking necessary measures to rationalize the need of various Schools and Regional Centres in respect of faculty, academic and non-academic staffing holistically.

BM 125.4.2 The Board decided that the University should initiate the academic audit as per the directions of the MHRD.

ITEM NO. 5 TO REPORT THE NOMINATION OF MEMBERS MADE BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR ON THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

BM 125.5.1 The Board noted the action taken by the Vice Chancellor for nominating members on the Standing Committees of the Board.

ITEM NO.6 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF EXTRA ORDINARY LEAVE BY TWO MONTHS IN RESPECT OF PROF. SUBHASH DHULIA, PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION, SOJNMS

BM 125.6.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in extending the period of EOL by two months in respect of Prof. Subhash Dhulia.

ITEM NO.7 (A) TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN GIVING CHARGE OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOLS

(B) TO REPORT THE MATTER RELATED TO ENTRUSTING THE CHARGE OF VACANT POSITIONS OF HEADS OF UNITS

- BM 125.7.1** (A) The Board noted the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in giving the charge of Directors of Schools to the following teachers/academics:

Sl. No.	Name of the teachers/ academics	Name of the Schools	Period of appointment / charge given
1.	Dr. Rose Nembiakkim	SOSW	For a period of three years from 25/06/2016
2.	Dr. R.S.P. Singh	SOVET	For a period of three years from 25/06/2016
3.	Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar	SOEDS	For a period of three years from 25/06/2016
4.	Dr. Seema Johri	SOPVA	For a period of three years from 25/06/2016
5.	Prof. M.K. Salooja	SOA	For a period of three years from 25/06/2016
6.	Prof. Swaraj Basu	SOSS	For a period of three years from 01/07/2016
7.	Prof. M.S. Nathawat	SOS	For a period of three years from 09/07/2016

It was suggested that while bringing such items before the Board for reporting/ratification, the details of earlier charges given in the and the list of other eligible teachers from which these selection are made should also be placed before the Board. It was informed that the same information was made available at the time of decision making. However, in future the desired information will be provided along with the agenda as per annexures.

- (B) The Board noted the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in entrusting the additional charge of the Chief Vigilance Officer to Prof. B.I. Fozdar till further orders.

In the case of Dr. Pankaj Khare being given the additional charge of CPRO, the Board had certain reservations in the light of Item No.16, as mentioned above in the ATR on the last BOM minutes. The Chairman agreed to withdraw the additional Charge.

Further, the Board ratified the additional charge of Registrar, MPDD given to Prof. Pardeep Sahni.

ITEM NO. 8 TO RATIFY THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF DEPUTATION BY ANOTHER ONE YEAR IN RESPECT OF DR. S. K. MOHAPATRA, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, IGNOU

BM 125.8.1 The Board noted the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in extending the period of deputation of Dr. S.K. Mohapatra, Regional Director, for further period of one year.

ITEM NO. 9 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN ACCEPTING THE TECHNICAL RESIGNATION OF DR. SEETHA KAKKOTH, ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR, RC-VATAKARA

BM 125.9.1 The Board while ratifying the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in accepting the technical resignation of Dr. Seetha Kakkoth, Asst. Director, resolved that such matters should be examined in the light of the rule position.

ITEM NO. 10 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR APPROVING THE SIGNING OF MOUS/MOC BETWEEN IGNOU AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

BM 125.10.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor for approving the signing of four MOUs/MOC with the (i) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, (ii) Department of School Education through State Council of Educational Research and Training, Government of Uttarakhand, (iii) Indian Culinary Institute Society, C/o Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India and (iv) Retailers Association of India, Mumbai.

ITEM NO. 11 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR TO SUSPEND SHRI SAPAN KUMAR RAM, ASST. REGISTRAR, RC KOLKATA AND GRANTED PERMISSION TO CBI TO INITIATE INQUIRY AGAINST HIM

BM 125.11.1 The Secretary informed that Shri Sapan Kumar Ram, Asst. Registrar, RC Kolkata had been suspended w.e.f. 16.4.2016 for fraudulently withdrawing an amount of Rs.40,84,250/- from IGNOU PGDLAN dormant account maintained in SBI, Bikash Bhawan, CGO Branch, Kolkata on different dates in the name of his family members. It was further informed that the Charge-sheet was to be issued to him and inquiry was to be initiated.

The Board considered the matter at length. The Board was of the view that any transactions being made with Banks at the Regional Centres required the signature of the Regional Director as well as the Asst. Registrar and its equivalent, as the case may be. The Board observed that drawing such a huge amount from the Bank would not be possible at the level of single signatory unless the same was informed to the Regional Director. The Board also felt as to how this huge amount went unnoticed at the time of internal audit.

BM 125.11.2 The Board resolved that an inquiry be instituted as per CVC guidelines against Dr. K. S. Chakraborty, Regional Director, RC Kolkata and put him under suspension. The Board also directed that Dr. Chakraborty should be transferred at the earliest. The outcome of the inquiry be reported to the BOM.

BM 125.11.3 In order to streamline the financial management system, the Board desired that a Centralized Accounting System be developed by the University at the earliest to maintain transparency in accounting system.

ITEM NO.12 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR TO FIND OUT THE FACTS RELATING TO LEAKAGE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS ISSUED BY THE NODAL OFFICER TO THE THEN DIRECTOR, ACD

BM 125.12.1 The Board perused the recommendations of the Committee constituted in the matter. The Board also discussed various technicalities in respect of the

Committee's observations on the Vice Chancellor (on Leave).

BM 125.12.2 The Board resolved to seek the comments of the erstwhile Director, ACD on the report.

ITEM NO.13 TO REPORT AND SEEK GUIDANCE ON IGNOU'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SWAYAM PRABHA (A DTH PROJECT FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE OF MHRD) AND THE STATUS OF THE GYAN DARSHAN CHANNELS

BM 125.13.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the IGNOU had already initiated the process of re-activation of the Gyan Darshan channels with support from the MHRD. The Secretary, Higher Education vide his letter dated 21.6.2016 had sought an intervention from the Cabinet Secretary in the matter for early re-activation of the Gyan Darshan Channels citing the important role of IGNOU as a National University catering to learners located in remote and far flung areas who were being deprived of the video-audio content. The MHRD in the meanwhile had embarked on an ambitious project, SWAYAM PRABHA, a Direct-to-Home (DTH) telecast of programmes of educational excellence comprising 32 channels that were slated to be launched on August 15, 2016. The SWAYAM PRABHA had been conceived as the project for using the 2 GSAT-15 transponders to run 32 DTH channels that would telecast high quality educational programmes. These DTH channels shall cover Curriculum based course contents covering diverse disciplines.

The Chairman informed that IGNOU was identified as one of the Nodal Agency for SWAYAM PRABHA and had been given the task to coordinate four channels in the field of (i) Agriculture, Vocational and allied Sciences, ii) Liberal Arts and Humanities, iii) Culture and iv) Open and Distance Learning in collaboration with State Open Universities. He further informed that the University had already started work on the project and a team was also in the process of identifying programmes for the launch on August 15, 2016. It was further informed that this project

was being monitored by the Vice Chancellor's Office directly.

The Board appreciated the efforts being made by the University in this regard.

ITEM NO. 14 TO CONSIDER THE UNDERTAKING REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION SUBMITTED BY DR. R. C. SHARMA, FORMER REGIONAL DIRECTOR, IGNOU

BM 125.14.1 The matter was discussed vide Resolution BM 125.1.2 (19) referred to above. The Board directed to deal with the matter strictly as per extant rules.

ITEM NO. 15 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL COMMITTEE, STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MADE IN ITS MEETINGS HELD ON 30.6.2015 AND 30.3.2016

BM 125.15.1 While presenting the recommendations of the Grievance Redressal Committee made in its meetings held on 30.6.2015 and 30.3.2016, Prof. Kapil Kumar, the Chairman of the GRC, mentioned that the Administration Division had not been adequately strengthening the redressal process. He also mentioned that on his request, the Vice Chancellor was kind enough, to post an Assistant Registrar along with the supporting staff to assist the GRC by creating the Grievance Redressal Cell under the Administration Division.

While discussing the matter, Prof. Kapil Kumar read out certain cases where the DPCs were held after long delays in violation of the DoPT orders, thus resulting in delays for promotion which meant a loss in both finances and status to the employees and hence became a matter of further grievance. He mentioned that the GRC strongly felt that in all such cases, the promotions should be applicable from the date of eligibility subject to availability of the vacant positions.

The Board agreed with this view and felt that depriving the employees of their genuine rights protected under the rules demotivated them and affected the working culture and environment of the University adversely.

The Board also took a serious note on Item No.12 of GRC meeting held on 30.6.2015 on the matter of Shri Virender Kumar and others where it had already approved the proposal of regularizing their services coming under the Category C of MTS staff. Most of them had been working since 1988 and some of them had reached the verge of retirement. The Board was informed by the Chairman, GRC that there were a number of positions vacant in MTS hence there was no need to create any new posts and the incumbents could be accommodated against the vacant positions.

BM 125.15.2 The Board resolved that the Administration was to hold timely DPCs as per the rules adopted by the University so that such grievances did not occur.

The Board further directed the Administration that in all such cases that had been taken up by the GRC, the date of promotion should be decided as per DoPT rules and regulations. The action in the matter be expedited through administrative orders.

BM 125.15.3 The Board authorized the Chairman to decide the matters on behalf of the BOM on the recommendations of the GRC.

ITEM NO. 16 TO CONSIDER THE RE-CONSTITUTION OF THE GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL COMMITTEE, A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

BM 125.16.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board approved the re-constitution of the Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) as per the agenda note.

BM 125.16.2 The Board re-nominated Prof. Kapil Kumar as the Chairperson of the GRC. The Board further authorized the Chairman/Vice Chancellor to nominate other members on the Committee on behalf of the Board.

ITEM NO. 17 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL UNDER CLAUSE (1)(IV) OF STATUTE 9 OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR RESIDUAL TERM

BM 125.17.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor for nominating of members to the Academic Council.

ITEM NO. 18 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR RETURN OF LAND AND TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (MGIED), NAGALAND

BM 125.18.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board noted the MHRD's observations vide its note dated 22.7.2016 which stated that "before taking any decision in the matter, the University may examine the matter carefully from administrative, financial and legal angle and thereby ensure no legal complication will arise at later stage between IGNOU and MGIED, Nagaland".

BM 125.18.2 The Board approved the proposal for returning of land and termination of the Agreement in respect of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education and Development (MGIED), Nagaland, as IGNOU was no longer to make use of the land and resolved that the three (03) legal agreements in this regard be terminated as per the condition of termination provided under the agreement.

ITEM NO. 19 TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST OF ATDC-COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR PROVIDING THE ENROLMENT NUMBERS AND DECLARATION OF THE RESULT OF 9409 CANDIDATES ADMITTED BY IT TILL JUNE, 2012

BM 125.19.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that ATDC Community College vide letter dated 01.6.2016 had requested for resolving some of the imperative issues related to its Community College(s) in the interest of students. The request of ATDC Community College related to registration of about 9409 candidates,

which was prior to the date of Community College Scheme being kept in abeyance for admission into July 2012 Session. As the Community College Scheme was kept in abeyance as per the decision of 113th BOM meeting, no fresh registration number/admissions were given by the Community College Unit. However, the ATDC Community College itself registered the candidates and conducted the examinations and later approached the Community College Unit for registration/ admission of these candidates and declaration of their results. It was further informed that the ATDC Community College had also filed a write petition No.4421/2012 in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to protect the interest of 55669 students registered by it (beyond the date, the scheme was informed to be discontinued). It was also pertinent to mention that the matter pending adjudication before the High Court. ATDC Community College vide its letters dated 7.3.2016, 01.6.2016 and 26.6.2016 had requested for providing the enrolment numbers and declarations of results of only 9409 till 20.6.2012 to amicably resolve the matter out of court in the larger interest of the effected students.

BM 125.19.2 The Board resolved that the matter may be kept in abeyance till the outcome of the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court.

ITEM NO. 20 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE, A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BOM MADE IN ITS 38TH MEETING HELD ON 23.6.2016

BM 125.20.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Chairman informed that the recommendations of the Students Services Committee, as verified by Director (RSD), were in affirmation with the statutory procedures. While deliberating the recommendations, the Board took a serious view on opening of Regional Centres, Sub-Regional Centres and Regional Evaluation Centres against the established norms in IGNOU.

BM 125.20.2 The Board resolved that the feasibility, functioning and staffing pattern of Regional Centres along with the staffing

pattern be reviewed by the Chairman/Vice Chancellor at the earliest.

BM 125.20.3 The Board desired to expedite the modification in the composition of the Student Services Committee, as per the decision of the previous (124th) BOM held on 23.1.2016.

The Board directed that the recommendations of the Student Services Committee made in its 38th meeting held on 23.6.2016 be implemented in conformity with BM 125.20.2 and 125.20.3.

ITEM NO.21 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MATTER RELATED TO REVIVAL OF IGNOU FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS REGISTERED IN M.PHIL/PH.D PROGRAMMES OF THE UNIVERSITY

BM 125.21.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the Research Council in its 23rd meeting held on 29.6.2016 considered the matter regarding revival of the IGNOU Research Fellowship for research scholars enrolled in M.Phil/Ph.D programmes and suggested that fellowship scheme should be revived in the name of Dr. Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar, keeping in view his 125th birth anniversary year for male scholars and 'Savitri Bai Phule Fellowship Scheme' for female candidates. Further one more fellowship scheme in the name of 'Veer Savarkar Fellowship' for research scholars focusing on 'Indian heritage and Diaspora' was considered for people of Indian ancestry.

It was pointed out that the University had certain idle accounts wherein more than Rs.60 lacs were lying unspent for years that were received as grants from funding agencies. Such funds could be re-appropriated for the Veer Savarkar Fellowship. However, prior to re-appropriating these funds, the funding agencies would also be taken into confidence. Till that was done, five such fellowships could be awarded from the funds available with Indira Gandhi Centre for Freedom Struggle Studies in its budget.

BM 125.21.2 The Board approved, in principle, the following:

- (i) To Revive the IGNOU Fellowship for research scholars registered in M.Phil./Ph.D. programmes of the university.
 - a) The fellowship scheme for male scholars should be called 'Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Fellowship Scheme'.
 - b) The fellowship scheme for female scholars should be called 'Savitri Bai Phule Fellowship Scheme'.
 - c) The fellowship scheme for Indian Heritage and Diaspora be called 'Veer Savarkar Fellowship Scheme'.
- (ii) The modalities related to these fellowships be worked out and approved by the appropriate research Body of the University.

ITEM NO.22 TO REPORT THE RELOCATION OF DISCIPLINE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TO SCHOOL OF INTER DISCIPLINARY AND TRANS DISCIPLINARY STUDIES (THE PRESENT SCHOOL) FROM SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

BM 125.22.1 The Board noted the relocation of Discipline of Environmental Studies to School of Inter Disciplinary and Trans Disciplinary Studies from School of Agriculture.

ITEM NO.23 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MATTER RELATED TO RE-STARTING THE M.PHIL/PH.D PROGRAMME IN REGULAR MODE

BM 125.23.1 The item was taken up for consideration. The members desired to know the status of Research Degree programmes of the University. It was informed that the University was yet to restart its Research Degree programmes due to the notification pending in the UGC. The Chairman also informed that the University had been continuously in touch with the UGC however, no response had been received so far in the University.

The Board was also informed about the latest Ph.D Regulations gazetted by the UGC. IGNOU, being a National University, established by an Act of Parliament, was fully competent to conduct research programmes and IGNOU had already informed the UGC that it was ready to follow the UGC guidelines. At this point, the Secretary, BOM informed about an Affidavit that he had signed as Registrar (Admn.) and sent to the UGC wherein it was mentioned that IGNOU would not conduct any research. It was clarified by Prof. Kapil Kumar, Member Board that this Affidavit was signed much before the release of the regulations which had now been gazetted by the UGC. IGNOU had to only adopt and abide by these guidelines on research.

BM 125.23.2 The Board approved the adoption of the UGC guidelines for research programmes and decided that IGNOU should go ahead with its research programmes. The Chairman/Vice Chancellor was authorized to make necessary amends in the Ordinance to facilitate its compatibility with UGC gazette notification 2016.

ITEM NO.24 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HRD (SHRI VIKRAM SAHAY COMMITTEE REPORT) (CVC REFERENCE NO. CONF/772/05/21797 DATED 22.9.2008) AND THE ACTION THEREON

BM 125.24.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board noted that a complaint was received on 15.2.2006 against some officials of IGNOU in the case of appointment of Dr. Joytsana Dixit as Deputy Director, NCIDE and IUC in IGNOU and some other related issues. The Vigilance Cell of the University enquired into the allegations. Later, in a meeting at CVC with the CVO, MHRD held on 25.9.2008 the matter was taken over by the CVO, MHRD as directed by CVC. The MHRD assigned the enquiry to Shri Vikram Sahay, Director, MHRD. The Enquiry Committee of MHRD submitted its report on 6.4.2010 which was forwarded to IGNOU vide letter dated 5.5.2010 for furnishing comments. Vide their OM

dated 5.7.2010, MHRD forwarded the status on the matter along with Enquiry Committee Report to CVC for its perusal with a copy to CVO, IGNOU for information and necessary action.

The Chairman informed the Board that Enquiry No.2 of the Vikram Sahay Committee Report in respect of Prof. Kapil Kumar was expedited and considered in 116th meeting of the BOM held on 24.11.2012. The Board being the disciplinary authority decided to close the case against Prof. Kapil Kumar finally, exonerating him of all the charges in the matter. The Charge sheet issued in this regard to Prof. Kapil Kumar stood withdrawn.

At the same time Enquiry No.1 of Vikram Sahay Committee was never placed before the Board for reasons not known as per details available on the files. Now the matter connected with Enquiry No.1 had come up at the time of vigilance clearance in respect of Prof. S.C. Garg who superannuated on 31.5.2016.

The Board expressed a sense of shock that the aforesaid report was kept in abeyance for so long without taking any action on it. The Board took a serious note of the delay of nearly six (06) years in presenting the report to the Board.

It was also pointed out by Prof. Kapil Kumar, member Board that the following aspects should be made legally clear in the matter:

- (1) The rule under which the CVC directed the CVO of MHRD to take over the inquiry from CVO of IGNOU.
- (2) As to why no action was taken by CVC against the CVO of IGNOU, if the same failed in his duty as CVO to conduct a proper inquiry in the matter.
- (3) Since the inquiry was against the then Vice Chancellor Prof. H.P. Dixit, as to how a junior officer in MHRD Shri Vikram Sahay, Director, could be the Enquiry Officer in this case even though the preliminary inquiry was done by

Shri P.R. Dasgupta, former Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD.

The Board resolved that a copy of Enquiry No.1 of the Vikram Sahay Report should be forwarded to all the concerned officials for seeking their responses as per University's extant rules and CVC guidelines/manual.

The Board further directed that the officials, viz. erstwhile Director/s, ACD and Chief Vigilance Officer/s should explain the reasons for delay in the matter and responsibilities be fixed.

The Board authorized the Vice Chancellor to examine the rule position with regard to the observations of Prof. Kapil Kumar and report the findings to the BOM.

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

(Ravindra Kumar)
Chairman