



MINUTES OF THE 142ND MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON MAY 31, 2021 AT 11.00 A.M. IN VIRTUAL MODE, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068

The following were present:

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor	- Chairman
2.	Prof. R.P. Das, Pro-Vice Chancellor	- Member
3.	Shri Mrutyunjay Behera, Director, MoE	- Nominee, Secretary, MHRD
4.	Prof. V.S. Prasad	- Member
5.	Prof. S.G. Deshmukh	- Member
6.	Shri Ashok Bhagat	- Member
7.	Prof. K.K. Aggarwal	- Member
8.	Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar	- Member
9.	Dr. P. Prakash	- Member
10.	Prof. S.K. Yadav	- Member
11.	Prof. Jitendra Kr. Srivastava	- Member
12.	Dr. Bharat Bhushan	- Member
	Dr. V.B. Negi, Registrar, Admn.(I/c)	- Secretary

The Secretary (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) and Shri Atul Kantilal Nishar, Members could not attend the meeting.

All the other members attended the BOM meeting through virtual mode. Shri A.K. Gigoo, Assistant Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Board.

At the outset, the Chairman, Board of Management (BoM), Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU while welcoming all the members of the Board of Management, informed that the second wave of Covid-19 has affected all over the country and similarly IGNOU was also severely affected. Shri Madan Mohan, ADG; Ministry of Education and Member, BOM could not survive the battle against the pandemic. Further, the following members of IGNOU family have fought as Corona Warriors and lost their lives in the pandemic.

- (i) Dr. Purnendu Tripathi, Deputy Director, Vice-Chancellor's Office;
- (ii) Shri K. Ravikanth, Joint Director, Electronic Media Production Centre;
- (iii) Dr. Nisha Singh, Deputy Director, Centre for Online Education;

- (iv) Sh. Awadesh Kr. Pandey, Assistant Registrar, Regional Centre-Varanasi;
- (v) Ms. Seema Rani, Assistant Registrar, School of Law;
- (vi) Sh. Dheeraj Sharma, Private Secretary, School of Foreign Languages
- (vii) Mr. K Sudhir Reddy, Executive Assistant, Regional Services Division;
- (viii) Mr. Ratnakar Pradhan, Multi-Tasking Staff, Regional Centre-Bhubaneswar.

Several other IGNOU employees and their family members also greatly suffered on account of this pandemic. A few of the family members of IGNOU employees have also lost their lives during pandemic. Our former employees Sh. Anil K Sirohi, Sh. C.A. Thakur, Sh. Z. Ayoub, Sh. Chander Ballabh, lost their lives in this pandemic.

All the members of Board observed two minute silence in memory of these Carona Warriors.

Thereafter, the Vice Chancellor specially welcomed Shri Mrutyunjay Behera, MOE (Attending the meeting for the first time) and also introduced him to other members of the Board. He also welcomed Prof. S. K. Yadav, Director, School of Agriculture, who is nominated as one of the Directors of the School as per Statute. Prof. V.V. Subramanyam, the outgoing member was also complimented for his contribution as member of Board during the last one year.

The Vice Chancellor illustrated the significant developments in the University since the last meeting of the BoM and these were:

1. **Hon'ble Minister, MoE, Sh. Ramesh Pokhariyal 'Nishank'** virtually addressed as Chief Guest on the occasion of BHUMI-POOJAN and Shilanayas Samaroh of the Regional Centre building at Trivandrum Regional Centre on 11th April, 2021.
2. The 34th Convocation of the University was held on 15th April, 2021 for the students who have completed their Degree/ Diploma programmes in June 2020 and December 2020. More than 2 lakh Degrees were awarded in the Convocation. **Hon'ble Minister, MoE, Sh. Ramesh Pokhariyal 'Nishank'** delivered the Convocation Address in virtual mode. The university has despatched the degrees to Regional Centres for distribution among learners.
3. Prof. Uma Kanjilal and Prof. Sumitra Kukreti have joined as Pro Vice-Chancellors in the University.
4. The University has constituted Covid-19 Help Desk under the Chairmanship of Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Satyakam to provide requisite support to the IGNOU fraternity, who were affected by this pandemic. The University's Help-Desk consisted of panel doctors, the faculty of School of

Health Sciences, Security Staff and Officials of Electronic Media Production Centre, Administration & Finance etc. They have made sincere efforts to provide requisite support to the affected families at IGNOU Campus and at Regional Centres. Our teaching and academic staff along with non-teaching staff have made a coordinated effort to help corona affected colleagues of IGNOU fraternity.

5. The University was given the target to increase the admission enrolment by 90,000 in 2019-20 and 60,000 in 2020-21 in EWS Grant Scheme. University achieved this target and registered the increase in enrolment of students to the tune of 1.82 lakhs in 2019-20 session itself. During January 2021, the total number of fresh admission is 214,606 which is lower than the last years' figure of January 2020 (i.e. 275,843). For January 2021 session, the re-registration of students is 205,347 which is more than the number of the last session of January 2020 (i.e. 194,325). The University has already initiated the process of the re-registration for July 2021 session.
6. In the January 2021 session, the University has launched 9 programmes which include two Post Graduate Programmes. For July 2021, the University is proposing to launch programmes in MA (Jyotish Shastra), MA (Urdu) and MA (Drawing and Arts). The Board complemented these academic initiatives of the School of Humanities and School of Performing and Visual Arts.
7. The University is processing the results of Term End Examination. The evaluation of almost 90% of scripts has been completed. Grade Cards were also printed for more than 70,000 candidates, who successfully completed their programmes in the examination. On 11th April, 2021, the University also conducted the entrance test for MBA and Post B.Sc. (Nursing) under face-to-face mode.
8. During the pandemic, the University is reaching to the learners through live Face book sessions having open interaction with the learners on regular basis. Vice-Chancellor in his address to the learners in writing and through Face book interaction, urged the learners to utilise the e-material available on e-gyankosh portal and also go through the live programme(s) and broadcast of Gyandarshan, four Swayam Prabha Channels along with their archived videos.
9. The Student Support Services of the University was also active during the pandemic. The grievances registered on PG Portal and IGRAM Portal are also regularly monitored by the Student Support Services at Headquarter and at all the Regional Centres. The University is making sincere efforts to expand the base of social media (**Appendix 1**)

10. University is in the process of signing of MOU with Ministry of Skill Development for Capacity Building of Skill Enhancement programme of the Ministry. This project would cost around Rs.8 crores.

Prof. V.S. Prasad, Member congratulated the Vice Chancellor for smooth functioning of the University even during the Pandemic period. He suggested that the University should evolve its Institutional Development Plan viz., Action Plan, Strategic, and Vision Plan which may be developed by the CIQA of the University in consultation with Planning Board as vision for youth, as is also envisaged in the National Education Policy of the country. The Board agreed to the same.

After the above prefatory remarks, the Secretary, BOM presented the following Agenda:

- ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF 141ST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON MARCH 24, 2021 AND**
- a) TO CONSIDER THE OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS THEREON**
- b) TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT**

BM 142.1.1 The Secretary informed the Board that the Minutes of 141st Meeting of the Board of Management held on 24.03.2021 were circulated to the members of the Board on 26.03.2021. The comments/observations were received from the Ministry of Education (MOE) vide its letter No.F.5-7/2021-DL dated 6.4.2021 and Prof. S.G. Deshmukh, Member, BOM. The comments/observations and the clarifications thereon were placed before the Board for its consideration. The Board agreed to the clarifications.

While presenting observations on comments of MoE and the related ATR with regard to Item No. BM 141.17, the Board was further informed:

- (1) The University is having 25 pieces of land for various Regional Centres. In 2018, the buildings of only 10 Regional Centres of the University were complete. Thereafter, the details of progress is as follows (through CPWD):

Construction started	5
Tender process completed	3
In process	7

- (2) The Administrative Divisions viz. MPDD, Finance, General Administration, Students Evaluation, Students Registration etc. of the University are running from temporary sheds, since beginning. Almost five years back, the map of the administrative building was cleared, however the project could not proceed further. Now the administrative building is being planned that will house MPDD, Admissions, Examinations, Finance, Administration, etc. It is to be constructed in two phases along with the Vice Chancellor's residence.
- (3) In response to the approval of the proposals in the earlier Finance Committee/Board meetings, the University has sent the proposals to the Ministry in three phases. The Ministry is kind enough to initiate the processing of proposals.

BM 142.1.2 The Board was also informed that the MOE vide its letter No. F.5-11/2021-DL dated 31.05.2021 has forwarded their comments on the agenda items of 142nd BOM. The Board took the agenda items in the light of the MHRD comments.

BM 142.1.3 After detailed deliberations, the Board confirmed the Minutes of the 141st Board Meeting and also noted the Action Taken Report thereon.

ITEM NO. 2 **TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY IN CONSIDERING THE REQUEST OF OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (DIVYANGJAN) AND GRANTING PERMISSION/NOC FOR EXTENDING THE TENURE OF DEPUTATION OF DR. SANJAY KANT PRASAD, DY DIRECTOR, NCDS PRESENTLY ON DEPUTATION AS DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (DIVYANGJAN) FOR 3 MONTHS BEYOND THE PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS**

BM 142.2.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the University in considering the request of Office of the Chief Commissioner for persons with Disability (Divyangjan) and granting permission/NOC for extending the tenure of deputation of Dr. Sanjay Kant Prasad, Dy. Director, NCDS presently on deputation as Deputy Chief Commissioner in the Office of the Chief Commissioner for persons with Disability

(Divyangjan) for another 3 months beyond the period of five years.

ITEM NO. 3 TO RATIFY THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN ACCEPTING THE REQUEST OF PROF. ANU ANEJA, PROFESSOR OF WOMEN’S EDUCATION, SCHOOL OF GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (SOGDS) FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT FROM THE SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WAIVING OFF THE SHORTFALL IN THE NOTICE PERIOD

BM 142.3.1 The Board ratified the decision taken by the Vice-Chancellor in accepting the request of Prof. Anu Aneja, Professor of Women’s Education, School of Gender and Development Studies (SOGDS) for Voluntary Retirement from the services of the University by waiving off the shortfall in the notice period w.e.f. 30th April 2021 in accordance with provisions regarding VRS.

ITEM NO. 4 TO RATIFY THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN ACCEPTING THE REQUEST OF PROF. KAMAL YADAVA, PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT, SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES (SOMS) FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT FROM THE SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WAIVING OFF THE SHORTFALL IN NOTICE PERIOD

BM 142.4.1 The Board ratified the decision taken by the Vice-Chancellor in accepting the request of Prof. Kamal Yadava, Professor of Management, School of Management Studies (SOMS) for Voluntary Retirement from the services of the University by waiving off the shortfall in notice period w.e.f. 30th April 2021 in accordance with rules regarding VRS for pension benefits.

ITEM NO. 5 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN APPOINTMENT/GIVING CHARGE OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOLS/DIVISION/ CENTRES

BM 142.5.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in appointment/giving charge of Directorship of Schools/Division/ Centres to the following Teachers/Academics as per details given below:

#	Name of Teacher/ Academic	School/Division/Centre/Unit/Cell	Period of Appointment/ Charge given

1.	Dr. Sunil Kumar Gupta, Professor of Commerce,	School of Foreign languages (SOFL)	01.07.2021 to till further orders
2.	Dr. Paramita Suklabaidya, Associate Professor, SOTHSM	School of Tourism and Hospitality Service Management (SOTHSM)	01.07.2021 to 30.06.2024
3.	Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, Professor of Hindi, SOH	International Division (ID)	01.07.2021 to till further orders
4.	Dr. VK Jagajeevan Deputy Librarian, L&DD	Library & Documentation Division (L&DD)	22.07.2021 to till further orders

ITEM NO. 6 TO RATIFY SIGNING AND RENEWAL OF MOAs WITH OVERSEAS STUDY CENTRES VIZ., OPEN MINDS INTERNATIONAL, SINGAPORE AND GLORY INSTITUTE, OMAN RESPECTIVELY

BM 142.6.1 The Board ratified the signing and renewal of MOAs with the following Overseas Study Centres after it was informed that approval of the Visitor has already been received:

1. Open Minds International, Singapore
2. Glory Institute, Oman

ITEM NO. 7 TO APPRISE THE STATUS REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

- (i) **GRIEVANCES RECEIVED AND DISPOSED ON PG PORTAL AND IGRAM PORTAL**
- (ii) **VIGILANCE CASES PENDING IN THE UNIVERSITY; AND**
- (iii) **PARLIAMENTARY ASSURANCES PENDING IN THE UNIVERSITY**

BM 142.7.1 The Board noted the status report on the grievances received and disposed off on PG Portal and iGRAM Portal, the vigilance cases pending in the University, Parliamentary assurances and the audit paras.

BM 142.7.2 With regard to grievance redressal, while appreciating the efforts of the University in disposing off the grievances, Prof. V.S. Prasad suggested that there must be some timelines fixed for disposing off the students' grievances and should be continuously monitored preferably through Artificial Intelligence (AI). He further suggested that the timelines so fixed should be adhered as much as possible in redressing the grievances. Director, SOMS, Regional Directors, RC Dehradun and RC Ahmedabad were specially advised to monitor and

dispose off the grievances on regular basis.

Further, Shri Mrutyunjay Behera opined that the representations/grievances received from students may be categorized depending on urgency and the COVID related grievances should be disposed off within three days. He also urged that the grievances related to refund of fee etc due to cancellation/withdrawal of admission, as per rules, may be disposed off timely.

ITEM NO. 8 TO REPORT THE EXEMPTION OF INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY FROM APPLICABILITY OF UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMMES AND ONLINE PROGRAMMES) REGULATIONS, 2020

BM 142.8.1 The Board noted exemption of Indira Gandhi National Open University from applicability of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, notified vide UGC notification No.1-19/202-(DEB-I) dt.25.3.2021, (**Appendix 2**) as per details given below:

“...to exempt the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) New Delhi, a University established under the IGNOU Act 1985 (50 of 1985), from the application of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, with effect from the date of Gazette Notification of the said Regulations i.e. 4th September, 2020, academic session 2020-2021 and onwards till further orders.....”

ITEM NO.9 TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUB-REGIONAL CENTRE IN THE LADAKH REGION

BM 142.9.1 The Chairman informed the Board that a request had been received from the Secretary, Information and Higher Education, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh for establishment of Regional Centre either at Leh or at Kargil. The Board was also informed that the University already has one study centre each at Leh and Kargil and both these centres are under the administrative control of IGNOU Regional Centre, Srinagar, which is more than 400 kilometers away from Leh.

The Chairman apprised the Board that since there are only two study centres in the region with total enrolment below 2500, the Board may

consider proposal received from Ladakh Administration dated 12.5.2021 (**Appendix 3**) and approve establishing a sub-regional centre at Ladakh. The Administration of UT Ladakh may be requested to support through both physical infrastructure and human resource for day-to-day functioning of the Regional centre either on full-time or part-time basis. The sub Regional Centre at Ladakh, so established, shall be under direct supervision of the Regional Services Division at the headquarters. All the financial transactions of Study centre bills related to counselling, assignment evaluation, conduct of examination etc. shall be processed online by Regional Services Division (RSD). Functionaries at the Sub-RC shall be responsible for redressing learner grievances, pre and post admission counselling, liaison with Administration of UT, undertaking promotional activities, monitoring of existing study centres and establishment of new centres. They shall also be handling any other work assigned by the University from time to time.

BM 142.9.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board appreciated the proposal for establishment of Sub-Regional Centre at Ladakh region with administrative control by RSD (Headquarters) and approved the same.

ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (NCTE) TO ENGAGE DR PANKAJ KHARE, DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, IGNOU AS CHIEF VIGILANCE OFFICER IN NCTE (PART TIME)

BM 142.10.1 The Board was informed that the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) vide its letter dated 19.04.2021 requested the University to provide No Objection Certificate/Vigilance Clearance and Integrity Certificate in respect of Dr Pankaj Khare, Deputy Director & Director (in charge) Planning and Development Division, IGNOU to engage him as Chief Vigilance Officer in NCTE on Part Time basis. The NCTE vide its letter dated 25.05.2021 had again sought the No Objection Certificate/Vigilance Clearance and Integrity Certificate in respect of Dr Pankaj Khare and informed that he will be engaged on part time basis and that he would not be paid any additional remuneration for the assignment of CVO, NCTE.

BM 142.10.2 The matter was discussed in detail and the Board opined as under:

1. With respect to the vigilance clearance, there was a vigilance case

- against Dr Pankaj Khare which was concluded by the University. As per status provided by the Vigilance Cell of the University, “the CVC has noted the position and updated the database”. However, despite reminders, closure of the case is still awaited.
2. The appointment of a Chief Vigilance Officer is usually from amongst the Officers of the very same Institution and the employee so appointed should be on the payroll of the Institution concerned. Since, Dr. Pankaj Khare is not working in NCTE, he may not be appointed or engaged as a Chief Vigilance Officer of NCTE on part-time basis. As such, proposal has also not been routed through Ministry of Education.
 3. Dr Pankaj Khare is due to retire in March 2022 and hence does not have sufficient service left to be relieved to take up the assignment on part time basis.

BM 142.10.3 In view of above, the Board did not accede to the request of NCTE to provide No Objection Certificate/Vigilance Clearance and Integrity Certificate in respect of Dr Pankaj Khare, Deputy Director & Director (in charge), P&DD to engage as Chief Vigilance Officer in NCTE on Part Time basis.

The Board confirmed this Item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes for implementation in this regard.

ITEM NO. 11 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REQUEST OF PROF. NEENA TALWAR KANUNGO, PROFESSOR OF LIBRARY SCIENCE, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (SOSS) FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT FROM THE SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY

BM 142.11.1 The Board considered and approved the request of Prof. Neena Talwar Kanungo, Professor of Library Science, School of Social Sciences (SOSS) for Voluntary Retirement under Rule 56(k) and to relieve her from the services of the University w.e.f. 30.6.2021 (A/N) in accordance with rules regarding VRS for pension benefits.

ITEM NO. 12 TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL STAFF IN THE CENTRE FOR ONLINE EDUCATION (COE)

BM 142.12.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board was informed that Centre for Online Education (COE) was established on June 7, 2019 by renaming Inter University Consortium (IUC) in tune with the UGC Online Regulations 2018. With the renaming of the Centre the mandate changed with more focus on online education and online

services to the learners.

It was informed that since the COE activities were started with the existing academic and administrative staff of IUC, there was no provision for technical staff to cater to the requirement of system administration and software development for running online programmes, online admission and online examination activities. The Board was further informed that the “UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020” recommends technical staff for the Centre for Online Education to provide support for running the Learning Management System (LMS), maintaining databases, develop software applications etc. for the online programmes. Also, the University plans to gradually shift to providing online programmes and automating most of the activities and services in future, hence there is an urgent need to make provision for technical staff in COE. Major activities foreseen for COE in future are development of robust applications for online delivery of programmes through in-house developed LMS, conduct online examinations, online evaluation and other online activities related to the online student lifecycle and maintenance of student databases.

Keeping in view the major thrust of New Education Policy for online education and online support for learners, and in tune with the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, the provision for following technical staff is being proposed for COE:

#	Post	Total Number of Positions	Area of work (no. of positions)
1.	Technical Manager	4	- LMS (1) - Database Management(1) - Online Admissions(1) - Online Examination/ Evaluation(1)
2.	Technical Assistant	8	- LMS (2) - Database Management (1) - Online Admissions (1) - Online Examination/ Evaluation (2) - Web designing (1) - Graphic Artist (1)

BM 142.12.2

While consenting with the proposal of the University, the Board suggested that keeping in view the future requirements of online education, goals and activities envisaged, as well as the relationship of the Centre for Online Education with Schools of studies and other

Units of the University, there is a need to prepare an organizational structure of COE and sanction adequate academic and technical posts, with clearly mentioned duties and pay structure. Till such time the arrangement so suggested above by the University was agreed by the Board.

BM 142.12.3 With above suggestions, the Board approved the proposal of the University with the directions that the existing vacant posts in the CMD, Computer Division, EMPC etc. be converted and advertised as per the initial requirements stated in the proposal of the Centre .

ITEM NO. 13 **TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF A 25 - 50 BED HOSPITAL AT IGNOU CAMPUS WITH OUT PATIENT AS WELL AS HOSPITALIZATION FACILITY FOR THE UNIVERSITY STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDENTS**

BM 142.13.1 The Board was informed that due to the severe current wave of COVID 19, many of the University employees and their dependent family members had lost their lives and several had been infected with the diseases and trying to overcome out of it. In order to combat the spread of this global COVID-19 pandemic, the Govt. of India and the University has taken several safety measures and initiatives. A COVID-19 Help Desk has also been constituted with the mandate to guide and support medical, logistical and any other requirement for IGNOU employees to save their lives.

The Board was further informed that the University had been constantly receiving several requests from University employees, Staff Associations, former Vice Chancellor, former Pro-Vice Chancellors etc. for establishing a Hospital in the University Campus. In other Universities, similar demands have also raised by Teacher Associations. The Chairman, UGC vide letter dt.10.5.2021 addressed to all the Vice Chancellors of the Universities also requested to continue their concerted efforts and reinforce their support to students, teachers, staff, officers and other stakeholders to keep the people in good health, safe and informed during these difficult times. It was therefore, proposed to set up a well-equipped IGNOU Hospital at the University Campus, New Delhi comprising of 25-50 beds with the facility of oxygen, ventilators and required number of specialized Doctors, Nurses etc. and provide necessary outpatient as well as the hospitalization facility to the University staff and their dependents.

BM 142.13.2 The matter was discussed in detail. The Board was of the opinion that COVID 19 is a temporary phenomenon, and thus the issues of dealing with COVID and setting up a dedicated Hospital at IGNOU campus are two separate issues. IGNOU already has a good medical facility with a number of super specialty high end hospital empanelled across the length and breadth of the Country. Therefore, it may not be proper to forgo such a facility, even at headquarters, in lieu of IGNOU's own hospital. Also setting up and running of a hospital requires lot of funds, recurring expenditure and human and technical resources. Therefore, there was a need to examine the proposal thoroughly with regard to its feasibility, long term viability, cost involved, sources of funding, pros and cons etc.

BM 142.13.3 With above observations, the Board deferred the proposal.

ITEM NO. 14 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE (SSC), A STANDING COMMITTEE OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, MADE AT ITS 49TH MEETING HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2021

BM 142.14.1 The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Student Services Committee, a Standing Committee of the BOM made at its 49th meeting held on 08.04.2021.

ITEM NO. 15 TO CONSIDER THE REVISED GUIDELINES FOR ONLINE PROGRAMMES/COURSES

BM 142.15.1 The Board was informed that the UGC vide their Order F.No.2-5/2019 (OL) dated March 17, 2020 exempted IGNOU from application of UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations 2018. Further, UGC through its Gazette notification dated September 21, 2020 issued University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 in supersession of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018. The UGC recently vide its notification F.No. 1-19/2020 (DEB-I) dated 25.3.2021 (**Appendix 4**) has exempted the University from applicability of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020. The matter was appraised to the Academic Council of the University at its 76th Meeting held on April 09, 2021.

It was further informed that the Board in its 141st meeting held on

March 24, 2021 also suggested that a section on Quality Assurance may be added to the Guidelines Approved by Academic Council for Offering Online Programmes/Courses by the University.

The Board noted that keeping in view the fact that the guidelines were prepared based on the UGC Regulations and the suggestion of the BOM for incorporation of Quality Assurance section in the guidelines has been revised. A section on Quality Assurance (Section VIII) has been incorporated and wherever required matter has been updated in the “GUIDELINES FOR OFFERING ONLINE PROGRAMMES/ COURSES BY THE UNIVERSITY” as an addendum to “Standards for Achieving Excellence in Design, Development and Delivery of Open and Distance Learning”, based on University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

BM 142.15.2 The Board considered the updated Guidelines for Online Programmes/courses (**Appendix 5**) and approved the same.

Dr. V.B. Negi, Registrar (Admin)/Secretary, BOM left the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

ITEM NO.16 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF REGISTRAR, STUDENT EVALUATION DIVISION (SED) ON TENURE BASIS

BM 142.16.1 The recommendations of the Selection Committee for recruitment to the post of Registrar, Student Evaluation Division (SED) were placed before the Board by the Chairman. The Board considered and approved the same, as per details given below:

Date of Selection Committee Meeting	Position	Name recommended by the Selection Committee
05.04.2021	Appointment to the post of Registrar (Student Evaluation Division) (01 post) (tenure basis) in Pay Level 14 (Rs.1,44,200 – 2,18,200) of 7 th CPC	Dr. Vidya Bhagat Negi <u>Waiting List:</u> 1. Shri Rishi Pal Singh

BM 142.16.2 The Board confirmed this Item and directed that the appointment letter may be issued accordingly.

The Board also directed to issue the Part-Minutes for implementation in this regard.

ITEM NO.17 TO CONSIDER THE UTILISATION OF GRANTS RECEIVED UNDER SCHEDULED CASTE SUB-PLAN (SCSP) AND TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP)

BM 142.17.1

The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the Board of Management in its 139th meeting considered the matter for utilization of grants received under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Scheduled Tribe Sub-Plan and directed to review the Scheme, rationalize the number of courses covered, and to request the Ministries concerned to support the fee waiver scheme. Accordingly, the following action had been taken:

1. In every session, review committees were constituted. Accordingly, the number of programmes covered was reviewed in every session. The number of programmes covered under the Scheme was 128 in 2019-20, 100 in July 2020 admission cycle, and 84 in January 2021 admission cycle.
2. A letter dated 18th March, 2020 was sent to the Ministry of Education (erstwhile MHRD), requesting for a special grant of Rs.55 Crore to meet the deficit.
3. A Letter dated 21st May, 2020 was sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, requesting for financial assistance to support the University's efforts for educational empowerment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

The Vice Chancellor and Chairman, BOM informed that this scheme was initially started with the financial support of MoE under direct benefit scheme. The scheme became popular and crossed the limits of fund available from MOE. This has been putting huge stress on the financial resources of the University. The reduction in the number of a few Programmes covered as above across the years has not altered the financial situation. The total amount of exemption provided in 2020-21 was approximately Rs. 47 Crore, as against a grant of Rs.11.85 Crore, resulting in a deficit of Rs.35.85 Crore. A Committee on utilization of grants received under SCSP/TSP constituted on May 20, 2021 deliberated on the matter and has recommended the following:

1. The objective and spirit of the Scheme is to enhance the employability of the SC/ST students. Since acquiring a Bachelor Degree enables them to apply for jobs in the government/private sector, the Bachelor Degree Programmes (BA (General), B.Com (General) and B.Sc (General)) may be covered under the Scheme.
2. Financial assistance to eligible SC/ST students may be

restricted to 50% of the programme fee in place of full fee waiver.

3. Govt. of India has specified income ceiling for financial support. This ceiling is to be kept in mind for fee waiver. Only those students whose family income is less than the income ceiling decided by the Govt. of India for providing financial assistance to SC/ST students may be covered under the scheme.

Further, the Committee has also recommended:

1. The University should put additional efforts in seeking more funds from various Ministries to reduce expenditure from own sources and expanding the coverage of the scheme for other programmes.
2. Director (RSD) may write to all Regional Directors with details of available Government Scholarship Schemes for SC/ST Students and Regional Directors will popularize these Schemes amongst the Scheduled Communities. RSD and SSC facilitate SC/ST students in getting financial support from various State Governments.

The matter was discussed at length.

BM 142.17.2

The Chairman apprised the Board that even though the University is self-sustained it has been facing resources crunch and that there was a need to balance out the availability of funds and scholarships/freeships provided. The major activities of the University which is done from the self-generated funds, like, salaries to employees, maintenance of Headquarters and Regional Centres, and many other activities alike. He further informed that a major part of fee waiver is sustained by the University from its own funds with minimal grant from the Ministry. However, with the increase in the number of students for whom fee waiver is to be considered, other avenues are explored for generation of more funds. The University's deficit budget has increased manifold due to the fee waiver. He also urged to have an income ceiling limit to avail the fee waiver in line with the limits set by Govt of India and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for similar other schemes.

With regard to the family income ceiling, the model adopted by the NSOU, West Bengal was shared wherein the NSOU was giving full fee waiver to students with an income ceiling of Rs.2.5 lacs p.a., 50 per cent fee waiver to those having family income between Rs.2.5 lacs to Rs.8 lacs p.a. and no fee waiver to the students whose family income exceeds Rs.8 lacs per annum.

BM 142.17.3

The Board was of the opinion that issue of truncating or lowering the amounts and budget allocation for fee waiver needs to be re-examined keeping in view the mandate assigned to the university “reaching the unreached” and the direct and indirect benefits of fee waiver scheme of the University which has not only helped in increasing the Gross Enrolment ratio , but also helped in upliftment of the social and financial status of the SCs/STs who otherwise could have remained out of higher education due to their economic constraints. In the comments received from the Ministry for this agenda, it is stated, “The concern of the university may be taken up suitably with the integrated finance Division(IFD.” The members suggested to maintain status quo and approach the MoE to provide adequate funds so that this novel fee waiver scheme of IGNOU for SC/ST students may continue without any hindrance.

The Board, while recognizing the intent of the University, and the efforts made by it for the welfare of its students, further cautioned that the time, when the whole country especially students and poor was facing difficulties due to ongoing pandemic, was not favourable and suggested to keep the matter deferred for the time being.

BM 142.17.4

After detailed deliberations the Board decided to defer the proposal for July 2021 session and continue with the existing scheme of fee waiver scheme. The Board also decided that suitable self-contained proposal/letters may be sent to the MoE and MoSJE for getting the funds to support the fee waiver scheme of IGNOU.

BM 142.18

Any Other Item

While appreciating the role of teachers, the Board felt that status of academic activities of Schools including course development, revision etc. be informed at each Board meeting on regular basis.

BM 142.18.2

The University has been doing exceedingly well academically with the help of faculty and Schools of Studies. With a view to actively involve and associate itself with the academic activities of the University, the Board decided that henceforth two Schools of Studies, by rotation, would make a presentation of about 15 Minutes before the start of the Board meeting covering various activities undertaken by them.

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

(Nageshwar Rao)

Chairman