



MINUTES OF THE 153rd MEETING (EMERGENT) OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JANUARY 09, 2023

The 153rd meeting (Emergent) of the Board of Management of the University was held in blended mode on 09.01.2023 at 01.00 p.m. in the Board Room, VCO Block, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068

The following were present:

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor	- Chairman
2.	Prof. Satyakam, Pro-Vice Chancellor	- Member
3.	Shri Mrutyunjay Behera, JS (HE), MOE	- Member
4.	Prof. Bansh Gopal Singh	- Member
5.	Prof. K.K. Aggarwal	- Member
6.	Prof. Ashok Sharma	- Member
7.	Prof. Shachi Shah	- Member
8.	Dr. M. Shanmugam	- Member
9.	Prof. Shubha Gokhale	- Member
	Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar, Admn.	- Secretary

The Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Member could not attend the meeting.

Shri Kamal Kant Sahay, Deputy Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Board.

At the outset, Registrar, Administration Dr. Alok Choube welcomed all the Members to this Board. Thereafter, the Chairman, Board of Management (BoM), Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, welcomed all the members of the Board of Management. He appreciated Shri Mrutyunjay Behera, JS & Economic Adviser, MOE, Prof. K K Agarwal, Prof. Bansh Gopal Singh and Prof. Ashok Sharma for sparing their precious time for the meeting

Before taking up the agenda items for consideration, the Vice-Chancellor informed the Board that the University has entered an MOU with the Army, Navy and Air Force to impart education to the Agniveers on 3rd January 2023. The members complemented the University for such an Initiative.

Thereafter, the following agenda items were presented by the Secretary before the Board.

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR I) CONSTRUCTION OF ONE BLOCK OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING; AND II) STRENGTHENING OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

BM 153.1.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide its letter No.F.No.5-13/2021-DL dated 30/12/2022 (**Appendix-1**) intimated that the Ministry has approved the following proposals of IGNOU for financing through HEFA Loan:

- (i) Construction of Administrative Block at a cost estimate of Rs. 50 crores; and
- (ii) Strengthening of ICT infrastructure at a cost estimate of Rs. 21 crores.

The Board noted the conditions suggested by the MoE in its letter 30.12.2022 for getting the approval of the Competent Authority of the University before approaching HEFA in this regard.

The Board further noted the following:

i) Construction of one Block of Administrative Building: The work of construction of administrative building was assigned to CPWD at rough estimated cost of Rs. 1,03,43,71,000/-. The Board of Management in its 141st meeting held on 24.3.2021 while considering the recommendations of the 100th Finance Committee meeting, approved the Minutes of the proposal. However, the MoE vide its letter dated 24.03.2021 showed its concern about the huge expenditure to be spent on construction of whole project. Subsequently, the University recommended to execute the project in two phases and in first phase construction of one block of Administrative Building with a tentative cost of Rs. 50 crores and construction of second block with a tentative cost of Rs. 53.44 crores was proposed. The proposal of construction in two phases has been informed to the Board in its 142nd meeting held on 31.05.2021

The proposal of construction of one block of administrative building was approved by MoE vide its letter dated 6.12.2021 with

a tentative cost of Rs.50.00 crores. CPWD had earlier submitted estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores for phase-I on 17.12.2020. Subsequently, CPWD had submitted a revised estimate on 22.11.2022 amounting to Rs.67,62,00,300/- that includes 7% cost index, 4.25% for ESI and EPF on 25% of estimated cost and 3% contingencies.

The MoE vide its letter dated 30.12.2022 has also informed IGNOU to seek fresh appraisal and approval from the Ministry in case of any change in the already approved proposal. However, there is no change in the proposal. But there is cost escalation from Rs. 50 crores to 67,62,00,300/- submitted by CPWD. The additional cost of Rs. 17,62,00,300/- shall be borne by IGNOU from its Internal Revenue Generation (IRG). IGNOU shall seek only Rs. 50 crores through HEFA Loan.

ii) Strengthening of ICT Infrastructure: In the first phase, the University received grant from HEFA for procuring Hyper Converged Infrastructure (HCI) based mini cloud for up-gradation of Data Centre of IGNOU at a cost of Rs.7.62 Crores through GeM in August 2021. The entire infrastructure was delivered, installed and configured in the Data Centre of Computer Division, IGNOU, New Delhi. Most of the applications are migrated on to this new infrastructure procured.

For further, ICT infrastructure upgradation under phase II the following aspects have been considered and requested MoE/HEFA for sanction of the loan.

1. Strengthening of Campus Networking at a cost of Rs.12 Crores
2. ICT up-gradation at IGNOU Convention Centre at a cost of Rs.03.00 Crores
3. Establishment of Smart Classrooms across various Schools/Centres at a cost of Rs. 03.00 Crores
4. Strengthening of Campus Surveillance System at a cost of Rs. 03.00 Crores

Total cost of proposal is Rs. 21.00 Crores. A detailed Project Report (DPR) for strengthening of ICT infrastructure was placed before the Board (**Appendix-2**). The Board considered the same.

It was further informed that the CPWD, Govt. of India vide its

letter No.23(1431)(3)/DPR-6/2022-23/34 dt. 05.01.2023 submitted its price escalation to Rs.67,62,00,300/- for administrative & financial approval (**Appendix-3**)

BM 153.1.2 After detailed discussion, the Board approved the following.

- i) Construction of one Block of Administrative Building at a revised cost of 67,62,00,300/- out of which Rs. 50 crores to be met as borrowing from HEFA Loan.
- ii) Sanction additional cost of Rs. 17.62 crores to be borne by IGNOU from IRG.
- iii) Estimate of the Project and DPR for construction of one Block of Administrative Building.
- iv) Strengthening of ICT infrastructure at a estimated cost of Rs. 21 crores as borrowing from HEFA Loan and DPR of strengthening of ICT infrastructure.
- v) DPR containing estimate for strengthening of ICT infrastructure.

The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed to issue the minutes in this regard.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE MATTER PERTAINING TO REQUEST OF PROF. ANNU J THOMAS, PROFESSOR IN SCHOOL OF GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (SOGDS) FOR REJOINING HER DUTIES AND CANCEL REMAINING PERIOD OF EXTRA ORDINARY LEAVE (EOL) GRANTED TO HER FOR FIVE YEARS ON PERSONAL GROUNDS

BM 153.2.1 The Board was informed that Prof. Annu J Thomas, Professor in School of Gender and Development Studies (SOGDS) had been on leave on frequent intervals owing to her mother's health. Vide her letter of request dated 06.07.2021, Prof. Annu J Thomas requested for Extra Ordinary Leave (EOL) on personal grounds for a period of five years. Accordingly, her request for EOL (on personal grounds) was accepted by the Vice Chancellor and vide Office Order No. 407, dated 10.09.2021, she was granted Extra Ordinary leave for five years w.e.f. 01.08.2021. The Board of Management in its 145th meeting held on 25.10.2021 had ratified the decision taken by the Vice-Chancellor in granting Extra Ordinary Leave (EOL) (on personal grounds) to Prof. Anu J Thomas.

However, before completion of the the period of EOL, vide her

request dated 10.11.2022, Prof Annu J Thomas requested for rejoining after EOL w.e.f. 10.11.2022 and cancellation of remaining approved EOL granted for a total period of five years. Keeping in view that she had been regularly absenting herself from duties on frequent intervals in the past before proceeding on Extra Ordinary Leave, the matter was placed before the Board for its consideration and decision.

After detailed deliberations, the Board decided as under:

- BM 153.2.2**
1. Prof. Annu J Thomas, Professor in SOGDS be allowed to re-join her duties forthwith i.e., w.e.f. 09.01.2023, the meeting of the Board.
 2. She would submit the progress of academic assignments carried out by her on regularly on quarterly basis to the Academic Coordination Division
 3. An amount equivalent to the House Rent Allowance and Licence fee, etc. for the period of Extra Ordinary Leave would be recovered from Prof Annu J Thomas in 20 equal monthly installments.

The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed to issue the minutes in this regard.

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL TO EXECUTE RELINQUISHMENT DEED IN FAVOUR OF BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR PROVIDING LAND MEASURING 1189.05 SQ.MT FOR WIDENING OF ROAD TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF REGIONAL CENTRE BUILDINGS AT BANGALORE

- BM 153.3.1**
- The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board was informed that the University had purchased land measuring 3.07 acres from Govt. of Karnataka in 2007 at a cost of Rs. 28366937/- (including Registration and misc. charges) for construction of permanent Regional Centre building at Bangalore and the said lands had been registered with Registration Department of Karnataka on 20.12.2007. The Board was apprised that the Urban Development Department, Govt. of Karnataka vide its letter 20.09.2019 had forwarded the minutes of meeting held on 31.8.2019 with Chief Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka & audit Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department for approval of development plan for construction of IGNOU Regional Centre, Bengaluru (**Appendix-4**) and requested to take necessary action. The Board noted the resolution of the meeting as under:

'After a prolonged discussion, it was decided that as Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is a prestigious, premier Central University, impairing distance education since 1988 and taken many measures to improve higher education in Karnataka State and has been trying to construct its own building since 2007, by considering it as a special case under Section 76(K), the approval is accorded for construction of Indira Gandhi National Open University Regional Centre – Administrative Blok building with B (for parking) +G+3 floors with an increase of land utilization from 20% to 30% by relaxing the rules finally, with the condition that Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) spares 18 mts. of its land to widen the road.'

It was further informed that the University had accorded approval and sanctioned Rs.7,25,71,000/- for construction of RC building through CPWD as deposit work vide letter dated 05.11.2020. Bangalore Development Authority has informed that for the approval of the building plan IGNOU has to relinquish 1189.05 sq.mt of land for the purpose of widening of the road to 18 meters as proposed in the draft Revised Master Plan-2031 and the said land should be handed over free of cost to the authority/local bodies and further IGNOU shall utilize the said area for educational purpose only. CPWD had informed IGNOU that the agency has approached the BDA for approval of building plan vide letter dated 29.07.2022 (**Appendix-5**). The issue of providing land to Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) was discussed in the 79th Works committee meeting held on 16.08.2022. The Works Committee has decided to provide land for widening of road to BDA as per procedures laid down by Bangalore Development Authority for obtaining necessary permission and approvals from them.

The Board was also apprised of the draft relinquishment deed has been received from BDA through Regional Centre Bangalore to execute the same which is duly vetted by legal cell of the University (**Appendix-6**).

BM 153.3.2

After detailed discussion, the Board accorded its approval to execute Relinquishment Deed in favour of BDA to provide land measuring 1189.05 sqmt. for widening of road from 10 to 18 meters and obtained approval of the building plan for construction of Regional Centre building at Bangalore.

The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed to

issue the minutes in this regard.

ITEM NO.4 EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY AGAINST THE PARAMETERS SET TO THE MOU SIGNED BETWEEN IGNOU AND MOE FOR SEEKING GRANTS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22

BM 153.4.1 The Board was informed that the University enters into the MoU with Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India for seeking grants in each financial year in pursuance of rule 229 (xi) of the GFR, 2017. The signed MoU reflecting the performance evaluation parameters of the University is placed at **Appendix-7**. These parameters include fresh enrolment strength, enrolment of EWS, development of courses, revision of courses, award of degrees/diplomas/certificates, number of training/refresher/awareness/sensitization programmes, number of beneficiaries of these programmes, expansion of Student Support Network, development of electronic media contents, promotion of e-contents material, financial support to jail inmates and SC/ST student. Clause H (ii) of the MoU states that:

“The performance evaluation shall be submitted to the Board of Management during Board meetings for consideration and the same shall be sent to MoEs along with the comments of the Board.”

BM 153.4.2 The Board approved the performance evaluation parameters in the Financial Year 2021-22 and proposed targets for the Financial Year 2022-23 (The Table is a part of Appendix-7).

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

sd/-
(Nageshwar Rao)
Chairman