



MINUTES OF THE 159TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JUNE 19, 2024

The 159th meeting of the Board of Management of the University was held in blended mode on 19.06.2024 at 11.00 a.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. Uma Kanjilal, Pro-Vice Chancellor	- Member
3.	Shri Mrutyunjay Behera, JS (HE), MOE	- Nominee, Secretary, MOE
4.	Dr. Ram Shanker Kureel	- Member
5.	Shri Milind Thatte	- Member
6.	Shri K A Badarinath	- Member
7.	Prof. Ashok Sharma	- Member
8.	Prof. Shubha Gokhale	- Member
9.	Dr. M. Shanmugam	- Member
10.	Prof. K S Arul Selvan	- Member
11.	Dr. Meena Rajiv Chandawarkar	- Member (Virtual)
12.	Shri C. Senthil Rajan, JS (I&B)	- Member (Virtual)
	Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar, Admn.	- Secretary

Prof. K K Aggarwal, Dr Bansh Gopal Singh and Shri Manish Sabharwal, Members of BOM could not attend the meeting due to their pre-occupations.

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

At the outset, Dr. Alok Chaube, Secretary, BOM/Registrar welcomed all the Members of the 159th Meeting of the Board of Management. Thereafter, the Chairman of the Board welcomed all the Members of the Board. He specially welcomed Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. K S Arul Selvan, Director, SOJNMS as New

members and Shri Milind Thatte (for attending the Board meeting first time physically). The Chairman also placed on record his appreciation towards the contribution made by the outgoing Members Prof. Satyakam, Ex. Pro Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Govindaraju Bharadwaza, ex-Director (SOPVA), during their tenure of the BOM.

On behalf of the University, the Board also welcomed Hon'ble Minister of Education, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji** and the University hopes that his valuable guidance and support will help the University. The Board also welcomed **Shri Jayant Chaudhary Hon'ble Minister of State for Education & Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** and **Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education & Union Minister of State for Education & Development of North Eastern Region.**

The Chairman briefly narrated the following major developments which took place in the University since the last BOM:

- i. Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar blessed our students through his Convocation address on the eve of 37th Convocation and distributed around three lakh degrees on 20th February, 2024.
- ii. Hon'ble Minister of Education & Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji virtually inaugurated six regional centre buildings constructed at Pune, Jammu, Noida, Agartala, Port-Blair and Bangalore. He further inaugurated the upgraded EMPC-HD station also virtually.
- iii. The Term-End Examinations of June'24 were also started from the 7th June, 2024 with around nine lakh students at 882 Examination Centres. The Status report for the Examination process as on 18th June, 2024 is given below:

1. Total No. of Examination Centres

- All Over India - 882
- Delhi/NCR - 88
- International - 19
- JAIL - 82
- CBT Centre - 71

2. Total No. of Courses - 2,831

3. Total No. of Programmes - 420

4. Total No. of Question Paper:

- Print Mode - 772
- Online Mode - 2,059

5. Total No. of Practical Courses	-	577
6. Total No. of Student registered for June, 2024 TEE		
• ODL	-	53,29,060
• Proctored	-	420
• CBT	-	5,258
• GOAL	-	634
• E-Vidyabharti	-	3,705
7. Total Answer Sheet to be evaluated	-	53,34,318
8. Attendance	-	84.22%
9. Result processed		
1. TEE June, 2024	-	5,154
2. Assignment	-	1,16,466
3. Project	-	2,858
4. Practical	-	--

- iv. University has also launched good number of new programmes at Postgraduate, Undergraduate, Diploma and Certificate levels and admissions are continuously increasing.
- v. Eighteen 4-Year Programmes are also launched by the University.

Thereafter, the following agenda items were presented before the Board:

Item No. 1 To confirm the minutes of 158th meeting of the Board of Management held on December 27, 2023 and to note the Action Taken Report thereon

BM 158.1.1 The Board was informed that the Minutes of 158th meeting of the Board of Management held on 27.12.2023 were circulated to the members of the Board on 08.01.2024. No comments were received from the BOM members on the minutes of 158th BOM.

BM 159.1.2 The Action Taken Report on the decisions taken by the Board in its 158th meeting was also presented before the Board.

BM 159.1.3 The Board confirmed the minutes of its 158th meeting held on 27.12.2023 and noted the action taken report thereon.

Item No. 2 To ratify the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in appointing/ giving charge of Directors of School/Division/Centre/Unit

BM 159.2.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in

appointment/giving charge of Directorship of Schools to the following Teachers as per details given below:

#	Name of Teacher/ Academic & their designation	School/Division/Centre	Period of Appointment/ Charge given
01	Prof. Anurag Joshi Professor, SOSS	Centre for Gandhi and Peace Studies	11.10.2023 to till further orders
02	Prof. Anu J. Thomas Professor SOGDS	School of Gender and Development Studies (SOGDS)	11.02.2024 to 30.09.2026
03	Dr. Lakshaman Prasad Associate Professor, SOPVA	School of Performing and Visual Arts (SOPVA)	01.04.2024 to 31.03.2027
04	Prof. Sandeep Singh Rawat Professor, SOCIS	School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS)	16.05.2024 to 15.05.2027
05	Prof. Anita Priyadarshini Professor, STRIDE	Staff Training and Research Institute Distance Education (STRIDE)	01.06.2024 to 31.05.2027
06	Dr. Gurmeet Kaur Bedi Associate Professor, SOL	School of Law (SOL)	14.06.2024 to 13.06.2027
07	Prof Arobindo Mahato Professor, SOCE	National ODL Centre for Local Governance	14.06.2024 to till further orders

Item No. 3 To ratify the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in Opening of Envelopes containing recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings held on 14.02.2024 and 28.02.2024 for the CAS of Teachers

BM 159.3.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in Opening of Envelopes containing recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings held on 14.02.2024 and 28.02.2024 for the CAS of Teachers and issuing promotion orders as per details given below:

#	Date of Screening-cum Evaluation/ Selection Committee meeting & (date of opening of envelope)	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee/ Screening cum Evaluation Committee	Date of eligibility
1.	14.02.2024 (29.02.2024)	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor	Dr Subhalakshmi Lamba	18.01.2021

		(Academic level 14) in the Discipline of Physics in the School of Sciences (SOS)		
2.	28.02.2024 (14.03.2024)	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Academic level 14) in the School of Agriculture (SOA)	Dr Mukesh Kumar	16.06.2023
3.	14.02.2024 (29.02.2024)	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Academic level 14) in the Discipline of Physics in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr Subhalakshmi Lamba	18.01.2021
4.	28.02.2024 (14.03.2024)	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Academic level 14) in the School of Agriculture (SOA)	Dr Mukesh Kumar	16.06.2023

Item No. 4 To ratify the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in Opening of Envelopes containing recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings held under Mission Recruitment Drive, as under:

- (i) 27, 28 & 29.12.2023 for the post of Regional Directors (UR-08)**
- (ii) 29 & 30.12.2023 for the post of Assistant Regional Directors (EWS-04)**
- (iii) 12,13 & 14.02.2024 for the post of Assistant Regional Directors (OBC-09)**
- (iv) 21.02.2024 for the post of Assistant Regional Directors (ST-03)
28.02.2024 for the post of Assistant Professor, Discipline of Agriculture Economics & Extension (OBC-NCL 01)**

BM 159.4.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in Opening of Envelopes containing recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings held under Mission Mode Recruitment Drive and issuing offer of appointment letters to successful candidates, as per details given below:

Date of Selection Committee Meeting & (date of opening envelopes)	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee

27.12.2023 28.12.2023 29.12.2023 (02.01.2024)	Appointment to the post of Regional Director (UR-08) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/Regional Centres (RCs) in the Academic level 13A of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,31,400/- 2,17,100/-)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Sunil Jacob 2. Dr Jalaja Kumari VT 3. Dr Manju Goel 4. Dr Afroz Haider Rizvi 5. Dr Rahul Mishra 6. Dr Mamta Baunthiyal 7. Dr Munish Kumar 8. Dr Amir Jamal <p><u>Waiting list</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Firoz A. 2. Dr Arun Kumar Nayak 3. Dr Shahnawaz Ahmad Dar 4. Dr Babita 5. Dr Subrata Deb 6. Dr Rajeev Nayan 7. Dr kamlesh Kumar Tiwari 8. Dr Shilpi 9. Dr Kuldeep Gosai 10. Dr Jagadish Kumar 11. Dr Kumar Bharat Bhushan 12. Dr Purna Chandra Parida 13. Dr Manish Kumar 14. Dr Baldev Singh 15. Dr Ravinder Kumar 16. Dr Saroj Kumar Mishra
29.12.2023 30.12.2023 (02.01.2024)	Appointment to the post of Assistant Regional Director (EWS-04) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/Regional Centres (RCs) in the Academic Level 10 of 7 th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix (Rs. 57,700 – Rs. 182,400/-)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Sudarshan Raja 2. Dr. Chandra Shekar Putta 3. Dr Aakash Awasthi 4. Dr. Dev Narain Pathak <p><u>Waiting list</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Hitesh Seherawat 2. Dr Neha Mishra 3. Dr Kedar Kumar Rout 4. Dr Mirza Ruhullah Baig 5. Dr Vivek Upadhyay 6. Dr Yogendra Kumar Dixit 7. Dr Shashank Tiwari 8. Dr Devki Nandan Bhatt 9. Dr Ashutosh Kumar Singh
12.02.2024 13.02.2024	Appointment to the post of Assistant Regional Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Monika Saroj 2. Dr Uday Kumar

14.02.2024 (21.02.2024)	(OBC-NCL-09) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs) in the Academic Level 10 of 7 th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix (Rs. 57,700 – Rs. 182,400/-)	<p>3. Dr Swapnil Gupta 4. Dr Aditya Kumar Jayaswal 5. Dr Deepak Goswami 6. Dr Zeba 7. Dr Vishal Kumar Soni 8. Dr Chandan Kumar 9. Dr Savita Beniwal</p> <p><u>Waiting list</u></p> <p>1. Dr Rajdeo Kumar 2. Dr Kuldeep Verma 3. Dr Santosh Kumar Yadav 4. Dr Ravi Kumar 5. Dr Avinash Kumar 6. Dr Prakash P. 7. Dr Jitendra Kumar Yadava 8. Dr Arpana Yadav 9. Dr Osama Qamar 10. Dr Priyanka Sharma</p>
21.02.2024 (23.02.2024)	Appointment to the post of Assistant Regional Director (ST-03) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs) in the Academic Level 10 of 7 th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix (Rs. 57,700 – Rs. 182,400/-)	<p>1. Dr rajesh Kumar Meena 2. Dr Ramsong Chantre Nongpiur 3. Dr Mohd. Abdullah</p> <p><u>Waiting list</u></p> <p>1. Dr Anil Kumar Meena 2. Dr Macmillan Nongkhlaw 3. Dr Gugulothu Sridevi 4. Dr Rongsenzulu Jamir 5. Dr Ujjala Singh 6. Dr Zujanbemo Khuvung</p>
28.02.2024 (29.02.2024)	Appointment to the post of Assistant Professor, Discipline of Agriculture Economics & Extension (OBC-NCL 01) in the School of Agriculture in the Academic Level 10 of 7 th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix (Rs. 57,700 – Rs. 182,400/-)	<p>1. Dr Chaithra N R</p> <p><u>Waiting list</u></p> <p>1. Dr Sudip Kumar Dorai 2. Dr Athare Prakash Goraksha 3. Dr Pramod Kumar Prajapati</p>

Item No. 5 **To ratify the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in accepting the request of Dr. M. Prashanth, Associate Professor, Geology to grant him Lien against his substantive post of Assistant Professor for a period of two years and relieve him from the services of University w.e.f. 26.12.2023 (A/N) to join as Professor in Central University of Karnataka**

BM 159.5.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in accepting the request of Dr. M. Prashanth, Associate Professor, Geology to grant him Lien against his substantive post of Assistant Professor for a period of two years and relieving him from the services of the University w.e.f. 26.12.2023 (A/N) to join as Professor in Central University of Karnataka.

Item No. 6 **To ratify the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the recommendations of the Suspension Review Committee and extend the period of suspension of Dr Saurabh Jain, Assistant Professor, Discipline of Management Studies, School of Management Studies in respect of a criminal offence under section 376 & 506 (FIR No. 443/2022) and payment of subsistence Allowance to him**

BM 159.6.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the recommendations of the Suspension Review Committee and extend the period of suspension of Dr Saurabh Jain, Assistant Professor for 90 days w.e.f.15.5.2024 till 14.8.2024 in respect of a criminal offence under section 376 & 506 (FIR No. 443/2022) and payment of subsistence Allowance to him.

BM 159.6.2 The legal opinion sought on the matter was also presented before the Board. The Board directed to review the entire matter including further continuance of Dr Saurabh Jain in the services of the University or payment of subsistence allowance to him, by a Committee with Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Pro-VC as Chairperson, Registrar (Administration) as Member and Deputy Registrar, Legal as Convenor of the Committee. The Board also directed to place the matter alongwith recommendations of the Committee in the next meeting.

Item No. 7 **To report the Memorandum issued by NCTE against Dr. Rammurti Meena, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Centre Jaipur while on deputation to NCTE as Deputy Secretary and Regional Director, NRC in NCTE**

BM 159.7.1

The Board was informed that a Memorandum was issued to Dr. Rammurti Meena, Assistant Regional Director, RC Jaipur by NCTE on 29.03.2022 vide No.NCTE-Vign011/2/2022-O/o DS Vigilance regarding Orders of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 22.02.2021 in Contempt Petition No. 421 of 2020 for non compliance of Orders of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 11.12.2019 in WP(C) No. 13089 of 2019 in respect of R.R.C.M. Education Society, R.R.C.M. College of Education, Kosli, Rewari, Haryana vide which the Hon'ble High Court had directed for taking action against the Officials accountable for the non-compliance. Vide their Memorandum, the NCTE has informed that he has failed to maintain devotion to duty and committed grave misconduct, and thus violated the provisions of Conduct Rules 3(1)(i), 3(1)(ii) and Rule 3(1)(iii) of CCS (Conduct Rules) and issued Show Cause notice for showing cause within 10 days as to why Disciplinary proceedings should not be initiated against him.

In response, vide his mail dated 31.03.2022 Dr. Rammurti Meena has given a reply to Memorandum dated 29.03.2022. In his reply, Dr. Rammurti Meena has informed that he was not holding the charge of Regional Director, NRC on 20.06.2020.

The Board was also informed that the University vide its mail dt.14.05.2024 has requested NCTE to apprise the status of Memorandum and Vigilance clearance in respect of Dr Rammurti Meena, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU who was on deputation to NCTE. The information is yet to be received.

BM 159.7.2

The Board noted the matter.

Item No. 8

To report the Memorandum issued by NCTE against Dr. Jayesh S. Patel, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Centre Ahmedabad while on deputation to NCTE as Deputy Secretary and Regional Director, NRC in NCTE

BM 159.8.1

The Board noted that Dr. Jayesh S. Patel, Assistant Regional Director, RC Ahmedabad was relieved on 08.11.2021 to join on deputation basis as Deputy Secretary and Regional Director, NRC in National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). A letter dated 12.03.2024 has been received from NCTE regarding issuance of Memorandum to Dr. Jayesh S. Patel. The NCTE has informed that while working as Regional Director, NRC,

Dr. Jayesh S. Patel has apparently been involved in wrongful grant of recognition to six institutions for BA.B.Ed./B.Sc.B.Ed course. The Competent Authority of NCTE has decided to seek clarification from Dr. Jayesh S. Patel in the matter through a Memorandum which was annexed with the letter.

The Board further noted that the NCTE has requested IGNOU to seek clarifications/submissions from Dr. Jayesh Patel and furnish the same to the NCTE, at the earliest, a copy of which has been marked to Dr Jayesh Patel. Vide letter dated 20.05.2024, the University has forwarded the NCTE letter alongwith Memorandum to Dr Jayesh Patel and asked him to submit a copy of reply given to NCTE within 07 days. Dr Jayesh Patel has written to NCTE for providing certain papers/documents which are awaited.

BM 159.7.2 The Board noted the matter.

Item No. 9 To apprise the status report on the following:

- (i) Grievances received and disposed off on CPGRAMS Portal and iGRAM Portal**
- (ii) Vigilance cases pending in the University; and**
- (iii) Parliamentary Assurances pending in the University**

BM 159.9.1 The Board noted the status report on the grievances received and disposed off on CPGRAMS Portal and iGRAM Portal.

The Board also noted the status of the vigilance cases closed after 158th BOM held on 27.12.2023 and that there are two pending vigilance cases.

The Board was informed that there was no Parliamentary assurance pending in the University.

Item No. 10 To consider nomination of a Member on the Finance Committee under Clause (1)(v) of Statute 11 of IGNOU Act

BM 159.10.1 The Board authorized the Vice Chancellor/Chairman, BOM to nominate a member on the Finance Committee under Clause (1)(v) of Statute 11 of the IGNOU Act.

The Board confirmed this Item and directed to issue Part Minutes for implementation.

Item No. 11 To consider nominations of five members on the Planning Board under Statute 10(1) of Clause (iv) of the IGNOU Act

BM 159.11.1 The Board authorized the Vice Chancellor/Chairman, BOM to nominate five members on the Planning Board under Statute 10(1) of Clause (iv) of the IGNOU Act.

Item No. 12 To consider the report of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee constituted to investigate the fraudulent activities while processing the printing bills payment against Job Orders issued for the Courses MFC-08(E), MFC-09(E), MFC-06(E), MEVE-12(E), MSTL-03(E) & BANE 144(E) in MPDD

BM 159.12.1 The item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that a Preliminary Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, the then Pro-Vice Chancellor was constituted to investigate the fraudulent activities in respect of processing of printing bills payment of Job Orders in respect of Courses MFC-08(E), MFC-09(E), MFC-06(E), MEVE-12 (E), MSTL-03(E) & BANE-144(E) in MPDD. Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, PVC & Inquiry Officer/Chairperson of the Committee has submitted preliminary investigation report dated 04.01.2024.

The Committee in its report has observed the following:-

1. The emails (all) dated 17.01.2023 regarding intimation of ISBN in respect of each course i.e. MFC-08(E), MFC-09(E) & MFC-06(E) duly endorsed by the Printing Firm are found 'forged' as compared with the email of MPDD sent to the printers to communicate ISBN i.e. 08.12.2022.
2. The email dated 15.02.2023 regarding intimation of ISBN in respect of course MEVE-12(E) duly endorsed by the Printing Firm is also found 'forged' as compared with the email of MPDD sent to the Printer to communicate ISBN i.e. 08.12.2022.
3. The email dated 20.12.2022 regarding intimation of ISBN in respect of course MSTL-03(E) duly endorsed by the Printing Firm is also found 'forged' as compared with the email of MPDD sent to the Printer to communicate ISBN i.e. 08.12.2022.
4. The email dated 20.12.2022 regarding intimation of ISBN in respect of course BANE-144(E) duly endorsed by the Printing Firm is also found 'forged' as compared with the email of MPDD sent to the Printer to communicate ISBN i.e. 08.12.2022.

5. The aforesaid emails have been taken into consideration by the staff /officers concerned on the basis of which the bills have been processed for the release of payment.
6. In the bill processing sheet for final payment (20%), the details of Ferro/ISBN whichever is later needs to be considered for deciding the penalty, hence, in these aforesaid cases only ISBN issue date has been considered and no endorsement of Ferro finalization date has been reflected granting benefit of doubt to the Printer.
7. The documents showing approval of the Ferros in respect of the all courses which were relevant /applicable in the instant case should be placed in the respective files. However, no such documents were found placed on record in the respective bill files.
8. There was no need for creating a separate proforma for intimating issuance of ISBN Nos. to the Printers. In fact, once the ISBN is issued, the document regarding issuance of ISBN No. from the website of the ISBN issuing authority should have been downloaded and forwarded to the Printer concerned.
9. On the basis of the details of credit page provided by the printer as per past practice, MPDD applies for ISBN.
10. The email sent to the printer by MPDD does not carry clear instructions. Therefore, while communicating ISBN No., the printer must be informed the Terms and Conditions of the contract to avoid any communication gap.
11. The Committee observed that the copy of the approval of Ferro in respect of BANE-144(E) which was relevant, was neither available with MPDD nor SOSS. Therefore, the Committee recommends for proper record keeping at MPDD & Schools concerned.
12. The MPDD must ensure that monitoring of the Printing work including communication of Ferro and ISBN No. for a particular course /programme must also be check/endorsed by the regular staff of MPDD as the existing practice of engaging only daily wages staff is not appropriate.
13. The prevalent practice of communicating the ISBN of all the courses in one file hampers transparency in the system. As print order of each course is separate, therefore, ISBN for each course must be downloaded from the website of ISBN issuing authority and should be place in the file along with the date of communication of approval of Ferro at the time of processing of bills. This would avoid such lapses in future.

BM 159.12.2 The Board considered this preliminary inquiry report of the aforesaid Committee and observed that the report is in-conclusive to take any concrete action. The Board, therefore, directed to carry out a fresh investigation in the matter and submit the Report covering all aspects of the case including suggestive measures.

Item No. 13 **To consider the Report of the Inquiry Officer in the Disciplinary Proceedings initiated against Sh. Vijayakumar M, Assistant Registrar, Regional Centre Mumbai under Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965**

BM 159.13.1 The Board was informed that Sh. Vijayakumar M, Assistant Registrar, RC Mumbai was issued charge-sheet on 13.10.2016 under Rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 in the matter of financial irregularities in claiming medical bill, availing LTC in the name of a woman other than his wife, tampering the Service Book, proceeding on leave without intimation etc. Sh. Vijayakumar M, in response to the Memorandum had submitted his written explanation/reply dated 28.10.2016 and denied all the charges framed against him.

Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, the then Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dr. S.K. Prasad, Director, NCDS were appointed as Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officer respectively vide Orders dated 08.08.2023. Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, Pro-Vice Chancellor / Inquiry Officer has submitted the Inquiry Report on 05.01.2024 alongwith the related annexures, wherein the Inquiry Officer concluded in its report that “In view of the facts stated above the charges under Article I, II, III and IV framed against CO stand proved.” A copy of the Inquiry Report was forwarded to Sh. Vijayakumar M (the Charged Officer) vide letter dated 02.02.2024 for making his representation, if any, within 15 days.

Sh. Vijayakumar M has submitted his written submission dated 19.02.2024 on the inquiry report for consideration of the Disciplinary Authority wherein he had denied all the charges framed against him.

BM 159.13.2 The Board considered the Inquiry Report and the response of Sh. Vijayakumar M. After detailed discussions, the Board decided to award major penalty of Compulsory Retirement with all pensionary/retirement benefits to Sh. Vijayakumar M. by issuing a detailed speaking order in this regard.

Item No. 14 To consider the Minutes of Screening cum Evaluation Committee/Selection Committee for Promotions of Teachers and Academics under Career Advancement Scheme (CAS)

BM 159.14.1

The Board was informed that the University had conducted “Screening-cum-Evaluation Committees/Selection Committee” for Career Advancement of Teachers and Academics of the University as per Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme of Teachers as per the “UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education) Regulations, 2010” along with subsequent amendment thereto under 6th CPC, and Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme of Teachers and Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme of Academics as per “UGC Regulations on Minimum qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other Academic staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education, 2018” under 7th CPC duly approved by the Visitor. The recommendations of the Screening cum Evaluation Committee/Selection Committees were placed before the Board for consideration. The Board approved the recommendations of the “Screening cum Evaluation Committees/Selection Committees”, as per details given below:

#	Date of Screening-cum Evaluation/Selection Committee	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee/ Screening cum Evaluation Committee	Due date of eligibility
5.	18 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Discipline of Biochemistry in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr. Arvind Kumar Shakya	30.05.2023
6.	18 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Discipline of Biochemistry in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr. Maneesha Pandey	06.06.2023
7.	18 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to	Dr. M Abdul Kareem	26.05.2023

		Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Discipline of Biochemistry in the School of Sciences (SOS)		
8.	18 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Discipline of Biochemistry in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr. Seema Kalra	13.06.2023
9.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Environmental Studies in the School of Inter-Disciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Studies (SOITS)	Dr. Sushmitha Baskar	11.10.2023
10.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Environmental Studies in the School of Inter-Disciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Studies (SOITS)	Dr. Deeksha Dave	18.11.2023
11.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Environmental Studies in the School of Inter-Disciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Studies (SOITS)	Dr. YSC Khuman	21.10.2023
12.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Environmental Studies in the School of Inter-Disciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Studies (SOITS)	Dr. V Venkat Ramanan	24.10.2023
13.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Senior scale /Academic level 11) to from Assistant Professor (Selection grade/Academic level 12) in the Discipline of Civil Engineering in the School of Engineering and Technology (SOET)	Dr. Anuj Kumar Purwar	11.01.2022
14.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to	Dr. Vishal Warpa	26.05.2023

		Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Geography in the School of Sciences (SOS)		
15.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Geography in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr. Satya Raj	25.05.2023
16.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Geography in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr. K Nageswara Rao	20.06.2023
17.	28 th March 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Statistics in the School of Science (SOS)	Dr. Neha Garg	16.08.2022
18.	09 th April 2024	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Discipline of Management Studies in the School of Management Studies (SOMS)	Dr. Leena Singh	05.05.2023
19.	09 th April 2024	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Discipline of Commerce in the School of Management Studies (SOMS)	Dr. Anupriya Pandey	09.09.2023
20.	09 th April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Vocational Education and Training in the School of Vocational Education and Training (SOVET)	Dr. Geetika Johry	30.11.2022
21.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. B Rajagopal, RC Hyderabad*	24.04.2013
22.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic	Dr. Salam Dilan Singh, RC Imphal	16.05.2017

		level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)		
23.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Ila Das, REC Shillong	11.12.2011
24.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Sanjib Kumar Kataky, RC Jorhat	25.12.2019
25.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Ashok Sharma, RC Delhi-III	01.06.2013
26.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. K Ramesh, RC Hyderabad	29.06.2017
27.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Dharmarao Gonipati, RC Vishakhapatnam	01.05.2022
28.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Sindhu P Nair, RC Vatakara	26.01.2019
29.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Mohan Sharma, RC Shimla	02.05.2023

30.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. A Varadarajan, RC Bijapur *	20.12.2013
31.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Regional Director/ Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Senior Regional Director/ Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Moti Ram, RC Ranchi	17.04.2021
32.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education (NCIDE)	Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit	28.12.2011
33.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Planning & Development Division	Dr. Sunil Kumar	25.01.2017
34.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Dharampal, RC Karnal	17.05.2023
35.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Nurul Hasan, RC Chandigarh	30.05.2023
36.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director/Assistant Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)/CIQA	Dr. Navita Abrol, CIQA	11.05.2023
37.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Oinam Jaya Lakshmi Devi, RC Imphal	09.06.2023

38.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Reena Kumari, RC Lucknow	24.05.2023
39.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Smriti Gargava, RC Bhopal	24.05.2023
40.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Shalini, RC Patna	16.05.2023
41.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Praseetha Unnikrishnan, RC Kochi	25.05.2023
42.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Indu Ravi, RC Jaipur	27.05.2023
43.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Research Unit (RU)	Dr. Satish, RU	06.01.2024
44.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the School of Foreign Languages (SOFL)	Dr. Deepanwita Srivastava	04.02.2024
45.	21 st April 2024	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the School of Foreign Languages (SOFL)	Dr. Md. Saleem	10.02.2024
46.	22 nd April 2024	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Stage 5/Academic level 14)in	Dr. Lakshman Prasad	14.02.2024

		the School of Performing and Visual Arts (SOPVA)		
47.	22 nd April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the School of Performing and Visual Arts (SOPVA)	Dr. Radhika P	25.02.2023
48.	22 nd April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the School of Performing and Visual Arts (SOPVA)	Dr. Mallika Banerjee	01.07.2022
49.	22 nd April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/ Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Nursing in the School of Health Sciences (SOHS)	Dr. Neerja Sood	16.09.2021
50.	22 nd April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Nursing in the School of Health Sciences (SOHS)	Dr. Laxmi	31.12.2023
51.	22 nd April 2024	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Nursing in the School of Health Sciences (SOHS)	Dr. Reeta Devi	25.09.2021
52.	02 nd May 2024	Promotion from Producer (Senior Scale /Academic level 11) to Producer (Selection grade /Academic level 12) in the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC)	Dr. Manoj Kumar Singh	14.12.2022
53.	02 nd May 2024	Promotion from Producer (Senior Scale /Academic level 11) to Producer (Selection grade /Academic level 12) in the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC)	Dr. Jatinder Jeet Kour	02.07.2022
54.	02 nd May 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Senior Scale /Academic level 11) to Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Arshia Hussain, RC Delhi-I	07.05.2021

55.	02 nd May 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Senior Scale /Academic level 11) to Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Khushnuda Nilofer, RSD	17.04.2021
56.	02 nd May 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Senior Scale /Academic level 11) to Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Sher Singh, RC Jaipur	19.09.2016
57.	02 nd May 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Senior Scale /Academic level 11) to Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Asif Iqbal, RC Patna	23.04.2021
58.	02 nd May 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Senior Scale /Academic level 11) to Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Vikram Singh, RC Jammu	11.05.2022
59.	02 nd May 2024	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Senior Scale /Academic level 11) to Assistant Regional Director (Selection grade /Academic level 12) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Sweta, RSD	09.08.2020
60.	23 rd February 2022	Promotion from Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Additional Director (Stage 5/Academic level 14) Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC)	Dr. Daljeet Sachdeva [#]	28.04.2021

* Office orders for promotion will be issued after receipt of vigilance clearance.

Results were deferred by 147th BOM dated 24.2.2022 (BM147.4.2). On the basis of the Report of the Committee, constituted to examine the mater holistically including the release of final terminal benefits and pension in respect of EMPC staff, which was approved by 156th BOM, Dr. Daljeet Sachdeva was found eligible for promotion and hence, the Board decided to open the envelope and declare the results.

BM 159.14.2 The Board confirmed this Item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for issuance of Promotion Orders under CAS.

Item No. 15 To consider the Minutes of Selection Committee for recruitment to the posts of Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Assistant Regional Directors on direct recruitment basis

BM 159.15.1 The Board was informed that the University had advertised the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor vide Advertisement No. 2/ACD/2022 dated 31.12.2022 (Employment News dated 7-14 January 2023) and Advertisement No.02/2023/ACD dated 15.10.2023 (Employment News dated 21-27 October 2023) for which the last date of receiving online application was 07.02.2023 and 15.10.2023, respectively. The University had also invited applications for the post of Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors vide Advertisement No. 1/2023/ACD, dated 28.02.2023 (Employment News dated 11-17 March 2023) with last date of receiving the Application was 10.04.2023. The applications were invited through Online Portal in coordination with Samarth. In response to the advertisement, the University had processed the applications as per UGC Regulations on Minimum qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other Academic staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education, 2018 and conducted the Selection Committee meetings for appointment against the posts of Professor in the Discipline of Management Studies, Public Administration; Associate Professor in the Discipline of Gender & Development Studies, Management Studies, Public Administration; Assistant Professor in the Discipline of Chemistry; and Assistant Regional Director (SC). The recommendations of the Selection Committee were placed before the Board. The Board approved the recommendations of the Selection Committees, as per details given below:

Date of Selection Committee Meeting	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee
18 th March 2024	Appointment to the post of Assistant Professor, Discipline of Chemistry (OBC-NCL-01) in the School of Sciences (SOS) in the Academic level 10 of 7th CPC (Rs. 57,700/- 1,82,400/-)	1. Dr. Vishal Singh <u>Waiting list</u> 17. Dr. Pratik Yadav 18. Dr. Madhuri Chaurasia
18 th March 2024	Appointment to the post of Associate Professor, Discipline of Gender and Development Studies (UR-01) in the	1. Dr. Usha Rana <u>Waiting list</u>

	School of Gender and Development Studies (SOGDS) in the Academic level 13A of 7th CPC (Rs. 1,31,400/- 2,17,100/-)	1. Dr. Lekha D Bhat 2. Jaya Kritika Ojha
08 th April 2024	Appointment to the post of Assistant Regional Director (SC-04) in the Regional Services Division/ Regional Centres in the Academic level 10 of 7th CPC (Rs. 57,700/- 1,82,400/-)	1. Dr. Milind Bapurao Patil 2. Dr. Kana Ram Raiger 3. Dr. Neeraj 4. Dr. Mamatha B.Y. <u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr. Naorem Nishikanta Singh 2. Dr. Deeksha Naik 3. Dr. Siriman Naveen 4. Dr. Bharti Jarwal 5. Dr. Anand Hindolia 6. Dr. Baledra 7. Dr. Abraham Mutluri 8. Dr. Indu Shekhar 9. Dr. Priyanka Purushottam Sonbarse
09 th April 2024	Appointment to the post of Professor, Discipline of Management Studies (OBC-NCL-01) in the School of Management Studies (SOMS) in the Academic Level-14 of 7th Central Pay Commission (Rs.1,44,200-2,18,200/-)	1. Dr. Ravikanthi Sampath kumar (Basic Pay) <u>Waiting list</u> NIL
09 th April 2024	Appointment to the post of Professor, Discipline of Management Studies (UR-02) in the School of Management Studies (SOMS) in the Academic Level-14 of 7th Central Pay Commission (Rs.1,44,200-2,18,200/-)	1. Dr. Pavneesh Kumar 2. Dr. Dhanesh Kumar Khatri <u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr. Amrendra Pratap Singh 2. Dr. Monika Prakash 3. Dr. Nagendra Yadav
09 th April 2024	Appointment to the post of Associate Professor, Discipline of Management Studies (UR-01) in the School of Management Studies (SOMS) in the Academic Level-13A of 7th Central Pay Commission (Rs.1,31,400-2,17,100/-)	1. Dr. Neha Seth (Basic Pay) <u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr. Monika Tushir 2. Dr. Satish Kumar 3. Dr. Alka Singh
10 th April 2024	Appointment to the post of Assistant Professor, Discipline of Management Studies (OBC-NCL-01) in the School of Management Studies (SOMS) in the Academic Level-10 of 7th Central Pay Commission (Rs.57,700-1,82,400/-)	1. Dr. Priyanka Yadav <u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr. Shatrughan Yadav 2. Dr. Rohit Shah
10 th April	Appointment to the post of Professor,	1. Dr. Mathaiyan Raju

2024	Discipline of Public Administration (SC - 01) in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS) in the Academic Level-14 of 7th Central Pay Commission (Rs.1,44,200-2,18,200/-)	<u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr. Pankaj Deep 2. Dr. Rajesh Kumar
10 th April 2024	Appointment to the post of Associate Professor, Discipline of Public Administration (ST -01) in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS) in the Academic Level-13A of 7th Central Pay Commission (Rs.1,31,400-2,17,100/-)	1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Meena (Basic Pay) <u>Waiting list</u> 1. Dr. Babu Dhan Tripura

BM 159.15.2 The Board confirmed this Item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes for issuance Appointment letters to the selected candidates for the above teaching posts.

Item No. 16 **To consider the comments received from Dr. B Rajagopal, Regional Director, IGNOU against the report of Inquiry Officer in respect of Disciplinary Inquiry conducted against the chargesheet Memorandum dated 10.2.2020 under Rule 11 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965**

BM 159.16.1 The Board was informed that Dr. B. Rajagopal was appointed as Regional Director through direct recruitment in the scale of Rs.12,000-42018,200 (pre-revised) and presently discharging the duties as Regional Director, Regional Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana. While he was working as Regional Director, Regional Centres, Ahmedabad and then Hyderabad, several complaints were received from the staff of respective Regional Centres against Dr. B. Rajagopal regarding harassment, causing mental torture to the staff, usage of delay tactics in work, sparse office discipline, ill treatment towards junior officers, availing transport allowance though using official vehicle and other ancillary issues. Different Enquiry Committees were constituted at both the Regional Centres to verify the veracity of complaints. Both the Enquiry Committees in its reports affirmed the allegations made in complaints.

Dr. B. Rajagopal had been issued Advisories dated 29.03.2016, 12.05.2016 and 09.12.2015 for proceeding on unauthorized leave on two occasions during his tenure as Regional Director, Vijayawada, accepting the application forms of DAQ Programme of SOS when the programme was not activated at the Regional Centre and leaving the Headquarter i.e. RC, Vijayawada without intimation to SED/RSD and without taking prior

approval.

The Board noted that the matter was placed before the Board of Management at its 137th meeting held on 16.10.2019. In accordance with the decisions of the Board of management at its 137th and 139th meetings, a Chargesheet Memorandum was issued against Dr B Rajagopal vide Memorandum No. IG/TA/1/368/98/7639 dated 10.2.2020 under Rule 11 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965. Dr B Rajagopal kept on seeking information and did not submit his comments. Finally, he submitted his comments on 13.3.2023. The Disciplinary proceedings were initiated and an Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officer were nominated vide Office Order No.180 dated 27.04.2023.

The Board was further informed that the Inquiry proceedings have been completed and the Report of the Inquiry Officer has been submitted on 29.11.2023. The report was shared with Dr B Rajagopal vide letter dated 08.12.2023 and email dated 11.12.2023 for his comments. Dr Rajagopal vide his email dated 12.12.2023, informed that he is preparing his comments in respect of findings of the Inquiry officer and sought some more time to submit his comments. Subsequently, a reply has been received from Dr. B. Rajagopal vide letter No.5678 dated 05.01.2024. In his reply the Charged Officer has denied all allegations. A comparative statement regarding Findings of Inquiry Committee and reply of Dr B Rajagopal thereon was placed before the Board for consideration.

BM 159.16.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board decided to award minor penalty to Dr. B. Rajagopal by censuring him in respect of Disciplinary Inquiry conducted against him.

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

Item No. 17 **To consider extension of validity period of Advertisement for various teaching posts advertised vide No.2/ACD/2022 dated 31.12.2022 (Employment News dated 7-14 January 2023)**

BM 159.17.1 The Board approved the extension of validity period of Advertisement for various teaching posts advertised vide No.2/ACD/2022 dated 31.12.2022 (Employment News dated 7-14 January 2023) by six months i.e. upto 15.02.2025 to complete the selection process.

ITEM NO. 18 To consider the report of Inquiry Officer in respect of Disciplinary Inquiry conducted and the comments received on the same from Dr. S Srinivas, Regional Director, RC Jabalpur against the chargesheet Memorandum dated 22.6.2023 under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965

BM 159.18.1 The item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the disciplinary proceedings were initiated against Dr. S Srinivas, Regional Director, IGNOU under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965 as adopted by IGNOU in relation to its employees. The Article of Charges were framed by the Disciplinary Authority, IGNOU against Dr. S Srinivas, Regional Director (Charged Officer) and the Chargesheet Memorandum vide F. No. IG/TA/1/351/98/1360 dated 22nd June 2023 was served to the Charged Officer. Following were the Article of charges framed against Dr. S Srinivas, Charged Officer:

1. Drawing salary of non-existing daily wagers engaged at Regional Centre and payments have been made on fake bills and without any bill.
2. Drawing payments against fictitious bills/vouchers submitted for day-to-day expenses.
3. Utilization of RC funds for personal use and did not obtaining approval of higher authorities in case of purchase beyond the delegated powers of Regional Director.
4. Drawing payments against bills pertaining to printing of re-registration forms of BA/B Com/B Sc course which were never got printed.
5. Misbehaviour/harassment by the Regional Director with the students and visiting the Regional Centre and staff appointed at Regional Centre, Port Blair.

In response to the Memorandum, Dr. S. Srinivas vide his reply dated 13.07.2023, refuted the allegations. The matter was placed before the Vice Chancellor and as per decision of the BOM vide Resolution No.154.15.3, the Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officers were appointed to inquire into the allegations vide Office Order No.350-351 dated 2.8.2023. The matter was reported to the Board at its 157th meeting held on 26.09.2023. The Inquiry proceedings have been completed and the Report of the Inquiry Officer has been submitted on 26.03.2024. The report has been shared

with Dr. S Srinivas vide letter dated 24.04.2024 for his comments. Subsequently, a reply has been received from Dr. S Srinivas vide letter dated 15.05.2024 and mail dated 17.05.2024. The reply of the Charged Officer against the Inquiry Report alongwith a comparative statement thereon was also placed before the Board for consideration.

BM 159.18.2 After due deliberations, the Board decided to award major penalty to Dr. S. Srinivas, Regional Director, RC Jabalpur by reduction of pay of Dr S Srinivas to a lower stage in the time scale of pay by deducting five increments with cumulative effect. Accordingly, the pay of Dr S Srinivas will be reduced by five increments on his current post. Reduction will have cumulative effect i.e. these five increments shall remain deducted for his service period. He will, however be eligible to earn annual increments, if otherwise admissible, prospectively from the stage of pay reduced as hereinabove. He would also get other service benefits, if otherwise eligible.

Item No. 19 **To consider the report of Inquiry Officer in respect of Disciplinary Inquiry conducted and the comments received on the same from Sh. S. Saunand, the then Assistant Regional Director, RC Portblair against the chargesheet Memorandum dated 22.6.2023 under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965**

BM 159.19.1 The Board was informed that as per the BOM decision made in its 154th meeting the disciplinary proceeding was initiated against Sh. Somasi Saunand, Asst. Regional Director, IGNOU under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965 as adopted by the IGNOU in relation to its employees. The article of Charges were framed by the Disciplinary Authority, IGNOU against Sh. Somasi Saunand (Charged Officer) and Chargesheet Memorandum No.IG/TA/1/457/01/1361 dated 22nd June, 2023 was served to the Charged Officer. Following were the Article of charges framed against Sh. Somasi Saunand, Charged Officer:

1. Drawing salary of non-existing daily wagers engaged at Regional Centre and payments have been made on fake bills and without any bill.
2. Drawing payments against fictitious bills/vouchers submitted for hiring of taxi.
3. Utilization of RC funds for personal use and not obtaining approval of higher authorities in case of purchase beyond the delegated powers of

Regional Director.

4. Bill adjustment at Regional Centre level without approval of Regional Services Division.
5. Drawn double HRA while posted at Port Blair as Regional Director.
6. Hoarding money for organizing seminar in a separate account.

In response to the Memorandum, vide their reply dated 13.07.2023, Sh. Somasi Saunand refuted the allegations. The matter was placed before the Vice Chancellor and as per decision of the BOM vide Resolution No.154.15.3, the Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officers were appointed to inquire into the allegations against Sh. Somasi Saunand vide Office Order No. 350-351 dated 2.8.2023. The matter was reported to the Board at its 157th meeting held on 26.09.2023. The Inquiry proceedings have been completed and the Report of the Inquiry Officer has been submitted on 26.03.2024. The report has been shared with Shri S. Saunand vide letter dated 26.04.2024 for his comments. Subsequently, a reply has been received from Shri S. Saunand vide Letter and mail dated 10.05.2024. The reply of the Charged Officer against the Inquiry Report alongwith a comparative statement thereon was also placed before the Board.

BM 159.19.2 After due deliberations, the Board decided to award major penalty to Sh. S. Saunand, the then Assistant Regional Director, RC Portblair by reduction of pay of Shri S Saunand to a lower stage in the time scale of pay by deducting five increments with cumulative effect. Accordingly, the pay of Shri S Saunand will be reduced by five increments on his current post. Reduction will have cumulative effect i.e. these five increments shall remain deducted for his service period. He will, however be eligible to earn annual increments, if otherwise admissible, prospectively from the stage of pay reduced as hereinabove. He would also get other service benefits, if otherwise eligible.

Item No. 20 **To consider the recommendations of the Committee to finalise the share of royalty and charges for licencing & copyright, etc. for the IGNOU programmes which will be developed later on by the Open University of Kenya**

BM 159.20.1 The Board ratified the recommendations of the Committee to finalise the share of royalty and charges for licencing & copyright, etc. for the IGNOU programmes, as proposed in the agenda which will be developed later on by the Open University of Kenya (**Appendix-1**).

Item No. 21 To confirm the minutes of the 71st meeting of the Purchase Committee, a Standing Committee of the Board of Management held on 15.03.2024

BM 159.21.1 The Board considered the minutes of 71st meeting of the Purchase Committee held on 15.03.2024 and deliberated upon its recommendations.

The matter of procurement for Strengthening of ICT Infrastructure of the University was placed in the meeting. Two separate Committees had submitted their report on ICT upgradation at IGNOU Convention Centre & Smart Class Rooms” and “Strengthening of Campus networking and Strengthening of Campus Surveillance System”. The cumulative estimated amount was Rs.40.73 crores. The Committee observed the estimated cost of the proposal for procurement for Strengthening of Campus Networking and Surveillance System was much higher than the available HEFA loan and, hence, deferred the proposal with a direction to follow the extant rules/procedure in the matter. The Committee approved the proposal for the ICT upgradation at IGNOU Convention Centre and Smart Classrooms as the same was within the available budget under HEFA.

The Committee also considered the procurement of 1250 MS Office Professional Plus 2021 ALng LTSC Licenses for the All-in-One Desktop Computers and a Secondary Internet Bandwidth of 512 Mbps. It also considered the relevance of procurement of licenses to replace the old MS Office 2007 and a secondary internet bandwidth of 512 Mbps to strengthen the internet connectivity to ensure smooth running of all the digital services in the University.

BM 159.21.2 The Board after due deliberations, approved the recommendations made by the 71st Purchase Committee.

Item No. 22 To confirm the minutes of the 82nd meeting of the Establishment Committee, a Standing Committee of the Board of Management held on 06.06.2024

BM 159.22.1 The Board was apprised of all the agenda items and deliberations thereon by the Establishment Committee in its 82nd meeting, as placed under:

- (i) The EC approved the lifting of probation and confirmation of Teachers, Academics and Group A officers, grant of MACP to all eligible Non-academic employees as per 7th CPC and placement of eligible Group A officers in Senior Scale and modification in the R&P Rules in respect of Assistant Executive Engineers (Civil).
- (ii) The EC referred matters like one-time promotion against direct recruitment posts, NFSG to Assistants/Stenographers, restructuring

of computer cadre etc. to the Finance Committee for looking into the wider financial implications. In the matter of Dr. Padmini Jain regarding wrong declaration in Annexure D, the EC recommended to refer the same to Vigilance Cell. The EC further recommended to refer the matter of Dr. Sanjay Aggarwal regarding pay protection and counting of past services of Private University in IGNOU to DOPT for directions.

- (iii) In the case of Dr. Reeta Sinha, the EC did not accede to her request for induction into GPF cum Pension Scheme and transfer her (Old Pension Scheme), gratuity and earned leave from her previous institution to IGNOU and recommended to refer the matter to the BOM.
- (iv) In a case related to regularisation of leave of Dr. Kannan Sharma, the EC recommended to place the matter before the BOM.
- (v) As regards the matter related to grant of Lien and pay protection of Dr. Manoj Tirkey, the EC recommended to grant him Lien against his substantive post till his confirmation. However, he would not be eligible to seek promotion in his substantive post.
- (vi) In the matter of initiating recruitment process for the post of Assistant, the EC recommended to explore the possibilities to conduct the examinations under direct recruitment quota from a Govt. agency and report the matter to the Board of Management.

BM 159.22.2 The Board considered and approved the minutes of the 82nd meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 06.06.2024 (**Appendix-2**).

Item No. 23 **To consider and approve the Revised Estimate amounting to Rs.1167.00 lakhs provided by CPWD for construction of Regional Centre building at Rajkot**

BM 159.23.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the Government of Gujarat had allotted 2.0 acres of land for establishment of permanent building of IGNOU RC Rajkot in 2013. With the approval of the Works Committee, Board of Management and Ministry of Education, A/A&E/S amounting to Rs.877.42 lakhs was issued to CPWD on 30.07.2020. The project was funded through HEFA. The CPWD while handing over the building to the University in 2023, further demanded Rs.148 lakhs. The CPWD in its response to the University letter dated 22.02.2023 seeking justification, stated that the increase in cost was due to escalation in cost of material/labour, increase in GST from 12% to 18%, other factors such as technical & structural requirement, execution of work as per layout plan/drawings duly approved by local body, topographical

condition of site, provision of stilt parking in building and space constrains around the building etc.

The Works Committee was apprised that the CPWD has demanded two different amounts within a short period of two months i.e. 148.33 lakhs on 11.03.2023 and Rs.289.23 lakhs on 29.05.2023.

The University apprised the Director General, CPWD of non-adherence of the provisions of MOU by CPWD Rajkot. In response, the Executive Engineer (P&WA)-II, Directorate General, CPWD, New Delhi referred to the justification of revised estimate given by the O/o Chief Engineer, Gandhinagar, CPWD amounting to Rs.11.67 crore apparently, due to mandatory requirements by local bye-laws and to ensure timely completion of the project, the cost has increased. DG, CPWD office has requested to take up the matter of sanctioning the RPE at the appropriate level as fait-accompli and convey the revised A/A & E/S at the earliest, so that the contractual liability can be met without any contractual complications.

BM 159.23.2 The Board considered the recommendation of the 82nd Works Committee and approved the revised estimate amounting to Rs.1167.00 lakhs and to release remaining amount to the CPWD through HEFA loan sanctioned by Ministry of Education.

Item No. 24 **To consider issue related to payment of Non-Practising Allowance (NPA) to Teachers of the University**

BM 159.24.1 The Board was explained that as per guidelines of the UGC for sanctioning non-practising allowance to teachers holding medical qualifications, the University has been granting Non Practising Allowance to the Teachers of the University holding medical qualifications working in the School of Health Sciences (SOHS). Further, as per approval by the 57th Finance Committee and 93rd Board of Management, the NPA was paid to two teachers of the School of Agriculture having veterinary qualifications. Accordingly, the University continued to pay NPA to the Teachers of Discipline of Health Sciences in the School of Health Sciences with medical qualification and Teachers of SOA with veterinary qualifications.

It was informed that the payment of NPA was also provisioned in the recommendation of the 5th and 6th Central Pay Commission reports which were adopted by the University. However, as per 7th CPC, an OM was

issued by the Ministry of Finance, Deptt of Expenditure vide F.No.12-2/2016-E III-A dated 7th July 2017 regarding revision of rates of NPA in respect of Medical posts which has following conditions:

- (a) The post is a clinical one,
- (b) The post is a whole time post,
- (c) There is a ample scope for private practice and
- (d) It is necessary to prohibit private practice in public interest.

Meanwhile the matter of pay fixation on promotion in r/o Dr. Biplob Jamatia, SOHS was examined in light of the said OM and pay fixation recommended by the F&A Division without considering the NPA under 7th CPC. Similarly, the pay fixation on promotion in respect of one of the teachers of SOA having veterinary qualifications, Dr P Vijay Kumar is also under review and F & A Division has recommended discontinuation of NPA in the case. As on date there are five such cases of payment of NPA in the University, 03 in School of Health Sciences and 02 in School of Agriculture, out of which NPA in one case in SOHS has already been discontinued.

BM 159.24.2 The Board discussed the matter at length. The Board was of the opinion that discontinuing NPA may not be appropriate, however, keeping in view of OM dated 7th July 2017, the payment NPA to various Teachers of the University drawing NPA may be discontinued forthwith. The Board also directed to seek information related to practices of payment of NPA in other Universities and Institutions as well as seek clarification from UGC on the matter in the light of the OM dated 7th July 2017 of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure and place the same before the BOM.

Item No. 25 **To consider the status of recruitment to teaching and Academic posts in the University alongwith status of backlog vacancies for SC/ST/OBC/ EWS etc.**

BM 159.25.1 The Board noted the status of recruitment to Teaching and Academic posts in the University alongwith status of backlog vacancies for SC/ST/ OBC/EWS etc.

Item No. 26 **To ratify the recommendations of the Student Services Committee (SSC), a Standing Committee of the Board of Management, made at its 54th meeting held on 23rd April 2024**

BM 159.26.1 The Board ratified the Minutes of the Student Services Committee (SSC), Standing Committee of the BOM made at its 54th meeting held on 23rd April 2024. As regards the directions given by the SSC for overall improvement in the support services, the Board observed that point No. (h) of the brief recommendations mentioned in the agenda, was not reflected in the SSC minutes and suggested to rectify the same.

Item No. 27 **To consider the matter related to requests of transfer of newly appointed Regional Directors**

BM 159.27.1 The Board was informed that as per the Advertisement No. 01/2023/ACD dated 28.02.2023, after completion of recruitment process several Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors were appointed and posted at respective Regional Centres. Vide Clause No.12 of the Offer of Appointment, they were specifically asked to join the Regional Centre in case the offer was acceptable to them. Accordingly, the Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors accepted the offer and joined the Regional Centre.

The University has been regularly receiving requests from some of the Regional Directors to transfer and post them at their place of choice, some of which are given as under:

#	Name of Official and Designation	Present place of posting as per Offer of appointment	Place of posting requested for
1	Dr Saroj Ranjan, Regional Director	Madurai, Tamilnadu	Hindi speaking areas such as Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kolkata etc state
2	Dr Loganathan Vadivel, Regional Director	Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	Madurai, Tamilnadu
3	Dr Pradip Debnath	Siliguri, West Bengal	Agartala, Tripura Since his mother is not well ad wife works in a School in Tripura.

The Board was further informed that Dr Saroj Ranjan had joined at RC Madurai on 09.04.2024 (FN) and his formal order of appointment is yet to be issued and no salary has been released to him since he had to produce a revised medical fitness certificate from a District Hospital as per

conditions stipulated in the offer of appointment, which he has submitted. His documents are also being examined. Meanwhile, he applied for leave from 02.05.2024 to 17.05.2024, which was forwarded by RC Madurai to RSD for approval on 23.04.2024. in continuation, Dr. Saroj Ranjan extended his leave from 18.05.2024 to 24.05.2024 and further upto 20.06.2024 on medical grounds. This is a critical period for the University wherein examinations are going on and it appears he has been waiting for transfer to a place of his choice and is evasive in joining RC Madurai.

BM 159.27.2 The Board did not accede to the transfer requests of any of the officials and directed them to continue at the place of their posting. The Board also directed to issue an advisory cum caution notice to Dr. Loganathan Vadivel and Dr Pradip Debnath.

With regard to Dr Saroj Ranjan, the Board took a serious view and decided that his place of posting cannot be changed. The Board further directed to serve a Show Cause notice to Dr. Saroj Ranjan seeking explanation as to why his services in the University should not be terminated in view of his unauthorised absence from duty, neglect of work and evasive and pressure tactics for transfer to his place of choice.

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

Item No. 28 **To consider the matter related to unauthorized absence of Dr Swapnil Gupta, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Centre Shimla**

BM 159.28.1 The Board was informed that Dr Swapnil Gupta was appointed against the post of Assistant Regional Director (OBC-NCL) and requested to join the Regional Centre Shimla. He accepted the offer and joined his duties on 14.03.2024. Vide Clause No.12 of the Offer of Appointment, he was specifically asked to join the Regional Centre in case the offer was acceptable to him. Accordingly, he accepted the offer and joined the Regional Centre Shimla.

The Regional Director, RC Shimla vide its letter and email dated 14.05.2024 informed that Dr. Swapnil Gupta had joined as Assistant Regional Director in RC Shimla on 14th March, 2024 (F/N) and remained on leave as per details given below:

- (i) Joined on 14.3.2024, left for home town and remained absent with effect from 15.3.2024 to 31.3.2024.
- (ii) Joined office on 1.4.2024, left for home town on 5.4.2024 and remained absent till 30.4.2024 without any intimation.
- (iii) Attended the National Conference at IGNOU Hqrs. New Delhi on 25 & 26 April, 2024 for which he has informed the Regional Centre accordingly.
- (iv) Joined office on 1.5.2024 and again left for home town on 3.5.2024. He has neither informed the Regional Centre nor joined his duties till today i.e. on 14.5.2024.

It was further informed that Academic Coordination Division vide its mail dated 16.05.2024 informed the Regional Centre and Regional Services Division that the salary of the Official may be stopped immediately and also sought all the leave applications alongwith a detailed note on the work assigned and carried out/not carried out by him as well as a status of number of days he has worked in RC and work carried out.

In this context, the Board was apprised the DoPT Office Memorandum No. 13026/3/2012-Estt(Leave) dated 28th March 2013 relating to unauthorized absence.

BM 159.28.2 The Board took a serious note on the unauthorized absence of Dr Swapnil Gupta, Assistant Regional Director, RC Shimla and decided to serve him a Show-Cause notice asking him as to why his services in the University may not be terminated in view of his unauthorized absence and neglecting office. The Board also directed to prepare a detail/ data of his unauthorized absence and no salary be released/recovery be made for those periods, as per the extant rules.

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

Item No. 29 **To consider and approve the draft Annual Report for the year 2023-24**

BM 159.29.1 The Board approved the Annual Report of the University for the Financial Year 2023-24 and authorized the University to submit the same to the Ministry for placing before both the Houses of Parliament, as required under Section 28, read with provision under Statute 25 of the IGNOU Act.

The Board confirmed this item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in

this regard for implementation.

Item No. 30 To consider and approve draft MOU to be signed between MoE and IGNOU as per rule 229(xi) of GFR 2017 for seeking grants in the Financial Year 2024-25

BM 159.30.1 The Board ratified the signing of MOU with MoE as per rule 229(xi) of GFR 2017 for seeking grants in the Financial Year 2024-25; reflecting performance indicators (measurable), achievements in previous Financial Year 2023-24 and proposed targets in 2024-25.

Item No. 31 Reporting of discontinuation of the CBCI Chair at School of Social Work on their request

BM 159.31.1 The University had signed an MoU with the CBCI and launched various programmes successfully. The Executive Committee of the CBCI has desired to discontinue the Chair since the major objectives of the MOU have been fulfilled.

BM 159.31.2 The Board approved discontinuation of the CBCI Chair at School of Social Work on the request of the Executive Committee of the CBCI.

Item No. 32 To consider the proportionality of punishment imposed upon Dr. Ranganath Nandyal, former Reader, Discipline of English, School of Humanities, IGNOU keeping in view the similar case of Dr Manoj Kulshrestha, SOET in accordance with the Orders of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 28.03.2024 in WPC 12834/2005 and CM application 9634/2005 Vs IGNOU and others

BM 159.32.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that Dr. Ranganath Nandyal was appointed as Lecturer and was subsequently appointed as Reader in English w.e.f. 24.10.1991. While working as Reader in English in the School of Humanities of the University, the University had received complaints regarding plagiarism against Dr R Nandyal and he was served with a Memorandum on 17.09.2003 under Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 adopted by the University in relation to its employees. After the findings of the Inquiry Officer in the disciplinary proceedings initiated against Dr. Ranganath Nandyal, the matter was placed before the Board at its 83rd meeting held on 23.07.2005 and with the approval of the BoM, the penalty of removal from the

services of the University w.e.f. 25.07.2005 was imposed on him.

Dr. Nandyal preferred a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the year 2005 against the penalty awarded to him. He appealed to the Vice Chancellor and to the Hon'ble President of India as Visitor of the University for reviewing the dismissal order given by IGNOU on 25.07.2005 vide his representation dated 21.10.2007. The MHRD asked for the factual position along with comments of the University. The entire disciplinary case of Dr. Ranganath Nandyal was referred to Shri Sanjay Parikh, Advocate, Supreme Court of India for detailed examination. The BoM at its 98th meeting held on 14.01.2009 considered the Item and decided as under:

“The Item was taken up for consideration. In the light of discussions and deliberations made in the case of Dr. S.S. Dubey [(tem No.7), the Board was of the opinion that the matter needs to be re-examined with regard to the quantum of penalty imposed on Dr. R. Nandyal. The matter was, therefore, deferred for taking a firm view to decision with regard to the quantum of penalty imposed upon Dr. R. Nandyal and further necessary action, till the next meeting of the Board.”

Further, Dr. Ranganath Nandyal represented vide his request dated 7th April, 2009, which was placed before the BoM at its 101st meeting held on 12.08.2009. The Board however, decided that the case stood closed and shall not be reopened. The decision of the 101st BOM was communicated to Dr R Nandyal vide University letter dated 22.09.2009.

The Board was further informed that meanwhile, in the Writ Petition filed by Dr. R. Nanadayal vide WP(C) 12834/2005 and CM application 9634/2005 Vs IGNOU and three others in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi passed the orders dated 28.03.2024 issued on 04.04.2024 which, *inter alia*, ordered as under:

“...53. Keeping in view the above observations and analysis, this Court is of the considered opinion that the present Petition calls for remand to the Disciplinary Authority (Board of Management of the respondent University) for the de-novo consideration only in respect of the proportionality of punishment imposed, keeping in view the similar case of Dr Kulshrestha and passing a suitable order thereon. An opportunity of hearing may be granted to the petitioner to the aforesaid extent only. The said exercise be carried out within a period of 8 weeks from today.

Needless to state that the order passed thereon be furnished to the petitioner within 1 week thereafter.

54. The present Writ Petition is allowed in part with the aforesaid limited directions with no order as to costs.....”

Keeping in view the timeline set up by the Hon'ble High Court, the University vide its letter F.No.IG/1-14/(650)/LC/HC/Del/2005/2549 dated 01.05.2024, granted a hearing opportunity to Dr R Nandyal to represent his case to the extent as ordered by the Hon'ble High Court and hear him in person and an Empowered Committee was constituted under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Satyakam, the then Pro-Vice Chancellor to hear the view point of Dr R Nandyal. Vide letter dated 01.05.2024, Dr Ranganath Nandyal was also requested to submit his representation in writing, alongwith all supporting documents, as per Orders passed by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 28.03.2024 so that the same can be placed before the Board of Management of the University.

The Board was apprised of an email dated 07.05.2024 from the Legal Counsel of Dr R Nandyal, Advocate Ms Urvi Mohan requesting, *inter alia*, to also allow the Legal Counsel to accompany Dr R Nandyal for the said personal hearing, especially given his advanced age and health concerns. The Legal Counsel also proposed either 16.05.2024 or 17.05.2024 at 4-4.30 pm. for the said personal hearing. Dr R Nandyal through his Legal Counsel, Advocate Ms Urvi Mohan also submitted his written representation vide email dated 14.05.2024. As suggested by the Counsel the said personal hearing was held on 17.5.2024 at 4.05 pm. The Committee heard the view points of Dr R Nandyal and the Petitioner in WPC 12834/2005 & CM APPL. 9634/2005 before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in person. Dr R Nandyal, supported by his Legal Counsel, put forth his view points in details.

After listening to Dr Nandyal, the Committee gave an option to Dr Nandyal for any addition or updation to his representation dated 14.05.2024. Vide their email dated 20.05.2024 the Legal Counsel of Dr R Nandyal informed that while Dr. Nandyal does not wish to make any further changes to the said Representation, however, a copy of the Minutes of Meeting dated 12.08.2009, i.e, the 101st meeting of the Board of Management dated 12.08.2009 was forwarded on which Dr. Ranganath Nandyal sought to additionally place reliance on. A copy of the Proceedings of Hearing dated 17.05.2024 alongwith Written submissions

of Dr R Nandyal are enclosed as **Appendix-3**.

Since the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has directed the Disciplinary Authority (Board of Management of the respondent University) for the de-novo consideration only in respect of the proportionality of punishment imposed, keeping in view the similar case of Dr Kulshrestha and passing a suitable order thereon, a copy of the Report of Inquiry Committee and penalty imposed upon Dr Manoj Kulshrestha was also placed before the Board. The Board considered the same.

BM 159.32.2 The Board examined the Reports of Inquiry Officers in case of Dr Manoj Kulshrestha and Dr R Nandyal alongwith the Orders of Hn'ble High Court of Delhi in WP(C) 12834/2005 & CM APPL. 9634/2005 in the aforementioned matter. The Board also perused the written submissions of Dr R Nandyal submitted through his Legal Counsel.

The Board noted that the two cases of plagiarism in respect of Dr Manoj Kulshrestha and Dr R Nandyal cannot be equated simply on the ground that both were cases of plagiarism. Both the cases were inquired by inquiry committees. The quantum of plagiarism has been a key factor in deciding the penalty.

In case of Dr R Nandyal, the inquiring Authority had exhaustively given opportunities to Dr R Nandyal to defend his act and the decision to award penalty of removal from the services of the University w.e.f. 25.07.2005 was imposed on Dr Nandyal after following due process. As detailed out in the minutes of 83rd BOM wherein the report of Inquiry Officer was placed and the Office Order No. 640 dated 25.07.2005 the matter has been exhaustively examined and a detailed and comprehensive order was issued by the University. Infact the Board of Management at its 83rd meeting held on 23.07.2005 had considered the Report of the inquiring Authority in the Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Dr R Nandyal reader in English on the charge of copying the text of the Study material published in Australia for IGNOU Study material MEG 09(Australian Literature), Block 7 b, the observations of the defense submitted by Dr R Nandyal, the Board of Management had come to the conclusion that Dr R Nandyal, Reader in English had copies and plagiarized the text material, verbatim, from Unit No. 2,3 and 4 of Block 7b of IGNOU Study material MEG-09 (Australian Literature) from the text books titled 'a Study Guide to Jessica Anderson's "Tirra Lirra by the River" by Valerie McRoberts, and

“narrative in the Mirror: Jessica Anderson, Tirra Lirra by the River” by Wenche Ommundsen and Ron Vowels (A chapter in the book entitled “mapping the narrative Territory” published by Deakin University), and misrepresented the same as his work and misled the University that he was the author of the said work and on the basis thereof, the University printed the said work. He had behaved in a manner most unbecoming of a teacher of the University, which rendered him unfit to continue as a teacher of the University. Accordingly, based on the decision of Board, Dr R Nandyal was awarded penalty of removal from services of the University.

On the other hand Dr Manoj Kulshrestha had not copied any text material from any outside printed text. There was no malafide intention on the part of Dr Manoj Kulshrestha since the material in question belonged to IGNOU (Management programme of IGNOU) and was adepted/adapted for use by IGNOU (Engineering programme of IGNOU).

Therefore the two cases i.e. Dr R Nandyal and Dr Manoj Kulshrestha can not be equated. Moreover, even if University tries to enhance the penalty in case of Dr Manoj Kulshrestha, it is not in a position to do so since Dr Manoj Kulshrestha is no more and has left for heavenly abode a few years back.

BM 159.32.3 After detailed deliberation, the Board reiterated its earlier decision taken in its 83rd meeting held on 23.07.2005 of awarding penalty to Dr R Nandyal of removal from the services of the University w.e.f. 25.07.2005 as communicated vide Office Order No. 640, F.No. AD/2/A/240/87/1856 dated 25th July 2005.

The Board further directed to communicate a speaking order to Dr. R Nandyal on the matter within 07 days from the date of receipt of the Board Minutes.

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

Item No. 33 **To consider the matter related to non-cooperation and denial to share information by Ms. Sruthi Samuel, Assistant Professor, SOET**

BM 159.33.1 The Board noted the non-cooperation and denial to share the requisite information by Ms. Sruthi Samuel, Assistant Professor, SOET and

directed to issue a note of caution cum advisory to her. The Board further directed that Ms. Sruthi Samuel be asked to submit the details of academic activities undertaken by her during last 10 years in the University especially with regard to course design and development, programme launch, SLM written and edited, question papers set/moderated etc. for IGNOU.

Item No. 34 Report on Upgradation of Technology Infrastructure at Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC)

BM 159.34.1 The Board noted and appreciated the efforts being done for upgradation of Technology Infrastructure at Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) of the University which will be very useful in ICT and electronic media enabled outreach of the University across the country and abroad.

Item No. 35 Report on closure of four GyanVani FM Stations

BM 159.35.1 The Board noted the discontinuation of four GyanVani Stations at Jaipur, Nagpur, Cochin and Lucknow.

Item No. 36 To report the matter of re-appointment of Prof. Uma Kanjilal to the post of Pro-Vice Chancellor

BM 159.36.1 The Board ratified the re-appointment of Prof. Uma Kanjilal to the post of Pro-Vice Chancellor w.e.f. 25.03.2024 (F/N).

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

Item No. 37 To report the matter of entrusting the charge of the post of Registrar, SED to Prof. Uma Kanjilal, PVC w.e.f. 25.05.2024

BM 159.37.1 The Board was informed that Dr. V.B. Negi had superannuated from the post of Registrar (Student Evaluation Division) and now the charge of Registrar (SED) has been entrusted to Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Pro-Vice Chancellor w.e.f. 25.05.2024 in addition to her duties as PVC.

Item No. 38 To report the matter of appointment of Officer on Special Duty in Student Evaluation Division (SED) to Dr. V.B.Negi, the then Registrar, SED

BM 159.38.1 The Board was informed that Dr. V.B. Negi has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty in Student Evaluation Division for a period of six months w.e.f. 25.05.2024 (F/N) due to exigencies of examination process. Dr. Negi joined the position immediately.

Item No. 39 **To consider the Minutes of the Works Committee, Standing Committee of the BOM made in its 82nd meeting held on 27.03.2024**

BM 159.39.1 The Board considered and approved the minutes of the Works Committee, Standing Committee of the BOM made in its 82nd meeting held on 27.03.2024.

Item No. 40 **To report the progress on buildings and constructions at different Regional Centres**

BM 159.40.1 The Board noted that the University has now developed permanent building infrastructure in 21 Regional Centres which includes geographically disadvantaged areas like Portblair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and North Eastern States like Aizwal, Agartala & Shillong. The Board also noted that the CPWD has started the construction work for the RC building at Vijayawada while at Nagpur, the building plan is being finalized. Similarly, at Imphal and Itanagar preliminary activities relating to construction of building were started.

Item No. 41 **To consider the nomination in the Search Committee for the selection of the Vice Chancellor, IGNOU**

Resolution Separate Confidential Part-Minutes issued and sent to MoE immediately.

Item No. 42 **To consider the proposal to avail HEFA Loan for construction of Regional Centre buildings (Nagpur, Imphal and Itanagar) and ICT Upgradation**

BM 159.42.1 The Board was informed that the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) had sanctioned term loan of Rs.75 cr. vide letter SAN/IGNOU/88/2020-21 dated 23.06.2020. The fund included Rs.47.25 cr. for the construction of RC buildings at Trivandrum, Pune, Port Blair and Rajkot. Rs.12.75 cr. for ICT upgradation and 15 cr. for EMPC project (Mainly equipment). The construction of 04 RC buildings has been completed. The ICT upgradation i.e 12 node HCI clusters, storage, firewall, load-balancer and All-in-One computer was procured and installed. The EMPC Project

of Rs.15 cr. is also completed. The completion report was submitted to HEFA as well as to the MoE.

Under Phase-II, HEFA has sanctioned term loan of Rs.71 cr. out of which 50 cr. for the construction of Administrative Block and 21 cr. for Strengthening of ICT Infrastructure. For construction of Administrative Block, there is requirement of cutting and shifting of 40 numbers of trees. The Ridge Management Board has recommended this matter to Central Empowered Committee (CEC). The CEC examined the proposal of the University and requested District Magistrate (South Delhi) for demarcation of the land at the earliest vide letter dated 24/05/2024 (Annexure-II). Out of 21 cr. for ICT Upgradation, Rs. 6 cr. is earmarked for Convention Centre and Smart Class rooms for which tender process is completed and work order is to be issued. Remaining 15 cr. is earmarked for Campus Networking and Surveillance and the Technical Specification Committee has finalized the specifications and has estimated an amount of Rs.34.8 cr. for the same.

The Board was also informed that under the III Phase, the University intends to avail HEFA loan for the following projects.

1. Construction of RC Building at Nagpur

University is allotted land measuring to 3364.29 Sqm. by the Govt. of Maharashtra on lease basis on payment of Rs.2,27,96,098/- . CPWD has provided the drawings for construction of RC building to University for approval and after approval of drawings CPWD will provide the estimates for construction of Regional Centre building and boundary wall.

2. Construction of RC Building at Imphal

The Govt. of Manipur has allotted 1 acre of land for establishment of Regional Centre at Imphal. CPWD has provided estimate amounting to Rs.19,65,85,000/- for construction of Regional Centre Building of floor area 489.55 sqm. as a single floor structure at Imphal. The estimate was placed before the 82nd Works Committee meeting held on 27.03.2024. The Works Committee has approved the drawings and directed to request CPWD to review the design and provide the revised estimate by adopting light structure design for construction of Regional Centre Building at Imphal. The revised estimate is awaited from CPWD.

3. Construction of RC Building at Itanagar

The University has informed Dy. Commissioner, Itanagar that for construction of Regional Centre building IGNOU requires only 2500 sqm. land. The final re-allotment of land is awaited from Govt. of Arunanchal Pradesh. As and when the re-allotment of land is received from Govt. of Arunanchal Pradesh, CPWD will be requested to provide the revised estimate for construction of RC building and boundary wall at Itanagar.

4. Upgradation of ICT Infrastructure

The HEFA has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 15 crores for upgradation of Campus Networking and Surveillance. The Technical Specification Committee has submitted the estimate of Rs. 34.8 cr. for the same. Hence the additional amount of Rs. 19.8 cr. is required to cover the whole Campus under the upgradation which includes future expansion.

BM 159.42.2 The Board approved the proposal to avail HEFA Loan for construction of Regional Centre buildings at Nagpur, Imphal and Itanagar and Upgradation of ICT Infrastructure

Item No. 43 **To consider the status of Recruitment Process for the post of Junior Assistant cum Typist through NTA**

BM 159.43.1 The Board was informed of the status of recruitment process for the post of Junior Assistant cum Typist through NTA, as under:

- (1) The online Computer Based Test (CBT) for the post of Junior Assistant cum Typist was conducted by NTA on 31.07.2023. Thereafter, National Testing Agency uploaded on their website a list of 2440 candidates who had been declared qualified in the CBT. The NTA conducted typing test on 18.09.2023 and 19.09.2023 for candidates qualified in the CBT. Based on the performance of Computer Based Test (CBT) and Typing Test, the NTA declared a list of 199 finally qualified candidates for the post of JAT on their website on 05.10.2023.
- (2) The University examined the result provided by NTA and many shortfalls/discrepancies were found in the result. The observations were shared with the NTA vide letter dated 17.11.2023. In response, NTA submitted a reply vide email dated 01.12.2023, in which NTA

offered to conduct a second stage exam of JAT for the finally selected 199 candidates.

- (3) The matter was examined at the University level and the competent authority accepted the above proposal of NTA to re-conduct the examination for the post of JAT as per syllabus prescribed earlier. On 12.01.2024, NTA circulated a public notice regarding 2nd Stage examination for the post of Junior Assistant cum Typist mentioning that the syllabus would be same as contained in the information brochure on 21.03.2023 and test would be in pen and paper mode (P N P) mode.
- (4) This public notice of NTA was assailed by a number of candidates preferring various Writ Petitions before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court inter-alia praying for setting aside the decision of the NTA to carry out 2nd Stage written test scheduled on 31.01.2024 and to direct the University to appoint the selected candidates as per result declared by the NTA on 05.10.2023.
- (5) On hearing dated 23.01.2024, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court restrained the conduction of re-examination (which was scheduled on 31.01.2024) and directed the respondents (NTA and IGNOU) to file a counter affidavit and rejoinders, if any.
- (6) Subsequently, the University requested the NTA to provide complete data of recruitment process of JAT vide various communications. In response, NTA provided some data through email dated 12.02.2024. On scrutiny of the data provided by the NTA, the following important discrepancies among others came to the notice:
 - (i) The most important discrepancy in the result was that NTA qualified many candidates in the final merit list who did not even pass the typing test with speed @40 w.p.m. in English or @35 w.p.m in Hindi which was mandatory. It has been found that NTA had declared 83 such candidates (among 199 selected candidates) who have typing speed of less than 40 w.p.m in English.
 - (ii) It has also been observed that many candidates who had opted examination centre in Jammu, Jaipur etc. finally got qualified, whereas only one or two candidates qualified from most of the exam centers in other 50 cities spread across the country.
 - (iii) A total of 32 candidates were selected from exam centers in

Jammu. It has been noticed that out of these 32 candidates, 30 selected candidates are residents of Haryana who had opted Jammu as their Exam Centre. Although there were several exam centers in Haryana and nearby, but these candidates opted centers at Jammu.

- (iv) Furthermore, the application forms of the selected candidates as provided by NTA were incomplete and did not contain the certificate/mark sheets/other testimonials etc. Hence, it was difficult to examine the correctness or authenticity of their testimonials relating to age, educational qualifications and caste/category.
- (v) It was also noticed that court cases are filed by mostly those candidates who opted Centres in Jammu, Jaipur etc. and finally got qualified. It has also been observed that the representations received from various candidates have same content and same language, implying that these candidates are somehow linked to each other etc.

(7) In view of above discrepancies, the Ccompetent Aauthority constituted a committee to examine the process of exam conduction / result declaration by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for the said 200 post of Junior Assistant cum Typist (JAT) in IGNOU. The said committee met on 01.04.2024 and deliberated on the issue and examined the documents related to the entire process of recruitment. The committee recommended that :

“On the basis of above observations, the Committee is of the opinion that the entire process of conduction of exam and declaration of result by the NTA seems to be faulty. Hence, the committee proposed for scrapping of the aforesaid recruitment process of 200 JATs vide advertisement dated 21.03.2023 through the NTA.

As the matter is subjudiced before the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi, the Committee was of the opinion that, if approved by the Competent Authority, the Hon’ble Court may also be apprised of the above recommendation.”

(8) Accordingly, a Letter vide No.IG/Admn/Rectt/JAT/2023-24/510 dated 22.04.2024 has been sent to the NTA informing the decision of the University to scrap the said recruitment process of 200 JATs by the NTA.

(9) The University also filed its “Short Affidavit” in all the connected Writ Petitions and in terms of the recommendations of the said Committee, the Hon’ble Court was also apprised in respect of the recommendations of the Committee and the cmmunication of the same to the NTA which were duly filed as annexure (s) to the “Short Affidavit”.

(10) On 03.05.2024, the above connected writ petitions came up for hearing before the Hon’ble High Court wherein the following directions were passed :

“The issue as to whether there is any fault in the examination or not it is not clear since the NTA has asserted that the entire examination was conducted as per the SOP and the terms and conditions and other criteria as laid down by the IGNOU and as such they are appearing to be supporting the fact that the exams and its results are correct. It is only the IGNOU which is questioning the veracity of certain candidates. For this purpose the entire examination and its results can neither be withheld nor can the petitioners be put on hold till eternity. The next stage in any case was for verification of documents which too will not create any impediment or create any special rights in favour of the petitioners while this Court is in seisin of the present petitions. In any case the petitioners will have to give an undertaking to the IGNOU, if it is so required, post verification of the documents, on the statement of learned senior counsel and also other counsel to the effect they would not claim any special equity merely on the basis of document verification. That should, in the view of this Court, indemnify the IGNOU sufficiently. The petitioner shall remain bound by the statements of their counsel.

In that view of the matter, it is directed that the next stage of document verification be carried out by IGNOU in the meanwhile, within a period of six weeks from today.

All the formalities of submission of records by the petitioner to the authorities of IGNOU may commence within the same time line starting from 08.05.2024.

List the matter again on 25.09.2024.

(11) That, in furtherence of the decesion taken by the Universty in respect of the scrapping of the recruitent process, a Notification was also uploaded on the University website on 15.05.2024. However,

this has again been further agitated by various candidates/petitioners by way of filing various CM Applications. The same are being contested by the University on case to case basis in the light of the facts and circumstances of the present issue.

- (12) It is submitted that the University had taken a reasoned decision to scrap the recruitment process in view of the glaring discrepancies observed therein and the same was duly communicated to NTA and the Hon'ble Court was also apprised in respect of the recommendations of the Committee and the communication of the same to NTA vide Letter No. IG/Admn/Recrt/JAT/2023-24/510 dated 22.04.2024 which was duly filed as annexure (s) to the "Short Affidavit".
- (13) Now the University has also decided to approach the Hon'ble High Court by way of filing an LPA against the ad-interim directions / orders dated 03.05.2024 and the filing of the same is underway.

BM 159.43.2 The Board noted the above status of Recruitment Process for the post of Junior Assistant cum Typist through NTA.

Item No. 44 **To consider and approve the proposal for renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IGNOU and Indian Army**

BM 159.44.1 The Board approved the proposal for renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IGNOU and Indian Army.

Item No. 45 **To take a decision on the Judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of J & K in the matter of No.91/2016 titled "IGNOU Vs Bashir Ahmad SOFI & Ors"**

BM 159.45.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board was informed that the matter of LPA No.91/2016 titled "IGNOU Vs Bashir Ahmad Sofi & Ors." was listed before the Hon'ble High Court of J&K at Srinagar on 03.04.2024. Petitioners of this case have been working in IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar (J&K) since 1999 on contractual/daily wages. The Hon'ble Court vide its Judgment dated 03.04.2024 has disposed of the present matter. The relevant extract of the Judgment is reproduced herein below for ready reference:

"...In the facts and circumstances above stated, we cannot concur with the directions passed by the learned writ court in its impugned

judgment dated 14.03.2016. We hold that the learned writ court came to dawn upon itself the power and position of the employer i.e. respondent no. 2 – IGNOU in declaring the writ petitioners to be deemed to have been appointed on regular basis on the posts for which they came to be appointed on contractual basis and accordingly directing grant of all service benefits including salary in favour of the writ petitioners by reckoning their appointment on regular basis. The learned writ court overstepped its writ jurisdiction in positioning itself as the respondent no. 2 – IGNOU. We accordingly set aside the directions given in the impugned judgment.

However, we also come to hold that the petitioners have not been treated with clarity and fairness by the writ respondents 2 to 5, in particular by the respondent no. 2 – IGNOU.

The writ petitioners have invested good length of their life in service of the running of the writ respondent no. 2 – IGNOU’s Regional Centre Srinagar though by mode of getting engaged on daily wage/contractual basis but the recurring continuation/renewal of their respective engagement kept the functioning of the IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar and in the course of time implanted an impression in the understanding of the writ petitioners that they are quasi-permanent in terms of their employment in IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar.

We hold that respondent no. 2’s Regional Centres, in particular in the North-East, Sikkim and J&K, are in permanent establishment mode and, as such, have the cadre posts for employment and that is the reason that the petitioners came to be engaged and renewed in their engagement from time to time for working on the respective posts though on daily wage/contractual basis against the posts available. Therefore, it is for the Board of Management of the respondent no. 2 – IGNOU to consider the aspect as to whether long serving contractual employees like the petitioners can be regularized in terms of their employment/engagement or not, and get a reasoned decision passed thereupon keeping in view the policy and practice if any being followed by the respondent no. 2 – IGNOU.

We, therefore, hold that till the Board of Management of the respondent no. 2-IGNOU considers and decides about the regularization of the petitioners in their respective employment/engagement the petitioners shall continue to be in employment/engagement in IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar not to

be replaced by any mode of daily wagers/contractual employment or through manpower supplying agencies.

The respondent no. 5 Regional Director, Regional Centre Srinagar, IGNOU shall forward the case of the petitioners detailing their respective length of employment/engagement against the posts to the Board of Management of the respondent no. 2 – IGNOU within a period of one month whereupon the Board of Management of the respondent no. 2 shall consider and take a decision with respect to regularization of the petitioners in their respective employment/engagement.

Any decision on the part of the Board of Management of the respondent No.2-IGNOU to this effect in the event of being adverse to the petitioners shall entitle the petitioners to avail appropriate legal remedy as may be available at their respective end if they so desire at their respective discretion.

Letters patent appeal, thus, disposed of accordingly....”

As per the decision of the Hon'ble court, the Regional Director, Regional Centre Srinagar, IGNOU has forwarded the case of the petitioners detailing their respective length of employment/engagement against the posts. It is further submitted that, *as per the Court's order, it is for the Board of Management, IGNOU to consider the aspect as to whether long serving contractual employees like the petitioners can be regularized in terms of their employment/engagement or not, and thereby, get a reasoned decision passed thereupon keeping in view the policy and practice if any being followed by IGNOU.*

The Board was informed that the petitioners were purely on contractual basis and engaged at the local level in the fixed salary. The Petitioners cannot claim for regularization as they are contractual and are bound by term & conditions of the Contract. The Petitioner had also given undertakings stating that they shall not make any claims for absorption on regular basis. It was deliberated in detail by the members.

The Board was also apprised of a representation dated May 20, 2024 received from the said contractual staffs (the Petitioners in the aforesaid case).

BM 159.45.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board did not agree on regularization of contractual employees at Regional Centre, Srinagar and directed to issue a reasoned/speaking order in this regard.

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

Item No. 46 **To consider the instructions of Ministry of Education (MoE) regarding applicability of Rule 10 of CCS (INPS) Rules, 2021 to the employees of Central Autonomous Bodies**

BM 159.46.1 The Board was apprised of the communications vide letter no.11-1/2024-DL dated 19.04.2024 and No.23011/01/2024-IF.I(Pt.) dated 15.04.2024 received from the Ministry of Education endorsed therewith the Office Memorandum No.1(12)/EV/2021 dated 08.04.2021 of Ministry of Finance. Vide these communications; the University has been informed that as per the said OM, the Rule 10 of the Central Civil Services (Implementation of National Pension System) Rules, 2021 regarding “option to avail benefits on death or on invalidation or disability of subscribers during service” is not suo-moto applicable to the employees of Central Autonomous Bodies. It has been further clarified that extension of Rule of CCS (INPS) Rules, 2021 to the employees of Central Autonomous Bodies would be done on a case to case basis in consultation with DoE.

BM 159.46.2 The Board noted the instructions received from the Ministry of Education vide letter no.11-1/2024-DL dated 19.04.2024 for information and compliance and which supersedes the notification no.AD/2/NA/ATR/BM-145/2021/3491 dated 26.11.2021 issued by IGNOU.

Item No. 47 **To report the discontinuation of Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence (DACE)**

BM 159.47.1 Dr. Ambedkar Centre for Excellence came into being with the MOSJE and IGNOU entering into an MOU at Varanasi with an aim to empower the SC students through free coaching for Civil Services. The University had enrolled 100 students of which 08 students cleared preliminary exams and one qualified to the Mains.

The DACE Foundation has revised the scheme by discontinuing the distance mode of teaching. Accordingly, it became necessary to discontinue the scheme and close the DACE.

BM 159.47.2 The Board noted the discontinuation of Dr. Ambedkar Centre of

Excellence as the DACE Foundation has desired to run the programme in face to face mode.

Item No. 48 **To consider the adoption of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (4th Amendment) Regulations, 2024**

BM 159.48.1 The Board approved the adoption of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (4th Amendment) Regulations, 2024 in the University (**Appendix-4**).

Item No. 49 **To consider the Report of the Inquiry Officer in the Disciplinary Proceedings initiated against Sh. Sanjiv Kumar Hira, Section Officer, RC Port Blair under Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965**

BM 159.49.1 The Board was informed that Sh. Sanjiv Kumar Hira, Section Officer, RC Port Blair was charge-sheeted vide Memorandum F.No.AD/2/NA/3609/09/108 dated 16.01.2024. The Disciplinary Authority has appointed Prof. Satyakam, Former Pro-Vice Chancellor as Inquiry Officer and Sh. Manjeet Kumar, Assistant Registrar, Estt-I as Presenting Officer vide Orders dated 30.04.2024. Prof. Satyakam, the Inquiry Officer has submitted the Inquiry Report on 03.06.2024 for charges framed against Sh. Sanjiv Kumar Hira wherein the Inquiry Officer concluded in its report that “Article No.1, IV and V are not proved. Article No.II & III are partially proved whereas Article No.III was also partially admitted by the Charged Officer (CO)”. Pursuant to it, a copy of the Inquiry Report was forwarded to Sh. Sanjiv Kumar Hira (the Charged Officer) vide e-mail dated 07.06.2024 for making his representation, if any, within 07 days.

The response of Sh. Sanjiv Kumar Hira, Section Officer, RC Port Blair (the Charged Officer) has been received vide email dt. 14.06.2023. Sh. Sanjiv Hira has denied the charges framed against him.

BM 159.49.2 The Board after detailed discussion, decided to award penalty to Sh. Sanjiv Kumar Hira by reducing three annual increments from his salary with cumulative effect.

Item No. 50 To consider the Report of the Inquiry Officer in the Disciplinary Proceedings initiated against Sh. Nada Tado, Assistant Registrar, RC Guwahati under Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965

BM 159.50.1 The Secretary informed the Board that a Committee was constituted to enquire the matter related to financial mis-management at RC, Itanagar. The Committee had submitted its report dated 27.06.2019. The Committee recommended that suitable action against Sh. Nada Tado, Assistant Registrar and Sh. Subhakant Chhetri, Section Officer as per the IGNOU procedure may be initiated in order to avoid further damage to the University.

The matter was placed before the 135th Meeting of the Board of Management held on 19th July 2019 and the Board suggested that the matter be referred to the Chief Vigilance Officer of MHRD. Accordingly, a letter dated 11.09.2019 was sent to the Chief Vigilance Officer of MHRD alongwith the copy of the extract of 135th Minutes of the Board of Management and copy of the Report submitted by the Inquiry Committee for further action. The Ministry vide its letter No.C.13011/15/2021-Vig. dated 05.04.2021 advised to initiate departmental action against Sh. Nada Tado, AR and action be also taken to dis-continue the appointment of Ms. Nada Meena.

The Board was further informed that Sh. Nada Tado, Assistant Registrar, RC Guwahati (the then AR at RC Itanagar) was issued a charge-sheet vide Memorandum F.No.AD/2/NA/2018/584 dated 20.09.2023 under Rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 as adopted by the University in respect of its employees. Sh. Nada Tado had not admitted the charge framed against him vide his letter dated 29.09.2023.

The Board noted that the Disciplinary Authority has appointed Prof. Satyakam, Pro-Vice Chancellor as Inquiry Officer and Dr. S.K. Prasad, Director (NCDS) as Presenting Officer in r/o Inquiry against Sh. Nada Tado. Prof. Satyakam, Inquiry Officer has submitted the Inquiry Report on 01.06.2024 wherein the Inquiry Officer concluded in its report that “Article of Charge – Partially Proved.” Pursuant to it, a copy of the Inquiry Report was forwarded to Sh. Nada Tado vide e-mail dated 07.06.2024 for making his representation, if any, within 07 days. Sh. Nada Tado has submitted his response vide letter dated 09.06.2024 through e-mail dated 09.06.2024 for consideration of the Disciplinary Authority wherein he had denied the charge framed against him.

BM 159.50.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board noted that the Disciplinary inquiry has been conducted only on one charge wherein there are several serious charges against the official. Therefore, the Board directed to issue a revised and detailed Chargesheet covering all the charges/allegations in the matter and conduct a fresh disciplinary inquiry.

Item No. 51 **To consider the matter related to Leave availed by Dr. Kannan Sharma while working as Additional Director/Sr. Regional Director in Regional Centre, Delhi-II/Regional Services Division**

BM 159.51.1 The Board was informed that Dr. Kannan Sharma, Senior Regional Director is superannuating on 30th June, 2024 and has been suffering from cancer. As informed by Regional Service Division, during last one year, Dr. Kannan Sharma has availed Commuted Leave as under:

24.04.2023 to 26.04.2023 (03 days); 07.08.2023 to 08.08.2023 (02 days)
22.08.2023 to 24.08.2023 (03 days); 01.09.2023 to 01.09.2023 (01 day)
11.09.2023 to 22.09.2023 (12 days); 23.09.2023 to 22.11.2023 (61 days)
23.11.2023 to 10.01.2024 (49 days); Total: 131 days

It has also been observed that Dr. Kannan Sharma was also on leave without information during 11.01.2024 to 25.04.2024 (for 106 days), for which she had not submitted any Leave application to Director, Regional Services Division (RSD). She submitted her joining Report on 26.04.2024 informing Director, RSD that she has resumed her duties at Regional Centre, Delhi-2.

Since Dr Kanan Sharma is due to retire on 30.06.2024 and her retirement benefits are to be calculated by taking into account any leave availed/due etc, the Regional Services Division vide its letter dated 08.05.2024 communicated that Dr. Kannan Sharma, Sr. Regional Director has taken total 131 days Commuted Leave since 24.04.2023 and additional leave availed for 106 days for which no application/Medical/Fitness Certificates after joining the duties have been received. As far as during leave availed by her during 11.01.2024 to 25.04.2024 (for 106 days), RSD had asked Dr Kanan Sharma to submit Leave application and also submit Medical/Fitness Certificates for availing Commuted Leave. Subsequently very recently she has submitted backdated medical fitness certificate which are not in order/not in proper format. In so far as Travelling Allowance is concerned, no TA was paid to her since October 2023 to April 2024. The total leave availed by her on medical grounds but without medial certificate/uniformed leave are $131+106= 237$, which are to be taken into account.

It was further informed that Regional Centre, RC Delhi II had requested RSD to convert her medical leave of 21 days [24.04.2023 to 26.04.2023 (03 days); 07.08.2023 to 08.08.2023 (02 days); 22.08.2023 to 24.08.2023 (03 days); 01.09.2023 to 01.09.2023 (01 day); 11.09.2023 to 22.09.2023 (12 days)] to be converted into Earned Leave as per request of Dr Kanan Sharma.

The Board was also informed that since, her retirement is due in June, 2024, the retirement/terminal benefits were calculated and it has been observed that Dr. Kannan Sharma had 300+8 Earned Leave and 218 Half pay Leave to her credit. 131 days have been availed as Commuted Leave without submitting Medical/ Fitness Certificates and 106 days have been availed without informing the Authorities, total 237 days. These 237 days leave are required to be regularized for calculating her retirement benefits.

The Board was apprised about the relevant provision under Rule 24(3)(a) and Rule 25(1)&(2) for returning from Medical (Half Pay) Leave and absence after the expiry of leave as per Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972.

BM 159.51.2 The Board noted that Dr. Kanan Sharma is due to retire on 30.06.2024. The Board directed that the calculation of 237 days leave availed by Dr. Kanan Sharma be adjusted as earned Leave against the leave in her account as per extant rules. The Board further directed to release the Provident Fund, Gratuity and provisional pension @ 75% of admissible pension to Dr. Kanan Sharma till the final adjustment of her leave. The leave encashment of the remaining leave, if due, and full pension would be released on settlement of leave account and receipt of No dues certificates from respective departments.

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

Item No. 52 **To consider and approve the request of Prof. Satyakam, Pro-VC & Professor of Hindi, SOH for voluntary retirement from the services of University**

BM 159.52.1 The Board was informed that consequent upon his appointment as the Vice-Chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU), Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Prof. Satyakam, Pro-VC and Professor, Discipline of Hindi, School of Humanities, vide his letter dated 05.06.2024 requested the University to grant him lien against his

substantive post in the University till December 31, 2024 and relieve him on 06th June 2024 (A/N) to enable him to join as Vice Chancellor, UPRTOU. His request was considered by the Vice Chancellor as per the provisions of Leave Ordinance 8(ii),(iii),(iv) & (v). The University vide its Office Order No.192 dated 06.06.2024 allowed Prof Satyakam to join the said position by sanctioning the Extra Ordinary Leave (EOL) with Lien for a period w.e.f. 06.06.2024 to 31.12.2024 (date of his superannuation). The Board was further apprised that Prof. Satyakam vide his request dated 12.06.2024, applied for Voluntary Retirement from the services of the University w.e.f. 30th June 2024 and requested for waiving off the shortfall in Notice period i.e. a shortfall of about two and half months.

The Board was also informed that IGNOU Ordinances, Regulations and Statutes are silent on the issue of Voluntary Retirement and in lieu of which FR- 56 “Retirement” would be applicable in the instant case.

The Board noted the provisions of Para 1A(a) of FR 56 k(1) (a)&(b) Rule of FR 56 and also Rule 48 of FR 56. The Board also noted the following regarding waiving off Notice period, as per Statutes 17(11) as under:

- a teacher may, at any time, terminate his engagement by giving the Board of Management three months' notice in writing. Provided that the Board of Management may waive the requirement of notice at its discretion.

BM 159.52.2 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor taken in approving the Extra Ordinary Leave (EOL) with Lien to Prof. Satyakam, Pro-VC and Professor, Discipline of Hindi, School of Humanities, for a period w.e.f. 06.06.2024 to enable him join as Vice Chancellor, UPRTOU, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

The Board also approved the request of Prof. Satyakam for Voluntary Retirement from the services of the University w.e.f. 30th June 2024 (A/N) by waiving off the shortfall of notice period of around two and half months and releasing his retirement benefits as per extant rules.

BM 159.52.3 The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed to issue the Part-Minutes for issuance of Orders accordingly.

Item No. 53 **To consider the proposal of Revision of IGNOU's Schedule of Rates for Lawyers/Counsels engaged for representing the University in various matters**

BM 159.53.1 The Board was informed that as per the existing schedule of rates, the rates for appearances before High Court and at par Judicial authorities are Rs.1000/- and half of it for District and other Courts. Also for filing reply to the writ/suit is Rs. 4000/- for High Courts and half of it for District and other Courts. Besides there are Miscellaneous expenses and Clerkage which are normal expenses incurred towards Typing, Photocopy, Attestation & Notarization, obtaining certified copy of Order, Postal Registration charges, court stamp fee, etc., and engaging of clerical staff to perform these duties. The schedule of rates which was prepared almost three decades ago is silent about miscellaneous charges and clerkages.

The revision of IGNOU's Schedule of Rates for Lawyers/Counsels engaged for representing the University in various matters was proposed keeping in view the present circumstances for consideration of the Board. The Board noted that the same has been proposed on the basis of OM No.26(1)/2014/Judl. dated 01.10.2015 issued by Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India.

BM 159.53.2 Keeping in view the urgency and importance of a particular matter, the members suggested that the Vice Chancellor may engage the services of Additional Solicitor General/Designated Senior Advocates to argue the cases on behalf of the University on case to case basis, as per the rates quoted by them. The Vice Chancellor shall have the right in exceptional cases to order for payment of fee more than the fee mentioned in the schedule keeping in view the importance of the matter and the labour and effort put in by the advocate in a particular case. The Vice Chancellor shall also have the power to fix the fee for eventualities which have not been mentioned in the scheduled or till the appropriate amendment is made in these guidelines by the University.

BM 159.53.3 The Board approved the proposal for revision of IGNOU's Schedule of Fee and allowances Fees for standing Counsel and AOR engaged for representing the University in various matters (**Appendix-5**). The Board also authorized the Vice Chancellor to engage ASG/Designated Senior Advocate, etc. with higher fees in exception cases in the interest of the University.

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

Sd/-
(Nageshwar Rao)
Chairman