

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1997, AT 11.00 HOURS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK - 8, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI 110 068.

The following were present:

1. Prof R.G. Takwale, Vice-Chancellor - Chairman
2. Dr. S.K. Gandhe
3. Prof. Habibur Rehman
4. Shri J.P. Javali
5. Prof. Suhash Chakravorty
6. Prof. M.M. Pant
7. Dr. A.R. Khan
8. Dr. D.D. Kaushik
9. Prof. Afzal Mohammad
10. Prof. R.V.R. Chandrasekhara Rao
11. Shri Kiran Karnik

Prof. R.P. Hooda, Acting Registrar

Shri P.R. Dasgupta, Shri C.R. Kamalanathan, Dr.(Ms.) Shakuntala Verma and Dr. A.C. Muthiaiah could not attend the meeting.

Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Dy. Registrar (Governance), was present to assist the Registrar.

Before the items of Agenda were taken up, the Registrar informed the Board that the Deputy Secretary of the MHRD had conveyed the comments of the Education Secretary, who is a member of the Board of Management, on some of the Items. The Board decided that these comments be considered when the concerned item is taken up for discussion.

The following items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 52ND AND 53RD MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27 AND OCTOBER 18, 1997 RESPECTIVELY AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

BM 54.1.1 The comments of the Education Secretary on the Minutes of the 52nd Meeting of the Board of Management were considered. These relate to Item No. 8 and Item No. 29. Item No.8 refers to IGNOU Programmes abroad. The Vice-Chancellor explained briefly the distinction between the Study Centres

and the proposed Partner Institutions. The Board felt that Vice-Chancellor may write to the Education Secretary clarifying the position. The comments on Item No. 29 relate to the Committee appointed by the University to deal with corruption cases vis-a-vis the role of the Central Vigilance Commission. It was clarified that the above Committee was constituted as a response to Prime Minister's Call for taking effective anti-corruption measures and that the functions of the Committee in no way hinder the functioning of the Central Vigilance Commission.

BM 54.1.2 With the above observations, the Board confirmed the Minutes of the 52nd and 53rd Meetings of the Board of Management held on September 27 and October 18, 1997 respectively. The Board also noted the action taken on these Minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE ARISING OUT OF THE DECISION OF THE 53RD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 1997.

BM 54.2.1 The comments of the Education Secretary were read out. The Board expressed its unhappiness over the statement "the University is a party to the dispute" in the communication received from the Ministry. The Board noted that the matter related to the appointment of a Committee to look into certain allegations made by an officer of the University and the decision taken by the Board to appoint a Committee for the purpose. The question of University involving in any "dispute", therefore, did not arise.

BM 54.2.2 The Vice-Chancellor reported that, in pursuance of Resolution No. BM 53.1.2 (2), he had appointed a retired Judge of the High Court of Delhi, Mr. Justice S.B. Wad to inquire into the matter concerning the outsourcing of the entrance test for Management Programmes for the year 1996. The Vice-Chancellor further informed the Board that the report of the inquiry is expected to be submitted by Middle of January, 1998.

BM 54.2.3 The Board, in pursuance of Resolution No. BM 53.1.2 (3), appointed the following Committee to look into the allegations made by Prof. Rakesh Khurana and others in the papers circulated to the Members of the Board :

- (1) Shri Anand Sarup, Convener
- (2) Prof. S.K. Agrawala
- (3) Prof. R.V.R. Chandrasekhara Rao

The terms of reference of the Committee would be the same as enumerated in the Board's Resolution quoted above and that the Committee may submit its report within two months' time from the date of its notification.

ITEM NO. 3

TO RECOMMEND TO THE MHRD (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) A PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE IGNOU ACT WITH REGARD TO SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS, ETC. ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY.

BM 54.3.1

The comments of the Education Secretary on the item were noted. The distinct and unique responsibilities of IGNOU vis-a-vis other Central Universities was noted. It was pointed out that the above amendment to Section 13(2) of the Act was suggested keeping in view the multi-farious functions of IGNOU involving interaction with several institutions and outside agencies for academic, course development and delivery mechanism purposes. It would, thus, be very difficult for one designated Registrar to enter into agreements/contracts. The Board accepted the suggestion made by the Education Secretary that the designated officers should be specified and approved the amendment as given below:

Existing Provisions	Proposed Amendment
A Registrar empowered by the Board of Management shall have the power to enter into, and sign, agreements and authenticate records on behalf of the University.	A Registrar, designated by the Board of Management, shall have power to authenticate records and, unless otherwise specified, enter into and sign agreements on behalf of the University. Provided that the Board of Management may, if so warranted by any special situation, authorise any other officer of the University specified in Section 9 of the IGNOU Act, to enter into and sign agreements on behalf of the University.

BM 54.3.2

The above amendment would thus restrict the authorisation by the Board only to Officers of the University like the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro Vice-Chancellors and the Directors, etc. The Board noted that the proposed changes would require an amendment to the IGNOU Act by Parliament. Pending amendment to the Act, the Board decided that the existing provisions under Section 13(2) would be operative.

ITEM NO. 4

TO CONSIDER NOMINATION OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE REFERRED TO UNDER CLAUSE (3) OF STATUTE 1.

BM 54.4.1

The Board considered the proposal and nominated the following persons to the Committee:

- (1) Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swamy, Former VC, IGNOU.
 - (2) Prof. Yash Pal, Former Chairman, UGC.
- (in alphabetical order)

ITEM NO. 5

TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO STATUTE 28 REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL (DEC) AND FRAMING OF STATUTES TO MAKE A PROVISION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN AND ALSO ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES OF THE DEC.

BM 54.5.1

The comments of the Education Secretary were read out. Shri C.R. Pillai, Adviser to the Vice-Chancellor on Planning and Development, who was invited to the meeting, explained the salient features of the proposal. The proposal placed before the Board envisages:

- (i) an amendment to Statute 28 of Distance Education Council regarding its composition; and
- (ii) framing of new Statutes, namely, Statute 28A to provide for the position of a Vice-Chairman for the Distance Education Council and Statute 28B for making Provision for financial and administrative powers to the Distance Education Council.

BM 54.5.2

The Board discussed the proposal at some length in view of the significance of the issues involved. In the course of the discussion, the following views were expressed:

- (i) The proposed amendments give considerable strength to the identity as well as autonomy of the Distance Education Council,

which are essential for its effective functioning.

- (ii) A view was expressed as to whether the creation of a position of Vice-Chairman would create administrative problems as there might be overlapping of powers/responsibilities between the Vice-Chairman and the Director.
- (iii) The proposal for amendment which affects the composition and functions of any authority should have been routed through that authority -- Distance Education Council in this case. On this point, it was clarified that the Distance Education Council did consider the proposal of restructuring of the Distance Education Council at its meeting held on 3-7-1997 and based on that proposal the matter has been brought before the Board of Management.
- (iv) The provisions in the proposed draft Statute (Clause (iv) of Statute 28A) providing for the Vice-Chairman performing the functions of the Chairman, Distance Education Council in the absence of Vice Chancellor/Chairman may be reviewed.

BM 54.5.3

After taking into account, the discussions held and observations made as above, the Board decided that the proposal be referred back to the Distance Education Council for its consideration and thereafter bring it before the Board for action.

ITEM NO. 6

TO CONSIDER THE EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF DR. S.K. GANDHE, PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR.

BM 54.6.1

The comments of the Education Secretary on this item were read-out.

BM 54.6.2

Accepting the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, the Board, in terms of the provisions of Statute 3(2), decided to appoint Dr. S.K. Gandhe as Pro-Vice Chancellor from 12th January, 1998, for a term of 3 years or the date till Dr. Gandhe attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier on the same terms and conditions.

ITEM NO. 7

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REVISED HOUSE ALLOTMENT RULES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

BM 54.7.1

The comments of the Education Secretary were read out. On the request from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. S.K. Gandhe, Pro-Vice-Chancellor explained that

with the new staff quarters becoming available, it has become necessary to frame rules covering the houses at the new housing complex as well as the houses located at the Asian Games Village.

BM.54.7.2

The Board was informed that the IGNOU Teachers Association suggested some amendments to the Rules. The Board having considered these suggestions made the following changes in the House Allotment Rules:

- i) **Rule 2.4 Employee** - Modification of last sentence by adding the word 'contract' between the words 'schemes' and 'and'.
- ii) **Rule 2.9 Priority Date** - The following may be added :-

'For Type-III under the teachers' category, the priority date of a teacher/other academic is the date from which the employee becomes teacher/other academic.'
- iii) **Rule 6 Application for allotment** - A proviso may be added for submission of application by the individual employees whenever they want.
- iv) **Rule 7.3 Functions of House Allotment Committee** - Add the following new Clause at the end :

"(e) The HAC shall ordinarily meet at least once in three months."
- v) **Rule 10.2** - Eligibility under this Rule may be modified as one year instead of two years.
- vi) **Rule 11.2(viii)** - Permissible period of retention of house may be modified as full period of deputation/lien.
- vii) **Annexure-B application for allotment of House** - Question 10-B should not be gender biased.

BM 54.7.3

With the above corrections, the Board approved the revised House Allotment Rules. A copy of the Rules after incorporating the above corrections is placed at **Appendix- 1**. The Board also desired that the University may frame guidelines for allotment of hostels and transit accommodation. The Board also agreed to the proposal that Type V houses may be allotted on the basis of existing

criteria, i.e., basic pay of Rs.4500/- and above as a one time measure and that subsequent allotments would be done on the basis of revised criteria, i.e., basic pay of Rs.4300/- and above.

ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER RESERVATION OF HOUSES IN THE HOUSING COMPLEX OF THE UNIVERSITY.

BM 54.8.1 The comments of the Education Secretary were read out. Having considered the issues involved, the Board decided that the existing provision in the House Allotment Rules providing for 5% discretionary quota to the Vice-Chancellor may be retained.

BM 54.8.2 The Vice-Chancellor apprised the Board of the problems the University is facing in attracting persons to man senior tenure positions (like Directors) as the University is not in a position to provide accommodation.

BM 54.8.3 The Board authorised the Vice-Chancellor to hire accommodation, where considered necessary, at market rates and provide furniture on nominal hire charges to senior officials recruited on tenure basis.

ITEM NO. 9 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SELECTION COMMITTEES.

BM 54.9.1 Two supplementary notes on this item were also tabled.

BM 54.9.2 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor under Section 10(3) of the IGNOU Act, in nominating a member to the Selection Committee for the post of Registrar under Clause (5) of Statute 12 in place of nominations made by the Board earlier as both the persons nominated had expressed their inability to attend the Selection Committee.

BM 54.9.3 The Selection Committee proceedings of all the Committees indicated in both the agenda notes were tabled alongwith the profiles of the candidates called for interviews.

BM 54.9.4 The Board considered and approved the Minutes of the following Selection Committees held on the

dates indicated against each:

Sl. No.	Selection Committees	Date of the Meeting
1.	Selection Committee for considering the case of Dr. B.N. Sabhapandit.	- 21-11-1997
2.	Selection Committee for considering the case of Dr. A.S. Guha.	- 21-11-1997
3.	Selection Committee for the post of Registrar.	- 26-11-1997 & 27-11-1997
4.	Selection Committee to review the upgradation case of Shri Ravi Ayyagiri.	- 27-11-1997

ITEM NO. 10

TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF EMPC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 1, 1997.

BM 54.10.1

The comments of the Education Secretary were read out. The Board considered minutes of the 5th meeting of the EMPC Management Committee held on October 1, 1997.

BM 54.10.2

After a detailed discussion, the Board took the following decisions:

- i) Such of the decisions/recommendations of the EMPC Management Committee which require the approval of the Board of Management should be submitted as specific items for Board's consideration.
- ii) The proposal for upgrading the post of Deputy Registrar to that of Joint Registrar was approved.
- iii) Research activities need to be in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance on Research Programmes.
- iv) While on the subject of Research and academic programmes, it was stated that the EMPC has to operate through the Schools of Studies so far as its functions relating to

Research and Development of academic programmes are concerned.

BM 54.10.3

With the above observations, the Board approved the minutes of the 5th meeting of the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) Management Committee.

ITEM NO. 11

TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 1997.

BM 54.11.1

The Board considered and approved the minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Establishment Committee (a Standing Committee of the Board of Management) held on November 6, 1997 (Appendix 2). The Board in particular gave specific approval to the following :

- i. Reclassification of the post of Joint Registrar in the Material Production and Distribution Division as Joint Director together with qualifications for the post.
- ii. While approving the adoption of recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission for Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' personnel in principle, the Board decided that their implementation be effected after they are cleared by the MHRD.
- iii. Adoption of revised Roster System of the Reservation policy announced by the Govt. of India.

ITEM NO. 12

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO DECLARE THE TRANSPORT CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. AS THE OFFICIAL TRANSPORT AGENCY OF IGNOU.

BM 54.12.1

The comments of the Education Secretary were read-out. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor briefly explained the salient features of the proposal. It was stated that enquiries revealed that there is hardly any transport agency which has all India coverage as that of Transport Corp'n. of India Ltd (TCI). Also, University's experience with some of the transport agencies engaged earlier was not good. With decentralisation of the despatch of study materials through the Regional centres, assured bulk delivery to Regional centres became urgent and necessary. Considering all the issues involved, the Board approved the proposal for engaging the TCI Ltd as the official transport agency of the University for a period of three years.

ITEM NO. 13

TO REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NETWORKED AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY, 1998.

BM 54.13.1

As part of the 50th year of India's Independence, the Indira Gandhi National Open University is proposing to hold an international conference on Networked and collaborative learning during February 16-18, 1998 in New Delhi. The Conference venue will be Jamia Hamdard Convention Centre.

BM 54.13.2

The aim of the conference will be to explore new models, new partnerships and new technologies for collaborative and networked learning, a new paradigm in open and distance learning. The conference is expected to be attended by about 80-90 delegates from India and abroad (50 persons from India and 30-40 persons from abroad). An organising committee has been constituted for the conference under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor. The expected expenditure for the conference would be Rs.7-8 lakhs.

BM 54.13.3

The Board approved the proposal for organising the International Conference on Networked and Collaborative Learning. The Board also approved the estimated expenditure of Rs.7-8 lakhs for the conference.

ITEM NO. 14

TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN THE CASE OF PROF. M.M. PANT, DIRECTOR, SOCIS FOR HIS DEPUTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY.

BM 54.14.1

The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in granting permission to Prof. M.M. Pant, Director, School of Computer & Information Science proceeding on deputation for a period of five years to the Department of Industrial Development under the Ministry of Industry, in the event of his appointment as Controller General of Patents.

ITEM NO. 15

TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN ALLOWING EXTENSION OF DEPUTATION FOR A PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS IN RESPECT OF DR. P.N. PANDIT.

BM 54.15.1

The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in extending the deputation period of Dr. P.N. Pandit, Reader in English to the Government of Kyrgyzstan under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme for a period of two months, i.e.,

till 31-01-1998. The case has been recommended by MEA, Government of India also.

ITEM NO. 16 TO REPORT ON THE ENGAGEMENT OF DR. M.K. MAGAZINE AS CONSULTANT (FULL TIME) BEYOND TWO YEARS.

BM 54.16.1 The Board had earlier approved the engagement of Dr. M.K. Magazine, a retired professor of Civil Engineer, REC Srinagar as full time consultant w.e.f. 01-11-1995 for a period of two years.

BM 54.16.2 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in engaging Dr. M.K. Magazine as Consultant (Full Time) for a period of six months w.e.f. 01-11-1997 beyond two years on the same terms and conditions.

ITEM NO. 17 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN THE PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTRE - BETACAM VCRs AND PORTABLE TUNER.

ITEM NO. 18 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN THE PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTRE - MAINTENANCE OF BETACAM VCRs AND VIDEO CAMERAS.

BM 54.17/18.1 The comments received from the Education Secretary on items 17 & 18 were read out.

BM 54.17/18.2 The Vice-Chancellor stated that the amounts expended (proposed under item 17 and 18) were from the budgetary provisions which had duly been approved by the appropriate authorities like the Finance Committee and the Board of Management and that the purchases were made after following proper procedures laid down in the Financial Code like calling of tenders, etc. Since the amounts involved exceeded the delegated powers of the Vice-Chancellor, the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in approving the purchases is being brought before the Board for ratification.

BM 54.17/18.3 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in (i) the purchase of spare parts for Betacam VCRs and Portable Tuner amounting to Rs.12,04,272/- (US\$33,452); and (ii) the purchase of spare parts for Maintenance of Betacam VCRs and Video Cameras amounting to Rs.17,59,100/- (plus Sale Tax).

ITEM NO. 19 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON THE NEWLY CREATED POSTS OF JOINT REGISTRAR.

BM 54.19.1 The Vice-Chancellor explained that the Board had, at its earlier meeting, created 4 (four) posts of Joint Registrar on the non-academic side. Since all the positions at the level of Director/Registrar are tenure positions, it was felt appropriate to have a second line of senior positions like Joint Registrar to provide continuity and stability when the top positions become vacant.

BM 54.19.2 The proposal placed before the Board had two options: whether these positions should be 100% promotion based or whether there should be 25% and 75% ratio between direct recruitment and promotion. Noting that most of the senior level positions are in the category of academic and taking into account also the prospects of stagnation at the Deputy Registrar level, the Board decided that the positions of Joint Registrar be on 100% promotion through selection by Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) as provided in the R&P Rules for Group 'A' positions.

BM 54.19.3 As a sequel to this decision, the Board approved the proposed amendment to R & P Rules for Group 'A' posts as indicated below :

"100% promotion through selection by Departmental Promotion Committee from amongst the Dy. Registrars in the Pay Scale of Rs.3700-5700, with 8 years of regular service in IGNOU."

ITEM NO. 20 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OPEN EDUCATION NETWORK (OPENET).

BM 54.20.1 The proposal was considered. The Vice-Chancellor explained briefly outlining the salient features mentioned in the Agenda Note. It was stated that the concept of an OPENET was given more concrete expansion with the setting up the Distance Education Council (DEC) in 1992 and that during the last five years the DEC has given considerable attention to operationalise the concept of OPENET. Some of the efforts initiated include: sharing of programmes and courses with the open universities, developing norms and guidelines for standardisation of the processes including programme development, structure of programme, credit system, grading pattern and methods of delivery of services among the open universities,

etc. The DEC also supported the open universities to augment their capacity in developing the receive-end facilities for tele-conferencing through TDCC Channel. The OPENET which was initially a concept of sharing programmes and facilities is developing rapidly into a major communication network using modern technologies both in computers (LAN, WAN) and data, voice and image transmission through VSATS.

BM 54.20.2

A much larger network encompassing a wide range of education and training programmes is also being discussed among agencies such as MHRD, UGC, AICTE and the IGNOU/DEC. This larger network will be known as the Indian Training and Education Network for Development (INTEND). While the implementation of this larger network as a major project in the 9th Plan is still under discussion, the establishment of the OPENET for which efforts have already been initiated several years ago and is being implemented in stages has to be further strengthened. Since a communication network linking IGNOU with three State Open Universities is already in operation during the last three years, it is now possible to extend this network to include four more State Open Universities which have since been set up. As and when the larger INTEND is developed, it will be possible to integrate the OPENET with INTEND. For the present, the UGC has also shown interest in developing the backbone for university level networking.

BM 54.20.3

Keeping the above considerations in view, it has been proposed to expand the existing OPENET.

BM 54.20.4

Pending finalisation of the 9th Plan, it is considered necessary to initiate the steps to implement the project. The IGNOU and the UGC have agreed to earmark some part of their 9th Plan allocation to meet the initial expenditure on the development of the backbone for the OPENET. The maximum resources that are likely to be available in 1997-98 may not exceed Rs.30 Crores. The contribution from IGNOU would be of the order of Rs.10 Crores. The UGC is also likely to contribute a similar amount. Some contribution is also expected from the MHRD and the AICTE.

BM 54.20.5

Prof. Janaradan Jha, Pro Vice-Chancellor, who was invited to the meeting gave technical details and the time tabled for implementation of the initial phase of the project.

BM 54.20.6

During the discussion, the following views were expressed:

- (i) Development of the OPENET as a modern communication network is an excellent initiative.
- (ii) It should be undertaken as a project and its management structure should be defined.
- (iii) The DEC should take lead in the implementation of the project and its management.
- (iv) Consultations with the State Open Universities may be held on the proposal and their views also be incorporated in the project.

BM 54.20.7

With the above observations, the Board approved the proposal to earmark a sum of Rs.10 Crores from the current year's plan allocation of Rs.28 Crores for the expansion of the OPENET.

ITEM NO. 21

TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST OF DY. DIRECTOR (QUALITY ASSURANCE) IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

BM 54.21.1

The Board considered and approved the following qualifications for the post of Dy. Director (Quality Assurance) in the Planning and Development Division :

Dy. Director (Quality Assurance)

- (a) A Ph.D. Degree with a Master's degree (55% marks or B grade in any discipline).
- (b) At least 5 years experience at a supervisory level in such areas like educational planning and management, formulation and implementation of educational development programme with knowledge and experience in the application of quantitative techniques in performance analysis/quality standard maintenance.

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

(R.G. TAKWALE)
Vice-Chancellor