

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1998, 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. Suhash Chakarvorty
4. Shri J.P. Javali
5. Prof. Habibur Rehman
6. Prof. R.V.R. Chandrasekhar Rao
7. Dr. Kiran Karnik
8. Prof. Afzal Mohammad
9. Prof. M.M. Pant
10. Dr. A.R. Khan
11. Dr. D.D. Kaushik

Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Registrar - Secretary

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

Prof. Janardan Jha, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Shri C.R. Pillai, Adviser to the Vice-Chancellor attended the meeting as Special Invitees.

Shri D. Deb, Assistant Registrar (Governance), was present to assist the Secretary.

The following items were considered:

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| ITEM NO. 1 | TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 54TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON NOVEMBER 29, 1997 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON. |
| BM 55.1.1 | The Board considered and approved the Minutes of the 54th Meeting of the Board of Management held on November 29, 1997. |
| BM 55.1.2 | Members desired that sufficient time gap be allowed between different meetings of Authorities of the University in order that persons who are members of more than one Authority could conveniently attend these meetings. |

BM 55.1.3 A view was expressed that specific statutory and other provisions be quoted wherever the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the Board was necessary.

BM 55.1.4 It was also pointed out in reference to the comments of the Education Secretary, Department of Education, Government of India, a member of the Board of Management, that the tabling of items will be limited to only very important and urgent matters.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5TH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION TO THE GROUP B,C AND D STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY.

BM 55.2.1 The Board considered and approved in principle the adoption of the revised Pay Scales and Allowances on the basis of the 5th Central Pay Commission's recommendations read with the Government of India, Ministry of Finance Orders and Notifications dated September 30, 1997 and December 17, 1997 respectively in respect of Group B,C and D staff of this University. The Board further decided that the final implementation be effected after the matter was considered and approved by the 'Group of Officers' in the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

BM 55.2.2 So far as the budgetary support is concerned, the Board decided that University should take up the matter with MHRD for getting the support of 90% i.e. Rs.5.24 crores to meet the expenditure due as a result of the implementation of the revised pay scales upto 31.3.1998.

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO STATUTE 28 REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE (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 55.3.1 The Item was withdrawn.

ITEM NO. 4 TO DESIGNATE THE REGISTRAR TO PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS AND EXERCISE THE POWERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 13(2) AND STATUTE 5(3) TO (7) OF THE IGNOU ACT.

BM 55.4.1 The Board designated Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Registrar to perform the functions and exercise powers in accordance with the provisions of

Section 13(2) of the IGNOU Act and Statute 5 of the Statutes of the University from the date he assumed charge as Registrar.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 14, 1998.

BM 55.5.1 The Vice-Chancellor informed that the item cannot be tabled as the proceedings of the meeting were not ready.

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 34TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON JANUARY 16, 1998.

BM 55.6.1 The Board considered the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 16.1.98. The decisions of the Board with reference to the items specifically recommended by the Finance Committee for consideration of the Board are as under :

Implementation of revised payscales for Group B, C and D employees

(1) The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee in the adoption of Revised Pay Scales in respect of Group B,C and D categories of employees as notified by the Government of India. However, the Board decided that the recommendations of the revised Pay Scales for Group B,C and D Staff, be implemented after obtaining the full recommendations of 'Group of Officers' of MHRD and desired that the matter should be taken up with the Ministry of HRD on priority.

(2) While discussing the above matter, the members have also expressed their concern in the delay of the revision of Pay Scales in respect of teachers and others and urged that the University may request the Ministry to expedite the implementation.

Annual Accounts - 1996-97

(3) The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts of the University for the year 1996-97.

Financial Estimates - 1998-99

(4) The consideration of the Financial Estimates for the year 1998-99 and the Revised Estimates for the year 1997-98, was deferred to the next meeting of the Board of Management as members desired to have more time to go through the Financial Estimates. However, keeping in view the closing of the Financial Year 1997-98 the Board agreed that the respective Schools/Divisions may be informed of the revised allocations for each School and Division for the year 1997-98.

Rates for Academic Councillors

(5) The Board considered and approved the revision of rates of payments to the Academic Councillors for conduct of Counselling Sessions (both theory and practicals) of various Programmes at Study Centres.

Audit Report - 1995-96

(6) The consideration of the Audit Report of the Director General of Audit, Central Revenues, New Delhi, appended to the accounts for the year 1995-96, was deferred to the next meeting of the Board of Management, so that members get reasonable time to go through the Report and give their considered views.

Creation of posts

(7) The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee for creation of the following posts for the International Cell:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Post | Number of Post | Pay Scale |
|---------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | Assistant Registrar | 1 | Rs.2200-4000 |
| 2. | Section Officer (Publications) | 1 | Rs.2000-3500 |
| 3. | Senior PA | 1 | Rs.2000-3500 |
| 4. | Senior Assistant | 1 | Rs.1640-2900 |
| 5. | Computer Operator - I | 1 | Rs.1350-2200 |
| 6. | Computer Operator - II | 1 | Rs.1150-1500 |
| 7. | JAT | 1 | Rs.950-1500 |

BM 55.6.2 With the above decisions/observations, the Board approved the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 16.1.98 as placed at Appendix - 1.

ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 24TH MEETING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON JANUARY 17, 1998.

BM 55.7.1 The Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the Establishment Committee held on January 17, 1998 were tabled in the Meeting. The Board considered and approved the Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the Establishment Committee held on January 17, 1998 as placed at Appendix - 2.

ITEM NO. 8 TO REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. JAI CHANDIRAM AS ADVISER (MEDIA) IN THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTRE (EMPC) WITH EFFECT FROM 1-1-1998.

BM 55.8.1 The specific comments of the Education Secretary, (a member of the Board of Management) Department of Education, Government of India were read out. In this context, the Vice-Chancellor explained the background and the urgency for appointment of Adviser (Media) in the EMPC, IGNOU in the light of the emerging roles and responsibilities vis-a-vis the objectives of the University.

BM 55.8.2 The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that the EMPC is one of the most important units and plays a unique role in the system of distance education. The Media has developed into a very strong and impressive tool. In the present scenerio the field plays a very important role which cannot be undermined in any circumstances. Further, with the rapid development in the field the world over coupled with the shortage of highly trained personnel at such senior level, he pointed out that it is very difficult to get the right candidate. The private channels all over attract the bright and trained persons giving better remuneration and perks than what any Government Organisation can offer. It was also stated that Ms. Jai Chandiram is having an excellent track record in the field of Electronic Media and that she has offered her services for the growth and development of distance education through the channels of the Electronic Media Production Centre.

BM 55.8.3 Having taken all the factors into consideration, the Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in the appointment of Ms. Jai Chandiram on the existing terms and conditions for the remaining period of her contractual term ending on 30-4-1999.

BM 55.8.4 Further, the Board noted that the Vice-Chancellor has delegated the responsibilities and powers of Director (EMPC) to Adviser (Media) EMPC till such time as a Director is appointed.

BM 55.8.5 While ratifying the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor, the Board also decided that the Adviser should take actions wherever necessary, through the Pro Vice-Chancellor concerned.

ITEM NO. 9 TO REPORT THE SIGNING OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MoUs) WITH CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CIDC) AND OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA.

BM 55.9.1 The Vice-Chancellor, while considering the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), New Delhi and with the Open University of Sri Lanka reiterated that IGNOU has a special role in the education and training of the human resource of the country for the development of its economy especially through an innovative system of education at university level. It is in this context that the IGNOU has signed an MoU with CIDC, New Delhi to initiate, develop and implement programmes of education and training in construction trades to meet the developmental needs of the construction industry. The detailed terms and agreements of this MoU have been placed at Appendix - 3.

BM 55.9.2 The Board considered and approved the MoU signed between the IGNOU and the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) for the grant of non-exclusive right to produce the course materials and to distribute them to students of the OUSL within the territory of Sri Lanka. The detailed terms and agreements of this MoU have been placed at Appendix - 4.

ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION AND RATIFICATION OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN NOMINATING MEMBERS ON THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL.

BM 55.10.1 The Board considered the nomination of Prof. Pardeep Sahni, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU and Dr. Parvin Sinclair of the School of Sciences,

IGNOU for the residual of the term ending on March 27, 1999 in both the cases under Clause (1)(iv) of Statute 9 of the IGNOU Act.

BM 55.10.2 The Board authorised the Vice-Chancellor to nominate a Member on the Academic Council in the place of Ms. Jai Chandiram, Ex-Director of the Electronic Media Production Centre, under Clause (1)(vi) of Statute 9 of the IGNOU Act.

ITEM NO. 11 TO REPORT FOR INFORMATION THE AMENDMENT MADE TO THE PROVISIONS OF IGNOU ACT BY THE PARLIAMENT REGARDING IGNOU PROGRAMMES.

BM 55.11.1 While noting the Report on the amendment made to provisions of the IGNOU Act by the Parliament regarding IGNOU Programmes abroad, the Board felt that the necessity of a clear cut definition/jurisdiction and functions of Study Centres and Partnership institutions both within and outside the country be made so as to ascertain congruity between the two. The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that the University will look into all aspects including the legal aspect and inform the Board.

ITEM NO. 12 TO REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY IN ALLOTMENT OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOUSES AT IGNOU COMPLEX AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS IN THE HOUSES.

BM 55.12.1 The Board noted the action taken by the University in allotment of newly constructed houses at IGNOU Complex and approved the action taken in the installation of electricity connections in the houses.

ITEM NO. 13 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTION COMMITTEE FOR GROUP 'A' POSTS.

BM 55.13.1 The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for Group 'A' posts (Minutes tabled at the meeting).

BM 55.13.2 While considering the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee, the Vice-Chancellor expressed the need for evolving a system of selection in which the competence, skill, performance and experience should get top priority than only consideration of seniority and

Annual Confidential Reports as are followed now. The other members of the Board shared this view and authorised the Vice-Chancellor to appoint a Committee of two persons with specific terms and references.

ITEM NO. 14

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR TO APPOINT THREE ADDITIONAL PRO VICE-CHANCELLORS TO CARRY OUT SPECIALISED FUNCTIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY.

BM 55.14.1

While considering the proposal to appoint three additional Pro Vice-Chancellors to carry out specialised functions in the University, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised that the IGNOU carries out three distinct roles - as an open university, an apex body and as a national resource centre. The role pertaining to apex body is performed through Distance Education Council (DEC). The DEC has to assume a much bigger role in terms of the number of institutions (10 to 15 State Open Universities, over 50 Centres of Correspondence Institutions (CCI), and the use of financial resources and functions. Secondly, the functions of co-ordination, promotion and determination of standards in distance education are leading to the generation of resources such as educational programmes, expertise and facilities. Similar resources are also generated in the process of performing the functions and responsibilities of IGNOU through STRIDE in matters of training and thirdly, through EMPC in matters of educational communication and facilities, their role not only extend to serve the students, counsellors and functionaries associated with IGNOU but also at national and international levels. It is in this context, the Vice-Chancellor recalled that the STRIDE was headed by a Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 1993. As for the matter pertaining to Statute 3 and Statute 3A for the appointment of Executive Director or Pro Vice-Chancellors as the case may be, it was decided that the same may be resubmitted to the MHRD for the appropriate decision and assent of the Visitor. The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the three distinct responsibilities have suffered due to lack of leadership and indecision which he considers is harmful to the development and growth of the University.

BM 55.14.2

The Board, while appreciating the need and urgency of the proposal for the appointment of three Pro-Vice-Chancellors for carrying out the specialised tasks of the DEC, EMPC and STRIDE, felt that it

may not be taken up at this stage. The Board was of the view that the solution to the problem lies in taking up the matter of the Executive Directors for these specialised Divisions with the MHRD as proposed earlier. The Vice-Chancellor stated that the reason for placing the matter before the Board was to apprise the Board of the complex problem as the next Vice-Chancellor would also be saddled with the same problems.

ITEM NO. 15 TO RATIFY THE SIGNING OF BIPARTITE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN IGNOU AND FIVE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS IN WEST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

BM 55.15.1 The Board considered and ratified the signing of the bipartite agreements between IGNOU and five Partner Institutions in the West Asian Countries, namely:

1. Wisdom Educational Institute, Dubai
2. Gulf Centre for University Education, Kuwait
3. Indian Academy for Higher Education, Muscat
4. International Educational Institute, Dubai
5. APTECH Limited, Bombay (through APTECH Middle-East, Bahrain)

BM 55.15.2 It was stated that agreements with Partner institutions are different from establishment of study centres abroad. The Board, however, decided that post facto approval of the Visitor may be sought on the signing of the above bipartite agreements.

ITEM NO. 16 REPORT OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN SIGNING MoU BETWEEN IGNOU AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

BM 55.16.1 The Board considered the Report of the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between IGNOU and University of South Africa and ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor. The detailed terms and agreements of this MoU have been placed at Appendix - 5.

ITEM NO. 17 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF JOINT DIRECTOR, COMPUTER AND DY. DIRECTOR, COMPUTER.

BM 55.17.1 The Board considered and approved the qualifications and experience proposed for the

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positions of Joint Director (Computer) and Deputy Director (Computer). The modified qualifications and experience for Joint Director (Computer) and Deputy Director (Computer) are placed at Appendix 6.

ITEM NO. 18 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN THE TRANSLATION CELL.

BM 55.18.1 The Board considered and approved the qualifications and experience for the position of Assistant Director in the Translation Cell as placed at Appendix -7.

Item from the Chair

At the end of the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor circulated a confidential note on the subject of "Outsourcing the entrance test for Management Programmes in 1996 -- Report on the inquiry". Before the Item was tabled, all non-members were requested to withdraw from the meeting. The decisions of the Board of Management on this Item are placed at Appendix - 8 (appended to the Minutes in a confidential cover).

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

(R.G. TAKWALE)
Vice-Chancellor