

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1998, AT 11.00 HRS 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:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 55TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JANUARY 19, 1998. .ls2

BM 56.1.1 The Minutes of the 55th Meeting of the Board of Management held on January 19, 1998 were considered. Comments received from one of the members were considered. This relate to Item.No.8

and on the Appendix - 8 which was circulated in a sealed cover to the Minutes of the above meeting.

BM 56.1.2

With regard to the comments of the member on Item No.8, the Chairman clarified that the powers and responsibilities delegated to the Adviser (Media), Electronic Media Production Centre is for smooth functioning of the Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) and not to deviate any statutory provision concerning the powers and responsibilities of Directors. It was pointed out that Statutes limit the retirement age for Directors at 60 and this provision is meticulously followed. However, Statutes do not specifically prohibit the powers of Director being exercised by a contractual appointee. It was further pointed out that the contractual appointment of persons for performing specialised roles in the furtherance of the University Programmes is resorted to meet the exigencies and not as a routine arrangement. However, members felt that the position of Adviser (Media) being a contractual appointment, specific functions, powers and responsibilities should be spelt out. The Board, while agreeing to the need to retain the services of the present Adviser (Media), it was felt advisable that powers of Director be exerted by the Vice-Chancellor or any one of the

Pro Vice-Chancellors who may, if considered appropriate, delegate the powers and responsibilities to the Adviser (Media).

BM 56.1.3

The Member, in his comments, expressed surprise that certain part of the Minutes sent to the members in a closed envelope were not numbered and that he expressed the view that whether taking recourse circulating part of the Minutes in the manner it was done is correct.

BM 56.1.4

While expressing concern regarding the confidentiality of Board's discussions and decisions, members opined that decisions of the meetings of the Authorities of the University have to be kept confidential. However, the extent and form of confidentiality of such decisions needs deliberation. In this context, the Registrar informed the Board that the practice being followed at IGNOU is that the decisions taken by the Board are kept confidential till the comments from the members are received (normally 15 days time is given) on the Minutes. Thereafter, the Minutes are circulated to Heads of Divisions and also kept in the Library for reference. A view was expressed that only decisions which are of general nature should be made public and items which are to be kept confidential may be decided

by the Chairman. However, it was generally agreed that any policy making decision concerning the academic activities and other decisions of common interest should be made known to the University Community. It was also pointed out that the confidentiality of any decision should have time limit and at what stage and at what time the confidential decisions be made public, does, be left to the discretion of the Chairman.

BM 56.1.5 Concerning the comments on the Item "Outsourcing the Entrance Test for Management Programmes in 1996 - Report on the Inquiry", the Chairman informed that legal opinion is being sought on the matter and will make a report to the Board.

BM 56.1.6 With the above observations, the Minutes of the 55th Meeting of the Board of Management held on January 19, 1998 were confirmed. (Placed at Appendix - 1)

ITEM NO. 2 TO REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5TH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION TO THE GROUP B,C AND D EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

BM 56.2.1 The Board noted that the University had implemented the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission to the Group B,C and D employees of the University as per the communication received

from the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
(placed at Appendix - 2). The following report
was made at the meeting:

(i) That the Government's share on the additional expenditure would be to the tune of 80% and that the balance of 20% has to be made by the University -- 10% through internal saving and 10% by raising additional revenue.

(ii) The implementation is given as a package and that any variations/deviations from the Government of India's pattern should be brought at par with that of the Government. In this connection, the University had been asked to take steps on the following issues:

- (a) The pre-revised pay scale of Rs.1640-2900 given to Senior Assistants and Personal Assistant Gd II category of employees be changed to Rs.1400-2600.
- (b) Transport subsidy be withdrawn.
- (c) Lease facility for residential accommodation be withdrawn.
- (d) The Conveyance Charges be limited to Rs.150/- per month instead of Rs.300/- as at present.

BM 56.2.2 These matters were considered and discussed in a meeting between a Group of Officers in the Ministry of Human Resource Development and senior Officers of the University. It was made known that implementation of the 5th Central Pay Commission's recommendations of Group B,C and D staff is a package subject to University's acceptance to the terms and conditions set out in their Letter No.F.5-88/97-Desk(U) (A) dt.29-01-1998.

BM 56.2.3 The University had accepted to the terms and conditions contained in that letter as a pre condition for implementation of the revised pay scales but suggested to the MHRD that they would individually take up with the Ministry of Finance on the points referred to at Resolution No.BM 56.2.1(ii) (a) to (d) and also rationalisation of any pay scales which form part of Annexure B depending on individual ----- of each case.

BM 56.2.4 The Board agreed to the implementation of the revised pay scales as stated above and authorised the Vice-Chancellor to take up with the Ministry of Finance all the Items mentioned at Resolution No.BM 56.2.1(ii) (a) to (b) including rationalisation of certain posts of technical category.

**ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 1998-99 AS PER
RESOLUTION NO.BM 55.6.1(4).**

BM 56.3.1 The Board was informed that this Item was part of the Minutes of the Finance Committee considered by it at its Meeting held on January 19, 1998. Since the members wanted some time to go through these estimates it was decided at that meeting that the Item will be taken up in the next meeting.

BM 56.3.2 The Pro Vice-Chancellor explained in brief the salient features of the Revised Estimates for 1997-98 and the Budget Estimates for 1998-99. While approving the Financial Estimates 1998-99 as proposed, the Board decided that the allocations made for Library for purchase of books be kept at Rs.50 Lakhs by making ----- appropriation.

BM 56.3.3 With the above observations, the Board approved the Financial Estimates 1998-99 and the Revised Estimates 1997-98.

**ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 14TH
MEETING OF THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL HELD ON
JANUARY 14, 1998.**

BM 56.4.1 The Board considered the Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Distance Education Council held on January 14, 1998. A point was made by one of the members that when minutes of the authorities like Distance Education Council come before the Board,

the agenda note should specifically indicate the items on which Board's approval is required. Otherwise, the Minutes could be placed before the Board of Management for the purpose of noting them. This practice may be followed in future.

BM 56.4.2

With the above observations, the Board noted the Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Distance Education Council held on January 14, 1998.

ITEM NO. 5

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 35TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14 AND FEBRUARY 20, 1998.

BM 56.5.1

The comments received from the Education Secretary, a member of the Board of Management, were read out, which specifically relate to Item No.6 of the Finance Committee proceedings concerning proposal on the OPENET. The Board noted that the following Items, considered by the Finance Committee, require the specific approval of the Board of Management:

- (i) Proposal on enhancement of Grant-in-Aid to the IGNOU Staff Children Development Society by Rs.20,000/-. The total Grant-in-Aid after enhancement would be Rs.80,000/- per annum.

- (ii) Further, it was decided to provide a one time grant of Rs.20,000/- in addition, to meet the expenditure on procurement of toys, dolls, kitchen equipments, bedsheets, blankets, utensils, etc. The proposal was approved by the Board.

BM 56.5.2

The Board considered and approved the proposal for purchase of flats from Rajasthan Housing Board for both the office of the Regional Centre, Jaipur and the residences of staff members at a cost of Rs.1.03 Crores from the Rajasthan Housing Board.

BM 56.5.3

The Board also considered the proposal on OPENET Programme. After a detailed discussion arising out of the Minutes of the Finance Committee on the subject and also taking into account the views expressed by the Education Secretary, a member of the Board of Management, the Board made the following observations:

- (i) The allocation of Rs.28 Crores made in the Annual Plan 1997-98 on the basis of the 9th Plan proposal submitted by the University envisages some provision for the OPENET.
- (ii) The Board of Management had, at its meeting held on November 29, 1997, approved an allocation of Rs.10 Crores for the OPENET Programme.

(iii) Based on the above decision of the Board, the University had finalised all the technical requirements for inviting tenders for the OPENET.

BM 56.5.4 Keeping the above observations in view and also taking into account the recommendations made by the Finance Committee, the Board took the following decisions:

- (i) The amount of Rs.10 Crores as suggested may be earmarked for OPENET.
- (ii) The University may take up the matter with the MHRD for placing the proposal on OPENET before the Expenditure Finance Committee.
- (iii) The OPENET Project be made operational only after getting the clearance from the Government, i.e., Expenditure Finance Committee.

BM 56.5.5 Responding to the suggestion received from one of the members, the Vice-Chancellor said that he would circulate the document of OPENET within the University for information of the academic community.

BM 56.5.6 With the above observations, the Board of Management approved the Minutes of the 35th

Meeting of the Finance Committee held on February 14 and February 20, 1998 (placed at Appendix-3).

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE GUIDELINES FOR SHARING OF IGNOU LEARNING PACKAGES WITH STATE OPEN UNIVERSITIES AND DISTANCE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

BM 56.6.1 The Board considered and approved the Guidelines for sharing of IGNOU learning packages with State Open Universities and Distance Education Institutions.

ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER THE POLICY REGARDING DECENTRALISATION OF PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF SOME COURSE MATERIAL.

BM 56.7.1 Please see decision on Item No. 18.

ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER THE AUDIT REPORT FOR 1995-96 AS PER RESOLUTION NO. BM 55.6.1(6).

BM 56.8.1 The Board considered and approved the Statutory Audit Report for the year 1995-96.

ITEM NO. 9 TO CONSIDER LIFTING OF PROBATION OF LECTURERS IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTRE (EMPC).

BM 56.9.1 The Board considered and approved the lifting of probation of following Lecturers in Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC):

Sl. No.	Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Lifting Probation	Date of Confirmation
1.	Dr. Hara Prasad Padhy	01-07-1996	30-06-1996	01-07-1997
2.	Dr. Kiron Bansal	18-11-1996	17-11-1996	18-11-1997

- ITEM NO. 10** **TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN ALLOWING EXTENSION OF TERM OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR TWO YEARS UNDER THE EXISTING TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**
- BM 56.10.1 The Board considered the proposed extension of term of the Chief Engineer for two years. The Vice-Chancellor explained the need for having the Chief Engineer continue as the construction of academic complex is to be taken up soon. A view was expressed that procedural aspect should be kept in mind while giving extension to retired people so that Statutes are not violated. It was clarified that the post of Chief Engineer is not a statutory post and that the present arrangement is a response to the exigencies of work.
- BM 56.10.2 Taking a pragmatic view, the Board decided that the Chief Engineer may continue on existing terms and conditions till he attains the age of 60 years and thereafter he may be taken on contract as per the terms of contractual appointment.
- BM 56.10.3 With the above observations, the Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in allowing the extension of term to Chief Engineer for two years.
- ITEM NO. 11** **TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR REGARDING APPROVING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PROGRAMME/PRODUCTION) IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTRE (EMPC).**
- BM 56.11.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in approving the following qualifications

for the post of Deputy Director
(Programme/Production) in Electronic Media Production
Centre (EMPC):

- (a) A Ph.D Degree with a Master's Degree (55% marks or B-Grade) in any discipline.
- (b) Atleast five years experience (8 years in case of Non-Ph.Ds) in such areas like Audio/Video Programme Production/Broadcast Management/Educational Television.
- (c) The requirement of Ph.D may be waived for candidates who are otherwise eminently suited from the view point of requirement of the position.

ITEM NO. 12

**TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN
LIFTING THE PROBATION OF ASSISTANT REGISTRARS.**

BM 56.12.1

The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in lifting the probation of the following Assistant Registrars:

Sl. No.	Name of the Person	On Probation w.e.f.	Date of lifting of Probation w.e.f.
1.	Shri N.P. Singh	30-07-1996	29-07-1997
2.	Shri R.N. Jha	15-01-1997	14-01-1998

ITEM NO. 13 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PLACEMENT OF PRODUCERS (ACADEMIC STAFF) IN THE SENIOR SCALE.

BM 56.13.1 The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Committee for placement of the following Producers:

Sl. No.	Name	Date of appointment As Producer	Date of Placement in Senior Scale
1.	Shri O.P. Dewal	09-05-1988	09-05-1996
2.	Ms. Charu Gargi	28-05-1988	28-05-1996
3.	Shri M.Abdul Samad Ibrahim	19-04-1988	19-04-1966

ITEM NO. 14 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN ALLOWING EXTENSION OF DEPUTATION FOR A PERIOD OF 10 MONTHS IN RESPECT OF DR. P.N. PANDIT.

BM 56.14.1 The Board, taking note of the request made by the ICCR and also having considered the matter in the light of the provisions of the Ordinances, ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in allowing extension of deputation to Dr. P.N. Pandit for a period of 10 months from 1-2-1998 with the ICCR.

ITEM NO. 15 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE CONFIRMATION OF ACADEMIC STAFF.

BM 56.15.1 The Board considered and approved the confirmation

of the following academic staff:

Name and	Date of Joining	Date of Completion of Probation
Sh. T. Krishnan ARD, Regional Centre, Cochin	16.12.1996	15.12.1997
Dr.Shambhu Sharan Sing,ARD,Regional Centre, Calcutta	20.12.1996	19.12.1997
Dr. H. Haider ARD,Regional Centre,Calcuuta	03.01.1997	02.01.1998
Dr(Mrs)Kalpana S. Gupta, ARD, Regional Centre Pune	08.01.1997	07.01.1998
Sh. D.R. Sharma ARD, Regional Centre, Ahmedabad	13.01.1997	12.01.1998
Ms. Avani Trivedi ARD, Regional Services Division, New Delhi	17.01.1997	16.01.1998

ITEM NO. 16

TO REPORT TO THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ON THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD VIDE ITS RESOLUTION NO.BM 53.1.2(3).

BM 56.16.1

The Vice-Chancellor informed the Board that the first meeting of the three member Committee appointed by the Board of Management with Shri Anand Swarup as Convener held on February 14, 1998. The Vice-Chancellor reported that Prof.

R.V.R. Chandrasekhar Rao expressed his desire to be relieved from the membership of the said Committee as he felt it might be difficult for him to be a member of the Committee as well as a member of the Board of Management at the same time. The Board, appreciating the stand taken by Prof. R.V.R. Chandrasekhar Rao, decided to nominate Prof. Mohit Bhattacharya as a member of the three member Committee vice Prof. R.V.R. Chandrasekhar Rao.

ITEM NO. 17 **TO REPORT ON THE OUTSOURCING OF ENTRANCE TESTS FOR ADMISSION TO MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES, 1999 THROUGH INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION (IBPS).**

BM 56.17.1 Please see decision on Item No.18.

ITEM NO. 18 **TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE ITEMS FOR IGNOU'S COMPUTER NETWORK.**

BM 56.18.1 The Board decided to adjourn the meeting to March 8, 1998 to consider Item No.18 and also Item No.7 and 17. The Vice-Chancellor also stated that he would like to bring before the Board a confidential item as from the Chair.

With thanks to the Chair, the meeting was adjourned to March 8, 1998 at 11.00 A.M.

(R.G. TAKWALE)
Vice-Chancellor