

IGNOU

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2001, AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK-8, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI - 110 068.

The following were present:

- (1) Prof. V.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor - Chairman
- (2) Shri M.K. Kaw
- (3) Prof. N.R.M. Menon
- (4) Prof. N.K. Ambasht
- (5) Shri J. Veeraraghavan
- (6) Prof. A.K. Agarwal
- (7) Dr. J..M. Parakh
- (8) Dr. D.K. Choudhry

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

Shri L.N. Jhunjunwala, Prof. H.C. Pandey and Shri Y.N. Chaturvedi could not attend the meeting.

Shri Vikram Chandra, Finance Officer, IGNOU, attended the meeting as a Special Invitee.

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

At the outset, the Vice-Chancellor extended a hearty welcome to the new members nominated on the Board of Management by the Visitor. They are:

- (i) Dr. H.C. Pandey
- (ii) Shri L.N. Jhunjunwala
- (iii) Prof. N.R.M. Menon
- (iv) Prof. N.K. Ambasht
- (v) Shri J. Veeraraghavan

The Vice-Chancellor also placed on record the University's appreciation and gratitude for the distinguished services rendered by Prof. A.W. Khan as the Vice-Chancellor of the University from June 1998 to September 2000.

The Vice-Chancellor in his introductory remarks apprised the members of the developments that have taken place since September, 2000. These developments are summarized as under:

- (i) There has been a steady increase in the enrolment figure of students in various courses/programmes. The annual enrolment has gone up to nearly 3 Lakhs, with total number of students in various programmes touching 6 Lakhs. Professional courses constitute 70% of all the programmes. There is also a noticeable shift in the enrolment towards the computer related programmes. Enrolment statistics further indicate that there is a sharp increase in enrolment for all parts of India. Enrolment of weaker sections, especially women and communities of North-Eastern Region, have been showing a gradual increase.
- (ii) As nodal agency for Gyan Darshan, the educational channel of Doordarshan, IGNOU has taken significant initiative in enriching a learning environment in the country with the applications of modern technologies. Efforts are being made to involve cable TV Net work so that the reach of IGNOU's courses and programmes expanded further.
- (iii) So far as the Campus Development is concerned, the construction of academic complex is progressing well. The complex is expected to be ready in the first half of 2002. It was also mentioned that Phase II construction has been entrusted to Engineers India Ltd.
- (iv) The 12th Convocation of the University has been scheduled on March 3, 2001. Prof. M.G.K. Menon will deliver the Convocation address. The Vice-Chancellor extended a cordial invitation to all the members to attend the Convocation.
- (v) The Vice-Chancellor also made a reference to an unfortunate incident of paper leakage in BCA/MCA/ Computer Programmes of the University in Delhi Region for the examinations scheduled in December 2000. The University has viewed the matter seriously and conducted a preliminary enquiry into the incident and had taken certain corrective measures. Further, the case has been handed over to Delhi Crime Branch to fully investigate the matter.

In response, the following views/suggestions were made by the members:

- (i) While appreciating the rapid growth of the University, it was suggested that the strategy for future should include consolidation as well.
- (ii) The Board of Management may be apprised of the various activities of the University through periodic presentations.
- (iii) There is a need for viewership survey especially regarding the reach of the programmes telecast through Gyan Darshan.
- (iv) Mention has also been made of Kargil and Leh Region where there are potential distant learners. There is a large migration in the Jammu area too. IGNOU should initiate steps to include this population into its courses and programmes through the efforts of student services activities.
- (v) The University should take steps to augment its infrastructure for student's support with a view to improve the services.
- (vi) The cable TV Network proposal of the University involving Gyan Darshan should impress upon the cable operators to telecast the Gyan Darshan on regular basis.

With the above observations, the main agenda was taken up.

The following items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 66TH AND 67TH MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 7TH AND 24TH AUGUST, 2000 RESPECTIVELY AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

BM 68.1.1

The Item was considered. Registrar informed the Board that no comments have been received on the Minutes. The action taken on the Minutes was noted by the members. The Minutes of the 66th and 67th Meetings of the Board of Management held on 7th and 24th August, 2000 respectively were confirmed.

ITEM NO. 2

TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEES.

BM 68.2.1

The recommendations of the Selection Committees along with the profiles of candidates were tabled. The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Selection Committees. A statement showing the recommendations made by the Selection Committees is placed at **Appendix-1**.

ITEM NO. 3

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 38TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH JANUARY, 2001.

BM 68.3.1

The Item was considered. The Board noted that the Finance Committee at its meeting held on January 10, 2001 recorded certain observations made by Shri Sanjay Narayan on the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 24-1-2000 and continued on March 9, 2000. Though, the Minutes of the said 37th Meeting of the Finance Committee were duly considered and approved by the Board of Management at its 66th Meeting held on 7th August, 2000, since, the observations made by Shri Sanjay Narayan came on record, the Board of Management was of the view that it consider these issues and decide on each of the observations made. The observations relate to

- (i) Reimbursement of cost of newspapers to IGNOU employees. (Item No.4 of the Minutes)
- (ii) Introduction of new cadre of multi-skilled workers (Item No. 11(i)).
- (iii) Estimates for Phase II construction including construction of Houses (Item No. 11(a))
- (iv) Rewarding of merit (Item No.11(9))
- (v) Medical Facilities (Item No. 9(14))
- (vi) Recommendations of the Cadre Review Committee for EMPC Staff (Item No.19).

BM 68.3.2

The Board having considered these observations at some length decided to record its decisions/observations as indicated below:

- (i) Reimbursement of cost of newspapers to IGNOU employees. (Item No.4 of the Minutes)

The Board decided that the proposal as implemented required no review.

- (ii) Introduction of new cadre of multi-skilled workers (Item No. 11(i)).

While noting that the proposal had gone through the required procedure like Finance Committee and the Board of Management, even so, the Board was of the view that this issue of multi-skilled workers is an important service condition and which is likely to have impact on other Central Universities. Therefore, it was decided that the University may refer this matter to the Government for consideration.

- (iii) Estimates for Phase II construction including construction of Houses (Item No. 11(a))

The Board having noted that the Phase-2 construction of the Campus have been cleared by the Finance Committee and the Board of Management, further clearance from MHRD was not considered necessary. The University may go ahead with the project within the overall approvals given.

- (iv) Rewarding of merit (Item No.11(9))

The Board decided that the University may implement it as proposed and no review was considered necessary.

- (v) Medical Facilities (Item No. 9(14))

The Board was of the view that University could either follow CS(MA) Rules or the CGHS Rules. It was stated by the Registrar that University is following generally the CS(MA) Rules with certain modifications/revisions taking into account the requirement and such modifications were made only with the due approval of the Board of Management. It was also stated that the coverage of retired employees was envisaged as a welfare measure in line with certain public sector undertakings and Government of India. The Board

having considered the matter, decided that the scheme as it is in vogue in the University may continue to be followed. However, the deviations, if any, from the CS(MA) Rules may be referred to Government for consideration. The Board also suggested that the University may adopt any one scheme, such as CS(MA) Rules, or CGHS Rules or schemes obtaining in institutions like IIT, IIMs or Public Sector Undertakings. The University may also explore the possibility of insurance linked medical scheme.

- (vi) Recommendations of the Cadre Review Committee for EMPC Staff (Item No.19).

While noting that the recommendations of the Finance Committee on this subject was duly approved by the Board of Management in its 66th Meeting, yet the Board felt that this requires further examination in Government. Therefore, the matter be referred to Government.

BM 68.3.3

With the above observations, the decisions taken by the Board of Management on the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Finance Committee at its 66th Meeting of the Board of Management held on August 7, 2000, stand modified to the extent indicated above.

BM 68.3.4

Thereafter, the Board considered the minutes of the 38th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on January 10, 2001 and approved them. The Board, in particular, gave its approval to the items specifically recommended as indicated below:

- (i) Revision in the rates of remuneration for part time staff of Study Centres.
- (ii) Rates for self-activities for B.Sc. (Nursing) Programmes.
- (iii) Rates of remuneration for various activities connected with the B.Ed. Programme as proposed.

- (iv) Financial Estimates for the year 2001-2002 and revised estimates for 2000-2001.
- (v) Guidelines for operation of Development Fund.
- (vi) Noted that the Annual Accounts for the year 1999-2000 were approved by the Finance Committee for referring them to Audit.

ITEM NO. 4

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 24TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 01, 2000.

BM 68.4.1

The Board noted the Minutes of the 24th meeting of the Academic Council held on September 01, 2000.

ITEM NO. 5

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 20TH AND 21ST MEETINGS OF THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL HELD ON 22-9-2000 AND 8-12-2000 RESPECTIVELY.

BM 68.5.1

The Board noted the Minutes of the 20th and 21st meetings of the Distance Education Council held on 22-09-2000 and 8-12-2000 respectively. The Board also noted and approved the decisions of DEC on sanctioning Development and Unassigned grants to State Open Universities and the CCIs. A copy each of the Minutes of the above two meetings of the Distance Education Council are appended at **Appendix-2 and 3.**

ITEM NO. 6

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING OF PURCHASE COMMITTEE HELD ON OCTOBER 17, 2000.

ITEM NO. 6A

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE PURCHASE COMMITTEE HELD ON JANUARY 22, 2001.

BM 68.6.1

The Board considered Item Nos.6 and 6A (together) relating to the Minutes of the 14th and 15th meetings of the Purchase Committee held on October 17, 2000 and January 22, 2001 respectively.

BM 68.6.2

The Board considered and approved the decision of the Purchase Committee meetings held on 17th October, 2000 and 22nd January, 2001 respectively. It was informed that the Purchase Committee at its meeting held on January 22nd, 2001 has approved the purchase of 800 Computers from ECIL, a Public Sector Undertaking, by invoking the Purchase Preference Policy of Government of India. While on the subject the Registrar informed the members of certain representations of WIPRO, one of the tenderers for supply of Computers, raising the following issues:

- (i) that the ECIL is not the manufacturer but one of the dealers of Data Mani Computers and thus is not eligible for purchase preference policy of the Government.
- (ii) that the University has not specifically stated in their tender notification about the point on purchase preference procedure.
- (iii) That the CVC's Guidelines envisage negotiations with only the lowest tenderer.

BM 68.6.3

It was stated by the Registrar that while the Purchase Committee at its meeting held on January 22, 2001 did consider the above representations made by the WIPRO, it was not specifically recorded in the Minutes as the Purchase Committee felt that the issues raised by WIPRO need not form part of the Minutes since the University has followed the required procedures and taken into consideration the above issues while taking the decision.

BM 68.6.4

The Board felt that it would have been appropriate if the issues raised by WIPRO have been recorded in the Minutes of the Purchase Committee and how the Purchase Committee satisfied of the objections/issues of WIPRO in deciding the matter. However, since the matter was brought before the Board of Management, it considered the issues raised by the WIPRO and the clarifications given by the Registrar and decided that the issues be got thoroughly examined and be assured that the WIPRO would have no claim and the decision of the Purchase Committee is within the right of the University under the rules on the subject in giving purchase preference. Before placing the purchase order, the University may satisfy itself of the decision of the

Purchase Committee vis-à-vis issues raised by the WIPRO and rule position on the subject.

BM 68.6.5

One of the members raised a point that the price fluctuation in computers varies even in a short span of period and whether the University has taken this aspect into account while finalizing the firm for placing orders. It was clarified that the University, taking into account the issue of price fluctuation, has asked for the revised financial bids from the short-listed firms which were finalized through the process of opening of the technical bids.

BM 68.6.6

With the above observations, the Board approved the Minutes of the 14th and 15th Meetings of the Purchase Committee held on October 17, 2000 and January 22, 2001 respectively.

ITEM NO. 7

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 30TH WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2000.

ITEM NO. 17

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 31ST MEETING OF THE WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2001.

BM 68.7.1

Item Nos. 7 and 17 were considered together. Shri Arjun Chawla, Chief Engineer, who was invited to the Meeting, briefly explained the background and reasons for the increase in the Project cost. It was informed that IGNOU has entered into an agreement with Engineers India Ltd., a public sector enterprise to undertake the responsibility of Project Management for this Project.

BM 68.7.2

It was suggested that a penalty clause be added in the MoU, if such a clause does not exist, to take care of any discrepancies/performance of the company. This was noted. It was further stressed that the IGNOU may finalise and take all measures to cap, to the extent feasible, any possibility of price escalation.

BM 68.7.3

With the above observations, the Board approved the Minutes of the 30th and 31st Meetings of the Works Committee held on November 14, 2000 and January 15, 2001 respectively.

ITEM NO. 8**TO CONSIDER THE AGE OF SUPERANNUATION OF ASSISTANT REGISTRARS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, ETC.****BM 68.8.1**

The item was considered. Registrar informed the Board that, based on Government's clearance, the age of superannuation in the University for the categories of Assistant Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Joint Registrars, etc. was made 62 years. However, the Government subsequently written to the University stating that the age of superannuation in all Central Universities for all non-academic posts, including the ones indicated above, but excluding teachers and statutory officers like the Registrar, the Finance Officer and the Controller of Examination has been made uniformly 60 years for all the employees of the University. The Board, in conformity with the instructions of the Government, decided to uniformly prescribe the age of superannuation at 60 years for all employees of the University excluding the teachers and the statutory officers like the Registrar, the Finance Officer, the Controller of Examination (Director, Student Registration and Evaluation Division at IGNOU) whose age of superannuation shall be 62 years. The Board further decided that such of the employees who are in the University's service beyond 60 years on the basis of the earlier notification issued may retire from the University's service after three months from the date of the decision of the Board on this issue.

ITEM NO. 9**TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN SIGNING MOUs/AGREEMENTS.****BM 68.9.1**

The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in signing the following MoUs and Agreements:

1. MoU with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI).
2. MoU with M/s. Concerned Action Now, New Delhi.
3. MoU with M/s. Consultants for Educational Programmes & Services, Delhi.
4. Agreement with M/s. Engineers India Ltd. regarding second phase of IGNOU Campus construction.
5. Agreement with Kota Open University.

ITEM NO. 10 **TO NOTE THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1999-2000.**

BM 68.10.1 The Item was considered. The Board noted and approved the Annual Report for the year 1999-2000.

ITEM NO. 11 **TO REPORT ON 12TH CONVOCATION TO BE HELD ON MARCH 3, 2001.**

BM 68.11.1 The Item was considered. The Board noted that the 12th Convocation of the University scheduled on March 3, 2001 at Headquarters as well as all the Regional Centres will be held simultaneously through the Teleconferencing mode for awarding Gold Medals, the Degrees and Diplomas to the candidates who have qualified for getting the same during the examinations held in December, 1999 and June 2000.

ITEM NO. 12 **TO CONSIDER THE CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UNDER CLAUSE (1)(vi) OF STATUTE 6A.**

BM 68.12.1 The Item was deferred.

ITEM NO. 13 **TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF A MEMBER ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

BM 68.13.1 The Item was deferred.

ITEM NO. 14 **TO CONSIDER NOMINATION OF MEMBERS ON THE STANDING COMMITTEES.**

BM 68.14.1 The Item was deferred.

ITEM NO. 15 **TO CONSIDER NOMINATION OF A MEMBER ON THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL.**

BM 68.15.1 The Item was deferred.

ITEM NO. 16

TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT/ADDITION OF A PROVISIO TO CLAUSE 4 OF ORDINANCE ON CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS AND EVALUATION OF STUDENTS PERFORMANCE.

BM 68.16.1

The Item was considered. The Board approved the amendment/addition of the following proviso to Clause 4 of the Ordinance on Conduct of Examinations and Evaluation of Students Performance:

"Provided that in keeping with the mandate to use technology, the University will conduct online examination for such programmes and such courses as may be decided from time to time. The online examination will be conducted in the manner as may be laid down by the Regulations."

ITEM NO. 17

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 31ST MEETING OF THE WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2001.

BM 68.17.1

The Item was considered along with Item No.7. Please see Item No. 7.

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


(PROF. V.S. PRASAD)
VICE-CHANCELLOR