

Minutes of the Seventh School Board Meeting of School of Law held on 16th February, 2009 at 2.30 p.m. at Convention Centre, IGNOU, New Delhi-110068

The following members were present:

1. Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Director, SOL, IGNOU - (Chairman)
2. Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon, Member, Commission on Centre-State Relations, Government of India
3. Justice Y. Bhaskar Rao, Former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court and Former Member, National Human Rights Commission
4. Prof. B.B. Pande, Former Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology, University of Delhi
5. Prof. Pandav Nayak, School of Social Sciences IGNOU
6. Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, School of Social Work, IGNOU
7. Prof. Santosh Panda, STRIDE, IGNOU
8. Prof. K. Elumalai, Professor, School of Law, IGNOU
9. Ms. Suneet Kashyap, Lecturer, School of Law, IGNOU
10. Ms. Gurmeet Kaur, Lecturer, School of Law, IGNOU
11. Mr. Anand Gupta, Lecturer, School of Law IGNOU

Prof. Kamal Puri, from Queensland University of Technology, Australia attended the meeting as Special Invitee.

Ms. Maja Daruwala, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Ms. Pallavi Shroff, Partner, Amarchand and Mangaldas & Suresh A Shroff & Co and Prof. Sali Mishra, SOSS, IGNOU could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members of the School Board of School of Law. The items on the agenda were taken up and the following decisions were made.

Item No 7.1: Confirmation of minutes of the Sixth School Board Meeting and the action taken thereon.

SB 7.1.1

The Chairman informed that the Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the School Board were circulated among the members on 16th October, 2008 and as no comments were received from any of the members, it is presumed that the minutes may be deemed to have been confirmed. A suggestion was made to offer an Awareness programme on RTI to develop knowledge and awareness in this area. A sub committee can be set up to work out the curriculum and develop self leaning materials.

SB 7.1.2

The Board confirmed the minutes.

SB 7.1.3

The Action Taken Report of the Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the School Board was taken up and discussed.

Item No 7.2: Information regarding Launching of PG Certificate in Patent Practice and PG Diploma in Legal Process Outsourcing.

- SB 7.2.1** The Chairman informed the Board that School of Law has launched PG Certificate in Patent Practice and PG Diploma in Legal Process Outsourcing from January, 2009. The PG Diploma programme in Legal Process Outsourcing is being offered online and launched on December 22, 2008. Around 200 learners have enrolled for this programme.

Item No 7.3: To consider and approve integrated programme in LLM and Ph.D

- SB. 7.3.1** The Chairman proposed the idea to Board Members to offer integrated programme in LLM/Ph.D to contribute towards improvement in teaching of Law and research in India. The professional demands of legal education with heavy teaching loads made most of law schools and Universities in India to give dominant emphasis to undergraduate legal education and the same emphasis is missing in offering of quality masters and research programmes in Law. The integrated programme in LL.M and Ph.D aims to attract the best talents to law teaching and research and to create young generation of legal researchers with an interest, enthusiasm and skills.

- SB. 7.3.2** The Board members suggested offering this programme initially for 5-10 students with four years duration. Students who join in this programme can be paid an appropriate fellowship in the first two years of LL.M and later Ph.D fellowship similar to RTAs. A panel of supervisors can be prepared from which a panel of three supervisors to guide the students in this research based learning.

- SB. 7.3.3** Board Members approved the idea and suggested to set up a committee with Prof. Menon and Prof. B.B Pande to work out the modalities and to guide in preparing the rules and regulations.

Item No 7.4: To consider and approve offer of Five year integrated Bachelor programmes in Law (BBA LL.B and B.Com LL.B) in full time and face to face mode.

- SB. 7.4.1** Chairman informed the Board Members that already School of Engineering and Technology and School of Health Sciences at IGNOU are offering programmes in full time and face to face mode.

- SB. 7.4.2:** The School of Law would like to build upon the existing materials of IGNOU by integrating the inter-disciplinary issues of law and policy and offer full time five year Integrated Bachelors Programmes in Law with specialization in Commerce and Management. School of Law is also approaching the Bar Council of India (BCI) for recognition for this programme.

SB.7.4.3: Members appreciated the idea to offer five year integrated Bachelors Programmes in Law in face to face mode. Members suggested that the School of Law has to take a lead in offering professional programmes in Law. They have also suggested to offer BA LL.B, B.Sc. LL.B and B. Tech LL.B. It was decided that as a pilot mode this may be started in Delhi and North East in partnership with established institutions. Later it may be extended other places in India.

SB. 7.4.4: Board approved idea and suggested to approach the Bar Council of India (BCI).

Item No.7.5: Approval with regard to Paper Setters and Evaluators and moderators for the School of Law Programmes

SB. 7.5.1 Names were approved. It was suggested that a broad list of names of all law teachers and course writers of various programmes who are based in Delhi may be included.

Item No. 7.6: Creation of New disciplines/departments and creation of new positions School of Law

SB. 7.6.1 The School of Law is currently offering six programmes and proposing to offer Masters Programmes and five year integrated Bachelors Programme in Law. Keeping in view of the expansion of School of Law and to meet the growing academic and developmental demands requires creation of new faculty position to attract committed, motivated and professionally trained teachers. It was decided to follow the norms of IGNOU i.e. of one professor, two readers and four lecturers.

SB. 7.6.2 The members suggested to create 2-4 new positions of senior professors as Adjunct Professors to advise and guide the School.

Item No.7.7: Collaboration with Kutztown University of Pennsylvania USA for short term courses in Criminal Justice and Criminology.

SB. 7.7.1 The Board considered and approved the collaboration.

Item No.7.8: Collaboration with Lincoln University, U.K. for offering inter disciplinary courses

SB. 7.8.1 The Chairman informed that collaboration with Lincoln University, U.K especially to offer the LL. M in International European Law and other programmes for Indian students.

SB. 7.8.2 The Board members appreciated the idea and approved the collaboration.

Item No 7.9: To consider and approve Clinical Legal Education Course for Law Students, Teachers and Practitioners of US and India

SB. 7.9.1 The Chairman explained the Board about the proposal of one month clinical legal education course for US and Indian law students, teachers and practioners. The proposal came from Prof. Martin Geer, Professor of Clinical Legal Education, University of Nevada, USA and Fulbright Fellow. This will be offered by a consortium of Indian and US law Schools.

SB. 7.9.2 The Board approved the proposal and suggested to evolve an innovative curriculum with subject orientation of criminal Law, Human Rights, juvenile justice, domestic violence and environmental law which are of great importance in India. The Board suggested to take advice and guidance of Prof. B.B. Pande in development of the curriculum.

Item No.7.10: To consider and approve collaboration with Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation, Cochin for offering the "Certificate Programme in Mediation."

SB. 7.10.1 Prof. K. Elumalai submitted before the Board about the proposal for collaboration with Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation, Cochin for offering the "Certificate Programme in Mediation."

SB. 7.10.2 Board suggested to take the guidance of Mr. Sriram Panchu, Senior Advocate, Chennai, Founder of Indian Centre for Mediation and other established institutes of Mediation who have experience in this area in development of the curriculum and offer of the programme.

Item No 7.11: To consider and approve Phase 1 form of Certificate in Rural Local Self Governance and 'Gram Nyayalays'

SB. 7.11.1 The Chairman explained the need to develop a professional academic programme to provide legal training to the members of the up coming Gram Nayayalays. This programme aims to develop knowledge and skills among citizens to effectively use the gram Nyayalays to promote judicial decentralization at the local level. This programme is proposed to be offer in collaboration with NIRD, Hyderabad.

SB.7.11.3 Board members appreciated the idea and opined that resolution of disputes at local level would lead to access to justice and empower the villages. It will be a great boost to decentralized governance. It was suggested that the programme be offered in local languages also.

SB. 7.11.4 The School Board approved the phase 1 form.
