

Minutes of the Tenth School Board Meeting of School of Law held on 18 November, 2010 at 4.00 p.m. at Convention Centre, IGNOU, New Delhi-110068

The following members were present:

1. Prof. K. Elumalai, Director, SOL, IGNOU - Chairman
2. Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon, Former Member, Commission on Centre-State Relations, Government of India
3. Prof. B.B. Pande, Former Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology, Delhi University.
4. Prof. (Dr.) Marian Pinheiro, Principal, V.M. Salgaocar College of Law, Goa.
5. Dr. Sashikala Gulpur, Dean, Symbiosis Law School, Pune
6. Prof. Pandav Nayak, School of Social Sciences IGNOU
7. Prof. CRK Murthy, Professor, STRIDE, IGNOU
8. Prof. Gopinath Pradhan, Director, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU
9. Dr. Babu P. Ramesh, Reader, School of Inter disciplinary Studies, IGNOU
10. Ms. Gurmeet Kaur, Lecturer, School of Law, IGNOU
11. Mr. Anand Gupta, Lecturer, School of Law IGNOU
12. Ms. Manasi Sharma, Lecturer, School of Law IGNOU

Mr Vivek K Tankha, Additional Solicitor General (Direct Taxes) Supreme Court of India could not attend this meeting due to his pre-occupation with a meeting at Ministry of Law and Justice. Ms. Suneet Kashyap, Lecturer, School of Law, IGNOU is on Child Care Leave, hence could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, Prof. K. Elumalai Director, SOL welcomed all the Members of the School Board of School of Law.

Prof. K. Elumalai, Director briefed for the benefit of new external Members of the Board about the origin of School of Law, activities of School of Law and Training and Workshops conducted by School of Law. Director informed that School of Law has organized a Brain Storming Session in June 2007 to prepare a road map for legal education through ODL in India and added that School of Law is offering 15 programmes both in distance education and online mode. From July, 2010, the SOL launched the following programmes: (i) Certificate in Anti Human Trafficking, (ii) Diploma in Environmental law, (iii) Certificate in International Humanitarian Law, (iv) Diploma in Criminal Justice and (v) Certificate in Cooperation, Cooperative law and Business Laws.

Before the items on the agenda were taken up for discussion, Prof. Madhava Menon observed that there is a phenomenal increase in enrolment in higher education through ODL. He said Open University should be a beacon light and should frame a plan of action for the next 5-10 years. He informed that a Committee has been constituted by the HRD Ministry for ensuring quality and standards in Distance Education. Distance Education Council recognizes the programmes offered in ODL. **School Board advised that SOL should initiate a professional programme for organising professional legal education through ODL. LLB programme should be offered through IGNOU. A 6 month clinical programme in regular law Programme should be the future agenda of School of Law.**

Prof. Pande suggested that IGNOU should be the nodal agency and proper mapping should be done. IGNOU should play leadership role in the ODL. He further opined that there should be blended learning of LLB and ODL and identify distance education institutions should be identified in the country. Measures should be taken for enhancing the Gross Enrolment Ratio.

Prof. Menon suggested that faculty of SOL should come out with a vision document in the next 3-4 months, projecting in a big way the road map of next 5 years keeping in view the higher education changes and gross enrolment ratio.

The Agenda items were taken up and the following decisions were taken:

Item No 10.1: Confirmation of minutes of the Ninth School Board Meeting and to note the action taken thereon.

SB 10.1.1 The Director, SOL informed the Board Members that the Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the School Board of School of Law were circulated among the members on 27 May, 2010. The comments received from Prof. Rao and Mr. Anand Gupta was brought to the notice of the Members.

SB 10.1.2 **Prof. Murty** pointed out that in the 9th School Board Meeting Minutes in Item No. 9.7. at page no. 8 the word '*asserted*' should be replaced with '*suggested*'.

SB 10.1.3 Mr. Anand Gupta who is registered for Ph.D. under School of Law. Prof. Amita Dhanda, as the Co-Guide of Mr. Anand Gupta with Prof Rao.

SB 10.1.4 In the 9th School Board Minutes (NALSAR) Item No. 9.2 at page no. 6, the word 'mess' to replaced by 'situation'.

SB 10.1.3 The Board confirmed the minutes with the above corrections/additions.

SB10.1.4 The Action Taken Report of the Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the School Board was discussed. Creation of a new discipline of Criminal Justice in School of Law was discussed. Director explained that a proposal is in process to create a Centre on Criminal Justice. The Academic Committee gave their approval for starting a discipline. The School has been informed that for the purpose of obtaining an approval of creating a Centre, the whole exercise has to be followed once again. In view of the above, efforts are being made to go ahead with the approval for starting the discipline. SB Members had discussions about the centre and discipline. It was felt that SOL should initially start with a discipline of Criminal Justice with 1 Professor, 2 Readers and 4 Lecturers. And at a later stage, idea of centre may be mooted.

Item No 10.2 Reporting on Development that have taken place on the Certificate Programme on Anti Human Trafficking

SB 10.2.1 Director, School of Law informed the School Board Members about the Certificate Programme on Anti Human Trafficking. He informed that SOL IGNOU had a high level meeting with the Senior Officials of the MHA and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) to sketch out the further actions required to be taken with respect to the CAHT. He further informed that as an incentive MHA may consider reimbursement of course fee (of around Rs 2000) to the participating Government officials of the State Governments/ UT Administrations/ Central Government (including CPOs and all other related Organizations), who successfully complete and pass the courses to generate voluntary interest. MHA may take it up with SAARC Secretariat and facilitate further dissemination of the course to SARRC members with suitable modifications/ additions.

Item No10.3

To consider and approve Phase 1 of Diploma in Anti Human Trafficking.

SB 10.3.1

Chairman explained about this Diploma Programme in Anti Human Trafficking. The Diploma Programme will be launched with a view to create awareness among the learners about the various factors leading to Human Trafficking and the lacunae existing in the available legislative setup. This Diploma Programme would enable the learners to be well acquainted with the academic pursuits of Human Trafficking.

SB10.3.2

Based on the decision taken in a joint high level meeting held between MHA & IGNOU, it is proposed to upgrade the existing certificate course into a Diploma Programme.

SB10.3.3

Chairman also informed that for this Diploma Programme, SOL exclusively need one Senior Consultant and asked the SB members to suggest some good person for this task.

Ms. Gurmeet Kaur enquired whether Need Assessment will be done for this programme as mentioned in phase 1 form. Chairman replied that since this is the up gradation of the existing certificate course into a Diploma Programme, need assessment has not been done.

SB10.3.4

The Board considered and approved the Phase 1 form of Diploma in Anti Human Trafficking

Item No 10.4

To consider and approve phase 2 and 3 of Certificate in Cooperative Management.

SB 10.4.1

Prof. K. Elumalai, Director, SOL informed that School of Law will be offering Certificate in Cooperative Management from July, 2011 which will have four courses with 16 credits.

SB 10.4.2

Board members suggested to re phrase the first two objectives mentioned in phase 2 & 3 form of Certificate in Cooperative Management. School Board Members felt that fees for this programme are on higher side. Hence this may be reduced from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 4000/-.

SB 10.4.3

The phase 2 and 3 form of Certificate in cooperative Management was approved by the School Board Members.

Item No.10.5

To consider and approve Phase 2 and 3 of Diploma in Cooperation, Cooperative Law, and Cooperative Management.

SB 10.5.1

Prof. K. Elumalai, Director, SOL informed that School of Law will be offering Diploma in Cooperation, Cooperative Law, and Cooperative Management from July, 2011 which will have eight courses (including one Project Work) with total of 32 credits.

SB 10.5.2

Board members felt that courses seems to be heavy and hence suggested that the same should be clubbed into smaller courses with 5 courses and 1 Project Work.

It was also suggested that Project Work should be for 100 marks instead of 200 marks.

SB 10.5.3

Prof. Menon felt that Project Work should be value added and a means for knowledge creation. The project topics should be well framed and should create fresh knowledge in the area of cooperative management. Project work is more important in ODL system.

SB 10.5.4

As the in house faculty is less, project should be sent outside for evaluation. It was suggested by Prof. Menon that Alumni (best student) may be the guide for other students.

SB 10.5.5

Members also suggested that fees for this programme may be reduced from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 12,000/-

SB 10.5.6

It was decided that an Expert Committee will be called for determining the total credits for project work and course work(whether to be clubbed or not).

SB 10.5.7

With the above observations and discussions, the Phase 2&3 form of Diploma in Cooperation, Cooperative Law, and Cooperative Management was approved.

Item No 10.6

To consider and approve Course Work for Ph.D. Programme

SB 10.6.1

Director, SOL informed that School of Law is offering Ph. D Programme since July, 2009. The candidates are admitted to PhD in law after fulfilling the required qualification and experience and thereafter they have to present the proposed topic before the doctoral committee and also have to under go one year course work. (Two compulsory and one optional). Director, SOL, also presented before board the curriculum of course work as finalized in Expert Committee Meeting held on 15 November, 2010 to finalise the course work for Ph.D. Programme of SOL.

SB 10.6.2

School Board members felt that Ph.D. Work should be world class and much more rigorous. Ph.D. is the study of specific and narrow topic. Enrolment should be strict. Topic should be more compatible. This will have complete regulation on Ph.D. School Board Members suggested that Expert Committee should have few more members from different research areas of Law. Curriculum should be more exhaustive and panel of experts should be expanded. A necessity was felt by Members to streamline the process, and to reconsider and incorporate the changes in the curriculum and redraft it. Experts should be included from Humanities streams etc.

Item No. 10.7

To consider and approve minutes of *Fourth* Doctoral Committee Meeting

SB 10.7.1

Prof. K. Elumalai, Director informed the School Board Members that the Fourth Meeting of Doctoral Committee was held on 15 November, 2010. Mr. Rahul Verma, the Ph.D. candidate presented the Research topic on "**Limitations on Human Rights with Special Reference to Human Rights of Non Citizens.**" He also informed that the candidate was asked to re-submit the proposal after duly incorporating the suggestions made by the Expert Committee preferably within one month.

SB 10.7.2

School Board Members felt that the composition of the Doctoral Committee should consist of more external experts. It was felt by School Board Members that the student should make a presentation before another Expert. Before that the proposal along with the comments should be sent to another expert for further process and opinion. Members felt that younger law academicians can be involved in this. Research should be given centre stage so that School can excel in offering Ph.D.

Item No 10.8

To consider and approve proposal of IDaa Software (P) Ltd for offering their services for PGCCL-OL and other online programmes

SB 10.8.1

Ms. Gurmeet Kaur, Programme Coordinator of PGCCL-OL informed to School Board Members that School of Law has received a proposal for implementation of e-learning for Cyber Law Programme of School of Law from iDaa Software (P) Ltd, which is an e-learning solutions company with a wide range of e-learning services and products. The objective of this proposal is enhancement / up gradation of E-Content (Cyber Law), availability of e-content on the Server through learning management software, academics and technical support, Admission's/ registration, facilitation of the conduct of online examination, and student support services etc. This proposal will help the online programme of PGCCL. If their services are found satisfactory, then their services will be considered for other online programmes of IGNOU.

SB 10.8.2

School Board Members suggested that SOL should do proper verification and check certificates produced by idda organisation before complete outsourcing is done. In all online programmes, the load of work is bound to increase. Total outsourcing is not a right idea. Tasks can be identified and outsourcing can be done but not in toto. Hence School Board Members felt that School of Law should appoint Academic Consultant to face the quantum of work. By this way School can also maintain the confidentiality.

Item No 10.9

Collaborative Arrangements with:

1. Siddharth College of Law, Mumbai to offer LLM and other Courses of IGNOU
2. To start a Bioethics and Health Law Course

SB10.9.1

Director, SOL explained about the possible collaboration with Siddharth College of Law, Mumbai to offer LLM and other courses and to start a Certificate/ Diploma Course in Bioethics and Health Law in collaboration with Indian Society for Health Laws and Ethics.

SB 10.9.2

School Board Members felt that School of Law should have collaboration with credible institutions with genuine expertise and offer viable programmes.

SB 10.9.3

Regarding offering of Programme on Bioethics and Health Care Law, it was felt that School of Law should contact ICMR and Dr. Srinath Reddy of Public Health Foundation of India.

Item No. 10.10 Reporting of online examination conducted in September 2010 for MIPL and PGDLPO Programme.

SB10.10.1 **Director, SOL and Ms. Gurmeet Kaur, Programme Coordinator of MIPL and PGDLPO** informed that online examination for the both the programmes were conducted for four days. This being the first experience on online term end examination for SOL, IGNOU, the service provider Reliance Web World and the students, several problems were faced on the first day of the examination such as difficulty in opening, saving and editing the answers etc. However, the situation improved from the second day onwards and overall the examination was conducted very smoothly. The question banks were prepared for both the examinations. All the Regional Centers of IGNOU were requested to appoint observers in the examination centers identified in their region and School of Law also deputed observers in the examination centres in Delhi.

SB 10.10.2 School Board Members appreciated the School for the conduct of online examination.

Item No. 10.11 Reporting of Law Made Easy Series Project

SB 10.11.1 Director, School of Law explained to School Board Members about the 'Law Made Easy Series Project'. SOL will come out with a series of booklets (on each of identified enactment including concerned rules and regulations) in a simplified manner so that the common man can understand the provision of laws and its implications without any difficulty. Copies of the booklets i.e. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 and The Right to Education Act, 2009 were circulated to School Board Members.

SB 10.11.2 School Board Members appreciated the good efforts made by the School to bring out these booklets. Members suggested that with all these rules, supplement to these rules should also to be given. Mr. Anand said that question should not be in a verbatim manner or section wise. Director explained that it is in a simplified manner and in simple language.

SB 10.11.3 School Board Members suggested that at the end of the each page, objectives should be written. Related questions and supplementary questions should also be given importance. Members suggested that as a pilot testing views/suggestions should be taken from the target groups.

Item No. 10.12 Reporting of International and Comparative Human Rights Law Practicum, Winter 2010, from December 20, 2010 — January 6, 2011

SB 10.12.1 Director, School of Law informed the School Board Members that School of Law in collaboration with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law, United States, is organizing the 1st International and Comparative Human Rights Law Practicum, Winter 2010, from December 20, 2010 - January 6, 2011. The Practicum aims to expose the law students to comparative and international human rights law themes. On endorsement from the American Bar Association (ABA), the 12 day course (18 days with breaks).

SB 10.12.2 He further informed that The US Boyd School, admitted 18 participants so far and in India 12 participants have registered. Out of this 9 participants fulfilled

the eligibility criteria as per the advertisement. One participant is doing Fourth Year LLB and another participant did not indicate the year in which he is studying. Another participant is doing PG Diploma in Human Rights from ILI. He does not possess the LLB/LLM degree.

SB 10.12.3

SB members approved to admit the 4th year applicant and ILI candidate.

Item No. 10.13

Preparation of Vision Document for School of Law (2010-2013) for School of Law

SB 10.13.1

Director informed the School Board Members that SOL will place the vision document for School of Law during the next School Board Meeting as School of Law has remained busy due to launching of 5 new programmes from July, 2010. He further informed that in the School Council Meeting preparation of vision document for School of Law was discussed and the same will be placed before the next School Board Meeting.

SB 10.13.2

Prof. Menon suggested that each faculty of SOL should come out with a vision document in the next 3-4 months, projecting in a big way the road map of next 5 years keeping in view the fast changes taking place in Educational sector and gross enrolment ratio.

Item No 10.14

Reporting of the programme Diploma in Paralegal Practice.

SB 10.14.1

AAnand Gupta, Programme Coordinator of Diploma in Paralegal Practice informed the School Board Members that the Diploma in Paralegal Practice was offered by School of Law in July 2009. Currently this programme is offered in English only. On the basis of the feedback received from various quarters, this programme will be launched in Hindi also. He said the translation work is in progress and School will be in a position to launch it through Hindi medium from July 2011.

SB 10.14.2

Mr. Anand thanked Prof. Menon and Prof. B.B. Pande for their valuable contributions towards the launching of this Programme.

Item No.10.15.1

To consider and approve the translation of Certificate in Anti Human Trafficking Programme in Hindi

SB.10.15.1

Ms. Mansi Sharma, Programme Coordinator for the Certificate in Anti Human Trafficking Programme informed the Members about offering of this Programme in Hindi as the many learners at the grass root level wants the material in Hindi. Because in most of the areas the traffickers and the stake holders communicate in local languages.

SB.10.15.2

School Board Members approved the proposal to start the Programme in Hindi and other regional languages.

Item No 10.16.1

To consider and approve the Programme Code for PG Diploma in Environmental Law (online)

SB 10.16.1

Ms. Mansi Sharma, Programme Coordinator of PG Diploma in Environmental Law informed that these programmes are being offered from ODL and online mode. Programme code for ODL has already been allotted by the Planning Division and wanted that different Programme Code may be approved for Diploma in Environmental Law online as both have different methodology.

SB 10.16.2

School Board Members approved the programme Code for PG Diploma in Environmental Law (online) as PGDENLW-OL.

Item No. 10.17.1

To consider and approve the progress Report of the Ph. D programme submitted by Mr. Anand Gupta

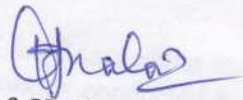
SB 10.17.1

Mr. Anand Gupta left the Meeting when this agenda item was taken up as this pertains to his Ph. D Progress Report (Topic: Right to Equality and Disability Rights Jurisprudence in India)

SB 10.18.1

The Progress Report of Mr. Anand Gupta from 21 October, 2009 to 20th April, 2010 and from 21 April, 2010 to 20 October, 2010 was approved by the School Board Members of School of Law.

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


(Prof. K. Elumalai)
Director (SOL)