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MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY AT K-76, HAUZ KHAS, NEW DELHI-110 016 ON OCTOBER 29, 1991 AT 11.00 HOURS.

The following" were present:

- 1. Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swamy Chairman
- 2. Sh. Upendra Vajpeyi
- 3. Dr T.S. Papola
- 4. Dr Vina Mazumdar
- 5. Prof. A.K. Jalaluddin
- 6. Dr L.M. Nath
- 7. Prof. M. Shanmugham
- 8. Shri C.R. Pillai
- 9. Dr R.K. Grover
- 10. Sh K. Narayanan, Registrar Member-Secretary

Prof Arun K. Mishra, Prof. T.V. Rao, Ms Amrita Patel, Dr N.C.B. Nath and Dr P. Rengaramanujam could not attend the meeting.

Prof. B.P. Dikshit and Dr S.K. Gandhe, Pro Vice-Chancellors, attended the meeting as special invitees.

Shri K.J.S. Prasada Hao, Dy Registrar (Governance) was present to assist. the Member-Secretary.

The following agenda items were considered:

- ITEM NO.1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON MARCH 26, 1991.
- 11.1.1 The Planning Board noted that no comments have been received from the members on the minutes circulated. The Board confirmed the minutes of the 10th meeting of the Planning Board held on March 26, 1991.
- 11.1.2 The Planning Board noted the information given by the School of Management Studies.

ITEM NO.2 TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR TO CONSIDER THE OBSERVATIONS/SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE PLANNING BOARD ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY. AT ITS MEETING HELD ON MARCH 26, 1991.

11.2.1 The Planning Board considered the report of the committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor which examined the suggestions and observations made by the Board at its last meeting held on March 26, 1991 and noted that these have been appropriately incorporated in the development proposals for the 8th plan period.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT EIGHTH PLAN PROPOSALS

11.3.1 The Planning Board considered the draft 8th plan proposals formulated by the University. It was explained that the preparation of a revised plan document became necessary following the Government's decision to reformulate the 8th Five Year Plan covering the period from 1992 to 1997. The University was asked to review the earlier proposals and make such revisions as were considered necessary. Accordingly, the University had reviewed the 8th plan proposals approved by the Planning Board last year. The major changes incorporated in the revised document are:

- (i) The University has already taken a decision in principle to switch over to course-wise registration starting with Management Programmes from January 1992.
- (ii) The Board of Management had decided to establish a Distance Education Council for the promotion, coordination and maintenance of standards of the Distance Education System. With the setting up of the Distance Education Council, it would be possible to organise a network of Distance Education Institutions.
- (iii) The Working Group on Higher Education for the 8th plan appointed by the Planning Commission had recommended that the distance education system should absorb 50% of the demand for admission to first degree programmes from school leavers. This would imply that the overall enrolment in the distance education system should reach a level of 10 lakhs in 1996-97 against the level of 4.5 lakhs or so at the beginning of the plan. However, taking into account

the fact that the Distance Education Council is still to be established and since it would take sometime to reorient the existing programmes of correspondence education into programmes of distance education, it would be realistic if the overall enrolment targets are scaled down. It would mean that the enrolment in the distance education system, consisting of both school leavers and adult learners, is projected at a level of around 8 lakhs or so in the last year of the plan.

11.3.2

During the discussion on the plan proposals, the following points were made:

- (i) While the demand for higher education facilities has been steadily increasing it is important that the Open University System is able to maintain a high level of efficiency and offer programmes of acceptable quality. This would be possible only if the student enrolment is maintained at a manageable level. The University should initiate steps to determine the optimum level of enrolment keeping in view all the relevant factors including the feasibility of providing various services to the students enrolled in different programmes.
- (ii) The Open University System should enable a large number of adult learners; who are not able to avail themselves of the facilities in formal system to pursue higher education needs and improve their qualifications. While the open system may also provide facilities to school leavers, it should be able to respond to the higher education needs of a substantial number of serving personnel and adult learners. The ever-all enrolment in the system should thus be a mix of both these two categories of learners.
- (iii) If more State Open Universities are established, as recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education, it should be possible for them to absorb a substantial number of school leavers in programmes of education leading to the award of the Bachelors Degree. This would enable institutions like the Indira Gandhi National Open University to give greater attention to programmes of education in

professional and specialised fields

- (iv) It was pointed out that keeping in view the proposed legislation on local self-governments (Panchayati Raj) it might be useful to offer special programmes for training of personnel involved in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- (v) It would be worthwhile for the University to give special attention to certain non-traditional courses in such areas as Demography, Primary Health Care, Disaster Management etc.,
- (vi) It was agreed that the members would send their specific suggestions, if any, on such programmes for consideration by the concerned University bodies.

11.3.3 The Planning Board authorised the Vice-Chancellor to finalise the draft plan document and submit it to the Central Government for its consideration. The Planning Board also approved the outlay proposed in the plan document, namely, Rs.90 crores for the Indira Gandhi National Open University and Rs.169 crores for the distance education system. The Board noted that the outlay of Rs.169 crores will be shared by the Central and State sectors.

ITEM NO.4 TO NOTE THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE PG DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION.

11.4.1 The Planning Board noted the progress made in the development of Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Journalism and Mass Communication. The Board broadly endorsed the structure and contents of the programme proposed by the Expert Committee.

11.4.2 While considering the content of various courses, members expressed the view that the programme should include appropriate modules reflecting the needs of rural areas, women etc. It was agreed that members would send their comments, if any, on these matters so that they could be placed before the Expert Committee for consideration.

ITEM NO.5 TO NOTE THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE .B.SC. (NURSING) PROGRAMME

11.5.1 The Planning Board noted the progress made in the development of the B.Sc (Nursing) Programme and endorsed the broad structure and contents

recommended by the Expert Committee

11.5.2 The Planning Board welcomed the steps taken by the University in assigning the course development and preparation work to well-known centres in the field of nursing profession and education in different parts of the country. The Board felt that this would not only ensure decentralisation of course development and preparation, but will also secure the involvement of teams of experts from different parts of the country in the preparation of courses.

11.5.3 Though the programme is designed primarily for serving nurses, it would be necessary to make adequate arrangements for organising the practical work involved in the programme. In this context it was suggested that the University should endeavour to involve all the district hospitals in the country for providing practical experience to the nursing students.

11.5.4 It was pointed out that the programme as proposed did not make any special mention about training in Eye Care or protection for nurses from HIV Virus while treating the HIV Virus infected patients. It was suggested that some provision should be made for training in these areas also. Dr L.M. Nath agreed to send a note for consideration by the Expert Committee.

ITEM NO.6 TO REPORT ON THE FRAMING OF THE STATUTE FOR SETTING UP THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

11.6.1 The Planning Board noted the decision taken by the Board of Management to establish a Distance Education Council for fulfilling the responsibilities for the promotion, coordination and maintenance of distance education system in the country and the statute framed for the purpose. While appreciating the decision to establish the Distance Education Council, members expressed the view that the Council should function as an agency that would facilitate expansion and development of the distance education system and not as an agency that would control and regulate all aspects of distance education in a highly centralised and rigid manner.

ITEM NO.7 TO REPORT FOR INFORMATION THE SETTING UP OF THE REGIONAL CENTRES AND STUDY CENTRES.

11.7.1 The Planning Board noted the progress made in the establishment of Regional and Study Centres so far. The Vice-Chancellor explained that during the 8th Plan period, the number of Study Centres to be

established may not go beyond 125 or 150

ITEM NO.8 TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN ON INTRODUCTION OF PROGRAMMES IN LAW FOR EVERY DAY LIFE.

11.8.1 The Planning Board endorsed the decision of the School Board, of the School of Continuing Education to launch a Course on legal awareness for women. It was suggested that provision should be made to include criminal law and also the recent amendments to the constitution, specially those relating to women. Dr Vina Mazumdar promised to send detailed suggestions for consideration by the Expert Committee.

ITEM NO.9 TO REPORT ON THE SECOND CONVOCATION HELD ON APRIL 27, 1991.

11.9.1 The Planning Board noted that the Second Convocation was held on April 27, 1991 as scheduled and that Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma was the Chief Guest. The Vice-Chancellor informed the Board that the student numbers submitted to the Planning Board earlier underwent slight changes owing to the fact that some more students of the earlier batches qualified for their diplomas on submission of the required assignments. The Board noted the revised number of students who qualified for the award of diplomas.

ITEM NO.10 TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN REGARD TO THE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE UNDER THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

11.10.1 The Planning Board noted the progress made in regard to the Masters Degree Programme in Library and Information Science. The Board also noted that, on the suggestion of the Academic Council, the Masters Degree Programme in Library & Information Science will be offered as a one-year programme instead of 2 years as proposed earlier, and that appropriate modifications are being made in the structure and content of the programme.

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

V.C. KULANDAI SWAMY  
Vice Chancellor