

IGNOU

✓ MINUTES 01 THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THU PLANNING BOARD OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY AT X-76, HAUS KHAS, NEW DELHI - 110 016 ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 1992 AT 11.00 HOURS

The following were present:

- 1. Prof. V. C. Kulandai Swamy Chairman
- 2. Dr. Vina Mazumdar
- 3. Dr. L. M. Nath
- 4. Prof. M Shanmugham
- 5. Shri C. R. Pillai
- 6. Prof. R. K. Grover
- 7. Dr. P. Rangaramanujam
- 8. Dr. Arun K. Mishra
- 9. Prof. M. M. Pant
- 10. shri K. Narayanan, Registrar Member-Secretary

Prof. T. V. Rao, Ms. Amrita Patel, Dr. N. C. B. Nath, Dr. T. S. Papola, Prof. A. K. Jalaluddin and Shri Upendra Vajpeyi could not attend the meeting.

Prof. H. P. Dikshit, Dr. S. K. Gandhe, Prof. C. L. Anand, Pro. vice-chancellors and Prof. B. N. Koul, Director, Distance Education attended the meeting as special invitees.

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

The following agenda items were considered:

- ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 1991.
- 'PB 12.1.1 The Planning Board noted that no comments have been received from the members on the minutes circulated. However, the Board took note of the observations made by Prof. B. N. Koul, Director, Distance Education about the importance of training. The Board confirmed the minutes of its 11th meeting held on October 28, 1991.

, ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE BROAD PRIORITIES FOR PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE VIIIITH PLAN PERIOD.

PB 12.2.1 The Board noted that the outlay for the **IGNOU's** 8th Plan has not yet been settled, but according to the information available informally, the total outlay for IGNOU and the Distance Education system is not likely to be more than **Rs.60** crores in the 8th plan.

PB 12.2.2 The Vice-chancellor informed the Board that according to current indications, the distance education system has to assume a major role in the development of education as well as in our efforts to increase access to educational opportunities. This concern was evident from the fact that in March **1991**, the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) had recommended the establishment of one Open University in each State and that the CABE should set up a standing Committee for Distance Education. He also informed the Board that this Committee has since been set up with Prof. Ram Reddy, Chairman, UGC as its Chairman and that the Committee is likely to meet shortly. He also apprised the members of the Board that according to his information the meeting of the CABE held on 5-6 May **1992** reiterated the significance of the distance education system for the future and made specific recommendations for establishing more State Open Universities as well as strengthening the IGNOU.

PB 12.2.3 The Vice-chancellor also briefly outlined the progress made by IGNOU in regard to the number of courses and programmes and also the increase in enrollment in various programmes offered by the University.

PB 12.2.4 In the discussions that followed, the following points were made:

- (i) In the light of the severe constraints of resources, the IGNOU will have to consider ways and means to reach out to a large number of people from all parts of the country. One possibility of achieving this objective is the establishment of networking arrangements with other distance education institutions and entering into collaborative arrangements with several existing institutions.

- (ii) The IGNOU should develop a mechanism for better dissemination of information about its own programmes and activities as well as approaches and methodologies. It was suggested that material for dissemination of information should be prepared in various Indian languages and made available on a large scale so that potential students have a better appreciation of the benefits that they can derive from the IGNOU as well as the Distance Education System.
- (iii) The University may consider a comprehensive review of the programmes and courses currently on offer on the basis of the students' response. Perhaps in the immediate future, the university may try to develop capacity in specific areas rather than spreading the resources too thinly on a large number of programmes. New programmes and courses should be launched only if additional resources are assured.
- (iv) The UGC has appointed a **Group** for identification of specific courses for the purpose of **vocationalisation** of first degree programmes. It would be worthwhile if the IGNOU could look at the recommendations of this Group and develop some courses in those areas.
- (v) It was pointed out that according to the structure of the Undergraduate Programmes offered by the IGNOU, application-oriented Courses constitute a component of 8-16 credits. **IGNOU** has independently developed some application oriented courses for this purpose. This could be supplemented by the courses in areas which the UGC Group has identified.
- (vi) The IGNOU should develop Study Centres which can serve the needs of the Distance Education system in a comprehensive manner. These Study Centres should support the delivery of the programmes and courses not only of the IGNOU but also of other Open Universities and Distance Education Institutions.

(vii) With the establishment of the Distance Education Council, the role of promotion and coordination of the Distance Education system should receive greater attention. Steps could be initiated for networking of programmes and their delivery with the involvement of a larger number of institutions. In this context, the Planning Board noted the proposal for the signing of a Memorandum Of Understanding between IGNOU and the University of Pondicherry for mutual recognition of courses and transfer of credits. The Board warmly welcomed this proposal.

(viii) While employment-related programmes and courses should receive greater priority in the 8th plan, there could also be programmes that could serve significant social purposes by improving the awareness of people at various levels. The Board noted the increasing response to the Certificate programme in Food & Nutrition (CFN) though **it** could not be considered as an employment-related programme. The CFN programme is presently available in **six** languages.

(ix) The IGNOU has a specific responsibility to organise programmes of Continuing Education on a large scale. But organisation of such programmes in consultation with major employment organisations and in areas where there is significant shortage of trained manpower should be considered as a priority area in the 8th Plan.

PB 12.2.5

Summing up the discussion, the **Vice-Chancellor** explained that he has asked all the Schools to prepare a detailed approach paper spelling out the strategies and methodologies proposed to be adopted by them for the development of courses proposed and **programmes** in the 8th plan. On the basis of these proposals a consolidated document is likely to be ready 'in the next 2-3 months. The VC informed the members that the suggestions and observations made by them would be taken into account while finalising this document.

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER STEPS TO BE TAKEN FOR ORGANISATION OF PROGRAMMES OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE OPEN UNIVERSITY - DISTANCE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

PB 12.3.1 The Vice-chancellor asked Prof. B. N. Koul, Director, Distance Education to briefly outline the proposal for the organisation of Human Resource Development Programmes for the Distance Education system. Prof. Koul explained the need for initiating programmes for systematic training of personnel at various levels and in different categories who were involved in development and preparation of courses, the delivery of various services to the students, organisation and administration of different sub-systems, etc. He also mentioned that there was a possibility of external funding specially from the Commonwealth of Learning and the Asian Development Bank and that the matter was currently under discussion between the Department of Education, Government of India and the concerned agencies.

PB 12.3.2 Reacting to the proposals, members made the following suggestions/observations:

- (i) Appropriate programmes of training for personnel involved in Distance Education are essential. However in the context of the experience of the establishment of training institutions in the past for specific categories of persons, it would be advisable to proceed cautiously in this matter.
- (ii) Instead of establishing a separate institute with significant investment on infrastructure, a small nucleus within the University could initiate and organise programmes of training for personnel in the IGNOU and the State Open Universities and other Distance Education Institutions. Such a nucleus can gradually develop into a major resource centre for training of personnel in Distance Education.

(iii) Programmes of training should be developed by using innovative methods and indigenous resources. The traditional method of training the trainers and leaving it to them to train a larger number of personnel has not always worked satisfactorily. The IGNOU should try to develop a more participatory approach to training involving wherever possible the personnel in the system, the media and the academics in IGNOU and outside.

PB 12.3.3 The Board approved the proposal in principle for introduction of training programmes for distance education personnel. As far as the structure and the organisational framework are concerned, the Board felt that it should form part of the Distance Education Division and later **depending** upon the resources which are likely to be made available, it could be strengthened and expanded as a national **centre** which can also serve the training needs of the Distance Education Personnel in the South Asian Region.

ITEM NO. 4 **TO REPORT ON THE ADMISSION FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMMES OF IGNOU FOR 1992.**

PB 12.4.1 The Planning Board noted the details of the admission made to various programmes in 1992 and that the total admission was 62,375. The Board also noted the statewide and programmewise distribution of students admitted during the year 1992.

ITEM NO.5 **TO REPORT ON THE THIRD CONVOCATION HELD ON APRIL 25, 1992.**

PB 12.5.1 The Planning Board noted that the third convocation of the University was successfully held on April 25, 1992 at **Siri** Fort Auditorium and that Shri Arjun Singh, Minister of Human Resource Development addressed the Convocation as Chief Guest. Details of persons who qualified for the

award of Diplomas and Degrees at the Convocation, in person and in absentia, is given below:

| Programme | In person | In absentia | Total |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| DIM | 438 | 1709 | 2147 |
| ADIM | 225 | 675 | 900 |
| DHRM | 43 | 83 | 126 |
| DFM | 44 | 92 | 136 |
| DMM | 55 | 108 | 163 |
| MBA | 100 | 43 | 143 |
| BLS | 154 | 156 | 310 |
| DDE | 29 | 112 | 141 |
| DCE | 07 | 41 | 48 |
| PB 12.5.2 | Certificate in Food and Nutrition | | 793 |

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

V. C. KULANDAI SWAMY
Vice-Chancellor

