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MINUTES OF THE TWENTY - THIRD MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON MARCH 10, 2000, 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. Abdul W. Khan, Vice-Chancellor - Chairman
- (2) Prof. D.M. Pestonjee
- (3) Prof. R. Chakraborti
- (4) Prof. N.V. Narasimham
- (5) Prof. Ram Pratap
- (6) Dr. R.N. Salhan
- (7) Dr. Tribhuwan Kapoor
- (8) Dr. Anju Sehgal Gupta
- (9) Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Registrar - Member Secretary

Prof. K. Gopalan 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 Member-Secretary.

Before the items of agenda were taken up, the Vice-Chancellor placed on record the appreciation of the Planning Board for valuable services rendered and for the contributions made by the following members whose membership of the Planning Board ended:

- (1) Prof. S.S. Bhavikatti
- (2) Prof. R.P. Jagdish
- (3) Prof. Abu Salam
- (4) Prof. T.R. Natesan
- (5) Smt. Pramila Dandavate
- (6) Dr. N.C.B. Nath
- (7) Dr. D. Gopal
- (8) Shri Akshay Kumar
- (9) Ms. Annu J. Thomas
- (10) Prof. V.R. Jagannathan
- (11) Prof. Mihir Bhattacharjee
- (12) Shri S.A. Reddi
- (13) Prof. C.L. Anand
- (14) Dr. S.K. Agrawala

The Vice-Chancellor also welcomed the new members whose names are given below:

- (1) Prof. D.M. Pestonjee
- (2) Prof. K. Gopalan
- (3) Prof. R. Chakraborti
- (4) Prof. N.V. Narasimham
- (5) Prof. Ram Pratap
- (6) Dr. R.N. Salhan
- (7) Dr. Tribhuwan Kapoor
- (8) Dr. Anju Sehgal Gupta

At the outset, the Vice-Chancellor briefly shared with the members the achievements and progress made by the University so far. He pointed out that there is a change in people's perception and attitude in the matters of potentialities and opportunities of distance mode of learning. He mentioned that the IGNOU is regarded as one of the top premier institutions like IITs/IIMs as reported in a leading newspaper based on an objective survey. The emerging character of the University can be felt in terms of the positive response of the student population and of the Government towards distance education system. Today IGNOU is a major player in the education sector with student's enrolment over 5 Lakhs. The continuing rise in enrolment is a pointer to the quality of education and services being provided by IGNOU. The recent launching of Gyan Darshan Educational TV Channel and Gyan Vani (Educational Radio) are the milestones heralding a new era in the field of distance education in India. The current endeavours of the University have been directed to further improve in the area of delivery operations relating to study material and counselling and in particular for strengthening students' support service. With these words, the Vice-Chancellor initiated discussion.

The following items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 22ND MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON MARCH 26, 1999 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

PB 23.1.1 The Board considered and confirmed the Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the Planning Board held on March 26, 1999 and noted the action taken thereon.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE LAST 10 YEARS.

PB 23.2.1 The Vice-Chancellor extended his gratitude to the Chairman

of the Review Committee and his team for bringing out the strengths and achievements of the University, its weaknesses and draw backs and its challenges and opportunities in the Report for the period 1989-99. Keeping in view the constraints of time and that the Report needs thorough perusal for critical deliberations, the Vice-Chancellor requested the members to consider this item in the next meeting of the Planning Board. The members accepted the request.

PB 23.2.2

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Planning Board will be held on March 27, 2000 at 11.00 A.M.

ITEM NO. 3

TO REPORT ON "STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM (SFC) FOR DD GYAN DARSHAN EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL AND GYAN VANI (EDUCATIONAL RADIO)".

PB 23.3.1

The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that launching of Gyan Darshan Educational TV Channel and Gyan Vani (Educational radio) has marked the beginning of a new era in the use of information technology in the field of education. The involvement of a number of agencies like, UGC, Consortium of Educational Technology (CEC), MHRD, ISRO, NCERT, in this area of communication will particularly benefit the large number of students enrolled with IGNOU as also student community in India in general. The MHRD has entrusted the IGNOU with the task to act as nodal agency providing therewith a fund of Rs.7.5 Crores as budgetary requirement. Members were informed that DD Gyan Darshan Channel was inaugurated on January 26, 2000. The Vice-Chancellor envisaged that in future the State Open Universities will also become partners and NGOs will be involved so that entire scenario of the distance education programmes, communication and information technology use, the institutions involved in these areas can form what he has referred to as "Media Co-operative".

PB 23.3.2

With the above observations, the Planning Board ratified the report on Standing Finance Committee Memorandum (SFC) for DD Gyan Darshan Educational TV Channel and Gyan Vani (Educational Radio).

ITEM NO. 4

TO REPORT ON IMPORTANT ITEMS APPROVED BY THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE.

PB 23.4.1

The Planning Board considered the Item and ratified the action taken by the Academic Programme Committee, a Standing Committee of the Planning Board, for the following programmes:

- (1) Programmes
 - (a) Programmes approved for launching (Phase IV and form-approval)
 - (i) Bachelor Degree in Education (B.Ed)
 - (ii) Certificate in Participatory Project Planning or SAVINI (School of Social Sciences)
 - (iii) Certificate in Primary teaching (CPT):
 - (iv) Master in Tourism Management (MTM)
 - (v) Certificate Programme in Empowering Self-help Groups (SHG)
 - (vi) Certificate Programme in Labour in Development
 - (b) Programmes approved for Concept (Phase I) and Design Form (Phase II).
 - (i) Postgraduate Diploma in Geriatric Medicine
 - (ii) Certificate Programme in Empowering Self-help Groups (SHG)
 - (iii) PG Diploma in Educational Technology

- (2) Programme Approval Process - Constitution of a sub-committee to review the formats.
- (3) Uniformity of procedure for initiating and launching of new academic programmes emerging out of projects - Constitution of a sub-committee:

PB 23.4.2

In the course of deliberations on the Report of the Programmes approved by the Academic Programme Committee, the members felt that the Planning Board should be informed about the status of launching of the programmes already approved. It was decided that Status Report should be placed before the Planning Board by Planning and Development Division.

ITEM NO. 5

TO REPORT ON PROJECT SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, MHRD ON EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EAST AND SIKKIM STATES.

PB 23.5.1

The Planning Board considered and ratified the Report on Project submitted to Department of Education, MHRD on Educational Development of North-East and Sikkim States. The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that keeping in view the objectives of the University to reach out to the masses far and wide, the University had proposed for setting up of 3 Regional Centres, 25 Study Centres, 20 Multi Purpose Community Work Centres, 5 Mobile Study Centres and 01 Audio-Video Studio for the educational development of the North-Eastern States and the State of Sikkim. It was informed that the MHRD has released Rs.8.5 Crores as the first installment towards these Projects.

PB 23.5.2

The Planning Board ratified the action taken by the University in submitting the Report on Project to Department of Education, MHRD on Educational Development of North-East and Sikkim States.

ITEM NO. 6

TO REPORT ON THE 11TH CONVOCATION HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2000.

PB 23.6.1

Registrar informed the members regarding the holding of the 11th Convocation of the University on March 4, 2000. It was

informed that Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swamy, former Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) by the University. It was also noted that more than 53,000 students had qualified in degrees/diplomas/certificates and more than 27,000 students were eligible to receive degrees/diplomas. The Convocation was telecast through tele-conferencing mode at 19 Regional Centres where 11th Convocation was held simultanelously.

PB 23.6.2

All the members recorded their appreciation for the excellent arrangements and finest display of minute to minute precesion of each activity. The Vice-Chancellor accepted the accolade with humility. He also noted some of the suggestions offered by members with regard to timings of the Convocation, seating arrangements and the Convocation venue.

ITEM NO. 7

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE HELD ON 18-01-2000.

PB 23.7.1

The Planning Board considered the minutes of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd meeting of the Academic Programme Committee held on 17-08-1999, 29-10-1999 and 18-01-2000 respectively and ratified the decisions taken by the Academic Programme Committee, a Standing Committee of the Planning Board.

PB 23.7.2

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As the members desired to have the copies of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) Memorandum, Director, Planning & Development Division informed that the copies will be sent to the members at the earliest.

In concluding the scssion, the Vice-Chancellor requested the members to go through the Report of the Review Committee and to send their comments/observations in advance if possible, so that the deliberations in the next meeting of the Planning Board scheduled on March 27, 2000 will be smooth.

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

(ABDUL W. KHAN)
Vice-Chancellor