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MINUTES OF THE TWENTY - FOURTH MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON MARCH 27, 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. K.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 D. Deb, Assistant Registrar (Governance), was present to assist the Member-Secretary.

At the outset, the Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chairman of the Review Committee and the members of his team for completing the task and placed on record the appreciation for bringing this comprehensive report. He said that the findings of the Report will have a significant bearing on the functioning of the University and that each member should engage in meaningful deliberations in the discussion on the Review Committee Report.

The following items were taken up:

ITEM NO. 1 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON MARCH 10, 2000 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.**

PB 24.1.1 The Board considered and confirmed the Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of the Planning Board held on March 10, 2000 and noted the action taken thereon,

ITEM NO. 2 **TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY DURING 1989-1999.**

I'll 24.2.1 While presenting the Report, Dr. Ram Pratap, Director, Planning & Development Division, brought out the salient features contained in the Report. These are:

(i) Genesis
(ii) Scope and terms of Reference
(iii) Methodology
(iv) Kecommcndations

Dr. Ram Pratap informed the members that the Committee-is primarily concentrated on the macro level evaluation of the University's performance with reference to its aims and objectives. Therefore, the Committee's efforts were to highlight the philosophy of open learning and distance education and then to proceed to describe and analyse the functions in the context of the diverse structures and processes that are put in place for the performance of the said functions. The Committee had interacted with various functionaries of the University. He informed that the Committee members, divided in groups, also visited many Regional Centres and had meetings and discussion with the staff thcrc. Dr. Ram Pratap also pointed out that the Committee has laid special attention on the task given to the University as the Apex Agency of promoting distance education in the country and maintaining standards of the distance education system.

PB 24.2.2 The Members discussed the Report and were generally appreciative of the positive aspects outlined in the Report; members also commented on some of the short-comings which can be summarised as under:

(i) Library is an integral component of the University system. Issues relating to library needed enhanced focus.

(ii) Issues relating to academic programmes, student's enrolment, the work structure at Regional Ccntres, and tlie status of STRIDE deserve more claboration.

(iii) 'Regarding the functioning of the Schools/Division the methodology adopted appears to be subjective.

(iv) There is no cleat cut indications as lo how to implement the findings of the Committee.

(v) Some members pointed out that there were certain discrepancies/errors/slips in some of the pages of the Report which need to be edited/corrected. Dr. (Ms.) Anju Sehgal Gupta, a member of the Planning Board, volunteered to edit the Report preferably within 15 days, i.e., up to April 15, 2000.

(vi) Information on training and research activities of the University for the period of review have not thrown much light.

(vii) The Distance Education Council should continue to bc a part of tho overall IGNOU's system and not be viowcd as a separate body.

PB 24.2.3 In rcsponsc to the abovo views/observations of the members, certain clarifications were made. 'I hese are:

(i) The Indira Gandhi National Open University has a full fledged library at the Headquarters and libraries at the Regional Centres for use by the students as well as staff. The Review Cormnittee's assessment was based at macro level. The findings of the Report should be taken as a guide for the University for making changes and as an indicator of the achievements and progress made by the University at the macro level.

(ii) It was clarified that the Committee felt that it was rather difficult lo analyse every issue at micro level because of the magnitude of operations and the extent of application of University's academic programmes throughout the country.

PB 24.2.4 The Vice-Chancellor having taken into consideration the views of the members as also clarifications, made the following observations:

(i) The point regarding the enhanced research activities of the University is well taken. However, it was regrettably noted that the feedback Reports on Research Granls given by the University on various

research activities in the University is rather dismal. He desired that there should be more accountability in this regard.

(ii) The Vice-Chancellor informed that the University will accord priority for issues concerning personal and professional developments.

(iii) He informed the members that tlie recently eonstituted IGNOU Consultancy Services (ICS) will explore the possibility of selling IGNOU study materials through existing distribution outlets.

(iv) The Vice-Chancellor sought the suggestions from the members as to how to go about with the business of implementing and monitoring tlie recommendations made in the Report.

PB 24.2.5 In response to the observations of the Vice-Chancellor, tlie following suggestions were made by tlic members:

(i) In order to go about with the implementation of the Report of the Review Committee as a first step the Regional Centres, Schools and Divisions should be made available a copy of the Report with a request to send their comments in three months time to tlic Vice-Cliancellor.

(ii) The implementation of tlic Report, wlicrcvcr specifically indicated, sliould start within a time frame.

(iii) The Report should be sent to the Chairman, Implementation Committee of the University.

(iv) Before the Report is implemented, an executive summary of tlie Report may be prepared in order to share with the academics of the University.

(v) Sectoral recommendations/specific .recommendations made in the Report are to be siphoned out and these recommendations nre to be sent to tlic conccrncd Directors of School/Heads of Division with tlie objective of getting feed hack.

The Vice-Chancellor while summing up the discussions/deliberations, made the following recommendations:

(i) A summary of the Report of the Rcview Committee bc sent to tlic Chairman of the implementation Committee of tlic Task Force Dr. Ram Pratap, Secretary, Rcview Committee will co-ordinate with the Chairman, Implementation Committee in this regard.

(ii) To seek suggcslions on the Report from Directors of Schools/Heads of Divisions as to how to implement tlic recommendations made in tlie Report within a given time frame.

(iii) Specific rcconiniendations of tlie Report concerning a particular School/Division should be sent to the concernetl School/Division for implementation within a given time frame.

PB 24.2.7 With the above observations, the Planning Board accepted thc Report of tlic Review Committee and placed on rrcord the appreciation to all the members of the Review Committcc.

ITEM NO. 3 **TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF MEMBERS ON THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE PLANNING BOARD).**

PB 24.4.1 The Planning Board considered the nomination of members on the Academic Programme Committee, a Standing Committee of the Planning Board and nominated tlic following persons as its members:

(i) Dr. R.N. Salhan
(ii) Dr.(Ms.) Anju Sehgal Gupta

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to tlic Chair

(ABDUL W. KHAN)
Vice-Chancellor