

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
(Planning & Development Division)**

MINUTES OF THE 59th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (APC) HELD ON 15th JULY 2020 AT 11:30 A.M. THROUGH WEB CONFERENCING

The following were present:-

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor.	Chairman
2.	Prof. Kshiti Bhusan Das, Pro-Vice-Chancellor.	Member
3.	Prof. Rajendra Prasad Das, Pro-Vice-Chancellor.	Special Invitee
4.	Prof. Satyakam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor.	Special Invitee
5.	Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, SOSW.	Member
6.	Prof. B.B. Khanna, Director, ID.	Member
7.	Prof. Rashmi Sinha, Director, SOSS.	Member
8.	Dr. M. Shanmugam, Director, RSD.	Member
9.	Prof. D.Venketeshwarlu, Director, SOE.	Member
10.	Prof. Swati Patra, SOSS.	Member
11.	Dr. Dev Kant Rao, Director, ACD.	Member
12.	Dr. V.B.Negi, Registrar, SED.	Special Invitee
13.	Dr. Pankaj Khare, Director, P&DD.	Member Secretary

Dr. Pankaj Khanna and Dr. Sunil Kumar from P&DD were present to assist the Committee.

At the outset, the Member Secretary welcomed Chairman, Member(s), and Special Invitee(s) to the 59th Meeting of the Academic Programme Committee (APC). Thereafter, the Chairman formally welcomed new member Prof. Kshiti Bhusan Das Pro-Vice Chancellor (PVC). He placed on record appreciation for the outgoing member Prof. Ravindra Ramachandra Kanhere, Pro-Vice Chancellor (PVC), IGNOU who superannuated on 15th June 2020. He welcomed Prof. Gracious Thomas and Prof. Swati Patra, Planning Board members to this 59th APC meeting. After this, he placed on record appreciation for the Planning and Development Division for organizing the meeting through web conferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chairman informed that there is enthusiasm in the university faculty for launching online programmes. Recent online initiatives by the IGNOU fraternity have boosted our efforts to reach out to the learners in the current pandemic situation of COVID-19. Online programmes do have wide-reach..Simultaneously, the recorded sessions can be reused on different media platforms. The Regional Centres were also facilitating learners and encouraging the counsellors for web counselling, conducting web induction programmes, and addressing the grievances through various online modes. He also apprised that a Committee with the Vice

Chancellor, IGNOU as the Chair has been constituted by University Grants Commission (UGC) for the integration of the ODL and Online Regulations. He appreciated the efforts made by the Schools and Divisions / Centres / Units and Regional Centres in this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic situation to provide all learner support services enthusiastically.

The Member Secretary thereafter presented the agenda items with the permission of the Chair. He briefed the Committee that the agenda contains 15 items. The first item was confirmation of minutes and action taken report. As per the second item, the University Grants Commission (UGC) online education regulations were placed for information. Item nos. 3 and 4 were related to the launch of online and swayam MOOCs based academic programmes. Item no. 5 to 10 were related to Programme Proposal Form (PPF), Item no. 11 to 14 were related to Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) and the last item related to ratification of fee reimbursement proposal to SC/ST students to be admitted in July 2020 admission cycle as part of the utilization of grants under SCSP and TSP components of the Budget in the Financial Year 2020-21.

A.P.C. 59.1 To confirm the Minutes of the 58th Meeting of the Academic Programme Committee held on 22nd November 2019 and Action Taken Reports (ATRs).

A.P.C. 59.1.1 The Member Secretary informed that the minutes of the 58th meeting of the Academic Programme Committee were circulated to the Members of the Committee. As no comments were received, the Member Secretary proposed for confirmation of the same.

The Committee took note of the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the recommendations of the Academic Programme Committee (APC) .

A.P.C. 59.1.2 Refer item No. 58.2 - Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Post Graduate Diploma in Development Communication.

Dr. O.P. Dewal, Director and Dr. Ramesh Yadav, Programme Coordinator from SOJNMS submitted that the expert committee was conducted, the PDF form was approved in the School Board and the course writing work is in progress for the proposed programme.

After deliberations, the Committee advised the School to keep the pace for the programme design and development so that it can be launched by July 2021.

(Action: SOJNMS)

A.P.C. 59.1.3 Refer item No. 58.4 Programme Proposal Form (PPF) BA (Philosophy) – CBCS Courses.

Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur, Programme Coordinator from SOITS has informed that the course development work is in progress and the PDF form for the said CBCS Philosophy courses have been submitted to the forthcoming Academic Council (ACSC) meeting scheduled to be held on 17th July 2020.

(Action: SOITS)

A.P.C. 59.1.4 Refer item no. 58.5 - Programme Launch Approval Form of Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Management of CBRNE Disasters Programme.

Prof. T.K. Jena, Director and Prof. Ruchika Kuba, Programme Coordinator from SOHS has informed that due to the unavoidable circumstances resulted from the COVID pandemic; the admission process could not be completed for the January session 2020. The students who had applied for the January 2020 cycle were shifted to July 2020 admission cycle. They were suitably informed about this change in the schedule.

After deliberations on the limited seats available in SOHS programme(s), the Committee advised Director, SOHS, and Programme Coordinator to discuss it in the School and follow all the reservation policies for admission in limited seat programme(s) as per Government of India norms and regulations.

(Action: SOHS)

A.P.C. 59.1.5 Refer item No. 58.8 - Programme Launch Approval Form(s) of Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism & Mass Communication (revised) and M.A. (Journalism & Mass Communication).

Dr. O.P.Dewal, Director and Programme Coordinator from SOJNMS informed that the MAJMC and PGJMC have been launched with a provision of lateral entry and exit option. As per the given admission procedure, an IGNOU student of PGJMC can take the lateral entry admission to the MA (JMC) programme.

The Committee after deliberations observed that there is some communication gap in what is envisaged by SOJNMS for lateral entry and what has been mentioned in the prospectus since the University was getting many queries on the lateral entry admission process. The Committee advised the School to re-look into the lateral entry admission process. It was suggested to

ensure that the lateral entry provisions should comply with the latest University Grants Commission (UGC) norms and regulations.

(Action: SOJNMS)

A.P.C. 59.1.6 *Refer item No. 58.12 - Outcomes of the Director(s) meeting held on 15th November 2019 in the Board Room, VCO to discuss the various issues, technology-driven aspects, and learner support services for the Academic programmes having Low Enrollment.*

The Committee after deliberations suggested to the Director, P&DD to seek detailed inputs from Schools and submit a compiled report for the said academic programmes having low enrollment.

(Action: P&DD)

A.P.C. 59.1.7 **The Committee confirmed the Minutes of its 58th meeting and took note of the Action Taken Reports with the above observations.**

(Action: P&DD)

A.P.C. 59.2 **To apprise about the exemption given to the University vide University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Amendment Regulations, 2020.**

A.P.C. 59.2.1 The Chairman informed that as a reform in the field of Higher Education, University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved UGC (Online Courses) Regulations, 2018 in its meeting held on May 24, 2018.

The University was exempted by University Grant Commission (UGC) from its University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 vide Gazette Notification dated 17th January 2020. The University can now offer Certificate, Diploma, and Degree Programmes in full-fledged Online mode .

The University expedited the launching of academic programmes under Online mode and launched 12 academic programme at Masters, Diploma, and Certificate level in July 2020 admission cycle. Hon'ble HRD Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank ji launched IGNOU's Online Programme, MA (Hindi) through Facebook Live session on 01st June 2020. He reiterated that it would strengthen the Government of India "Padhe India Online" initiative and commended IGNOU's role in promoting online education.

A.P.C. 59.2.2 The Committee appreciated the efforts and noted the exemption given to the University vide University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Amendment Regulations, 2020.

(Action: COE and All Schools)

A.P.C. 59.3 To ratify / consider the launch of 15 Online programme(s).

A.P.C. 59.3.1 Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Director, COE informed that the Centre for Online Education (COE) has got the approval of Eleven programmes (proposals) for online mode from the Academic Council (ACSC) meeting held on 27.03.2019 and subsequently submitted proposals for seven programmes to UGC. Three (03) programmes Certificate in Arabic Language (CAL), Certificate in Russian Language (CRUL), and Certificate in Tourism Studies (CTS) were earlier approved by the UGC for online mode were on offer from January 2020 session.

A.P.C. 59.3.2 The Committee took note of the above and approved for ratification for launch for following 15-Online programmes *(including the three launched earlier):-*

1. Master of Arts (Hindi) (MHD)
2. Master of Arts in Gandhi and Peace Studies (MAGPS)
3. Master of Arts (Translation Studies) (MATS)
4. Bachelor of Arts (Tourism Studies) (BTS)
5. Post Graduate Diploma in Gandhi and Peace Studies (PGDGPS)
6. Post Graduate Certificate in Gandhi and Peace Studies (PGCGPS)
7. Post Graduate Certificate in Agriculture Policy (PGCAP)
8. Diploma in Tourism Studies (DTS)
9. Certificate in Information Technology (CIT)
10. Certificate Programme in Library and Information Science (CLIS)
11. Certificate Programme in Peace Studies and Conflict Management (CPSCM)
12. Certificate Programme in Tribal Studies (CTRBS)
13. Certificate in Arabic Language (CAL)
14. Certificate in Russian Language (CRUL)
15. Certificate in Tourism Studies (CTS)

(Action: COE and All Schools)

A.P.C. 59.4 To ratify / consider the launch of Swayam – MOOCs based programme(s) and course(s).

A.P.C. 59.4.1 Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Director, COE briefed that the SWAYAM platform of Government of India has become very popular among the student community with more than 1900 courses available having around 2-Crore enrollment. Further, the 2016 Gazette Notification of the UGC allows 20% credit transfer which has been approved by the Academic Council for adoption. In the January 2020 admission cycle, there were 21 courses were hosted and out of them, 3 courses were contributed by State Open universities i.e. Uttarakhand Open University(UOU), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), and Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU). The rest of the 18 courses was contributed by IGNOU. The University added 46 new MOOCs on SWAYAM in July 2020 admission cycle, so there were 67 courses (MOOCs) on the Swayam platform. She informed that the IGNOU fraternity has played a major role to develop Swayam courses during this COVID-19 pandemic situation. The total enrolment for the rerun and new courses was around 52,000 in the 67-courses uploaded on the SWAYAM portal.

A.P.C. 59.4.2 **The Committee took note of the above ratified the launch of 67 Swayam–MOOCs based programme(s) and course(s).**
(Action: COE and All Schools)

A.P.C. 59.5 **To consider the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Arts and Craft (Pattachitra / Terracotta / Wood Carving / Stone Carving).**

A.P.C. 59.5.1 The Member Secretary informed that the School of Performing & Visual Arts (SOPVA) has submitted the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Arts and Craft (Pattachitra / Terracotta / Wood Carving / Stone Carving).

Prof. Sunil Kumar, Director SOPVA briefed that IGNOU and Handloom, Textiles and Handicrafts Department (HTHD) under the Ministry of Culture, Government of Odisha have signed a generic Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) to cater cultural, education and socio-economic issues on 9th August 2019. He informed about the status of Skill development programme(s) which shall be in English and Hindi language and then translated in Oriya language.

A.P.C. 59.5.2 The Committee suggested that efforts be made with SIDAC, Handloom, Textiles and Handicrafts Department (HTHD) under the Ministry of Cultural of Government of Odisha for early

development of the instructional material with the experts with-in the given time-lines.

The Committee opined that these skill-based programme(s) be completed in a stipulated period as agreed with the Government of Odisha. The School may write to the Odisha government to make available the requisite resources /inputs for the early development of the skill development programmes within the given timelines.

A.P.C. 59.5.3 **The Committee recommended for approval of Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Arts and Craft (Pattachitra / Terracotta / Wood Carving / Stone Carving).**
(Action: SOPVA)

A.P.C. 59.6 **To re-consider the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Spanish Language and Culture.**

A.P.C. 59.6.1 The Member Secretary informed that the School of foreign languages (SOFL) has submitted the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Spanish Language and Culture.

A.P.C. 59.6.2 Shri Vikash Kumar Singh, Programme Coordinator from SOFL, informed that the content load in the proposed courses and its credits has been increased from 24 credits to 32 credits as per University norms as per recommendations of the Committee

A.P.C. 59.6.3 **The Committee recommended the approval of Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Spanish Language and Culture.**
(Action: SOFL)

A.P.C. 59.7 **To consider the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Value Education.**

A.P.C. 59.7.1 The Member Secretary informed that the School of Extension and Development Studies (SOEDS) has submitted the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Value Education.

Prof. B.K. Pattanaik, Director and Dr. Grace Don Nemching, Programme Coordinator from SOEDS briefed about the need requirements survey and the current enrollment in the existing Certificate programme in Value Education. They briefed about the encouraging results of the need assessment survey. The UGC guidelines also suggest that imparting knowledge and affordable quality education in Value System and Education through ODL

mode to develop awareness on Human Rights, Life skills will help in coping with challenges and functioning of daily activities in a productive manner. The School has rationalized the curriculum of the programme as per the findings of the need assessment study. They informed that the School had written a letter to Chief Secretary of State(s) to consider it for the training of the School teachers in Value education. The School has received positive responses from three states i.e. Maharashtra, Haryana, and Chhattisgarh. The Diploma programme will be launched in January 2021.

- A.P.C. 59.7.2** The Committee observed that the proposed course structure may include the NCERT Value education syllabi. Further, the suggestions by Prof. Swati Patra, SOSS for the employability skill syllabi may also be incorporated in the proposed Diploma programme.
- A.P.C. 59.7.3** **The Committee recommended for approval of Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Value Education.**
(Action: SOEDS)
- A.P.C. 59.8** **To consider the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Agriculture.**
- A.P.C. 59.8.1** The Member Secretary informed that the School of Agriculture (SOA) has submitted the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Agriculture.
- Prof. S.K. Yadav, Director and Programme Coordinator from SOA, briefed about the programme and explained that it will be developed in ODL and Online mode. It is proposed that initially the programme will be launched in Hindi and English language and subsequently in Regional languages. The programme shall impart agriculture education to the rural and urban stakeholders for improving their employable skills, to update farmers on improved agricultural practices, and to promote self-employment in the Agriculture. He also informed about the encouraging results of the need assessment survey done with the help of the Planning and Development Division.
- A.P.C. 59.8.2** The Committee opined that the programme is relevant to rural and urban stakeholders dealing with agriculture practices. The Committee desired that the translation work in Regional languages be carried on priority basis and the programme be launched with-in the proposed time-lines set by the School.

A.P.C. 59.8.3 **The Committee recommended for approval of Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Diploma in Agriculture.**
(Action: SOA)

A.P.C. 59.9 **To consider the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Post Graduate Diploma in Yoga.**

A.P.C. 59.9.1 The Member Secretary informed that the School of Health Science (SOHS) has submitted the Programme proposal Form (PPF) of Post Graduate Diploma in Yoga.

Prof. T.K. Jena Director and Dr. Biplab Jamatia, Programme Coordinator(s) from SOHS briefed about the enrolment details of various Nursing and Medical education programmes being offered by the School. Regarding, the Yoga programme at the Post Graduate Diploma level, they informed about its learning aims, objectives, and target groups for admission of the proposed academic programme. The School perceives high demand in admission based on the finding of need assessment study. The programme will be launched in the English language .

A.P.C. 59.9.2 The Committee observed that School is already offering a Yoga programme at the Certificate level. After detailed deliberations, the Committee opined that that minimum academic qualification for admission in the proposed programme should be 10+2 rather than graduation as was proposed by the School. It was suggested that the School may re-examine the eligibility criteria of the programme in light of the opinion of the committee and outcomes of need assessment. It would be better to develop a Diploma level programme first so that the students can gradually upgrade themselves to the next level as per the programme modular structure of the University. The Committee suggested restructuring the eligibility conditions and nomenclature of the programme. Further, the School was advised to re-look into the feedback received for the Yoga programme and realign the programme accordingly. The School again reiterated that there will be high demand in admission based on the finding of need assessment study. Director and Course coordinator said that there will not be any value addition in upgrading Diploma Programme. The said that the programme will be launched in the English language and will be later translated in the Hindi language. The programme will be launched from July 2021 admission session.

A.P.C. 59.9.3 **The Committee after detailed discussions recommended to approve Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Post Graduate**

Diploma in Yoga.

(Action: SOHS)

A.P.C. 59.10 To consider the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Education.

A.P.C. 59.10.1 The Member Secretary informed that the School of Health Sciences (SOHS) has submitted the Programme Proposal Forms (PPF) of Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Education.

Prof. T.K. Jena Director and Prof. Ruchika Kuba, Programme Coordinator(s) from SOHS briefed about that the two workshops have been conducted and an online need survey has also been conducted. The experts express dire need to provide teaching pedagogy for medical college teachers and medical doctors engaged in medical training and teaching profession.

A.P.C. 59.10.2 After detailed deliberations, the Committee opined that the proposed Post Graduate Certificate (PGC) programme may be designed and developed as a University Certificate level programme, since PGC nomenclature was not been approved by the UGC.

The Director (SOHS) and Programme Coordinator were advised that the decision on the change in the nomenclature, be discussed in the respective Expert Committee and School Board, and finalized. Further, permission may also be sought from the Medical Council of India (MCI) by the School for the design and development of the Certificate programme for medical professionals.

A.P.C. 59.10.3 The Committee recommended for approval Programme Proposal Form (PPF) with nomenclature as Certificate in Medical Education.

(Action: SOHS)

A.P.C. 59.11 To ratify the Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) of Diploma in Modern Office Practice Programme (DMOP).

A.P.C. 59.11.1 The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the School of Vocational Education and Training (SOVET) has submitted the programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) of Diploma in Modern Office Practice Programme (DMOP). The programme has already been launched in January 2020.

A.P.C. 59.11.2 The Committee took note of the launch and ratified the

Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) of Diploma in Modern Office Practice Programme (DMOP).

(Action: SOVET and SRD)

A.P.C. 59.12 To consider the Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) of अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन में प्रमाण पत्र (Certificate in Solid Waste Management).

A.P.C. 59.12.1 The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the School of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies (SOITS) has submitted the Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) OF Certificate in Solid Waste Management.

Dr. Subhangi Vaidya, Director, and Dr. Deeksha Dave, Programme Coordinator from SOITS briefed about the readiness of the programme. She informed that CRC of all the SLM units were ready. The study centres have been activated and the programme is ready to be launched in the Hindi language and after one or two cycles, it will be launched in the English language.

A.P.C. 59.12.2 The Committee took note of the readiness recommended for approval Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) of अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन में प्रमाण पत्र (Certificate in Solid Waste Management) and recommended to launch the programme from July 2020 Cycle.

(Action: SOITS and SRD)

A.P.C. 59.13 To consider the Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Biochemistry.

A.P.C. 59.13.1 The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the School of Sciences (SOS) has submitted the Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Biochemistry under CBCS scheme.

Prof. Sujata Varma, Director and Dr. Maneesha Pandey, Programme coordinator from SOS informed the details about the readiness of the programme. These courses will be added in the existing pool of courses of the undergraduate programme (B.Sc.; B. Com; and B.A.) under CBCS scheme.

A.P.C. 59.13.2 The Committee took note of the readiness recommended for approval Programme Launch Approval Form (PLAF) of

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Biochemistry. and recommended to launch the programme from July 2020 Cycle

(Action: SOS and SRD)

A.P.C. 59.14 To ratify the Programme Launch of Master of Arts (Sanskrit).

A.P.C. 59.14.1 The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the School of Humanities (SOH) submitted that the Master of Arts (Sanskrit) programme has been launched on 24th June 2020.

A.P.C. 59.14.2 The Committee took note of above and ratified action taken in the Programme launch of Master of Arts (Sanskrit).

(Action: SOH and SRD)

A.P.C. 59.15 To ratify the fee reimbursement to SC/ST students to be admitted in July 2020 admission cycle as part of the utilization of grants under SCSP and TSP components of the Budget in the Financial Year 2020-21.

A.P.C. 59.15.1 The Member Secretary informed the Committee that they were offering a fee waiver scheme for SC/ST students from July 2015 admission cycle to utilize grants under SCSP and TSP components. Since then, the scheme has been extended in every admission cycle based on recommendations of Committee constituted to advice the University on the utilization of SCSP and TSP grants.

The University periodically reviews availability and utilization of grants under SCSP and TSP components of grants; accordingly extends the benefit of fee reimbursement/exemption to SC/ST students in each admission cycle through separate notification. The fee exemption to SC/ST Students was rationalized by increasing or decreasing the number of courses in the bouquet of courses based on the availability of funds for the fee waiver scheme.

The Committee on the utilization of SCSP and TSP grants has critically reviewed utilization of grants in the Financial year 2019-20 and recommended for extension of the scheme in 100 academic programme in July 2020 admission cycle to utilize grants under SCSP and TSP components of the Budget in the Financial Year 2020-21.

A.P.C. 59.15.2 The Committee observed that the availability and flow of funds are not consistent as per demand for this Scheme . It was

suggested to have sustainable availability and consistent flow of funds for this Scheme and the University may also write to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNEAR) and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India to seek more funds for learners residing in the North Eastern Region and ST's category learners respectively.

A.P.C. 59.15.3 The Committee with the above observations ratified the fee reimbursement to SC/ST students to be admitted in July 2020 admission cycle as part of the utilization of grants under SCSP and TSP components of the Budget in the Financial Year 2020-21.

(Action: P&DD)

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and members present

**(Dr. Pankaj Khare)
Director (P&DD)
Member Secretary-APC**