

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD ON MONDAY APRIL 22, 1996

The first meeting of the Research Council was held on 22 April 1996 at 3 P.M. in the Conference Hall of the Main Campus. Following persons attended the meeting :

1.	Prof. R.G. Takwale, V.C.	Chairman
2.	Prof. Rakesh Khurana, PVC-II	Member
3.	Prof. Mihir Bhattacharya, V.C. Jadavpur University	Member
4.	Prof. S.K. Verma, V.C., CIEFL	Member
5.	Prof. S. Bashiruddin, V.C., BRAOU	Member
6.	Dr. V.S. Prasad, Director (DEC)	Member
7.	Sh. D.C. Pant, Director (SR & E)	Member
8.	Prof. P. Nayak, Director (SOSS)	Member
9.	Prof. M. Menon, Director (SOE)	Member
10.	Sh. C.R. Pillai, Director (P&D)	Member
11.	Dr. S.K. Gandhe, PVC-I	Special Invitee
12.	Prof. Janardhan Jha, PVC-III	Special Invitee
13.	Prof. V.V. Mandke, Director (SOE&T)	Special Invitee
14.	Prof.(Ms.) Asha S. Kanwar, Director (SOH)	Special Invitee
15.	Prof. R.K. Grover, Director (SOMS)	Special Invitee
16.	Prof. Prabha Chawla, Director (SOCE)	Special Invitee
17.	Prof. R.K. Bose, Director (SOS)	Special Invitee
18.	Prof. Kapil Kumar, Director (CEE)	Special Invitee

Prof. N.C. Nigam, Prof. Tushar Shah, Prof. M.M. Pant could not attend the meeting.

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed the members to the first meeting of the Council and gave background of the Research Policy adopted by the Academic Council (vide its 13th meeting) and by the Board of Management (vide its 42nd meeting). He informed the Council that in order to operationalise the research policy of the University, certain specific programmes have to be launched. These included :

- Research projects to be executed by the individuals, teams or institutions
- Research Degree Programmes such as M.Phil/Ph.D.
- Research Fellowships; and
- Publications of Studies and Research Findings.

A copy of the Research Policy document has already been given to all the members. He further informed the Council about the steps taken till date with regard to the development and implementation of the Research Projects Scheme and the Research Degree Programmes of the University.

2. Research Project Scheme

A report on the development and operationalization of the Research Project Scheme was placed before the Council. The scheme, approved by the Vice-Chancellor has already been circulated to the members along with the agenda papers. PVC-II highlighted the salient features of the scheme such as its objectives, thrust areas of research, categories 'A' and 'B' of the scheme in terms of funding, broad criteria for selection of the project proposals, guidelines for presentation of the proposals and the application format for submission of the proposals. A few issues were raised with regard to the budget estimates for the scheme in the year 1995-96, inviting proposals from outsiders, press-release of the scheme and working facilities for operationalization of the scheme. It was reported that a Research Committee has already been constituted by the Vice-Chancellor with terms of reference and composition as given in Annexure-I. It was observed that the amount of Rs.5.50 lakhs for this scheme in the budget estimates for 1995-96 was not adequate enough to meet the anticipated funding requirements envisaged in the Research proposals. After a great deal of discussion, it was resolved that

- * the Research Project Scheme as given in the printed booklet be approved;
- * the Research Committee, as proposed in Annexure-I, be approved with the addition that a professor of the discipline/subject-area concerned may attend the meeting of the Research Committee as a special invitee, as and when necessary.
- * the funding situation could be reviewed after six months and, if need be, provision for more funds could be made by the University on the basis of the recommendation of the Research Committee;
- * the Research Committee should lay down norms for optimal allocation, disbursement and monitoring of funds for the awards of Research Projects, and get them approved from the Council.
- * the funding demands for the research activities from the state Open Universities and the correspondence education institutions could be met by the Distance Education Council out of its budget allocation for this purpose.

3. Research Degree Programmes (M.Phil/Ph.D)

It was reported that an ordinance on the Research Degree Programmes (M.Phil/Ph.D) was developed by a Committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. The Committee consisted of

-	Director (STRIDE)	Chairman
-	Prof. Malik	Member
-	Sh. C.R. Pillai	Member
-	Prof. Mohan Menon	Member
-	O.S.D.	Member-Secretary

The draft ordinance as finalised by the Committee has already been submitted to the Academic Council. A copy of this ordinance, as circulated through agenda papers, was placed before the Research Council. It was resolved that the draft ordinance as adopted by the Academic Council may be submitted to the Board of Management for approval. It was also resolved that the M.Phil/Ph.D. programmes may be launched immediately after the ordinance becomes effective. Meanwhile necessary steps may be initiated for operationalization of the Ordinance. It was however felt that amount of Rs.50,000/- earmarked for the M.Phil/Ph.D programme was not sufficient. It was, therefore, resolved that provision for more funding of the M.Phil/Ph.D programmes should be made by the Finance Committee. The Chairman assured the Council to take appropriate steps in this direction as soon as the ordinance becomes effective.

4. Research Fellowships and Associateships

A copy of the extract of the scheme of Research Fellowships and Associateships as approved by the Board of Management vide its 34th meeting dated 3 September 1993 was placed before the Council. Also, a copy of the decision of the Board vide its 36th meeting dated 24 February 1994 was presented on the procedures to be followed for the selection of the candidates for the award of fellowships and associateships. After some discussion, the Council authorised the Research Committee (Annexure-I) to take appropriate steps for the implementation of this scheme in the light of the decisions taken by the Board of Management. It was noted that a provision of Rs.6 lakhs has already been made for this purpose. The Research Committee should formulate concrete recommendations on the number of Research Fellowships, the number of Research Associateships, and financial obligations of the University and submit a report in the next meeting of the Council.

5. Budget Allocation for Research Activities

The Council looked into the budget estimates for the year 1995-96 allocated for the Research activities as given below :

(I)	Research Projects	5.50 lakhs
(ii)	Research Degree Programmes	0.50 lakhs
(iii)	Research Fellowships/Associateships	6.00 lakhs
(iv)	Publications	1.00 lakhs
	Total	13.00 lakhs

It was strongly felt that above allocation was inadequate for operationalization of the Research Policy approved by the Board of Management. Financial provision for infrastructure and support facilities for Research Development and Coordination ought to be made. It was, therefore, resolved that financial allocation should be suitably raised by the Finance Committee. The Chairman assured the council to take necessary steps in this direction.

The meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-

(R.G. TAKWALE)
CHAIRMAN

Sd/-

(V.D. MADAN)
Member Secretary

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

There shall be a Research Committee of IGNOU which, subject to over-all guidance and supervision of the Research Council, shall perform the following functions and responsibilities :

1. To develop and functionalize various Research Schemes of the University such as the Research Project Scheme, Research Fellowships & Associateships Schemes among others.
2. To identify thrust areas of research under the schemes and take suitable steps in this direction.
3. To lay down guidelines for screening and scrutiny of various proposals/applications for grants/awards under the schemes.
4. To lay down criteria for selection of the project proposals and the fellowship/associateship awards and make suitable recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.
5. To report to the Research Council for ratification of the plans, proposals and action taken for their implementation.
6. To identify resources and recommend budget allocations to the Research Council for approval.
7. To design tools and develop the relevant performance indicators for ensuring quality in the research outcomes and performances.
8. To consider any other matter related to Research Policy of the University and make suitable recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

Composition

The Research Committee of IGNOU shall have the following composition :

1. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Incharge for Research Development)
Chairman
2. One Pro-Vice-Chancellor to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
3. Director (STRIDE)
4. Two Professors other than Directors from Schools of Study to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.
5. Two Directors of the Schools/Divisions to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
6. Officer-in-Charge for Research Development and Coordination shall be the Member Secretary.

The members shall hold office for three years from the date of their appointment and 50% of the members shall form the quorum of this Committee. A professor of the discipline/subject area concerned may be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as a special invitee.