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**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

Minutes of the Second School Board Meeting held on February 20, 2008 at 4.00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Block No. 7, IGNOU, New Delhi – 110068

The following were present:

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| 1. Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU | - Chairman |
| 2. Prof. Nawal Kishore, Professor, SOMS, IGNOU | - Member |
| 3. Prof. N.K.Dash, Professor, SOE, IGNOU | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Jaswant Sokhi, Reader, SOS, IGNOU | - Member |
| 5. Dr. Nandini Sahu, Reader, SOH, IGNOU | - Member |
| 6. Prof. Vijay Kapur, Professor, FMS, University of Delhi | - Member |
| 7. Prof. Chandan Mahanta, IIT, Guwahati | - Member |

The following could not attend:

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| 1. Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya, Chairman,
Centre for Studies in Civilisations, Kolkata | - Member |
| 2. Dr. Ranabir Samaddar, Director,
Maharirbhan Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata | - Member |
| 3. Prof. Dilip R Ahuja, ISRO Professor,
National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore | - Member |

Dr. C.G. Naidu, Nodal Officer, New Schools was present to assist the Chairman of the School Board.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the new members co-opted by the School Board. The item-wise discussions and recommendations of the School Board are as follows:

SOITS 2.1: Confirmation of Minutes of the first School Board meeting.

SOITS 2.1.1: In reference to the item 3 of the first School Board, there is a typographical error on the Clause under which the 5 experts from outside IGNOU are co-opted. It should be read as "Clause 2 (e)" in place of "Clause (3)". As per the decision of the School Board in its first meeting, the Vice Chancellor nominated Prof. Dilip R Ahuja, ISRO Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore as School Board member under Clause 2(e) of Statute 10.A. The Chairman said that no comments were received on the Minutes of the first School Board meeting.

SOITS 2.1.2: The School Board ratified the Action Taken by the Vice Chancellor and confirmed the Minutes of the first School Board meeting with the above correction.

SOITS 2.2: To consider the Vision Document of the School drafted by Prof. Vijay Kapur.

SOITS 2.2.1: Prof. Vijay Kapur expressed his thanks to the Vice Chancellor for entrusting the task of preparing the Vision Document. He made a PowerPoint presentation explaining the salient features and recommendations of the document. The Vision of the School is to come up with quality interdisciplinary research, which will have a very strong industrial interface or which will act as a feed for policy-planning

and implementation. The School should address problems that our society is currently facing. The idea is to create "value" by drawing upon the *knowledge and expertise developed by academic and practitioners in different disciplines and functional areas.*

A number of disciplines/areas of study are proposed for the School.

- Research on Internationalisation & Globalisation
- Environment and climate change
- Entrepreneurship, and Business and Economic History
- Research on Infrastructure and Transportation
- Research on Innovation and Change in Governance
- Violence Prevention and Rural Development Problem (Strategies against Naxalism)

The School may take up the following academic activities:

1. Publication of Research Journal (Quarterly);
2. Symposia (Quarterly);
3. Seminars (Monthly); and
4. Case-Studies.

The School may go for Academic Tie-ups with Research-Centers across the world, e.g. Institute for Research on Poverty (RIP), University of Wisconsin-Madison. The School may also look for tie-ups with some Research Institutes in Asia (S.Korea or Singapore etc.), where State has been very effective in economic development.

SOITS 2.2.2:

The Chairman and members of the School Board appreciated the effort made by Prof. Kapur in bringing out the Vision document. After detailed discussion, the School Board took the following decisions:

1. The School will form research groups for conducting monthly discussion meetings, bringing out random publications/working papers, and bringing white papers on various situations like Jharkhand and/or Chhatisgarh for naxal Violence and Manipur for Ethnic Violence, etc.
2. To begin with, the School shall have the following disciplines.
 - *Innovation and Change in Governance (includes government and civil society)*
 - *Conflict Resolution*
 - *Science and Technology Policy Studies*
3. The School shall focus on the knowledge generation in the multidisciplinary studies.
4. M.Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral research can be taken up by the School.
5. The School will develop a few modules that can be offered by any other School as part of their programmes.
6. The School can also, bring out an International Journal in interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies.
7. People from the Industry can be invited to the School as Adjunct Faculty to work on areas like IPR, ethics in Biology, Medicine, etc. To start the work immediately, some consultants can also be engaged.
8. The University has instituted a number of Chairs covering various areas of study. The Chair for Sustainable Development and ISRO Chair on Satellite

Communication Education may undertake a number of activities that interdisciplinary in nature leading to courses/programmes. These courses/programmes can be placed in the School. 3

SOITS 2.3: To consider Phase-1 (Programme Proposal) form for "PG Diploma in Folklore and Culture Studies".

SOITS 2.3.1: Dr. Nandini Sahu, Programme Coordinator explained the rationale for developing the PG Diploma in Folklore and Culture Studies. The members suggested her to rework on the eligibility qualifications of the target group for the programme. She may also focus on the aspects of folklore and culture of world before giving special reference to India. Also, the contents given under "the name of the discipline proposing the programme" and "existing workload of the discipline" may be taken out as they do not pertain to that.

SOITS 2.3.2: The School Board approved the Phase-1 (Programme Proposal) form for "PG Diploma in Folklore and Culture Studies".

SOITS 2.4: To consider areas of collaboration with Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group and Global India Foundation.

SOITS 2.4.1: The Vice Chancellor said that the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group and Global India Foundation have approached the University for exploring the areas of collaboration with IGNOU. The School of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies could be ideal place for these. The Calcutta Research Group is interested in offering a Certificate programme in Forced Migration and research programmes in the areas of Peace and Conflict Studies, Human Rights, Globalization Studies that are interdisciplinary in nature. The Global India Foundation expressed its keenness to extend cooperation and expertise to IGNOU in areas of common interest and had requested that the Foundation may be considered for recognition as an institution of learning and studies in the field of international relations, social and public policy and work for the conduct and supervision of research. IGNOU may enter MoUs with these organizations for collaborative activities.

SOITS 2.4.2: The School Board considered the above and decided to have collaboration with Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group and Global India Foundation for undertaking joint activities.

SOITS 2.5: To conduct a national level Brainstorming Meeting.

SOITS 2.5.1: In the first School Board meeting a recommendation was made to have a Brainstorming session. The School Board decided to have a National level Brainstorming Meeting in the second week of April, 2008 in order to delineate the activities and draw a road map of the School. About 30-40 experts may be invited for the meeting. The meeting will have countrywide telecast and web-cast.

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


(V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai)
Chairman

