

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY, K-76, HAUZ KHAS, NEW DELHI ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1994, AT 1100 HOURS.

The following were present:

1. Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swamy, Vice-Chancellor, Chairman
2. Shri S.V. Giri
3. Shri Bhaskar Ghose
4. Prof. Mihir Bhattacharya
5. Prof. Prabhat Patnaik
6. Ms. Nirmala Deshpande
7. Shri Kapil Sibal
8. Prof. S.K. Verma
9. Prof. T.N. Bhardwaja
10. Shri N.V.K. Murthy
11. Prof. H.P. Dikshit
12. Prof. V.V. Mandke
13. Prof. S.K. Singh
14. Shri P. Satyanarayana

Shri K. Narayanan, Registrar - Secretary

Shri C.K. Birla could not attend the meeting.

Dr. S.K. Gandhe and Prof. C.L. Anand, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Shri C.R. Pillai, Director (Planning & Teachers Affairs) and Shri S.C. Johorey, Finance Officer, attended the meeting as special invitees.

Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Dy. Registrar (Governance), was present to assist the Secretary of the Board.

Before the items of agenda were taken up, the Chairman extended a cordial welcome to the following members who attended the meeting for the first time:

Prof. S.K. Verma, Prof. T.N. Bhardwaja, Shri N.V.K. Murthy, Shri Kapil Sibal and Sh. Bhaskar Ghose.

The following items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 35TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 1993, AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.**

BM 36.1.1 The Secretary to the Board informed that no comments have been received from Members. However, the Chairman referred to a letter received from

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the Ministry of Human Resource Development dated February 15, 1994. The Chairman informed the Board that the communication does not deal with any modification in the recording of minutes but contains suggestions and views of the Govt. on certain decisions. He informed that he would discuss them with the Education Secretary and inform the Board of the outcome. The Minutes of the Thirty Fifth meeting of the Board of Management held on December 1, 1993 were confirmed.

BM 36.1.2 The Board also noted the action taken on the Minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: A STATUS REPORT

BM 36.2.1 The Vice-Chancellor explained the salient points from the Status Report presented to the Board. He said that the IGNOU has three distinct functions to perform. These are : (i) as an Open University; (ii) as an Apex Body for coordination and determination of standards in distance education systems in India; and (iii) as a resource centre to meet certain identified needs within the country and also of the developing countries in the field of distance education. He briefly outlined the progress made by the University in all the three areas. He also apprised the Board of the magnitude of the operations involved in the areas of admissions, evaluation of student performance, distribution of course materials, coordination of the student support services etc. and the steps taken by the University in streamlining these operations and improving their efficiency.

BM 36.2.2 The Board congratulated the Vice-Chancellor and his team for the commendable work done and the rapid strides taken by the University. While appreciating the excellent progress made by the University, the Education Secretary suggested that the Distance Education Council should be more autonomous to infuse confidence in State Open Universities and other institutions of distance learning. Similarly, it would be desirable to give sufficient autonomy to the Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE). The Board noted the Status Report presented by the Vice-Chancellor with appreciation.

ITEM NO.3

TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN ACQUIRING LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRE BUILDINGS.

BM 36.3.1

The Vice-Chancellor briefly reported the progress made so far in acquiring land for Regional Centres and gave details regarding the response received from the concerned State Governments. This was noted.

ITEM NO.4

TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STRIDE.

ITEM NO.5

TO CONSIDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STRIDE.

BM 36.4/5.1

Item No. 4 and 5 were considered together. The recommendations of the Search Committee were tabled. The Search Committee had recommended consideration of three candidates in the order of preference in which their names were listed.

BM 36.4/5.2

The Vice-Chancellor recommended to the Board that Prof. B N Koul, who was recommended by the Search Committee as the first preference for the post of Executive Director (STRIDE), may be appointed to that position.

BM 36.4/5.3

While considering this recommendation, the Board also took note of the terms and conditions of service for the post of the Executive Director proposed under item No. 5. The Board noted that according to the proposals made, the Head of the STRIDE is appointed for a period of three years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, on a scale of pay applicable to a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University. In its functioning, the STRIDE will have necessary autonomy and that its Head will essentially be an academic. The designation Executive Director may not, therefore, fully reflect the academic nature of the duties and responsibilities assigned to this position. Further, there may also be difficulties in a teacher of the University continuing to Head the STRIDE after he has attained the age of superannuation. Taking all these aspects into consideration, the Board resolved that:

- (1) The Head of STRIDE may be designated as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (STRIDE) and that he may be appointed as per the terms and conditions of

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service specifically laid down for the purpose.

- (2) The terms and conditions of service for the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (STRIDE) shall be those contained in Appendix-1.

BM 36.4/5.4 The Board approved the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor and decided that Prof. B N Koul be appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (STRIDE) for a period of three years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

ITEM NO.6 **TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF TWO MEMBERS ON THE COMMITTEE TO BE CONSTITUTED FOR RECOMMENDING A PANEL OF NAMES FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR, IGNOU IN TERMS OF THE PROVISIONS OF CLAUSE (3) OF STATUTE (1).**

BM 36.6.1 The Vice-Chancellor requested the members of the Board to take the following points into account while considering the nomination of persons on the Search Committee for recommending the panel of names for the post of Vice-Chancellor:

- i) The University, in addition to launching a number of new programmes, is also in the process of consolidation. It has also taken up certain major projects such as the development of educational media technology facilities with Japanese aid, first phase of construction programme of the campus, etc.;
- ii) The leadership provided by the Vice-Chancellor will be crucial at this juncture to carry on the twin responsibilities of consolidation and future growth of the University and its components;
- iii) The nominees of the Board should have sufficient stature and be able to scan on a nationwide scale the educational leadership available for identifying candidates.

BM 36.6.2 The Board, after considerable discussion, nominated the following two persons on the Committee under the provisions of clause (3) of Statute 1 of the Statutes of the University:

Prof. G Ram Reddy, Chairman, UGC
Prof. J S Bajaj, Member, Planning Commission

ITEM NO.7

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON CREATION OF POSTS OF READERS IN CERTAIN DISCIPLINES/SCHOOLS.

BM 36.7.1

The Vice-Chancellor apprised the Board of an earlier decision taken by it at its meeting held in November, 1992 for the creation of 11 posts of Readers. While creating these additional positions, the Board had also decided that 8 more positions of Readers may be created during 1993-94 so that the teaching staff structure in the University conforms to the pattern of 1:2:3/4 at the levels of Professor, Reader and Lecturer respectively.

BM 36.7.2

At this stage, the Education Secretary sought a clarification whether the creation of these positions have been considered by the Finance Committee and its recommendations obtained. The Vice-Chancellor explained that according to the provisions in Statute 7 of the Statutes of the University, the power to create teaching and other academic positions vests with the Board of Management. However, in the case of administrative and ministerial and other posts the Board's power to create posts is subject to the condition that the Finance Committee had considered such proposals and made its recommendations. In these circumstances and as per the procedure followed so far, proposals for creating teaching and other academic positions are not placed before the Finance Committee for consideration. The Education Secretary, however, expressed a view that since these positions are financed from Govt. grants, it would be necessary and desirable that the Finance Committee, which consists of Ministry's representatives, have an opportunity to examine them and make its recommendations for the consideration of the Board. After some discussion on the subject, it was resolved that the Vice-Chancellor should discuss the entire question of the procedures to be followed for the creation of posts in the University with the Education Secretary and place the matter before the Board of Management for further consideration. Pending these discussions, the consideration of this item was deferred.

ITEM NO.8

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL ON THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE AWARD OF JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS OF IGNOU.

BM 36.8.1

On a request from the Chairman, Prof H P Dikshit briefly explained the salient points of the proposal. He stated that the University is offering only ten fellowships and therefore,

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holding a written test may not be necessary. He said that the criteria for short-listing candidates would take into account their academic record and the synopsis of their research project. The short-listed candidates, would be invited to a group discussion/ seminar and based on their performance at the discussion/seminar, suitable candidates would be selected for the award of the fellowship by a Committee.

BM 36.8.2

The Board approved the proposal on the procedures to be followed for selection of candidates for the award of Junior Research Fellowships of IGNOU incorporating the modification suggested above (Appendix 2).

ITEM NO.9

TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO STATUTE 10A (1) TO PROVIDE FOR THE SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES.

BM 36.9.1

The Board considered the proposal. The Education Secretary suggested that a decision on this item could be deferred in view of the fact that the Board has appointed a committee to examine the issues involved in starting legal education programmes. He expressed the view that a decision for amending the Statute could be taken after the report of the committee is considered by the Board. The Board accepted this suggestion and decided to defer consideration of the item.

ITEM NO.10

TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DECENTRALISATION AND RESTRUCTURING OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE UNIVERSITY.

BM 36.10.1

The Board considered the recommendations made by the Committee appointed by it to examine the question of decentralization and restructuring of the student support services of the University. After some discussion on the various issues involved, the Board took the following decisions:

- (1) The positions of Regional Directors at the Regional Centres which fulfil the following criteria may be upgraded to that of Regional Director (Grade I) in the scale of pay of Rs.4500-7300:
 - (i) The number of Study Centres functioning within the jurisdiction of a Regional Centre is 15 or more.
 - (ii) The Regional Centres offer all the programmes and courses of the University in the region.