

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD AT THE INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI ON TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1994, AT 1100 HOURS.

The following were present:

1. Prof. V.C. Kulandai Swamy, Vice-Chancellor, Chairman
2. Shri S.V. Giri
3. Prof. Mihir Bhattacharya
4. Ms. Nirmala Deshpande
5. Prof. Prabhat Patnaik
6. Dr S.K. Gandhe
7. Prof. V.V. Mandke
8. Prof. S.K. Singh
9. Prof. S.K. Verma

Dr K. Anjanappa, Registrar - Secretary

Shri Bhaskar Ghose, Shri Kapil Sibal, Shri C.K. Birla, Shri N.V.K. Murthy and Shri P. Satyanarayana could not attend the meeting.

Prof. C.L. Anand, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, 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 the agenda were considered, the Chairman informed the Board that Prof. H.P. Dikshit, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and member of the Board of Management retired from the membership of the Board consequent to his demitting office of Pro-Vice-Chancellor. The Board placed on record its deep appreciation of the valuable contributions made by him to the deliberations of the Board of Management. The Chairman also informed the Board that Shri K. Narayanan, Registrar, who had been the Secretary of the Board, had also demitted office on completion of his term. The Board placed on record its deep appreciation of the services rendered by Shri K. Narayanan in the conduct of the meetings of the Board of Management.

The following items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 37TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON MAY 30, 1994 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

BM 38.1.1 The Secretary informed the Board that one member

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had sent his comments relating to the recording of the minutes under item No.8, 24 and 25. The Vice-Chancellor read out the contents of the letter and clarified them as below:

Item No.8: The member pointed out that the statement of the Chairman that he would not hold the interview for the post of Registrar but would leave it to his successor did not find place in the minutes. The Vice-Chancellor clarified that the statement was the expression of a personal view and that it was not intended to be recorded in the minutes as a decision.

Item No.24: The member pointed out that during the discussion on the item it was stated that expenses on the AAOU Conference would be met from the Registration fees received for the conference and that this statement did not find a place in the minutes. It was clarified that while most of the expenditure involved in holding the conference would be met from registration fee and contributions that may be received from other agencies, some expenditure will devolve on the University as a host institution especially in such matters as pre-conference preparation, publicity materials, etc and that the sanction of Rs.4.75 lakhs was sought for this purpose. In view of this, the recording of the minutes did not require any change.

Item No.25: The recording of the minutes stating that the consideration of the item was deferred as requested by one of the members was correct and therefore no change was needed.

BM 38.1.2 The Board accepted the above clarifications and confirmed the minutes of the 37th meeting of the Board of Management held on May 30, 1994.

BM 38.1.3 The Board also noted the action taken on the minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: STAFF TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION (STRIDE).

BM 38.2.1 The Vice-Chancellor explained that the report on the STRIDE also contained certain proposals for consideration and approval by the Board. He briefly explained the salient features presented in the note on the STRIDE, namely:

- i) Granting sufficient autonomy to STRIDE in financial management.

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- ii) There is need to augment the staff strength in order to effectively manage the affairs of STRIDE and to administer the foreign students (Rajiv Gandhi Fellowships). One post of Professor in the STRIDE is vacant. It has been readvertised. There are also other vacant positions but the selection will take some time. Prof. S.P. Mullick who is due to retire in October 1994 may be reemployed for a period of one year.
 - iii) The STRIDE had recently conducted two tracer studies; one on the utility of the IGNOU's MBA programme for career advancement, development of professional competences, knowledge enrichment, etc and another to understand the views of the participants in the BLIS programme in respect of course content, continuous evaluation and term-end examination. The suggestions and responses received from the participants have been extremely useful for improving the quality of the programmes, especially the delivery of various services.
 - iv) The Asian Regional Workshop, co-hosted by COL, Canada and IGNOU is scheduled to be held in July, 1994 with the objective of developing an Asian Region Human Resource Training Plan for the period 1994-97. The workshop is expected to prepare a perspective plan for training in Distance Education for the next four years in the region comprising India and the neighbouring countries.

BM 38.2.2 The Board of Management considered the proposals outlined above and decided as follows:

- i) The proposal for functional freedom to operate the funds required by the STRIDE for its activities is approved in principle. However, this operational freedom may have to be broadly within the overall discipline of the Financial Code of the IGNOU. The details of powers that need to be delegated, may be worked out and placed before the Advisory Committee of the STRIDE in the first instance and brought before the Board of Management with its recommendations for further consideration.
- ii) The proposal for reemployment of Prof. S.P. Mullick for a period of one year after his retirement in October, 1994 is approved.

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iii) In the light of the experience gained from the two studies, the STRIDE should undertake further in-depth studies to evaluate the utility and impact of its programmes and to develop methods for improvement in the system.

iv) The Board noted that the Asian Regional Workshop, hosted by COL and IGNOU will be held in New Delhi during July 25-28, 1994.

ITEM NO.3

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH JUNE, 1994 AND APPROVAL ON SPECIFIC ITEMS.

BM 38.3.1 The minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Finance Committee held on June 24, 1994 were considered and approved by the Board (Appendix-1). The Board in particular approved the specific recommendations made by the Finance Committee in respect of the following items:

- i) Establishment of the IGNOU Employees Welfare Fund.
- ii) Upgradation of the post of Senior Attendant and Cyclostyling Operator to Photo-copying Operator.
- iii) The proposal on terminal benefits to the Registrars.
- iv) The proposal on terminal benefits to the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.
- v) The revision of pay scale of laboratory attendants.
- vi) Promotional scheme for staff car drivers.
- vii) The proposal on counting of military service rendered before joining IGNOU.
- viii) Annual Accounts of the University for the financial year 1993-94.
- ix) Variations in the expenditure over the final grants during the financial year 1993-94.

ITEM NO.4

TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29.6.1994.

BM 38.4.1

The Board of Management noted the minutes of the 16th meeting of the Planning Board held on June 29, 1994. The Vice-Chancellor briefly explained

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the salient points arising out of the minutes of the Planning Board and stated that the Planning Board, after due consideration of various proposals placed before it, approved some of the programmes and sought more details on some others. In response to an observation that the Planning Board should have accepted in principle the proposals prepared by the Schools and referred them to the Academic Council for its consideration, the Vice-Chancellor clarified that the Planning Board is an authority in its own right and was vested with powers on matters relating to planning and examination of new academic programmes. The proceedings of the Planning Board are placed before the Board of Management for its information so that the Board is aware of the decisions of the Planning Board. It was suggested that comments, if any, on the minutes of the Planning Board might be sent by the members so that Planning Board could consider them at its next meeting.

ITEM NO.5

TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE PURCHASE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14.6.94.

BM 38.5.1 The Board of Management considered and approved the minutes of the fifth meeting of the Purchase Committee held on June 14, 1994 (Appendix-2). One of the members stated that he attended the meeting of the Purchase Committee as its member but his name did not figure among the members present. The Vice-Chancellor regretted this omission and stated that necessary corrections would be effected.

ITEM NO.6

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSE ALLOTMENT RULES OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR ALLOTMENT OF UNIVERSITY HOUSES IN THE ASIAN GAMES VILLAGE COMPLEX.

BM 38.6.1 The Board considered in some detail the proposed amendments to the House Allotment Rules. The amended clauses as approved by the Board are given in Appendix-3.

ITEM NO.7

TO CONSIDER INITIATION OF DEPARTMENTAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST SHRI ARJUN CHAWLA, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER AND APPROVAL FOR ISSUE OF REVISED CHARGE SHEET.

BM 38.7.1 The Vice-Chancellor briefly explained the reasons for issuance of a revised charge-sheet to Shri Arjun Chawla. He stated that the Inquiry Officer raised a doubt concerning the legal validity of the earlier charge sheet issued to him by the Registrar since disciplinary action could be

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initiated only by the appointing authority. In the instant case, the appointing authority being the Vice-Chancellor with the prior approval of the Board of Management, the matter was brought before the Board to seek its approval for initiating the departmental proceedings and for issuing a revised charge sheet over the signature of the Vice-Chancellor. While on the subject, one member expressed a view that since Shri Arjun Chawla's absorption in the service of the University had been considered by the Establishment Committee and approved by the Board of Management in 1992, he should first be absorbed and then charge-sheeted. The Vice-Chancellor, informed the Board that consequent on the developments involving the investigation in the lapses in the work in the quarters and the recommendation for action against the JE, AE and EE by the Chief Technical Examiner of the Central Vigilance Commission, Shri Arjun Chawla was not absorbed. The Board also noted that Shri Arjun Chawla has gone to the court on the question of his absorption and that the matter is sub-judice.

BM 38.7.2

The Board after due consideration, authorised the Vice-Chancellor to initiate departmental proceedings against Shri Arjun Chawla by issuing a revised charge sheet under the signature of the Vice-Chancellor.

ITEM NO.8

TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSION OF LIEN OF PROF. V.R. JAGANNATHAN AS VISITING PROFESSOR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST INDIES.

BM 38.8.1 The Board considered the proposal in some detail. After considering various aspects of the matter, the Board decided that proposals which involve extension of period of lien beyond **two years in the case of assignments outside the University** should be considered on the basis of **the following guidelines:**

- i) In the case of important **assignments like those of Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Heads of National Institutes, assignments in United Nations and similar International Organizations and Government of India assignments abroad in Embassies etc** at senior level, a distinction should be made between assignments which **serve public interest** and those secured on the **private initiative of the person concerned,**
- (ii) Applications, if any, **should have been routed**