

IGNOU

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON AUGUST 06, 2001, AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK-8, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI - 110 068.

The following were present:

- (1) Prof. H.P. Dikshit, Vice-Chancellor - Chairman
- (2) Prof. N.K. Ambasht
- (3) Prof. S.C. Garg
- (4) Dr. C.K. Ghosh
- (5) Prof. N.R.M. Menon
- (6) Prof. H.C. Pandey
- (7) Prof. B.S. Saraswat

Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Registrar - Secretary

Shri Pawan Chopra, Shri L.N. Jhunjhunwala, Shri M.K. Kaw, and Shri J. Veeraraghavan could not attend the meeting.

Shri Vikram Chandra, Finance Officer, IGNOU, attended the meeting as a Special Invitee. Shri D. Deb, Assistant Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Board.

The Vice-Chancellor placed on record our deep sense of appreciation for the services rendered by the acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. V.S. Prasad and the following other former members of the Board:

- (i) Prof. A.K. Agarwal
- (ii) Shri Y.N. Chaturvedi, former Secretary, Ministry of I&B
- (iii) Dr. D.K. Choudhry
- (iv) Dr. J.M. Parakh

The Vice-Chancellor also extended a hearty welcome to the following new members nominated on the Board of Management:

- (i) Shri Pawan Chopra, Secretary, Ministry of I & B
- (ii) Prof. S.C. Garg
- (iii) Dr. C.K. Ghosh
- (iv) Prof. B.S. Saraswat

This being the first meeting of the BOM under the chairmanship of the new Vice Chancellor he made the following presentation for the consideration of the Board:

"I have great pleasure in welcoming all of you to the first meeting of the BOM after my joining IGNOU as the fifth Vice Chancellor of the University on June 24, 2001. In this first meeting I would seek your kind indulgence, your valued consideration and support to a few initial observations and some of the proposed directions of our development. In doing so I wish to record, significant contributions made by my able predecessors and the entire community of IGNOU during the last sixteen years of our existence. Sustained efforts with new initiatives and successful collaborative interventions during this period have all contributed to emergence of not only one of the largest Universities in the world today but a new system of education where IGNOU is at the centre stage of a network of 9 State Open Universities and 63 Correspondence Course Institutes existing in the conventional Universities. We may draw your kind attention to the following provisions of the Act of the University specifying some major and unique roles of IGNOU as a system and not just as another University.

- I. Responsibility for determining standards of distance education and maintaining them across the institutions in the country and to promote the system.
- II. Another very important responsibility, which is again unique for the open and distance learning system, is to provide education for the well being of the community.

All these dimensions and complexions taken together make us realize that the expectations from IGNOU cover a fairly wide area of applications and multidimensional tasks to be handled by us. Added to this, is the inherent dynamic growth of the systems requiring special capabilities to handle very large systems maintaining quality. We may have to plan innovative and decentralized systems, try them as pilot projects and then replicate them. In the important context of the responsibility at (I) above, there appear to be some very serious concerns about the quality of distance education programmes being introduced and conducted by a variety of institutions without having even a minimum level of student support and expertise in distance education. The Distance Education Council may have to play a more serious and effective role in this direction so that quality of distance education is maintained. On one hand we have to evolve innovative subsystems like Inter University Consortium for development of Self Instructional Material for Region Specific requirements and needs, Schools \ Departments \ Institutions of excellence and at the same

time we may have to firmly deal with nonviable systems of distance education and make serious efforts to transform them into viable systems. In the background of the fact that Distance Education has emerged as a highly technical area with limited available expertise, we may have to play a more proactive role as the National University in extending expertise for development, transformation and expansion of the open and flexible learning system in the country and even abroad. We could share resources with the conventional Universities and Institutions of higher learning as well. We may also have to focus our greater attention in implementation of a recommendation of the Planning Commission, Govt. of India to the effect that each state in the country should have at least one Open University. As regards the second point mentioned above we may have to take major initiatives to reach the unreached and to address the problems concerning special target groups of learners.

We would like to share with the BOM some of the problems that may need our greater attention. The funding from the Government for non plan items of expenditure has been declining and is already insignificant. Even for the plan items the flow of funds is difficult. The first installment of the approved grant for the current financial year, which should have been released in April 2001 could be cleared only recently with special intervention of the Secretary Education (Higher & Secondary) and we should be able to receive the amount within the next few days. Such delays adversely affect our action plans and have also lead to situations when amounts received from projects had to be temporarily utilized so that ongoing projects, like equipment for EMPC, building works etc., which have to be completed within a fixed time frame should not be delayed. As a consequence of such financial hardships on my joining the University it was noted by us in the last week of June 2001 that we had even withdrawn nearly Rs. 13 crores from the corpus fund of the University. We have to make some special efforts to ensure regular flow of the sanctioned amounts for better financial management.

IGNOU has attained a level of credibility and acceptability due to which lot of funded projects from within the country and abroad are offered. We may promote such collaborations with a greater effort to maintain schedules of implementation.

It will be our endeavor to share with you our problems and our achievements as we grow and to seek your valuable guidance and support through the meetings of the BOM or otherwise. In all humility and in keeping with the past traditions and experience, we feel confident that with your cooperation and valuable support we will all together be able to make most sincere efforts to meet the challenges successfully, efficiently and effectively."

At the end of the above presentation the members of the Board expressed their appreciation for the initiative of the Chairman in placing before them some of the crucial areas which needed with some urgency, policy decisions for some

new initiatives and interventions for effective implementation of the mandate given to IGNOU. While endorsing the presentation of the Vice Chancellor for further necessary action, the following additional points were also made for implementation.

(i) Distance Education Council (DEC) should endeavour to act as an effective source for improving the quality of all distance education programmes in the country and should provide leadership and guidance to other institutions in achieving this objective. In general IGNOU should play a proactive role in helping other institutions to develop and improve the quality of distance education. However the Board also expressed its serious concerns about the existence of some nonviable systems of distance education in the country with very weak student support and programme delivery which still charge substantial fees from learners. As per the requirements of the Act and consequent responsibilities of IGNOU, effective measures have to be taken on priority by the DEC also to check such practices which adversely affect the credibility of distance education.

(ii) Networking of existing resources both in the conventional and open and distance learning systems should be strengthened and greater attention should be given to education and skill upgradation for programmes leading to general improvement in the quality of life of our people.

(iii) The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) had a tremendous task before them to assess and accredit nearly 12,000 Colleges and 264 Universities/Deemed Universities in the conventional systems out of which the NAAC has been able to accomplish the process for a very small percentage of such institutions during the last few years. In contrast to this there are only nine State Open Universities and 64 Correspondence Course Institutions out of which quite a number of them are in initial stages of being set up. The DEC may have to play more of a promotional role in bringing these institutions to an appropriate level and develop inbuilt systems for quality control and quality assurance.

(iv) In development of programmes which are of highly specialized nature through distance mode, we may have to keep in view the norms prescribed by the corresponding regulatory agencies.

(v) Programmes addressing the regional needs may also be developed.

(vi) Indira Gandhi National Open University should develop a Vision Paper identifying missions to be achieved.

The following items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 68TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2001 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

BM 69.1.1

The Item was considered. Registrar informed the Board that no comments have been received on the Minutes. The action taken on the Minutes was noted by the members. The Minutes of the 68th Meeting of the Board of Management held on January 24, 2001 were confirmed with the following incorporations/modifications:

- (i) With reference to BM 68.3.2(v), it has been suggested that the University should adopt one scheme of medical reimbursement. The Medical Review Committee should submit its report to the Board of Management at its next meeting. Prof. S.C. Garg has been nominated as a member of the Medical Review Committee.
- (ii) With reference to BM 68.3.4(i), it was agreed that revision in the rates of remuneration for part-time staff of study centers needs to be reviewed.
- (iii) With reference to BM 68.6.4, it was clarified that the issues of the said resolution have been clarified in the Agenda Item No. 4 of the present meeting.

ITEM NO. 2

TO CONSIDER THE CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UNDER CLAUSE (1)(vi) OF STATUTE 6A.

BM 69.2.1

The Board co-opted the following members on the Board of Management under Clause (1)(vi) of Statute 6A representing the following constituencies:

- (i) Vice-Chancellor of a State Open University :

Dr. N.S. Ramegowda, Vice Chancellor, KSOU,

Mysore

- (ii) An expert on distance education:

Prof. C.L. Anand, Former Pro Vice-Chancellor,
IGNOU.

- (iii) A person who has knowledge of, or experience
in media/communication field:

Shri Y.N. Chaturvedi, Former Secretary,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

ITEM NO. 3

**TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENTS OF CLAUSE (6)
OF STATUTE 2 OF THE STATUTES OF THE
UNIVERSITY.**

BM 69.3.1

The Board considered and approved the amendments proposed to Clause (6) of Statute 2 of the Statutes of the University with a minor modification. The statement giving the provisions of existing Statute, amendments proposed and the Statute after amendment is given at Appendix - 1.

ITEM NO. 4

**TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 16TH, 17TH AND 18TH
MEETINGS OF THE PURCHASE COMMITTEE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, MARCH 28 AND JUNE 4,
2001 RESPECTIVELY.**

**ADDITIONAL
ITEM NO. 32**

**TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 19TH MEETING
OF THE PURCHASE COMMITTEE HELD ON
AUGUST 03, 2001.**

BM 69.4.1

The Board considered Item No. 4 and Item No. 32 together. On a request from Vice-Chancellor, the Finance Officer briefed the members on the Purchase Committee minutes presented with particular reference to the 17th Meeting of the Purchase Committee regarding the Purchase of Computers. The Board of Management, at its meeting held on January 24, 2001, while approving the purchase of computers in principle, suggested that the points raised by WIPRO be addressed and after satisfactorily dealing with them, place the orders. The Finance Officer informed the Board that issues raised by WIPRO have been considered by the Purchase Committee. It was stated that the