

IGNOU

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON APRIL 30, 2004 AT 11.00 A. M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK - 8, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI - 110 068

The following were present:

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| (1) | Prof. H.P. Dikshit, Vice-Chancellor | - | Chairman |
| (2) | Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor | - | Member |
| (3) | Prof. (Mrs.) Surabhi Banerjee | - | Member |
| (4) | Prof. C.L. Anand | - | Member |
| (5) | Prof. Kapil Kumar | - | Member |
| (6) | Prof. B.S. Saraswat | - | Member |
| (7) | Prof. Swaraj Basu | - | Member |

Prof. A.S. Narang, Registrar - Secretary

Shri Ravi Mathur, Joint Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD attended the meeting on behalf of the Secretary, MHRD, Government of India. Shri Pawan Chopra, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Shri Y.N. Chaturvedi could not attend the meeting.

Mrs. Meenakshi Mishra, Finance Officer attended the meeting as a Special Invitee.

Shri O.P. Bangia, Assistant Registrar (VCO) and Shri R.P.D. Singh, Assistant Registrar (Governance) were present to assist the Chairman and the Secretary.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the 79th meeting of the Board of Management. The proceedings of the meeting commenced with the presentation of the **PREAMBLE** by the Chairman.

Chairman's Preamble:

I would like to inform the Board that the continuation of development grant to IGNOU and the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system for every 5-Year Plan is decided after it is finally processed through the Expenditure and Finance Committee (EFC) and approved by the Government of India (GOI). The 10th Plan proposals for development grant by MHRD were forwarded by the Ministry to the Planning Commission and concerned Ministries and Departments of GOI for their comments / observations and suggestions. The comments / observations and suggestions received from the Planning Commission and the Ministries / Departments were discussed in a meeting chaired by the Secretary (H & SE), MHRD in the Ministry on December 12, 2003, which was attended by the Additional Secretary, Financial Advisor, Joint Secretary (HE), Joint Secretary (TE) and some other officials in MHRD after a presentation was made by the Vice Chancellor. In this meeting it was emphasized that IGNOU should make provisions for matching allocation from the corpus fund to be able to receive the proposed development grant from MHRD. The proposal was thus revised on the lines suggested in the meeting and submitted to the MHRD for presentation and discussions in the EFC, which met on January 16, 2004 at noon in Room No-131-A, North Block, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Expenditure) to consider the proposal regarding continuance of development grant to IGNOU and Open Learning System during 10th Plan. In this meeting the Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU made a presentation on the activities and the 10th Plan outlay as proposed by the University. In his presentation, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted several new initiatives.

During the 9th Plan, IGNOU had successfully achieved the targets in almost all the areas as per the recommendations. The target set for achieving self-sustainability in terms of Non-Plan expenditure has also been attained. On the basis of this success and the encouraging trends in the ODL system, IGNOU has projected inter alia the following new initiatives among others during the 10th Plan.

- a) National Resource Centre for ICT-Enabled Training and Learning Materials,
- b) National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education,
- c) National Network for Open and Distance Education (N-NODE),
- d) Inter University Consortium for Technology Enabled Flexible Education and Development (IUC-TEFED),
- e) National Centre for Differently Abled (NACDA),
- f) Special initiatives and measures, like setting up of new Regional / Sub-Regional Centres, for education and training of disadvantaged groups / less developed regions etc.,
- g) Schools of Agriculture and Law,
- h) Special Initiatives for the states in the North-East region including Sikkim for development of infrastructure for increased access, translation of need based programmes into regional languages and development of job oriented courses etc.

The progress made by IGNOU in particular and ODL System in general during the 9th Plan and in the beginning of the 10th Plan and the new initiatives projected for the 10th Plan, were appreciated in the EFC meeting. It is learnt that the EFC has recommended the continuation of plan grant to IGNOU in the 10th Plan but we are looking forward to a formal approval. The process of approval of recommendations of EFC has resulted in loss of the first two years of the Plan period. However, I would like to report to the Board some preparatory steps being taken like provision of space in existing buildings, identification of initial Faculty and Officials from within the system required for initiating the process through the allied existing units of the University. We have thus taken the following steps inter alia.

In order to initiate activities which will be later undertaken by the School of Agriculture, the Centre of Continuing Education (CEE), meanwhile submitted a few proposals for HRD development through Distance Mode to the Ministries of Agriculture (MOA), Rural Development (MORD), Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), GOI. Some of these proposals have been approved by these Ministries for development of Awareness/Diploma/PG programmes with financial support of Rs.50 lakh and Rs. 4.81 Crore. Besides these initiatives, CEE jointly with Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) of IGNOU is now running a Kisan Channel, under MOA-IGNOU collaboration. This also fulfills the joint objective of IGNOU and ISRO to provide education for the general well being of the community.

We have started making initial efforts towards development of activities in the direction of items a) to d). Some of our faculty have actively participated in a series of meetings organized by the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy of MHRD to encourage development of IT-enabled educational software for Schools. The purpose of these meetings was to identify different providers of educational software including training of teachers for different states of the country. Concerned experts from Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University (MPBOU) were especially invited in these meetings because of their very successful intervention in this area under the well-known HEADSTART project, which was jointly conducted by the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (RGSM) of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and MPBOU. Moreover, MPBOU has vast experience of conducting extensive training of teachers in IT and developing IT-enabled educational software. As a follow up to initial discussions in MHRD, IGNOU and MPBOU jointly made presentations for making IT-enabled training/learning material along with several major private providers at Bangalore on February 26, 2004 in a meeting of the officials of the MHRD and representatives of several State Departments of Education. We are very pleased to report that Education Departments from the following States have already approached IGNOU-MPBOU for their requirements of software and training of teachers.

1.Punjab, 2. Haryana, 3.Tripura, 4.Uttaranchal, 5.Andhra Pradesh, 6.Jharkhand.

The Governments of Punjab and Haryana have already placed orders for their requirements. Meanwhile, IGNOU and MPBOU have jointly developed CDs for a UNESCO funded Project with Distance Education expertise of IGNOU and IT capabilities of MPBOU. We look forward to develop massive IT-enabled educational material and undertake IT Training of teachers on a very large scale. The software so developed will also need regular upgrading and improvement. We consider this as a massive and important national responsibility. For greater success, it has to be supported by well-defined and structured system of coordination for joint initiatives, sharing of capabilities and resources, copyrights, financial management, etc. We have thus nominated Professor S.K.Panda, Professor, STRIDE as Convenor, IUC-TEFD in addition to his normal responsibilities. It is also a pleasure to report that the Vice-Chancellor, MPBOU has assured one acre of developed land in their Campus at Bhopal and also use of their ICT Centre initially and till the new Centre is fully developed as a separate identity. To facilitate action on various day to day activities pertaining to the development and functioning of the IGNOU-MPBOU Centre and such other decisions as deemed essential to develop it as an autonomous Centre due to its importance in the development of software for different DE programmes in general, it is proposed to constitute a Management Committee comprising of Vice-Chancellor, MPBOU, Pro Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, Professor S. K. Panda Convenor, IUC-TEFD, IGNOU, Project Director (SSA National Centre, supported by MHRD), IGNOU and one IT expert from MPBOU to be identified by the Management Committee. Prof. S. C. Garg, PVC will be the convenor of the Management Committee.

We are pleased to report to the Board that in a recent meeting of the Heads of SAARC countries held in Islamabad in January 2004, it has been decided to establish a South Asian Consortium of Open and Distance Learning (SACODiL). It has been further decided in the meeting that the SACODiL secretariat will be initially set up at IGNOU with Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU as the Chairperson of the first Board of Governors for a period of first three years. We have thus, started working in this direction and I am pleased to report that in my capacity as the Chairperson and as per requirement of the decision I have nominated Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU as the Secretary of SACODiL and Dr. Ved Goel, Director, International Division, IGNOU as its Nodal Officer.

The Open and Distance Learning is being accorded recognition by the Society because of its dynamism, flexibility, efficiency and capacity to reach the unreached. As a mark of this recognition, UN Goodwill Ambassador Madanjeet Singh, founder South Asia Foundation has allocated 6000 SAF Madanjeet Singh scholarships, each worth US \$300 per annum, for learners from underprivileged sections. Of these, 3000 scholarships have been earmarked for IGNOU students. IGNOU has been entrusted the responsibility to coordinate the effort for entire country and Prof. S.C. Garg, PVC has been nominated Chief Coordinator.

The BOM considered and endorsed the above contents of the Chairman's Preamble and appreciated the efforts being made and recognition received both at the national and international levels. The Board desired to acknowledge the support provided to the students of IGNOU under 3000 SAF Madanjeet Singh Scholarships.

The Chairman then requested Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro- Vice-Chancellor to present the items on the Agenda.

ITEM NO. 1

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 78TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON DECEMBER 29, 2003 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON

BM 79.1.1

Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor informed the Board that no comments had been received on the Minutes of the 78th Meeting of the Board of Management which were circulated to the members earlier.

BM 79.1.2

The Board noted the action taken on various decisions of the 78th Meeting. As regards the DPC meeting for non-academic positions held on 26-12-2003, considered by the Board of Management at its 78th Meeting (Resolution No.BM 78.3.1), the Board noted the recommendation of the DPC that the candidature of Shri Jagdish Singh, Section Officer for placement in the Scale of pay of Rs.8000-13500 may be implemented as per the rules.

With regard to Resolution No.78.9.3 relating to the R&P Rules for electricians in the CMD, the Board directed that the proposal be re-examined taking into account the comparable positions and pay scales of other cadres in the University. No action on promotions be taken till such time that the Establishment Committee has reconsidered the proposal.

BM 79.1.3

The Board confirmed the Minutes of the 78th Meeting subject to the above specific directions.

ITEM NO. 2

**TO REPORT THE NOMINATION OF A MEMBER
ON THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL
UNDER CLAUSE (3)(A)(VII) OF STATUTE 28**

BM 79.2.1

The item was taken up for consideration. Prof. S.C. Garg, Pro Vice-Chancellor informed that the Board at its 77th Meeting held on 6-10-2003 had nominated Prof. T. Ravi Prasad, Director, Directorate of Distance Education, Kakatiya University on the Distance Education Council (DEC). Since Prof. Prasad had ceased to be Director, Directorate of Distance Education, Kakatiya University, a fresh nomination on the DEC in terms of provisions under Clause (3)(a)(vii) of Statute 28 had become necessary. A proposal was, therefore, placed before the Board of Management at its 78th Meeting for nominating a member on the DEC in place of Prof. T. Ravi Prasad. The Board considered the matter and authorized the Chairman to nominate a member on its behalf on the DEC and to report the nomination so made at the next meeting of the Board. He informed the Board that as per the above directions, the Chairman has nominated Dr. S. Sudalai Muthu, Director, Directorate of Distance Education, Allagappa University, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu on the Distance Education Council (DEC).

BM 79.2.2

The Board approved the nomination of Dr. S. Sudalai Muthu, Director, Directorate of Distance Education, Allagappa University, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu on the Distance Education Council under Clause (3)(a)(vii) of Statute 28.

ITEM NO. 3

**TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS
FOR TEACHERS/OTHER ACADEMICS / NON-
ACADEMIC POSTS**

BM 79.3.1

The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Selection Committee / Departmental Promotion Committee meetings as per the