

MINUTES OF THE 128<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON JUNE 30, 2017 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM, NEW VCO BLOCK, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068

The following were present:

1	Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor (I/c)	- Chairman
2	Prof. J.S. Rajput	- Member
3	Prof. Vasudha Kamat	- Member
4	Prof. K.N. Tripathi	- Member
5	Prof. Swaraj Basu	- Member
6	Prof. Kapil Kumar	- Member
7	Dr. P. Sivaswaroop	- Member
8	Shri S.K. Sharma, Registrar, Admn.(I/c)	- Secretary

Shri B.K. Bhadri, Assistant Educational Advisor, Department of Higher Education, MHRD represented the Secretary (HE), MHRD. The Secretary, Ministry of I & B, Dr. A. Surya Prakash and Dr. Hitesh Deka, Members of the Board could not attend the meeting.

Shri Vinod Kumar, Deputy Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Board.

The Board of Management expressed grief at the passing away of the two former Vice Chancellors Prof. V.C. Kulandaiswamy and Prof. H.P. Dikshit. The Board passed resolution condoling the loss.

The meeting of the Board of Management began with the Chairman welcoming the members. The Chairman informed the Board that Shri Ramji Raghavan, a Visitorial nominee on the Board had resigned from the membership of the BOM on personal grounds.

The Board congratulated Prof. Vasudha Kamat, Member on becoming the Member of the Committee entrusted with the task of framing the New Education Policy.

In his prefatory remarks the Chairman apprised the Board about the following developments that had taken place recently:

(i) The University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 had been notified vide notification dated 23.6.2017 published in Gazette of India.

The Board desired that aforesaid Regulations should be widely circulated and suggestions elicited. It was also suggested that an Internal Committee be constituted to look into the suggestions received in this regard and submit its recommendations to the Vice Chancellor. A copy of the Gazette Notification is placed at **Appendix-1**.

- (ii) The MHRD will be holding a National Convention on Digital Initiatives from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2017. These digital initiatives would unfold the innate potential of flexible and open learning environment and truly democratize education. The Convention would be inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- (iii) The Chairman informed that a meeting was held in the MHRD to devise methods to train about 9 lakh untrained teachers. The IGNOU and NIOS will work together in this regard. The Board suggested that the Vice Chancellor may call a meeting of the School of Education of the University for its preparation and work out a detailed plan.
- (iv) The Chairman further informed the Board that a number of disciplinary cases were pending in the University since long. A number of complaints including anonymous complaints which do not fall under the purview of vigilance have been converted into vigilance cases. He therefore, desired to bring all such cases to the Board for its directions. The members were of the opinion that a Special meeting of the BOM may be convened at the earliest to discuss the disciplinary cases. The Board authorized the Vice Chancellor to place a comprehensive report of all the disciplinary cases as on date with the recommendations/ suggestions of the Vice Chancellor thereon for consideration of the Board.
- (v) The Chairman informed the Board that Shri Sudhir Budakoti, former Registrar (Administration) had approached the Court against the decision of the Board of Management taken in its 126<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 for his repatriation to

the Parent Department. The next date of hearing is on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. Shri Budakoti still occupied the University's accommodation without paying the license fee as on date. Now he has submitted a cheque of Rs.8000/- towards the license fee. The Board noted the development in this regard and directed that the cheque should not be accepted and he should be charged the penal interest on the license fee to be remitted by him to the University.

The Board noted the above measures.

The following Agenda was, subsequently, transacted by the Board:

# TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF 127<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AND

- a) CONSIDER THE OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS OF THE MEMBERS
- b) NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT

### BM 128.1.1

The Secretary informed the Board that the Minutes of 127<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Management held on 13.02.2017 were circulated to the members of the Board on 02.03.2017. The MHRD vide its letter No.F.5-2/2017-DL dated 9.3.2017 had communicated the observations/comments on the minutes of the 127<sup>th</sup> BOM meeting. Some observations/comments on specific resolutions of the BOM Minutes had also been received from Prof. Vasudha Kamat, Prof. Swaraj Basu and Prof. Kapil Kumar, Members of the Board. The comments/observations were placed before the Board for its consideration, as per Annexure-III(a)-(c) of the Agenda.

### BM 128.1.2

The Board decided to delete from BOM Resolution 127.1.2 the statement of Shri Bhadri recorded as 'he further informed that the Committee had found Dr. S.S. Jena guilty and had suggested the imposition of appropriate penalty to the incumbent'.

#### BM 128.1.3

As regards the BOM Resolution No.127.1.2, as per the directions of the Board, the legal opinion in the matter had been obtained and the same was read out by the Chairman before the Board. A copy of the legal opinion is placed at **Appendix-2**.

The Board also noted the Report of the Sub-Committee which was placed in its 124<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23.1.2016. The Board had accepted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee. A copy of the recommendations is placed at **Appendix-3**. The Board noted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee which read as under:

- 1. At no point in future should Dr. S.S. Jena be given any supervisory position in which the complainant would have to serve under him; and
- 2. Deduction to a lower stage in the time scale of pay for two years without earning increments of pay during this period of deduction. However, on the expiry of this period, there shall be no effect on future increments of his pay and other service conditions.
- BM 128.1.4 The Board after going through all the relevant papers placed before it and examining the provisions under the minor penalties decided to accept the above recommendations of the Sub-Committee and the deduction to a lower stage in the time scale to be effective retrospectively.
- BM 128.1.5 As regards the Resolution BM 127.1.4 regarding Vikram Sahay Committee Report, the University sought the legal opinion in the matter and the same was apprised to the Board (Appendix-4). As per legal opinion, the Board advised the University to conduct an inquiry as per the Report against the errant officials for not placing the report earlier before the Board and action may be initiated against those found guilty invoking the CCS(CCA) Rules 1965. The Board further directed that an inquiry be conducted with regard to the appointment of Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Dy. Director. The Board also suggested that legal opinion may be taken for initiating inquiry against Prof. S.C. Garg and Prof. B.S. Saraswat (now retired) mentioned in the said Report, in relation to Section 9.2(b) of the Pension Rules.
- **BM 128.1.6** With regard to BOM Resolution No.127.4.1 (Para 4), the members opined that Para 4 be deleted from the resolution.

#### BM 128.1.7

As regards the BOM Resolution No.127.4.3 the Board decided that a comprehensive request in the matter with complete facts, notification/orders issued, requests by employees from time to time, list of beneficiaries etc. be sent to the MHRD for onward consideration of the matter by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

#### BM 128.1.8

As regards the BOM Resolution No.127.16.2 regarding the appointment of Dr. Hemlata as Director, NCDS, Prof. Swaraj Basu pointed out that the charge of Directorship to the official in such cases should be under the provisions of Clause 6(ii) of Statute 2. The Board agreed with the suggestion.

#### BM 128.1.9

The Board noted the Action Taken Reports as above and confirmed the Minutes of the 127<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting with the above observations / directions.

#### ITEM NO. 2

TO CONSIDER **AND APPROVE** THE RECOMMENDATIONS **OF** THE **FINANCE** IN ITS 90<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE MADE AND ON 17.3.2017 MEETINGS HELD & 22.6.2017 RESPECTIVELY

#### BM 127.2.1

The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board considered & approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee made at its 90<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 17.3.2017.

As regards the recommendations of 91<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on 22.6.2017, only the Part-Minutes in respect of Item No.4 relating to the Annual Accounts of the University for the financial year 2016-17 were placed before the Board as the minutes of the Committee could not be finalized. It was informed that the remaining recommendations of the 91<sup>st</sup> Finance Committee shall be placed in the next meeting of the Board.

The Board approved the Annual Accounts of the University for the year 2016-2017 for submission to the statutory Auditors viz. the DGACE for Audit. The Board appreciated the special efforts being made by the University to finalize the Annual Accounts for the financial

year 2016-2017, to ensure its timely submission to the Statutory Audit and its further submission to the MHRD, along with the Audit Certificate in due course under the provisions of Section 29(1) of IGNOU Act.

The Board also noted the observations of the MHRD conveyed vide their letter No.5-5/2017-DL dated 13.4.2017 on the minutes of 90<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting and directed to comply with the same.

Copies of the minutes of the 90<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting and the Part-Minutes of 91<sup>st</sup> Finance Committee are placed as **Appendix-5 & 6**.

The Board confirmed the above decision and directed that the part-minutes to this effect should be issued immediately.

- ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON IGNOU INITIATIVES ON 'MAXIMUM GOVERNANCE MINIMUM GOVERNMENT' AND 'EASE OF ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION'
- BM 128.3.1 The Board noted the Report on IGNOU Initiatives on Maximum Governance Minimum Government and Ease of Academic Administration and appreciated the efforts being made in this regard.
- TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR A LECTURE SERIES ENTITLED BHARAT-BODH
- BM 128.4.1 The Board considered and approved the proposal for a Lecture series entitled 'Bharat Bodh'.
- ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AND **APPROVE** THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE **STUDENT** (SSC **SERVICES** COMMITTEE **STANDING COMMITTEE OF** THE **BOARD** MANAGEMENT) MADE AT ITS 39TH MEETING **HELD ON 6.3.2017**
- BM 128.5.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. While considering the recommendations of the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the

Student Services Committee held on 6.3.2017, the Board suggested to constitute a Committee to examine the compatibility of the Report of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Kapil Kumar on the Regional Centres of the University with the working of the RCs. The Board authorized the Vice Chancellor to constitute the aforesaid Committee.

The Board accepted the recommendations of the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SSC held on 6.3.2017 and authorized the Vice Chancellor to take action based on the outcome of the Committee Report.

- TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN WAIVING OFF THE SHORTFALL IN NOTICE PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS AND ACCEPTING THE REQUEST OF DR. SANGEETA PANDEY FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT
- BM 128.6.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in waiving off the shortfall in notice period of three months and accepting the request of Dr. Sangeeta Pandey for voluntary retirement.
- TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN WAIVING OFF THE SHORTFALL IN NOTICE PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS AND ACCEPTING THE REQUEST OF PROF. TRIBHUWAN KAPUR FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT
- BM 128.7.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in waiving off the shortfall in notice period of three months and accepting the request of Prof. Tribhuwan Kapur for voluntary retirement.
- TO CONSIDER THE STATUS REPORT ON (I) GYAN VANI AND (II) GYAN DARSHAN
- BM 128.8.1 The Status Report on Gyan Vani and Gyan Darshan channels was placed before the Board. The Board noted the status report. A copy of the same is placed at Appendix-7.

The Board decided that the payment of the invoices/bills raised by the concerned agencies (Prasar Bharati/Delhi Doordarshan/All India Radio/Ministry of Communication etc.) for the services as per the MoU should be made expeditiously so that Gyan Darshan and Gyan Vani become optimally operational. The laxity, if any, in communicating the non-use period may be probed simultaneously.

# TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN GIVING CHARGE OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL/ DIVISION/CENTRE/UNIT

#### BM 128.9.1

The Board noted the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in giving the charge of Directors of the School/Division/Unit to the following officials, as per details given below and suggested that necessary changes may be incorporated in the details in keeping with the Board Resolution 128.1.7 above:

#	Name of the	School/	Period of	Remarks
	Academic/	Division	appointment/	
	Teacher		charge given	
1.	Prof. B.B. Khanna (The present incumbent holds position till further order vide Clause 6(ii) of Statute 2)	ACD	w.e.f. 03/04/2017	Former Director, Prof. Manjulika Srivastava has been given charge of Head, IQAC.
2.	Prof. Kaustuva Barik (The present incumbent holds position till further order vide Clause 6(ii) of Statute 2)	Research Unit	w.e.f. 24/05/2017	Former Director Prof. Narayan Prasad had requested for relief due to ill health.
3.	Dr. Jagdish Sharma (by virtue of being the next Senior Associate Professor – holds charge for three years)	SOTST	w.e.f. 06.06.2017	The charge was held by Associate Professor of the School.  Dr. Rajender Prasad Pandey, who has completed his term.

### TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN APPROVING THE SIGNING OF THE FOLLOWING MOUS:

- (A) NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE ACADEMY LTD. (NAL)
- (B) INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ARTS (IGNCA)
- (C) YASHWANT RAO CHAUHAN MAHARASHTRA OPEN UNIVERSITY (YCMOU)
- (D) ODISHA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY (OSOU)
- BM 128.10.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the signing of the following MOUs:
  - (A) National Stock Exchange Academy Ltd. (NAL)
  - (B) Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA).
  - (C) Yashwant Rao Chauhan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU)
  - (D) Odisha State Open University (OSOU)

#### **ITEM NO.11**

- (A) TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE SIGNING OF MOU WITH PYAME NOOR UNIVERSITY, TEHRAN, IRAN
- (B) TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERSEAS STUDY CENTRE AT GLOBAL INSTITUTE, BAHRAIN
- (C) TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERSEAS STUDY CENTRE AT YAGON, MYANMAR
- (D) TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERSEAS STUDY CENTRE BAKHTAR UNIVERSITY, AFGHANISTAN
- (E) TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERSEAS STUDY CENTRE AT PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BM 128.11.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board approved the signing of MOU with Pyame Noor University, Tehran, Iran on Educational, Search and

Technological Cooperation.

The Board also approved the establishment of the following four Overseas Study Centres subject to strict compliance of the directions issued by the MHRD from time to time:

- (A) Global Institute, Bahrain
- (B) Yagon, Myanmar
- (C) Bakhtar University, Afghanistan
- (D) Papua New Guinea

BM 128.11.2

Further, the Board resolved that a Committee should be constituted to strengthen the International Division and the University should regularly scrutinize by site visit the proposals for new Overseas Study Centres and evaluate them in all respects before these are recommended for establishment. The Board authorized the Vice Chancellor to constitute the Committee. The Board also suggested that video recordings at the examination centres as practiced recently should be regularly done for the fair conduct of examination.

ITEM NO.12

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTION COMMITTEE (DPC) MEETING HELD ON 21.4.2017 IN RESPECT OF GROUP-A NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

BM 128.12.1

The recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee meeting held on 21.4.2017 in respect of Group-A Non-Academic positions were approved as per the details given in **Appendix-8**.

ITEM NO.13 TO CONSIDER THE STATUS OF IGNOU BUILDINGS AND LAND ALLOCATIONS AT REGIONAL CENTRES

**BM 128.13.1** The Item was withdrawn.

## TO CONSIDER THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE JUSTICE (RETD.) V.B. GUPTA INQUIRY COMMITTEE

#### BM 128.14.1

The Progress Report of the Justice (Retd.) V.B. Gupta Inquiry Committee was placed before the Board for consideration (**Appendix-9**). The Board noted the progress made in this regard. The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the amount of the remuneration payable to hon'ble Justice Shri V.B. Gupta, as per details given below:

Last Pay Drawn - Rs.80,000 Less Pension - Rs.40,000

Remuneration payable - Rs.40,000 P.M.

In addition to above, he will be eligible for DA on Rs.40,000 P.M. and transport allowance/vehicle in lieu of transport allowance.

## TO CONSIDER THE PENSION CASE OF PROF. V. N. R. PILLAI, FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR, IGNOU

#### BM 128.15.1

The Board deliberated on the proposal and also reviewed the Board Resolutions No.BM 73.38.3 and BM 109.21.1 in the light of the legal opinion obtained in the matter. The legal opinion was also placed before the Board (**Appendix-10**) along with the correspondences exchanged between the MHRD, IGNOU and other organizations where Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai had served. As per the legal opinion Statute 1(5)(iii) clearly mention that 'the Vice Chancellor shall be entitled to such terminal benefits and allowances as may be fixed by the Board of Management with the approval of the Visitor from time to time:

Provided that where an employee of the University or a College or of any other university or any institution maintained by or affiliated to such other university is appointed as the Vice Chancellor, he may be allowed to continue to contribute to any provident fund of which he is a member and the University shall contribute to the account of such persons in that provident fund at the same rate at which such person had been

contributing immediately before his appointment as Vice-Chancellor.

Provided further that where such employee had been a member of any pension scheme, the University shall make the necessary contribution to such scheme.'

#### The legal opinion further states that:

'In terms of Section (II), Rule 18.2 and 19.1 of the Statute of IGNOU, only (i) "employees" (ii) who meet the minimum requisite of qualifying service are entitled to pension. The relevant portions of the aforesaid Rule are reproduced hereunder:-

"18.2 Subject to such conditions as may be applicable to the categories of pension set out below, no person shall be eligible for pension unless he has put in a minimum of ten years qualifying service in the University; provided that the minimum age after which service counts for pension shall be eighteen years. In case the qualifying service falls below ten years, gratuity shall be admissible as calculated at a uniform rate of half month's emoluments for every completed six monthly period of service. Temporary employees who retired on superannuation or permanently incapacitated for further service by the appropriate medical authority after rendering ten years of service shall be eligible for pension on the same scale as admissible to those in permanent employment.

- 19.1 Subject to the minimum qualifying service, an employee shall be eligible for one or other of the following classes of pensions, depending upon the circumstances of the cases:
- (a) Compensation Pension: If an employee is discharged owing to the abolition of the permanent post and it is not possible to provide him with alternate employment or when a lower post is offered but not accepted by him, he shall be granted a compensation pension on the scale prescribed in Rule 20 below.
- (b) Invalid Pension: An invalid pension shall be granted to an employee, on retirement from the

service of the University for permanent physical or mental disability incapacitating him for further service, if certified by the competent Medical Authority as may be prescribed by the Board of Management, on the scale prescribed in Rule 20 below.

In respect of an employee who retires on invalid pension, the amount of invalid pension shall not be less than the amount of the family pension under sub Rule 32.9 of Family Pension of this Appendix.

- (c) Superannuation Pension: A Superannuation pension shall be granted to an employee who is retired from service on his attaining the age of retirement.
- (d) Retiring Pension: A retiring pension shall be granted to an employee who is permitted to retire after completing twenty years of qualifying service or retired prematurely in advance of the age of superannuation.

Provided that in the event of retirement after twenty years of qualifying service but before the completion of the age of superannuation the employee concerned shall give in this behalf a notice in writing to the Registrar at least three months before the date on which he wishes to retire.

The legal advice also states that the statutory provisions mentioned above had not been considered by the Board of Management in its 73<sup>rd</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> meetings held on 25.10.2002 & 29.12.2011 respectively.

While deliberating the matter, the Board also noted that in the case of Prof. H.P. Dikshit, former Vice Chancellor the following were apparent:

- (i) There was no break of service in case of Prof. Dikshit.
- (ii) Prof. Dikshit came from an Open University from the state of Madhya Pradesh and the rules of the MP Bhoj Open University regarding pension of the Vice Chancellors were put before the Board of the Management whereas the statutory provision

- of the IGNOU in this regard had not been cited.
- (iii) The case of Prof. Dikshit was forwarded to the MHRD for approval of the Visitor. The Visitor had approved the proposal.
- (iv) Prof. H.P. Dikshit has since expired on 29.4.2017.

The Board also noted the following points in respect of Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai:

- (i) In case of Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, only the Board's Resolution related to Prof. H.P. Dikshit's Pension was placed before the Board and again the IGNOU rules cited above were not placed before the Board.
- (ii) There was a break of service in case of Prof. Pillai and before joining IGNOU, he had also served at NAAC and UGC and there was also a break in the service during his retirement from UGC and joining IGNOU. The MHRD vide their letter No. F.5-12/2014-DL dated 15.7.2014 had raised certain queries regarding continuity of service of Prof. Pillai for the period from 19.4.2006 to 20.10.2006. The University vide its letter dated 5.9.2014 clarified the position to the Ministry.
- (iii) The case of Prof. Pillai has not been approved by the Visitor.
- (iv) Prof. Pillai filed case in hon'ble High Court of Kerala on 15.6.2015 for disbursing the petitioner's pension DCRG and other terminal benefits by IGNOU. The Kerala High Court passed an order directing IGNOU to disburse Rs.18,39,397/- to Prof. Pillai within two weeks. Accordingly, IGNOU honored the order by releasing the said amount on 20.8.2015. Further, the amount of Rs.3,13,080/- towards contribution received from UGC for a period of deputation with UGC forwarded MG University has also been remitted to Prof. Pillai in the presence of Court.

# BM 128.15.2 The matter was deliberated in detail. Keeping in view the IGNOU Act & Statutory provisions as well as the legal opinion sought by the University, the Board is of the opinion that Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, appointed as

the Vice Chancellor of IGNOU which is a tenure post, is not eligible for any pensionary benefits from IGNOU. The Board, therefore, observed that his only entitlement from IGNOU is contribution to his Parent Organization in relation to his pensionary benefits.

#### BM 128.15.3

The Board further directed the University to file Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the hon'ble Supreme Court of India immediately challenging the verdict of the Kerala High Court in this matter and accordingly inform the MHRD. The Board also resolved that the BOM Resolution No. 109.21.1 stands annulled.

The Board confirmed the above decision and directed that the part-minutes to this effect should be issued immediately.

## ITEM NO.16 (Additional Item)

TO CONSIDER THE CHANGE OF NOMENCLATURE OF INDIRA GANDHI CENTRE FOR FREEDOM STRUGGLES STUDIES (IGCFSS) TO CENTRE FOR FREEDOM STRUGGLES AND DIASPORA STUDIES (CFSDS)

#### BM 128.16.1

The Item was taken up as agreed by all the members. The Board considered and approved the proposal for change of nomenclature of Indira Gandhi Centre for Freedom Struggles Studies (IGCFSS) as 'Centre for Freedom Struggles and Diaspora Studies (CFSDS)' or in any other suitable form.

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

Sd/-(Ravindra Kumar) Chairman