



**MINUTES OF THE 157th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

The 157th meeting of the Board of Management of the University was held in blended mode on 26.09.2023 at 11.00 a.m. in the Board Room, VCO Block, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110068.

The following were present:

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor	- Chairman
2.	Prof. Satyakam, Pro-Vice Chancellor	- Member
3.	Shri K.A. Badarinath	- Member
4.	Prof. Ram Shanker Kureel	- Member (virtual)
5.	Prof. Meena Rajiv Chandawarkar	- Member (virtual)
6.	Shri Milind Thatte	- Member (virtual)
7.	Prof. K.K. Aggarwal	- Member
8.	Prof. Ashok Sharma	- Member
9.	Prof. Shachi Shah	- Member
10.	Prof. Shubha Gokhale	- Member
11.	Dr. M. Shanmugam	- Member
	Sh. Partha Kansabanik, Dy. Secretary (CU-V &DL), MOE	- Represented on behalf of MOE (virtual)
	Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar, Admn.	- Secretary

The Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Manish Sabharwal and Prof. Bansh Gopal Singh, Members could not attend the meeting due to their pre-occupations.

Shri Kamal Kant Sahay, Deputy Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Board.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the 157th Meeting of the Board of Management.

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The Chairman of the Board especially welcomed Shri K A Badarinath for his physical presence and sought his valuable guidance and support in the future endeavors of the University.

Shri K. A. Badarinath is Director and Chief Executive at Centre for Integrated and Holistic Studies (CIHS), New Delhi. Shri Badarinath is Journalist, Visiting Faculty, Blogger, Writer, Researcher and Passionate Teacher. Apart from this, he is known for incisive analysis, investigative reporting and insights, having worked with popular media outfits. He was introduced to other members of the board.

The Vice-Chancellor briefly narrated the major developments which took place in the University since the last BOM meeting, as under:

- i. Hon'ble Minister **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education** inaugurated the Regional Centres buildings at **Rajkot, Trivandrum, Jodhpur and Aizwal on 3rd August, 2023, virtually**. The regional centre building at Rajkot and Trivandrum were funded by the Ministry, under HEFA loan.
- ii. IGNOU's annual accounts have been prepared with the help of SAMARTH team. This initiative of transferring IGNOU accounts from existing software to SAMARTH has been completed in time. Finance Officer and his whole team were complimented for their hard work and sincere efforts in this endeavour. Further, the university also extended thanks for this initiative to the SAMARTH team.
- iii. Sincere efforts are going on for the construction of administrative building at IGNOU's headquarters. IGNOU has applied to the Forest Department for getting clearance from the Ridge Authorities.
- iv. University has started around fifteen new programmes for July 2023 session. Around nine lakh admissions took place in the current admission cycle.
- v. The university is continuously promoting language based counseling through SwayamPrabha Channels.
- vi. Under Mission mode, the university has filled up vacancies looking into the requirements, and available financial resources in the university. Through NTA MOE around two hundred nonteaching employees are being recruited soon. IGNOU has also sent a proposal for one hundred more employees to be recruited by NTA under Mission Mode.

- vii. Under Agniveer Scheme, University has opened the admission portal for Air Force personnel in July 2023 session. Around 1500 Air Force personnel have taken admission under this scheme.
- viii. Under eVidyabharathi scheme of Ministry of External Affairs, University was allocated around 403 students from Afghanistan.

Thereafter, the following agenda items were presented before the Board:

Item No. 1 To confirm the minutes of 156th meeting of the Board of Management held on July 12, 2023 and to note the Action Taken Report thereon

BM 157.1.1 The Board was informed that the Minutes of 156th meeting of the Board of Management held on 12.07.2023 were circulated to the members of the Board on 21.07.2023. No comments were received on the same.

The Action Taken Report on the decisions taken by the Board in its 156th meeting was also presented before the Board.

As regards ATR relating to Item No.14 regarding the draft Research Promotion and Incentive Policy, the Board directed to refer back the draft policy to CIQA for re-examination.

Further the Board was also informed that the MOE vide its letter dt. 25.09.2023 had also forwarded its comments/observations on the agenda items of 157th meeting of the BOM, which were also placed before the Board. The Board took the agenda items in the light of the MOE comments.

BM 157.1.2 The Board confirmed the minutes of its 156th meeting held on 12.07.2023 with the above observation and noted the action taken report thereon.

Item No. 2 To ratify the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in appointing/giving charge of Director of School/Division/Centre/Unit

BM 157.2.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in appointing/giving charge of Directorship of the School of Engineering & Technology (SOET) to Prof. P Srinivas Kumar for the period of 3 years i.e. from 05.08.2023 to 04.08.2026.



Item No. 3 **To ratify the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in Opening of Envelopes containing recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings held on 08.08.2023 for recruitment of Teachers under Mission Recruitment Drive**

BM 157.3.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in opening of Envelops (permitted by the Board) containing recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings held on 08.08.2023 for recruitment of Teachers under Mission Mode Recruitment Drive.

Item No. 4 **To ratify the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in accepting the request of Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, Professor of Journalism and New Media Studies, SOJNMS for voluntary retirement from the services of the University**

BM 157.4.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in accepting the request of Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, Professor of Journalism and New Media Studies for voluntary retirement from the services of the University w.e.f. 03.04.2023 (A/N) by waiving off the shortfall of three months in the notice period.

Item No. 5 **To ratify the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in appointment of Inquiry Officers and Presenting Officers for conducting the inquiries against Sh. S. Saunand, the then Assistant Regional Director, RC Portblair and Dr S Srinivas, former Regional Director, RC Portblair on the charge of misappropriation of University funds and misuse of authority at IGNOU Regional Centre Port Blair**

BM 157.5.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in the appointment of Inquiry Officers and Presenting Officers for conducting the inquiries against Sh. S. Saunand, the then Assistant Regional Director, RC Portblair and Dr S Srinivas, former Regional Director, RC Portblair on the charge of misappropriation of University funds and misuse of authority at IGNOU Regional Centre - Port Blair.

Item No. 6 **To report the signing of Renewal Agreement of MoU between IGNOU and Directorate General of Health Services, MOHFW for training health functionaries in healthcare waste management**

BM 157.6.1 The Board noted the signing of Renewal Agreement of MoU between IGNOU and Directorate General of Health Services, MOHFW for



training health functionaries in healthcare waste management.

Item No. 7 **To consider the Minutes of the Suspension Review Committee to review the suspension of Dr Saurabh Jain, Assistant Professor, Discipline of Management Studies, School of Management Studies in respect of a criminal offence under section 376 & 506 (FIR No. 443/2022) and payment of subsistence Allowance to him**

BM 157.7.1 The Board was apprised that as per the decision of 156th BOM, the period of suspension of Dr. Saurabh Jain, Assistant Professor, School of Management Studies was extended for a period of six months i.e. upto 14.08.2023 in respect of a criminal offence under section 376 & 506 (FIR No. 443/2022). Further, since the Board in its 156th meeting had also directed to seek the legal opinion for taking further action in the matter, the matter has been forwarded to Legal Cell for their opinion vide note dated 15.09.2023 with regard to (i) extension or otherwise of the suspension of Dr Saurabh Jain, (ii) payment of subsistence allowance, (iii) Further action that University is required to take on the matter.

The Board was further informed that the suspension of Dr. Saurabh Jain has been further reviewed by the Suspension Review Committee and the Suspension Review Committee has recommended extension of suspension of Dr. Saurabh Jain for another period of 90 days w.e.f. 15.8.2023 to 14.11.2023, since a criminal case registered against him is still pending before the District & Sessions Judge, Saket Court. The Office Order to this effect has been issued vide No.393 dt.22.9.2023. The Board also noted that Dr Saurabh Jain was under probation during the purported offence and is yet to be confirmed in the services of the University.

BM 157.7.2 The Board approved the Minutes of the Suspension Review Committee to extend the suspension of Dr Saurabh Jain, Assistant Professor, School of Management Studies by 90 days w.e.f. 15.08.2023 to 14.11.2023 in respect of a criminal offence under section 376 & 506 (FIR No. 443/2022) and payment of subsistence Allowance to him.

Since, Dr Saurabh Jain was under probation during the period of purported offence, the Board directed to also seek the legal opinion (i) whether his service can be terminated since he is not a confirmed



employee of the University, and the University needs to fill up the post, and (ii) whether, University should continue to pay the subsistence allowance to him since the legal case is an individual affair of the person and not related to University affairs and also the fact that the case is likely to continue for a long time.

- Item No. 8** **To apprise the status report on the following:**
- (i) Grievances received and disposed off on CPGRAMS Portal and iGRAM Portal**
 - (ii) Vigilance cases pending in the University; and**
 - (iii) Parliamentary Assurances pending in the University**

BM 157.08.1 The Board noted the status report on the grievances received and disposed off on CPGRAMS Portal and iGRAM Portal. The Board also noted the status of the vigilance cases closed after 156th BOM held on 12.07.2023 and that there is only one pending vigilance case which is quite delayed. The Board advised that concerned Deputy Registrar be advised to expedite the process.

The Board was informed that there was no parliamentary assurance pending in the University.

- Item No. 9** **To consider the reply of Shri Khumukcham Sushil Singh, Asst. Registrar, Regional Centre, Imphal (presently at Kohima) on the Disciplinary Proceeding initiated against him, recording the findings and impose punishment under Major Penalty under Rule 11 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1964**

BM 157.9.1 It was informed that Shri Khumukcham Sushil Kumar Singh, Asst. Registrar, RC, Imphal (Presently at Regional Centre, Kohima) was issued a Memorandum about holding an inquiry under Rule 14 CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 on charges of being found intoxicated during office hours and using socially offensive languages in local dialect which hampered the working environment of the Regional Centre, Imphal. He was also informed that an inquiry will be held only if the article of charge is not admitted. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh has, vide his reply, admitted to the charges made against him and said that he does not want to defend himself as he knows that he was at fault and has expressed his regrets regarding his behaviour and conduct.



The Board noted the provision under Sub-rule (5)(a) of Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 as under:

(5) (a) On receipt of the written statement of defence, the disciplinary authority may itself inquire into such of the articles of charge as are not admitted, or, if it considers it necessary so to do, appoint, under sub-rule (2), an inquiring authority for the purpose, and where all the articles of charge have been admitted by the Government servant in his written statement of defence, the disciplinary authority shall record its findings on each charge after taking such evidence as it may think fit and shall act in the manner laid down in rule 15. The charged officer has accepted the charges.

BM 157.9.2

The Board considered the details of charges made against him and his submission thereon. After detailed discussion, the Board decided to award the penalty to Sh. Khumukcham Sushil Kumar by not giving any Annual increment for the next 3 years and further directed that after completion of 3 years, his case shall be re-examined.

Item No. 10

To consider the Report of the Inquiry Officer in respect of delay in submitting the Inquiry Report by Sh. Aseem Kumar, Inquiry Officer & Assistant Registrar, EMPC and presently Deputy Registrar, F&A Div. in the disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sh. Rakesh Dhaniya, Assistant, SOET and his response to the Inquiry Report

BM 157.10.1

The Board was informed that an Inquiry Committee was constituted under Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, Pro-Vice Chancellor on 21.07.2022 for finding facts in the light of the explanation submitted by Sh. Aseem Kumar, Inquiry Officer and presently Deputy Registrar, F&A Division regarding delay in submitting the Inquiry Report in the disciplinary proceedings initiated against Shri Rakesh Dhaniya, Assistant, School of Engineering and Technology for his mis-conduct of Bigamy. The Board of Management in its 156th meeting held on 12.7.2023 while considering the matter directed that the Inquiry Report alongwith response of Sh. Aseem Kumar be placed before the Board in the next meeting. The response of Shri Aseem Kumar dated 1.9.2023 to the Inquiry Officer has been received.

BM 157.10.2

The Board considered the report dated 20.09.2022 submitted by Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, Pro Vice Chancellor & Inquiry Officer and the



response of Shri Aseem Kumar, Deputy Registrar dated 1.9.2023 to the Inquiry Report. The Board also asked to submit the details of action taken against Rakesh Dhaniya in its next meeting.

BM 157.10.3 The Board decided that Shri Aseem Kumar be censured for his failure in timely submission of the Inquiry Report.

Item No. 11 **To consider the Report of the Committee constituted to ascertain the role of officials responsible in the case of delay in release of final payment to M/s B.M. Sons**

BM 157.11.1 The item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the Board in its 154th meeting held on 27.2.2023 while considering a preliminary investigation report in the case of delay in release of final payment of eight works by Construction & Maintenance Division to M/s B.M. Sons directed to constitute an Inquiry Committee to ascertain the role of the officials responsible in the matter. Accordingly, an Inquiry Committee was constituted under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Sumitra Kukreti, Pro-Vice Chancellor. The Inquiry Committee has submitted its report.

The Board noted the Report of the Inquiry Committee, as under:

- M/s B.M. Sons was engaged for 08 different works in the University campus.
- Due to their payment delay on the part of the University, M/s B.M. Sons invoked arbitration, for an amount of Rs.6,19,809/-.
- The CMD officials Mr. Y. Noorodin, Ex. Engineer and Sri Sudhir Kumar Reddy, the then CPO-CMD have delayed the process of execution of work, progress and settlement of bills. Due to this, the agency went for arbitration and also the release of payments was delayed.
- The delay on the processing of bills and release of payment to M/s B.M. Sons was due to non-addressal to the queries of F&AD, lack of proper monitoring of progress of works and adding extra items, sometimes even after completion of the work, alterations in the notes by CMD Engineers, as evident in the files.
- On account of Rs.6,19,809/-, the University had to pay after loosing the arbitration case.
 - i. Rs.45,68,614/- as total charged amount.
 - ii. Rs.10,80,098/- as penalty/interest.



iii. Rs.8,83,440/- as arbitration fee.

Total Rs.65,32,152/-

- There could be other legal expenses but the Legal Cell did not provide the details despite of many requests by the Committee.
- The above figures were taken from the file.
- The Hindrance Register of CMD was not managed as per norms and also intermittent appraisal to the Competent Authority on work progress was not carried out.
- Issuing show cause notice due to delay in work by the agency appears to be an un-thoughtful practice of CMD because the delay occurred on the part of CMD as pointed out by F&A Division. Penalizing the agency without their fault, was uncalled for. It could have been a point in the judgement of agency to go for arbitration.
- It has been observed that for any work, the estimated amount varied at different levels such as at proposal, at approval and at NIT level.
- There is evidence of huge alteration in Notesheets and initial pages of original file are missing, only photocopies of the original pages are present in the file No.IG/CMD/2009/158, IG/CMD/2010/178, IG/CMD/2009/55, IG/CMD/52/2009-20/02, IG/CMD/216 and IG/CMD/221.
- Prima-facie, Mr. Y. Nooruddin, Executive Engineer (Civil) and Mr. Sudhir Kumar Reddy, the then CPO-CMD are responsible for delay in the release of final payment to M/s B.M. Sons.

BM 157.11.2 The Board after detailed deliberations, decided to issue charge-sheet to Sh. Y. Nooruddin, Ex. Engineer and Sh. Sudhir Kumar Reddy, the then CPO-CMD, as per the extant rules.

Item No. 12 **To consider the Annual Report of the University for the Year 2022-2023**

BM 157.12.1 The Board approved the Annual Report of the University for the Financial Year 2022-23 and authorized the University to submit the same to the Ministry for placing before both the Houses of Parliament, as required under Section 28, read with provision under Statute 25 of the IGNOU Act.

The Board confirmed this item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for implementation.



- Item No. 13**
- (A) To consider the signing of Agreement for Overseas Facilitator with 'ICA Education Pvt. Ltd. (ICAEPL), Sister Organization of our Overseas Study Centre International Centre for Academic Pvt. Ltd., Nepal (9602)**
 - (B) To report the Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with Financial University (under the Government of the Russian Federation), Moscow**
 - (C) To consider the signing of Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with Baikal State University, Russia**

BM 157.13.1 The Board approved/ratified the signing of Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with the following Overseas Institution:

- (i) Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with Financial University (under the Government of the Russian Federation), Moscow
- (ii) Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) with Baikal State University, Russia

BM 157.13.2 As regards the signing of Agreement for Overseas Facilitator with 'ICA Education Pvt. Ltd. (ICAEPL), Sister Organization of IGNOU's Overseas Study Centre International Centre for Academic Pvt. Ltd., Nepal (9602), the Board decided to refer back the same to the International Division for reviewing.

Item No. 14 **To consider the minutes of the 81st meeting of the Establishment Committee, a Standing Committee of the Board of Management to be held on 20.09.2023**

BM 157.14.1 The Board considered and approved the minutes of the 81st meeting of the Establishment Committee, a Standing Committee of the Board of Management held on 20.09.2023 (**Appendix-1**).

ITEN NO.15 **To consider the Minutes of Screening cum Evaluation Committee/ Selection Committee for promotions of Teachers and Academics under Career Advancement Scheme (CAS)**

BM 157.15.1 The Board was informed that the University had conducted "Screening-cum-Evaluation Committees/Selection Committee" for Career Advancement of Teachers and Academics of the University as per Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme of Teachers as per the



“UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education) Regulations, 2010” alongwith subsequent amendment thereto under 6th CPC, and Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme of Teachers and Ordinance on Career Advancement Scheme of Academics as per “UGC Regulations on Minimum qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other Academic staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education, 2018” under 7th CPC duly approved by the Visitor. The recommendations of the Screening cum Evaluation Committee/Selection Committees were placed before the Board for consideration. The Board approved the recommendations of the “Screening cum Evaluation Committees/Selection Committees”, as per details given below:

#	Date of Screening-cum Evaluation/Selection Committee	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Screening-cum Evaluation/ Selection Committee	Due date of eligibility
1.	09 th August, 2023	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Discipline of Law in the School of Law (SOL)	Dr. Suneet Kashyap Srivastava	30.12.2020
2.	09 th August, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Law in the School of Law (SOL)	Dr. Gurmeet Kaur Bedi	07.11.2018
3.	09 th August, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Law in the School of Law (SOL)	Dr. Anand Gupta	12.04.2019
4.	09 th August, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Law in	Dr. Mansi Sharma	08.05.2021

		the School of Law (SOL)		
5.	09 th August, 2023	Promotion from Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) to Professor (Stage 5/Academic level 14) in the Discipline of Civil Engineering in the School of Engineering and Technology (SOET)	Dr. Munish Kumar Bhardwaj	01.10.2020
6.	09 th August, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Stage 2/Academic level 11) to Assistant Professor (Stage 3/Academic level 12) in the Discipline of Mechanical Engineering in the School of Engineering and Technology (SOET)	Dr. Shweta Tripathi	22.12.2021
7.	18 th September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the School of Extension and Development Studies (SOEDS)	Dr. Nisha Varghese	11.09.2021
8.	18 th September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the School of Extension and Development Studies (SOEDS)	Dr. Grace Don Nemching	18.01.2022
9.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. K Sumlatha, RC Vijayawada	27.05.2023
10.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. B Prasad Babu, RC Vijayawada	02.06.2023
11.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/	Dr. Dharendra Pratap Singh, RSD	11.04.2018



		Regional Centres (RCs)		
12.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Vinita Katiyar, RSD	23.05.2023
13.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Godugu Shrinivas, RC Pune	16.05.2023
14.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. E Krishna Rao, RC Mumbai	01.10.2021
15.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Upendra Nabh Tripathi, RC Varanasi	24.05.2023
16.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Md. Safdare Azam, RC Aligarh	19.05.2023
17.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 2/Academic level 11) to Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. Bansidhar Barik, RC Koraput	01.05.2021
18.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Regional Director (Stage 2/Academic level 11) to Assistant Regional Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) in the Regional Services Division (RSD)/ Regional Centres (RCs)	Dr. N Rajendra Prasad, RC Pune	25.05.2020
19.	18 th September, 2023	Promotion from Assistant Director (Stage 3/Academic level 12) to Deputy Director (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the	Dr. Vandana Varma, ACD	23.05.2023



		Academic Coordination Division (ACD)		
20.	20 th September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Stage 2/Academic level 11) to Assistant Professor (Stage 3/Academic level 12) in the Discipline of Mathematics in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr. Pawan Kumar	08.06.2022
21.	21 st September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Psychology in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS)	Dr. Smita Gupta	12.08.2022
22.	21 st September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Psychology in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS)	Dr. Monika Mishra	12.09.2023
23.	25 th September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Anthropology in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS)	Dr. Rukshana Zaman	09.08.2022
24.	25 th September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Anthropology in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS)	Dr. P Venkataramana	16.08.2022
25.	25 th September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A)) in the Discipline of Geology in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr. M Prashanth	09.08.2022
26.	25 th September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level	Dr. Kakoli Gogoi	12.08.2022



		13A) in the Discipline of Geology in the School of Sciences (SOS)		
27.	25 th September 2023	Promotion from Assistant Professor (Selection Grade /Academic level 12) to Associate Professor (Stage 4/Academic level 13A) in the Discipline of Geology in the School of Sciences (SOS)	Dr. Omkar Verma	18.08.2022

BM 157.15.2 The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for issuance of Promotion Orders under CAS.

Item No. 16 **To consider the representation of Dr. R. Sudarsan, Former Deputy Director and subsequent Legal Opinion thereon in respect of his Compulsory Retirement as per decision of the 149th BOM**

BM 157.16.1 The Board was informed that Dr. R. Sudarsan, Former Deputy Director, P&DD, represented vide letter dated 20.08.2018 to Vice Chancellor & Chairman, BOM to withdraw the Compulsory Retirement Order issued vide dated 18.10.2016 and Suspension Order issued on 23.07.2016. The matter had also been referred by the Ministry of Education for examination. A Committee was constituted to examine the matter vide notification No.IG/TA/1/371/1998/4055 dated 24.04.2019. The Committee was further constituted by the Vice Chancellor vide notification dated January 18, 2021/29.06.2021. The Committee had submitted its Report on 22.02.2022 which was placed before the Board of Management at its 149th meeting held on 26.05.2022. The Board, keeping in view the likely scenarios in case Dr R Sudarsan's penalty is reviewed or revised or revoked and he is allowed to join back the University since the matter is pending for long, and if there were any such instances or precedence in the University in the past had directed that legal opinion may be taken on the matter including likely steps that the University can take in the instant case.

Accordingly, the mater was referred to the Legal Cell for seeking Legal opinion. The Board noted that legal opinions have been obtained from two advocates in the matter which interalia states that (i) "... the penalty of compulsory retirement, as awarded to Dr. R. Sudarsan, has attained finality and requires no alternation" and (ii) "... it is clear that no appeal has been filed against the order of compulsory retirement and the representation has been made to review its decision whereas, the appointing authority/disciplinary authority becomes the functus officio



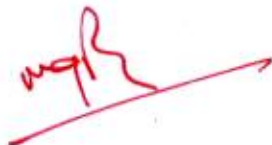
and hence, the matter may not be placed before the Board of Management”.

BM 157.16.2 After detailed deliberations the Board decided to consider the legal opinions in case of Dr. R. Sudarsan and decided that the representation of Dr. R. Sudarsan to withdraw the Compulsory Retirement Order issued vide dated 18.10.2016 and Suspension Order issued on 23.07.2016 cannot be withdrawn by the Board. Accordingly, the representation of Dr. R. Sudarsan stand disposed off.

Item No. 17 **To consider the report of Inquiry Officer in respect of Disciplinary Inquiry conducted against Sh. K. Venkataraman, Producer, EMPC against the chargesheet Memorandum dated 25.08.2022 issued to him under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965 for his misconduct and unauthorised absence from duty**

BM 157.17.1 The Board was informed that an Inquiry Committee was constituted vide notifications dated 17th February, 2021 read with 29th October, 2021 to closely examine the matter in totality regarding unauthorized absence of Shri K Venkatraman, Producer, EMPC. The Report of the Committee was placed before the Board in its 149th meeting held on 26.05.2022. The Board had decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Sh. K. Venkatraman and issue a Chargesheet to him. Accordingly, a Chargesheet Memorandum was issued to him under Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules 1965 on 25.08.2022. He was asked to submit his comments before 10.09.2022. He submitted an evasive reply on 08.09.2022 and on persistent follow up and reminders, vide his reply dated 15.2.2023 he reiterated almost the same points as earlier and did not submit the reply specific to the Chargesheet Memorandum.

The matter was further placed before the Board of Management at its 154th meeting held on 27.02.2023. The Board did not agree with the reply of Shri K Venkatraman and directed to appoint the inquiry Officer and Presenting Officer to inquire into the case. The Board further directed that the IO may be requested to submit his report in a time bound manner and authorised the Vice Chancellor to take a decision on the report of the Committee expeditiously. Further with regard to the period of unauthorised absence, the Board decided to treat the absence as extraordinary leave of personal grounds and directed to recover the



amount equivalent to the excess leave availed by him from his salary every month in 25 equal monthly installments as per rules.

The Board was further informed that the Disciplinary proceedings have been completed and the Inquiry Officer has submitted report on 06.07.2023. The report was shared with Shri K Venkatraman vide letter dated 11.07.2023 followed with reminder dated 28.08.2023. However no response has been received from Shri Venkatraman till date. Further in accordance with the decision of the Board vide Office Order No.307 dated 13th July 2023 the recovery of the amount equivalent to the excess leave availed by him from his salary every month in 25 equal monthly installments as per rules, has been initiated.

BM 157.17.2 The Board considered the report of Inquiry Officer in respect of Disciplinary Inquiry conducted against Sh. K. Venkataraman, Producer, EMPC. The Inquiry Officer found the charges under Article 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 against Mr. K. Venkataram stand proved. After detailed deliberations, the Board decided to award the penalty of Compulsory Retirement to Sh. K. Venkatraman with all the retirement benefits applicable to him. In respect of the amount pending for recovery, the Board decided that the same may be recovered from his terminal benefits like gratuity etc. due to him, if any.

ITEN NO. 18 **To consider the Minutes of the Selection Committee for recruitment to the posts of Associate Professor and Professors on Direct Recruitment basis**

BM 157.18.1 The Board was informed that the University had advertised the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor vide Advertisement No.2/ACD/2022, dated 31.12.2022 (Employment News dated 7-14 January 2023). The applications were invited through Online Portal in coordination with Samarth. The last date of receiving online application was 07.02.2023. In response to the advertisement, the University had processed the applications as per University Grants Commission (Minimum qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other Academic staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in higher Education), Regulations 2018 read with subsequent amendments thereto and conducted the Selection Committee meetings for appointment against the posts of Associate Professor and Professor in the Discipline of History and Professor in the



Discipline of Psychology in the School of Social Science (SOSS), Professor in the Discipline of Environmental Studies in the School of InterDisciplinary and TransDisciplinary Studies (SOITS). The recommendations of the Selection Committee were placed before the Board. The Board approved the recommendations of the Selection Committees, as per details given below:

Date of Selection Committee Meeting	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee
21 st September 2023	Appointment to the post of Professor, Discipline of History (UR-01) in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS) in the Academic level 14 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,44,200/- 2,18,200/-)	1. Dr Shiv Kumar Misra Waiting list 1. Dr Kumar Ratnam
21 st September 2023	Appointment to the post of Associate Professor, Discipline of History (UR-01) in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS) in the Academic level 13A of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,31,400/- 1,17,100/-)	1. Dr Jaya Jyotika Waiting list 1. Dr Shivangini Tandon 2. Dr Praneshwar Nath Rai
21 st September 2023	Appointment to the post of Professor, Discipline of Psychology (UR-01) in the School of Social Sciences (SOSS) in the Academic level 14 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,44,200/- 2,18,200/-)	1. Dr Ritu Sharma Waiting list 1. Dr Vijyendra Pandey
21 st September 2023	Appointment to the post of Professor, Discipline of Environmental Studies (OBC-01) in the School of Inter-Disciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Studies (SOITS) in the Academic level 14 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 1,44,200/- 2,18,200/-)	None Found Suitable. Post be readvertised

BM 157.18.2

The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed that the Part-Minutes in this regard be issued for issuance of Appointment letters to the selected candidates for the above teaching posts.

Item No. 19

To consider the recommendations of 80th Works Committee in assigning the work of "Replacement of AC Plants in a phased manner and to take up the work in second phase for academic blocks and Convention Centre at a total PE cost Rs.9,18,50,125/- to be executed by CPWD as Deposit work"

BM 157.19.1 The item was presented before the Board in detail. The Board approved the recommendations of the 80th Works Committee for the replacement of AC plants in a phased manner to be executed by CPWD as deposit work, as under:

- (i) In first phase, replacement of EMPC AC plant at a PE cost Rs.2,91,27,691/- has been undertaken (as the existing AC system is almost 27 years old & utilized more than double of the life span).
- (ii) In second phase, replacement of AC plants for Academic Blocks & Convention Centre at a PE cost of Rs.9,18,50,125/- shall be taken up (as the existing AC system is almost 18 years old).
- (iii) In third phase, replacement of AC plant for Block No. 15 at a PE cost of Rs.2,46,64,763/- shall be carried out (as the existing VRV system is about 10 years old).

Item No. 20 **To consider the report of Committee constituted to inquire into the matter related to complaint against Dr. Ram Chandra, Assistant Professor, STRIDE**

BM 157.20.1 The Board was apprised about the complaint received against Dr. Ram Chandra from the Coordinator, IGNOU Study Centre, Jodhpur through Regional Director, Jaipur vide mail dated 13.01.2023 which stipulates that “during the TEE December, 2022 held on 9th January, 2023 in the evening session at Examination Centre: LSC-88008, Mahila P.G. Mahavidyalaya, Jodhpur, one of the examinees for the Course MDE-413, bearing enrollment number 2109324625, Name Ram Chandra, was designated a seat in Room 304 according to the room chart. Dr. Ram Chandra introduced himself as the Assistant Professor in IGNOU to the invigilators of the exam room and asked for Water. In spite of the fulfillment of the request and polite behavior of the invigilator and the peons, Dr. Ramchandra misbehaved with them in the exam room and disrupted the decorum of the examination.” It has been alleged that after completion of the paper, Dr. Ram Chandra also misbehaved with the staff members present in the control room.

The matter was placed before the Board in its 154th meeting held on 27.02.2023 and the Board decided to conduct an enquiry into the matter and directed that the report of the inquiry be placed before the Board. Accordingly, a Committee was constituted by the Vice Chancellor in Chairpersonship of Prof Sumitra Kukreti, Pro Vice Chancellor vide



Notification dated 4.5.2023. The Committee has submitted its report which was placed before the Board for its consideration.

BM 157.20.2 The Board considered the Report of the aforesaid Committee and decided to issue a warning to Dr. Ram Chandra, Assistant Professor for his behavior at the examination centre. Further, he has not taken permission to pursue programme and for appearing in exam. Accordingly a strict warning be issued stating that strict action shall be initiated against him if he indulges in such kind of an activity in future.

ITEN NO.21 **To consider and approve the request of Prof Madhu Parhar, Professor of Distance Education, STRIDE for voluntary retirement from the services of University**

BM 157.21.1 The Board was informed that the IGNOU Ordinances, Regulations and Statutes are silent on the issue of Voluntary Retirement and in lieu of which FR- 56 "Retirement" would be applicable in the instant case. As per Rule of FR 56(k)(1) any Government servant may, by giving notice of not less than three months in writing to the appropriate authority, retire from service after he has attained the age of fifty years, if he is in Group 'A' or Group 'B) service or post, (and had entered Government service before attaining the age of thirty five years); and in all other cases after he has attained the age of fifty five years.

As per FR 56(k)(1-A)(a), a Government servant may make a request in writing to the appointing authority to accept notice of less than three months giving reasons thereof. As per FR 56(k)(1-A)(b) on receipt of a request under sub clause (1A)(a), the appointing authority may consider such request for the curtailment of the period of notice of three months on merits and if it satisfied that the curtailment of the period of notice will not cause any administrative inconvenience the appointing authority may relax the requirement of notice of three months on the condition that the Government servant shall not apply for commutation of a part of his pension before the expiry of the period of notice of three months.

The Board was informed that Prof Madhu Parhar joined the services of the Indira Gandhi National Open University as Reader on 29.07.1998. Subsequently she was promoted as Professor w.e.f. 29.07.2006. Prior to joining IGNOU she was working as Lecturer in Jamia Milia Islamia and

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her service was counted for retirement/pensionary benefits w.e.f. 12.12.1994 to 28.7.1998. Prof Madhu Parhar has applied for Voluntary Retirement from the University vide her request dated 06.09.2023 and requested to relieve her from the services of the University w.e.f. 13.10.2023. She has completed more than 28 years 9 months of service. Prof Madhu Parhar would be completing 01 month 01 week as Notice period since her request dated 06.09.2023 and she has requested for waiving off of shortfall of remaining Notice period, i.e. a shortfall of about 1 month 3½ weeks.

BM 157.21.2 The Board accepted the request of Prof Madhu Parhar, Professor, STRIDE for Voluntary Retirement from the services of the University. The Board also decided to waive off the shortfall in notice period and decided to relieve her from service of the University w.e.f. 13.10.2023(A/N). She would be eligible for retirement benefits as per Rules.

BM 157.21.3 The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard.

Item No. 22 **To consider the Minutes of the Finance Committee made in its 105th meeting held on 20.09.2023**

BM 157.22.1 The Board considered and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee made at its 105th meeting held on 20.09.2023 (**Appendix-2**). The Board specifically approved the unaudited Annual Accounts of the University for the financial year 2022-23 and RE 2023-24 & BE 2024-25. The Board further authorized that the Annual Accounts 2022-23 be submitted to the DGA (HE&SE) for audit certification.

The Board confirmed this item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for implementation.

Item No. 23 **To consider the Minutes of the Student Services Committee (SSC), a Standing Committee of Board of Management, made at its 53rd meeting held on 19th September 2023**

BM 157.23.1 The Director, Regional Services Division was invited to present the minutes of the 53rd Student Services Committee (SSC) meeting. He

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briefed the Board the highlights of SSC recommendations. After detailed deliberations, the Board approved the Minutes of the Student Services Committee (SSC) made at its 53rd meeting held on 19th September 2023 (**Appendix-3**).

Item No. 24 **To consider the Minutes of the Works Committee, Standing Committee of the BOM made in its 81st meeting held on 19.09.2023**

BM 157.24.1 The Board considered and approved the minutes of the Works Committee, Standing Committee of the BOM made in its 81st meeting held on 19.09.2023 (**Appendix-4**).

Item No. 25 **To consider the status of recruitment to teaching and Academic posts in the University alongwith status of backlog vacancies for SC/ST/ OBC/EWS etc.**

BM 157.25.1 The Board noted the status of recruitment to Teaching and Academic posts in the University alongwith status of backlog vacancies for SC/ST/ OBC/EWS etc. It was also informed to Board that the University has also sent 100 additional positions to NTA for further recruitment under Mission recruitment scheme.

Item No. 26 **To consider the Minutes of Selection Committee meeting for the post of Public Relation Officer (PRO) held on 12.09.2023**

BM 157.26.1 The Minutes of the Selection Committee meeting for the post of Public Relation Officer (PRO) held on 12.09.2023 were placed before the Board for consideration. The Board approved the following recommendations of the Selection Committee:

Date of the Selection Committee Meeting	Position	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee
12.09.2023	Recruitment to the post of Public Relation Officer (PRO) in Pay Level-12 (78,800-2,09,200) of 7 th CPC	Mr. Rajesh Sharma <u>Waiting list:</u> 1. Mr. Shivadeep Pandey 2. Ms. Jayeeta Das

BM 157.26.2 The Board confirmed the above item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for implementation.

Item No. 27 **To consider the matter related to counting of past service of Teachers and Academics joining IGNOU for CAS in accordance with UGC Regulations**

BM 157.27.1 The Board was informed that the University has adopted the UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for appointment of Teachers and other Academic staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in Higher Education, issued from time to time for appointment of its Teachers and Academic staffs. The said UGC Regulations, inter alia, have provisions for counting of past service for the purpose of direct recruitment as well as for career Advancement. In the recent past several teachers and academic staff have joined the University many of whom have experience of teaching/ research in other academic institutions prior to joining IGNOU, including private Institutions. On joining IGNOU they apply for counting of past service for pay protection as well as for Career advancement from one stage to another. The University already has been facing several representations from staff including Dr Shikha Rai, Assistant Professor (now Associate Professor), SOJNMS, Dr Sanjay Agrawal, Associate Professor (now Professor), SOET, Dr Deeksha Dave, Assistant Professor, SOITS, Dr Indrani Lahiri, Assistant Regional Director (now Deputy Director), etc. In one case the Applicant has also proceeded High Court on the matter.

It was further informed that the University has been regularly sending requests to UGC to provide their opinion on the matter. In one such case the University Grants Commission vide its letter F.No.6-48/2023(PS) dated 3.8.2023 with regard to the counting of past service for CAS in respect of employees who were working in private self financing Institution and had not applied through proper channel, the UGC communicated "to refer the Clause 8.0.0 and Clause 7.1.1 of UGC Notification on revision of pay scales, minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers in universities, colleges and other measures for the maintenance of standards 1998, respectively which are self explanatory in nature (**Appendix-5**).

The Board noted that the Regulatory provisions of UGC on counting of past service as per UGC Regulations 1998 (5th CPC), UGC Regulations



2010 (6th CPC) and UGC Regulations 2018 (7th CPC).

BM 157.27.2 After detailed deliberations, the Board directed to consider the proposals for counting of past service of Teachers and Academics joining IGNOU for Career Advancement Scheme in accordance with the UGC Regulations in letter and spirit.

ITEN NO.28 **To consider the amendments to the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018**

BM 157.28.1 The Board was informed that the University Grants Commission vide Gazette Notification dated 18th July, 2018 had notified "UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS AND OTHER ACADEMIC STAFF IN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND MEASURES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION) REGULATIONS 2018" No. F.1-2/2017(EC/PS). These regulations were placed before the Board of Management at its 131st meeting held on 22.12.2018 and they were adopted by the Board. Accordingly as per the decision of the BOM at its 131st meeting, the University vide notification No. IG/ACD/UGC Reg. 2018/2019/3845, dated 22nd March 2019, notified the adoption of the UGC Regulations 2018. The Recruitment and Career Advancement of Teachers and Academics of the University is done as per these Regulations.

The Board was further informed that the University Grants Commission since aforementioned gazette Notification dated 18th July 2018 , has brought three amendments to the Principal Regulations 2018 as under:

- (i) University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Amendment Regulations, 2021 (No. F.9-1/2010(PS/MISC)Pt. Vol.I., dated 11.10.2021) (w.e.f. date of publication in gazette) published in gazette of India dated 12th October 2021.
- (ii) University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities



and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (2nd Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (No. F. 9-1/2010(PS/MISC)Pt. Vol. II , dated 30.6.2023) (w.e.f. 1st July 2023) published in gazette of India dated 3rd July 2023.

- (iii) University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (3rd Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (F. No. 9-1/2010(PS/MISC)Pt. Vol.II, dated 31.07.2023)(w.e.f. date of publication in Gazette) published in gazette of India dated 1st August 2023.

A copy each of these Regulations was placed before the Board of Management for its consideration

- BM 157.28.2** The Board approved adoption of the aforementioned amendments to the Principal UGC Regulations, 2018, viz.- 1st Amendment Regulations, 2021 (No.F.9-1/2010(PS/MISC)Pt.Vol.I. dt. 11.10.2021); 2nd Amendment Regulations, 2023 (No.F. 9-1/2010(PS/MISC)Pt. Vol. II dated 30.6.2023) and 3rd Amendment Regulations, 2023 (F.No.9-1/2010(PS/MISC)Pt. Vol.II dated 31.07.2023) from the date indicated against each Regulation.

The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard.

Item No. 29 To consider the status of Gyan Vani FM Radio Stations

- BM 157.29.1** The Board noted the status of surrendered Gyan Vani Stations and status of Operational Gyan Vani Stations. The Board directed that actionable points on strengthening existing Gyan Vani stations be outlined for taking up the matter with the Prasar Bharati.

Item No. 30 To ratify the MOU of Service agreement between Indira Gandhi National Open University & EdCil (India) Limited for HR support for SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA Projects, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

- BM 157.30.1** The Board ratified the MOU of Service agreement between Indira Gandhi National Open University & EdCil (India) Limited for HR support for



SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA Projects, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

Item No. 31 To consider the Status Report of construction of Regional Centre Building at Imphal

BM 157.31.1 The Board was informed that Manipur University has allotted 2.5 acres of land to IGNOU for construction of Regional Centre Building at Imphal and University has entered in a lease agreement on 10.01.2006. It was informed that Manipur University is now not willing to provide land to IGNOU as they need the space for future developments after becoming Central University.

Meanwhile, the University had received a letter from the Ministry of Education and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of Manipur informing that a piece of land measuring about 3.0 acres for establishment of Regional Centre, Imphal. The Government of Manipur allowed to transfer of 3.0 acres of land vide orders dated 30.03.2015. A registered Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Government of Manipur through Director, University and Higher Education, Manipur and Registrar, IGNOU on 13.01.2016 to take the lease for a term of 99 years for an amount of Rs.1/- as one time rent. The land mutation and physical possession was not done.

The Regional Director, Imphal informed that Under Secretary (Revenue) Govt. of Manipur as per the Cabinet decision of State of Manipur has re-allotted the land to National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) (1.0 acre each) from the 3.0 acres of land allotted to IGNOU. As per the copy of order dated 10.10.2019 of Govt. of Manipur. University was left with 1.0 acre of land for construction of Regional Centre Building at Imphal. The Regional Director is in process of taking physical possession of land with a fresh agreement.

CPWD has been requested to take-up the construction activities at the 01 acre of land. CPWD has provided an estimate amounting to Rs.2,73,000/- for Soil Investigation and topographical survey for construction of Regional Centre building and boundary wall at RC, Imphal, Manipur. University.

BM 157.31.2 The Board noted the present status of the land and construction activities at the 1.0 acre of land for Regional Centre at Imphal, Manipur.



Item No. 32 To consider the disposal of unutilised land/premises of the University at Vatakara, Bhopal, Bengaluru and Pune respectively

BM 157.32.1 The Board was informed that IGNOU had acquired lands and buildings at various Regional Centres for construction of its premises which are at various stages of utilisations. Some of the premises and lands have become unfruitful for the University keeping in view of the latest shift in the delivery of students support services through ICT. The details of unutilized land/premises of Regional Centres at Vatakara, Bengaluru, Pune and Bhopal are:

- a) Vatakara: The Government of Kerala had allotted 2.0 acres of land free of cost to IGNOU at Maniyur village near Vatakara. The boundary wall was constructed in June 2015 through CPWD with the financial support from MPLAD funds. Since the land is not being utilized by IGNOU, the antisocial elements have reportedly started using the place in the evenings. Besides Shri K Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Vatakara has also shown concern in this matter saying that since this land is not being utilized by IGNOU, the same may be used for other purposes for the local community. In the near future the University has no plans for the construction of building in proposed site at Vatakara. IGNOU has already two permanent premises in the State at Cochin and Trivandrum which can effectively cover the Vatakara region from these premises.
- b) Bengaluru: The Government's Kharab land measuring 3.07 acres was purchased by IGNOU for Rs. 2.54 crores in the year 2007. The land purchased by IGNOU is in three pieces of land (A, B & C). The construction of RC is almost completed in one piece of land (B) within approved area of 1489.28 sqmts. The other two pieces of land are vacant and causing financial liabilities on IGNOU since 2007. Plot 'C' is frequently being used as a dumping yard and on many occasions medical wastes in addition to garbage being dumped. Additional expenditure is also incurred to clean this garbage. Therefore, it would be beneficial for the University to return the two pieces of unutilized land back to Revenue Department of Government of Karnataka.
- c) Pune: The land at RC Pune was purchased from Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) with a payment of Rs.3,07,87,776/- (Three Crore Seven Lakhs and Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six only) on lease for a period of 30 years w.e.f. 01.08.2013. The total area of land (plot) is 7357 Sqmts. which was allotted to IGNOU by PMC in 3 parts and each part is divided by road. The land allotted was made up



of three distinct and separate land areas. Out of these, land under part -2 i.e. 2579 Sqmts. and 1300 Sqmt out of 2790 Sqmtrs. of part -1 land was amalgamated by PMC and permission for construction of building was given by PMC to CPWD. Construction of proposed RC building of G+3 storeys is going on steadily on this site. So far plot mentioned under part-3 and some land of part-1 are not utilized for construction which is total 3478 Sqmtr. It is creating additional financial liabilities for unutilized open land since 2013.

- d) Bhopal: IGNOU has two premises at Bhopal which are located at 3rd floor Sanchi Complex Opposite Board Office Bhopal (about 730.26 sq mts) and 12 Arera Hills, Opposite District Jail Bhopal (about 28287sq ft). The building at 3rd floor Sanchi Complex Bhopal was purchased from M P Housing Board Bhopal at a cost of Rs. 96,17,618/-. These premises are being utilized for IGNOU's Regional Evaluation Centre since June 2017. The premises at Arera Hills Bhopal were constructed by M P Housing and Infrastructure Development Board Bhopal at the total cost of 520.04 Lakhs. The building was completed on 30.11.2012. These premises are presently being used for IGNOU's Regional Centre, Bhopal. The condition of existing premises at 3rd Floor, Sanchi Complex is not conducive for students support services. It requires extensive maintenance and the facility of lift is not working for a long time. However the building at Arera Hills Bhopal has ample space which is sufficient to meet all the requirements of the Regional Centre. Shifting of REC to Arera Hills building will create better coordination in the functioning of both the offices, judicious utilization of office resources and will also help to reduce recurring expenses on security, maintenance etc.

BM 157.32.2 As per Statute of the University the Board of Management shall have the power of management and administration of the revenue and property of the University and the conduct of all administrative affairs of the University not otherwise provided for. It was further informed that keeping in view of unutilisation and additional expenditure on these land/premises, it is felt that University's lands at Vatakara and Building at 3rd Floor, Sanchi Complex Opp Board Office Bhopal (MP) are not beneficial to be retained. Similarly some parts of the lands at Pune and Bengaluru are not required to be retained.

BM 157.32.3 After detailed deliberations, the Board approved the proposal of disposal of unutilized lands/premises of the University at Vatakara, Bhopal, Bengaluru and Pune.

Item No. 33 To consider the Minutes of the Committee constituted to verify all the certificates submitted by the newly recruited Assistant Registrars of the University

BM 157.33.1 The Board considered the Minutes of the Committee constituted to verify all the certificates submitted by the newly recruited Assistant Registrars of the University made in its meetings held on 22.8.2023 & 21.9.2023. The Board noted the case of Ms. Jyoti, Assistant Registrar, posted at Regional Centre, Chandigarh. It was informed that Ms. Jyoti possessed the bachelor degree i.e. B.A. General Programme completed from Manonmaniam Sundarnar University, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu which is a State University. She had passed her Mater's Degree i.e. Master of Arts (History Hons.) from SunRise University, Alwar, Rajasthan. However, on scrutiny of documents with regard to testimonials, the Regional Director, RC Chandigarh observed certain discrepancies which were informed to the headquarters. However, her joining at Regional Centre Chandigarh was provisionally accepted subject to verification of certificates submitted by her.

The Board further noted that a letter dt.23.3.2023 was forwarded to the Director, DEB, UGC to confirm the territorial jurisdiction of B.A. General Programme completed from Manonmaniam Sundarnar University, Tamilnadu and also to verify her Mater of Arts (History Hons.) degree from SunRise University, Rajasthan. In response, the Distance Education Bureau, UGC vide its letter dt.10.8.2023 *inter alia* clarified that Manonmaniam Sundarnar University, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu is a State University and not authorized to open Study Centre/Off Campus/Centre beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the State as per the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the case of Prof. Yashpal vs the State of Chhatisgarh". As per the mark-sheet submitted by Ms. Jyoti of Bachelor Degree it is stated that her Examination Centre was M.S.U. Education Centre Haryana which is outside the territorial jurisdiction of the state of Tamilnadu and hence the aforesaid Committee observed that this degree is invalid as per UGC regulations being an off campus degree. It was informed that Ms. Jyoti vide her letter dt.4.9.2023 and email dt.5.9.2023 had also forwarded an UGC email dt.4.9.2023, which *inter alia* records that Manonmaniam Sundarnar University, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu is not authorized to open study centres/off-campus centre beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the state.



The Board was further informed that the legal opinion has also been obtained in the case of Ms. Jyoti which states that "...the undergraduate qualification of Ms. Jyoti is contrary to the directives of the UGC and the aforementioned Supreme Court judgments. Even the postgraduate degree of Ms. Jyoti is not in the list of approved nomenclature by UGC. Therefore, the service of Ms. Jyoti is liable to be terminated forthwith." It further states that "as Ms. Jyoti is still under probation, there is no requirement for giving any show cause notice before termination..."

BM 157.33.2 After detailed deliberation, the Board decided to terminate the services of Ms. Jyoti, Assistant Registrar with immediate effect.

The Board confirmed this item and directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for implementation.

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


(Nageshwar Rao)
Chairman