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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1997, AT 11.30 HRS. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK - 8, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI 110 068.

The following were present:

1. Prof R.G. Takwale, Vice-Chancellor - Chairman
2. Dr S.K. Gandhe
3. Prof Rakesh Khurana
4. Prof Janardan Jha
5. Prof A.K. Agarwal
6. Prof Asha Kanwar
7. Prof M.M. Pant
8. Prof Madhulika Kaushik
9. Prof Prabha Chawla
10. Prof S.B. Menon
11. Prof Kapil Kumar
12. Prof V.R. Jagannathan
13. Prof Pandav Nayak
14. Prof R.K. Bose
15. Dr R. Ramanujam
16. Dr G. Thomas
17. Dr N.V. Narasimham
18. Ms Pity Koul
19. Shri Pankaj Khare
20. Dr Neela Jagannathan
21. Shri D.C. Pant
22. Ms Jai Chandiram
23. Dr. N.S. Rame Gowda
24. Shri Asad Nizam
25. Dr. Tilak R. Kem - Member Secretary

Prof V.V. Mandke, Prof B.S. Saraswat, Shri D.W.F. Raja Singh, Dr. C.K. Ghosh and Prof. A.K. Sharma could not attend the meeting.

Shri C.R. Pillai, Adviser to Vice-Chancellor on Planning and Development attended the meeting as a Special Invitee.

Shri K.J.S. Prasada Rao, Dy. Registrar (Governance), was present to assist the Council.

Before the items of agenda were taken up, the Vice-Chancellor extended a cordial welcome to the following new Members who were present in the meeting:

1. Prof. Kapil Kumar
2. Prof. V.R. Jagannathan
3. Prof. Pandav Nayak
4. Prof. R.K. Bose
5. Dr. R. Ramanujam
6. Dr. G. Thomas
7. Dr. N.V. Narasimham
8. Ms. Pity Koul
9. Shri Pankaj Khare
10. Shri D.C. Pant
11. Dr. N.S. Rame Gowda
12. Ms. Jai Chandiram
13. Shri Asad Nizam

The Council placed on record its appreciation to the following members who retired from the membership of the Academic Council:

1. Dr. Ravindra Kumar
2. Dr. Geeta Kaicker
3. Shri Akshay Kumar
4. Prof. S.K. Singh
5. Dr. V.G. Kulkarni
6. Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy
7. Prof. Namvar Singh
8. Prof. Tushar Shah
9. Dr. K. Subramanian
10. Shri B.S. Bhatia
11. Dr. Arun Guha
12. Shri D.K. Modi
13. Prof. P.S. Deodhar

The Council also placed on record its deep appreciation to Dr. Tilak R. Kem, Registrar and Member Secretary of the Council who would be leaving the University at the end of July.

The Council was informed that the date of the Meeting indicated at the top portion of Agenda Notes 1,2,5,6,7 and 8 be read as July 24, 1997 instead of August 16, 1996.

The following items were considered:

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 16TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 1997 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

AC 17.1.1 Before the confirmation of the Minutes was taken up, reference was invited to the comments received from one of the Members on Resolution Nos. AC 16.8.1 and AC 16.8.2. Taking into account the comments received, the Council decided that the Resolutions AC 16.8.1 and AC 16.8.2 be modified as below:

AC 16.8.1 : On the request of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. S.B. Menon, Director, School of Education presented the salient features of the proposal. The launching of the Ph.D. Programme in Education has been scheduled in two phases : the Phase 1 meant essentially for those who have already completed M.Phil. in Education, who have been exempted from doing course work as per the Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes; and Phase 2 for those without M.Phil. in Education for whom there is a prescribed course work. What was being presented for the approval of the Academic Council was the Phase 1 of the programme launch. During the course of the discussion, a view was expressed as to whether more flexibility in choice of subjects should be given in the Ph.D. programme in Education. In reply to this, it was mentioned that the Phase 2 of the launch of the Ph.D. programme in Education addresses those who do not have M.Phil. in Education, and this involves course work which incorporates flexibility in the choice of subjects. As soon as the course structure is ready and approved by the School Board, it will be brought for consideration of the Academic Council. It was further stated that the Phase 1 of programme launch was thought necessary in order to create an immediate substantive base for forging a link between the UNESCO Chair to be instituted in the School of Education shortly and the academic programmes of the School.

AC 16.8.2 : The Academic Council approved the Phase-1 of the Ph.D. Programme in Education. The School of Education was asked to come up with the Course Structures of the courses to be offered for the Phase 2 of the Programme launch as and when they are approved by the School Board. The Vice-Chancellor may appoint a Committee, if considered necessary, to examine any general issues pertaining to Ph.D. programmes.

AC 17.1.2 With the above correction, the Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of its 16th Meeting held on February 28, 1997. The Academic Council also noted the action taken on the Minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS ON THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF STATUTE 9(1)(Viii).

AC 17.2.1 The Academic Council considered the proposal of co-option of members under the Provisions of Clause 9(1)(viii).

AC 17.2.2 The Vice-Chancellor stated that, in order to facilitate co-option, he had prepared a panel of names in consultation with senior colleagues, which the Council may consider. Members also made suggestions in this regard. After some discussion, the Council felt that it would be appropriate to follow clearly laid down criteria for selecting persons to the membership of the Academic Council. The following criteria was adopted:

- (i) Persons should be scholars of standing with some association with open University system.
- (ii) He or She is not already a member of any other authority of the University.
- (iii) Persons who are likely to take interest and attend the meeting of the Academic Council.

AC 17.2.3 Following the above criteria, the Council co-opted the following persons to the Academic Council in the areas specified:

Academic

- (i) Prof. C.D. Narasimhaiah
- (ii) Prof. Krishna Kumar
- (iii) Prof. K.N. Panicker
- (iv) Ms. Kumud Sharma
- (v) Prof. D.K. Dasgupta
- (vi) Prof. P.V Indiresan

Professional

- (i) Dr. S. Ramani, NCST
- (ii) Dr. N.H. Antia

Communication Field

- (i) Dr. J.S. Yadava, IIMC
- (ii) Prof. D.C. Surana
- (iii) Shri Gerson D'Cunha

Industry/Trade/Commerce/Employer's Organisations

- (i) Shri P.R. Swarup
- (ii) Shri K.K. Muthu

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE ON "CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE" TO PROVIDE FOR A MODERATION BOARD FOR MODERATION OF EXAMINATION RESULTS.

AC 17.3.1 The Academic Council considered the amendment to the Ordinance on "Conduct of Examinations and Evaluation of Student's Performance" to provide for a Moderation Board for moderation of examination results. The Council approved the suggested amendment. A Statement indicating the existing provisions of the Ordinance, proposed amendments and Clauses after amendment is placed at Appendix - 1.

ITEM NO. 4 TO RECEIVE A NOTE ON STEPS TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY FOR DIVERSIFYING THE DELIVERY SYSTEM.

AC 17.4.1 It was reported that with the increase in enrolment, multiplication of the range and variety of programmes and specialised nature of facilities required, it became necessary to diversify the delivery mechanisms. The Council took note of the following papers placed before it:

- (i) Delivery of IGNOU Programmes through partner institutions and multi-media learning centres.
- (ii) Channels of learning and delivery in Open University System.
- (iii) Management Education through interactive delivery system for Continuing Education Programme in Management.
- (iv) Management of Projects in IGNOU.

- AC 17.4.2 The Academic Council endorsed the steps taken by the University in diversifying the delivery system.
- ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER THE DETAILED PROGRAMME REPORT FORM (PHASE 3) IN RESPECT OF CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA PROGRAMME ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.
- AC 17.5.1 The Academic Council considered the proposal. The Council noted that the Diploma Programme on Women's Empowerment and Development is a joint effort of two Schools, namely, the School of Social Sciences (SOSS) and the School of Continuing Education (SOCE). It was further noted that the theory component of the Programme would be the responsibility of the SOSS and the training component that of the SOCE.
- AC 17.5.2 While discussing the Detailed Programme Report Form (DPR), the following views were expressed:
- (i) The DPR Form states it as a professional programme. There should be some guidelines to classify a programme as professional or technical or general.
 - (ii) While the level of Programme is indicated as Certificate and PG Diploma, the eligibility criteria prescribed is only 10+2. Non 10+2 with 3 years' work experience can also join the programme. In the circumstances, the question whether it is justified to call the programme a PG Diploma needs to be examined.
 - (iii) The Programme is designed to have 36 Credits, which would be a heavy load for students with 10+2 qualification.
 - (iv) The programme components as indicated in the proposal do not specifically indicate the training component from the SOCE to be incorporated in the programme.
- AC 17.5.3 Responding to the views expressed, it was clarified that the Programme is to be offered only as a Diploma Programme. The training component would be worked out by the SOCE and incorporated in the Programme. The Council decided that the proposal be brought before the Academic Council again as an integrated proposal after the theory and training aspects have been incorporated. In the meantime the concerned Schools may go ahead with the work relating to course development and related activities.

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER THE DETAILED PROGRAMME REPORT FORM (PHASE 3) FOR THE 8 CREDIT COURSE (PART OF BDP) ON NATIONAL INCOME ACCOUNTING.

AC 17.6.1 The Academic Council considered the Detailed Programme Report Form (Phase 3) for the 8 Credit Course on National Income Accounting. It was noted that this would be an elective course forming part of the existing Bachelor's Degree Programme. The Academic Council approved the proposal.

ITEM NO. 7 TO REPORT FOR RATIFICATION THE ACTION TAKEN IN THE REVISION OF RATES OF THE PROGRAMME FEE FOR IGNOU PROGRAMMES.

AC 17.7.1 The Academic Council considered and ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in revising the programme fee for IGNOU Programmes. A Statement giving details of Fee Structure is given at Appendix - 2. The Council also noted that in addition to the programme fee, a candidate is required to pay a non-refundable Registration Fee of Rs.100/-.

AC 17.7.2 The Council was informed that the Programme Guide for the Diploma Programme in Tourism Studies indicates the Programme Fee for DTS as Rs.1,600/- inclusive of Registration Fee of Rs.100/-. Since the Programme Guide has already been released, the Council has agreed for Rs.1,600/- (inclusive of Registration Fee of Rs.100/-) as Programme Fee for this year so far as DTS is concerned.

AC 17.7.3 While on the subject, it was generally agreed that coursewise registration, which is now in operation for Management Programmes, should be encouraged for other Programmes also in Phases and that the Vice-Chancellor may appoint a Committee to work out the modalities for coursewise registration.

ITEM NO. 8 TO REPORT FOR INFORMATION THE STUDENT FIGURES CONCERNING THE AWARD OF DEGREES/DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED AT THE 8TH CONVOCATION HELD ON MARCH 8, 1997.

AC 17.8.1 The Academic Council took on record the statement giving details of number of students who were awarded degrees/diplomas at the 8th Convocation held on March 8, 1997. The Statement is placed at Appendix - 3.

ITEM NO. 9 TO RECEIVE A NOTE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AS AN AUTHORITY OF THE UNIVERSITY UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE IGNOU ACT.

AC 17.9.1 The Academic Council considered the matter. One of the members drew the attention of the Council to the Proviso under Section 25(2) of the Act and stated that the Academic Council should have been consulted before the proposal was considered by the Board of Management. It was clarified that the provisions quoted would be attracted only when a Statute is made or amended affecting the status, powers and constitution of any authority, which is already in existence. In the instant case the Board of Vocational Education and Training (BVET) is proposed as a new authority under Section 16 of the Act for which the Board of Management has the powers to make a Statute.

AC 17.9.2 In the discussion that followed, the following views were expressed:

- (i) Since the powers to organise courses and programmes is vested with the Schools of Studies whether it would be in order for a Division, which is not a School, to undertake such responsibility without a statutory sanction.
- (ii) Whether a School or a Division has the authority to give a certificate for any programme/course/ training organised by it.
- (iii) Whether there would be any conflict in the exercise of powers between the Academic Council and the BVET.
- (iv) Could not a Standing Committee of the Academic Council perform the functions envisaged for the BVET instead of creating another parallel authority.

AC 17.9.3 The Vice-Chancellor clarified the following points:

- (i) A distinction has to be made between a certificate issued by the University as a qualification on completion of a prescribed programme of study and a certificate of participation issued by the Vice-Chancellor or the head of a School or Division on the basis of participation in a short training and creative programme.

- (ii) Award of a Certificate as a University qualification on completing an academic programme will only be done under the authority of the University.
- (iii) The changing scenario in the country throws up challenges to the academic institutions especially for the open and distance learning institutions, where various levels of certification is needed relating to knowledge, skills, efficiency, etc. In the context of such a scenario, it would be appropriate that a body like BVET is established to meet the emerging needs in defining competencies, standardising performance levels and criteria, etc.
- (iv) The functions proposed for the BVET are not in the domain of the Schools of Studies as per the existing provisions and therefore, there was no conflict of interests between the BVET and the Schools of Studies.

AC 17.9.4 The Academic Council endorsed the proposal for the creation of an authority, namely, the Board of Vocational Education and Training, as a statutory mechanism under the IGNOU Act.

ITEM NO. 10 TO RECEIVE A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH OPEN INSTITUTES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS.

AC 17.10.1 The Academic Council considered the proposal. In the discussion that followed, a view was expressed that establishing too many structures of diverse nature, would erode and undermine the powers and authority of the existing structures. It was clarified that the new initiative proposed would meet the specific needs and would in no way affect the functioning of the Schools or other authorities. In other words, the proposal meets the requirements arising from diversified course development approaches and also the specific needs for their delivery.

AC 17.10.2 The Academic Council endorsed the proposal. The Council further decided that in the establishment of such Institutes, consultations with the concerned Schools may be undertaken.

ITEM NO. 11

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE CERTAIN DEPARTURES MADE IN THE REGULATIONS IN THE OFFERING OF IGNOU ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES IN THE MIDDLE-EAST COUNTRIES.

AC 17.11.1

Prof. Janardan Jha, Pro Vice-Chancellor explained briefly the salient features mentioned in the Agenda Note. These were:

- (i) Yearwise Course offerings and examinations conducted once a year, except for CIC Programme for which examination will be held at the end of six months.
- (ii) Instead of coursewise registraion for Management Programmes, fixed number of courses are to be offered each year.
- (iii) Direct admission based on the eligibility criteria prescribed without entrance test.
- (iv) Under foundation courses only FEG-2 is to be offered (there may not be a demand for other language courses).
- (v) All programmes are to be offered only in English medium.
- (vi) New fee structure.

AC 17.11.2

In the discussion that followed, the following views were expressed:

- (i) The departures involved in this case compromise the flexibility which is central to the distance/open system.
- (ii) Holding Entrance Test for MP is a major policy decision. Dispensing with the test in favour of students from abroad amounts to differential treatment and violates the norms set by the AICTE and DEC.
- (iii) The proposed structure for the Management Programmes involves a major departure from the approved pattern and therefore, needs to be reviewed.
- (iv) Restricting examinations to once a year goes against the spirit of the semester pattern.

AC 17.11.3

Responding to the views expressed, the Vice-Chancellor stated that --

- (i) the matter of offering programmes and courses in West Asia has been pending for a long time and taking into account the urgency of the matter, immediate decisions were required to be taken;
- (ii) the launching of programmes in West Asia should be taken as the trial stage of a project and the anomalies, inconsistencies and problem areas could be identified and removed on the basis of experience gained in the first year;
- (iii) Although the agenda notes gave the impression that the programme structure has been somewhat modified, the fact is that the programmes will be seen as per the established pattern and the only departure would be that admission will be made to programmes, instead of registering students on individual courses;
- (iv) Taking into account the time factor, he had agreed to the proposed departures involving reduction in the frequency of examinations to one in the first year, and to admit the first batch of students without an entrance test. The Vice-Chancellor assured the Council that corrective steps would be taken wherever required in consultation with the Schools concerned and that a comprehensive proposal on the procedures to be followed in the next year would be brought before the Academic Council.

AC 17.11.4

Taking into account the clarifications given by the Vice-Chancellor, the Academic Council approved:

- (i) the departures made from the existing procedures in offering IGNOU academic programmes in West Asian countries; (Appendix - 4);
- (ii) the list of IGNOU partner institutions for the various IGNOU programmes in those countries (Appendix - 5); and
- (iii) the fee structure proposed for the programmes to be offered in the Middle East countries. (Appendix - 6).

ITEM NO. 12 TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMES FROM THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES (SOCIS).

AC 17.12.1 The Academic Council considered the proposal. Prof. M.M. Pant, Director, School of Computer and Information Sciences briefly explained the salient features of the proposal. While seeking the approval for the proposals made in the note, he said that specific approval of the Academic Council is required for the revision of the BCA Programme which was approved by the Vice-Chancellor under Section 10(3) of the IGNOU Act. The revision became necessary to incorporate Windows 95 as one of the courses in addition to MS DOS.

AC 17.12.2 In the discussion that followed, the following views were expressed:

(i) All the Schools are required to strictly comply with the revised procedures laid down for the approval of programmes, but such procedures have not been followed in the case of Computer Programmes.

(ii) It was clarified that the design of Computer Programmes is such that it is difficult to make use of the existing formats. This fact was also brought to the notice of the Planning Board at its meeting held on 18-10-1996 for not submitting Forms I & II for the Computer Programmes.

AC 17.12.3 The Academic Council approved the proposal on Computer Programmes.

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


(R.G. TAKWALE)
Vice-Chancellor