

MINUTES
of the
THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING
of the
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
held on
November 22, 2006



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068

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MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2006 AT 2.00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK-8, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI – 110 068.

The list of members present and those who could not attend the meeting is given in **(Annexure 1)**.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the 37th Meeting of the Academic Council, which had been convened as an urgent meeting to consider the matters relating to the 18th Convocation of the University, though certain other important issues had also been included in the agenda. He then asked the Member Secretary to present the items on the agenda.

The Member- Secretary then presented the items on the agenda. The decisions concerned are recorded below:

ITEM NO.1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2006 AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

AC 37.1.1 The Member Secretary informed the members that the Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Academic Council held on October 23, 2006 were circulated to the members. Though no comments have been received so far, he proposed that the members may offer their comments, if any, as the minutes were circulated only on November 12, 2003.

AC 37.1.2 Prof. Gayatri Kansal, Director, SOET desired that the last sentence of the resolution AC 36.1.3 may be dropped as no rates existed for the B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering programme. The Chairman pointed out that the rates approved by the Academic Council even for a new programme could not be implemented till the same were approved by the Finance Committee. Therefore, the minutes did not require any modification.

AC 37.1.3 The Academic Council confirmed the Minutes (**Annexure-2 without appendices**) of the 36th Meeting of the Council as circulated.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MATTER RELATING TO CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREES AT THE 18TH CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

AC 37.2.1 The Member Secretary apprised the members that the 18th Convocation of the University is likely to be held in February, 2007 and it is proposed to confer honorary degrees on distinguished personalities at the convocation. The Statute 22 on conferment of *honorary degrees* envisages that “all proposals for the conferment of *honorary degrees* shall be initiated by the Vice-Chancellor who after consultation with the Academic Council and the Board of Management shall submit the same to the Visitor for confirmation.”

AC 37.2.2 The Chairman consulted the members about his proposal of conferment of honorary degrees. He requested the members to keep the proposal confidential as it also involves consultation with the Board of Management, seeking concurrence of the recipients and approval of the Visitor in consultation with the Ministries of HRD and External Affairs.

AC 37.2.3 The Academic Council concurred the proposal.

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO HAVE A COMPULSORY COMPONENT OF THEORY, PRACTICE AND TECHNOLOGY OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ALL LEARNERS IN IGNOU.

AC 37.3.1 The Member Secretary informed the members of the proposal that from 2007 January admission onwards, all our programmes/courses should have a compulsory component of the Theory, Practice and Technology of Open and Distance Learning. This has to be one core unit. The course content, weightage etc. has to be decided by an expert committee. Print version and on-line have to be there.

AC 37.3.2 The Academic Council resolved to approve the proposal subject to the following:

- (i) a Committee of experts in the ODL Pedagogy and Technology will deliberate the matter and its recommendations will be placed before the School Boards for integrating this compulsory course following the existing procedure;
- (ii) focus of the course should be study skill oriented in use of educational and media technologies; and

- (iii) as the programmes are offered at certificate, diploma, undergraduate degree, post-graduate degree and doctoral level, there cannot be uniformity of contents of the proposed course as the requirements of each category of learners would be different.

ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS UNDER CLAUSE (1) (viii) OF STATUTE 9.

AC 37.4.1 The Member-Secretary informed the members that the ten members of the Academic Council co-opted by it under clause (1) (viii) of the Statute 9 would be completing their tenure on December 11, 2006. A proposal to co-opt new members was placed before the 36th Meeting of the Council wherein the Chairman invited names of experts for cooption by the Academic Council. The members authorized the Chairman to co-opt the new members on behalf of the Academic Council and report the same to the Council for ratification as per the past practice. The Chairman informed that the list of co-opted members will be placed for ratification after the term of present members is over.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2006

AC 37.5.1 The Member Secretary informed that the 21st Meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee was held on October 18, 2006 and the minutes of the meeting had been placed before the members. The ACSC considered and approved the following major items:

1. Phase-3 Form for PG Certificate Programme in Patents, PG Certificate in Cyber Laws, PG Diploma in IPR Regime and Human Rights, Diploma in Craft and Design (Pottery) and Certificate in Business Skills;
2. Phase Zero Form for the revision of Certificate Programme in Human Rights, MS-410 Course: Financial Innovation and Engineering for Management Programme and an Application Oriented Course: Business Communication and Entrepreneurship for the BDP students;
3. Modified eligibility for the Advanced Certificate in Power Distribution Management;
4. Modification of Evaluation Methodology for Bachelor's of Social Work and Diploma in Value Added Products from Fruits and Vegetables programmes;

5. Payment Norms for Evaluation of Project Proposals of MCS-044 course in BCA programme;
6. Pro-rata admission fee for MEG and MHD Programmes;
7. Evaluation Methodology for Diploma in Nautical Science and Advanced Diploma in Nautical Science programmes;
8. Relaxation of duration of PGDDE programme and declaration of results of students of Liberia;
9. Relaxation of duration of the PGCPDT programme by six months;

The Member Secretary clarified that in respect of Phase-3 Form of Diploma in Craft and Design (Pottery) the ACSC had advised the Programme Coordinator to work out details of expenditure that might be incurred by the University on each student for learner support and bring the proposal thereafter before the ACSC/AC. He proposed that the minutes may be approved by the Academic Council.

AC 37.5.2

The following observations were made by the members about the Phase 3 Form of the PG Diploma in IPR Regime and Human Rights Programme:

- ◆ What is the need of the programme when the University had been offering a Certificate in Human Rights and a PG Diploma in Intellectual Property Rights?
- ◆ There seems to be an overlap of contents with those of the above mentioned programmes.
- ◆ Prof. Pandav Nayak of SOSS has been shown as one of the Programme Coordinators, whereas the other Programme Coordinator, Shri Anand Gupta, SOL did not sign the Phase 3 Form. With Prof Nayak as one of the Programme Coordinators, Mr. Gupta who is only a young lecturer may not get due credit.

AC 37.5.3

The following clarifications were offered:

- ◆ Inadvertent omission of signatures of the faculty member was regretted;
- ◆ Prof. Pandav Nayak had conceptualized the programme when none of the lecturers had even joined the University. Initially Ms Suneet Kashyap was involved in the programme along with Prof. Nayak. When she took over the responsibility of the co-ordinatorship of the PG Certificate Programme in Patents, Shri. Gupta was associated with PGDIPRHR as one of the co-coordinators;

- ◆ There are precedents wherein members of another Discipline had been coordinating the programmes;
- ◆ Though there is no overlap of contents, the same will be further examined by course expert committees while designing the detailed syllabi of the programme, and would be placed before the School Board of School of Law and the ACSC/AC for approval;
- ◆ The proposal had been examined and approved by the School Board of School of Law having eminent experts;
- ◆ The Planning & Development Division is being requested to undertake need survey for all the proposed programmes of the School of Law.

AC 37.5.4 The Academic Council decided that the Chairman may examine the procedural aspects and take an appropriate decision. With these observations, the Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the ACSC (**Annexure-3**) without Appendices were approved by the Academic Council.

ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT IN THE POLICY GUIDELINES FRAMED BY THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL FOR RE-SUBMISSION/IMPROVEMENT IN PROJECT REPORTS.

AC 37.6.1 The Member Secretary informed the members that as per the guidelines framed by the Academic Council for resubmission/ improvement in Project Reports, the students are required to remit the pro-rata fee while re-submitting the project reports.

- (i) *Pro-rata fee* as per University rules be charged from the students whose Project work was booked under unfair means and referred to the Examination Discipline Committee (EDC);

- (ii) However, students who were unable to score the minimum pass marks be charged with **50% of the *pro-rata fee*** only while re-submitting the Project Report within the validity period of registration.
- (iii) This will be applicable to all the Programmes where Project work is a part of the curriculum.

AC 37.6.2 The Academic Council discussed the proposal in detail. It was pointed out that though the guidelines are applicable to project reports across the programmes, the request is mainly from the students of the BCA/ MCA programme. Also curbing the malpractices in submission of project reports is very essential for maintaining the credibility of the system.

AC 37.6.3 The Academic Council decided that

- i) the request of the BCA/ MCA students be first examined by the School Board of School of Computer and Information Sciences, and
- ii) the Chairman may constitute a Committee to examine the issues relating to malpractices in submission of Project Reports and suggest steps to curb the same.

ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT IN THE ASSOCIATE STUDENTSHIP SCHEME TO FACILITATE STUDENTS TO SEEK ADMISSION IN EITHER OF THE ADMISSION CYCLES.

AC 37.7.1 The Member Secretary apprised the members of the Associate Studentship Scheme approved by the Academic Council (AC 16.22.1).

Students are being admitted under the Associate Studentship Scheme for the courses of their choice in January admission cycle (as prevalent till the year 2003). However, in the year 2003, certain Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree Programmes have been shifted to July admission cycle and rest of the Programmes continued to be in January cycle of admission. Accordingly students have been allowed to seek admission only for those courses that are offered in a specific admission cycle in view of the counseling and practical sessions arranged in that semester.

The Task Force on Student Support Services at its 259th meeting held on 06.11.2006 discussed the issue and made the following suggestions:

- (i) Different admission application forms will be used for the associate students;
- (ii) The minimum and maximum allowable period given to such students for completion of their courses would be six months and two years, respectively;
- (iii) There will be no separate counseling or lab work schedule for the students. They will have to be in touch with the study centers concerned in order to know the schedule and participate in the sessions accordingly;
- (iv) SRED will prepare an Associate Studentship Scheme for being placed at the next Academic Council meeting.

The 'admission form' approved by the Academic Council at its 16th Meeting may be utilized with necessary modifications, if required.

Minimum period of six months may be allowed, if the courses opted by the students are up to 16 credits. If the option exceeds 16 credits, the minimum period should be one year.

Though students may be permitted to seek admission in any of the admission cycles and to opt the courses that are on offer either in January or July cycles, no counseling and/or lab/practicals would be conducted separately for the Associate students. In such a case the students would be allowed to avail the counseling/practical session in the next semester and accordingly the minimum duration would be extended. However, the maximum duration of two years would remain unchanged.

If a student opts for more than 16 credits worth of courses in either of the admission cycles, he/she is not entitled to seek admission in the next cycle unless the prescribed minimum duration is completed, except in the courses of Certificate Programmes.

The Regional Centres will handle all admissions under the Associate Studentship scheme. Last date for submission of filled-in admission form would remain unchanged as is fixed for January & July cycle of admissions.

AC 37.7.2

The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal.

ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE 3 FORM FOR MASTER IN ARTS IN EDUCATION.

AC 37.8.1 The Member Secretary informed the members that the School of Education had submitted the Phase-3 Form (**Annexure 4**) for Masters of Arts in Education, which had been placed before the members. The main objectives of the programme are as under:

- a) Provide learning-experiences, which will enable students to understand and appreciate knowledge structures and paradigms of education.
- b) Develop professionals for effective participation in educational actions in different areas of education.
- c) Create community of scholars adequately equipped for participation in educational discourse.

He informed that the course material for 1st year of the programme had been developed. When the Phase 4 Form for launching the programme was placed before the Academic Programmes Committee (APC) for approval, it was pointed out that the programme was approved by the School Board of School of Education more than three years back. The APC advised the Programme Coordinator to process the programme again through the School Board as per the decision of the Academic Council.

The Phase 3 Form was again placed before the School Board at 23rd meeting held on October 13, 2006 and had been approved. The School Board observed that since the course material had been developed recently, it did not require updating and may be launched at the earliest.

AC 37.8.2 The Academic Council approved the proposal with the advice that the detailed syllabus of the course be appended with the minutes of the meeting.

ITEM NO.9 TO CONSIDER PMT-01 IN LIEU OF OMT-01 FOR INTERNATIONAL BPP STUDENTS (ADMITTED IN JULY 06 CYCLE) APPEARING IN DECEMBER, 2006 EXAMINATION ABROAD.

AC 37.9.1 The Member Secretary informed the members that the PMT-01 course of the Bachelor's Preparatory Programme had been revised (new course code OMT-01) and offered from July 2006 session. It has been brought to the notice of the Chairman that due to lack of communication the

material of the pre-revised course had been sent to the thirty seven overseas students by the International Division. The International Division had submitted that the students may be permitted to appear in PMT-01 course in December, 2006 Examination and their results may be declared. From January 2007 cycle, the OMT-01 course only would be offered to all international students.

AC 37.9.2 The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal.

After transaction of the items on the Agenda, the Vice-Chancellor informed the members that he has received a complaint that the Foundation Course in Science & Technology developed in 1988 has not been revised so far. He informed the Council that henceforth no course which is more than 10 years old would be offered to the students. Prof. S.C. Garg clarified that the Board of Management had taken a decision that courses should be revised every five years. He further observed that the decision about withdrawal of assignments would be reviewed but for the January 2007 Session, the decision taken earlier would continue. The Vice-Chancellor then requested the members if they would like to make any comments/observations.

Prof. Renu Bhardwaj observed that she had received a request for developing a programme which includes courses on History of Civilization, History of Ideas, Philosophy etc. for which no expertise existed in the School. The Vice-Chancellor observed that such courses can be offered through a School of Inter-Disciplinary Studies. Members observed that there is a need of re-structuring the various Schools of Studies and the Board of Management had appointed a Committee for this purpose. The Vice-Chancellor may call for necessary information from Director, Academic Coordination Division.

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

(V.N.Rajasekharan Pillai)
Chairman

Annexure-1

List of Members who attended/could not attend the 37th Meeting of the Academic Council held on Wednesday, the 22nd November, 2006.

Members who attended the Meeting:

1. Prof. V.N.R. Pillai, Vice-Chancellor	-	Chairman
2. Prof. S.C.Garg, Director (I/C), SOCIS	-	Member
3. Prof. N.V.Narasimham, Director, SOMS	-	Member
4. Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Director, SOS	-	Member
5. Prof. M.C.Sharma, Director, SOE	-	Member
6. Prof. S.B.Arora, Director, SOHS	-	Member
7. Prof. Gayatri Kansal, Director, SOET	-	Member
8. Prof. Anu Aneja, Director, SOCE	-	Member
9. Prof. A.S.Narang, Professor of Political Science	-	Member
10. Prof. Renu Bhardwaj, Professor of English	-	Member
11. Prof. Vijayshri, Professor of Physics	-	Member
12. Sh. Shashi Bhushan, Reader, SOCIS	-	Member
13. Shri S.K.Arora, Librarian	-	Member
14. Dr. C.K.Ghosh, Director, RSD	-	Member
15. Prof. S.K.Panda, Director, STRIDE	-	Member
16. Sh. V.K.Arora, Director, EMPC	-	Member
17. Dr. S.K.Mohapatra, Registrar, SR&ED	-	Member
18. Prof. P.K.Jain (Retd.), Delhi University	-	Member
19. Prof. J.Ramachandran, IIM, Bangalore	-	Member
20. Prof. J.S.Yadav (Retd.), Director, IIMC	-	Member
21. Prof. Kuldeep Mathur (Retd.), JNU	-	Member
22. Dr. T.R.Srinivasan, RD, IGNOU RC- Hyderabad	-	Member
23. Dr. N. Venkateswarlu, Lecturer, SOET	-	Member
24. Dr. Kamal Vagarecha, Lecturer, SOMS	-	Member
25. Dr. O.P.Dewal, Dy. Director, EMPC	-	Member
26. Prof. B.S.Saraswat, Director, ACD	-	Member-Secretary

Members who could not attend:

1. Prof. S.M.Paul Khurana, Vice Chancellor, RDU, Jabalpur	-	Member
2. Prof. N.R.Madhava Menon (Retd.), Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal	-	Member
3. Prof. Asghar Wajahat, Jamia Millia Islamia	-	Member
4. Prof. Sanjeev Bhargava, Director, PDMIIT, Jabalpur	-	Member
5. Dr. Shardindu, Former Director, NCTE	-	Member
6. Sh. G.S.Sahni, Former DG, Shipping	-	Member
7. Prof. J.M.Parakh, Director, SOH	-	Member
8. Prof. B.S.Hansra, Director, SOA	-	Member
9. Dr. T.K.Jena, Reader, SOHS	-	Member
10. Dr. Annu J.Thomas, Reader, SOCE	-	Member
11. Dr. Eisha Kannadi, Lecturer, SOE	-	Member

Prof. Kapil Kumar attended the meeting on behalf of Prof. Pardeep Sahni, Director, SOSS and Ms. Suneet Kashyap, Lecturer, SOL attended the meeting as a Special Invitee.

Sh. K.D.Sharma, Section Officer, Academic Coordination Division was present to assist the Member-Secretary.