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MINUTES OF THE FORTIETH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2007 AT 11.00 A.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

Shri D.V.S. Shastri, Dy. Registrar and Shri K.D. Sharma, Section Officer, Academic Coordination Division were present to assist the Member-Secretary.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the 40th Meeting of the Academic Council. He accorded a special welcome to the new members namely Dr. Kapila Vatsyana, Prof. T.K.V. Subramanian, Prof. Mohammed Yusuff and Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao who were attending the meeting for the first time. After brief introduction, he asked the Member-Secretary to present the items on the Agenda.

ITEM NO. 1 TO NOTE FOR INFORMATION THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING OF THE ACADMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER, 2006.

AC 40.1.1 The Member-Secretary informed that the Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 23rd October, 2006 were confirmed at its 37th Meeting held on 22nd November, 2006, but the Action Taken Report could not be placed, as the Minutes of the 36th Meeting were circulated only on 12th November, 2006. Therefore, the same was being presented at the 40th Meeting of the Academic Council.

AC 40.1.2 The Academic Council noted the Action Taken report on the Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 23rd October, 2006.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 37TH (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

AC 40.2.1 The Member Secretary informed the members that the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 22nd November, 2006 were circulated to the Members. Comments had been received from two of the members suggesting that the relevant resolutions might be modified as follows :

AC 37.5.1

5. Approved the payment norms for the (i) evaluation of MCS-044 course of the revised MCA programme and (ii) Rs. 15/- for evaluation of each project

proposal for BCA programme.

AC 37.5.4

The Academic Council decided that the Chairman may examine the procedural and all other 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.

AC 40.2.2 One of the members raised the issue of revision of the courses as recorded in the concluding paragraphs of the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Academic Council. It was clarified that the School Boards were statutory authorities and the decisions taken by them in respect of courses offered by the Schools concerned would be final. However, if they wanted any assistance, they might discuss the issue in collaboration with the STRIDE.

AC 40.2.3 The Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 22nd November, 2006 with the modifications of AC 37.5.1 and AC 37.5.4.

AC 40.2.3 The Academic Council noted the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 22nd November, 2006.

AC 40.2.4 The Action Taken report against Item No. 36 on the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 22nd November, 2006 may be read as under :

“The Chairman had constituted a Committee to examine the issues relating to malpractices in submission of Project Reports and the Committee was examining the issues.”

ITEM NO. 3 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 38TH (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON

AC 40.3.1 The Academic Council was informed that the Minutes of the 38th Meeting of the Academic Council held on December 13, 2006 were circulated to the members and comments received from two of them were being circulated at the meeting.

AC 40.3.2 It was clarified that various suggestions were given in the meeting and what had been recorded as AC 38.1.2 (iii) is the part of the consensus arrived at the meeting. As such, there

was no discrepancy in recording of the said resolution. However, as pointed out by one of the members, it is correct that Prof. Renu Bhardwaj and Sh. N. Venkateshwarlu could **not** attend the meeting, but due to typographical error **not** got omit from the Minutes which is regretted.

AC 40.3.3 With the above modification, the Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of its 38th Meeting and noted the Action Taken thereon.

ITEM NO. 4 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 39TH (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL AND TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON**

AC 40.4.1 The Academic Council noted the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 39th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 17th March, 2007 and that no comments had been received from the members.

AC 40.4.2 Members observed that the Action Taken Report/ views received from various Schools and Divisions might be discussed in the Academic Council so as to arrive at a uniform decision applicable to all. The Chairman clarified that if the School Boards were not in agreement with the module on ODL for distance learners, the decision of the School Boards would prevail. However, it was decided that a Committee would consider the issue and formulate guidelines to have uniformity in the matter among all the Schools.

40.4.3 The Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of its 39th (Special) Meeting and noted the Action Taken thereon.

ITEM NO. 5 **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ON DESIGNATING CERTAIN POSITIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY AS TEACHERS.**

AC 40.5.1 The Chairman informed the Academic Council that Section 2(p) of the IGNOU Act states "Teachers" means professors, readers, lecturers and **such other persons as** may be designated as such by the Ordinances for imparting instruction in the University or **for giving guidance or rendering assistance** to students for pursuing any course of study of the University" and the present proposal is to identify such other persons who may be designated as teachers within the ambit of the definition.

Further Section 5(1) (vi) of the Act empowers the University to institute Professorships, Readerships, Lecturerships and other academic positions necessary for imparting instruction

or for preparing educational material or for conducting other academic activities, including guidance, designing and delivery of course and evaluation of the work done by the students and to appoint persons to such professorships, readerships, lectureships and other academic positions.

The Section quoted above are based on the view that in an Open university, teaching is not the same as that done in the conventional University. An Open University aims at creating a conducive ambience. All these agencies have equal claim to imparting instruction/ giving guidance/ rendering assistance to learners for learning, i.e. to the pedagogy of Distance Education.

Keeping in view the above, the University authorities have not made any distinction in selection procedures of Teachers and Academics.

Many committees, as indicated below, have been constituted from time to time to look into the issue :

- (i) Prof. Rais Ahmed Committee (1990)
- (ii) Prof. R.G. Takwale Committee (1992)
- (iii) Dr. A.J. Kidwai Committee (1993)
- (iv) Sh. N.V.K. Murthy Committee (1995)
- (v) Sh. C.R. Pillai Committee (1996)
- (vi) Prof. Afzal Mohammad Committee (2001)
- (vii) Dr. A.S. Guha Committee (2007)

All these committees have stood by what the Act specifies in Section 2(p) and Section 5(1)(vi).

It may be noted that in a similar situation Dr. B.R. Ambekdar Open University, Hyderabad has been treating the academics on par with teachers. A Government Order to this effect has been issued by the Government of Andhra Pradesh vide L.R. No. 5555/UE.1/2000/03 dated 18-08-2000 (Annexure)

The matter was discussed in an elaborate way and after a threadbare discussion, it was agreed that there are certain other positions, the incumbents of which are engaged in giving guidance or rendering assistance to students for pursuing any course of study of the University, designing and delivery of courses, evaluation of the work done by the students, etc. who have a claim to be termed as "Teachers" as they are involved in creating a conducive ambience as indicated above.

AC 40.5.2 The Academic Council, in terms of Clause (ii) of Statute 26 of the Statutes of the University, recommended to the Board of Management that the Ordinance on designation of the persons holding certain positions as Teachers Under Clause 2(p) (Annexure.....) be approved. The Academic Council further recommended that the following positions be included in the Ordinance.

- (i) Assistant Director (Translation)
- (ii) Director, (Translation)

The modified draft ordinance incorporating the above positions is annexed (Annexure.....)

The Academic Council suggested that the positions which will be created in future may also be considered for inclusion in the list if the nature of duties attached to those positions fall in the category of giving guidance or rendering assistance to students for pursuing any course of study of the University, designing and delivery of courses, evaluation of the work done by the students, etc.

ITEM NO. 9. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE CHANGE OF THE ADMISSION CYCLE AND THE NAME OF THE POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY CARDIOLOGY (PGDCC) PROGRAMME

AC 40.9.1 The Director, School of Health Sciences informed that during the meeting of the Programme. Incharges of the PG Diploma in Community Cardiology (PGDCC) Programme, held on March 13, 2007 at Narayana Hrudayalaya, Bangalore, it was unanimously recommended to change i) the title of the programme from Post Graduate Diploma in Community Cardiology (PGDCC) to Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Cardiology (PGDCC), and ii) the admission cycle of the programme from January cycle to July cycle.

AC. 40.9.2 The Academic Council considered the above recommendations and approved the change of i) name of PG Diploma in Community Cardiology to PG Diploma in Clinical Cardiology, and ii) admission cycle from January to July cycle.

ITEM NO. 29 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-3 FORM FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN GERMAN LANGUAGE.

AC 40.29.1 Prof. Renu Bhardwaj, Programme Coordinator, explained the

salient features of the Certificate Programme in German Language. She informed that the students would be introduced to the basic German language to build skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing (also enabling cultural understanding) along with catering to the needs of persons involved in business and trade. The programme would be launched jointly in collaboration with the Goethe Institute, Maxmuller Bhawan and a joint certificate will be issued to the successful students.

AC 40. 29. 2 The Academic Council considered and approved the Phase 3 Form placed at **Annexure** for Certificate in German Language.

ITEM NO. 30 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PHASE-3 FORM FOR CERTIFICATE IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

AC 40.30.1 Professor Renu Bhardwaj, Course Coordinator, explained the salient features of the Certificate Programme in Japanese Language. She informed that the students would be introduced to the Japanese Language at basic level, to teach phonetic scripts Hiragana and **Katakana**, and to gradually build listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The programme would be launched jointly in collaboration with Japanese Foundation. The Foundation would provide logistic support for material preparation and adaptation, training of Counsellors, etc.

AC 40. 30. 2 The Academic Council considered and approved the Phase 3 Form for Certificate in Japanese Language (placed at **Annexure**). It also authorized the Vice Chancellor to interact with the Japanese Foundation to sort out the practical/ other difficulties relating to the programme.

ITEM NO. 31 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE TO INCREASE MAXIMUM DURATION OF POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN RADIO PRASARAN (PGDRP) PROGRAMME FROM 3 YEARS TO 4 YEARS.

AC 40.31.1 The Director, School of Humanities informed that the maximum duration of the programme was decided as 3 year by the School Board of SOH and same was approved by the Academic Council. When the Programme Guide and Student Handbook and Prospectus of this programme were prepared, the maximum duration was mentioned as 4 years. Students assumed that the duration would be 4 years. In 2006 the first batch had completed 3 years. But a number of students had not been able to complete the programme because they believed that they could complete it in 4 years as per the Programme Guide and the Student Handbook and

Prospectus available with them. This gap between the duration decided by the School Board and the Academic Council and stated position in Programme Guide and Student Handbook and Prospectus was an inadvertent error, which was regretted. Since, the University had already admitted 4 batches upto the year 2007, a number of such cases might come in future also.

In order to facilitate the students and provide more flexibility to students, it had been proposed by the School that the maximum duration of this programme might be increased to 4 years.

AC 40.31.2 The Academic Council approved the proposal to increase the maximum duration of Post Graduate Diploma in Radio Prasaran (PGDRP) programme from 3 years to 4 years.

ITEM NO. 35 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE ON ESTABLISHING NEW SCHOOL OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

AC 40.35.1 The Vice-Chancellor, informed that one of the objects of the University as envisaged in the IGNOU Act is to provide education and training in various arts, crafts and skills of the Country and raising their quality and improving their availability, he had constituted an Expert Committee to study and make recommendations on the possibility/feasibility of establishing a new School of Performing & Visual Arts in the 11th Plan. The Expert Committee recommended to establish the School of Performing and Visual Arts. The detailed recommendations of the Committee of the School are placed at Annexure-

AC 40.35.3 The Academic Council considered and approved the recommendations of the Expert Committee for establishing the School of Performing and Visual Arts.

ITEM NO. 36 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR ALLOWING BCA, MCA, MLIS AND B.Sc. (NURSING) STUDENTS ADDITIOANL RE-ADMISSION PERIOD TO COMPLETE THE LEFTOUT COURSES.

AC 40.36.1 The Registrar, SRE explained that the University has revised the syllabus of BCA and MCA for the students who were admitted in 1998 and 2005 respectively. As per the policy of the University, the maximum duration for completion of the BCA was 6 years and MCA was 7 years and they get the validity of registration extended by 2 more years on payment of pro-rata fee for the courses not completed. In case the students who still are not in position to complete the

programme within the maximum duration of the validity of the registration including re-admission can seek fresh admission and request for credit transfer for the course(s) which they had successfully completed with the earlier Enrol. No. on payment of credit transfer fee. However, the students of BCA/MCA old syllabus who could not complete their programme within the permissible maximum period do not get the credits transferred for all the courses which they had completed in the old syllabus, because the syllabus of BCA and MCA was revised.

AC 40.36.2 Similarly, syllabus of B.Sc. (Nursing) and MLIS had been revised in 2005 and 2006, respectively. The students who had completed the maximum duration of these programmes were not getting any credit transfer for the courses which they had completed in the old syllabus.

AC 40.36.3 The Academic Council considered and approved the proposal for allowing BCA, MCA, MLIS and B.Sc. (Nursing) students' additional Re-admission period to complete the left out courses.

The Meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

(V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai)
Chairman