

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG  
NEW DELHI-110 002**

**MINUTES OF THE 545<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019.**

The 545<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 in which the following were present:

1. Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh	Chairman
2. Dr. Bhushan Keshav Patwardhan	Vice-Chairman
3. Shri Amit Khare	Member
4. Shri Rajeev Ranjan	Member
5. Dr. G. Gopal Reddy	Member
6. Prof. (Ms.) Sushma Yadav	Member
7. Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari	Member
8. Dr. Uma Chandrashekhar Vaidya	Member
9. Dr. Kiran Hazarika	Member
10. Prof. Nagesh Thakur	Member

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting:

**Secretary**

Prof. Rajnish Jain

**Financial Advisor**

Shri Prakash Thakur

In the beginning, the Chairman introduced and welcomed two new members- Shri Amit Khare, Secretary (HE), MHRD and Shri Rajeev Ranjan, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

The Chairman also acknowledged and appreciated the significant contributions of the outgoing members Shri R. Subrahmanyam, Former Secretary(HE), MHRD and Shri P.K. Das, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

## 2

### SECTION-1

**1.01(a)(i)** To confirm the minutes of the 544<sup>th</sup> meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

**The minutes were confirmed.**

**[Action: JS(Admn.)]**

**1.01(a)(ii)** To confirm the minutes of the meeting (by circulation) of the University Grants Commission dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2019.

**The minutes were confirmed.**

**[Action: JS(Admn.)]**

**1.01(b)(i)** To receive the action taken on the minutes of the 544<sup>th</sup> meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

**Noted.**

**[Action: JS(Admn.)]**

**1.01(b)(ii)** To receive the action taken on the minutes of the meeting (by circulation) of the University Grants Commission dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2019.

**Noted.**

**[Action: JS(Admn.)]**

**1.02 (a)** To ratify the action taken on certain matter.

(i) To ratify the action taken regarding establishment of Guru Nanak Dev Chair at University of Birmingham, UK.

**Ratified.**

**[Action: JS(IC)]**

- (ii) To report the list of Selected Institutions under Component-1 (Research Capacity Building and Human Resource Development) of UGC-STRIDE

**Ratified.**

**[Action: JS(STRIDE)]**

- (iii) To report the inclusion of 74 Colleges (as approved by the Chairman, UGC) under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956 between 01.10.2019 to 30.11.2019 as per authorization given by the Commission at its meeting held on 24.08.2011.

**Noted.**

**[Action: JS(CPP-I/C)]**

- (iv) To report actions taken by the UGC on certain matters related to recognition of programmes/ implementation of ODL and Online Regulations.

## **I. Open and Distance Learning**

- 1. The Commission ratified the approval of the Competent Authority based on the recommendations of Expert Review Committee to offer ODL programmes.**

**The Commission also observed that UGC had received complaint of violations e.g. territorial jurisdiction, franchising, running unapproved courses in case of NIMS Jaipur and the same had been forwarded to the State Government for inquiry/comments in the matter which have not been received so far. In addition, a reminder is also sent to the State Government on 18.12.2019. In view of this and of the fact that NIMS is having NAAC score less than 3.26, the Commission decided that recognition to NIMS for 13 programmes should be put on hold and appropriate necessary action should only be taken after receipt of the comments from the State Government.**

**Also, in case of Vidyasagar University, the Commission decided that the decision related to recognition of new three Science programmes in ODL mode should be taken by the Working Group.**

- 2. Mandatory Eligibility condition of having 3.26 NAAC score from session July, 2020 onwards to offer ODL programmes – the Commission noted the various**

# 4

action taken by UGC and NAAC based on the directions of Secretary (HE), MHRD.

## II. Online Learning

1. The Commission ratified the approval of the Competent Authority based on the recommendations of Standing Appellate Committee.
2. The Commission ratified the approval of the Competent Authority based on the recommendations of the Interface Expert Committee.

## III. Both ODL and Online Learning

1. The Commission noted the action taken by the UGC in the matter and AICTE response received. This matter was also placed as separate Agenda Item for consideration of the Commission.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

- (v) To ratify the decisions of the Standing Committee on Autonomous Colleges for grant of fresh/extension of autonomous status to colleges.

**Ratified.**

[Action: AS-II]

- (vi) To report the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted by the Commission with regard to approval of institutions under Sections 2(f), 12 (B) and compliance under Section 13 of the UGC Act, 1956.

**Noted.**

[Action: JS(CPP-I/PU)]

- (vii) To report the Record of Discussions regarding issues of University of Delhi.

**Noted.**

[Action: JS(PS)]

- 1.02 (b) To receive the items for information. (No item)

# 5

- 1.03 To receive the position of funds of UGC and related issues. **(No item)**
- 1.04 To report the Separate Audit Report (SAR) on the Annual Accounts of UGC and IUCs for the financial year 2018-19.

**Noted.**

**[Action: FA]**

## SECTION-2 (MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

- 2.01 To consider the recommendations of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to consider the de-novo aspect of the proposal received from National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur (Rajasthan) for Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

**Considered and approved.**

**[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]**

- 2.02 To consider the modified draft UGC Guidelines for providing skill based education under National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF).

**The Commission approved the revised UGC Guidelines for providing skill based education under National Skill Qualifications Framework (NSQF).**

**The Commission approved the establishment of separate departments for vocational studies and skill development in Central Universities offering vocational and skill courses. The expenditure on the establishment of these departments shall be out of the regular budget earmarked by MHRD to the UGC for Central Universities.**

**[Action: JS(NSQF)]**

- 2.03 To consider the Report of the Committee for granting reaccreditation to University of Mysore, Mysore to enable State Eligibility Test(s) (SET) on behalf of the State of Karnataka.

**Considered and approved.**

**Action: JS(NET)]**

# 6

**2.04** To consider new Endowment and Fellowship in IIAS an NFC under the UGC.

**The Commission approved the following in Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla:**

**(a). Radhakrishnan Distinguished Fellow (RDF) for Excellence in Higher Education with a total annual budget of Rs. 60.00 lakhs**

**(b). Kothari Fellow (KF) for Excellence in University Administration with a total annual budget of Rs. 25.2 lakhs**

**(c). Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship with a recurring annual budget of Rs. 120.00 lakhs and non-recurring budget of Rs. 100.00 lakhs.**

**[Action: JS(IUC)]**

**2.05** To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (Deemed to be University), Poonamallee High Road, Velappanchavadi, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) during 21-23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019 to review its functioning.

**Considered and approved.**

**[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]**

**2.06** To consider the representation received from Dr. Padmakar Mishra for counting of previous services rendered by him as a Reader for award of higher placement in Grade Pay of Rs.8700/- as Deputy Registrar in University of Delhi. (*Deferred Item No.2.06 of 544<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019*).

**This issue was deliberated at length. It was resolved that being an administrative matter, the action should be taken by UGC.**

**[Action: JS(CU)]**

**2.07** To consider the request of Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar to extend the benefits of Pay and allowances at par with other such employees of the University. (*Deferred Item No.2.19 of 544<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019*).

**The matter was discussed in detail and it was resolved that the information related to status of the employees should be forwarded to the MHRD. Further the Commission authorised the Chairman, UGC to take appropriate action on receipt of communication from MHRD.**

[Action: JS(CU)]

**2.08** To consider the recommendations of fourth meeting of the DEB Working Group.

**The Commission considered the recommendations of the Working Group and decided the following: -**

**1.1 Implementation of UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018: - Approved Items 1.1(1) and 1.1(2). However, for the Item No. 1.1(3) related to recognition timeline for the academic sessions, the Commission deliberated, in length on the current status of implementation of Online Regulations, promotion of Online Education through eligible HEIs, Online Regulations being implemented for the first time and unresolved issues with AICTE related to offering of MBA, MCA, Travel and Tourism programmes. Accordingly, the Commission decided the following: -**

**Start of Online programmes from academic session: to ensure that recognition status is communicated well in time for the HEIs to make appropriate preparation.**

**If the recognition list/Commission's order is issued by last date of July then academic session is July – August same year, otherwise academic session is January – February next year.**

**If the recognition list/Commission's order is issued by last date of January then academic session is January – February same year, otherwise academic session is July – August same year.**

**1.2 Implementation of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 – The Commission approved the recommendations of the Working Group in respect of the following: -**

- 1. Students enrolled data for the academic year 2018-19**
- 2. Students enrolled data for the academic year July, 2019**

## 8

3. Commission decision to explore the possibility of discontinuing programme wise recognition
  4. Devise mechanism for review of SLMs
  5. Letter received from Indian Council of Universities regarding extension of accreditation timeline at least upto year 2022
  6. Development of mobile app for translation of SLM.
- 1.3 The Commission approved the recommendations to formulate the methodology towards integration of ODL and OL Regulations.
- 1.4 The Commission approved the recommendation related to three-tier Complaints handling mechanism.
- 1.5 The Commission approved the recommendation of the Working Group regarding foundation course (Bachelors Preparatory Programme) i.e. BPP Foundation Course in ODL/Online mode shall not be permitted.
- 1.6 Reporting item - The Commission noted the following three items reported to the Working Group: -
1. IGNOU – UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2019 (First Amendment)
  2. Inviting application for offering ODL programme from HEIs for academic session beginning July, 2020.
  3. Offering of MBA, MCA and other technical programme in ODL mode.
- 1.7 Any other item – The Commission approved the recommendations of the Working Group in respect of the following: -
1. Extension of last date of submission of CIQA report.
  2. CIQA report for assessment of recognised HEIs.
  3. To examine the nomenclature of already recognised programmes.
  4. Revising UGC 12 B guidelines from the perspective of Open Universities
  5. Matter related to Swami Vivekanand Subharti, Meerut – HEI should opt for semester system to offer ODL programmes, in order to maintain the consistency with the curriculum and also comply with all decisions of the Commission; as communicated, in letter and spirit.

While on the subject, the Commission Members expressed their views about the requirement of NAAC score of 3.26 in ODL and Online Regulations and were of the opinion that the minimum score of 3.26



## 9

**makes many good HEIs not eligible to offer ODL/Online programmes thereby affecting the GER on one side and also limits the opportunities to the perspective learners in remote areas of the Country. The Members were of the opinion that the requirement of NAAC score should be 3.01 instead of 3.26. The Commission also observed that at present out of recognised 123 HEIs (98 recognised + 25 Category-I), 66 HEIs are either having NAAC score less than 3.26 or not accredited at all. The Commission discussed at length on the matter and decided that Working Group in its next meeting should deliberate on this issue and give recommendations for consideration of the Commission in its next meeting.**

**[Action: JS (DEB)]**

- 2.09** To consider the Report of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to assess the proposal submitted by Jain (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru (Karnataka) for starting off-campus centre at Kochi (Kerala).

**The Commission considered and resolved to obtain compliance on the issues raised by the visiting Expert Committee from the Jain (Deemed to be University, Bengaluru (Karnataka).**

**[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]**

- 2.10** To consider the recommendations of the UGC Expert Standing Committee constituted to examine the performance and academic outcomes of the Deemed to be Universities – Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala (Haryana) – Reference Ministry of HRD communication dated 25.11.2019.

**Considered and approved.**

**[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]**

# 10

**2.11** To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee on specification of degrees.

**Considered and decided the following:**

**Point no.(a): The proposal is to be reconsidered by the Standing Committee and the recommendations are to be put up in the next meeting of the Commission.**

**Point no.(b) (c), (d): Approved as recommended by the Standing Committee. Change of duration of BOT programme from existing 04 years to 04 years 06 months.**

**[Action: AS-I]**

**2.12** To discuss the Record of Discussions of the meeting held at MHRD on issues related to University of Delhi.

**The Commission considered the Record of Discussions of the meeting held at MHRD on 5-12-2019 on issues related to the faculty working on adhoc/temporary/contract basis in the universities / colleges.**

**After detailed deliberations, the Commission in respect of point 1 decided the following:**

- (i) Appropriate measures should be taken to provide such category of faculty an opportunity for shortlisting for interview.**
- (ii) The relevant regulations may be amended, if required, after taking legal opinion and concurrence of MHRD.**

**The commission considered and approved the remaining points 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Record of Discussions.**

**The actions taken may be reported to the Commission.**

**[Action: JS(PS)]**

- 2.13 To consider and decide on the matters communicated by the AICTE; related to recognition of programmes in ODL and Online mode.

**The Commission noted the reply received from the AICTE in response to the UGC letter related to prior recommendation/approval of the respective Regulatory Authority as a mandatory condition for consideration of professional programmes in ODL / Online mode under ODL and Online Regulations.**

**The Commission also observed that the response received from AICTE related to online MBA, MCA, Travel and Tourism programmes, offering programmes in ODL mode related to Deemed to be Universities and other types of Universities, permissible specializations and other points viz a viz provisions of UGC ODL and Regulations needs deliberations with the AICTE to finalize the mechanism/process for recognition of ODL and Online programmes under the AICTE domain. Accordingly, the Commission authorised Secretary, UGC with JS(DEB) to hold consultations with the AICTE at the earliest possible and take appropriate decision with the approval of the Competent Authority. The mechanism/ process finalized and the decisions so taken shall be reported to the Commission in its next meeting.**

**[Action: JS(DEB)]**

### **SECTION-3**

**(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)**

**(There is no item in this section)**

# 12

## SECTION-4 (SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

**4.01** To consider the amendment of MoA and Rules of Inter University Centre for Yogic Sciences (IUCYS), Bengaluru

**The Commission approved the amendment of MoA and Rules of Inter University Centre for Yogic Sciences (IUCYS), Bengaluru as follows:**

**Clause 30 (c): “The Director of the Inter University Centre for Yogic Sciences will be an eminent academician, preferably related to Yogic Sciences, with appropriate administrative experience at senior level.”**

**Clause 30 (d): “The term of appointment will be for five years or till he/she attains the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier. Further the candidature for the post of Director may be invited through applications/nominations.”**

**[Action: JS(IUC)]**

## SECTION-5 (GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

**(There is no item in this section)**

## SECTION-6 (MISCELLANEOUS)

**(There is no item in this section)**

**(PROF. RAJNISH JAIN)  
SECRETARY**

**(PROF. DHIRENDRA PAL SINGH)  
CHAIRMAN**