

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

**MINUTES OF THE 553RD MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 26TH OCTOBER, 2021.**

The 553rd Meeting of the Commission was held on 26th October, 2021 in which the following were present:

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|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh | Chairman |
| 2. Shri K. Sanjay Murthy | Member |
| 3. Prof. (Dr.) Nagesh Thakur | Member |
| 4. Prof. (Ms.) Sushma Yadav | Member |
| 5. Prof. E. Suresh Kumar | Member |
| 6. Prof. M.K. Sridhar | Member |
| 7. Dr. Shivaraj | Member |

Shri Rajeev Ranjan, Special Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance could not attend the meeting.

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting:

Secretary

Prof. Rajnish Jain

SECTION-1

- 1.01(a)** (i) To confirm the Minutes of the 552nd meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 8th September, 2021.

The Minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

- (ii) To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the University Grants Commission (by e-circulation on 23rd September, 2021).

The Minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

- 1.01(b)** (i) To receive the action taken on the Minutes of the 552nd meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 8th September, 2021.

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

- (ii) To receive the action taken on the Minutes of the Meeting of the University Grants Commission (by e-circulation on 23rd September, 2021).

• **Noted.**

• **Further it was mentioned that National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) will be finalized by 30th November, 2021**

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

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

- (i) To report the approval accorded to Jammu & Kashmir – SET Agency to include ‘Public Administration’ as an additional subject of Jammu & Kashmir SET and for conducting Jammu & Kashmir SET jointly with the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Ratified.

[Action: AS-II]

- (ii) To report the inclusion of 84 Colleges (as approved by the Chairman, UGC) under Section 2(f) and 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 between 01.08.2021 to 30.09.2021 as per authorization given by the Commission at its meeting held on 24.08.2011.

Ratified.

[Action: AS-II]

- (iii) 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.

Ratified.

[Action: AS-II]

- (iv) To ratify the recommendations of eleventh Working Group meeting approved by the Competent Authority.

A. Discussion Items:

- I. Decision of CPP-II Bureau in respect of land requirement for 12 (B) status

The Commission ratified the recommendations and reiterated to reduce the land requirement to 15 acres with a request to the Secretary, UGC to expedite the matter so as to ensure needful action at the earliest.

- II. Physical Infrastructure for new Open Universities

The Commission ratified the recommendations that new Open Universities shall comply to the provisions as per UGC (Fitness of Open Universities for Grants) Rules, 1988 and as amended from time to time. All the norms including land requirement as mentioned in 1988 rules, may be complied with.

- III. Receipt of Complaints & RTIs related to franchising arrangements by HEIs for offering Online programmes

The Commission ratified the recommendations that a Complaints redressal Committee at the DEB level may be constituted by the UGC for processing complaints related matters.

- IV. Cut off date for admission in Academic Session July 2021 (revised as November, 2021)

The Commission reiterated its earlier decision in the matter for all the HEIs recognized/entitled to offer Online/ODL programmes.

- V. To decide last date for granting recognition to HEIs for Academic Session July 2021 (revised as November, 2021) and January, 2022

The Commission ratified the recommendations as below:

- 1. Academic Session July 2021 (revised as November, 2021) – last date for granting recognition: 30th November, 2021.**
- 2. Academic Session January-February 2022– last date for granting recognition: 15th February, 2022.**

- VI. Representation received regarding non-submission of application by Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Telangana and Sambalpur University, Odisha

The Commission decided that the applications of these HEIs to be processed for January 2022 academic session.

- VII. Appointment of fully dedicated Academic Staff as per Regulations

The Commission noted the practice adopted in the matter since the implementation of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and ratified the recommendation to continue the same as per the following:

- 1. Availability of the Director (as per the Regulations right from the application stage/expert committee meeting (visit), equivalent for Open University).**
- 2. No programme to be recognised in case of a deficiency at the Director level.**
- 3. For a Government University, either the availability of the eligible faculty on the date of the meeting or the communication from the State Govt. is being considered as complied. For all other Universities, availability of the eligible faculty on the date of the meeting (visit) is being considered as compliance.**
- 4. The relevant provisions of the UGC (ODL Programmes and OL Programmes) Regulations, 2020 may also be complied with.**

- VIII. HEI Specific Issues

- i. Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, U.P.

The Commission ratified the recommendations that the application of the HEI for the year 2021-22 may be processed as per the UGC (ODL Programmes and OL Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

- ii. Periyar University, Tamil Nadu

The Commission ratified the recommendations as per the following:

- 1. The matter be placed before the DEB complaints redressal committee.**

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2. **“...the ODL programmes recognition proposal of the HEI, if any, may be put on hold till the decision in the matter is taken.”**

iii. Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu - **Mentioned separately.**

iv. Karnataka State Open University, Karnataka

The Commission ratified the recommendations that the matter be placed before the DEB complaints redressal committee.

v. Netaji Subhas Open University

The Commission ratified the recommendations to close the complaint.

B. Reporting Items:

i. Fresh applications have been invited from eligible HEIs from 15th July to 31st July, 2021. HEI shall have valid eligibility criteria at the time of submission date of application on DEB web portal.

The Commission noted the information.

ii. Web Portal has been made live for entitled HEIs for submission of application throughout the year.

The Commission noted the information.

iii. **“...NIRF Ranking for the year 2021, 2020 & 2019 for last 3 years have been integrated on web portal in place of 2020, 2019 & 2018...” Accordingly, the Commission ratified the recommendations as per the following:**

1. **For the HEIs moving from eligible to entitled category – Applications to be considered/processed for November 2021 (revised from July 2021) academic session, as the admission last date is 15th December, 2021 and to promote Online education.**

2. **For the HEIs moving from entitled to eligible category –Actions as per approved decisions; To communicate the revised status, not to admit students from the next academic session i.e. January, 2022 for programmes found complied as per list uploaded on UGC website and are asked to submit fresh application.**

C. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

1. Letter received from the Higher Education Department, Chhattisgarh Government

The Commission ratified the decision of the Working Group.

2. Complaint against Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, AP for violations in offering ODL education- **Mentioned separately.**
3. The Working Group appreciated the efforts put-in on continuous basis by the DEB in maintaining the quality of ODL and Online education and in ensuring effective implementation of the Regulations. The Working Group recommended that 'adequate and appropriate' manpower may be provided, at the earliest to cope up this workload to the DEB.

The Commission appreciated the efforts and requested the Secretary, UGC to provide desired manpower in DEB.

In addition to the above, the Commission also considered the recommendations of the DEB Working Group in respect of Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu & Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. After detailed deliberations, the Commission decided the following:

- i. **Legal opinion to be taken in both the cases.**
- ii. **The matter along with the legal opinion to be referred to the State Government for appropriate necessary actions under intimation to the UGC.**
- iii. **The communication to the State Government also be marked to the office of Hon'ble Governor, respective State being the Chancellor of the University.**
- iv. **Till the matter is resolved, the universities shall not start any new ODL programmes.**

[Action: JS(DEB)]

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

1.03 To receive the position of funds of UGC and related issues. **(No item)**

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SECTION-2

(MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

- 2.01** To consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Specification of Degrees and the Fourth Amendment in UGC Notification on Specification of Degrees.

Considered and approved. It was further resolved that new nomenclature should be viewed in the light of Multi-Disciplinary Education, NHEQF and other provisions of NEP.

[Action: AS-II]

- 2.02** To consider the report of the Committee constituted to suggest Implementation Plan based on Prof. Gautam Barua Committee Report regarding NET and Non-NET fellowships.

Deferred.

[Action: AS-II]

- 2.03** To consider the recommendations of the UGC Standing Committee constituted to consider the proposals received from Institutions Deemed to be Universities for starting new course(s)/ programme(s)/ department(s)/ Faculty(ies) /school(s).

Considered and approved. It was further resolved that there should not be any financial implications on Ministry of Education (MoE) or University Grants Commission (UGC).

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

- 2.04** To consider the Report of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to assess the application submitted by Nitte (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru (Karnataka) for recognition of off-campus centre at Nitte Village, Udupi District, Karnataka.

The Commission considered the report of the UGC Expert Committee and resolved to recommend approval of off-campus centre of Nitte (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru (Karnataka) at Nitte Village, Udupi Dt., Karnataka keeping in view the NAAC grading (A+ CGPA 3.40) and NIRF ranking, 2021 (77th in Universities Category) of the Deemed to be University. The recommendations are in tune with the National Education Policy wherein the overall culture of empowerment & graded autonomy to Higher Educational Institutions and gradually phasing out the system of affiliated colleges is visualized. However, the functioning of the off-campus shall be reviewed as per the provisions of UGC Regulations. The Deemed to be University should ensure that the standards in the off-campus are maintained similar to the main campus and all the UGC Rules and Regulations are followed strictly.

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

- 2.05** To consider the report of the UGC Fact Finding Committee constituted to look into the complaints received against the present state of affairs in Jamia Hamdard (Deemed to be University), New Delhi.

The Commission was apprised of the background of the Item including the receipt of complaint against the then Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard from the Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard and the response received from the then VC which led to the constitution of Fact Finding Committee to look into the complaints against the present state of affairs in Jamia Hamdard. It was also apprised that the Commission ratified the above action in its Emergent Meeting held on 19.11.2020.

The Commission considered the complaint from the Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard along with its annexures, response filed by the then Vice-Chancellor in reply to the above complaint along with its annexures, Report of the UGC Fact Finding Committee along with its annexures, and relevant provisions of the UGC (Institution Deemed to be Universities), 2019.

The Commission also took cognizance of the findings of the Fact Finding Committee wherein the Committee has pointed out irregularities / lapses in the administrative / financial decisions taken by the Authorities of the Jamia Hamdard. The Committee also gave some suggestions to the UGC. The Commission further noted that the Fact Finding Committee in its Report has informed about the communication (jointly signed) from Chancellor and the then Vice-Chancellor with regard to the amicable settlement of all outstanding issues between them and requested the UGC to treat the matter closed. After considering all the above, the Commission ratified the action taken so far by the UGC on the Report of the Fact Finding Committee.

The Commission took note of one of the Terms of Reference of the Fact Finding Committee which was - *To examine whether the Governance structure of the Deemed to be University is in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019* and observed that the governance structure includes reference about the Sponsoring Society of the Deemed to be University, as provided in relevant clauses of these Regulations. However, the Fact Finding Committee has not gone into the legal matters related to the Sponsoring Body of Jamia Hamdard.

The Commission further observed that there was a litigation between two factions of the sponsoring body of Jamia Hamdard (Deemed to be University), i.e. Hamdard National Foundation which ended in a family settlement deed dated 22.10.2019, wherein one faction of the sponsoring body was given the charge of Medical College and the other faction was given the charge of other faculties. It has been observed that Hon'ble Delhi High Court accepted the settlement vide its Order dated 13.12.2019.

Keeping in view the above, the Commission unanimously resolved that:

- 1) **Jamia Hamdard may be asked to submit the compliance urgently in respect of the observations/suggestions given by the UGC Fact Finding Committee and the same may be placed before the Commission.**
- 2) **The suggestions given to the UGC by the Fact Finding Committee may be placed before the Expert Committee constituted to revisit the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019.**
- 3) **In view of the fact that the issues related to the settlement deed of Hamdard National Foundation are legal, the Chairman was authorized to constitute a Committee of Experts to examine the issue in its entirety and give its recommendations in the light of UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019. The report of the Committee may be placed before the Commission.**

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

SECTION-3

(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-4

(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-5

(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

(There is no item in this section)

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SECTION-6 (MISCELLANEOUS)

6.01 To consider certain establishment matters of UGC.

Recorded Separately.

(Prof. Rajnish Jain)
Secretary

(Prof. Dhirendra Pal Singh)
Chairman