

CONFIDENTIAL

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

**MINUTES OF THE 555TH MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

The 555th Meeting of the Commission was held on 12th February, 2022 in which the following were present:

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|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar | 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

At the outset, the new Chairman, Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar was welcomed by the Secretary and the Members of the Commission. The Commission also placed on record a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation for the contributions made by Prof. D. P. Singh as Chairman, UGC.

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SECTION-1

- 1.01(a)** To confirm the Minutes of the 554th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 25th November, 2021.

The minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

- 1.01(a)(ii)** To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the University Grants Commission (by e-circulation on 20th January, 2022).

The minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

- 1.01(b)** To receive the action taken on the Minutes of the 554th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 25th November, 2021.

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

- 1.01(b)(ii)** To receive the action taken on the Minutes of the Meeting of the University Grants Commission (by e-circulation on 20th January, 2022).

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

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

- (i) 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)]

- (ii) To report the public notice issued by UGC regarding non-permissibility of franchisee arrangement with EdTech Companies by UGC recognized/entitled Universities/ Institutions.

Noted.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

- (iii) 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)]

- (iv) 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)]

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- (v) 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)]

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)**

1.04 To ratify the Separate Audit Report (SAR) on the Annual Accounts of UGC and IUCs for the financial year 2020-21.

Ratified.

[Action: JS(FA)]

SECTION-2

(MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

2.01 To consider and approve the report submitted by the Expert Committee to review ODL and Online Regulatory Framework.

The Commission considered the report of the Expert Committee constituted vide UGC notification no. F.1-4/2021 (DEB-I) dated 30th November, 2021 to review existing ODL and Online Regulatory Framework in order to promote ODL and Online Education while ensuring quality, driven by the simplified recognition system and processes.

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After detailed deliberations, the Commission accepted the report of the Expert Committee and approved the recommendations in respect of the following:

- 1. Enabling Autonomous Colleges to offer ODL and/or Online Education**
- 2. Enabling HEIs Entitlement for ODL programmes**
- 3. Increasing the number of programmes to be offered by Entitled HEIs**
- 4. Enabling Technical Support (including Learning Platform) from Technology Service Providers to offer Online Education**
- 5. ODL and/or Online Programmes can be offered without the requirement of ‘one batch pass out’ in regular/conventional mode**
- 6. Reviewing existing ODL and Online Programmes by Regulator/Accrediting Agency**
- 7. Enabling all those with a pass in entry level qualification for admission**
- 8. Enabling multi-entry multi-exit option for all Programmes as per NEP-2020 and duration of Post Graduate Diploma Programme**
- 9. Offering of Certificate and Diploma level Programmes by recognized/entitled HEIs**
- 10. Attendance and learning made flexible**
- 11. Creating a common recognition process for ODL and Online programmes in due course of time**

The Commission also decided the following:

- 1. The proposed amendment is to be implemented from July-August 2022 academic session.**
- 2. Considering ‘1’ above, the condition in the current regulations that the applications shall be submitted at least ‘3’ months prior to the beginning of the academic session is to be amended. The time period is to be deleted appropriately.**
- 3. The NAAC/NIRF benchmarks notified through first amendment for next three years shall not be mentioned in the proposed amendment regulations as it mandates amendment after three years and also of the fact that Commission can change benchmarks as and when situation warrants so.**

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4. The draft amendment regulations, based on approved recommendations of the Expert Committee, to be uploaded on UGC/DEB website for stakeholders' comments. The draft should also be forwarded to VCs of all the universities for comments.
5. Thereafter, final draft of the amendment regulations to be placed in the next Commission meeting for approval.
6. The Commission authorized Chairman, UGC to take actions in the matter as appropriate. The actions taken, if any shall be reported in the next meeting of the Commission.
7. The Commission reiterated its earlier decision that last date for granting recognition to the HEIs for Academic Session January-February 2022 will be 15th February, 2022. However, any decision for recognition on applications for which all the stages of the recognition process if not completed till 15th February, 2022 shall be processed for July-August 2022 academic session.

[Action: (DEB)]

2.02

To consider and approve the recommendations made by the DEB Working Group in its twelfth meeting held on 03rd December, 2021.

A. Discussion items:

1. To consider the recommendations of Complaint Redressal Committee (CRC) meeting held on 23rd November, 2021 and 29th November, 2021.

The Commission considered the recommendations made by the Working Group in respect of violations observed in offering programmes under Online and ODL mode of education.

Online education:

The Commission observed that under 'Online education' category, there are two distinct groups of the HEIs; one group which has provided all the documents/information within the timeline decided by the CRC/UGC and the other group which has not provided the desired documents/information. Accordingly, the Commission after detailed deliberations, decided the following:

a. For the HEIs which have provided all the documents/information (Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu; Bharati Vidyapeeth, Maharashtra; Chandigarh University, Punjab and University of Mumbai, Maharashtra):

- 1. A strict warning is to be issued to the HEIs stating that if the violations are noticed again then stringent punitive measures will be taken as per the provisions of the Regulations.**
- 2. HEIs shall be asked to submit an affidavit immediately in the prescribed format mentioning therein the Online programmes are not being offered in a franchise mode and the complete ownership is that of HEI only.**
- 3. The applications for new programmes under entitled category, including already received ones which were put on hold due to observed violations, are to be considered from July-August 2022 academic session.**

b. For the HEIs which have not provided all the documents/information (Jain Deemed to be University, Karnataka; O.P. Jindal University, Haryana; Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Maharashtra and Periyar University, Tamil Nadu):

- 1. A strict warning is to be issued to the HEIs stating that if the violations are noticed again then stringent punitive measures will be taken as per the provisions of the Regulations.**

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2. HEIs shall not start any new programme in July-August 2022 academic session under entitled category. The already received applications which were put on hold due to observed violations shall be treated as closed.
3. HEIs shall not take admissions in already entitled '2' programmes in July-August 2022 academic session. The names of these programmes shall be communicated by the HEI to the UGC by 31st March, 2022 and the same shall also be mentioned by the HEI on its website. The UGC website will provide details on its website about no admission in '2' programmes for the HEIs in July-August 2022 academic session for benefit of the stakeholders.
4. HEIs shall be asked to submit an action taken report mentioning measures taken to ensure that the Online programmes are not being offered in a franchise mode and the complete ownership for offering Online programmes is that of HEI only.
5. HEIs shall be asked to submit an affidavit in the prescribed format mentioning therein that the Online programmes are not being offered in a franchise mode and the complete ownership is that of HEI only.
6. The HEIs shall not be permitted to take benefit of recommendations of Expert Committee constituted to review ODL and Online Regulatory Framework for July-August 2022 academic session (for one academic session only).

ODL education

The Commission approved the recommendations made by the Working Group for violations observed in respect of the following HEIs:

1. Annamalai University Tamil Nadu
2. Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru, Karnataka
3. MATS University, Chhattisgarh
4. Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil Nadu
5. Periyar University, Tamil Nadu
6. University of Kalyani, West Bengal
7. Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Tamil Nadu

8. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik, Maharashtra

9. Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai, Maharashtra

2. Email received from IIT Madras regarding policies for strengthening of Online courses offered by the universities through SWAYAM Learning platform.

The Commission observed that the Expert Committee constituted to review ODL and Online Regulatory Framework has already suggested measures for promoting/strengthening ODL and Online education and accordingly, decided that the matter be treated as closed.

3. Receipt of appeal fee as per the notified regulations UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September, 2020.

The Commission approved the recommendations of the Working Group that appeal fee of Rs. 10,000/- + GST, as applicable to be charged per programme from the HEIs submitting appeals as per the provisions of the regulations.

4. Issue of Advisories to the HEIs.

The Commission approved the recommendations of the Working Group that the following advisories to be issued to the HEIs:

- Displaying Best practices on HEI website
- Conduct of placement drives for ODL and Online students
- Displaying CIQA report on home page of the HEI website

However, the Working Group may review its recommendations in respect of 50% common exam papers for conventional and ODL programmes, keeping in view the recommendations made by the Expert Committee constituted to review ODL and Online Regulatory Framework

5. Recognition process for the applications received for recognition from Category-I HEIs.

The Commission observed that the recommendations of the Working Group has become inconsequential as all the Category-I HEIs now will be entitled for

offering ODL programmes under proposed amended UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2022.

6. Expert Committee onsite visit for new HEIs recognized for year 2020-21 and 2021-22 through Virtual Visit of the Visiting Expert Committee (VEC).

The Commission considered the recommendations of the Working Group and appreciated the efforts of the bureau in conducting expert committee visits in virtual mode, thereby enhancing transparency and use of technology.

The Commission decided that the recognition related expert committee visits should be conducted virtually only. However, in case of complaints and/or specific instances, on case to case basis, the expert committee visit to be conducted manually/physically.

B. Reporting item : The Commission noted the information.

C. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

- i. The Commission approved the recommendations of the Working Group to have an Anti-malpractice cell in DEB with two dedicated resources. Considering the importance of the matter, the Commission also directed that the cell to be operationalized on priority basis.
- ii. The Commission noted the information and observed that the recommendations “In order to make all the stakeholders aware and to ensure compliance to the Regulations, a legally vetted public notice may be placed on website mentioning the relevant provisions such as no-franchise, franchise definition, complete ownership etc. of ‘own learning platform’ for offering online education, as mentioned in the notified regulations” are already getting addressed in proposed amended regulations.
- iii. The Commission noted the information that “The last date of admission for November, 2021 (changed from July, 2021) academic session to remain as 15th December, 2021 only (already notified as per the Commission decision). All the requests received for extension to be regretted.” The Commission decided that for January-February 2022 academic session, the last date of admission will be 31st March, 2022 and for uploading of admission details on website by the HEIs, the last date will be 15th April, 2022.

[Action: (DEB)]

2.03 To consider Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Students' Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well Being at Higher Educational Institutions of India.

The Commission resolved to approve the Guidelines in principle. However, it was decided to further examine and update the Guidelines with the help of Expert Committee by inviting the subject expert(s) in the field of sports and physical fitness. After this, the Guidelines may be put up in the public domain. The suggestions/comments thus received, be examined by the Expert Committee and the Guidelines be suitably modified if felt necessary by the Committee. The Commission authorized the Chairman, UGC to finalize the Guidelines.

The Commission also resolved to create a National Level Facility for the students of Higher Education Institutions for providing required services regarding Students' Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well Being. A separate proposal in this regard be prepared and placed before the Commission at the earliest.

[Action: (AS-II)]

2.04 To consider amendment in UGC (Fitness of Open Universities for Grants) Rules, 1988.

The Commission considered and resolved as under:

- **In the UGC (Fitness of Open Universities for Grants), Rules, 1988, the clause (c) (i) of Rules 3, shall be replaced by the following:**
 - (i) Developed land** **5 Acres**
- **The above Amendment in Rules be sent to Ministry of Education for concurrence.**

[Action: (AS-II)]

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- 2.05** To consider the recommendations of the HRDC Standing Committee on “Short-Term Professional Development Programmes, Faculty Induction Programmes and Refresher Courses” run by IGNOU in open and distance learning, online and blended learning equivalent to programmes run by 66 UGC-HRDCs.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(HRDC)]

- 2.06** To consider and approve the guidelines for establishment of Research and Development Cell in Higher Education Institutions.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(PARLIAMENT)]

SECTION-3

(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

- 3.01** To consider and approve the recommendations of Expert Committee on the question of office of profit when a teacher is elected/nominated to Parliament/State Legislature.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(PS)]

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SECTION-4

(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

4.01

To consider:

- i) Draft “Curriculum on Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) 2.0” revised in the light of NEP 2020.
- ii) Draft “Facilitator’s Guidelines for the Curriculum on Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal)”.

Considered and Approved. It was further resolved that both the documents be uploaded on the UGC website for seeking comments from stakeholders and suitable incorporation by Expert Committee. The Commission authorized Chairman UGC to finalize these documents.

[Action: DS(QIP)]

4.02

To consider Draft National Curriculum Framework Guidelines on Fostering Social Responsibility & Community Engagement in Higher Education Institution in India under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 (UBA 2.0) revised in the light of the recommendations of National Education Policy, 2020.

Considered and Approved. It was also resolved to include “Vidyanjali” initiative of Ministry of Education in these guidelines. It was further resolved that the document be uploaded on the UGC website for seeking comments from stakeholders and suitable incorporation by Expert Committee. The Commission authorized Chairman UGC to finalize the document.

[Action: DS(e.Gov/ UBA)]

4.03 To consider and approve guidelines for Transforming Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) into Multidisciplinary Institutions.

The Commission considered the draft guidelines for transforming higher education institutions into multidisciplinary institutions and resolved that the document be uploaded on the UGC website for seeking comments from stakeholders and suitable incorporation by Expert Committee. The Commission authorized Chairman UGC to finalize the document.

It was further resolved that the HEIs need to be sensitized about the opportunities to attain the status of multidisciplinary institutions.

It was also suggested that Central Universities can play a pivotal role in handholding institutions to achieve the status.

[Action: JS(QIP)]

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.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

(Prof. Rajnish Jain)
Secretary

(Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar)
Chairman