

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

**MINUTES OF THE 551ST MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 1ST JULY, 2021.**

The 551st Meeting of the Commission was held on 1st July, 2021 in which the following were present:

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|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Amit Khare | Member |
| 3. Dr. Kiran Hazarika | 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, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance and Prof. (Dr.) Nagesh Thakur, member could not attend the meeting due to their pre-occupation.

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting:

Secretary

Prof. Rajnish Jain

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At the outset, the Commission placed on record appreciation for the contributions of outgoing Commission Members namely Prof. R.P.Tiwari and Prof. Uma Vaidya.

SECTION-1

1.01(a) (i) To confirm the Minutes of the 550th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 18th February, 2021.

Confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

(ii) To confirm the Minutes of the Agenda (by e-circulation on 28th May, 2021) of the University Grants Commission.

Confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

1.01(b) (i) To receive the action taken on the Minutes of the 550th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 18th February, 2021.

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

(ii) To receive the action taken on the Minutes of the Agenda (by e-circulation on 28th May, 2021) of the University Grants Commission.

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.

Noted.

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

- (ii) To ratify the decision taken by UGC to apply the decision of the Commission taken in its 550th meeting held on 18th February, 2021 of considering the CA/CS/ICWA qualification as equivalent to PG Degree for appearing in UGC-NET with a provision to apply this decision retrospectively on the basis of representations received from the candidates.

Ratified.

[Action: JS(NET)]

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

Ratified.

[Action: JS(AC)]

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

Ratified.

[Action: JS(AC)]

- (v) To report the inclusion of 94 Colleges (as approved by the Chairman, UGC) under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956 between 01.02.2021 to 31.05.2021 as per authorization given by the Commission at its meeting held on 24.08.2011.

Noted.

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

- (vi) To report actions taken on certain matters related to Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes for ratification/reporting.

The Commission ratified the following actions taken with the approval of the Competent Authority, UGC:

I. Implementation of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020

- i. **Uploading of recognition status of the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to offer ODL programmes for the academic session January (February-March as revised) 2021.**
- ii. **Uploading of updated status of the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) entitled to offer Online programmes without prior approval of UGC.**

II. Revised composition of the DEB Working Group.

The Commission noted the following:

- I (i) Five years recognition accorded to the HEIs as per the Commission decision in its 550th meeting held on 18.02.2021.

III. Minutes of the second meeting of the Expert Committee to formulate Monitoring Mechanism for HEIs entitled/exempted to start ODL and/or Online Programmes without prior approval of the UGC.

IV. Communications received from various Regulatory Authorities; Ministry of AYUSH, National Medical Commission (NMC) and AICTE.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

- (vii) To ratify the Degree of Bachelor of Sowa-Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (B.S.R.M.S.) with duration of 5^{1/2} years instead of 4 years.

Ratified.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

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- 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 report the Separate Audit Report (SAR) on the Annual Accounts of UGC and IUCs for the financial year 2019-20.

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 application received from National Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Hatia, Ranchi (Jharkhand) 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 recommendation of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to consider the de-novo aspect of the application received for Deemed to be University status to (i) Sir J. J. School of Art, Fort, Mumbai, (ii) Sir J. J. college of Architecture, Fort, Mumbai and (iii) Sir J. J. Institute of Applied Art, Fort Mumbai in the name of Sir J. J. Art, Architecture and design University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956

The Commission considered and approved the report of the UGC Expert Committee with the recommendations that the proposed Deemed to be University should be renamed in accordance with the provisions of the UGC Act, 1956 without using the word University.

The Commission further recommended that the Deemed to be Universities under de-novo category, as Centre for excellence, can do mentoring of the other institutions and share their expertise with them for quality education and multi-disciplinary approach.

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

2.03 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.

Commission deferred this item with the remark that financial implication as well as the number of slots for NET-II fellowships be worked out and placed before the Commission.

[Action: JS(SA)]

2.04 To consider granting further accreditation to West Bengal College Service Commission (WBCSC) for conducting SET on behalf of the state of West Bengal.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(NET)]

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- 2.05** To consider granting accreditation to University of Jammu, Jammu for conducting State Eligibility Test (SET) on behalf of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(NET)]

- 2.06** To consider the matter of inclusion of Madurai Kamaraj University under Category-I as per the UGC [Categorization of Universities (only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy] Regulations, 2018.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(SU)]

- 2.07** To consider the recommendations of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) to release Jadavpur University from list of institutions recommended for the Institution of Eminence (IoE).

Considered and resolved that the recommendations of Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for further necessary action/direction.

[Action: JS(IoE)]

2.08

To consider the recommendations of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) on release of Jamia Hamdard (Deemed to be University) from the EEC recommended list of Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Institutions.

Considered and resolved that the recommendations of Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for further necessary action/direction.

[Action: JS(IoE)]

2.09

केन्द्रीय/राज्य/मानित विश्वविद्यालयों में हिन्दी विभाग की स्थापना एवं उन्नयन (अपग्रेडेशन) हेतु गठित समिति की अनुशंसाओं पर विचार।

Considered and approved. It was also resolved to constitute a cell to promote Indian Languages.

[संयुक्त सचिव (राजभाषा)]

2.10 To consider the recommendations made by the DEB Working Group in its eighth meeting held on 19th March, 2021.

The Commission considered and approved/ratified the recommendations made by the DEB Working Group in its eighth meeting held on 19th March, 2021 as per the following:

Item I:

(i) The Commission approved the following: The application fee for all the HEIs:

A. One-time registration fee

Rs. 25000/- + GST as applicable

B. Open and Distance Learning Programme (ODL)

Starting of Programmes - Rs 10,000/- per programme, subject to minimum of Rs 50,000/- and GST as applicable

C. Online Learning Programmes (OL)

Starting of Programmes - Rs 15,000/- per programme, subject to minimum of Rs 75,000/- and GST as applicable

D. Assessment of Center for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) Reports (Annual)

Rs 50,000/- +GST as applicable

ii) Methodology for HEIs applied under Entitled category

The Commission approved the Working Group recommendations that at least one chance shall be given to the HEIs for submitting Compliance/Clarification. If not complied, then they shall be asked to apply as afresh for next Academic Session, as and when UGC invites applications.

Item II: Exemption sought by Venkateshwara Open University from the application of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 on similar lines of exemption granted to IGNOU.

The Commission observed that UGC vide F.No. 8-32/2012 (CPP-I/PU) dated 10th November, 2020 has communicated to the University that it is not an Open University and in case the university intend to function exclusively as an ‘Open University’ instead of ‘Dual Mode University’, it may approach the State Government for amendment of its Act. Accordingly, the Commission decided that the request of the University for exemption from UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 can’t be considered and the matter stands closed.

Item III: Specific cases of complaint of violations received:

a. **Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam**

The Commission ratified the decision that no recognition shall be accorded to the HEI until the matter is resolved.

b. **Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

The Commission approved the recommendation of the Working Group to debar/ban the HEI from offering ODL and Online programmes for one year.

c. **Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu**

The Commission ratified the decision that a warning letter may be issued to the HEI and to obtain an affidavit from the HEI on the corrective action taken and compliance to Regulations thereafter.

The Commission appreciated the above recommendations of the Working Group and advised that UGC should continue to take stringent punitive actions on matters related to violation of the Regulations.

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Item IV: Invitation of applications for Academic session July-August, 2021 and onwards

The Commission considered the recommendations of the Working Group. The Commission also observed the following provision of the Regulations (Regulation 5 at p.64): “(1) A HEI intending to offer a programme through ODL and/or Online mode....., shall make an application.....,at least three months prior to the commencement of the academic session of the programme....”

Considering the above and of the fact that admissions in conventional programmes are also being delayed/deferred, the Commission decided that the academic session July 2021 shall be changed to November, 2021 with the last date of admission as 15th December, 2021. This change is being done under exceptional circumstances.

Item V: Reporting items

The Commission noted the following:

1. Amendment in UGC (Open and Distance Learning programme and Online Learning Programme) Regulations, 2020 regarding NAAC Score and NIRF related eligibility requirements.
2. Grants to State Open Universities.
3. Five years Recognition period for the HEIs.
4. Exemption of IGNOU, New Delhi from application of UGC (Open and Distance Learning programme and Online Learning Programme) Regulations, 2020.

Any other item with the permission of the Chair

The Commission approved the following recommendation of the Working Group:

“A Technical Committee may be constituted to have a check on nomenclature proposed by HEIs as specialization from its acceptability to be offered in ODL and/or Online mode. The Technical Committee may also have representative from the AICTE.”

[Action: JS(DEB)]

- 2.11** To consider the recommendations made by the DEB Working Group in its ninth meeting held on 14th June, 2021.

The Commission considered and approved the recommendations made by the DEB Working Group in its ninth meeting held on 14th June, 2021 as per the following:

Item 1: Implementation of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programme and Online Programme) Regulations, 2020 for academic year 2021-22 in view of COVID-19 resurgence and status thereof

The Commission noted the following:

- 1.1 Applications received for recognition/entitlement for academic year 2021 and onwards.**
- 1.2 Gazette Notification on amendment to UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.**
- 1.3 The constitution of Expert Committees for conducting 21 virtual visits in compliance to the Commission decision in its meeting held in 18th February, 2021.**
- 1.4 The decision of the Working Group to formulate methodology for further simplifying the implementation of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 for academic session 2021-2022, post notification of the amendment.**

Item 2: Communication received from Ministry of External Affairs regarding UGC to consider any National ID with photograph, and exempt the mandatory requirement of submitting passport in order to secure admission in the Indian Universities

The Commission considered and approved the recommendations of the Working Group as under:

- 1. To add a provision in the Regulations that for admission of foreign/international learners through Ministry of External Affairs in UGC recognized online programmes, any National ID with photograph, of their country of residence shall also be acceptable for authentication. Accordingly, a suitable proviso may be incorporated.**
- 2. The Regulations shall be appropriately amended with the approval of Chairman, UGC and thereafter reported to the Commission.**

Item 3: Specific recommendations of Technical Expert Committee for offering Online programmes

3.1 & 3.2 The Commission noted the information.

Item 4: Any other item with the permission of the Chair

4.1 Notification of National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Rule, 2021 on 27th May, 2021

The Commission noted the information.

4.2 Offering of Bachelors Preparatory Programme (BPP) through ODL or Online mode

The Commission approved the recommendations of the Working Group to issue an advisory to all recognized HEIs that BPP (Bachelors Preparatory Programme) foundation course shall not be conducted.

Further, the Commission decided that in case violation is reported, stringent punitive actions as per the provisions of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 to be initiated.

4.3 Faculty appointment in HEIs for ODL and Online Programmes

The Commission approved the following recommendations:

(i) Faculty not qualified/not eligible as per UGC norms and not appointed/nominated on full time dedicated basis for a programme shall not be considered.

(ii) The salary and other benefits of the faculty may be left to the HEIs; as per the applicable norms.

Regarding issuance of advisory to the Government recognized HEIs, the Commission decided that advisory be issued to all the recognized HEIs on adherence of all the faculty norms prescribed by the UGC from time to time.

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4.4 Revisiting UGC 12B guidelines from the perspective of the Open Universities

The Commission requested Secretary, UGC to expedite the matter related to reduction in land requirement for Open Universities in 12B guidelines to 15 acres.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

2.12 To consider the report of Expert Committee to ascertain the financial implications involved in the recommendations of Anomaly Redressal Committee w.r.t 7th CPC and representations/suggestions received from stakeholders with reference to UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2018.

The Commission considered and resolved that in view of number of recommendations of Anomaly Redressal Committee with and without financial implications, the recommendations be categorized, theme wise and the same may be submitted to the Ministry of Education for amendment in UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2018.

[Action: JS(PS)]

SECTION-3

(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-4 (SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

- 4.01** To consider the proposal of Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) to declare as an Institute of National Importance.

The Commission considered and resolved that a Committee may be constituted by Chairman, UGC to examine the merit of the proposal for declaring IUAC as an Institution of National Importance.

[Action: JS (IUC)]

- 4.02** To consider the proposal of Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC) to declare as an Institute of National Importance.

The Commission considered and resolved that a Committee may be constituted by Chairman, UGC to examine the merit of the proposal for declaring CEC as an Institution of National Importance.

[Action: JS (IUC)]

- 4.03** To consider the report of Prof. S.K. Joshi's Committee with regard to the sustenance of Accelerator facilities on the University Campus and transform the accelerator facilities at Allahabad, Mumbai, Panjab University and Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur as Joint-IUAC Ion Beam Centre.

The report of Professor S.K.Joshi was accepted and the Commission approved the transformation of the accelerator facilities at Allahabad University, Mumbai University, Panjab University and Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur as Joint-IUAC Ion Beam Centre.

[Action: JS (IUC)]

- 4.04** To consider allocation of budget for implementing community engagement component in Higher Educational Institutions as envisaged in the New Education Policy 2020, through the identified UGC Regional Centres for Capacity Building of faculty also for organizing Master Trainer Training Programme, out of the UGC's Budget Head for NEP implementation and development of 2 credit MOOCs for SWAYAM, under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA 2.0)

Considered and approved.

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

- 4.05** To consider the Bye-laws and CRR of Academic Posts of Inter-University Centre for Teacher Education (IUC-TE), BHU, Varanasi.

The Commission considered and approved the Bye-laws and Cadre Recruitment Rules (CRR) of the Academic post(s) at the level of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in Inter University Centre for Teacher Education (IUC-TE), BHU, Varanasi.

[Action: JS (IUC)]

- 4.06** To consider draft University Grants Commission (Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes) Regulations, 2021.

The Commission considered and approved in principle the draft UGC (Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes), Regulations, 2021. The Commission members were requested to convey their suggestions within a week. The Commission authorized the Chairman, UGC to finalize the Regulations after incorporating the suggestions and for further necessary action.

[Action: JS (IC)]

SECTION-5

(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

- 5.01** To reimburse Post Graduate Scholarship to GATE/GPAT qualified students enrolled in the Indira Gandhi Technical University for Women, Delhi for two batches of 2014-16 & 2015-17.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS (SA-III)]

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SECTION-6 (MISCELLANEOUS)

(There is no item in this section)

Any other item.

Item No. To consider UGC Revised Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in view of COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Commission after detailed deliberation, resolved to approve the Revised Guidelines. It was also resolved that these guidelines may be legally vetted. The Commission authorized the Chairman, UGC to finalize the guidelines and issue the same.

Item No. Issues raised by Prof. M.K. Sridhar, Commission Member regarding Implementation of National Education Policy, 2020 were discussed.

**(Prof. Rajnish Jain)
Secretary**

**(Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh)
Chairman**