

MINUTES

of the

SIXTY FOURTH MEETING

of

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Held on

10th July 2015



**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068**

IGNOU**MINUTES OF THE SIXTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 10TH JULY 2015 AT 10:30 AM IN THE RADHAKRISHNAN BLOCK, IGNOU, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110 068.**

The following were present in the meeting:

1. Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor (I/C) - Chairperson
2. Dr. P. Prakash, Pro-Vice Chancellor - Member
3. Prof. Sushma Yadav, Pro-Vice Chancellor - Member
4. Prof. K. Sudha Rao - Member
5. Prof. Man Mohan Singh - Member
6. Dr. D N Reddy - Member
7. Dr. K K Chakravarty - Member
8. Prof. Indu Agnihotri - Member
9. Prof. Joseph Dorairaj - Member
10. Prof. Rajan Gurukul - Member
11. Prof. D. Gopal, Director, SOSS - Member
12. Prof. C. R. K. Murthy, Director, STRIDE - Member
13. Prof. Sunaina Kumar, Director, SOH - Member
14. Prof. N. K. Dash, Director, SOE - Member
15. Prof. Vijayshri, Director, SOS - Member
16. Prof. S. Srilatha, Director, SOMS - Member
17. Prof. Neerja Chadha, Director, SOCE - Member
18. Prof. Pity Kaul, Director, SOHS - Member
19. Dr. P. V. Suresh, Director, SOCIS - Member
20. Prof. P. Srinivas Kumar, Director, SOET - Member
21. Prof. K. Elumalai, Director, SOL - Member
22. Dr. S. K. Yadav, Director, SOA - Member
23. Dr. A. K. Gaba, Director, SOVET - Member
24. Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Director, SOTHSSM - Member
25. Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, SOSW - Member
26. Prof. Anu Aneja, Director, SOGDS - Member
27. Dr. Nehal A Farooque, Director, SOEDS - Member

28. Dr. Govindraju Bhardwaja, Director, SOPVA	-	Member
29. Prof. Anju Sahgal Gupta, Director, SOFL	-	Member
30. Dr. Nandini Sinha Kapur, Director, SOITS	-	Member
31. Prof. Satyakam, SOH	-	Member
32. Prof. Deeksha Kapur, SOCE	-	Member
33. Prof. P K Biswas, STRIDE	-	Member
34. Dr. Sanjay Gupta, SOS	-	Member
35. Dr. Bharti Dogra, SOE	-	Member
36. Dr. Madhulika, SOMS	-	Member
37. Dr. Nisha Verghese, SOEDS	-	Member
38. Dr. Vijay Kumar, SOA	-	Member
39. Prof. Jaideep Sharma, Librarian	-	Member
40. Prof M S Nathawat, Director, RU	-	Member
41. Dr. P Sivaswaroop, Regional Director	-	Member
42. Shri N P Singh, Registrar, SED	-	Member
43. Shri S K Sharma, Registrar, SRD	-	Member
44. Prof. Debal K. SinghaRoy	-	Member Secretary

Shri Sudhir Budakoti, Registrar, Admn and Prof Iftikhar Ahemad, Dir EMPC, attended the meeting as Special Invitees. Dr K D Prasad, Dy Dir, RSD attended the meeting on behalf of Dr V Venugopal Reddy, Dir, RSD and Dr. K. Pannererselvam, SOJNMS attended the meeting on behalf of Dr Kiron Bansal, Dir, SOJNMS.

Prof R G Harshe, Prof V R Panchmukhi, Prof Vinay Srivastava, Dr B K Gairola, Prof George Mathew, Prof Nitin Madhusudan Nagarkar, Prof S S Meenakshisundram and Prof S E Hasnain, external members of Academic Council and Dr R P Pandey, Dir SOTST, Dr B Kiranmayi, SOSS, the internal members of the Academic Council could not attend the Meeting.

Dr Dev Kant Rao, Deputy Director, ACD and Dr Shekhar Suman, Asst Director, ACD were present to assist the Member Secretary.

Prof. Debal K. SinghaRoy, Director Academic Coordination Division and the Member Secretary of the Academic Council greeted all the members and requested the Chairperson to make his opening remarks and to provide an overview of the initiatives taken by the University since last meeting of the Academic Council held on 20th November 2014.

Prof Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor (I/C), IGNOU and the Chairperson of the Academic Council welcomed the Members of the Academic Council to its 64th Meeting and made a mention of the new Members of the Academic Council, viz. Prof Ravindra Kumar, Dir

SOTHSSM; Prof Anu Aneja, Dir SOGDS; Dr V Venugopal Reddy, Dir RSD; Dr P V Suresh, Dir SOCIS; Shri S K Sharma, Registrar SRD; Shri N P Singh, Registrar SED; Prof Deeksha Kapur, SOCE and Dr Sanjay Gupta, SOS.

The Chairperson expressed gratitude for the contribution made by the outgoing members, Prof. Anu J Thomas, SOET; Prof Shubha M. Gokhale, SOS; Dr Srikant Mohapatra, Dir RSD; Shri Shashi Bhushan Sharma, SOCIS, and Dr Pankaj Khare, Registrar, SRD. The Academic Council placed on record a note of appreciation for the outgoing members.

The Chairperson made a presentation on the important activities since the last Meeting of the Academic Council (held on 20th November 2014). Some of the points of this presentation were as under:

- The Chairman informed the Academic Council that an Inquiry vide MHRD letter No.F.10-2/2014-DL dated 18.11.2014 was instituted by the Visitor into the various shortfalls, irregularities and excessive action committed by Indira Gandhi National Open University between 20.10.2011 (when the present VC Prof. M. Aslam joined as acting VC) onwards till date. Further, vide MHRD letter No. 10-2/2014-DL dated 28.11.2014 Prof. M. Aslam, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU was ordered to proceed on leave. Prof. M. Aslam has filed a Writ Petition in the High Court of Delhi in this context. The Hon'ble Court listed the Petition of Prof. Aslam on 10/2/2015, 16/3/2015, 09/4/2015 & 24/4/2015. The next date of hearing was fixed for 16/07/2015.
- The University Convocation has been scheduled on 08th August, 2015. Dr. Hari Gautam, Former Chairman, UGC and President of Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sciences & Technology, Jaipur has kindly given his consent to deliver the Convocation Address. The Vice Chancellor personally requested all the Academic Council Members to grace the Convocation by their benign presence.
- The 20th Prof. G. Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture was organized on 2nd July, 2015. Prof. Arun S. Nigavekar, Former Chairman, UGC and former Director, NAAC and Ex-Vice Chancellor, University of Pune delivered the memorial lecture. Mrs. Reddy and the grand children of Prof. G. Ram Reddy were kind enough to attend the programme.
- The Students Registration Division (SRD) has initiated *on-line* admission in addition to the regular *off-line* admissions. This experiment of *on-line* admission has got overwhelming response. By this date, around 15,000 admissions have taken place through *on-line* mode. The admissions in the University have been showing improvement. More than 7 lakh students were admitted during the last July 2014 and Jan 2015 session. The Board has expressed the satisfaction about the progress made in this regard.
- A Seminar of the Vice Chancellors of the Central Universities was held on 4th & 5th February 2015 at Rashtrapati Bhawan where 21 Action Points were identified for implementation. The University has already constituted a Committee for further action on the above points and is constantly making efforts to accomplish them. The

University has made good progress in village adoption scheme. The University has also agreed in principle to implement Choice Based Credit System.

- The Material Production and Distribution Division (MPDD) have done a commendable job as 97% of the print material required for July, 2015 session was already printed and around 80% of print material has already been sent to the Regional Centres before the closure of the current admission cycle. It is expected that by 20/07/2015 all the required material for learners will be delivered to the Regional Centres.
- It is heartening to report that the Students Evaluation Division (SED) has conducted December, 2014 and June, 2015 examinations effectively. It has also declared the results of December, 2014 examinations within the stipulated 45 day time span. The team of SED and RSD should be complimented for their sincere efforts.
- The Campus Placement Cell is active and is doing a good job. It had conducted recruitment drives with 14 Companies at IGNOU Headquarters. Around 170 students of the University were selected during the special placement initiatives undertaken by the Campus Placement Cell. Regional Centres spread all over the country were also actively involved in holding placement drive. A good number of placement companies are coming to IGNOU to interview and absorb the students in their respective organizations.
- The Chairman expressed concern at the reported substantial reduction in the revenue receipts under the head student fee in 2014-15. All the Schools were requested to initiate pro-active measures in order to deal with this issue. Certain Schools have gone for new programmes while others are going for MoUs with other institutions in ODL mode.
- The Chairman also drew the Council's attention to the subject of equivalence of ODL degrees with conventional degrees. The Council was informed that MHRD had sent letters to Railway Recruitment Board, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd., Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, NDMC Ltd., Steel Authority of India etc. stating that ODL degrees were valid and were to be accepted for job purposes.
- Education Training Programmes were also organized; STRIDE had conducted 6 Workshops at IGNOU Headquarters during the period 2014-2015 for the benefit of the ODL functionaries. It was felt that STRIDE must conduct more such programmes in future.
- The UGC vide its Order dated 31.5.2013 took over the staff working at erstwhile DEC on 'deemed deputation basis'. Subsequently, on the request of IGNOU, the UGC repatriated the staff back to IGNOU in two batches: 1st batch w.e.f. 1.8.2014 and the 2nd batch w.e.f. 1.3.2015. Currently, 16 academic staff including one Professor of erstwhile DEC are allocated in different Divisions/Centres/Units of the University as a temporary arrangement. The erstwhile DEC staff was performing the activities related to promotion, coordination and determination of standards in the ODL system. The

University has constituted a Committee to use their expertise in the best interest of IGNOU.

- The International operations through Partner Institutions were started in 1997. The experimentation of collaborative arrangement, under section 5(vii) of statutes, with Partner Institutes was used in the beginning. The international presence of the IGNOU was substantial during the last 15 years. As the existing agreements with the Partner Institutes have come to an end, the University could not admit fresh students in July 2014, January 2015 and July 2015 sessions. The University is now in the process of starting international operations through Overseas Study Centres. A separate proposal is put up in this meeting for the consideration of the Council.
- The University has the faculty and academic strength of more than 400 eligible Research Supervisors which need to be effectively utilized in M.Phil and Ph.D Programmes. The University is not doing any fresh enrolment for the last one year. The issue regarding Ph.D is constantly being pursued with UGC/MHRD.
- The Ministry of HRD has given 10 MeLT Vans free of cost to IGNOU. These Vans have been attached with Regional Centres at Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Kolkata, Shillong, Bhubaneswar, Madurai, Cochin, Lucknow and Raipur. The University has to get two more vans. The Vans are well equipped and can conveniently access the unreached areas in the country for promotion of higher education. For this, the University is thankful to MHRD for its kind support.

Members of the Academic Council appreciated the measures taken by the Chairperson to support the academic development of the University and the learners. They assured full cooperation in steering the proceedings of the Academic Council in a purposeful direction. The Chairperson asked the Member- Secretary to present the Agenda for the meeting.

It was informed by the Member-Secretary, Academic Council that there were 29 Agenda Items, including the confirmation of the Minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 20th Nov. 2014, and 39th and 40th meetings of Academic Council's Standing Committee held on 21st May 2015 and 8th June 2015, respectively. In addition, there were five more Agenda Items referred to the Academic Council by Academic Council's Standing Committee.

The Academic Council transacted the following business:

ITEM NO. 1 To confirm the Minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 20th November, 2014 and to note the Action Taken thereon.

AC 64.1.1 The Member Secretary informed that the Minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 20th November, 2014, were circulated on 28th March 2015 for comments/observations. Comments/observations were received from Prof Pity Koul, Director SOHS, Prof. Savita Singh, SOGDS, Prof Gracious Thomas, Director SOSW, and Dr R P Pandey, Dir,

SOTST related to Item Nos. AC 63.20.1, ACSC 38.6.2; and AC 63.22, respectively (**Annexure 1**).

The Council considered the observations/comments received from the above members and decided as under:

- (i) AC 63.20.1: The Council agreed to delete the following first paragraph:

“The School of Health Sciences (SOHS) had submitted the proposal for creation of new Disciplines in SOHS, viz. Paramedical Services (allied Health Sciences) and AYUSH. Director, SOHS informed the Academic Council that the School had launched more than two dozen programmes in Nursing and Health Sciences and in the present scenario, any programme not belonging to Nursing Discipline could not be developed and delivered by the Nursing Faculty. As a result, the Medical faculty had been involved in developing programmes related to Dental, Allied Health sciences, Public Health, Clinical Medicine, etc. Proposals related to AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Sidha and Homeopathy) were not being taken up by the School as there was no Faculty from the above specialties”.

The remaining AC 63.20.1 would remain the same.

- (ii) AC 63.22.1: The Member Secretary informed that the Committee of Internal members to have a fresh look at the Schools of Studies, keeping in view the present functions, scope of expansion and allocation of Disciplines among the various Schools of Studies had submitted its Report and the same was available in Academic Coordination Division. Despite AC 63.22.1 mentioning the consideration of the inputs of this Committee as an agenda, the report had in fact not been placed before the Academic Council. The Member-Secretary further stated that as suggested by the Academic Council in its 63rd meeting of AC, this report was to be placed before the main Committee and then its recommendations would be placed before the Council. The main Committee was yet to be notified.

The matter was discussed at length and considering the important fact that the matter involved likely restructuring of Schools of studies and re-allocation of Disciplines among them, many faculty members, especially of new Schools of Studies were getting anxious. Therefore, for wider dissemination of information on this issue and in order to allay any fear amongst the faculty, the Council decided that the Report of the Committee of Internal

members to have a fresh look at the schools of studies, keeping in view the present functions, scope of expansion and allocation of Disciplines among the various Schools of Studies should be shared amongst all Schools/Divisions/Centres/Units of IGNOU immediately before placing it to the main Committee as mandated by the Academic Council in its 62nd/63rd meetings. The Council also directed the Academic Coordination Division to notify the main Committee with the approval of the Vice Chancellor.

The Council also agreed that even though 63rd meeting of the AC was chaired by Prof M Aslam, he had since proceeded on leave (w.e.f. 28 November 2014) at the orders of MHRD before the minutes were finalized. The charge of Vice Chancellor had been given to Prof Nageshwar Rao, the senior-most PVC. The Minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Academic Council were accordingly signed by the Vice Chancellor (I/c) Prof Nageshwar Rao who incidentally also attended the 63rd meeting of AC. The Academic Council agreed that signing of the Minutes by the Vice Chancellor as the Chairperson was an established lawful practice.

- (iii) ACSC 38.6.2: The Member Secretary informed that the Minutes had already been drafted and the School was required to do the need assessment again as decided by the ACSC. In the light of the above and the fact that the minutes of the 38th meeting of ACSC had already been confirmed by the Academic Council in its 63rd meeting, the request of Prof Savita Singh was not acceded to.
- (iv) AC 63.18.2 regarding the correction of a typographical error: The Member-Secretary agreed that there was a typographical error regarding the name of the Chairperson of the Committee on API Score for ODL Systems. The name of Dr. K. K. Reddy was erroneously mentioned in place of Dr. K. K. Chakravarty. The above correction has been accepted by the Council and recorded in the relevant item.

AC 64.1.2

The Action Taken Report on the decisions taken by the Academic Council in its 63rd Meeting was presented by the Member Secretary. While deliberating on the Action Taken Report the Council decided as under:

I. General recommendations:

- (a) The meetings of the various Committees constituted in the light of decisions taken by the Academic Council, should be conducted regularly and the Committees should be requested to submit the reports in a time bound manner.
- (b) The time duration for accomplishing a task should be clearly

mentioned while notifying the decision of the Academic Council/Academic Council's Standing Committee/ other School Boards etc.

- (c) While submitting the ATR, the concerned Schools/Divisions/Centres/Unit should explicitly mention the 'final outcome' in their ATR. Till such time as the final outcome is achieved, the Concerned Schools/Division/Centres/Units should continue to submit Progress Reports periodically, which may be placed before the ACSC/AC as the case may be.

II. Item specific recommendations:

- (d) With respect to ATR relating to AC 63.11 regarding change in eligibility criteria for the Post Graduate Certificate in Geoinformatics (PGCGI) programme, Registrar, SRD was mandated to issue the required Notification.

- (e) With respect to ATR relating to AC 63.18 regarding constitution of a Committee to look into the difficulties for implementing API scores, the Committee was requested to expedite the submission of the Report in a time bound manner.

- (f) With respect to ATR relating to AC 63.22 regarding constitution of the main Committee to have a fresh look at the Schools of Studies keeping in view the present functions, scope of expansion and allocation of Disciplines among the various Schools of Studies, the Council directed the Academic Coordination Division to notify the main Committee with the approval of the Vice Chancellor. The Council also decided that the Report of the Committee of Internal members should be shared amongst all Schools/Divisions/Centres/Units etc of the IGNOU, immediately.

AC 64.1.3 With above emendations and observations, the Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of the 63rd Meeting held on 20th November 2014 as given in **Annexure 2** and noted the Action Taken thereon.

ITEM NO. 2 To approve the minutes of the 39th & 40th meeting of the Academic Council Standing Committee held on 21st May, 2015 and 8th June, 2015 respectively.

AC 64.2.1 The 39th and 40th Meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee were held on 21st May 2015 and 8th June 2015, respectively. The Member Secretary informed that the Minutes of the Academic Council's Standing Committee were circulated to the Members of the Standing Committee. No observations were received on the Minutes. However, there was a typographical error with respect to the name of the Course

Coordinator in ACSC 39.5.1 which after correction would read as Prof S S Hasan.

The recommendations made by the Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 39th and 40th meetings were discussed in detail. With regard to Item No. ACSC 39.29, the Council agreed that as far as possible there should be uniformity with regard to decisions made on similar issues and accordingly, other students may also be allowed re-admission on the lines of decision taken by the ACSC allowing re-admission of a student to PDCDM programme for appearing in June 2015 practical term end examination.

The Council accepted the suggestion of Prof Sudha Rao regarding guidelines on translation of various programmes into regional languages and involvement of concerned Regional centres, and decided that requisite guidelines may be developed in this regard.

AC 64.2.3 After detailed discussion, the Academic Council approved the minutes of the Academic Council Standing Committee made in its 39th and 40th meetings as placed at **Annexure 3**.

ITEM NO. 3 To Ratify/Approve the Award of M. Phil Degree to 07 Students and Ph.D. Degrees to 43 students – SED

ITEM NO. 27 To Approve the Award of M. Phil Degree to 02 Students and Ph.D. Degrees to 12 Students – SED

AC 64.3.1 Items No. 63.3 and 63.27, which were related, were taken together.

The Member Secretary informed that on the recommendations of the External Evaluators and the Board of Examiners (who conducted the Viva Voce), the thesis submitted by 54 students for the award of PhD Degree in various Disciplines across the Schools had been approved by the Vice Chancellor. Similarly, on the recommendations of the External Evaluators and the Board of Examiners (who conducted the Viva Voce), the dissertations submitted by 09 students for the award of M. Phil degree in various Disciplines across the Schools had been approved by the Vice Chancellor.

Out of the above, the cases of 07 MPhil and 42 PhD students were placed before the Academic Council Standing Committee in its 39th and 40th Meetings held on 21st May 2015 and 08th June 2015, respectively. The Academic Council's Standing Committee had approved the award of MPhil and PhD to these students subject to ratification by the Academic Council. Accordingly, Notifications had been issued for these students.

In addition, on the recommendations of the External Evaluators and

Board of Examiners, the thesis submitted by 12 students for award of PhD Degree and dissertations submitted by 02 students for the award of MPhil Degree in various Disciplines across the Schools had been approved by the Vice Chancellor after the 40th Meeting of the ACSC.

The Clause 12 of the Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes inter-alia envisages that -

“A student shall be awarded the MPhil/PhD Degree, with the approval of the Academic Council, provided that the corresponding evaluation report given by the Examiners is satisfactory”.

AC 64.3.2

In view of the above provision and approval of the Evaluation Reports by the Vice Chancellor, the Academic Council approved the award of MPhil Degree to 09 students and PhD Degree to 54 students (**Annexure 4**) and authorized the Registrar, SED to issue the Notifications for the award of MPhil and PhD Degrees to these students. The Council also approved the award of Degrees in the Convocation to these students.

The Council also authorized the Vice Chancellor to approve the Notification to any other student recommended by External Evaluators and the Board of Examiners for the award of PhD/MPhil Degree subsequent to the current meeting of the Academic Council and report the matter for ratification/ approval by the ACSC for inclusion in the proposed Convocation of the University scheduled to be held in August 2015.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider and approve the proposal for 28th Convocation and List of eligible candidates for the award of Ph.D/M.Phil/Post Graduate/Bachelor Degrees/Diplomas and Certificates in the 28th Convocation scheduled to be held in the month of July 2015 – SED

AC 64.4.1

The Vice Chancellor informed the Academic Council that the 28th Convocation of IGNOU was scheduled on 8th August 2015. The main venue will be at IGNOU Headquarters, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. Simultaneously, the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates will also be awarded at various Regional Centres of the University.

The Registrar, Student Evaluation Division informed that the awardees of PhD/MPhil Degree and other Special awards will be invited at IGNOU Headquarters and the students of Masters Degree and Professional/Bachelor Degree Programme will be invited at the Regional Centre concerned.

The Programme-wise list of eligible students for award of Post Graduate, Bachelor Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates who are found successful in the

Term End Examinations conducted in Dec. 2013 and June 2014, MPhil and PhD Degrees to the students whose candidature is recommended by the Vice Chancellor after duly recommended by the External Evaluator, and the Board of Examiners in the Convocation numbering 1,91,803 students was placed by the Registrar, Student Evaluation Division before the Academic Council for approval.

AC 64.4.2 The Academic Council approved the award of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates to the eligible students as per list enclosed at **Annexure 5**. The Council also authorized the Vice Chancellor to approve the inclusion of the names of any other students who will be eligible for award of MPhil and PHD Degrees subsequent to the current meeting of the Academic Council.

ITEM NO. 5 **To consider the matters related to approval of Phase 0 forms related to Pre-PhD Courses referred by Academic Council's Standing Committee (ACSC) in its 39th and 40th meetings as under:**

ACSC 39.3 **To consider and approve the Phase-0 form related to Pre-PhD Courses in Rural Development – SOCE.**

ACSC 39.4 **To consider and approve the Phase-0 Form and Syllabus for the 16 Courses of Pre-PhD Course Work for PhD (Geology) Programme – SOS.**

ACSC 40.12 **To consider and approve the Phase - 0 Form for the Pre-Ph.D. courses of Ph.D. (Biochemistry) Programme – SOS.**

AC 64.5.1 The Member Secretary informed the Academic Council that the Phase 0 forms related to Pre-PhD Courses as above were considered by the Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 39th and 40th meetings, respectively. The ACSC deliberated on these Agendas at length and issues were raised as to whether there is any need for the pre-PhD courses to come to Academic Council's Standing Committee or Academic Council for approval since Pre-PhD course is not a degree/diploma/certificate but a part of PhD programme.

The Phase-0 forms, being considered hereunder, are related to existing programmes for the students who have taken admissions in the previous cycles. As per the statute, launching new course or programme and any addition or revision to it are required to be approved by the Academic Council on the recommendation of the School Board.

The Council also noted the decision of the Academic Council's Standing Committee taken in its 39th meeting (Item 39.3.3 and 39.4.2) to approve in principle the Phase-0 form related to Pre-PhD Courses in (i) Rural Development, and (ii) Geology subject to approval of the PhD Ordinance. The Council also noted the decision of the ACSC taken in its 40th meeting (Item 40.12.2) to approve the Phase-0 form for the Pre-Ph.D. course work of Ph.D. (Biochemistry) programme of SOS for existing students and in principle approval to the above pre-PhD course for any new students subject to approval of the PhD Ordinance.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Council resolved that approval of the Academic Council is required for a PhD Programme like other programmes. However, for addition of a new course to the already approved programme or revision of existing course of the programme, approval of only Academic Council's Standing Committee is required and accordingly any such proposal needs to be placed before the ACSC. However, the decision of the ACSC is to be reported to Academic Council for ratification.

AC 64.5.2

With above resolution, the Academic Council ratified the decision taken by Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 39th and 40th meetings (ACSC 39.3.3; 39.4.2 and ACSC 40.12.2) and approved the Phase-0 form related to Pre-PhD Courses in (i) Rural Development, (ii) Geology, and (iii) Biochemistry programme for existing students already registered for PhD programmes in these disciplines.

The Council also accorded in-principle approval to the above pre-PhD courses for any new students subject to approval of the PhD Ordinance.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider and approve the Modification in eligibility criteria of Programme Study Centres (PSC), Academic Counselors (AC), Programme In-charge (PIC) of Certificate in Adolescents Health and Counseling (CAHC) – SOHS

AC 64.6.1

The Member Secretary informed the Academic Council that the School of Health Sciences had proposed the Modification in eligibility criteria of Programme Study Centres (PSC), Academic Counselors (AC), and Programme In-charge (PIC) of Certificate in Adolescents Health and Counseling (CAHC) programme offered by the University.

This matter was earlier deferred by the 63rd Academic Council vide its resolution No. 63.13.2, with an advice to the Director, SOHS to hold discussions with the Director, RSD regarding the proposal in detail and resubmit the same.

Accordingly, the matter was placed before the Academic Council's

Standing Committee in its 39th meeting held on 21st May 2015. The Academic Council's Standing Committee decided to refer the proposal to the Academic Council since the earlier norms had been approved by it.

AC 64.6.2

The Academic Council discussed the modifications/amendments in the eligibility criteria in detail. The Chairperson desired to know the need and justification for such modifications and whether there is any change in the number of students per Programme Study Centre which is 30 at present. Director SOHS informed that the proposed modifications had been suggested by the Programme Review Committee of the CAHC programme and that there would be no change in the number of students per Programme Study Centre (which is 30). The Council was of the opinion that there should be no dilution of the educational qualifications and experience for appointing Academic Councilors as well as the norms for establishing a Programme Study Centre. Therefore, the minimum academic qualification for an Academic Counselor for the above programmes should be Post graduation in the relevant discipline, apart from other conditions as specified.

AC 64.6.3

After detailed discussion, the Academic Council approved the Modification in eligibility criteria for appointing Academic Counselors (AC) and Programme In-Charge as under:

(a) Change in the Norms for appointing Academic Counselors (Course Wise)

Courses	Existing Norms for ACs	Modified Norms as Approved by School Board
Fundamentals of Adolescence CNS AH-001 Issues and Challenges During Adolescence CNS AH-002	School Teachers having five years experience of teaching the middle , secondary and Higher Secondary School and a master trainer (attended the training Programme Planned by IGNOU, SOHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSC Nursing in Pediatric Nursing, Community Health Nursing and OBG Nursing with one year of teaching experience. • Post Graduate in psychology, Child Development, PSM, Pediatrics, Obs Gyne with 1 year of teaching experience.
Skills related to Adolescent Health and Counseling CNS-AHL-001		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSC Nursing in pediatric, community health nursing and OBG with 1 year of working/teaching experience Or • Post Graduate in psychology, Child Development, PSM,

		Paediatrics, Obs Gyne with 1 year of working/teaching experience.
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(b) Change in the Norms for appointing Programme In-charge

Existing Norms for PIC	Modified Norms as Approved by School Board
The Programme In-charge will be Principal of the School or Head of the Organization/NGO	Head of the Institution or a person nominated by head with Post Graduation having 5 years experience.

The Council further decided that the minimum academic qualification for being an Academic Counselor for the above programme should be at least Post graduation in the relevant discipline, apart from other conditions as specified.

The SOHS should ensure that any modification in norms for Programme Study Centre should be in conformity with the IGNOU norms.

ITEM NO. 7 To consider and approve Phase-2 Form (New Version) for Diploma in Early Childhood Development and Education, including revised Programme Structure – SOCE.

AC 64.7.1 The Member Secretary informed the Academic Council that the School of Continuing Education has submitted Phase-2 Form (New Version) for Diploma in Early Childhood Development and Education, including the revised Programme Structure.

The matter was placed before the Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 39th meeting held on 21st May 2015 (ACSC 39.15) and the ACSC had observed that the proposed Diploma in Early Childhood Development and Education was of 58 credits, and of 2 year duration which is a deviation from standard practice of the University on nomenclature and number of credits for a Diploma Programme. Accordingly, the Academic Council's Standing Committee had decided to refer the proposal to the Academic Council for a wider discussion as a separate Agenda in the light of the observations of the 39th ACSC (ACSC 39.15.2).

AC 64.7.2 Director, SOCE informed that subsequent to the 39th meeting of the ACSC, the Programme Coordinator was advised to take a relook at the programme with respect to its duration and nomenclature. Accordingly, the programme has been renamed as the Advanced Diploma in Early Childhood Development of 2 years duration with an exit point after 1 year as Diploma in Early Childhood Development. The credit weightage has been enhanced from 58 to 64 credits. Minimum eligibility

qualification for admission is being kept as graduation in any discipline.

The matter was discussed in detail. It was observed that though the programme structure has been revised, the same was yet to be approved by the School Board of School of Continuing Education. The Council decided that the revised proposal may first be placed before the School Board and recommendations of the School Board may be placed before Academic Council's Standing Committee for its consideration.

AC 64.7.3 With the above observations, the Academic Council decided to refer the matter back to SOCE for placing it in the School Board and subsequent resubmission.

ITEM NO. 8 To consider and approve the Re-launch of Certificate in Diabetes Care for Community Worker (CDCW) Programme – SOHS

AC 64.8.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that School of Health Science had submitted a proposal to re-launch Certificate in Diabetes Care for Community Worker (CDCW) programme. CDCW programme was launched in July 2009. In order to modify the implementation strategy, the programme was put on hold by the 50th School Board meeting of the School of Health Sciences (SOHS) held on 4th February 2013. Review Committee meeting was held to revise the implementation strategy. The School Board of SOHS in its 57th meeting held on 16th January 2015 approved the re-launch of the CDCW programme and the revised implementation strategy. The proposal for its re-launch and modification in implementation strategy was discussed in Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 39th meeting held on 21st May 2015 (ACSC 39.21). ACSC noted that in the revised implementation strategy there is a change in number of counseling hours in theory and practical sessions and also attendance and ACSC had decided to refer the proposal to the Academic Council since the earlier norms were approved by it.

AC 64.8.2 After detailed discussion, the Academic Council approved the proposal of School Of Health Sciences to re-launch the Certificate in Diabetes Care for Community Worker (CDCW) programme along with the modified implementation strategy (**Annexure 6**). The Council further decided that the minimum academic qualification for an Academic Counselor and Programme In-charge for above programmes should be at least Post graduation in the relevant discipline, apart from other conditions as specified and as approved by the ACSC.

ITEM NO. 9 Revision of Essential Qualifications of Academic Counselors for PGDPSM – SOVET

AC 64.9.1 The Member Secretary informed that the matter related to revision in essential qualifications of Academic Counselors for PG Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sales Management programme was placed before the Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 39th meeting held on 21st May 2015 (ACSC 39.26) and the ACSC in turn decided to refer the matter to Academic Council since the earlier norms were approved by it.

Dr Ashok Kumar Gaba, Director, School of Vocational Education and Training informed that presently the essential and desirable qualifications of Academic Counselors for PG Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sales Management Programme are limited to Pharmacy Graduates and Post-Graduates for the Courses MVE001-MVE004. However, since some of the regions do not have Pharmacy Colleges, no experts or academic counselors are available in those regions. Therefore, the proposal to revise the qualifications of Academic Counselors was placed before the School Board which had recommended the same.

AC 64.9.2 The matter was discussed in detail. Concerns related to housing the above programme in SOVET were raised by the members since this is a specialized programme in the area of Pharmaceutical Sales Management and SOVET may not have enough expertise to handle this programme. Therefore this concern needed to be addressed. However, members felt that till such time a decision on relocation of this programme, if any is taken, the programme can continue to be housed in SOVET.

AC 64.9.3 With above observations the Academic Council approved the revised essential qualifications of Academic Counselors for PG Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sales Management programme as proposed by the SOVET (**Annexure 7**).

The Council also decided to refer the matter related to future relocation of this programme to the Committee of Experts constituted by the Academic Council to have a fresh look at the schools of studies, keeping in view the present functions, scope of expansion and allocation of Disciplines among the various schools of studies.

ITEM NO. 10 To ratify the decision taken by the Vice Chancellor to approve the minutes of the AEC for extension of one more year to students of PG Diploma in HIV Medicine (PGDHIVM) programme beyond their maximum three years period - SOHS.

AC 64.10.1 The Member Secretary requested Director, SOHS to present the Agenda.

Director, SOHS informed that the School of Health Sciences, IGNOU had developed a one-year PG Diploma in HIV Medicine (PGDHIVM) Programme in collaboration with the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Govt. of India. A total of 120 students were enrolled in 6 Centres of Excellence (COE) as designated by NACO in January 2012 session. It was proposed that all these COE will be activated as Programme Study Centre (PSC) for the training of PGDHIVM programme. B J Medical College Ahmedabad, School of Tropical Medicine Kolkata and Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi were activated as PSC in 2012 for the PGDHIVM programme. However, PGIMER Chandigarh, CMC Vellore and GHTM Tambaram, Chennai could not be activated as PSC due to operational issues. Students need to undergo 28 days hands-on skill training at Medical College and 30 days training at ART centre in this programme.

Students assigned to the CMC Vellore and GHTM Tambaram, Chennai were transferred to STM Kolkata and BJ Medical College Ahmedabad, respectively and completed their training in 2014. Students of PGDHIVM can complete one year programme in maximum three years period. All the candidates of PGIMER were admitted in January 2012 session however they have not received any opportunity for practical training and the maximum three years duration is completed in December, 2014. During these three years, students from PGIMER Chandigarh did not get any opportunity for practical training. One student approached Court and obtained an Order to get refund of his programme fee of Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand only) since IGNOU had failed to provide practical training in this programme. IGNOU refunded his programme fee as per Orders of the Court.

She further informed that now, BJ Medical College Ahmedabad was ready for training of the students of PGIMER Chandigarh and already three contact practical training programmes were over by 9th April, 2015. The remaining 4th contact spell and SDC training would be completed by December, 2015 for all these students. All these students had not received identity card since their maximum duration was over. They had also submitted their examination form for June, 2015 TEE. Hall ticket would not be generated if the approval for the extension for one more year beyond the maximum 3 years duration was not obtained.

Accordingly, the School Board of School of Health Sciences in its 57th meeting held on 16th January, 2015 considered and suggested that approval from Vice Chancellor be taken to extend the duration by one more year beyond their maximum three years so that these students could get opportunity to complete their programme. The Admission cum

Examination Committee (AEC) in its meeting held on 30th April, 2015 agreed that these students were not at fault and should be given opportunity to complete their training. Understanding the urgent need of the approval, Committee suggested that approval from Vice Chancellor may be obtained so that the hall ticket for TEE June, 2015 and identity card could be issued. The Committee also suggested that the SOHS should seek the ratification by the Academic Council. Therefore, Vice Chancellor approved the minutes of the AEC and accordingly, hall tickets and Id cards to these students have been issued.

AC 64.10.2

After detailed discussions, the Academic Council decided to ratify the decision taken by the Vice Chancellor to approve the extension of one more year to students of PG Diploma in HIV Medicine (PGDHIVM) programme beyond their maximum three years period, and that this facility would be available for one year i.e. June 2015 and December 2015 examinations (**Annexure 8**).

The Committee also authorized the Vice Chancellor to take decisions on such exigencies to mitigate the hardship faced by the students due to lack of support services.

ITEM NO. 11

To consider and approve the recommendations of the Committee constituted to examine the issue related to providing the unlimited chance to the students with disabilities - SED.

AC 64.11.1

The Member Secretary informed the Academic Council that a Committee was constituted to examine the issue related to providing the unlimited chance to the students with disabilities, which has submitted its report and requested the Registrar, SED to explain the agenda in detail. Registrar, Student Evaluation Division informed that Court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in a Court case had advised the University to allow additional attempt to a student with disability to appear in the examination without taking re-admission. The Court also advised the University to re-visit its policies on imposing such restrictions on students with disabilities and make provision for giving unlimited chances to the students with disabilities to complete various courses. In the light of above, a Committee had been constituted which had submitted its recommendations.

The recommendations of the Committee were discussed in detail. The Council expressed its commitment to extend all possible support to students with disability.

AC 64.11.2 After detailed discussions, the Academic Council reiterated its commitment of the University for the educational wellbeing of the persons with disabilities and resolved as under:

- (i) The maximum duration for completion of a Programme of study may be extended by 2 years beyond maximum prescribed duration. It will be applicable only for those students with disability who are covered under it by the definition provided by the Government of India from time to time.

Illustration: In case of Programmes where maximum duration is 4 years, by adding 2 years the total duration would be 6 years; similarly for Programmes where maximum duration is 6 years, by adding 2 years the total duration would be 8 years; and so on.

- (ii) In case of students with disabilities, the provision of re-admission should be applicable after the extended duration expires for which no fees will be charged by the University.

ITEM NO. 12 To ratify the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor permitting the students of BNS Programme to appear in the Term End Examination-SOET.

AC 64.12.1 Director SOET informed that B.Sc. (Nautical Science), in association with the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Mumbai was launched in August 2004 as the "Diploma in Nautical Science (DNS) leading to B.Sc. (Nautical Science)". The BNS programme has a minimum duration of three (03) years and maximum duration of Six (06) years. Accordingly, since the programmes was in project mode, the last TEE was to be conducted in December, 2014.

On formation of Indian Maritime University (IMU), Chennai through an Act of Parliament in 2008 and due to the non-renewal of MoU by the Directorate General of Shipping, no new admissions were permitted after February, 2009 (Admission Cycle-January, 2009) and the maximum validity period of admission of this last batch also came to an end in December, 2014.

During the initial formative years, the information flow relating marks etc. and the reflection of the same in the Grade Card on IGNOU website had some delays and in the process many students could not find out whether they successfully cleared course(s). Many students could not complete their degree due to the non-completion of few courses and the period of re-admission also got over. Since, these students spend most of their time onboard a ship, they remain a bit disconnected. Therefore, to facilitate all such students who could not complete all the

requirements of degree programme, the Admission-cum-Examination Committee recommended that two additional opportunities be allowed to them to appear in Two TEEs (in June-2015 and December-2015). Accordingly, keeping in view the exigencies, the permission to allow in TEE June-2015 was granted by the Vice-Chancellor.

AC 64.12.2 Noting the exigency, the Council ratified the permission granted by the Vice Chancellor to allow the students of BNS/DNS programme who could not complete the programme, to appear in TEE June-2015. The Council also decided to grant one additional opportunity to these students by allowing them to appear in TEE December – 2015.

ITEM NO. 13 To consider and approve the conduct of Laboratory courses in the Laboratories of the School of Sciences, IGNOU - SOS

AC 64.13.1 The Director, SOS informed that the School of Sciences had well-equipped Laboratories, which could be used to conduct the laboratory courses in its programmes. The Laboratories can, at any given time, cater to at least 25 to 30 students. If the laboratory courses are conducted in each Discipline-based laboratory in the School round the year, about 12 batches of students (over 350 students) can benefit from this facilitation. This practice was already followed in the conduct of Physics Laboratory courses.

It was further suggested by Director, SOS that all Laboratories of the School of Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Life Sciences) have been set up for curriculum development. These should be optimally utilized for conducting laboratory courses in various programmes of the School, in view of the huge backlog of students who faced difficulties in completing their laboratory courses at the existing Study Centres. Such a measure would not only mitigate the hardship of the students but also facilitate the timely completion of the degree by students enrolled in the Laboratory based programmes of the School. To facilitate the conduct of laboratory courses in these Laboratories the University may appoint contractual Faculty/Consultants and/or Academic Counselors as per University norms along with contractual laboratory staff as per the norms approved for Study Centres.

AC 64.13.2 The matter was discussed in detail. Some Members raised the concerns that providing such a facility to Delhi/NCR students and not to others would not be appropriate as it will privilege students from these regions only and might invite litigations. Appointing manpower for Labs will be a financial liability to the University. Also outstations students desirous of attending laboratory courses on the IGNOU campus may have to incur additional expenditure and the University would have to provide hostel

facilities on a concessional rate which may not be feasible presently. Moreover, since student has been allotted a Study Centre, the concerned Study Centre should provide requisite opportunity for lab work. If need be, the University should activate more Study Centres across various Regions to conduct the laboratory courses for clearing the backlog of laboratory work. It was also suggested that instead a Model Study Centre may be created at the headquarters of the University. However, creating a Study centre involves many other aspects for which a comprehensive proposal needs to be developed. Some members pointed out that asking students to come to headquarters may be against the basic structural framework of an Open University. It was further opined that the lab work to be performed at the Study centres should not be taken up at the headquarters.

The Council also noted that the matter regarding providing improved services and learning experiences to learners in the Laboratory Courses was considered by the Academic Council in its 63rd meeting (AC 63.10), wherein the Director, SOS was asked to work with Regional Services Division and formulate the policy of location of Labs in the Regional Centres depending upon the number of students, facilities available etc. at the Study Centre (AC 63.10.2). However, the policy is yet to be placed before the Council.

Director, SOS informed that a proposal for establishment of laboratories in the cities of Regional Centres having substantial enrolment in B.Sc. had been submitted to the Vice Chancellor and the Regional Services Division was working on it.

AC 64.13.3 After detailed discussion, the Academic Council did not accept the proposal of School of Sciences in the present form and suggested that a Committee of Directors of concerned Schools of Studies with Director RSD as a member may be constituted to develop a comprehensive proposal for the creation of a modal Study Centre at IGNOU headquarters in the light of concerns raised by the members.

The Council also authorized the Vice Chancellor to take appropriate steps for clearing the backlog for conduct of laboratory courses, if any.

ITEM NO. 14 To consider and approve the proposal for establishment of Study Centres outside India- International Division.

AC 64.14.1 The Member Secretary informed that in order to meet the increasing demand of the Academic programmes of IGNOU among Foreign countries, especially in the gulf region, an enabling provision was made by the Govt of India by way of an amendment in the IGNOU Act - The IGNOU (Amendment Act, 1997) vide which the following proviso to sub-

section (2) under Section 3 and Section 6 of IGNOU act, 1985 was added:

Sub-section (2) under Section 3: The headquarters of the University shall be at Delhi and it may establish or maintain colleges, Regional Centres and Study Centres at such other places in India as it may deem fit.

Provided that the University may, with the prior approval of the Visitor, also establish Study Centres outside India.

Section 6: The University shall in the exercise of its powers have jurisdiction over the whole of India and to the Study Centres outside India

Accordingly, IGNOU's academic operations were extended to a number of countries and also through various projects to African countries as well. Consequently, the University had been offering a number of its academic programmes at Institutions in various countries through, called Partner Institutions (PIs).

As per the information received from International Division which coordinates the Overseas operations of the University in terms of establishment of PIs, admissions and examinations of students etc enrolled thereunder, until recently, IGNOU has had 29 such Partner Institutions (PIs) – to be called Overseas Study Centres (OSCs) in a number of countries in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. These OSCs offered a number of academic programmes of IGNOU. The list of the 29 PIs and the academic programmes offered by them is given at **Annexure 9(a)**.

In order to validate IGNOU's operations outside India, it was felt that approval of the Visitor is required to be obtained for establishing Overseas Study Centres (OSCs) as per Section 3 (2) of IGNOU Act. The University asked these OSCs to provide details of physical infrastructure possessed by them and academic resources available, afresh. Simultaneously, the Indian Embassy / Indian High Commission in the countries concerned were requested to verify the credentials of these Overseas Study Centres and the willingness of the Indian Embassy / Indian High Commission to facilitate the University in its academic endeavour including smooth and fair conduct of examination.

The University has received details from following 9 (nine) OSCs as well as the reports of Indian Embassy / Indian High Commission in the countries concerned.

S. No.	Name and Code of the Overseas Study Centre
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1.	International Centre for Academics, Kathmandu, Nepal (9602)
2.	Glory Institute, Sultanate of Oman, Muscat (5905)
3.	Regent International, Gampaha, Srilanka ((9702)
4.	St. Mary's University College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (8105)
5.	Nepal Information Technology Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu, Nepal (9604)
6.	Gulf Centre for University Education, Kuwait (5704)
7.	Open University of Mauritius (7202), Mauritius
8.	Centre for Open and Distance Education, Kenya (9401)
9.	Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC), Ivory Coast (8203)

A brief of the infrastructure available and the recommendations made by the concerned Indian High Commission / Embassy of above 09 OSCs is given at **Annexure 9(b)**.

Accordingly, the University recommended to the Ministry of Human Resource Development the continuance of the above 9 (nine) OSCs in various countries primarily based on the reports received from the Indian Embassy / Indian High Commission about the standing and credentials of these OSCs. In addition, the University also kept in view student enrolment, student pass-out in these OSCs and revenue generated by them while making the recommendations. A proposal in this regard was made to the MHRD for post facto approval vide the University's letter No. IG/ID/MOU/2014/8718 dated 17th Nov., 2014.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development vide its letter no.5-28/2014-DL (pt.) dated 9th January, 2015 has conveyed the following:

"After detailed examination of the same, it has been observed that IGNOU had established these PIs in violation of the provisions of the Statutes of the University and, therefore, the continuance of these Centres is not allowed when ab initio they have been established without the Visitor's approval. However, in the overall interest of the students who have already been enrolled in these 29 OSCs abroad, it has been decided in the Ministry that IGNOU should take care of all these students enrolled under various courses / programmes by way of conducting their examinations and thereby awarding of requisite certificates / diplomas and degrees to them as a one time measure only."

The University had already kept fresh admission of overseas students through the PIs in abeyance since July, 2014 admission session. However, re-registration of existing overseas students, conduct of Term End Examination and one time admission of BPP qualified students in BDP have been allowed by the University.

Under these circumstances, a proposal to approach the MHRD afresh for obtaining the approval of the Honorable Visitor for establishment of Overseas Study Centres (OSCs) in 9 (nine) of the Centres mentioned above, in view of the infrastructural facilities possessed by these OSCs, performance in terms of student enrolment, revenue generated and reports received from the Indian High Commission / Embassy in the respective countries about their standing & reputation was placed before the Board of Management at its 122nd meeting held on 25.4.2015. The Board of Management decided that a proposal would be sent to MHRD in this regard along with approval of the Academic Bodies of the University for establishment of Study Centres abroad.

The University is framing a revised "Memorandum of Understanding" incorporating changes reflecting the experience gained in monitoring the functioning and performance of the OSCs. The University would enter into a "Memorandum of Understanding" after approval of the Visitor is conveyed in respect of the nine OSCs mentioned above.

The matter was discussed in detail. The members were in agreement with the steps taken by the University so far with regard to OSCs and resolved to forward the proposal for establishment of Overseas Study Centres (OSCs) in 9 (nine) of the existing Centres to Ministry of Human Resources Development for approval of the Visitor. However, Director, SOS was not in agreement with other members of the Council to approve and forward the proposal to MHRD as she wanted that the proposal with regard to infrastructural facilities and academic viability of these centres should first be examined by the concerned Schools and then the proposal may be sent to MHRD. However, all other members were of the opinion that this would further delay the process hampering IGNOUs presence abroad, and therefore, they were of the opinion that once the approval of the Visitor is received, the details would be forwarded to all Schools of Studies to suggest programmes that could be offered by these Centres on the basis of academic viability and other infrastructure available at these centres as per due requirements. Only after the recommendations of the concerned School Boards, a programme would be activated at these centres. However, Director, SOS requested that her note of dissent should be recorded.

AC 64.14.2 After detailed discussion, the Academic Council approved the proposal for establishment of Overseas Study Centres (OSCs) in 9 (nine) of the existing Centres and resolved to forward the proposal to Ministry of Human Resources Development for approval of the Visitor.

The Council also placed on record the Note of Dissent offered by Director, SOS to the above proposal.

ITEM NO. 15 To consider and approve putting of low enrolment programmes of School of Agriculture under abeyance –SOA

AC 64.15.1 The Member Secretary informed that the School of Agriculture is offering 20 programmes in agriculture and allied sectors ranging from awareness to doctorate. However, some of the programmes are having low enrolment continuously over a period of time. Therefore School has submitted a proposal to keep these programmes under abeyance.

The Academic Council sought to know the reasons for low enrollment and whether any steps have been taken to increase the enrolment in these programmes. The Director, SOA informed that the reasons of low enrollment are specific to the program which include limited target group, heavy practical load, less number of Study centres and specialized nature of programme etc. He further informed that these programmes require continuous maintenance and faculty remain engaged in preparing assignments, question paper and also evaluation work. Offering these programmes will keep consuming the resources. Moreover, already enrolled candidates will be helped to complete the programmes as per university norms. Thus, it was being proposed to put in these programmes in abeyance. He also informed that the School Board had suggested that a Bachelor programme be developed, combining these programmes, as considerable amount of resources and time have been invested in the development of these programmes and course materials.

The programmes which are having low enrolment are (1) Certificate in Beekeeping (CIB), (2) Diploma in Value Added Products from Fruits and Vegetables (DVAPFV), (3) Diploma in Meat Technology (DMT), (4) Diploma in Production of Value Added Products from Cereals, Pulses and Oilseeds (DPVCPO), (5) Diploma in Fish Products Technology (DFPT), (6) PG Diploma in Plantation Management (PGDPM), (7) PG Diploma in Food Science and Technology (PGDFT) - online.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Council was of the opinion that these are skill oriented programmes and therefore should not be discontinued. Efforts should be made by the School to take remedial

measures including translating these programmes in regional languages to strengthen communication, collaboration with National Cooperative Federation, ICAR and such other bodies etc. If need be, the School may be strengthened adequately so that these programmes can reach their target group effectively.

AC 64.15.2 With above observations, the Academic Council decided not to accept the proposal of SOA to discontinue these programme. The Council also directed the School to take remedial measures for increasing the enrolment in these programmes including translating these programmes in regional languages as and when necessary.

ITEM NO. 16 To report the renewal of MOU between IGNOU and IIBF to offer MBA (Banking and Financial Services) - SOMS.

AC 64.16.1 The Member Secretary informed that the IGNOU and the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (Earlier called the Indian Institute of Bankers) had entered into an MOU in 1998 to develop and offer MBA in Banking and Finance from School of Management Studies, IGNOU, for the career development of the Banking sector personnel. Consequently, MBA (Banking and Finance) programme had been exclusively developed and launched by IGNOU in July 1999 after due approvals of the Academic Council and the Board of Management.

The Director, School of Management Studies informed that all applications to the MBA Programme shall be made to the Registrar, Student Registration Division of IGNOU. All admissions shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the IGNOU. All the courses pertaining to this programme have been developed by IGNOU and copyright is with IGNOU for all these courses. The evaluation and certification is done by the SED, IGNOU as per the Rules, Ordinance and Statutes of IGNOU. There is no fee sharing arrangement with IIBF.

The tenure of the first MOU expired in 2003. A revised MOU was signed between IGNOU & IIBF on 20.3.2008 in which the IIBF had agreed to provide Rs. 5 Lakhs annually as a non refundable development grant to IGNOU to support the activities of the IGNOU-IIBF Endowment Chair. The IIBF has been remitting the annual grant every year during past 5 years. The MOU period of five years lapsed in March 2013.

The School Board of School of Management Studies considered and approved the extension of this MOU in its 31st meeting held on 21st January 2014. The matter was placed before the Academic Council in its 63rd meeting held on 20th November 2014. The Academic Council considered and approved the admission criteria as per the terms and

conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the University with Indian Institute of Banking and Finance for MBA (Banking and Finance) as per the requirement of the Bankers.

The matter was again placed before the 32nd School Board Meeting held on 25th November 2014 of the School of Management Studies to re-consider and approve the renewal of the MOU between IGNOU and IIBF to continue offering MBA (B&F) programme along with the specific eligibility for admission. The School Board reconsidered and approved the same. Accordingly, the MOU between IGNOU and the IIBF was renewed and duly signed on 20th April 2015, for a further period of five years from the day of the expiry of the previous MOU.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Council noted the Renewal of MoU between IGNOU and the IIBF to offer MBA (Banking and Financial Services). The Council observed that under the MoU a non-refundable development grant is given by IIBF to IGNOU annually which has been Rs. 5 Lakhs for several years. Therefore, the School should take up the matter with IIBF to increase this grant from the present Rs 5 Lakhs to Rs 10 Lakhs to support the activities of the IGNOU-IIBF Endowment Chair.

AC 64.16.2

The Academic Council considered and approved the renewal of MoU between IGNOU and the IIBF to offer MBA (Banking and Financial Services) duly signed on 20th April 2015, for a further period of five years from the day of the expiry of the previous MOU.

The Council also directed the School to take up the matter with IIBF to enhance the non refundable development grant provided by IIBF to IGNOU annually from the present Rs. 5 Lakhs to Rs 10 Lakhs to support the activities of the IGNOU-IIBF Endowment Chair.

ITEM NO. 17

Ratification of the decision taken by the Vice-Chancellor w.r.t change in the eligibility criteria for admission into MBA Programme for OPENMAT-XXXVI, XXXVII and XXXVIII – SOMS.

AC 64.17.1

Director, School of Management Studies (SOMS) informed that the School Board of the School of Management Studies (SOMS) in its 27th meeting held on March 12, 2012 approved the following revised eligibility criteria for admission into Management Programme:

1. Graduation in any discipline with 50% marks for general category/ 45% for reserved category, with 3 years' (post-qualification) managerial/supervisory/professional experience.

OR

Professional Degree with 50% marks in:

Engineering/Medicine/Chartered Accountancy (ICAI) Cost and Works Accountancy (ICWA)/Company Secretaryship (ICSI) Law.

2. Clearance of OPENMAT conducted by IGNOU.
3. There is no age bar.

The above mentioned revised criteria for admission into MBA Programme were implemented for OPENMAT-XXXIV and OPENMAT-XXXV.

She also informed that the decision of the School Board w.r.t. revised eligibility was also approved by the ACSC in its 34th meeting held on 15.06.2012 and by the Academic Council in its 59th meeting held on 13.09.2012.

The Vice Chancellor in his order dated May 8, 2014 directed removal of the "Post Qualification" clause from the eligibility criteria for OPENMAT – XXXVI. Subsequently, Vice-Chancellor in his order date 09.12.2014 and 07.04.2015 also directed continuance of the same change in the eligibility criteria for OPENMAT - XXXVII and XXXVIII respectively.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Vice Chancellor sought to know if the above eligibility criteria is as per the norms of AICTE and whether any approval is required from AICTE. The Director, SOMS informed that the above criteria is as per AICTE norms and approval of AICTE is not required.

AC 64.17.2

The Academic Council ratified the decision taken by the Vice Chancellor for change in the eligibility criteria for admission into MBA Programme for OPENMAT-XXXVI, XXXVII and XXXVIII by removing "Post Qualification" clause from the eligibility criteria. This change will continue till the Report of the Committee constituted by the Vice Chancellor on the matter is submitted and placed before the Academic Council. The Council also directed the School to ensure that norms of regulatory bodies are followed in offering the MBA programme.

ITEM NO. 18

To consider Refund of Programme Fee in case of Online Admission System – SRD.

AC 64.18.1

The Registrar, Student Registration Division informed that the Online Admission System was launched by the University on 7th May 2015 to facilitate the prospective learners to apply for admission online without any difficulty. The response of the students towards online admission system is overwhelming. However, in certain cases the students are seeking refund of programme fee due to various reasons. These cases

being peculiar in nature are not covered under the existing Refund Policy of the University as provided in the Common Prospectus which is as under:

"Fee once paid will not be refunded under any circumstances. It is also not adjustable against any other programme of this University. However, in cases where University denies admission, the programme fee will be refunded after deduction of processing fee, if any, through A/c Payee Cheque only."

The Registrar, SRD also informed that the students seek refund of Fee due to the following reasons:

- 1) Duplicate/multiple payments by the student for the same programme due to failure of online transaction.
- 2) Duplicate/multiple payments by the student for the different programmes in the same session.
- 3) Rejection /Cancellation of Admission Form by the Regional Centre due to non-fulfillment of minimum eligibility qualification/non-recognition of qualification or its equivalence/ due to commission of mistake/ concealment of information or otherwise by the student.
- 4) The student does not want to continue with the Programme and wants refund of programme fee.
- 5) Cases where the University decides to withdraw the programme due to any reason after receipt of the admission form.

A proposal on refund of fee alongwith the necessary guidelines issued by MHRD dated 20th April 2007 and UGC dated 22nd June 2011 with regard to refund of fee were also placed before the Council for its consideration.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Council observed that while it is justifiable to refund the fee in cases where duplicate/multiple payments have been made by the student for the same programme due to failure of online transaction or for different programmes in the same session; or where the University decides to withdraw the programme due to any reason after receipt of the admission form; or in cases where University denies admission. However in cases where the student does not want to continue with the Programme and wants refund of programme fee after confirmation of admission, it may not be appropriate to refund the fee since University would have incurred expenses on processing of application and dispatch of SLM etc.

AC 64.18.2 The Council advised that it would be appropriate that a Committee be constituted that will look into various implications of fee refund policy. However, till such time the Committee submits its report and a decision is taken thereon, the refund of fee in cases where duplicate/multiple payments have been made by the student for the same programme due to failure of online transaction or for different programmes in the same session; or where the University decides to withdraw the programme due to any reason after receipt of the admission form; or in cases where University denies admission will be there. However, if a candidate obtained admission or was denied admission on account of submission of fake/ forged documents, no refund shall be allowed.

AC 64.18.3 With above observations and with a view to facilitating the Online Admission System, Academic Council decided the refund of programme fee as under:

a) If a student has finally submitted the Admission Form through Online Admission System, the cost of Prospectus i.e. Rs.200/- will not be refunded in any circumstances in the cases from 2 to 4 above.

b) The Registration Fee wherever applicable will not be refunded in all cases from 2 to 4 above.

c) The cases falling under point No. 1 to 5 may be dealt with as under:

Case 1: Fee equivalent to ONE programme to be retained. Programme fee for remaining attempts to be refunded without any deduction including the cost of prospectus.

Case 2: Fee equivalent to ONE programme to be retained as per choice of the student. Fee for remaining programme(s) will be refunded subject to a) and b) above and to the condition that the student makes a request for refund before the closure of the date of admission or within 30 days of submission of online admission form.

Case 3: Full Programme fee will be refunded subject to a) and b) above and to the condition that the student makes a request for refund before the closure of the date of admission or within 30 days of submission of online admission form, *whichever is earlier*. Provided that, if a candidate obtained admission or was denied admission on account of submission of fake/ forged documents, no refund shall be allowed.

Case 4: A Committee to be constituted to look into implications of fee refund policy. The report of the Committee to be placed for consideration of Academic Council in its next meeting.

Case 5: Full Programme fee to be refunded without any deduction including the cost of prospectus and /or registration fee.

- d) The Refund will be reverted to the same Debit/Credit/Net Banking Account from where the payment has been received. However, where validity of the Debit/Credit Card expires in-between, and the bank accepts the refund in spite of expiry of validity of the Card, the user will be responsible for getting the money of refund from such bank. In cases where the refund is not accepted by the Bank under the said Credit/Debit Card account, the refund of fee will be made through A/c Payee Cheque by the RD concerned after ascertaining such reversal of refund back to IGNOU Account.

ITEM NO. 19 To consider and approve vertical mobility of the associate degree holders of Armed Forces Community Colleges scheme (Akashdeep and Gyandeeep) into 3rd year of Bachelor's Degree Programme (B.A., B.Com) - Defence Unit

AC 64.19.1

The Member Secretary informed that the Army IGNOU Community College Project (Gyandeeep) was initiated on 4th September, 2009. The basic premise of the MOU was that IGNOU would recognize the prior learning done by Army Personnel through their in-service training. Another MoU on more or less similar lines was inked on 20th October 2010 between IGNOU & Indian Air Force (Akashdeep).

For commencing of registration of the successful students under Akashdeep and Gyandeeep under Vertical Mobility into B.A./B.COM./B.SC. 3rd Year, respective Schools (SOS, SOSS and SOMS) were requested for finalization of courses and modalities etc. For Vertical Mobility under Akashdeep and Gyandeeep into B.A. 3rd year and B.Com. 3rd year and B.Sc. (Hons) in Applied Sciences for completing the 32 credits under 3rd Year for earning a 96 credit Graduation degree, the recommendations of School of Social Sciences, School of Management Studies and School of Sciences are placed at **annexures 10, 11 and 12**, respectively.

The matter with respect to fee revision from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 3000/- for registration into 3rd year of B.A. and B.Com has been revised on approval of the Vice Chancellor. It was also proposed to consider a fee hike of base fee for re-registration into 3rd year of Bachelor's Degree Programme (B. Sc.) under Vertical Mobility from Rs. 3500/- to Rs. 5000/- on similar lines as the Associate Degree holders are either salaried or pensioners and University will have to put in extra effort and manpower for extending the support services etc.

The Member Secretary informed that the Academic Council had already considered and approved the following in respect of Project Gyandeeep and Akashdeep:

1. 52nd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 20th April, 2010 - Item No. 29: Approval to award Certificate/Diploma/Associate

- Degree to the Army Personnel Registered under Army IGNOU Community Colleges.
2. 53rd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 27th September, 2010 – Item No. 66: Regarding vertical mobility of Associate Degree holders of Army IGNOU Community Colleges under Gyandeeep Project into IGNOU Under-graduate Programmes (B.A./B.Com/B.Sc./BTS).
 3. 55th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 5th April, 2011 – Item No. 41: To Consider and approve the Report of the Committee constituted by the Hon. Vice Chancellor, IGNOU on Vertical Mobility of the Associate Degree Programme offered by Army-IGNOU Community Colleges to Degree Programmes by offering additional 32 Credit courses of IGNOU BDP.
 4. 57th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 24th August, 2011 – Item No. 14: Regarding approval to the proposal to confer educational certifications to the Airmen and NC's of the Indian Air Force within the parameters laid down by IGNOU through its Community College Scheme, recognizing the 'In Service Training/Courses' undergone by them.

The Member Secretary informed that in addition to above agenda received from Defence Unit, recommendations of the School Board of School of Sciences on the programme structure and list of Courses to be prescribed for award of a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Applied Sciences to holders of Associate degree in Science from Indian Defence Services have also been received (**Annexure 12**).

On the basis of the above, the following proposal was placed for consideration of the Academic Council:

1. Those who have already completed 10 +2 or its equivalent and holding Associate Degree under Gyandeeep or Akashdeep will be offered 3rd Year registration under Vertical Mobility in the following manner:
 - i. Associate Degree holders in Arts will only be eligible for registration into 3rd Year of B.A., under lateral entry.
 - ii. Associate Degree holders in Commerce will only be eligible for registration into 3rd Year of B.Com, under lateral entry.
 - iii. Associate Degree holders in Science will only be eligible for registration into 3rd Year of B.Sc. (Hons.) in Applied Sciences, under lateral entry.
2. Commencing of registration under Vertical Mobility of the

students (enrolled in Akashdeep and Gyandeeep) who have been awarded/will be awarded Associate Degree into 3rd year of Bachelor's Degree Programme (B.A. and B.Com and B.Sc. (Hons) in Applied Sciences).

3. List of courses, registration forms and other modalities duly approved by the respective Schools for registration for Vertical Mobility of the successful students under Akashdeep and Gyandeeep into 3rd Year of B.A. and B.Com. and B.Sc. (Hons) Applied Sciences as placed above at **Annexure 10, 11 and 12**, respectively.
4. A fee hike of base fee for registration in 3rd year of Bachelor's Degree Programme (B.A., and B.Com) under Vertical Mobility from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 3000/- and for B.Sc. from. Rs. 3500/- to Rs. 5000/-.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Council was of the view that this should be a special one time measure for allowing the already admitted students under Gyandeeep and Akashdeep projects to complete the respective programmes. It should not be taken as precedence.

AC 64.19.2

After detailed discussions, the Academic Council approved the vertical mobility of the associate degree holders of Armed Forces Community Colleges scheme (Akashdeep and Gyandeeep) into 3rd year of Bachelor's Degree Programme (BA, B.Com. and B.Sc. (Hons) in Applied Sciences) **as one time measure for already registered students in these Schemes only** as under.

1. Those who have already completed 10 +2 or its equivalent and holding Associate Degree under Gyandeeep or Akashdeep will be offered 3rd Year registration under Vertical Mobility in the following manner:
 - i. Holders of Associate Degree in Arts will only be eligible for registration into 3rd Year of B.A., for the courses listed in **Annexure 10** under lateral entry.
 - ii. Holders of Associate Degree in Commerce will only be eligible for registration into 3rd Year of B.Com, for the courses listed in **Annexure 11** under lateral entry.
 - iii. Holders of Associate Degree in Science will only be eligible for registration into 3rd Year of B.Sc. (Hons.) in Applied Sciences, for the courses listed in **Annexure 12** under lateral entry.
2. Commencing of registration under Vertical Mobility of the students (enrolled in Akashdeep and Gyandeeep) who have been awarded/will

be awarded Associate Degree into 3rd year of Bachelor's Degree Programme (B.A., B.Com and B.Sc. (Hons.) in Applied Sciences).

3. List of courses, registration forms and other modalities duly approved by the respective School Boards for registration for Vertical Mobility of the successful students under Akashdeep and Gyandeeep into 3rd Year of B.A., B.Com. and B.Sc. (Hons.) in Applied Sciences as placed at **Annexure 10, 11 and 12, respectively** are adopted. The Courses will, however, be offered through respective Regional Centres.
4. The Associate Degree holders in Science under above Schemes will be admitted to 3rd year for the award of the degree of B.Sc. (Hons.) in applied Sciences as a one time measure. Only existing students admitted in Akshdeep and Gyandeeep for the Associate Degree in Science till January 2012 be enrolled in the 3rd year of B.Sc. (Hons) in Applied Sciences.
5. There will be a fee hike in base fee for registration in 3rd year of Bachelor's Degree Programme (B.A., and B.Com) under Vertical Mobility from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 3000/- and for B.Sc. (Hons.) in Applied Sciences it will Rs. 5000/-.

The Council also directed the Defence Unit to oversee the effective implementation of this scheme and facilitate the Regional Services Division and concerned Schools of Studies with required support for completion of above activity.

ITEM NO. 20 To consider and approve the Scheme on Choice Based Credit System - SRD.

AC 64.20.1

The Chairperson informed that the Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD, vide his letter DO No. 20-104/2014-desk U, dated 14th November, 2014 addressed to the Vice Chancellors of all Central Universities forwarded the UGC Guidelines on adoption of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and stressed the need for implementation of the same so as to have mobility of students across Higher Educational Institution (HEIs) and that the credits earned by the students can be transferred. The CBCS scheme was proposed to be implemented from the academic year 2015-16. Implementation of the CBCS is also one of the key recommendations in the Gist of Observations made by Hon'ble President of India as Visitor of the University in the conference of Vice Chancellors of Central Universities held in February 2015. The University has constituted a committee to see the modalities for the adoption of uniform CBCS in IGNOU. The matter was also discussed in the 40th meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee held on 8th June, 2015 and it

was decided to place the matter relating to CBCS in the forthcoming meeting of the Academic Council. In the recent meeting held on 8th July 2015 at Vigyan Bhavan, all Central University Vice Chancellors had agreed in principle to implement CBCS in their respective Universities.

The Member Secretary informed that the Committee constituted by the Vice Chancellor for examining the adoption of UGC's guidelines on Choice Based Credit System, deliberated and examined the CBCS Scheme in its three meetings held so far. The broad view which emerged in the meetings is as under:

1. There was consensus that CBCS could be implemented in IGNOU once the Academic Council approved the overall policy framework for the CBCS. The respective School Boards would work out strategies for adjusting the syllabi, credit weightage of each programme and the evaluation methodologies of the courses before implementation of CBCS at IGNOU.
2. The annual programmes need to be converted to Semester System.
3. Equivalence of one credit 15 hours of teaching in F2F teaching vis-à-vis one credit to 30 hours of student learning at IGNOU is to be worked out.
4. IGNOU has been granting credit transfer in case of other universities only upto 50% credits and such a learner has to earn balance 50% credits from IGNOU. This needs a relook and consideration for implementation of CBCS.
5. Recognition of IGNOU Diploma/ Degree(s) alongside seamless transition (Credit transfer facility) by other universities to IGNOU learners needs to be negotiated.
6. Migration of old students to new batches consequent upon change of syllabi and credit combination(s) will be difficult. Hence, an effective strategy is to be worked out for covering the old students to a logical end through viable solution.
7. Steps may be taken to offer 'Pass' and 'Honours' Degree in undergraduate programmes as in conventional Universities instead of present practice of giving BA/B.Sc/B.Com and BA/B.Sc/B.Com with Major by IGNOU.
8. The five-point grading system and numerical grading at IGNOU needs to be converted to 10 point letter grading system as per CBCS pattern suggested by UGC.

The matter related to CBCS Scheme alongwith the recommendations of the Committee held so far was discussed in detail. The Council observed

that IGNOU alongwith other Open Universities had already been following most aspects of CBCS for several years and therefore, implementation of the CBCS Scheme would not be a major problem. Due to the inherent nature of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system, the preparatory work requires more time, hence the CBCS scheme be implemented from academic session from Jan/July 2016.

AC 64.20.2 After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the adoption of Choice Based Credit System Scheme of UGC and directed the Schools to devise strategies for implementation of CBCS from coming Academic session (Jan/July 2016) in a phased manner.

ITEM NO. 21 To consider and approve the issuing of Notification to M.Phil/Ph.D students on successful completion of their viva voca examination – Research Unit.

AC 64.21.1 The Member Secretary informed that the Research Unit has been receiving requests from students for the issue of Provisional Certificates/Notification consequent upon the successful completion of their viva-voca examinations. This is crucial for them since many have applied for teaching positions in various Colleges and Universities across the country and they need to submit a document stating that they have successfully completed all the requirements for the Award of M.Phil/Ph.d degree.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Council noted that as per the Clause 12 of the Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes "A student shall be awarded the MPhil/PhD Degree, with the approval of the Academic Council, provided that the corresponding evaluation report given by the Examiners is satisfactory".

The Academic Council noted that on the recommendations of the External Evaluators and Board of Examiners, the thesis submitted by students for award of MPhil/PhD Degree in various Disciplines across the Schools is approved by the Vice Chancellor. Then after the approval of the Academic Council's Standing Committee, the Notification is issued by the Students Evaluation Division to the students. Subsequently, the matter is reported to the Academic Council. However, since the meetings of ACSC and AC are held after a time gap, this causes a delay in declaration of result and issue of notification to these students. Therefore, in order to mitigate the hardship faced by MPhil/PhD students, a notification may be issued to M.Phil/Ph.D students on successful completion of their viva voce examination.

AC 64.21.2 After detailed discussions, the Academic Council approved the issuing of

notification to M.Phil/Ph.D students on successful completion of their viva vocea examination with the approval of Vice Chancellor.

ITEM NO. 22 To consider the matter related to signing of MoU between IGNOU and FDDI – SOET

AC 64.22.1

The Member Secretary informed that the matter is related to signing of MoU between IGNOU and Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) and requested Director, School of Engineering Technology to present the Agenda. Prof P. Srinivas Kumar, Director, SOET informed that under the collaboration with Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), an institute under the Ministry of Commerce, IGNOU had launched various programmes in Footwear Technology to train and upgrade the skills of the workers engaged in footwear sector.

In the collaborative project, the MoU was signed on 26th August 2003 for a period of 3 years. The term of MoU had been extended two times for subsequent next three years for the purpose. In July 2010, three degree programmes and five PG Degree level Programmes were also launched under the IGNOU-FDDI Project. The term of IGNOU-FDDI MoU had been expired on August 25, 2012 and there is no further renewal for this MoU. In this regard, SOET, IGNOU had issued a letter to FDDI with regard to the expiry of MoU and also informed them verbally about the University's decision.

The Member Secretary informed that the Board of Management of IGNOU, in its 113th Meeting held on 31st May, 2012 had decided to review the Convergence and Community Colleges Scheme and all the Academic Programmes offered under various Memorandum of Understanding entered into by the IGNOU with other Educational Institutions, Organizations etc. Until such revision is made, the admission in all academic programmes for July 2012 cycles under these schemes were kept in abeyance. A notification was issued by Registrar (SRD), No. IG/SRD/Notification/2012 dated 9th August, 2012 and there is no fresh admission from July 2012 for the above mentioned programmes. The matter was also considered by the Board of Management in its 117th meeting held on 5th January 2013 under item No. 117.2.1 and the BOM has decided that (i) all MOUs/MoCs/MoAs entered by Centres/Division/Units for offering of programmes of studies without consultation with the concerned Schools shall be withdrawn/discontinued. However, MOUs, for establishment of PIs under International Division shall be allowed to continue, and (ii) MOUs for face to face programme and for the short-term non credit courses without ODL component and clear fee sharing principles shall be

discontinued.

Accordingly, the matter was placed before the 60th meeting of the Academic Council held on 16th March 2013, and the Academic Council as per its decision (AC 60.6.2) approved the withdrawal of 234 programmes which also included various programmes offered under collaboration of FDDI and SOET.

The Member Secretary further informed that the Board of Management as per a decision taken in its 118th meeting held on 15th June 2013 (BM 118.21.1) had approved the 19 Point recommendations for signing of the future MoUs with other organization/institution, especially that it has to be ensured that in all MOUs ODL mandate remains intact.

The Council also noted that on 11th June 2015, a letter was received from Commerce Secretary, Government of India addressed to Vice Chancellor IGNOU, to restart the above collaboration of FDDI with IGNOU in ODL mode for regular basis from 2015-16.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Council observed that the MOU has been forwarded to the legal cell, IGNOU for legal vetting, however, the comments are still awaited. Moreover, the recommendations of the School Board of SOET alongwith the revised programme structure and transition from face to face to ODL mode is also awaited.

AC 64.22.2 After detailed discussions, the Academic Council decided to refer the proposal back to School with direction that the School must follow the procedure approved by the Board of Management in its 118th meeting held on 15th June 2013 for signing of the future MoUs with other organization/institution, and that the School must ensure that in all MOUs ODL mandate remains intact. After completion of all requirements as per the above process, this matter may be placed before the Council for its consideration.

ITEM NO. 23 To consider the interim Recommendations of the Committee to look into the issue of change of nomenclature of the Bachelor's Degree of IGNOU from "Major" to "Honours"- ACD

AC 64.23.1 The Member Secretary informed that the Academic Council at its 63rd meeting held on 20th November, 2014 had considered the proposal to change the Bachelor's Degree of IGNOU from 'Major' to 'Honours' and suggested that a committee may be constituted to suggest the need and process of re-structuring of making shift from 'Major' to 'Honours' degree in BA/B.Sc/B.Com. Accordingly a Committee was constituted by the Vice-Chancellor under Chairpersonship of Prof. A.R. Khan, SOSS. The Committee has held two meetings. After detailed deliberations

the Committee has suggested that the University must shift from the nomenclature of Major to Honours degree as soon as possible in accordance with the nomenclature decided through UGC Gazette Notification of July, 2014 and in agreement with the requirement of the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). Accordingly, it has been recommended by the Committee that the University should offer BA and BA (Honours), B.Com., B.Com. (Honours) and B.Sc. and B.Sc. (Honours) henceforth from the next academic session (January 2016), and that the Schools of Studies would work the details for this shift from Major to Honours in this time bound manner.

The Committee has identified the major issues for shifting from Major to Honours degree, and all these issues have been communicated to the Schools of Studies offering Bachelor degree. The Schools had been asked to provide their feedback by 15th July 2015. The Committee also requested the Schools to make their Honours degrees in conformity with CBCS Scheme of the UGC. Once the Schools of Studies provide the feedback, the Committee will finalize its recommendations and submit to the Vice-Chancellor. Each School will have to make changes in a time bound manner and seek the approval from their School Board so that this shifting can be made smoothly within the specified time frame.

AC 64.23.2

After detailed discussions, the Academic Council decided that the above interim recommendation of the Committee should be accepted in principle and that the process for the change of nomenclature of the Bachelors Degree of IGNOU from 'Major' to 'Honours' should be initiated so that it becomes effective from the next academic session. The Council also directed (i) the Committee to finalize its recommendations and submit to the Vice-Chancellor, and (ii) the Schools to make changes in a time bound manner and seek the approval from their respective School Boards so that this shifting can be made smoothly within the specified time frame.

ITEM NO. 24

To consider and approve the timely issue of GC/PC of the B.Sc. Programme in the light of problems faced in the timely conduct of Laboratory courses at the Study Centres – School of Sciences

AC 64.24.1

The Member Secretary informed that the B.Sc. programme was launched in 1991 and at present the programme is on offer in the January and July cycles through a network of 182 Study Centres all over the country. In the year 2014, more than 10, 000 students enrolled in the Programme. About 40% of the total enrolment is in the four Regional Centres in Delhi and NCR.

Director, SOS informed that in B. Sc., every learner is required to earn at

least 25% of the total credits opted for in the elective courses in Chemistry, Physics and Life Sciences from laboratory courses in these disciplines. The duration of the Laboratory courses is one week for 2 credit courses and two weeks for 4 credit courses. Since the laboratory courses are conducted in spells of 1 week or 2 weeks at a stretch *whenever the laboratories of the host institutions are available for our students*, the University is not able to prescribe a fixed schedule every year for organizing them. Due to introduction of the semester system in Universities the Laboratories are not available for two weeks at a stretch, the year round.

Moreover, learners are not distributed uniformly over all Study Centres. Over 500 students are enrolled in some Study Centres whereas in others, the enrolment may not even be in 2 digits. This skewed spread of learners gives rise to problems in organizing laboratory courses in Chemistry, Physics and Life Sciences in a timely manner in Study Centres with *both large and small enrolments*, leading to backlogs. Consequently, there are unnecessary delays in completion of the programme and award of the degree.

For the theory courses, students take term-end examination in June or December every year. However, all of them are not able to complete the required laboratory courses before June/December because the University is not able to ensure the timely conduct of Laboratory courses. As of now, the results of students are declared for a particular session/cycle (July/January) only if they complete all theory and Laboratory courses by the preceding June/December Term-end examinations. As a result, those students who are unable to complete the Laboratory courses in a particular session are put to a disadvantage.

Students who complete the laboratory courses between these two term-end examinations have to wait for declaration of their results, their Grade Card and Provisional Certificate until after the ensuing term-end examination. This prevents them from applying for various PG or professional courses/jobs and creates hardship for them.

Therefore, to avoid such delays and to prevent hardship to the learners, if a learner enrolled in the B. Sc. Programme completes all theory courses by a particular Term-end examination (June/December) and successfully completes the laboratory courses after that examination but before the next Term-end examination (December/June), her/his result may be declared immediately by the Student Evaluation Division and s/he may be issued the final Grade Card and Provisional Certificate.

AC 64.24.2 The Academic Council considered the proposal of School of Sciences and

decided that if a student of B. Sc. Programme completes all theory courses by a particular Term-end examination (June/December) and successfully completes the laboratory courses after that examination but before the next Term-end examination (December/June), her/his result may be declared immediately by the Student Evaluation Division and s/he may be issued the final Grade Card and Provisional Certificate subject to the condition that the session (June/Dec) for which the Practicals are conducted should be specifically mentioned in the award list.

The Council also resolved that this provision as above should be applicable uniformly to other such programmes of study which have Practical component.

ITEM NO. 25 To consider and approve the renaming of IGNOU degrees in accordance with the UGC Gazette notification dated July 5 – July 11, 2014 – School of Science.

AC 64.25.1 Director, SOS informed that the UGC vide its letter No. D.O. No. F.5-1/2014 (CPP-II) dated July 10, 2014 has directed all Universities that:

"No University shall confer a degree in violation to the provisions of this notification. It shall be mandatory for the Universities to adhere to the approved nomenclature of degree(s) and ensure the observance of the minimum standards of instruction before award of a degree as hereinafter prescribed".

The nomenclature B. Sc. (Major) does not figure in this list.

In view of this, the University should conform to the UGC Gazette notification and UGC stipulations for nomenclature of degrees in the interest of our learners. Therefore, IGNOU should henceforth award only degrees with the nomenclatures listed in the Gazette Notification. In the forthcoming Convocation, instead of the B.Sc. (Major) degree, B.Sc. (Hons.) degrees be awarded to students who have fulfilled the requirements for the award of B.Sc. (Major) degree.

The matter was discussed in detail. The Members appreciated the concern of the School that IGNOU should henceforth award only degrees with the nomenclatures listed in the UGC Gazette Notification on nomenclature of degree(s) notified in the Gazette of India published in July, 2014. However, this change in nomenclature in BSc degree from BSc (Major) to BSc (Honours) can not be retrospective especially when students have taken admissions in BSc (Major) and not (BSc (Honours) and that the University is about to award degree certificates to them in forthcoming convocation.

- AC 64.25.2 After detailed discussions, the Academic Council resolved as under:
- (i) UGC Gazette Notification on specification of degrees published in Gazette of India vide notification dated 5th July 2014 (**Annexure 13**) was adopted by the Council with immediate effect.
 - (ii) The provisions of the above Gazette Notification will be implemented by the respective Schools of Studies. All Schools of Studies should change the nomenclature of their programmes, if not done so far, strictly in line with UGC Gazette Notification on specification of degrees and seek the approval of the respective School Boards. An Action Taken Report to this effect should be submitted to the Vice Chancellor at the earliest.
 - (iii) Nomenclature of BSc degree may be changed from BSc (Major) at present to BSc (Honours) in line with decision taken by the Academic Council under Item AC 63.23.2. However, this change in nomenclature will be prospective for students taking admissions in B.Sc. (Honours) programme and not applicable to already admitted students.

ITEM NO. 26 To consider and approve Minor Revision of Course MS-93 Management of New and Small Enterprises submitted for reporting to Academic Council –SOMS

AC 64.26.1 The Member Secretary informed that School of Management Studies has undertaken Minor Revision (30-40% changes) of the Course (MS-93 - Management of New and Small Enterprises), which was approved by the 31st School Board Meeting held on January 21, 2014. As per the decision taken by the 63rd Meeting of the Academic Council that the matter related to revision should be reported to Academic Council.

AC 64.26.2 The Academic Council noted the Minor Revision of the Course (MS-93 - Management of New and Small Enterprises) undertaken by the School of Management Studies.

ITEM NO. 28 (Tabled) Extension of Memorandum of Understanding for offering Hospitality programmes with the Govt of Madhya Pradesh-SOTHSSM

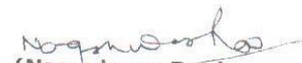
ITEM NO. 29 (Tabled) Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding for MHA programme with National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT) – SOTHSSM

AC 64.28-29.1 The Items could not be taken up. The Academic Council decided to refer the matter to the forthcoming meeting of Academic Council's Standing Committee.

The Council put on record its appreciation to the Chair for giving adequate time to the Members for meaningful deliberations on each Agenda and steering the proceedings of the Council to a purposeful conclusion. The Council also appreciated the work done by Academic Coordination Division.

A vote of thanks to the Chair was endorsed by the Council at the end of the meeting.

A


(Nageshwar Rao)
Chairperson