MINUTES

of the

SEVENTY FOURTH MEETING

of

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Held on

21ST July 2020

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THE PEOPLE'S
UNIVERSITY

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

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST JULY 2020 AT 11.30 AM USING DIGITAL PLATFORM - ZOOM

The following were present in the meeting:

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU	-	Chairperson
2.	Prof. R.P. Das, Pro-VC, IGNOU	-	Member
3.	Prof. Satyakam, Pro-VC, IGNOU	-	Member
4.	Prof. K.B. Das, Pro-VC, IGNOU	-	Member
5.	Prof. Jagat Bhushan Nadda, Director, CEC	-	Member
6.	Prof. Avinash Chandra Pandey, Director, IUACA	-	Member
7.	Prof. Sudha Rao, Ex. VC, KSOU, Karnataka	-	Member
8.	Prof. Ramesh Chandra, Ex. VC, Bundelkhand University	-	Member
9.	Prof. Saket Kushwaha, VC, Rajiv Gandhi Uni., Itanagar	-	Member
10.	Prof. A. K. Sinha, former VC, Patna Univ., Patna	-	Member
11.	Prof. B.P. Khandelwal, Ex. Chairman, CBSE	-	Member
12.	Prof. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Professor, VMOU, Kota	-	Member
13.	Sh. A.K. Garg, Director, DMRC	-	Member
14.	Prof. Pardeep Sahni, Professor, SOSS	-	Special Invitee
15.	Prof. B. B. Khanna, Dir, International Division, IGNOU	-	Special Invitee
16.	Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, SOSW, IGNOU	-	Member
17.	Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Director, COE, IGNOU	-	Special Invitee
18.	Prof. Manjulika Srivastava, Director, CIQA, IGNOU	-	Special Invitee
19.	Prof. S. R. Jha, Porfessor, SOS, IGNOU	-	Special Invitee
20.	Prof. T.K. Jena, Director, SOHS, IGNOU	-	Member
21.	Prof. Sujatha Varma, Director, SOS, IGNOU	-	Member
22.	Prof. K. Ravi Sankar, Director, SOMS, IGNOU	-	Member
23.	Prof. Anu Aneja, Professor, SOGDS, IGNOU	-	Member
24.	Prof. K. Elumalai, Director, SOL, IGNOU	-	Member
25.	Prof. Sunil Kumar, Director, SOPVA, IGNOU	-	Member
26.	Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur, Professor, SOITS, IGNOU	-	Member
27.	Dr. M. Shanmugam, Director, RSD, IGNOU	-	Member
28.	Prof. Malati Mathur, Director, SOH , IGNOU	-	Member
29.	Prof. D. Venkateshwarlu, Director, SOE, IGNOU	-	Member

30.	Prof. Nandini Sahu, Director, SOFL, IGNOU	-	Member
31.	Prof. S.K. Yadav, Director, SOA, IGNOU	-	Member
32.	Prof. A.K. Gaba, Director, SOVET, IGNOU	-	Member
33.	Prof. Nilima Srivastava, Director, SOGDS, IGNOU	-	Member
34.	Prof. P.V.K. Sasidhar, Professor, SOEDS, IGNOU	-	Member
35.	Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, Dir, SOTHSM, IGNOU	-	Member
36.	Prof. Rashmi Sinha, Director, SOSS, IGNOU	-	Member
37.	Prof. R. P. Pandey, Director, SOTST, IGNOU	-	Member
38.	Prof. Heena K. Bijli, Director, SOCE, IGNOU	-	Member
39.	Dr. V.V. Subrahamanyam, Director, SOCIS, IGNOU	-	Member
40.	Dr. Rakhi Sharma, Director, SOET, IGNOU	-	Member
41.	Dr. O.P. Dewal, Director, SOJNMS, IGNOU	-	Member
42.	Dr. Shubhangi Vaidya, Director, SOITS, IGNOU	-	Member
43.	Dr. V. B. Negi, Registrar, SED, IGNOU	-	Member
44.	Mr. K. Ravi Kanth, Director, EMPC, IGNOU	-	Member
45.	Dr. Pankaj Khare, Director, P&DD, IGNOU	-	Special Invitee
46.	Dr. Seema Chandhok, Librarian L&DD	-	Member
47.	Dr. V. P. Rupam, DD, SRD, IGNOU	-	Special Invitee
48.	Dr. G Bhardwaza, Assoc. Professor, SOPVA, IGNOU	-	Member
49.	Dr. Mita Sinhamhapatra, Assoc. Prof, SOA, IGNOU	-	Member
50.	Dr. Deepanwita Srivastava, Asst. Prof, SOFL, IGNOU	-	Member
51.	Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Director, SSC, IGNOU	-	Member
52.	Dr. Hema Pant, Deputy Director, RSD, IGNOU	-	Member
53.	Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma, Director, NCIDE, IGNOU	-	Member
54.	Dr. Purnendu Tripathi, Deputy Director, VCO, IGNOU	-	Special Invitee
55.	Dr. Dev Kant Rao, Director, ACD	-	Member Secretary

Prof. Rajan M. Welukar, Ex. VC, Mumbai University; Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain, VC, Tezpur University; Prof. Kameshwar Nath Singh, VC, U.P.R.T.O.U; Prof. Smriti Kumar Sarkar, Ex. VC, University of Burdwan; Prof. Arvindeakshan Sandram, Ex. VC, MGHAV, Wardha; Prof. B.K. Pattanaik, Director, SOEDS; Dr. Himansu K. Bose, Registrar, SRD could not attend the meeting.

Dr. Vandana Varma, Assistant Director, ACD was present to assist the Member Secretary.

Dr. Dev Kant Rao, Director, Academic Coordination Division and the Member Secretary of the Academic Council greeted all the members and informed that since last Academic Council on 18th October 2019, there has been one meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee on 17thJuly 2020 that had considered various academic matters. He then requested the Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council for his opening remarks and progress made by University since last Academic Council meeting.

At the outset, the Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council informed about the unexpected, sudden (today morning) and sad demise of Regional Director, Port Blair, Dr. S. Ganesan due to a heart attack and the Council mourn his death by keeping silence for two minutes. The Chairperson then welcomed all the members of the Academic Council including the Special Invitees for 74th Academic Council. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the members specially external members, Prof. Sudha Rao, Prof. Ramesh Chandra, Prof. J B Nadda, Prof. A K Sinha, Prof. A C Pandey, Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Shri A K Garg, Prof. B P Khandelwal, and Prof. P K Sharma, who have spared their valuable time during the Covid-19 Pandemic and were present for the meeting. The Vice Chancellor then expressed his gratitude to the outgoing members of the Council, namely, Prof. Ravindra Ramchandra Kanhere, Pro-VC (since retired); Prof. Poornima Mittal, former Director, SOS (since retired); Prof. Neera Singh, former Director, SOH; Prof. Jagdish Sharma, former Director, SOTST; Prof. R. P. Pandey, SOTST; Dr. Amiteshwar Ratra, STRIDE and late Dr. Anil Shukla, former Registrar, SED for their valuable contributions in the proceedings of the Academic Council.

The Chairperson of the Council further welcomed the newly nominated members viz., Prof. Malati Mathur, Director, SOH; Prof. Sujatha Varma, Director, SOS; Prof. R. P. Pandey, Director, SOTST; Prof. P.V.K. Sasidhar, SOEDS; Dr. Mita Sinhamahapatra, Associate Professor, SOA; Dr. Saumya, Assistant Professor, SOSW and Dr. V. B. Negi, Registrar, SED.

He then felt that since the meeting has been organized through virtual mode, it might have added some anxiety/difficulties to all the members. However, he assured that like previous meetings efforts have been made for the meeting to be as detailed and interactive as on earlier occasions. Detailing the progress made by University, the Vice Chancellor narrated a few major developments since the last meeting of Academic Council held in October, 2019 as below:

1. The 33rd Convocation of the University was successfully conducted on 17.02.2020 at headquarters in New Delhi and 39 Regional Centres across the country. **Hon'ble Minster of Human Resource and Development, Shri Ramesh Pokriyal 'Nishank', was the Chief Guest at the Convocation at Headquarters. One Governor of the State and One State Minister were also the Chief Guests at two Regional Centres**. Overall more than 2 lakh degrees were awarded to the successful students during the convocation. The Curtain Raiser was adored in all Regional Languages and the speech of the Chief Guest was also published in all the regional languages.

2. The University has launched **CBCS based Nine Undergraduate Honours programmes w.e.f. January 2020 academic session**. Further, the programme on Master of Arts in Journalism and BBA (Services) with Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL) were also launched from January 2020 session. During this period, Course development work has been progressing fast in almost all the Schools. From July 2020 session, the University has also lunched the **Master of Arts in Sanskrit programme.** All the Schools and their faculty were complimented for their sincere and untiring efforts.

3. **On 17th March 2017, University was exempted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) from UGC (Online Course or Programmes) Regulations, 2018**. The Gazette Notification for the same was published on 17th January, 2020. In addition to the launch of three Online Programmes permitted by UGC in January 2020, the University has also launched twelve more Online Programmes from July 2020 session. **The programmes on Master of Arts in Hindi, Master of Arts in Gandhian Studies, Certificate in Library and Information Technology, Certificate in Information Technology and Bachelor of Arts in Tourism were also launched by the Hon'ble HRM on 1st June 2020.** In this regard, the Centre for Online Education has done a commendable job. Director, COE, Prof. Uma Kanjilal and her whole team deserved special compliments.

4. The University has been the National Coordinator for Swayam Courses with respect to Diploma and Certificate Programmes since 2016. **Forty Six new Swayam courses were launched from June 2020. There was commendable efforts and enthusiasm of the faculty during the Pandemic for launching Swayam Courses on Swayam Platform.** The response of the Learners was encouraging and around Twenty Nine Thousand Learners were enrolled as on date. The University had Twenty One Courses launched earlier where registration was more than Thirty Three thousand as on date.   Concerned faculty were complimented for their initiatives in this regard. Translation work in Eight languages for Sixteen Swayam Courses was also started and this work was likely to be completed by the middle of August 2020 for which the Regional Centres have been making concerted efforts. Director, COE, Prof. Uma Kanjilal and her whole team have done a commendable job in this sphere also.

5. Formal sanction letter of HEFA loan of Rupees Seventy Five Crore was received on 23rd June 2020. The University is going for an **Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for the construction of Four Regional Centres located at Pune, Rajkot, Portblair and Trivandrum. Director General, CPWD will be present in signing ceremony.**

6. The University has also **completed the DVV validation process** with reference to the Self Assessment Report submitted in March 2020 to NAAC. During this Covid-19 Pandemic, Prof. Manjulika Srivastava, Director-CIQA and her whole team took great pains in undertaking this work.

7. The University has also started the Admission Process of July 2020, during this adverse pandemic environment. **2,15,130 students have re-registered themselves. The Fresh Registration was around 47,000**. Registrar (SRD), Dr. V. P. Rupam and all Regional Directors of all Regional Centres and their whole team were appreciated for their efforts.

8. The University has **extensively used GyanDarshan, GyanVani and Four SwayamPrabha Channels for telecasting programmes during the Covid-19. Facebook interactions with learners have gained popularity. Since 1st April 2020, 215 Facebook sessions have reached to Thirty Six Lakh learners** with cumulative views of around Eight Lakhs. Similarly, regular online counseling sessions were organized by all Regional Centres during this period. The Academic Council appreciates the efforts made by all the staff involved in these programmes. Director (EMPC) and PIU were specially complimented.

9. During August 2019 to June 2020, National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education (NCIDE) has submitted Twenty Five innovative activities to MHRD Innovation Cell (MIC) portal. Nineteen Activities of the Division have been showcased in their portal. The entire division was complemented for this acheivement.

10. Shri AK Garg, Director, DMRC and Member of the Academic Council was thanked and appreciated for his efforts towards **connecting the University through the Delhi Metro**.

All the University Faculty, Academics and Other Staff are actively involved in strengthening the Learner Support Services. The Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council complimented all of them for their sincere efforts. Dr. Dev Kant Rao and Dr. Vandana Varma along with their whole team were appreciated for their arrangements and conduct of Academic Council meeting during this pandemic.

The Chairperson then asked the Member Secretary to make a presentation on the activities undertaken by the University during the COVID-19 lockdown period and transact the business.

Dr Dev Kant Rao, Member Secretary of the Council made a presentation of the initiatives taken by the University since lockdown on 23rd March 2020. The extracts of the Presentation are placed as **Annexure 74.1**.

All the members, especially external Members of the Academic Council, congratulated and praised the University and all the teaching and academic fraternity for such commendable work and for converting challenges into opportunities in teaching learning process. The members appreciated the performance of the University during such unprecedented time due to COVID 19 and its weekly reporting to HRD Ministry which itself was a mammoth and voluminous job. It reflected the vibrancy of the system as IGNOU had rigorously utilized all the media options for delivering the quality student support services that brought IGNOU in the line of World Class University. The Academic Council put on record its appreciation for the presentation made by Dr Dev Kant Rao, the Director, Academic and Member Secretary of the Council.

The Academic Council then transacted the following business:

ITEM NO. 1	To Confirm the Minutes of the 73rd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 16th October, 2019 and to Note the Action Taken thereon – ACD
AC 74.1.1	The Member Secretary informed that the 73rd Meeting of the Academic Council was held on 16th October 2019. The Minutes were circulated to all the members for their comments/observations. The comments have been received from the Director, School of Computer and Information Sciences on Item No. AC 73.20.2, and the Director School of Health Sciences on Item No. AC 73.5 and 73.28.
	The comments received on Items of 73rd Meeting of Academic Council were detailed as under: 1. Director (SOCIS): Item No. AC 73.20.2: The minimum and maximum duration of the Certificate Level Programme do not correspond to the guidelines of the University. The PDF and PPR that were placed for approval of 73rd meeting of Academic Council pertain to Diploma in Mobile Application Development (DMAD) (Item No. 20). The minimum and maximum duration mentioned in the submitted agenda were 1 and 4 years, respectively as per guidelines of the University. However, the minutes indicated the level of the Programme as Certificate. Hence, necessary updates may please be made to AC 73.20.2 of the minutes of 73rd Meeting of Academic Council. 2. Director (SOHS): Item No. AC 73.5: To consider the points emerged out of the meeting of the Vice-Chancellor with the Directors of Schools on fresh enrollment "The admission date of SOHS for July, 2019 has been projected in the less than 3000 category. It needs to be modified as the figures for July 2019 is 6546". Item No. AC 73.28: To consider the rationalization of academic programmes fee to be effective from January, 2020 academic session "The admission fee for Certificate Programme in Yoga (CPY) was Rs. 5000/- (Instead of Rs. 10,000 as mentioned in the appexndix) and the revised fee should also remain Rs. 5.000/- only".

AC 74.1.2	The comments received from Members were discussed. Since there was a fresh agenda Item as a follow up of 'Item No. AC 73.20.2', therefore, the comments of Director, SOCIS w.r.t. Item No. AC 73.20.2 were not accepted. However, the comments of the Director, SOHS w.r.t. AC 73.5 and AC 73.28 were accepted, and Minutes were revised accordingly.
AC 74.1.3	The Member Secretary also presented the Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the 73rd Meeting of Academic Council.
AC 74.1.4	With the above emendations, the Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of the 73nd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 16th October 2019 as given in **Annexure 74.2** and noted the Action Taken thereon. *Action: All Schools of Studies/Divisions/Centres*
ITEM NO. 2	**To consider and approve the Minutes of the 52nd Meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee held on 17th July 2020 – ACD**
AC 74.2.1	The Member Secretary informed that the 52nd Meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee (ACSC) was held on 17th July 2020 through digital means by using Zoom platform and the Minutes were circulated to all the members for their comments/observations on 17th July 2020. No comments have been received from the members of the Academic Council's Standing Committee. However, the comments have been received from the Director, School of Law on Item No. ACSC 52.10.2 and the Director, School of Performing and Visual Arts on Item No. ACSC 52.7. The Member Secretary, further, informed that the comments received and Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of 52nd Meeting of Academic Council's Standing Committee will be placed in the next meeting of Academic Council's Standing Committee.
AC 74.2.2	The Academic Council confirmed the Minutes of the 52nd Meeting of the Academic Council's Standing Committee held on 17th July 2020 as given at **Annexure 74.3** with the above observations. The Council also directed the concerned Schools/Divisions for taking action on the recommendations of ACSC. *Action: All Schools of Studies/Divisions/Centres*
ITEM NO. 3	**To Note the UGC Gazette Notification dated 17th January 2020 providing exemption to IGNOU from University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 – ACD**

AC 74.3.1	The Member Secretary informed the Council that the University Grants Commission vide its notification dated July 04, 2018 had notified the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018. These Regulations lay down the Minimum Standards of Instruction for the grant of Certificate or Diploma or Degree, through online mode, delivered through interactive technology using internet. The Board of Management of the University at its 131st meeting held on 22nd December 2018 and the Academic Council of the University at its 72nd meeting held on 22nd January 2019 had approved the adoption of the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018. The Board had also approved the establishment of a Centre for Online Education in this regard.
	Meanwhile, the University Grants Commission vide Gazette notification F. No. 2-5/2019 (OL), dated 17th January 2020, had made the following amendments to the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 in regulation 2, in sub-regulation (2):
	The following proviso was inserted :
	"Provided that the University Grants Commission may, by order, exempt the Indira Gandhi National Open University, a University established under the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985 (50 of 1985), from the application of these regulations, considering the objectives of the said Act".
	Pursuant to above Gazette Notification, the University Grants Commission vide their Order F. No. 2-5/2019 (OL), dated 17th March 2020 exempted the Indira Gandhi National Open University from the application of the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 with effect from the date of Gazette Notification of UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Amendment Regulations 2020 i.e. 17th January 2020 till further Orders.
AC 74.3.2	The Member Secretary, further, informed that the Board of Management at its 139th meeting held on 17th March 2020 noted the UGC Gazette Notification dated 17th January 2020 and Commission Order dated 17th March 2020 exempting IGNOU from the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018.
	The Chairperson informed that pursuant to the above exemption, the University had launched 12 Online programmes through Online mode.
AC 74.3.3	The Academic Council noted the proviso of the UGC Gazette Notification dated 17th January 2020 and Commission Order F. No. 2-5/2019 (OL), dated 17th March 2020 providing exemption to IGNOU from University

	Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 (**Annexure 74.4**).
	Action: ACD/All Schools of Studies
ITEM NO. 4	**To Consider and Approve the Action Taken by the University to launch various programmes through Online mode- COE**
AC 74.4.1	The Member Secretary informed that the Academic Council's Standing Committee in its meeting held on 27th March, 2019 had approved proposals of 11 Programmes of Centre for Online Education (COE) for offering these programmes through online mode. Subsequently, with the approval of UGC, the University had launched three (03) programmes viz. Certificate in Arabic Language (CAL), Certificate in Russian Language (CRUL) and Certificate in Tourism Studies (CTS) to be offered through online mode from January 01, 2020. The total enrolment of the online programmes for January 2020 batch was 470.
	Meanwhile, as informed vide Item 3 of the Agenda, the University Grants Commission vide Gazette notification dated 17th January 2020 vide F.No. F. No. 2-5/2019 (OL), amended the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 in Regulation 2, in sub-regulation (2) and exempted the Indira Gandhi National Open University.
	In addition to above, Five more programmes were launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development: M.A. Hindi; MA in Gandhi and Peace Studies; BA in Tourism Studies; Certificate in Information Technology; and Certificate programme in Library and Information Science through IGNOU Facebook on 20th May 2020. The University, subsequently launched another 7 online programmes: MA in Translation Studies; Diploma in Tourism Studies; Post Graduate Diploma in Gandhi and Peace Studies; Post Graduate Certificate in Gandhi and Peace Studies; Post Graduate Certificate in Agriculture Policy; Certificate Programme in Peace Studies and Conflict Management; and Certificate in Tribal Studies with the approval of the Vice Chancellor. Thus, there were 12 new Programmes/ Courses launched through Online mode, as under:
	1. MASTER OF ARTS (HINDI) (MHD)
	2. MASTER OF ARTS IN GANDHI AND PEACE STUDIES (MAGPS)
	3. MASTER OF ARTS (TRANSLATION STUDIES) (MATS)
	4. BACHELOR OF ARTS (TOURISM STUDIES) (BTS)
	5. POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN GANDHI AND PEACE STUDIES (PGDGPS)
	6. POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GANDHI AND PEACE STUDIES

	(PGCGPS)
	7. POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE POLICY (PGCAP)
	8. DIPLOMA IN TOURISM STUDIES (DTS)
	9. CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (CIT)
	10. CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (CLIS)
	11. CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN PEACE STUDIES AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (CPSCM)
	12. CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN TRIBAL STUDIES (CTRBS)
AC 74.4.2	The Council was further informed that the Vice Chancellor, on June 1, 2020, had announced the admissions for all the 15 online programmes (3 Masters/ 1 Post Graduate Diploma/ 2 Post Graduate Certificate/ 1 Bachelor degree/ 1 Diploma/ 7 Certificate programmes) from the July 2020 sessions, through Google Meet and Facebook Live Session and currently, the admissions for all the 15 online programmes were ongoing.

The Member Secretary informed that Academic Council's Standing Committee vide ACSC 52.11.2 ratified the action taken by the University in launching 15 programmes (3 existing and 12 new) through Online mode for July 2020 session onwards and recommended the matter be reported to the Academic Council also. |
| AC 74.4.3 | The Academic Council approved the recommendations of the Academic Council's Standing Committee, and ratified the action taken by the University in launching 15 programmes (3 existing and 12 new) through Online mode for July 2020 session onwards (**Annexure 74.5**).

Action: COE/ Schools of Studies/SRD |
| **ITEM NO. 5** | **To consider and approve the action taken by the University to launch some programmes through SWAYAM Portal – COE** |
| AC 74.5.1 | The Member Secretary informed that IGNOU had been identified as one of the National Coordinators for Diploma and Certificate level course for the SWAYAM initiative of MHRD, Government of India vide order dated 09ᵗʰ March, 2016 and the guidelines for SWAYAM issued by MHRD dated 11ᵗʰ March, 2016 were adopted in the 65ᵗʰ Academic Council Meeting held on 21ˢᵗMarch, 2016 for development and implementation of courses.

In the last registration cycle January 2020, 21 courses were hosted on the SWAYAM Portal of which, 3 courses were from the State Open Universities (UOU, NSOU and YCMOU). Six courses were part of the IGNOU online Programmes, namely, Certificate in Tourism Studies; Certificate in Russian |

	Language; and Certificate in Arabic language. Total registration on SWAYAM Portal for 21 courses including courses of IGNOU Online Programmes was 43,759.
	The Council was further informed that the courses offered in the January 2020 are in the process of translation into 8 languages: Hindi, Tamil, Telegu, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Guajarati and Marathi. The translation work has been undertaken by 20 Regional Centres of IGNOU with the support of 541 translators identified for the purpose in coordination with the Regional Service Division (RSD) and Centre for Online Education (COE).
	Further it was proposed that the Credit courses hosted by the University on the SWAYAM Portal, which were part of existing ODL programmes of the University, may be considered for internal credit transfer as per the UGC Gazette notification 2016.
	The Member Secretary informed the Academic Council that the action taken by the University in launching 46 new courses (in addition to 18 existing) through SWAYAM Portal for July 2020 session onwards was ratified by the Academic Council's Standing Committee vide ACSC 52.12.2 at its 52nd meeting held on 17th July 2020 and recommended the matter be reported to the Academic Council in its forthcoming meeting also.
AC 74.5.2	For July 2020 cycle, 46 new courses have been added in addition to 18 existing Courses of IGNOU. These courses were launched with the approval of the Vice Chancellor. The total enrolment for existing and new courses as on date was 60000+ and registration has been ongoing. For the current session total 64 courses have been uploaded on the SWAYAM Portal.
AC 74.5.2	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the recommendations of the Academic Council's Standing Committee and ratified the action taken by the University in launching 46 new courses (in addition to 18 existing) through SWAYAM Portal for July 2020 session onwards (**Annexure 74.6**). The Council also approved the Credit mobility/credit transfer of 64 MOOCs courses as per University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulations, 2016. *Action: COE/ Schools of Studies/SRD*
ITEM NO. 6	**To consider and approve the change in admission criteria for Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental and Occupational Health (PGDEOH) – SOITS**

AC 74.6.1	The Member Secretary informed that the Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental and Occupational Health (PGDEOH) programme was launched in January, 2019 session and was running as on date. The admission criteria for PGDEOH, presently was 10+2 (Science) and graduation from any discipline. However, in order to attract wider student community and increase the enrollment and also introduction of compulsory environmental science paper in all programmes in the CBCS system, the faculty of Environmental studies, SOITS discussed the matter with Experts and proposed to modify the eligibility criteria for admission to 'Graduation in any discipline' by removing the '10+2 (Science)' criteria and also to include '10+Diploma in Engineering and other related courses plus Bachelor's degree from any discipline', as many applications could been received from prospective learners with such qualifications.
	The Council was further informed that the Academic Council's Standing Committee discussed the proposal of SOITS for the change in admission criteria for Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental and Occupational Health (PGDEOH) at length at its 52nd meeting held on 17th July 2020 and recommended to refer it to Academic Council for consideration.
AC 74.6.2	The matter was discussed in detail. In view of the lack of clarity in the proposal as well as the course being launched very recently, the Academic Council decided to refer the matter to a Committee competent to examine the proposal of SOITS for the change in eligibility criteria for admission to Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental and Occupational Health (PGDEOH). The Chairperson of the Council was authorized to take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee.
	Action: SOITS
ITEM NO. 7	**To consider and approve the change in duration of MCA Programme from 3 years to 2 years w.e.f 2020-21 as per AICTE Notification dated: 3rd July, 2020 for the MCA programme to be offered from July-2020 session onwards- SOCIS**
AC 74.7.1	The Members Secretary informed that the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) vide its notification dated: 3rd July, 2020, notified that the duration of MCA Programmehad been changed from 3 years to 2 years from 2020-21 onwards along with the change in the eligibility qualifications. Accordingly, the School Board of School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS) had considered and recommended the changes in the duration of MCA Programme from 3 years to 2 years from July 2020 session onwards along with the change in the eligibility

	qualifications as per the Notification of AICTE in its 51st Meeting held on July 13, 2020. The Council was further informed that the above mentioned AICTE notification dated 3rd July 2020 was noted by the Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 52nd Meeting held on 17th July, 2020 vide ACSC 52.32.2 and ACSC had also approved the proposal of the School for the change in duration of MCA Programme from 3 years to 2 years, however, since the direction has come recently, the ACSC recommended that the change in duration would be effective for the MCA programme w.e.f January 2021 admission cycle onwards instead of July 2020 session.
AC 74.7.2	The Academic Council noted the AICTE notification dated 3rd July 2020 regarding change in the duration of MCA Programme (**Annexure 74.7**) and approved the recommendations of the Academic Council's Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting for change in duration of MCA from 3 years to 2 years, along with the change in the eligibility qualifications, and concurred that the change in duration be effective w.e.f. January 2021 admission cycle onwards. ***Action: SOCIS***
ITEM NO. 8	**To reconsider the revised Programme Development Form (PDF) and Programme Project Report (PPR) of Diploma in Mobile Application Development (DMAD)- SOCIS**
AC 74.8.1	The Member Secretary informed that the School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS) had submitted a proposal to offer a One Year Modular Diploma in Mobile Application Development (DMAD) with a provision to award Certificate in Mobile Application Development (CMAD) after successful completion of First semester. However, the Academic Council in its 73rd Meeting referred the proposal back to School Board for reconsideration after making some observations.The School had submitted the following responses to the observations of the Academic Council: Observation 1 : Since the Programme involved a number of Countries, it may be required to seek clearance from Ministry of External Affairs before proceeding further Response: (1) Since the content of DMAD was developed in collaboration with COL, SOCIS sought inputs from COL on the above mentioned observation. The response of COL are as under: 'All the learning materials developed with COL support are available as open educational resources with CC BY-SA license, which allows anyone to reuse, revise, remix, adapt/adopt, and redistribute derivative works with

attribution to the original without any permission of the copyright holder.

All the courses developed as part of DMAD are Open Education Resources (OERs) and are CC-BY-SA. Hence, the content can be shared in any medium or format. Also, the content can be adapted (ie. Remixed, transformed and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially). Only appropriate attribution needs to be given and shared alike. Hence, no permission needs to be obtained from anywhere.'

SOCIS did not come across any such notification, wherein, it was mentioned that clearance from Ministry of External Affairs needs to be taken for the offering of a programme which includes some OER based courses developed by Open Universities outside the Country.

Observation-2 :The cost involved in Programme Development was too high

Response: 'There were a total of 8 Courses in DMAD. No cost was incurred by IGNOU for development of 5 courses. Out of the 3 remaining courses, one of the courses is Project Course which will have only Project Guidelines and will be developed by the Programme Coordinator. So, no cost needs to be incurred for development of the Project courses. Now, there are 2 courses left in the second semester of proposed DMAD programme. The expected cost to be incurred for development of 2 courses may be Rs.500000/- approx. So, the cost that may be incurred by IGNOU for development of a 32 Credit programme with 8 Courses may be Rs.500000/- approx. The cost will include expenditure incurred towards Course Writing, Content Editing and Language Editing that were part of Course development.'

School Board of SOCIS in its 51st meeting, discussed the above observations of Academic Council made in its 73rd meeting and noted the responses. School Board reconsidered and recommended Programme Development Form (PDF) and Programme Project Report (PPR) of Diploma in Mobile Application Development (DMAD) with a provision to award Certificate in Mobile Application Development (CMAD) after successful completion of first semester of DMAD for approval. School Board also felt that there is need to launch the Programme at the earliest underlining its need.

The Council was further informed that Academic Council's Standing Committee in its 52nd meeting held of 17th July 2020 discussed the proposal at length and recommended for approval of Programme Development Form (PDF) and Programme Project Report (PPR) of Diploma in Mobile Application Development (DMAD) with a provision to award Certificate in Mobile Application Development (CMAD) after successful completion of first semester of DMAD for consideration.

AC 74.8.2	The Academic Council accepted the proposal of the School as an initiative in the light of Government of India Initiative for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The School was suggested that the minimum and maximum duration of the programme should uniform as per the Guidelines of the University on minimum and maximum duration of programmes/courses at different levels.
AC 74.8.3	With the above observation, the Academic Council accepted the recommendations of the Academic Council's Standing Committee and approved Programme Development Form (PDF) and Programme Project Report (PPR) of Diploma in Mobile Application Development (DMAD) with a provision to award Certificate in Mobile Application Development (CMAD) after successful completion of first semester of DMAD as recommended by the Academic Council's Standing Committee. The programme be launched from July 2020 immediately. ***Action: SOCIS/SRD/COE***
ITEM NO. 9	**To ratify the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the lateral entry provision for MAJMC programme to those who have completed the 32 credit PGJMC Programme from IGNOU – SOJNMS**
AC 74.9.1	The Member Secretary informed that the School of Journalism and New Media Studies of the University has been offering MA (Journalism and Mass Communications) (MAJMC) programme. The lateral entry option for MAJMC was approved in principle by the 71st Academic Council meeting held on 22nd January 2019 by "Credit transfer to those who have completed similar courses from other recognized institutions, as per University norms". In order to operationalize the Academic Council's approval, the matter was placed before the 22nd School Board held on 19th February 2020. The School Board recommended the following criteria for the lateral entry to MAJMC programme for those: 1. Who have completed the PGJMC programme (worth 32 credits) from IGNOU. 2. Who have completed PG Diploma (worth 32 credits) from Govt. run/ recognized institutions in the areas of journalism and mass communication. 3. Who have completed a regular one year PG Diploma in areas of Journalism and Mass Communication from Govt. run/ recognized institutions (without any mention of credits). 4. Those who do not meet above criteria, their courses will be matched and they will have to complete the remaining courses of MA (JMC)

	1st year.
	The matter was placed before the Vice Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor approved that as of now "the lateral entry provision may be provided to those who have completed the 32 credit PGJMC Programme from IGNOU w.e.f July 2020 cycle".
	The Academic Council's Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting held on 17th July 2020 vide ACSC 52.15.2 ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the lateral entry provision for MAJMC programme to those who have completed the 32 credit PGJMC Programme from IGNOU w.e.f July 2020 cycle.
AC 74.9.2	The Academic Council approved the ratification of the decision taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the lateral entry provision for MAJMC programme to those who have completed the 32 credit PGJMC Programme from IGNOU w.e.f July 2020 cycle. The Academic Council also decided that a Committee may be constituted by the Vice Chancellor to examine the other recommendations of the School in light of norms and guidelines of the University and UGC.
	Action: SOJNMS
ITEM NO. 10	**To consider and approve the revision of the following provisions related to admission in the Programmes offered by the University**
	(a) Review of Provision for Associate Studentship and Re-admission
	(b) Offering of Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP)
	(c) Minimum and maximum duration of Programmes offered by the University
	(d) Facility of Provisional Admission
AC 74.10.1	The Academic Council was informed that a Committee was constituted by the Vice Chancellor to review various provisions related to admissions to various programmes of the University consistent with various policies/ guidelines/ norms of the University. The Committee had submitted its report and the recommendations of the Committee on various issues were as under:
	1. Review of Provisions for Associate Studentship and Re-admission
	The Committee, after detailed examinations of various provisions, had recommended the following:
	a) The Associate Studentship Scheme may be withdrawn and

subjected to review. The University may consider re-launching the Scheme after framing an appropriate Regulation to support it.

b) The Scheme of Re-Admission may be withdrawn from the Prospectus with immediate effect. The existing students may be given a deadline as decided by the University to complete the remaining courses.

c) The Scheme of Admission to Management Programmes through Form-3 (after completing the maximum validity period, without appearing in the Entrance Test) may be withdrawn with immediate effect from the Management Programs Prospectus, including the Prospectus for MBA (Banking and Finance). The existing students may be informed about withdrawal of the scheme and advised to complete their program accordingly. In case a student fails to complete the programme, s/he will be required to appear in the entrance test and join the programme afresh, seek transfer of credits in respect of successfully completed courses and complete the remaining courses as per University rules.

In this matter, the Chairperson informed that Associate Studentship is course-wise choice offered to the learners, however, since, the University does not have any Regulation for Associate Studentship, the same has been recommended to withdraw from July 2020.

2. Matter related to offering of Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP)

The matter related to offering of BPP was deliberated upon by the Academic Council at its 72nd meeting held on 30th April 2019. As reported in the meeting, a letter seeking clarification was sent to UGC.

In response the University Grants Commission vide their communication dated 20th March 2020, conveying the following decision of the Commission taken at its 545th Meeting:

Courses like Bachelors Preparatory Programme (BPP) shall not be offered through ODL mode by the HEIs, as "Foundation Courses" are not specified under the UGC Notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014 and no such provision exists under the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments.

The Bachelors Preparatory Programme (BPP) has already been withdrawn from Jan 2019.

3. Matter related to minimum and maximum duration of

Programmes offered by the University

The minimum and maximum duration of programmes on offer at Postgraduate, Undergraduate, PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate level is as under:

Level	Minimum duration	Maximum Duration
Postgraduate	2 Years	5 Years*
Undergraduate	3 Years	6 Years
PG Diploma/Diploma	1 Year	3-4 Years
Certificate	6 months	2 Years

*For two Postgraduate Programmes – MSCMACS and MTTM, the maximum duration is 4 years.

The Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes are under the purview of UGC. In order to ensure parity/equivalence with the degrees awarded by other Universities, it is important that UGC norms with regard to minimum/maximum duration of Programmes are strictly adhered to. For Undergraduate Programmes, the ratio of minimum and maximum duration is 1:2.

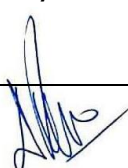4. **Matter related to the facility of Provisional Admission**

The University has a provision for Provisional Admission to the programmes (except Certificate programmes of six month duration, Awareness programmes, non-credit programmes and Merit-based/Entrance Test based programmes). Those candidates who otherwise fulfill the prescribed eligibility criteria, but are unable to apply for want of declaration of result of the qualifying examination and/or for want of final Mark-sheet and Provisional Certificate, but desirous of seeking admission in July/January) admission cycle, as the case may be, can submit the prescribed admission form with requisite fee, as per schedule. Such candidates are also required to submit an undertaking. Other terms and conditions for seeking Provisional Admission are:

a) All the prospective students who have submitted their filled-in admission form along with the Undertaking are required to submit the consolidated Final Mark-sheet and Provisional Certificate/ Degree Certificate by 30ᵗʰ September (for July admission cycle) and 31st March (for January admission cycle).

	b) Failure to submit the Final Mark-sheet and Provisional Certificate/Degree Certificate will attract cancellation of admission and forfeiture of 25% of fee paid.
	c) Self-learning material will be issued to all the candidates seeking 'Provisional admission' on remittance of the programme fee, as in the case of other students.
	d) Regional Directors will confirm the final admission only on fulfillment of the condition at (i) above.
	With increasing enrolment, operational difficulties are being faced in monitoring the cases of Provisional Admission. As such, it is proposed to withdraw the schemefrom July 2020
AC 74.10.2	The recommendations of the Committee were discussed in detail. During the discussion on the agenda it was suggested that keeping in view the UGC norms and University's own standards, the maximum duration defined above for Post Graduate Diploma and Diploma programmes of the University may be kept two (02) years in place of 3 years, as proposed.
AC 74.10.3	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the recommendations of the Committee constituted to review various provisions related to admissions to various programmes of the University consistent with various policies/ guidelines/ norms of the University and approved various recommendations of the Committee as above with the observations that the maximum duration in respect of PG PROGRAMMES (4 Years), Certificate Programmes (2 years) and Diploma and Post Graduate Diploma (3 years). Regarding Associateship separate rules be framed in tune with Swayam regulations. *Action: SRD/All Schools of Studies*
ITEM NO. 11	**To consider and approve International fee of the remaining programmes for offering to FSRI students & rationalization of fee of existing programmes on offer to FSRIs & Overseas Students – ID**
AC 74.11.1	The Director, International Division informed that in addition to already offered programmes, it had been decided to offer remaining programmes to Foreign Students Residing in India (FSRI) except M.Phil./Ph.D and that required calculation of international fees for those programmes. The University had very recently revised the fees of its programmes for National students. The revision of fees be classified into three categories i.e. enhancements, reduction and no change. This was taken as the base

	for working out the fees for the programmes offered to students of FSRIs from SAARC and Non-SAARC countries.
	The fees for all the programmes for the students had been calculated for SAARC countries in three slabs i.e. 1.8 times, 2 times and 2.5 times of the National fees. Similarly, the fee for students of non-SAARC countries had been calculated in three slabs i.e. 9 times, 10 times and 11 times of the National fees along with their conversion in US $ shown in the brackets.
	Meanwhile, the International Division had received requests from various Overseas Study Centres terming the recent revision of fees as a very steep. They had also pointed out that the fee of similar programmes offered by other Indian Universities like Annamalai University, Jaipur National University, Bharathiar University, etc. through distance mode, was much less. Due to huge gap in the fees charged by IGNOU and other Indian Universities, students were joining the programmes of other Indian Universities. The overseas study centres in Ethiopia, Jeddah, Riyadh, Dubai, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, etc. had requested for reduction of fees for sustainable existence in the wake of fierce competition being faced vis-à-vis many Universities. Further, the impact of increase in fees be felt from the downfall in the fresh student enrollment for January 2020 cycle.
	In view of above situation, the International Division proposed that the fee of existing programmes on offer, required for rationalization to counter the situation being faced by IGNOU internationally and informed that the fees for international students whether from SAARC or Non-SAARC countries, thus, rationalized in order to attract student enrollment in all the programmes of the University which is as under:
	'The fees for SAARC and Non-SAARC country students have been proposed which is 1.8 times of the National fees for SAARC Countries rounded off in thousands (in case 500, then to the thousands on the higher side) and 9 times of the National fees for Non-SAARC countries rounded off in thousands (in case 500, then to the thousands on the higher side) and in US$ rounded off to the (in case 50, then to the hundreds on the higher side).'
	The Division further mentioned that FSRI students are utilizing the same infrastructure and support system which is already in place for national students.
AC 74.11.2	After detailed discussion, the Academic Council approved the proposal of International Division for finalizing the International fee of the remaining programmes to be offered to FSRI students & rationalization of fee of existing programmes on offer to FSRIs & overseas students, as under: 1. The fee structure of all the programmes which were on offer in July

| | 2019 shall be the same as in July 2019 for students of SAARC and Non-SAARC countries.
2. For remaining programmes, the fee for SAARC Countries shall be two times of the present National fee, and for Non-SAARC countries ten times of the present National fee.
3. The conversion rate from Rupees to dollar shall be at the prevailing rates of Dollar for determining the fee at the time of admission notification.
4. The proposed fee for SAARC country students shall be rounded off in thousand rupees (in case <500 then to thousand on the lower side and in case ≥500 then to the thousand on the higher side). Similarly the fee for Non-SAARC country students shall be rounded off in thousand rupees (in case <500 then to thousand on the lower side and in case ≥500 then to the thousand on the higher side) and then in the US Dollar to the hundreds (in case <50 then to the hundred on the lower side and in case ≥50 then to the hundred on the higher side). |
|---|---|
| | ***Action: International Division/P&DD*** |
| **ITEM NO. 12** | **To consider International fee for Online Programs offered by the University for FSRI & Overseas Students – ID** |
| AC 74.12.1 | The Director, International Division informed that the University had started offering online programmes in the country and it had been decided by the University to offer 15 programmes through online mode under Centre for Online Education to international students i.e. Foreign Students Residing in India (FSRIs) and overseas students in view of demand of present time.

In view of need for rationalization of fee for the programmes for the students for SAARC and NON-SAARC countries explained in AC 74.11.1, the International Division proposed the following fee structure for FSRIs and overseas students:

'The fees may be half of that as decided in the AC 74.11. |
| AC 74.12.2 | The matter was deliberated at length. It was suggested that rationalization of fee should not be done coursewise for students of SAARC and Non-SAARC, rather all the courses should be categorized level-wise and fee should be determined accordingly for each level of programme and the input cost. It was also suggested that same fee may be proposed for the programmes offered through e-Vidyabharati. |

AC 74.12.3	After detailed discussion, the Academic Council decided that the matter may be examined by a Committee competent and well versed with the matter in detail. The Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Academic Council was authorized to take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee and the matter may be reported in the next meeting of the Academic Council.
	Action: International Division
ITEM NO. 13	**To Report the submission of SSR of IGNOU and DVV Process for Accreditation by NAAC – CIQA**
AC 74.13.1	The Director, CIQA informed that Indira Gandhi National Open University submitted its IIQA to NAAC on 16th October 2019. The University had also submitted the IIQA Application, successfully online to NAAC on 16th October 2019 as a prerequisite to submission of the Self Study Report and the same was reported in the 73rd meeting of the Academic Council held on 16th October, 2019. Subsequently, queries raised on IIQA were resolved and approval on IIQA by NAAC was received on 9th January 2020. The SSR was successfully submitted to NAAC on 7th March 2020.

The Council was further informed that in the extended profile, data of the last five years of the University i.e. July 2014 to June 2019 was considered as the assessment period. In the preceding year, 2018-19, out of 242 programmes on offer, only 45 programmes (UG and PG Degree programmes) had been included for Assessment. A total of 197 programmes, i.e. 41 Research degree programmes and 156 Certificate, Diploma and PG Certificate/Diploma programmes were excluded. However, as per SOP, all programmes/courses were included under Value Added courses. The details of the Metrics submitted are tabulated below:

Type of Metrics	Total Number of Metrics	Number of Metrics submitted	Number of Metrics Opted-out
Quantitative Metrics	90 (680)	81 (633)	9 (47)
Qualitative Metrics	40 (320)	40 (320)	0 (0)
Total	130 (1000)	121 (953)	9 (47)

* Numbers in the brackets indicate the total weightage

Post SSR submission: all the data/information submitted by IGNOU was validated through the Data Validation and Verification (DVV) process by NAAC. The DVV team of NAAC suggested their own versions to be validated by the University and to re-submit its response to the findings of

	DVV Team till 13th July 2020. The University has submitted its response on 13th July 2020. As a final step, the NAAC will reassess the submitted data and depending on the extent of the deviation and arrive at a pre-qualifier score.
	The Director, CIQA apprised the detailed status of Students Satisfaction Survey (SSS) of IGNOU learners which has been extended by NAAC up to 31st July 2020.
AC 74.13.2	The Academic Council noted the development with regard to submission of DVV Process for Accreditation by NAAC and complemented Director, CIQA and her team and all the Schools and Divisions for all the work related to submission of various data and records to NAAC for assessment and accreditation purpose especially during the COVID Pandemic.
	Action: CIQA
ITEM NO. 14	**To Consider and ratify/ approve the award of M.Phil/Ph. D. Degrees to 44 Students –SED**
AC 74.14.1	The Member Secretary informed that on the recommendations of the External Evaluators and the Board of Examiners and as per the decision of the Academic Council, Notifications in respect of Thirty Nine (39) Ph.D. degrees students for award of Ph.D. Degrees and Five (05) M.Phil. degrees students for award of M.Phil. Degrees in various Disciplines across the Schools had been issued by the Students Evaluation Division (SED) with the approval of the Vice Chancellor.
	Clause 12 of the Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes inter-alia envisages that:
	"A student shall be awarded the M.Phil/Ph.D Degree, with the approval of the Academic Council, provided that the corresponding evaluation report given by the Examiners is satisfactory".
	The Academic Council at its 64th Meeting held on 10th July, 2015 had approved to issue Notifications to M.Phil./Ph.D. students on successful completion of their viva voce examination with the approval of the Vice Chancellor in order to mitigate the hardship faced by the students (AC 64.21.1).
AC 74.14.2	The Academic Council ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor to approve issuing of notification in respect of Thirty Nine (39) Ph.D. degree students for award of Ph.D. Degrees and Five (05) M.Phil. degree students for award of M.Phil. Degrees in various Disciplines across the Schools (**Annexure 74.8**).

	Action: SED
ITEM NO. 15	**To Ratify the Acton Taken by the Vice-Chancellor in approving the utilzation of grants under SCSP and TSP components in the financial year 2020-21 through Fee exemption – P&DD**
AC 74.15.1	The Member Secretary informed that the Ministry of Human Resource Development vide F.No.9.21/2012-SC/ST dated 01/10/2013 circulated a document for implementation of SCSP and TSP. This document stated that Higher Education Institution may earmark a minimum of 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent of grants for SCSP and TSP respectively. The grants under these account heads was to be utilized through Direct Benefits Transfer Scheme to students and fee waiver was one of activities suggested for utilization of the grants.
	In view of MHRD circular, the Vice-Chancellor constituted a Committee to formulate DBT scheme for SC/ST students in the Financial Year 2015-16. On the recommendations of the Committee, as per the guidelines specified in the document and approval of the Competent Authority, the University introduced Scheme of programme fee reimbursement in Financial Year 2015-16 in selected Undergraduate programmes i.e. B.A., B.Com, B.Sc., BSW; BTS and BCA. Later on, the provision of exemption/reimbursement of programme fee was extended in other academic programmes depending on extent of utilization of grants in previous admission cycles. This Committee was re-constituted and was notified on 27th September, 2019 to bring fresh ideas/thoughts in formulating and monitoring the schemes of SCSP/TSP.
	On the recommendations of the aforementioned Committee and approval of the Vice Chancellor, the University issued notifications dated 19th May 2020 for fee exemption to SC/ST students for July 2020 admission cycle and dated 29th April 2020 for extending benefits of fee exemptions for re-registered SC/ST students for July 2020 admission cycle confined to those students who were eligible for exemption/reimbursement of fee in earlier admission cycles. However, the notification for extending benefits of fee exemptions for fresh SC/ST students for July 2020 admission cycle issued on 19th May 2020 was withdrawn to seek some more clarity on implementation issue. The revised notification for fresh students was issued for 100 Academic programmes at Undergraduate degree, Diploma and certificate for July 2020 cycle on 20th June 2020.
	The Academic Council was further informed that over the years, the number of academic programmes covered under the scheme had increased from 6 in 2015-16 to 128 in 2019-20 resulting in increase in total number of SC/ST students from about 85000 in 2015-16 to 2.25 lakhs in

	2019-20. Nevertheless, from the year 2015 to 2018, the University provided fee exemption to all the eligible SC/ST candidates, as there were adequate financial grant made available. However, in the year 2018-19, the University spent Rs.11.46 crore in excess of the grants received and also in the last two years, the University has been burdened with a net shortfall of Rs.53.62 crores on account of waiver of fee for SC/ST students. The University further predicted that the financial liability of the University in the next three academic years would be in the range of Rs.60-65 crores annually, if the present system of fee exemption was continued without any change.
	In this regard, the University sought guidance of the Board of Management (BOM) in its 139 meeting held on 17ᵗʰ March 2020 regarding surplus spending on the scheme of fee exemption; and apprehended that the University may not be able to sustain the Scheme unless adequate financial support was provided. The BOM advised to review the scheme of fee exemption to SC/ST Students, rationalize the number of courses, and to request the concerned Ministries to support the fee waiver scheme.
	The University reviewed the utilization and availability of SCSP/TSP grants as suggested by BOM and decided to withdraw the scheme of fee exemption to SC/ST students in few Academic programmes having poor strength of SC/ST students, however, the University will continue with the said scheme for those Undergraduate degree, Diploma and Certificate level Academic programmes, which were popular and intended to provide maximum eligibility qualifications for jobs.
AC 74.15.2	The Academic Council ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in approving the programme list for fee exemption regarding utilzation of grants under SCSP and TSP components in the financial year 2020-21 through fee exemption as above. *Action: P&DD*
ITEM NO. 16	**To Consider the 'Kulgeet' (Institutional Song) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University- Admin Div.**
AC 74.16.1	The Chairperson informed that of late it has been felt that the University should have its own Institutional song or 'Kulgeet'. In this regard, a Committee was constituted under the Chairpersonship of Prof Satyakam, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU to finalize the lyrics of IGNOU Kulgeet. The Committee had finalized the lyrics of the IGNOU Kulgeet which were read out by Prof Satyakam, Chairperson of the Committee before the Academic Council.

AC 74.16.2	The Academic Council approved the lyrics of IGNOU Kulgeet as finalized by the Committee and read out before the Council (**Annexure 74.9**). The Council also authorized the Vice Chancellor for changes in the lyrics at the time of final composing.
	Action: Administration Division
ITEM NO. 17	**To consider the Guidelines for Offering Online Programmes/ Courses – COE**
AC 74.17.1	The Member Secretary informed that the University Grants Commission vide Gazette Notification dated 17ᵗʰ January 2020 had Commission Order dated 17ᵗʰ march 2020 had exempted the Indira Gandhi National Open University from the application of the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 with effect from the date of Gazette Notification i.e. 17ᵗʰ January 2020 till further Orders.
	Even though the University had been exempted from UGC Regulations, in order to have its own checks and balances, a Committee was constituted by the Vice Chancellor to identify, develop, introduce and promote more Online programmes. The Committee had developed guidelines for offering Online Programmes/Courses in line with the UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 with an objective of self-regulation.
AC 74.17.2	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the Guidelines for offering Online Programmes/ Courses by the University. A copy of the Guidelines is placed as **Annexure 74.10**.
	Action: COE
ITEM NO. 18	**To Consider and Approve the Report of the Committee constituted to examine and re-look into the nomenclature of degree – P&DD**
AC 74.18.1	The Members Secretary informed that the Academic Programme Committee in its 56ᵗʰ meeting held on 30ᵗʰ October 2018 had recommended to constitute a Committee to examine and re-look into the nomenclataure of degrees being offered by the University in order to ensure the minimum standards of instruction before award of degrees, a policy guideline document on the nomenclature of degrees having minimum entry qualifications, credit structure and duration of the programme be worked out in view of UGC Regulations.
	The Report of the Committee was approved by the APC in its 57ᵗʰ meeting held on 16ᵗʰ April, 2019 with recommendations for deletion of following clause of the Report:
	"In case School of Studies wants to introduce new nomenclature

	other than mentioned in table 10 at Certificate or Diploma level, it shall have approval of the concerne School Board and Academic Council"
	Clause (a) of Statute 9A empowered Academic Council to supervise academic policies of the University, further Clause (b) states that the Planning Board may refer matters of general academic interest to the Academic Council.
AC 74.18.2	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the recommendations of the Committee laid down in its Report along with the amendment by the Academic Programme Committee in its 57th meeting held on 16th April, 2019 (**Annexure AC 74.11**) and advised that in case of any deviation in the nomenclature of any programme, the concerned School may place the matter before the School Board for consideration and recomemndations of the Scool Board may be placed before the Academic Council/its Standing Committee for a final decision.
	Action: P&DD/ Schools of Studies
ITEM NO. 19	**To apprise the action taken by the University on the University Grants Commission letter D.O. No. 1-3/2020(CM), dated 28th March 2020, on UGC Quality Mandate: Suggestive Academic Activities for improving the qualities in higher education Institutions- ACD**
AC 74.19.1	The Members Secretary informed that the University Grants Commission vide their letter D.O. No. 1-3/2020(CM), dated 28th March 2020, titled "UGC Quality Mandate: Suggestive Academic Activities", had suggested certain academic activities for improving Quality in Higher Education Institutions. Accordingly, the Vice Chancellor had constitutes 11 Task Groups for developing Institutional Implementation Plan for the Quality Mandate Initiative, as under:
	1. Deeksharambh: Student Induction Programme (SIP)
	2. Learning Outcomes based Curriculum Framework for Undergraduate Education
	3. JeevanKaushal: Curriculum for Life Skills
	4. Social and Industry Connect: Fostering Social Responsibility & Community Engagement in HEIs in India
	5. Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics
	6. STRIDE: Scheme for Trans-Disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy
	7. SATAT: Framework for Eco-friendly and Sustainable Campus Development

	8. MulyaPravah: Guidelines for Inculcation of Human Values and Professional Ethics
	9. Evaluation Reforms in HEI
	10. Gurudakshta: Faculty Induction Programme for Newly Appointed Faculty Members
	11. PARAMARSH: Scheme for Mentoring NAAC Accreditation Aspirant Institutions to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education
	The Council was further informed that more than 60 faculty and Academics were involved in the above mentioned 11 Task Groups and all the groups had effectively made use of e-channels of communications like emails/chat groups/phone and other digital platforms like Zoom/Google Meet etc for interaction amongst the members. The Task Groups also sought comments and inputs from Teachers, Academics and other stakeholders. All Task Groups have developed the Institutional Implementation Plan in their respective areas allotted to them, which shall be finalized and shared on the University Activity Monitoring Portal of UGC i.e. www.ugc.ac.in/uamp.
AC 74.19.2	The Academic Council noted the action taken by the University on the University Grants Commission letter D.O. No. 1-3/2020(CM), dated 28th March 2020, on UGC Quality Mandate: Suggestive Academic Activities for improving the qualities in Higher Education Institutions and advised that since the action plans proposed in various Reports were directly related to Open & Distance Learning system, the University may, through internal deliberations, implement these action plans for further progress and improvement in teaching learning process of the University. **Action: ACD**
ITEM NO. 20	**To consider the mapping of SWAYAM courses with respect to the courses/curricula of programmes offered by Schools of Studies for effectively utilizing the digital resources available with SWAYAM as well as easy Mobility of students by means of Credit Transfer –ACD**
AC 74.20.1	The Member Secretary informed that the Government of India had initiated SWAYAM, a programme designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy, viz., access, equity and quality. Hundreds of Swayam courses were hosted on the SWAYAM portal of Govt. of India and have accessed at https://swayam.gov.in. IGNOU has been identified as one of the National Coordinators for Diploma and Certificate level course for the SWAYAM initiative of MHRD, Government of India vide Order dated 09th March, 2016. The guidelines of SWAYAM issued by MHRD dated 11th March, 2016 for development of MOOC courses and implementation of

	SWAYAM Guidelines were adopted in the 65th Academic Council Meeting held on March 21, 2016.
	The Academic Council was informed that the University Grants Commission vide letter D.O.F.No. 1-8/2017 (SWAYAM Board/SWAYAM), dated 27th February 2020 had notified acceptance of MOOCs Courses offered through SWAYAM Platform for Credit Mobility as per the University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulations 2016 and 1st amendment on 8th May 2017. Subsequently, the University Grants Commission vide their letter F.No.1-8/2017 (SWAYAM Board), dated 19th May 2020 informed that SWAYAM has a repository of 1900 Courses and that in the prevailing COVID-19 scenario, Universities and Colleges were encouraged to make optimum use of SWAYAM Online Platform for the benefit of students which on the day included 82 Undergraduate & 42 Post Graduate MOOCS courses approved by the SWAYAM Board, ready to be offered in July Semester 2020. UGC and AICTE had already mapped their Courses and uploaded the status on their websites. Up to twenty percent of the total courses being offered in a particular programme in a semester were allowed through the Online Learning courses/MOOCS as per University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulations, 2016. The UGC also requested that the SWAYAM Courses be approved and adopted through SWAYAM Platform for Credit transfer and notified by the Academic Council.
	The Council was also informed that several Institutions have already adopted MOOCs developed by IGNOU as a part of their Courses and for Credit mobility. As on date, IGNOU has 64 Courses uploaded on SWAYAM Platform and as on 18th July 2020, the total enrolment in these courses in more than 60000.
	Recognizing the need and importance of the matter, the University vide its Circular F.No. IGNOU/ ACD /SWAYAM/ 2020/40, dated 30th April 2020 requested all the Schools of Studies to peruse the Swayam courses and map them with respect to the courses/curricula of programmes offered by them with the purpose of equivalence and were requested to submit the programme/course wise and Discipline wise list of such SWAYAM Courses that map with IGNOU's curricula for placing it before Academic Council for its consideration. A few Schools have submitted the list of courses mapped by them.
AC 74.20.2	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council noted the action taken by the University in mapping of SWAYAM courses with respect to the courses/curricula of programmes offered by Schools of Studies for

	effectively utilizing the digital resources available with SWAYAM and easy Mobility of students by means of Credit Transfer. The Council also approved the Credit mobility/credit transfer of MOOCs courses as per University Grants Commission (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulations, 2016 and also directed all the Schools to map the courses, if already not done so. ***Action: ACD***
ITEM NO. 21	**To apprise the Action taken by the Schools of Studies in (i) reviewing the Self Instructional Material of various Programme and Courses offered by the University and ensure that it is free from any discrepancy, and (ii) uploading the Course material on the e-Gyankosh as well as the IGNOU e-content App.**
AC 74.21.1	The Member Secretary informed that the University had been taking all efforts in maintaining high standards in Self Instructional Material of various programmes offered by it which had earned accolades world over. In order to further improve the quality and also to provide the best learning opportunities, it was felt appropriate to revisit the Self Instructional Material of every Programme and Course offered by the University, particularly in the subject areas with rapid content obsolescence, and ensure that it was free from any discrepancy in content, language or typography; religion/regional/gender/ideological biases, if any; as well as to ensure that the material was up to date. In this context, all School of Studies with the help of Discipline and Course Coordinators were requested to go through the Study material of all the programmes and courses to ensure as above vide Circular F.No. IGNOU/ACD/SLM Review/2020/61, dated 21st May 2020. The Schools were also requested to check upload status of their Course material on the e-Gyankosh as well as the IGNOU e-content App. The Council was further informed that pursuant to aforementioned circular several Schools have reviewed their courses and have also uploaded the academic content on the digital platform of the University i.e. e-Gyankosh and IGNOU's e content App.
AC 74.21.2	The Academic Council noted the efforts made by the University in reviewing and updating the Study material of various programmes and courses, particularly in the subject areas with rapid content obsolescence, in order to ensure that it was free from any discrepancy in content, language or typography; religion/regional/gender/ideological biases, if any. The Council also noted the updation/uploading the content on the e-Gyankosh as well as the IGNOU e-content App. The Council appreciated the efforts made by the Schools of Studies/COE and NCIDE in this regard

	and directed the remaining Schools, if any for reviewing the content and updating the e-GyanKosh and IGNOU's e Content App, if already not done so.
	Action: ACD
ITEM NO. 22	**To consider and approve the interim Report of the Committee to suggest the Action Plan for conducting Term End Examination 2020 and/or declaring the results of students who have submitted examination forms and solicit further guidance of the Academic Council – SED**
AC 74.22.1	The Academic Council was informed that due to wide spread of Corona Virus (COVID 19) and the subsequent lock-down, the IGNOU Term-end Examinations (TEE), June 2020 could not be conducted during the month of June 2020. The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India vide Office Memorandum dated 6th July 2020 has communicated that final term examinations should be compulsorily conducted as per UGC Guidelines on Examinations and Academic calendar of the Universities dated 29th April 2020 and all examinations may be conducted by 30th September 2020. The Ministry of Home Affairs had agreed to the request of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and granted exemption for the opening of Educational Institutions for the purpose of holding examinations /evaluation work for the final term examinations of the Universities / Institutions.
	Accordingly, a Committee was constituted by the Vice-Chancellor to look into all aspects to conduct the Term-end Examinations, June 2020 across the country and International Centres and to deliberate and recommend different possibilities in view of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation. The recommendations of the Committee were as under:
	1. In view of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India letter, dated 6th July 2020 and the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines, dated 29th April 2020, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) will conduct the Term-End Examination (TEE), June 2020 from 1st week of September 2020 for the final year / final semester students of Master's Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Post-Graduate Diploma, Diploma and Certificate Programmes subject to fulfilling the University norms on admission year and registration validity period.
	2. Accordingly, only those students of Master's, Bachelor's, PG Diploma/Diploma and Certificate Programmes who have registered for the final year/semester of their Programme, were eligible to appear in TEE, June 2020 and have submitted the Examination

Form (for TEE, June 2020) are eligible to appear in the TEE to be conducted in September 2020. Details of eligibility of such students are given in the table below:

Programme	Month and Year of Admission in the Programme	Final Year /Semester Registration in
Master's Programmes (Min. duration: 2 Yrs.), Bed	July 2018 or before	July 2019 or before / January 2020 or before (for semester based Programmes)
Bachelor's Programmes (Min duration: 3 Years), MCA, MBA	July 2017 or before	July 2019 or before / January 2020 or before (for semester based Programmes)
B Com(AF), B Com (CAA), B Com (CFA), MLIS, BLIS, PG Diploma/ Diploma Programmes	July 2019 or before	July 2019 or before / January 2020 or before (for semester based Programmes)
Certificate Programmes	January 2020 or before	-

3. The information for practical examinations (wherever applicable) shall be communicated separately by the concerned Regional Centres.

4. The Term End Examination for the students of the intermediate year / semester of the Master's, Bachelor's and PG Diploma/Diploma Programmes, scheduled in June 2020, has been postponed and will be held in December 2020.

5. The students who would not be able to appear in the TEE to be held in Sept. 2020 due to Covid 19 pandemic will be given an opportunity to appear in the TEE to be held in December 2020. For this purpose, the validity period of registration of those students whose registration ended in June 2020 will be extended till December 2020.

6. The Examination Fee submitted along with the Examination Form by the students as specified in Items 4 and 5 above will be adjusted at the time of filling of the Examination Form by them for TEE, December 2020.

7. Necessary Notification containing the recommendations of the Committee will be issued and the same will be uploaded on the

	University's website for the information of all concerned.
AC 74.22.2	The Council was further informed that in IGNOU, there was no such provision of promotion to next year rather student has to clear all the courses to get the degree. Currently, the University has 3 lakh final year students and to conduct examination of these students, the University has to have 900 examination centres to complete this task in 28 days. Hence, the University has tentatively decided to start the final year examination in the first week of September 2020. As far as mode of examinations was concerned, the Council was apprised that the University was in process of finalizing the modalities to conduct the Term End Exam through pen and paper, however, for some programmes, the University is exploring the possibilities to conduct the TEE online.
AC 74.22.3	After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved recommendations of the Committee, as above, to conduct the Term-end Examinations, June 2020 across the country and international centres in view of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Council further authorized the Chairperson to take appropriate decisions regarding examinations keeping in mind the future scenario and events. *Action: SED/All School of Studies*
ITEM NO. 23	**To consider and approve the Online submission, Processing and Evaluation of the Assignments for the Academic Programmes of the University - SED**
AC 74.23.1	The Member Secretary informed that over the years, the increase in the number of the students had also resulted in the increase in the number of Assignments received at the University. As evident from the data provided by the Students Evaluation Division (SED), the University had received and processed 30,43,040 Assignments in the year 2015, which has increased by 6,94,602 over a period of four years and thus, stood at 37,37,642 in the year 2019. Status of Assignments received and processed by the University during the last five years is as under:

Session	No. of Assignments received	Total
June 2019	24,25,990	**37,37,642**
December 2019	13,11,652	
June 2018	22,75,448	**37,78,722**
December 2018	15,03,274	

June 2017	21,22,824	**34,09,924**	
December 2017	12,87,100		
June 2016	17,92,610	**31,29,572**	
December 2016	13,36,962		
June 2015	16,63,242	**30,43,040**	
December 2015	13,79,798		

Currently, the evaluation of Assignments in the University has been pen and paper based and completely dependent upon the receipt, processing and evaluation by the Academic Counselors at the Learner Support Centres and Regional Centres, for the receipt, online entry and transmission of marks / grades to the Headquarters through online mode. The University had also experienced that timely declaration of Term-end Examination results in the mandatory period of 45 days was severely constrained due to delay in processing, evaluation and transmission of assignment marks / grades to the University. With the increased intervention of technology in the evaluation process, it had become inevitable for the University to adopt online mode of receiving, processing and evaluation of Assignments, so that the Term-end Examination results in both the sessions i.e. June and December could be declared completely along with Assignment marks / grades.

Regulatory Provisions in the University:

The Council was further apprised that the evaluation process, its methodology and related operational procedures in the University are governed by Ordinance on Conduct of Examinations and Evaluation of Student Performance (Ordinance 9 under Section 26 (1) (b) of the IGNOU Act - No.50 of 1985) which under Section 3(3) states "The assignments may be either marked by tutors / counselors and those marked by computer (multiple choice type). The instructions to candidates about the nature and type of assignments and the schedule for its submission shall be prescribed in the relevant programme guide and / or in the course itself".

In the light of the above background information and provisions in the University Ordinance on Examination, the time was appropriate for the University to shift towards online receipt, processing and evaluation of assignments.

In view of above, a Committee was constiytuted uner the Chairpersonship of Prof RR Kanhere, the then Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU to suggest action plan and implementation strategies towards bringing reforms in the academic and examination systems of the University especially with regard to the programmes having low enrollment. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Academic Council at its 73rd meeting held

	on 18th October 2019. With regard to Online interventions in submission and evaluation of assignments, the Committee had suggested the following:
	a. There was a need for developing a robust system of handling Assignments electronically. The University may go for a Question bank so that a number of assignments are generated and each student provided a separate assignment. The Assignments can be received through online mode, checked for plagiarism and then evaluated digitally. This will help in smooth and timely evaluation of assignments.
	b. In the first phase, the online submission of assignments for all such low enrolment programmes along with programmes of SOCIS (BCA/MCA/CIT) may be initiated. The COE will develop the Learning Management System (LMS) or any other related platform which will facilitate online submission of assignment, plagiarism test and online evaluation by the faculty members as well as approved and empanelled academic counsellors.
	c. In the second phase, this system may be adopted for all the certificate, diploma, UG and PG programmes.
AC 74.23.2	The issue was deliberated at length. It was suggested that the University should develop its own Question bank for evaluation purpose especially for Assignments. Every School should develop its own Question bank including objective type, short answer type and long answer type questions with the help of expertise available using latest technologies. These questions in the Question Bank may be used for continuous evaluation of learners during the course of study as well as for Term End Evaluation. The Council was informed that the University had done the experiment and the Questions Banks were developed in some courses with the help of National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education (NCIDE).
AC 74.23.3	The matter was discussed in detail. After detailed deliberations, the Academic Council approved the action plan and implementation strategies for Online submission, Processing and Evaluation of the Assignments for the Academic Programmes of the University in order to bring reforms in the academic and examination systems of the University, as under:
	a. The Question banks would be developed for all Programmes/Courses so that a number of Assignments can be generated and each student provided a separate Assignment. The Assignments can be received through Online mode, checked for plagiarism and then evaluated digitally. This will help in smooth and timely evaluation of Assignments.

	b. The online submission of assignments for all the programmes including the Certificate, Diploma, Under Graduate and Post Graduate Programmes may be initiated.
	c. The Centre for Online Education (COE)/ Computer Division/SED/NCIDE will develop the Learning Management System (LMS) or any other related platform which will facilitate online submission of assignment, plagiarism test and online evaluation by the faculty members as well as approved and empanelled academic counselors.
	Action: SED/COE/NCIDE/RSD/All School of Studies
ITEM NO. 24	**To apprise the Measures taken by the University to continue the study programmes of the learners enrolled with it from their homes without any impediment by adopting online method of teaching-learning process- ACD**
AC 74.24.1	The Member Secretary informed the Council that IGNOU being National Open University is spread across the length and breadth of the Country and abroad with its 56 Regional Centres and more than 1800 Learner Support Centres, catering to more than 30 lacs learners. With a commitment to ensure well-being of more than 30 lakh learners and their families, University effectively and vibrantly used the social media including Twitter, facebook, emails, WhatsApp, Digital Resources to reach them and urge them to adhere to the Government directions and guidelines of social distancing and complete lockdown and show their determination and resolve in expressing our solidarity with the initiatives taken by the Govt. of India. More than 30 lacs learners and more than 60000 Academic Counselors of IGNOU were also requested to act as IGNOU's Ambassadors and sensitize their family, friends and society towards the need to follow Government directions, social distancing, and public health measures.
	In compliance with the Government of India directives regarding several safety measures to combat the spread of global COVID-19 pandemic including social distancing and complete lockdown, the University vide its Circular F.No. IG/HK/2020/67, dated 21st March 2020 advised its Teachers, Academics and Non-teaching staff to work from home. Accordingly, vide its Circular No. IGNOU/ACD/Misc./2020, dated 27th March, 2020, the University had requested the Teachers and Academics of the University to utilize this period for various academic activities including development of online content, online teaching and evaluation; prepare lesson plan and develop instructional material for the courses to be offered during next academic year/semester; and prepare innovative questions for Question

Banks, amongst others. The Faculty members/Teachers/Academics working in various Schools/Division/Centre etc were also requested to regularly upload digital content/lesson plans/Assignments/Projects/resolve learners' queries on their respective webpage or on the University website and a report of efforts made and services provided was to be submitted to respective Pro-Vice Chancellors and Vice Chancellor regularly on weekly basis through e-mail/Whatsapp.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Development Letter D.O. No. 13-12/2020/CU-Cdn. Dated 31ˢᵗ March 2020 sought the measures taken by the University to continue the study programmes of the learners enrolled with it from their homes without any impediment by adopting online method of teaching-learning process. An Action Taken Report on the matter was to be submitted by the University to the Ministry in this regard every week.

Therefore, vide its Circular No. IGNOU/ACD/Misc./2020/15 , dated 1ˢᵗ April 2020, all the Schools of Studies and Divisions/Centre/Cells/Units of the University were requested to submit the Action Taken Report on the matter including efforts made and services provided to the learners using digital resources/online methods of teaching-learning process.

With the active participation of the Teachers, Academics and other staff of the University spread across Schools of Studies, Divisions/Centres/Institutes/Units/Cells and Regional Centres, the University had taken several measures to mitigate the situation arising out of COVID 19 pandemic. The students had been given extra period to fill up admission and examination forms. 59 courses/ programmes had been launched during the current Pandemic period including 12 Online programmes, 49 MOOCs courses on Swayam digital portal and one ODL degree programmes besides more than 100 new CBCS courses launched. The academic fraternity including Teachers and Academics at the Headquarters and Regional Centres spread across the country of the University were engaged in addressing the teaching-learning process differently and trying to reach the learners effectively using varied technology enabled means including conduct of academic counselling online using digital means; online submission and marking of assignments; development of virtual labs; using Web Enabled Academic Support system like Facebook live, WhatsApp, emails, chatgroups etc. for interacting with learners; online induction of learners; using Cloud plateforms like Zoom, CISCO, Google Meet etc. for conducting online meetings with students and other colleagues. As much as 585 Unites were written, 1469 Units were edited, 302 Unites were revised and 239 courses were either developed or revised. Also about 768 courses and 2815 Blocks had been uploaded on IGNOU Mobile App and 356, 1163 and 2699 courses, blocks, and Units had been uploaded on eGyankosh, respectively during the Noval Corona Virus

Pandemic.

In addition, the academic content has also been transmitted through GyanVani and regular broadcast of academic content through GyanDarsan, GyanDhara and SwayamPrabha channels housed in state of the Art Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) and Centre for Online Education (COE) of the University. Lacs of Assignments were received Online and had been evaluated. Several Thousands of Online Counselling Sessions organized and Video/Audio and Digital content delivered through GyanVani, GyanDarsan and SwayamPrabha. As many as 2996 academic counseling session had been organized including recorded as well as interactive live radio sessions through GyanVani and for a total of 2856 hours, the University had broadcasted its educational programmes through Gyan Darsan channel, out of which, 234 hours were Live sessions. Total counselling sessions organized for learners at 56 Regional Centres were 33194 and that at School level were 2246 in various progrmmes offered by the University. On administration and establishment front, University had ensured that salaries and retirement dues were released to the Staff within time without delay and there had been absolutely no delay in this regard.

The Interaction amongst Faculty and Staff as well as of Faculty with Other Schools and Divisions had increased manifold as was evident from hundreds of Faculty and staff meetings organized during this period. As far as professional development of the faculty and academics was concerned, it may be noted that about 336 Research articles had been written on various areas, including discipline based and systemic research, by the teachers and academics at Schools of Studies, Academic Divisions and Regional centres out of which about 146 had been published in different reputed journals. Besides this, the faculty and Academics had attended hundreds of webinars on various contemporary issues organized by IGNOU and other Higher Educational Institutions. University responded to all communications received from Ministry and Statutory bodies well in time and in fact this period saw several initiatives taken by the University for improving/reviewing/consolidating the Policies and Guidelines of the University.

During this period, the University had submitted 15 Weekly Reports of each week to MHRD vide letter dated 5th April 2020; dated 15th April 2020; dated 20th April 2020; dated 27th April 2020; dated 5th May 2020; dated 13th May 2020; dated 17th May 2020; dated 25th May 2020; dated 2nd June 2020; dated 10th June 2020; dated 16th June 2020; dated 23rd June 2020; dated 28th June 2020; and dated 7th July 2020.

Director ACD has made a brief presentation for the above in the beginning and is also appended as **Annexure 74.1**.

AC 74.24.2	The Academic Council congratulated and praised the University, especially all the teaching and academic fraternity for such commendable work and for converting challenges into opportunities in teaching learning process. The Academic Council put on record its appreciation for Dr Dev Kant Rao, the Director, Academic Coordination and Member Secretary of the Council for the excellent presentation as well as compiling the data and weekly reporting to HRD Ministry which itself was a mammoth and voluminous task. The Council noted that while working during lockdown period, when most of the educational institutions were closed, the University has moved several steps ahead for achieving the main objective of Open & Distance Learning system 'Reaching the Unreached'. It also complemented the University for utilizing GyanDarsan, GyanVani and SwayamPrabha channels for delivering the quality content and student support services to the learners.
AC 74.24.3	The Member Secretary on behalf of all the Teachers, Academics and Non-teaching staff of the University thanked all the members of the Academic Council for their appreciation and encouragement and assured that the University will continue its commitment to take all possible steps for delivering the good quality academic content and to provide student support services to learners during these difficult times.
AC 74.24.4	The Academic Council noted the Measures taken by the University to continue the study programmes of the learners enrolled with it from their homes without any impediment by adopting online method of teaching-learning process and appreciated the manifold efforts made by the University during this unprecedented time of COVID 19. ***Action: ACD/Schools of Studies/Divisions/Centres***
ITEM NO. 25	**To consider co-option of Members in the Academic Council under clause 1 (viii) of Statute 9 of IGNOU Act - ACD**
AC 74.25.1	The Member Secretary informed that the term of office of the following members of the Academic Council, co-opted under provisions of sub-clause (viii) of clause (1) of statute 9 of the University would be completing on 26.08.2020. 1. Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University, Nappam, (Assam) 2. Prof. Kameshwar Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor, U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad (U.P) 3. Prof. Jagat Bhushan Nadda, Director, Consortium for Educational

AC 74.25.2	Communication, Inter-University Accelerator Centre Campus, New Delhi
	4. Prof. Avinash Chandra Pandey, Director, Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi
	5. Prof. Rajan M. Welukar, Ex. Vice Chancellor, Mumbai University, Mumbai (Maharashtra)
	6. Prof. Arun Kumar Sinha, Ex. Vice Chancellor, Patna University, Patna (Bihar)
	7. Prof. SS Sarkar, Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhash Open Universiy, Kolkata, West Bengal.
	8. Prof. Sudha Rao, Ex.Vice Chancellor, KSOU, Bangalore (Karnataka)
	9. Prof. Ramesh Chandra, Ex. Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand University & Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi, Delhi
	10. Prof. Smritikumar Sarkar, Ex. Vice Chancellor, University of Burdwan, Kolkata (West Bengal)
	11. Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh (Arunachal Pradesh)
	12. Sh. A.K. Garg, Director (Operations), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, New Delhi
	13. Prof. Arvindeakshan Sandram, Ex. Pro Vice Chancellor, MGHAV, Wardha, Palakkad (Kerala)
	14. Prof. B.P. Khandelwa, Ex. Chairman, CBSE
	15. Prof. Pawan Kumar Sharma, School of Commerce & Management, Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota (Rajasthan)
	The Member Secretary further informed that the provisions of Statute 9, Clause (1)(viii), regarding co-option of members were that "Not less than ten persons who are not employees of University, co-opted by the Academic Council for their special knowledge including representatives of employees organizations, industries, trade and commerce, academic and professional organizations, communication field etc." Further the Academic Council in its 61st meeting had decided that at least 15 persons who are not employees of the University have to be co-opted by the Academic Council for their special knowledge including representatives of employees organizations, industries, trade and commerce, academic and professional organizations, communication field etc."
AC 74.25.2	The Council resolved that the members of Academic Council would submit

	the list of suggestive names to the Chairman, Academic Council before 10th August 2020, who was authorized on behalf of the Academic Council as its Chairperson to co-opt 10-15 Members to the Academic Council and report the names of co-opted members in the next meeting.
AC 74.25.3	With above observations, the Academic Council authorized the Chairman, Academic Council for co-opting 10-15 members in the Academic Council under clause 1 (viii) of Statute 9 of IGNOU Act and report the names of co-opted members in the next meeting of the Council.

Action: ACD |

The Council put on record its appreciation for the work done by the Academic Coordination Division in successful coordination of the meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

निदेशक / Director
शैक्षिक समन्वय प्रभाग / Academic Coordination Division
इ.गां.रा.मु.वि., मैदान गढ़ी, नई दिल्ली-110068
IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

(Prof. Nageshwar Rao)
Chairperson
आचार्य नागेश्वर राव
कुलपति, इग्नू
Prof. Nageshwar Rao
Vice Chancellor, IGNOU