

MINUTES OF THE 111TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON DECEMBER 29, 2011 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM, NEW VCO BLOCK, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068

The following were present:

1	Prof. M. Aslam, Vice-Chancellor	- Chairman
2	Shri Anant Kumar Singh, Jt. Secretary(CU&L),	- Representative,
	MHRD	Secretary, MHRD
3	Prof. B.S. Sharma	- Member
4	Dr. S. B. Singh Bhadauria	- Member
5	Prof. P. Purushotam Rao	- Member
6	Shri Pravin Parekh	- Member
7	Prof. G. Sundar	- Member
8	Er. R.K. Gupta	- Member
9	Prof. B.K. Pattanaik	- Member
10	Dr. Srikant Mohapatra	- Member
	Shri Udai S. Tolia, Registrar (Admn)	- Secretary

The Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Dr. Veena Vinayakrao Thakare and Prof. A. Kalyani, Members, BOM could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the 111th Meeting of the Board of Management. He, on behalf of the Board, recorded his appreciation of the valuable contributions made by the outgoing Chairman and Members of the Board, Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Dr Latha Pillai, Prof. Darvesh Gopal and Sh. Abdul Samad Ibrahim, who completed their terms on the Board w.e.f. 20.10.11, 15.12.11 & 09.12.11 respectively. Thereafter, the Chairman welcomed Dr. Srikant Mohapatra, as the new Member of the Board of Management nominated, representing the other academic staff of the University, as per the provisions of Statute 6A(1)(iii) of IGNOU Act. He also informed the Board about his long association with the University as the Regional Director & then Registrar, SRED (erstwhile Student Registration & Evaluation Division), and his appointment as the Registrar of the Sikkim Central University, Gangtok and presently, the Regional Director, IGNOU RC, Ahmadabad.

The Chairman then requested the Registrar/Secretary, BOM to present the items on the Agenda.

First of all, Item No.18 concerning the letter dated 27.12.2011 from Dr. R. Sudarsan, Dy. Director, P&DD, was taken up, as a priority item, and considered as under:

ITEM NO.18TO CONSIDER THE REPRESENTATION OF SHRI R.(Item wasSUDARSAN, DY. DIRECTOR, P&DD IN RESPECT OFtaken up as aPOSTPONEMENT OF THE BOM MEETINGPriority Item)Formula (1990)

The Board considered the Item. The Board noted the contents of BM 111.18.1 the letter/e-mail dt. 27.12.2011 from Dr. R. Sudarsan, Dy. Director, P&DD requesting the Board to postpone the conduct of the 111th Meeting of the Board scheduled to be held on 29.12.2011 citing the writ petition filed by him in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, challenging the appointment of Prof. M. Aslam, as the Acting Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, as the Seniormost Professor, amongst the Directors, vide office order No.152 issued by the Registrar (Admn). The Registrar (Admn.) informed that beside the above issue, Dr. R. Sudarsan has also taken up the issue relating to completion of Prof. Aslam's term as Director of the School of Continuing Education, coming to an end on 31.12.2011. The Board also noted the letter dt. 23.12.2011 from Sh. Aagney Sail, Advocate for Dr. Sudarsan and also the opinion of the University Counsel Sh. Aly Mirza, Advocate vide his letter dt. 27.12.2011.

The Board observed the following:

- Dr. R. Sudarsan as an employee of the University holding a senior academic position has no *locus standi* in the matter of appointment of the Vice-Chancellor in the University, which is regulated under specific provision of Statute 1(6) of IGNOU Act.
- (ii) The Hon'ble High Court has not issued any interim order restraining Prof. M. Aslam to act as the Vice-Chancellor of the University. This arrangement has been made in terms of the provision of Statute 1 (6) of IGNOU Act.
- (iii) Neither of the PVCs could have been made the Acting Vice-Chancellor as on the direction of the Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai an order dated 14.9.2011 was issued by the University declaring the term of all the four PVC's till the A/N of 20.10.11.Thereafter orders dated 20.10.11 were issued formally notifying the completion of tenures of all the four PVCs who thereafter went back to their

parent departments/office and have reportedly rejoined their duties.

- (iv) Even otherwise, the term of Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, had expired on 20.10.2011 (A/N), the term of all the Pro Vice-Chancellors also stood expired on the same date, being co-terminus with the expiration of the term of the Vice-Chancellor and, therefore, the charge of the office of the Vice Chancellor was entrusted to Prof. M. Aslam, the senior-most Professor amongst the Directors of Schools, as per the provision of the Statute ibid.
- (v) It was noted that the Hon'ble High Court has also neither granted any injunction nor stayed the conduct of the meeting of the Board under the chairmanship of Prof. M. Aslam, as the acting Vice-Chancellor of the University. Even no notice on the stay application had been issued.
- (vi) Sh. Pravin Parekh, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Member, BOM/a Visitor's nominee on the Board endorsed the above views/position in the matter.
- **BM 111.18.2** The Board observed that Prof. M. Aslam is performing the duties under the provision of Statue 1(6) and therefore, the Board has no authority to restrain him from performing such duties till the next Vice-Chancellor takes over. The Board expressed its inability to accept the request of Dr. R. Sudarsan. The Board, therefore, unanimously resolved to reject the letter dt. 27.12.2011 of Dr. R. Sudarsan and the notice of his advocate Sh. Aagney Sail dt.23.12.2011. Accordingly, the proceedings the BOM Meeting were conducted as scheduled.

- ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 110TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON OCTOBER 07, 2011 ALONG WITH ACTION TAKEN REPORT AND THE ACTION PROPOSED ON THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE MHRD ON THE MINUTES OF 107TH, 108TH & 109TH MEETINGS OF THE BOARD
- **BM 111.1.1** The Registrar (Admn.)/Secretary, BOM informed that the Minutes of the 110th Meeting of the Board of Management held on 07.10.2011 were circulated to the Members of the Board. **Comments** have been received from Shri Abdul Samad Ibrahim, Member, BOM, vide his letter dt.15.11.2011 and also from the Ministry of HRD (vide letter No.F.5-28/2011-DL (Part) dt.28.12.2011) on certain decisions of the 110th Board Meeting. Secretary explained in brief the comments.

The Board noted the comments received from the MHRD and directed to adopt the modifications suggested by the Ministry suitably. The comments of the Ministry are placed as **Appendix-1**.

As regards the comments received from Sh. Abdul Samad Ibrahim, the Board unanimously decided that since the two Members nominated on the Search committee, have resigned from the membership of the Committee and the Ministry has also requested that fresh nomination of Members may be considered by the Board of Management of the University, on the Search Committee, the matter of nomination of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan & Sh. Rajendra S. Pawar on Search Committee nominated by the Board earlier be treated as closed. The Board noted that language used by Sh. Abdul Samad Ibrahim in his comments was not in good taste particularly coming from a Board Member. Sh. Ibrahim may, therefore, be advised not to use such language in comments/representation to the Board.

BM 111.1.2 As regards the comments/observations of the Ministry on certain decisions of the Minutes of 107^{th,} 108th and 109th meetings, the Board decided that amendments/modifications as already authorized for adoption in the 110th Meeting (vide Res.No.110.1.1) be adopted, as per the table placed with Item No.1 of the agenda.

BM 111.1.3 The Board also noted the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 110th Meeting and confirmed the Minutes, with the above direction.

ITEM NO. 2 TO CONSIDER THE STATUS REPORT ON IGNOU ACTIVITIES BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

BM 111.2.1 The Chairman informed the Board that he took over the charge of the position of the Vice-Chancellor on 20th October, 2011. He sought the permission of the Board to present the status report and share his experiences with the Board on some of the major issues & challenges faced by him for seeking guidance and direction. At the very outset he drew the attention of the members of the Board to the Preamble of IGNOU Act which states that it is "An Act to establish and incorporate an Open University at the national level for the introduction and promotion of open university and distance education systems in the educational pattern of the country and for coordination and determination of standards in such systems."

Further, the Act under Item 2(e) defines distance education systems as, 'the system of imparting education through any means of communication such as broadcasting, telecasting, correspondence courses, seminars, contact programmes or the combination of any two or more of such means."

He further stated that this provides the context in which IGNOU has to function, and his presentation has to be viewed. In his presentation, he highlighted the following:

- (i) The international operations through the partner institutions abroad does not present an encouraging picture and are expected to land IGNOU into numerous litigations. For example a Dubai based Centre UEIT alone owes IGNOU an amount of US\$ 451588 and yet we allowed exams to be conducted in July, 2011. Further, the Queensland University of Australia is about to sue IGNOU for not fulfilling our obligations.
- (ii) The University has launched certain programmes under face-to-face/conventional mode, even though there is no provision in the Act to offer such programmes. There are 48 such full-time academic programmes, in which no students are registered, or relevant data has not been

communicated to IGNOU. There are 22 other programmes, which have less than 10 students registered.

- (iii) In the last 5 years, the advertisement budget has been raised from Rs. 1 crore to Rs.27.00 crores p.a and during the current financial year this expenditure has crossed Rs.27.00 crores and there are pending bills worth Rs.4.00 crores.
- (iv) As per records IGNOU has signed 463 MOUs/MOCs after 1st October, 2006. A large number of them are lying without any follow-up activity being undertaken and some of them are now being withdrawn
- (v) A large number of centres have been established and allowed to offer academic programmes equating them at par with the academic schools of the University without making necessary amendments in the relevant statutes.

The Chairman informed the Board that there are numerous other issues which need to be looked into, in greater details. He requested the Board for guidance and direction.

The Board of Management appreciated sincere efforts made by the Chairman in presenting the picture and then the matter was discussed in detail. Prof. B.S. Sharma, Member desired to know whether the University has a mandate to offer face-to-face programmes besides the ODL programmes After the discussions that followed, it was decided that all the facts & figures presented should be recorded in the Minutes. The Board further approved that a High Power Review Committee may be constituted with one or two Board Members on the Committee to review the role of IGNOU as mandated, examine the entire gamut of issues and trade between quality and quantity as per Act and submit its report in time-bound manner for further decision/direction. The Board authorized the Chairman to constitute a Review Committee, with one or two Member of the Board, for the purpose and to convene a separate meeting of BOM to discuss the report of the committee.

A copy of the Status Report, placed before the Board is placed as **Appendix-2**.

ITEM NO. 3 TO REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN IN THE MATTER OF COUNTING OF PAST SERVICES OF PROF. V.N. RAJASEKHARAN PILLAI, FORMER VICE-

CHANCELLOR, IGNOU FOR PENSIONARY BENEFIT IN IGNOU

BM 111.3.1 The item was taken up for consideration. The Secretary informed that the Board at its 109th Meeting considered the matter of counting of past services in respect of Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, former VC, for the purpose of pensionary benefit in IGNOU. The Board had approved the proposal in principle. Secretary further informed that the terminal benefits to the Vice-Chancellor need approval of the Visitor in terms of provision under Statute 1(5)(iii) of IGNOU Act. This position was duly brought out in the Agenda placed before the 109th Meeting of the Board.

Elaborating further, he informed the Board that pro rata retirement benefits from his previous organization namely Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam has been received by the University. However, necessary clarifications regarding continuity of service of Prof. Pillai for the period from 19.2.2001 to 20.10.2006, in organizations such as UGC, NAAC and the pro rata retirement benefits have yet not been received from these organisations. It was, therefore, necessary to seek the clarification on the above matter from Mahatma Gandhi University (with a copy endorsed to Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai), before the matter could be referred to the MHRD/Visitor for their approval.

BM 111.3.2 The Board approved the proposal. The Board also directed that the matter may be taken on priority.

ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF TWO MEMBERS ON THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY

- **BM 111.4.1** The Board considered the matter of nomination of two Members on the Search Committee for selection of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, as per the advise received from the MHRD vide letter No.F.5-1/2011-DL dt. 28.11.2011. The Board nominated the following as Members on the Search Committee after obtaining their consent:
 - (i) Prof. D.P. Agr awal, Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, New

Delhi

 (ii) Prof. Ishwar Singh Chauhan, (former Vice-Chancellor, Barkatullah University, MP Bhoj Open University & High Commissioner of India to Fiji), Bhopal

A copy each of the brief profile of the above two Members are placed as **Appendix-3 & 4** for perusal.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER THE RE-EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS OF THE UNIVERSITY AFTER SUPERANNUATION

BM 111.5.1 The Board considered the matter. The Board, however, felt that since the recommendations of the Committee, constituted for the purpose, have been placed during the meeting itself, the Members needed to go through the recommendations and the guidelines proposed for adoption. A decision in the matter was, therefore, deferred.

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR RECRUITMENT / CAS TO VARIOUS TEACHING & ACADEMIC POSTS

BM 111.6.1 The recommendations of the Selection Committee meetings for selection under Career Advancement Scheme to the teaching positions of Professors in the Disciplines of History, Political Science and Economics were placed before the Board. The Board considered and approved the recommendations, as per the details given below.

Teaching/Academic positions

Dates of Meeting	Positions	Name of the Candidate	Remarks
20.10.2011	Professor of History	Dr. S. B. Upadhyay	Recommended
20.10.2011	Professor of Political Science	Dr. Vijayasekhara Reddy	Recommended
20.10.2011	Professor of Economics	Dr. Kaustuva Barik	Recommended

ITEM NO. 7 TO REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING LIEN TO DR. SANJAY JASOLA, DY. DIRECTOR (COMP. DIV.) ON HIS SELECTION AS THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, UTTARAKHAND GRAPHICERA HILL UNIVERSITY, DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND)

BM 111.7.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the University in the matter of granting lien for one year to Dr. Sanjay Jasola, Dy. Director on his appointment as the Vice-Chancellor, Uttrakhand Graphicera Hill University, Dehradun, Uttrakhnand. The Board hailed the selection of Dr. Jasola to the prestigious post of the Vice-Chancellor of the University and congratulated Dr. Jasola.

ITEM NO. 8 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN MAKING THE TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF PROF. ANIL KUMAR JHA AS DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

BM 110.8.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the University to appoint Prof. A.K. Jha, as Director, Planning & Development Division for a term of six months each from (i) 30.9.2010 to 29.3.2011, (ii) 30.3.2011 to 29.9.2011 & currently from 30.9.2011 to 29.3.2012.

ITEM NO. 9 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 77TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 26.12.2011

BM 111.9.1 The Board considered and approved the minutes and recommendations of the Finance Committee made at its 77th meeting held on 26.12.2011 along with the Revised Estimates 2011-2012 and Budget Estimates 2012-2013 vide FC Res. 77.3 of the Minutes of the Finance Committee.

The Board specifically approved the Revised Estimates 2011-2012 and Budget Estimates 2012-2013, both Plan & Non-Plan with overall ceiling in Plan estimates of Rs.432.97 crore and Rs.432.68 crore for RE 2011-12 & BE 2012-13 respectively and in Non-Plan with overall ceiling of Rs.508.00 and Rs.545.92 crore for RE 2011-12 and BE 2012-13 respectively.

The Board also authorized submission of the Annual Accounts for the year 2010-2011 to the MHRD along with Audit certificate of the Director of Audit (Central Expenditure) issued for & on behalf of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, in terms of the provisions under Section 29 of IGNOU Act.

A copy of the Minutes of the Finance Committee is placed at **Appendix-5**.

ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER THE STATUS OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTRE (ISLRTC) AT IGNOU

BM 111.10.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board discussed the matter of establishment of Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLRTC) at IGNOU sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India and also the proposal for establishment of IGNOU Institute of Sign Language. The Board decided that since the ISLRTC has already been established and notified in the IGNOU with funding from Govt. of India, there is no need for establishment of IGNOU Institute of Sign Language in the University which is ultimately to serves the same purpose and the same clientele.

The Board further considered the matter of appointment of the Director of the ISLRTC. The Board noted that since Prof. Madan M. Vasishta has crossed the age of 70 years, he cannot be appointed as the Director of the Centre, involving administrative & financial powers. The Board, however, agreed to the proposal of appointment of Prof. Vasishta as the Chief Adviser, ISLRTC on payment of honorarium of Rs. 1 lakh per month, payable proportionately for the period he works at the Centre. The Board also approved to extend the facilities of accommodation as well as reimbursement of air fare, etc. as proposed in the agenda and also the present spell of his engagement to be counted from 14.12.2011 to 29.2.2012.

ITEM NO.11 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF PROJECT OFFICER, CMD

BM 111.11.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board, however, deferred the final decision in the mater, due to paucity of time.

ITEM NO.12 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN EXTENDING THE TENURE OF PROF. P.C. KESAVAN AS EMERITUS PROFESSOR FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR W.E.F. 01.01.2012

BM 111.12.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in extending the tenure of Prof. P. Kesavan as Emeritus Professor for a period of one year w.e.f. 01.01.2012.

ITEM NO.13 TO RATIFY THE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE RESOLUTION OF ITEM NO.29 OF 109TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

BM 111.13.1 The Board ratified the correction in the name, being only the typographical error.

ITEM NO.14 TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE OF SH. M RAJAMANNAR, PRODUCER (SG)

BM111.14.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Chairman informed the Board that he was invited by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) to attend a discussion meeting with the Hon'ble Member of the Commission, which was duly complied on 20.12.2011. He had apprised the Hon'ble Member of the Commission about the decision taken by the Board of Management and also about the constitution of the Committee as desired by BOM to look into lapses, if any. The Board was also informed that the Commission desired that Sh. Rajamannar be given opportunity to present his case before the Committee personally, and that the Committee has been requested accordingly. The findings of the Committee on the lapses, if any, shall be placed before the Board in due course.

ITEM NO. 15 TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST OF SHRI S. VENKATESH, LECTURER IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOSS FOR EXTENDING THE TIME LIMIT FOR REPLY FOR FOUR MONTHS

- **BM 111.15.1** The Board considered & approved the request of Sh. S. Venkatesh, Lecturer, Political Science for extending the time limit by 4 months for submission of his reply.
- ITEM NO.16 TO CONSIDER THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE IGNOUTA ON CERTAIN DECISIONS OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

BM 111.16.1 The Board considered the representation of the IGNOUTA vide their letter dt. 14.12.2011. As regards para 1 of the representation, the Board noted that it has already been decided to close the matter of nomination on the Search Committee while considering the comments of Sh. Abdul Samad Ibrahim, under Res. BM 111.1.1 above, and hence the issue stands settled finally. No further modification under Res.No.BM 110.1.4 was also needed.

As regards the demand of IGNOUTA in the matter of application of CCS (Conduct) Rules 1964 to Teachers/Academics in the University (vide para 2) and to maintain the status quo ante in the matter of allotment of IGNOU Staff quarters (vide para 3), the Board decided to defer the matter due to paucity of time.

ITEM NO.17 TO REPORT THE PROPOSAL FOR RATIONALIZATION OF STAFF STRENGTH AT REGIONAL CENTRES OF THE UNIVERSITY

BM 111.17.1 The Board noted the proposal for review and rationalization of the staffing pattern at Regional Centres of the University including the structure & functioning of the RSD and the EDNERU at Headquarters. The Board appreciated that most of the Region Centres were created in the early years of its establishment and a number of responsibilities have been added to the Regional Centres since then. The Board, therefore, approved the proposal to constitute a High Power Committee of the Heads of concerned Divisions and authorized the Chairman to constitute it. The Board also noted that a Committee has already been constituted to review the working of EDNERU and the Regional Centres and other centres established in the North East Region The Board directed that the two committees shall coordinate and make comprehensive recommendations to cover all the Regional Centres including those in the North East Region, RSD and EDNERU at Headquarters.

ITEM NO.18 TO CONSIDER THE REPRESENTATION OF SHRI R. SUDARSAN, DY. DIRECTOR, P&DD IN RESPECT OF POSTPONEMENT OF THE BOM MEETING

- **BM 111.18.1** The Item was considered as priority Item at S.No.2.
- ITEM NO.19 TO CONSIDER THE MATTER OF RELAXATION OF

AGE IN THE CASE OF TWO CONSULTANTS NAMELY SH. R.L. GOYAL AND SH. K.S. KAUSHIK WORKING IN FINANCE & ACCOUNTS DIVISIONS

- **BM 111.19.1** The Board considered the matter. Keeping in view the nature of work in hand with these two consultants and its implications towards the closing of financial year, the Board agreed to extend the term of engagement of two Consultants namely, Sh. R.L. Goyal and Sh. K.S. Kaushik working in Finance & Accounts Division, for further period of 4 months only in each case, effective from 29.12.2011 @ Rs.25000/- per month, as a very special case, subject to further condition that the cases will not be cited as a precedent. The Board also ratified their earlier extension given up to 28.12.2011.
- ITEM NO.20 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT ON CONDUCT OF LOCAL RECRUITMENT OF GROUP-B & C CATEGORIES OF NON-ACADEMIC STAFF IN NORTH-EAST REGION
- **BM 111.20.1** The Board noted the status report on conduct of the local recruitment of staff in Groups 'B' & 'C' categories, in the North-East Region.
- ITEM NO.21 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE SANCTION OF EXTRA ORDINARY LEAVE (EOL) TO PROF. PARVIN SINCLAIR, PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS TO ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT OF DIRECTOR, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (NCERT)
- **BM 111.21.1** The Board approved the proposal for grant of Extra Ordinary Leave (EOL) to Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Professor of Mathematics to enable her to accept the assignment of the Director, NCERT, New Delhi, for a period of five years. The Board congratulated Prof. Parvin Sinclair on her appointment as the Director of the prestigious Institute like NCERT.

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

(M. Aslam) Chairman