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MINUTES OF THE 90th MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th MARCH, 2017

MINUTES OF THE 90th MEETING (EMERGENT) OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th MARCH, 2017 AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM, VICE CHANCELLOR OFFICE, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI.

The following were present:-

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| 1. Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor (i/c) | - Chairman |
| 2. Prof. K.N. Tripathi, Member, BOM, IGNOU | - Member |
| 3. Sri. Vivek Mehrotra, Secretary (Retd.), GoI | - Member |
| 4. Prof. P. Srinivas Kumar, Director, SOET | - Member |
| 5. Sri D.K. Issrani, Finance Officer (i/c) | - Secretary |

Shri S.P. Goyal, Joint Secretary (NITs & DL) and Ms. Darshana M. Dabral, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, MHRD could not attend the meeting. However, the comments from both the Members on the agenda items of 90th Finance Committee were received electronically on 17.03.2017 morning vide their letter Nos. F.No.5-5/2017-DL and F. No.10-2/2016-IFD both dated 16.03.2017 (Attachments-1 & 2 respectively).

Prof. Pradeep Sahni, Registrar (MPDD) and Shri S.K. Sharma, Registrar (Admn.) also attended the meeting as Special Invitees.

Shri Mohan Veer Gautam, Assistant Registrar (FC) was present to assist the Committee.

Shri K. Ravi Kanth, Joint Director, Sh. Vinod Mago and Sh S.V.S. Prashant, Engineers In-charge, EMPC were invited to provide information on Gyan Darshan and Gyan Vani.

The Finance Officer, Secretary welcomed the Chairman & other Members of the Finance Committee to the meeting.

The Chairman introduced Shri Vivek Mehrotra and welcomed him as the new Member of the Finance Committee.

With the permission of the Chairman, Secretary presented the following agenda items. The Committee considered the agenda and transacted the following business:

- FC 90.1** To consider License Fee to be paid to Prasar Bharati for non-operational period on account of using their infrastructure for GyanVani Transmissions for the period of 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2016.

said period. The Committee was informed that efforts to restart Gyan Vani transmission had finally resulted into the signing of a fresh MoU between IGNOU and Prasar Bharti on 09.12.2016 that had become effective from 01.01.2017. The Committee commended the efforts made by the Vice Chancellor in reactivating Gyan Vani and expressed confidence that these efforts would reap rich educational dividends. The Committee also noted that the VC has been able to secure significant reduction in the original demand raised by PB through discussions with them (e.g. reduction in the rate of: a. annual increase in license fee from 5% to 2%, and b. studio hiring charges from Rs.800/- per hour to Rs.500/- per hour, both concessions accruing over a period of 15 years of the validity of MoU).

90.1.3

The Committee noted the details given in University's response and also the details of the continued efforts made by IGNOU to secure remission of the license fee for the period for which the Gyan Vani transmission had remained non-functional. The communication made by IGNOU to MHRD continually for guidance and advice in securing the remission from the concerned Ministry was also noted by the Committee. The Committee noted that the absence of Gyan Vani broadcasts due to nonpayment of dues to PB adversely affected imparting of instructions to the students by IGNOU which is the core function of the University. It was also noted that MHRD has been exhorting the University to urgently restart Gyan Vani broadcasts. FC further noted that the Visitor has ordered an enquiry into the lapse of not making the payments to PB that resulted in suspension of Gyan Vani broadcasts. After detailed deliberations, the Committee recommended the following:

- i. IGNOU should make efforts, under the guidance and directions of MHRD, to secure early remission of the license fee for the non-functional period to save on the accrual of penal interest which would otherwise grow at an alarming rate.
- ii. The Board of Management, in the eventuality of non-remission of license fee for the non-functional period, approves release of payment of Rs.22.14 Crore to Prasar Bharti. In that case, efforts

- ii. As GD channel was perceived as a part of the DD bouquet, no separate licensing procedure was probably needed at the time of its launch. The situation, however, changed when in the year 2013 it became necessary to shift the telecast operations first to INSAT 3C and subsequently to GSAT 10. At this time the prevailing satellite TRAI regulations, requiring all the satellite T.V. Channels (both private & Govt.) to apply for W.P.C, NOCC clearance from Ministry of Communication & IT, became operational.
- iii. As a consequence IGNOU received a demand note for Rs. 19.39 crore, for the WPC payment for the period January, 2000 to December, 2017, which included the late fee charges & charges for the non-operational period also (the detailed break-up is in **Attachment- 14**).
- iv. As the invoice received from the Ministry of Communication & IT was for around 20 crore which included substantial charges of late fee amount, the Vice Chancellor, IGNOU along with the concerned EMPC Officials met Member (Technology) and Wireless Adviser on 14-03-2017. In this meeting it was emphasized that G.D T.V. Channel was a non-commercial public service, broadcaster, entirely dependent on a moderate grant from MHRD for its operations. A strong plea was made by the Vice Chancellor for exempting IGNOU from the payment of late fee charges and charges for the non-operational period (4 June 2014- 16 March 2017). The officials of MOC were empathetic to the pleas of IGNOU and advised that part payment for Rs. 23,907,500 be made in the first instance, along with the submission of an undertaking that the balance amount would be paid later subject to the availability of funds and concurrence of nodal Ministry i.e. MHRD. This arrangement was suggested by MOC officials given the urgency for re-activating Gyan Darshan channel at the earliest.
- v. The details of initial principal amount of Rs.2,01,24,500/- (plus taxes as applicable) for the period from January 2000 to December 2017 was corrected by Sri K. Ravi Kanth, JD, EMPC as Rs.2,39,07,500/- (plus taxes as applicable) which was inadvertently mentioned as Rs.2,01,24,500/- approx. (plus taxes as applicable) in the agenda.

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academic employees of the University and other related aspects e.g. sanctioned positions, financial implication and sources to meet the additional financial implications.

90.4.2. The Committee noted the action being taken by the University for providing the requisite information to MHRD.

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


(Ravindra Kumar)
Chairman
Finance Committee



डॉ. जे. डी. गंगवाल
वित्त अधिकारी, इग्नू
Dr. J. D. Gangwal
Finance Officer, IGNOU