

MINUTES

of the

NINTH MEETING

of the

RESEARCH COUNCIL

held on

AUGUST 21, 2007



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068

I.G.N.O.U

MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST AUGUST, 2007 AT 10.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, BLOCK-8, IGNOU, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI – 110 068.

The following were present:

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| 1. Prof. V. N.Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor | - | Chairman |
| 2. Prof. Omprakash Mishra, Pro-Vice-Chancellor | - | Member |
| 3. Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Pro-Vice Chancellor | - | Member |
| 4. Prof. Basir Ahmad Khan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor | - | Special Invitee |
| 5. Prof. C.L. Anand, Member, Board of Management | - | Member |
| 6. Prof. T.K.V. Subramanian, University of Delhi | - | Member |
| 7. Prof. Vijay Kapur, University of Delhi | - | Member |
| 8. Prof. Joseph Dorairaj, Gandhigram Rural University | - | Member |
| 9. Prof. M.L Koul, Director, School of Education | - | Member |
| 10. Prof. S.B. Arora, Director, School of Health Sciences | - | Member |
| 11. Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Director, School of Law | - | Member |
| 12. Prof. P.R. Ramanujam, Member, Planning Board | - | Member |
| 13. Prof. Anjila Gupta, School of Social Sciences | - | Member |
| 14. Dr. C.K.Ghosh, Director, Regional Services Division | - | Member |
| 15. Dr. Masood Parveez, Regional Director (Sr. Scale) | - | Member |
| 16. Prof. B.S.Saraswat, Director, ACD | - | Member-Secretary |

Prof. Surabhi Banerjee, Prof. V.M. Shah and Prof. S.K. Panda could not attend the meeting. Sh.K.D.Sharma, Section Officer, Academic Coordination Division was present to assist the Member-Secretary.

At the outset the Chairman welcomed the members to the ninth meeting of the Research Council. He accorded a special welcome to the new members of the Council, Prof. Omprakash Mishra, PVC, Prof. Parvin Sinclair, PVC, Prof. Surabhi Banerjee, Prof. T.K.V. Subramanian, Prof. Vijay Kapur, Dr. Joseph Dorairaj, Prof. M.L Koul, Prof. S.B.Arora, Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao, Prof. P.R. Ramanujam, Prof. Anjila Gupta and Dr. Masood Parveez. He also placed on record the appreciation of the Research Council for contributions made by the outgoing members, Dr. N.S. Ramegowda, Prof. S.M.Paul Khurana, Prof. Amitava Raychaudhari, Dr. D. Padmanaban, Prof. Pardeep Sahni, Prof. M.C.Sharma, Prof. J.M. Parakh, Prof. Madhulika Kaushik and Dr. C.G. Naidu, in the deliberations of the Research Council.

The Chairman, then, requested the Member Secretary to present the items on the agenda.

ITEM NO. 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER, 2006 AND NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

RC.9.1.1 The Member Secretary informed the Research Council that the Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the Research Council held on 21st November, 2006 were circulated to the members on 11.12.2006 (Annexure-1). No comments had been received from any of the members. The Action Taken Report on the Minutes had been placed at (Annexure-2). He proposed that the Minutes may be confirmed.

RC.9.1.2 The Research Council confirmed the Minutes of the Eighth Meeting held on 21st November, 2006 (**Annexure-1**) and noted the action taken thereon.

RC.9.1.3 Under “matters arising out of the minutes”, a member desired to have the following information:

- (i) number of students admitted to the PhD programme and awarded the degree so far,
- (ii) status of award of JRFs/RTA,
- (iii) status of the report of the committee appointed to finalize the modalities of offering the PhD Programme for overseas students.

RC.9.1.4 The Member Secretary informed the Council that 32 candidates had been registered in the PhD programmes so far and the degree has been awarded to one of them. Three more candidates had submitted their theses which are under evaluation. In addition, 34 candidates had also been admitted under the IGNOU-HRI Integrated Doctoral Degree Programme. He further informed the members that more than 3200 applications had been received for Research & Teaching Assistantships, which were being scrutinized in different Schools. The report of the committee which framed the guidelines for offering the PhD programmes to overseas students was approved by the Standing Committee of the Research Council at the second meeting held on 18th May, 2007, and had been sent to the International Division for further necessary action.

ITEM NO.2 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE HELD ON 18TH MAY, 2007.

RC.9.2.1 The Member-Secretary apprised the members that the Second Meeting of the Research Council's Standing Committee (RCSC) was held on 18th May, 2007. A copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee had been placed at Annexure 2. He informed the members that the RCSC made the following recommendations:

- ◆ launching of Ph.D. programme in Social Work, Women's Studies, Rural Development, Child Development and Distance Education,
- ◆ approval of the recommendations of the School Board of School of Sciences regarding course work for Ph.D. programme in Mathematics,
- ◆ offering of Ph.D. programme in collaboration with the Institute of Economic Growth and the Institute of Human Development,
- ◆ approval of the Ph.D. proposals of Ms. Arti Kaushik (Mathematics), Shri Umapati Pattar (Physics), Shri Harshvardhan Raju (Political Science), Ms. Neeta Singhal (History), Shri Alok Bajpai (History), Shri S.C.B. Samuel Anbu Selvan (Commerce) and Ms. Rajesh (Political Science).
- ◆ approval of the Progress Reports of Ms. Arundhati Mishra (Physics) and Shri Devender Kumar (Sociology),
- ◆ approval of the Guidelines for IGNOU-DEC Research and Teaching Assistantships,
- ◆ approval of the Minutes of the Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor to finalize modalities for offering Ph.D. programme for Overseas Students,
- ◆ change of supervisor of Mr. Pardeep Rai registered for Ph.D. in Library and Information Science,
- ◆ ratification of the constitution of the Board of Examiners for evaluating the thesis of Ms. Preeti Sharma registered in Ph.D. in Political Science,
- ◆ approval of Dr. Nandini Sahu, Reader, Editorial Unit, SOH as a PhD supervisor.

RC.9.2.2 After detailed discussions, the Research Council approved the Minutes (**Annexure-2**) of the Second Meeting of the Research Council's Standing Committee held on 18th May 2007.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR LAUNCHING OF “PH.D. PROGRAMME IN AGRICULTURE EXTENSION”.

RC.9.3.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that the School of Agriculture had submitted the proposal for launching the Ph.D. programme in Agriculture Extension. The main features of the programme are to conduct research studies keeping in mind the increasing needs of people for access to knowledge and technologies. The Open and Distance Learning (ODL) is a new entry in the country’s extension system and how ODL can play an important role in extension activity needs to be examined. The aim of the proposed programme is to train the people involved in agriculture extension activities through conducting research studies keeping in mind the needs of increasing reach and opportunities.

The Ph.D. programme shall be of three year duration and offered with course work of 32 credits (total 96 credits), which shall comprise of four courses, and an 8-credit Bridge Course on Fundamentals of Agriculture Extension for candidates without a background in Agriculture Extension. It was also pointed out that the proposal envisages a programme fee of Rs.18000 out of which Rs.12000 would be paid to the supervisor as honorarium.

The School Board of School of Agriculture had approved the proposal at its 6th Meeting held on 4.7.2007.

RC.9.3.2 The proposal was discussed in detail. One of the members wanted to know how the programme would be different from the one being offered by other institutions. It was clarified that one major difference was that the programme would be offered through distance mode providing working people an opportunity of pursuing the programme.

RC.9.3.3 During the discussion the following issues were raised:

- (i) desirability of having a teacher/academic of the University as an internal supervisor for a student working under an external supervisor,
- (ii) the number of M.Phil. & Ph.D. students to be guided by a supervisor,
- (iii) credit weightage for M.Phil. dissertation and duration of the programme,
- (iv) provision of a doctoral committee for every student.

The issues were discussed at great length in the light of the provisions of the Ordinance on Research Degree Programme, the Act and the Statutes of the University. The members finally concluded that there was no need to insist upon having an internal supervisor, if the candidate did not request for it, which was in line with the provisions of Clause 4.1 of the Ordinance in vogue.

The Research Council noted that Clause 4.4 of the Ordinance stipulates that “at any time, a supervisor shall not guide more than 4/5 students out of whom 2/3 students may be M.Phil. and not more than 2 Ph.D. students”. It was felt that the number was inadequate and a committee appointed by the Chairman had recommended that the number may be increased to ten. In view of a small core faculty in each discipline, quality concerns and the practice in the conventional system, the Council decided that the number should be increased to six with a proviso that in case of joint supervision the number would be increased proportionately (e.g., if a student is supervised by two supervisors, the load of each supervisor would be counted as $\frac{1}{2}$; thus a supervisor can guide 6-12 Ph.D. students at a time depending upon the fact that the candidates are under sole or joint supervision) and that the Clause 4.4 be amended suitably. The Research Council also noted (Clause 5.1 of the Ordinance) that a credit weightage of 64-68 credits including 32-36 credits of course work and a duration of 2 to 4 years (Clause 8.1) of the M.Phil. programme were rather high and not in parity with what existed in the conventional system. The Council therefore decided that:

- (i) the credit weightage for the M.Phil. dissertation be reduced to 12 - 16 credits, and
- (ii) the minimum duration of the programme be changed to 18 months.

RC.9.3.4 The Research Council decided that Clauses 4.4 and 8.1 of the Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes be amended as per the decision in RC 9.3.3, and the existing Clause 4.5 be deleted from the Ordinance. A new clause, Clause 4.5, making provision of a Doctoral Committee for each Ph.D. student, as recommended by the Research Council's Standing Committee while considering the proposal of Ph.D. in Distance Education and in the area of the Differently Abled, may be incorporated.

RC.9.3.5 The Research Council considered the proposal for Ph.D. in Agriculture Extension and decided that the School of Agriculture be advised to elaborate how the programme would be different from that being offered by the conventional universities and institutions. The School should also modify the fee to be charged at par with other programmes and the course structure to 32-36 credits to be in line with Clause 5.1 of the Ordinance.

ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR LAUNCHING OF M.PHIL. IN SOCIAL WORK.

RC.9.4.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that the School of Continuing Education had submitted the proposal for launching Master in Philosophy in Social Work through ODL. The School had submitted that the existing Schools of Social Work had limitations in extending facilities to social work practitioners-both in-service and self employed – to pursue research leading to M.Phil. The Social Work graduates (Master in Social Work to be launched in 2008) of the University would also have opportunities to pursue research studies leading to M.Phil. The University had also signed an MoU with Florida State University which will provide facilities for exposure programmes to IGNOU students of M.Phil. in Social Work. Several faculties from various Schools of Social Work have requested for the launch of M.Phil. programme through ODL. This will enable candidates from far flung areas and those in service particularly lecturers to pursue their research studies leading to M.Phil.

RC.9.4.2 The Research Council considered and approved the proposal (**Annexure-3**) for launching of M.Phil. in Social Work.

ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR LAUNCHING OF PH.D. PROGRAMME ON DIFFERENTLY ABLED.

RC.9.5.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that the Area Committee, at its 2nd Meeting held on 14.5.2007, while considering the proposal submitted by the National Centre for Different Abled for launching of the Ph.D. programme in Disability, decided (vide Resolution No. ACRC 2.2.2) that the proposal be submitted to the Research Council after incorporating the modifications suggested by the Committee.

Accordingly, the National Centre for Differently Abled (NCDA) had made necessary modifications and submitted the revised proposal.

RC.9.5.2 The Research Council considered the proposal and decided that the revised proposal for launching of Ph.D. programme for Differently Abled be first approved by the Area Committee.

ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PH.D. SYNOPSIS SUBMITTED BY MS. MRIDULA RASHMI KINDO (SOH).

RC.9.6.1 The Member Secretary informed that the School Board of School of Humanities at its 33rd Meeting held on 24.8.2006 had approved the revised Ph.D. synopsis entitled “**Locations of Imagination: A Study of Modernist Traces in the Poetry of Arun Kolatkar and Michael Ondaatje**” submitted by Ms. Mridula Rashmi Kindo, Lecturer, SOH. The School Board at that time did not recommend the name of the supervisor and hence the proposal was not placed before the Research Council. The School Board of School of Humanities at its 36th Meeting held on 4.7.2007 had recommended the name of Prof. S.S.Sharma, School of Humanities, as her supervisor.

RC.9.6.2 The Research Council considered and approved the revised proposal (**Annexure-4**) submitted by Miss Mridula Rashmi Kindo for registration in Ph.D. in English under the supervision of Prof. S.S. Sharma, School of Humanities, IGNOU.

ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REVISED RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY MS. PONNI IYER FOR ADMISSION TO PH.D. IN EDUCATION.

RC.9.7.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that Ms. Ponni Iyer, had presented her research proposal on “**Student’s and Teachers’ Perceptions of the Quality of Education in Institutions of Higher Education, with different levels of NAAC Accreditation – A Comparative Study**” at the seminar organized by the School of Education on 1.12.2005, wherein it was suggested that she should reduce the number of hypotheses and objectives of the study and submit the revised proposal. The candidate was also advised to go through the list of the approved supervisors of School of Education faculty of IGNOU and the empanelled list of external supervisors and express her willingness under whose guidance she would carry out the Ph.D. work. The Minutes of the Seminar were approved by the School Board of School of Education at its 22nd Meeting held on 30.3.2006 vide resolution no. 22.6.1. Ms. Iyer had resubmitted the revised research proposal after incorporating the suggested changes/modifications (**Annexure-5**) which had been approved by her prospective supervisors Prof. G.J.Kerawalla, Mumbai and Prof. S.V.S.Chaudhary, School of Education, IGNOU.

RC.9.7.2 The Research Council considered and approved the revised proposal (**Annexure-5**) submitted by Ms. Ponni Iyer for Ph.D. in Education under the joint supervision of Prof. G.J.Kerawalla and Prof. S.V.S.Chaudhary.

ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY MR. K.RAMACHANDRAN FOR ADMISSION TO PH.D. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.

RC.9.8.1 The Member Secretary informed that Mr. K.Ramachandran, a Research Scholar had submitted his proposal entitled: **“Critical analysis on the role of Social Education in Third World”** for admission in Ph.D. programme in Political Science under the supervision of Prof. Pandav Nayak, Professor of Political Sciences, IGNOU. The proposal was considered by the School Board of School of Social Sciences at its 40th meeting held on 27.4.2007 which recommended that the proposal be revised by the candidate to the satisfaction of the supervisor and submitted to the Research Council. Mr. K.Ramachandran revised and resubmitted the proposal after consultation with his supervisor Prof. Pandav Nayak, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU.

RC.9.8.2 During the discussion, it was pointed out that the candidate did not revise the proposal, but had submitted altogether a new proposal After detailed discussion the Research Council decided that the proposal be routed through the School Board of the School of Social Sciences.

ITEM NO.9 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF DR. PRABHAKAR SINGH FOR RECOGNITION AS SUPERVISOR FOR THE PH.D. (PHYSICS) PROGRAMME.

RC 9.9.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that the School Board of the School of Sciences, at its 35th meeting held on 10.4.2007, approved the application of Dr. Prabhakar Singh for recognition as supervisor for the Ph.D. Programme in Physics of IGNOU. His area of research interest is experimental work in Materials Science, which includes the ceramic materials and the ion conducting glasses.

RC.9.9.2 The Research Council, on the recommendation of the School Board, recognized Dr. Prabhakar Singh as a supervisor for the Ph.D. in Physics

ITEM NO.10 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR IN CONSTITUTING THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR EVALUATING THE THESIS OF MS. J.S.DOROTHY.

RC 9.10.1 The Member Secretary informed that due to oversight the name of the student in the item had been inadvertently mentioned as Ms. J.S. Dorothy. The Vice-Chancellor in fact had approved the constitution of the Board of Examiners for evaluation of the thesis submitted by Ms. Nisha Peshin, enrollment number 024957627, for Ph.D. in Education.

RC.9.10.2 The Research Council ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in constituting the Board of Examiners for evaluation of the Ph.D. thesis submitted by Ms. Nisha Peshin.

Tabled Item

ITEM NO.11 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE AREA COMMITTEE OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL.

RC.9.11.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that the 2nd Meeting of the Area Committee was held on 14th May 2007, which considered the proposal for launching of the Ph.D. in the areas of the Differently Abled and Distance Education.

RC.9.11.2 The Research Council considered and approved the Minutes of the Area Committee (**Annexure-6**) held on 14th May, 2007.

ITEM NO.12 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE LIST OF EXTERNAL SUPERVISORS FOR THE PH.D. PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT.

RC.9.12.1 The Member Secretary informed the Council that the School Board of the School of Management Studies, at its 19th Meeting held on March 30, 2007, approved the list of twenty external experts as research guides for inclusion in the Information Brochure for Ph.D. Programme.

RC.9.12.2 The Research Council considered and approved the list of External Supervisors as recommended by the School Board for Ph.D. in Management (**Annexure-7**), with the advice that in future the proposal for recognition as supervisors be accompanied by brief bio-data of the teachers/ academics concerned.

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

(V.N.Rajasekharan Pillai)
Chairman