CONFIDENTIAL

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002

MINUTES OF THE 547TH MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 29TH MAY, 2020.

The 547th Meeting of the Commission was held on 29th May, 2020 in which the following were present:

1. Prof. Dhirendra Pal Singh
2. Dr. Bhushan Keshav Patwardhan
3. Shri Amit Khare
4. Shri Rajeev Ranjan
5. Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari
6. Dr. Uma Chandrashekhar Vaidya,
7. Dr. Kiran Hazarika
8. Prof. (Dr.) Nagesh Thakur

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting:

Secretary

Prof. Rajnish Jain
SECTION-1

1.01(a) (i) To confirm the Minutes of the Agenda (By e-circulation on 09th April, 2020) of the University Grants Commission.

The minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admin.)]

(ii) To confirm the Minutes of the Emergent Commission Meeting held through Video conferencing on 27th April, 2020.

The minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admin.)]

(iii) To confirm the Minutes of the 546th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 14th May, 2020.

The minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admin.)]

(iv) The suggestions given by Commission Member, Prof. R. P. Tiwari about considering blended mode of teaching were discussed and deliberated in detail. It was considered that HEIs should also be allowed to teach up to 40% of syllabus of each course (other than SWAYAM courses) through online mode and the remaining 60% syllabus of the concerned course could be taught in offline mode. Examinations for both 40% online and 60% offline teaching can be conducted offline. This provision can be created over and above up to 40% of online education permissible for SWAYAM course. Examinations for SWAYAM Courses are essentially conducted in online mode.

It was resolved by the Commission that Chairman, UGC will constitute an Expert Group, under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. P. Tiwari to prepare a concept note and action plan regarding this matter.

[Action: JS(CPP-II/PU)]
(v) The suggestions given by Commission Member, Dr. Kiran Hazarika regarding relaxing the 15% SWAYAM Portal Fee till the COVID-19 pandemic period, was discussed and deliberated, and it was resolved to request the SWAYAM Board to consider relaxing SWAYAM Portal Fee.

[Action: JS(SWAYAM)]

1.02(a) To ratify the action taken on certain matter.

(i) To report the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted by the Commission with regard to approval of institutions under Sections 2(f), 12 (B) and compliance under Section 13 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Ratified.

[Action: JS(CPP-II/PU)]

1.02 (b) To receive the items for information. (No item)

1.03 To receive the position of funds of UGC and related issues. (No item)

SECTION–2

(MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

2.01 To consider the Report of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to assess the proposal submitted by ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (Deemed to be University), Hyderabad (Telangana) for starting off-campus centres at Bengaluru (Karnataka) (Deferred Item No.2.01 of 546th meeting held on 14th May, 2020).

The Commission considered the report of the UGC Expert Visiting Committee and decided to recommend to MHRD for starting off-campus centre at Bengaluru (Karnataka) by ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (Deemed to be University), Hyderabad (Telangana).

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]
2.02

To consider the recommendations of the UGC Compliance Verification Committee constituted to verify the compliance submitted by Jain (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru (Karnataka) in respect of the observations/suggestions given by the UGC Expert Visiting Committee which considered the proposal for starting off-campus centres at Kochi (Kerala). *(Deferred item No.2.09 of 546th meeting held on 14th May, 2020)*

The Commission considered the report of the UGC Expert Visiting Committee and decided to recommend to MHRD for off-campus centre at Kochi (Kerala) Jain (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru subject to the condition that the Deemed to be University shall fulfill all the conditions stipulated in the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019 with regard to off-campus at Kochi.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]

2.03

To consider the Report of the UGC Expert Committee which constituted to assess the proposal for Deemed to University status under de-novo category (i) Aurora’s Technological and Research Institute, Uppal (Hyderabad) and (ii) Aurora’s Engineering College, Bhongir, Dt. Yadadri (off-campus) in the name of Aurora Higher Education and Research Academy under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. *(Deferred Item No.2.10 of 546th meeting held on 14th May, 2020)*

The Commission considered the report of the UGC Expert Visiting Committee, AICTE Expert Committee and AICTE advice and decided to recommend to MHRD for Deemed to be University status under de-novo category to i) Aurora’s Technological and Research Institute, Uppal (Hyderabad) and (ii) Aurora’s Engineering College Bhongir, Dt. Yadadri (off-campus) in the name of Aurora Higher Education and Research Academy. The recommendation is subject to the condition that the Institution shall become compliant with UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations 2019 within two years of the notification of the Regulations.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]
2.04 To consider the Report of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to assess the proposal for Deemed to be University status under general category to Sri Manakula Vinayagar Engineering College, Madagadipet, Puducherry in the name of Sri Manakula Vinayagar Academy of Higher Education, Research and Technology (SMART) under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. *(Deferred Item No.2.11 of 546th meeting held on 14th May, 2020)*

The Commission considered and accepted the report of the UGC Expert Committee, AICTE Expert Committee and advice of AICTE and decided NOT to recommend to MHRD the Deemed to be University status to Sri Manakula Vinayagar Academy of Higher Education, Research and Technology (SMART), Puducherry. However, the Institution may re-apply ‘on-line’ through the UGC portal in accordance with the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]

2.05 To consider the categorization of Banasthal Vidyapith (Deemed to be University), PO Banasthal, Rajasthan under Category–I of the University Grants Commission [Categorization of Universities (only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy] Regulations, 2018.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]

2.06 To consider to double the number of selected candidates under UGC-NET-JRF.

The commission considered the agenda and resolved that an analysis be done to assess the trend of actual number of students joining the UGC-NET-JRF scheme and suggest an action for appropriately filling maximum number of slots of the fellowship.

[Action: JS(SA)]
To consider and approve the Report of Expert Committee on integration of ODL and Online Learning Regulations along with the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

At the outset, the Commission appreciated the efforts made by the Chairman and members of the Expert Committee for preparing the report in such a short time and for formulating single comprehensive regulations integrating ODL and Online regulations.

The Commission considered the report of the Expert Committee and deliberated on various provisions of the proposed integrated regulations. After detailed deliberations, The Commission resolved to include the following provisions appropriately in the integrated regulations:

1. Regarding change in NAAC requirement (proposed 3.01 from present 3.26, ODL & Online) and NIRF Ranking, which shall be valid for one academic session (2020-21) only in view of unprecedented circumstances due to COVID-19 pandemic and shall be reviewed subsequently by the Commission for the academic session 2021-22 and onwards.

2. Regarding considering top-100 universities from ‘University’ category instead of ‘Overall’ category as UGC primarily deals with the university education and NIRF has an exclusive ‘University category’ while providing appropriate justification.

3. Regarding rationale of allowing Science based programmes and ensuring quality.
4. Regarding issues related to Certificate and Diploma programmes after considering legal opinion, if required.

5. Regarding punitive actions in case of any violations/deviations related to compliance to all the provisions of these regulations, including withdrawal of recognition for ODL/Online programmes as well as other programmes being offered in conventional mode along with recommending the central/state government, as applicable for withdrawal of HEI status.

The Commission further resolved that the Expert Committee may be requested to include the following in its report:

"An introduction or a preamble about the vision for promoting online education in the country, elaboration on 'Learning Management Systems', and rationale for integrating ODL and Online regulations."

The Chairman requested the Commission members to forward their suggestions, within four days, related to these regulations.

The Commission authorized the Chairman, UGC to take final decision on incorporation of various suggestions / decisions as above, for approving the integrated regulations and taking necessary actions for notification in the gazette. The actions so taken may be ratified in the next meeting of the Commission.

[Action: JS(DEB)]
2.08 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee on Mapping & Related aspects of SWAYAM Courses (NON-ENGINEERING).

The Commission considered and approved the report, and appreciated the efforts of the Chairman, Expert Committee and all the members, for submitting the report in short period of time. It was also resolved that mapping of online courses available on e-PG Pathashala may be carried out to make such courses customization ready in the Learning Management System to be hosted by the Universities.

[Action: JS(SWAYAM)]

2.09 To consider to adopt the Painting (Portrait of UGC) made by Prof. Him Chatterjee.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

2.10 To consider UGC Guidelines for Opening the Universities and Colleges Post Lockdown due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Commission appreciated the Guidelines, and efforts of the UGC Officers for preparing them in such a short time. The Commission resolved to invite Comments of Commission Members on the Guidelines and incorporate them appropriately in the Guidelines. The Chairman was authorized to approve the final Guidelines.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]
SECTION-3

(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

SECTION-4

(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-5

(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-6

(MISCELLANEOUS)

6.01 To consider certain establishment matters of UGC

Recorded Separately.

[Action: JS(Admn)]

(Prof. Rajnish Jain)  
Secretary

(Prof. Dhirendra Pal Singh)  
Chairman