UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002

MINUTES OF THE 550TH MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2021.

The 550\textsuperscript{th} Meeting of the Commission was held on 18\textsuperscript{th} February, 2021 in which the following were present:

1. Prof. Dhirendra Pal Singh Chairman
2. Dr. Bhushan Keshav Patwardhan Vice Chairman
3. Shri Amit Khare Member
4. Shri Rajeev Ranjan Member
5. Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari Member
6. Dr. Uma Chandrashekhar Vaidya, Member
7. Dr. Kiran Hazarika Member
8. Prof. (Dr.) Nagesh Thakur Member
9. Prof. (Ms.) Sushma Yadav Member
10. Prof. E. Suresh Kumar Member
11. Prof. M.K. Sridhar Member
12. Dr. Shivaraj Member

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting:

Secretary

Prof. Rajnish Jain
1.01(a)  (i) To confirm the Minutes of the 549th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 22nd October, 2020.

The minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

(ii) To confirm the Minutes of the Emergent meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 19th November, 2020.

The minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

1.01(b)  (i) To receive the action taken on the Minutes of the 549th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 22nd October, 2020.

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

(ii) To receive the action taken on the Minutes of the Emergent meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 19th November, 2020.

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

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

(i) To report the inclusion of 132 Colleges (as approved by the Chairman, UGC) under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956 between 01.10.2020 to 31.01.2021 as per authorization given by the Commission at its meeting held on 24.08.2011.

Noted.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/C)]
(ii) To report the extension of last date for completing the Master’s degree with requisite percentage of marks for NET held in June/July 2018.

Noted.

[Action: JS(NET)]

(iii) To ratify the decision taken by the Chairman, UGC to approve the Report of the Review Committee to review the realistic requirement of funds for Central Universities (CUs) during the current financial year i.e. 2020-2021 and to forward the report to Ministry of Education.

Ratified.

[Action: JS(CU)]

(iv) 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.

Noted.

[Action: JS(CPP-PU)]

(v) To ratify the decisions of the Standing Committee on Autonomous Colleges for grant of fresh/extension of autonomous status to colleges.

Ratified.

[Action: JS(AC)]
(vi) To report actions taken on certain matters related to Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes for ratification.

The Commission ratified the following actions taken with the approval of the Competent Authority, UGC:


2. Continuation of recognition accorded to 34 HEIs as per Regulation 3(A) of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 for a period of one year, academic session 2020-2021 starting from July 2020 and January 2021.

3. Methodology and assessment of the applications received from eligible Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to offer Online programmes without prior approval of UGC as per the Regulation 3(B)(a) of Part II of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

4. Extension of last date of admission for academic session July, 2020 (revised as September-October academic session) for year 2020-21 for Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes to be offered by recognized Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)
   - Admission last date-31st December, 2020
   - Uploading of admission details-31st January, 2021

5. Nomination of Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU as Co-Chair of the Working Group.

6. Second Consultative Meeting with the Representatives of Regulatory Authorities/Ministries.

7. First Expert Committee meeting to formulate Monitoring Mechanism for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) entitled/exempted to start ODL and/or Online Programmes without prior approval of the UGC.

[Action: JS(DEB)]
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 examine
(i) Action Plan about improving the quality of research & publications, and
innovations (ii) Performance and Academic Outcomes of Sri Siddhartha Academy
of Higher Education (Deemed to be University), Agalakote, Tumkur (Karnataka).

The Commission considered the report of the UGC Expert Committee and
resolved to recommend to Ministry of Education for continuation of Deemed
to be University status to Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, Agalakote, Tumkur (Karnataka) for two years. The performance and
academic outcomes of the Deemed to be University may be reviewed annually
for two years on the basis of the performance parameters stipulated in the
UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019 and a
decision on further continuation of the Deemed to be University status may
be taken after such review. The suggestions given by the UGC Expert
Committee may be communicated to the Deemed to be University for
implementation.

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

2.02 To consider the recommendations of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to
consider the de-novo aspect of the application received from Morarji Desai
National Institute of Yoga, 68, Ashok Road, New Delhi for Deemed to be
University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]
2.03 To consider the recommendations of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to consider the de-novo aspect of the application received from National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research, Shanti Marg, Shamla Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh for Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Considered and approved. The Institution should be evolved into a multi-disciplinary Deemed to be University.

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

2.04 To consider the recommendations of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to consider the de-novo aspect of the application received from National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research, Sector – 26, Chandigarh for Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Considered and approved. The Institution should be evolved into a multi-disciplinary Deemed to be University.

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

2.05 To consider the recommendations of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to consider the de-novo aspect of the application received from National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research, Block – FC, Sector – III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106, West Bengal for Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Considered and approved. The Institution should be evolved into a multi-disciplinary Deemed to be University.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]
To consider the Report on ‘Enabling and Enhancing University and Industry Linkages’.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(QIP)]

To consider the policy document on “Student Career Progression and Alumni Network”.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(QIP)]

To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to examine (i) Action Plan about improving the quality of research & publications, and innovations, and (ii) Performance and Academic Outcomes of Vinayaka Mission’s Research Foundation (Deemed to be University), Salem (Tamil Nadu).

The Commission considered the report of the UGC Expert Committee and resolved to recommend to Ministry of Education for continuation of Deemed to be University status to Vinayaka Mission’s Research Foundation (Deemed to be University), Salem (Tamil Nadu) for one year. The performance and academic outcomes of the Deemed to be University may be reviewed after one year on the basis of the performance parameters stipulated in the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019 and a decision on further continuation of the Deemed to be University status may be taken after such review. No new admissions should be made for the academic session 2022-23 onwards, unless the extension for continuation of Deemed to be University status is granted. The suggestions given by the UGC Expert Committee may be communicated to the Deemed to be University for implementation.

[Action: JS(CPP-I/DU)]
2.09 To consider granting accreditation to Annamalai University, Chidambaram for conducting SET on behalf of the State of Tamil Nadu.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(NET)]

2.10 To consider Action Plan on the recommendations of Shri. N. Gopalaswami Report on vision and road map for the development of Sanskrit in HEIs.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

2.11 To consider regarding exemption from participation in training programme on Education Administration for Scheme related to grant of Senior Scale (Level-11) to the Assistant Registrar.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CU)]

2.12 To consider the recommendations of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) on the Spot visits undertaken by the Expert Committee duly constituted by the EEC to assess the readiness of JIO Institute, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra (Green Field, private institution) recommended for Institutions of Eminence.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(IoE)]

2.13 To consider Continuation of UGC Schemes beyond 31.03.2021.

The Commission approved the continuation of existing schemes for five years, i.e., till 31.03.2026.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

The Commission considered and approved the interpretation of certain clauses of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019 and resolved to forward the same to the Ministry of Education with the following modifications:

(i) NAAC accreditation should be made one of the criteria for considering the extension/continuation/confirmation of the existing Deemed to be Universities.

(ii) The Deemed to be University status of those Deemed to be Universities which are rated ‘Average’ by the UGC Expert Committee may be extended by one year only and decision on their further extension shall be taken after review.

(iii) The Deemed to be University status of those Deemed to be Universities which are rated ‘Poor’ by the UGC Expert Committee shall be withdrawn.

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

2.15 To consider the recommendations made by the DEB Working Group in its seventh meeting held on 13th January, 2021.

The Commission considered and approved the recommendations made by DEB Working Group in its seventh meeting held on 13th January, 2021 as per the following:

1. Processing of applications for recognition of ODL programmes as recommended in respect of Type 1, Type 2, Type 3 & Type 4 HEIs.

However, in respect of Type 5 HEIs, the Commission decided that Expert Committee Visits shall be coordinated from the UGC, Head Office. Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, reoccurrence of Corona in few states and large number of Expert Committee Visits (around 45), the Commission also decided that these visits shall be conducted in a virtual mode and decisions to be taken accordingly. However, as and when situation becomes normal, actual visits shall be conducted.
The Commission also decided that in case all the stages of the assessment, as mandated by the Regulations, for the received applications are not completed by 31st March, 2021 then these will be considered for the academic session July 2021.

2. The review of NAAC/NIRF criteria for the academic session 2021-2022- Considered as separate agenda item 2.22.

3. Application fee
   The Commission decided that the application fee shall be finalised by the Working Group and to be notified with the approval of the Chairman, UGC. This shall be reported in the next Commission meeting.

4. Compliance to new regulations by the HEIs already recognized till 2023 (ODL) and January, 2021 (Online)
   The Commission approved the recommendations that the already recognised HEIs (till 2023 (ODL) and January 2021 (Online)) shall be asked to Comply to new Regulations from July-August, 2021 academic session. Accordingly, such HEIs shall be asked to submit an affidavit as mandated by the Regulations.

5. Post Graduate Diploma programmes
   The Commission approved the recommendations that any HEI intending to offer two years Post Graduate Diploma programme in ODL and /or Online mode shall take prior UGC approval for the same.

6. CIQA 2018-19 assessment
   The Commission approved the following recommendations for the 23 HEIs which have not filled the CIQA report:
   i. Warning letters may be issued to 23 HEIs with one month time to submit CIQA report online in the prescribed format.
   ii. HEIs still not submitting may be issued Show Cause notice with a copy marked to the concerned govt (central/state, as the case may be).
   iii. Considering the fact that quality check had been held for the first time, the proposals of these HEIs for new programmes may be processed as per the provisions of the Regulations.
   iv. The assessed reports may be shared with the HEIs for continuous quality improvement.

7. CIQA 2019-20 assessment - Timelines
   The Commission approved the recommendations that HEIs shall submit CIQA reports Online by 31st March, 2021 and the reports may be processed as per the methodology followed for assessing 2018-19 reports.

8. To decide last date of recognition and admission in ODL and Online
programmes offered by recognized HEIs for Feb-March, 2021 (academic session 2020-21)

The Commission approved the recommendations in respect of February-March 2021 academic session (changed from January 2021 in view of exceptional circumstances due to COVID-19) that the last date for accorded recognition to HEIs shall be 31st March, 2021 and the last date of admission will be 30th April, 2021.

9. Communication received from the Govt of Karnataka about offering ODL programmes by KSOU only

The Commission approved the recommendations that all proposals other than KSOU from the State of Karnataka for recognition of ODL programmes may be referred to the State Government for comments for processing the same. Till such time, all such proposals to be kept on hold.

10. Matter related to Category-I HEIs

The Commission approved the following recommendations:
   i. Reminder may be sent to the MoE.
   ii. The practice of uploading Category-I HEIs names on DEB website may be discontinued.
   iii. Category-I HEIs may inform the concerned bureau of the UGC about the utilization of various entitlements being exercised.
   iv. However, in case of recommendation that Category-I HEIs may be advised not to write ‘UGC recognized’ in advertisements/websites, the Commission decided that instead of ‘UGC recognized’, HEIs may write ‘UGC entitled*’.
      *As per provisions (exact reference) of Regulations (relevant with correct title).

11. Offering of ODL and Online programmes by Institutions of Eminence

The Commission approved the following recommendations:
   i. IoE HEIs may inform the concerned bureau of the UGC about the utilization of various entitlements being exercised.
   ii. However, in case of recommendation that IoE HEIs may be advised not to write ‘UGC recognized’ in advertisements/websites, the Commission decided that instead of ‘UGC recognized’, HEIs may write ‘UGC entitled*’.
      *As per provisions (exact reference) of Regulations (relevant with correct title).

12. Communication received from Regulatory Authorities

Commission noted the information.

13. Violation by different Higher Educational Institutions

The Commission approved the recommendations made by the Working Group.
14. Exemption of IGNOU from UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020
Considered as separate agenda item 2.20.

15. Exemption sought by Venkateshwara Open University, Arunachal Pradesh from the application of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017
The Commission referred back the item to the Working Group.

16. Inadequate manpower in DEB
The Commission decided that the Secretary, UGC may please take the necessary action to strengthen DEB specially considering the fact that distance/online/blended modes are going to be the future mode of education and need of maintaining quality.

Any other item-

To nominate at least three additional Experts including the replacement of VC, BRAOU in the DEB Working Group

The Commission authorised the Chairman, UGC to nominate the Experts. This shall be reported in the next Commission meeting.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

2.16

To consider the recommendations of the Committee constituted for the formulations of Guidelines and Minimum qualifications and promotional avenues on Scientific posts including ICT Cadre, Engineering Services Cadre, in respect of the non-teaching staff of the Central Universities, UGC maintained deemed to be Universities.

Commission appreciated the efforts made by the UGC for creation of promotional avenues for dying cadres and after due deliberations, and approved the recommendations of the Committee. The Commission further authorised the Chairman, UGC to expand the committee by including the representatives from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), NIC, CSIR and other related organisations to finalise the Guidelines/ Regulations indicating qualification, experience, performance parameters etc. for the appointment/promotions of these cadres.

[Action: JS(JCRC)]
2.17 To consider and resolve the anomaly cases of Non-Teaching Staff of Central Universities/Deemed to be Universities received in the JCRC section.

The Commission considered and approved the proposal in principle and felt that the experience gained abroad and other reputed institutions needs to be taken into consideration while conversion of these non-teaching positions as teaching positions i.e. Assistant Professor. Further, the Commission also suggested that the committee may be asked to re-visit the criteria/conditions i.e. (inclusion of research/teaching experience/research guide etc.) proposed for considering the cases for placement of Research Associate and Research Officers as Assistant Professor. It was also resolved that the proposal be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for their concurrence before implementation.

[Action: JS(JCRC)]

2.18 To consider the draft UGC (Establishment and Operationalization of Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) Scheme in Higher Education) Regulations, 2021.

The Commission authorized the Chairman to finalize the UGC (Establishment and Operationalization of Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) Scheme in Higher Education) Regulations, 2021. Further the Commission suggested that in clause 7.1 following may be added:

“The institutions which do not fulfill the requirement of NAAC and are willing to join Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) Scheme may forward their request to the Commission which will be considered by the Committee constituted by the Commission. The recommendations of the Committee will be placed before the Commission to decide upon the eligibility of such institutions to participate in ABC Scheme.”
The Commission further resolved that an expert committee may be constituted by UGC to monitor and suggest the steps to be taken up as part of concurrent assessment in order to make any mid-course correction considering the progress, challenges and feedback of stakeholders.

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

2.19 To consider CA/CS/ICWA qualification equivalent to PG Degree for appearing in UGC-NET.

Commission considered the recommendation of the Expert Committee and resolved as under:

“CA/CS/ICWA qualification be considered equivalent to PG Degree.”

[Action: JS(CPP-II)]

2.20 To consider and decide the applicability of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 to IGNOU.

The Commission noted that IGNOU has already been exempted from the application of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018.

After detailed deliberations and in continuation to the earlier exemptions accorded to IGNOU, the Commission decided to exempt the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, a university established under the IGNOU Act, 1985 (50 of 1985), from the application of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, with effect from the date of Gazette Notification of the said Regulations i.e. 4th September, 2020, academic session 2020-2021 and onwards till further orders.

[Action: JS(DEB)]
To consider and decide the recognition period for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) as per UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

The Commission deliberated on the two legal opinions received in the matter. Considering the legal opinions and in view of the decision taken under the item no. 2.22, the Commission resolved that the recognition period for HEIs to offer ODL and Online programmes as per UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 shall be for five years.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

To review NAAC Score and NIRF Ranking related eligibility requirements for offering ODL and/or Online Programmes for the academic session 2021-2022 (session beginning July 2021) and onwards.

The Commission observed the following provisions for eligibility mentioned in the UGC Regulations, 2020:

Provision 3(A) and 3(B) of the Regulations detail eligibility conditions

“……Provided that the NAAC and NIRF Ranking requirements shall be valid for academic session 2020-2021 (session beginning July, 2020 and January, 2021) only and shall be reviewed subsequently by the Commission for the academic session 2021-2022 (session beginning July 2021) and onwards:…..”

The Commission also noted the NAAC status as on 15.02.2021 i.e. total 185 HEIs are having NAAC equal or greater than 3.01 (3.01–3.25: 109 HEIs; 3.26-3.50: 37 HEIs; >=3.51: 39 HEIs).

Considering the above and also the facts that current NAAC/NIRF bench marks have been implemented only for January, 2021 (only for February-March academic session), prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic, enhancement of access and equity and the recommendations of New Education Policy
(NEP), 2020 to increase GER and strengthen distance/online education, the Commission deliberated extensively and decided that NAAC score and NIRF ranking related eligibility requirements for offering ODL and/or Online programmes as mentioned in the Gazetted Regulations shall remain the same for next three years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. Thereafter shall be reviewed for the academic session 2024-25 (session beginning July 2024) and onwards.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

2.23 To consider the guidelines for Mentorship of Teachers in Non-technical Institutions (NIIMT).

The Commission considered the guidelines and resolved to obtain comments from the Commission members within a week and authorized the Chairman, UGC to finalize the guidelines.

[Action: JS(HRDC)]

2.24 To consider providing leave encashment benefit for teachers who had retired when UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010 was in operation.

The Commission considered and approved leave encashment benefit for teachers who had retired when UGC Regulations 2010 was in operation.

[Action: JS(PS)]

2.25 To authorize the Chairman, UGC to finalize Anomaly Redressal Committee report and notify Amendments to UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualification for appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education 2018.
The Commission authorised the Chairman, UGC to notify the amendments to the UGC regulation 2018, upon receipt of concurrence from the Ministry of Education.

[Action: JS(PS)]

2.26 To consider the recommendations of the UGC Standing Committee constituted to consider the proposals received from Institutions Deemed to be Universities for starting new course(s)/programmes(s)/department(s)/Faculty (ies)/school(s).

Considered and approved.

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

2.27 To consider the final report of recommendations of Balaram Committee on ‘Improving the Quality of Research by Faculty and Creation of New Knowledge and Strategies for Improving Research Culture in Indian Universities/Colleges.

The Commission considered the report of Balaram Committee and resolved to obtain the comments from the Commission members within a week, taking into account the provisions of NEP 2020, relevant to the M.Phil/Ph.D Regulations. The Commission further authorized the Chairman, UGC to finalize the report and Regulations.

[Action: JS(QIP)]
SECTION-3
(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)
(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-4
(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

4.01 To consider Draft Guidelines on UGC Regional Centres for Capacity Building of faculty as Master Trainers for Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

The Commission considered the draft guidelines and resolved to seek comments from Commission members within one week. The Commission further authorised the Chairman, UGC to finalize the guidelines after considering the comments received from Commission Members.

[Action: JS (e.Gov/ UBA)]

4.02 To inform the status of faculties selected under Faculty Recharge Programme (FRP).

Commission noted the status of faculties and resolved that a proposal for regularization of FRPs may be sent to Ministry of Education. It was further resolved to revive this Scheme as FRP-2 with a regular status of their service along with performance appraisal after five years.

[Action: JS(BSR)]
SECTION-5

(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

(There is no item in this section)

SECTION-6

(MISCELLANEOUS)

(There is no item in this section)

(Prof. Rajnish Jain)
SECRETARY

(Prof. Dhirendra Pal Singh)
CHAIRMAN