

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002**

**MINUTES OF THE 538TH MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 29TH JANUARY, 2019.**

The 538th Meeting of the Commission was held on 29th January, 2019 in which the following were present:

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Bhushan Keshav Patwardhan | Vice-Chairman |
| 3. Shri R. Subrahmanyam | Member |
| 4. Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Chander Kuhad | Member |
| 5. Dr. G. Gopal Reddy | Member |
| 6. Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar | Member |
| 7. Dr. (Ms.) Sushma Yadav | Member |
| 8. Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari | Member |
| 9. Dr. Uma Chandrashekhar Vaidya, | Member |
| 10. Dr. Kiran Hazarika | Member |

Shri Pramod Kumar Das could not attend the Meeting due to his pre-occupation and was granted leave of absence.

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting.

Secretary

Prof. Rajnish Jain

SECTION-1

- 1.01(a)** To confirm the minutes of the 537th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 10th December, 2018.

The Minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

- 1.01(b)** To receive the action taken on the minutes of the 537th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 10th December, 2018.

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

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

- (i) To report the inclusion of 127 Colleges (as approved by the Chairman, UGC) under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956 between 01.10.2018 to 31.12.2018 as per authorization given by the Commission at its meeting held on 24.08.2011.

Ratified.

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

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

Ratified.

The Commission also resolved to grant extension to Govt. Girls PG College of Excellence, Sagar.

[Action: JS(AC)]

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- (iii) To ratify the revised mechanism for disbursement of scholarships/fellowships

Ratified.

[Action: JS(SA)]

- (iv) To report the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted by the Commission in its 497th meeting held on 10.01.2014 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-I)]

- (v) To report the review status of Sumandeep Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pipariya, Taluka – Vaghodia, District – Vadodara, Gujarat as required in the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

Ratified.

[Action: JS(CPP-I)]

- (vi) To report on the status of Implementation of UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018

The Commission noted the developments in respect of UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 as submitted under this item. It was also informed that the last date for submission of applications for Online Programmes is extended upto 31.03.2019.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

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- (vii) To report action taken by UGC on:
1. Updated recognition status of the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to offer ODL programmes
 - i. Appeal process as per UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017
 - ii. Recognition of ODL programmes to be offered by DTBUs as per UGC (ODL) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018
 - iii. Recognition of ODL programmes to be offered by HEIs as per UGC (ODL) Third Amendment Regulations, 2018
 2. Time limit for completion of admission process
 3. Compliance of operative portion of report of Justice Narasimha Reddy Committee

The Commission ratified all the decisions taken / reported and noted the progress in the matter.

[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 which visited Shobhit Institute of Engineering & Technology (Deemed to be University), Dulhera Marg, Roorkee Road, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh 06-08th December, 2018 to review its functioning as required under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

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The Commission considered the report of the UGC Expert Committee and resolved to seek compliance from Shobhit Institute of Engineering & Technology (Deemed to be University), Dulhera Marg, Roorkee Road, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh on the observations/suggestions of the Expert Committee. The compliance of the Institution Deemed to be University be placed before the Expert Committee to be constituted by the Chairman, UGC. The Report of the Committee will be placed before the Commission.

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

- 2.02** To consider the Report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Chaitanya Degree College, Warangal (Telangana) during 14-15th December, 2018 to assess the proposal for Deemed to University status under general category under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

The Commission considered the report of the UGC Expert Committee and resolved to seek compliance from Chaitanya Degree College, Warangal (Telangana) on the observations/suggestions of the Expert Committee. The compliance of the Institution be placed before the Expert Committee to be constituted by the Chairman, UGC. The Report of the Committee will be placed before the Commission.

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

- 2.03** To consider the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted to look / re-examine the matter of audit observation captioned “Excess payment and undue financial benefit to Dr. Neelima Mondal, Associate Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Considered and approved.

Action: JS(CU)]

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2.04 To consider the response received from St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education & Research (Deemed to be University), Avadi, Chennai - 600054, Tamil Nadu in respect of the letter issued by the UGC for action as per Clause 22.2 of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

The Commission considered and resolved to revisit St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education & Research (Deemed to be University), Avadi, Chennai- 600054 Tamilnadu to validate the reply to UGC letter by another Expert Committee to be constituted by the Chairman, UGC.

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

2.05 To consider the response received from Vel's Institute of Science, Technology & Advanced Studies (VISTAS) (Deemed to be University), Pallavaram, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in respect of the letter issued by the UGC for action as per Clause 22.2 of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

The Commission considered and resolved to revisit Vel's Institute of Science, Technology & Advanced Studies (VISTAS) (Deemed to be University), Pallavaram, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) to validate the reply to UGC letter by another Expert Committee to be constituted by the Chairman, UGC.

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

2.06 To consider the recommendations of the UGC Committee constituted to look into all aspects of the off-campus and courses started by Institutions Deemed to be Universities – Reference Ministry of HRD letter No. F. 10-24/2018-U3(A) dated 16.10.2018.

The Commission considered and approved. Further action as per MHRD's letter regarding approval of courses from UGC be taken.

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

2.07 To consider the response received from Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science & Technology (PRIST), (Deemed to be University), Thanjavur – 613403, Tamil Nadu in respect of the letter issued by the UGC for action as per Clause 22.2 of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

The Commission considered and resolved to revisit Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science & Technology (PRIST), (Deemed to be University), Thanjavur – 613403, Tamil Nadu to validate the reply to UGC letter by another Expert Committee to be constituted by the Chairman, UGC.

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

2.08 To consider and approve the time period for different stages of approval process as per UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018.

The Commission considered the different stages of approval process and time period proposed for each stage. In view of extension of time given upto 31.03.2019 to apply for online programmes, the proposed time period for approval process will delay the recognition for HEIs to start the online programmes for 2019-20 session. After discussion it was decided that:

I. The processing of applications received from HEIs for online programmes be a continuous process, preferably monthly Expert Committee Meetings/Visits to HEIs based on the completed proposals received.

The HEIs be asked to submit three hard copies of the proposal immediately after submitting applications online.

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II. In order to avoid delay in recognition process, the Commission authorised the Chairman, UGC to give approval to the recommendations of the Expert Committee to eligible HEIs for offering Online programmes or for the visit to HEIs, as the case may be. The decision on the applications of HEIs shall be communicated to the HEIs and the same shall be reported to the Commission for ratification.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

2.09 To Consider and approve the Regulations and Report finalized by the Committee Constituted by UGC on formulation of minimum qualification for appointment of Registrar, Finance Officer, Controller of Examination in Universities and Colleges regarding.

The Commission considered and approved.

It was also resolved that a Committee be constituted by the Chairman, UGC for formulation of minimum qualifications and other terms and conditions for appointment and promotion avenues for Engineer, Programmer, System Analyst, Network Analyst, Security Officers etc. and other isolated posts. The Committee shall also address anomalies and/or grievances related to these posts.

[Action: JS (JCRC)]

2.10 To consider and approve the recommendation of the Committee constituted to resolve the Anomaly cases of non-teaching staff of Central Universities /Deemed to be Universities received in the JCRC Section.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS (JCRC)]

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- 2.11** To consider and approve the recommendation of the Committee constituted to resolve the anomaly cases of non-teaching staff of Central Universities /Deemed to be Universities.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS (JCRC)]

- 2.12** To consider the Revised guidelines for Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs).

Deferred.

[Action: JS(HRDC)]

- 2.13** To consider the recommendations of Working Group.

Commission deliberated on the recommendations of the Working Group on each of the issues and resolved as under:

Issue 1: Category-I HEIs

- i). All Category-I HEIs be instructed to upload all the details ensuring compliance to the relevant clauses of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments, on their website and also submit the affidavit to UGC.**
- ii). These details shall be verified by the UGC and in case, any deviation is observed, action(s) shall be initiated against the HEIs as per the provisions mandated in UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017.**
- iii). The Commission resolved that the conflicting provisions of UGC Graded Autonomy Regulations, UGC (ODL) Regulations, Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and recommendation of Justice Reddy Committee shall be referred to the MHRD for further directions.**

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- iv). All Category-I HEIs should also be instructed to inform UGC regarding programme-wise enrolment details of students in their ODL programmes as has been sought from other HEIs.
- v). Interface meeting of Category-I HEIs, as decided by the Commission in its 536th meeting, shall not be conducted at present.
- vi). Further necessary action, if any, shall be taken by the UGC based on the directions of the MHRD as per point (iii) above.

Issue 2: Academic Staff

Considered and approved.

Issue 3: Common Examination for Regular and ODL programmes

Considered and approved.

Issue 4: UG programmes through affiliating universities

Considered and approved.

Issue 5: Applicability of received proposals for the academic year 2019-20.

and

Issue 6: Timeline for uploading of recognition list / issue of Commission order.

- i). The Commission noted that since this is the first year of implementation of UGC (ODL) Regulations, the HEIs to whom Commission order is issued / recognition list is uploaded on the UGC website by 20th February 2019, they shall be allowed to offer ODL programmes from January 2019 academic session, to give at least one week for admissions considering that the last date of admission is 28th February, 2019.
- ii). The recommendations of the Working Group to define a timeline regarding communication of recognition status shall be implemented from 2019-20, (academic session beginning July 2019) onwards.

- iii). Such appeals / representations / visits etc. for whom Commission order is not issued / recognition list is not uploaded on the UGC website by 20th February 2019, they shall be considered for July, 2019 session and onwards.

Issue 7: Review of SLM

The Commission resolved that all recognised HEIs shall be directed to upload details of the syllabi being followed for their recognised ODL programmes on their websites. A complaint / grievance based mechanism for review of SLM shall be devised by DEB.

Issue 8: Territorial Jurisdiction

Considered and approved the constitution of a three-member Committee to look into the matter. The Commission authorised the Chairman, UGC to nominate members of the Committee.

Issue 9: Creation of pool of ODL experts

Considered and resolved that UGC shall write to Vice Chancellors of Open and Dual Mode HEIs to forward names of serving/ retired experts (not below the rank of Professor) to create a pool of Experts for DEB, UGC.

Issue 10: Finalization of report format for visiting Expert Committee

Considered and approved.

Issue 11: Preparation of information Booklet and orientation program for ODL experts.

Considered and approved.

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Issue 12: Requirements in terms of Learning Material Readiness (Four Quadrants Approach) at the time of assessment of application under UGC Online Regulations.

The Commission did not agree with the two steps recognition process. The item was considered under item no. 2.08 for further action.

[Action: JS (DEB)]

- 2.14** To consider the Guidelines of the New Research Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research through Higher Education Institutes for National Development and Entrepreneurship (STRIDE).

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(STRIDE)]

- 2.15** To consider different NAAC benchmark for Higher Educational Institutions in 'Special Category States' (North Eastern and Hilly States).

Considered and approved.

[Action: AS-I]

- 2.16** To consider the approval of SAP Programme to Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai (Deemed to be University) from 2019-24.

The Commission considered and approved the proposal for extension and induction of SAP Department from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2024 subject to availability of funds.

[Action: JS(SAP)]

2.17

1. To consider and decide the status of Hony. Director of the Centre for Distance and Open Learning, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) as per UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and recommendation of Expert Committee.
2. To consider and approve the recommendation of Expert Committee in respect of Jamia Millia Islamia for offering thirteen ODL programmes.
3. To consider and decide the academic session for start of ODL programmes in respect of Jamia Millia Islamia.

Considered and approved in accordance with the decision under issue No. 5 & 6 of item 2.13

[Action: JS (DEB)]

2.18

To consider the Amendment in UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018.

The Commission considered the letter No.5-25/2017-DL dt 28.01.2019 received from the Ministry of HRD for the amendment in UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 in Regulation 4, sub regulation (1), after clause (ii) and (iii) and after first proviso, as under:-

“Provided further that higher educational institutions which have been running online courses prior to the date of notification of these Regulations, shall be allowed one-time opportunity to apply for offering Online Courses or programmes, with an undertaking that they will attain a NAAC score of 3.26 on a 4-point scale before the end of academic session 2020-21, failing which the Commission shall not accord any further approval to the online programmes of such a higher educational institution beyond 2020-21.”

After discussion and considering the 'Explanation' under clause 6(3), as detailed in the agenda, the Commission approved the amendment as per the following:

- i. Since there were no regulations for online education before the UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations notified on 4th July, 2018, the HEIs conducting online programmes with due approval of their statutory bodies cannot be kept out of the purview of Online Regulations for want of eligibility criteria defined in the Online Regulations and need to be given time to acquire the prescribed standards.
- ii. As the proposed amendment is to come by way of inserting proviso in Regulation 4, Sub regulation (1), after clause (ii) and (iii) and after the first proviso, it applies to both the eligibility criteria defined in clause (ii) & (iii) under sub-regulation (1) of Regulation 4.
- iii. Only those HEIs who conclusively prove by way of documentary evidence or any other evidence by way of approval of their statutory bodies, details of programmes conducted online, details of admissions taken, online examination procedure, pass out details, security standards etc. being followed, may be considered under the amendment now being made in Online Regulations.

[Action: JS (DEB)]

2.19 To consider engaging senior academicians/officers as Visiting Faculty in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The Commission considered and resolved that the Committee, constituted for considering the enhancement of honorarium of guest faculty, may examine this issue also and give its recommendations for consideration of the Commission.

[Action: AS-I]

2.20 To consider the 2nd Report of the Empowered Expert Committee constituted for the purpose of identifying Institutions of Eminence.

The Commission considered the 2nd report and recommendations of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) and resolved to seek clarification from the Government whether additional 10 Institutions (over and above the original mandate of 10 public and 10 private institutions) can be considered? Further decision can be taken after receiving clarification from the Government.

[Action : JS (IoE)]

SECTION-3

(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

3.01 To consider the request of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India and decide on offering of Agricultural degree programmes through ODL mode by HEIs

The Commission noted that UGC has not given recognition to any Agricultural programme after the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India. The Commission also noted that one HEI i.e. Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nasik has been given recognition for Agricultural Programmes prior to this communication from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India. This matter was deliberated and the Commission resolved as under:

- i). UGC shall inform the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India that Agricultural degrees in ODL mode shall not be recognized in future. However, the status of such programmes which have been already approved prior to the receipt of this intimation shall also be conveyed to the Ministry, with the request to provide all kinds of necessary support in the interest of students already admitted in such courses. UGC shall write to ICAR for hand-holding of universities offering Agricultural degree programmes through ODL**

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mode and co-ordinate with ICAR and the concerned HEI to explore the feasibility of setting up of Learner Support Centres in nearest Agricultural Universities / Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. (within the territorial jurisdiction of the HEI) where proper facilities for practical and hands on training can be provided to the students.

- ii). UGC shall write to the concerned HEI that the recognition for Agricultural programs in ODL mode is only for the academic year 2018-19 and direct the HEI that no admission shall be made from 2019-20, academic session beginning July 2019 onwards, in any of the Agricultural programs in ODL mode.
- iii). UGC shall also issue a Public Notice mentioning disciplines prohibited in ODL education.

[Action: JS (DEB)]

SECTION-4

(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

4.01 To consider the report of the Evaluation Reforms submitted by the Expert Committee.

The Commission considered and resolved that the report may be put in public domain by uploading it in UGC website for obtaining views of the stakeholders and thereafter it can be finalized by the Committee constituted for the purpose.

[Action: AS-I]

SECTION-5

(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

5.01 To consider SAP grant to institutions where RUSA funding is proposed/given.

Considered and approved. Further, it was resolved that the guidelines of SAP Scheme be revised.

While considering this item, it was also resolved that the release of grants to state universities selected under UPE Scheme and College selected under the CPE Scheme be continued up to 31.03.2019 subject to availability of funds. Also resolved that the guidelines of UPE and CPE schemes be revised and to be made more competitive.

[Action: JS (SAP)]

5.02 To approve the budget estimate for Quality Improvement Programme

Considered and approved.

[Action: AS-I]

SECTION-6 (MISCELLANEOUS)

6.01 To consider certain establishment matters of UGC.

Recorded Separately.

**(Prof. Rajnish Jain)
Secretary**

**(Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh)
Chairman**