

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

**MINUTES OF THE 543RD MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
HELD ON 9TH AUGUST, 2019.**

The 543rd Meeting of the Commission was held on 9th August, 2019 in which the following were present:

1. Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh	Chairman
2. Shri R. Subrahmanyam	Member
3. Dr. G. Gopal Reddy	Member
4. Prof. (Ms.) Sushma Yadav	Member
5. Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari	Member
6. Dr. Uma Chandrashekhar Vaidya,	Member
7. Dr. Kiran Hazarika	Member
8. Prof. (Dr.) Nagesh Thakur	Member

Dr. Bhushan Keshav Patwardhan and Shri Pramod Kumar Das could not attend the Meeting due to their pre-occupations and were granted leave of absence.

The following officer of the UGC also attended the meeting.

Secretary

Prof. Rajnish Jain

2

SECTION-1

1.01(a) To confirm the minutes of the 542nd meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 2nd August, 2019.

The Minutes were confirmed.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

1.01(b) To receive the action taken on the minutes of the 542nd meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 2nd August, 2019.

Noted.

[Action: JS(Admn.)]

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

(i) To ratify the decisions of the Standing Committee on Autonomous Colleges for grant of fresh/extension of autonomous status to colleges. *(Deferred Item No.1.02(a)(i) of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019).*

Ratified.

[Action: AS-II]

(ii) To ratify the decision in respect of change of full form of Acronym STRIDE i.e. (i.e. from : Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research through Higher Educational Institutes for National Development and Entrepreneurship” to “Scheme for Trans –Disciplinary Research for India’s Developing Economy”) along with the other required changes made in the Operational Guidelines. *(Deferred Item No.1.02(a)(ii) of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019).*

Ratified.

[Action: JS(STRIDE)]

3

- (iii) To report the decision of the 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. *(Deferred Item No.1.02(a)(iii) of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019).*

Noted.

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

- (iv) To ratify the decisions of the Standing Committee on Autonomous Colleges for grant of fresh/extension of autonomous status to colleges. *(Deferred Item No.1.02(a)(iv) of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019).*

Noted.

[Action: AS-II]

- (v) To report action taken by UGC on certain matters related to ODL Programmes. *(Deferred Item No.1.02(a)(v) of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019).*
- (vi) To report action taken by UGC on certain matters related to ODL Programmes. *[Revised agenda item No. 1.02 (a) (v) deferred in 542nd Meeting].*

The Commission noted the following actions:

1(a): Recognition status of ODL programmes for the year 2018-19 (July & January academic sessions) and 2019-20 (July academic session).

1(b): Start of academic session from July 2019 in case of VMOU, Kota for the programmes uploaded on UGC website on 31st July, 2019.

1(c): Withdrawal of recognition accorded to Sikkim Manipal University, Sikkim for the academic year 2019-2020 (July & January academic sessions)

4

1(d to f) :Recognition of the following HEIs with special observations of the Expert (Review) Committee for the programmes uploaded on UGC website on 31st July, 2019:

- (i) Amity University, Rajashtan.**
- (ii) University of Mumbai, Mumbai**
- (iii) Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University, Bihar**

1(g): Withdrawal of the recognition accorded to M.Sc.(IT) programmes of Amity University, Noida for the academic year 2019-2020 (July & January academic sessions).

Non-consideration of Certificate/Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes for recognition by the Expert (Review) Committee as these are outside the ambit of ODL Regulations.

The Commission noticed that few HEIs have admitted students in the programmes which are not recognised by UGC during last 3 years and have been recognised for offering ODL programmes during 2019-20. The Commission is of the view that ex-post facto recognition shall not be accorded, however, if HEI complies with provisions of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments, then same shall be considered for prospective recognition.

In addition, the Commission approved the minutes of the Expert (Review) Committee meetings.

[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)**

5

SECTION-2 (MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

2.01 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education (Deemed to be University), Kumaracoil, Thuckalay, Kanyakumari Dt., Tamil Nadu during 04-06th July, 2019 to review its functioning. *(Deferred Item No.2.01 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019).*

The Commission considered the Report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education (Deemed to be University), Kumaracoil, Thuckalay, Kanyakumari Dt., Tamil Nadu and resolved that the case to be reconsidered after obtaining (i) the action plan from the Institution about improving the quality of research & publications, and innovations, and (ii) the performance and academic outcomes of the Deemed to be University in accordance with clause 9.0 of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019.

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

2.02 To consider the recommendations of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to assess the de-novo aspect of the proposal submitted by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru (Karnataka) for Deemed to be University status. *(Deferred Item No.2.02 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019).*

Considered and approved.

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

2.03 To consider the report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science & Technology (PRIST), (Deemed to be University), Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) to validate the compliance reported by the Institution in respect of the observations/suggestions of the earlier UGC Committee and also issues raised by the Ministry of HRD and UGC. *(Deferred Item No.2.03 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019).*

The Commission considered the Report of the UGC Expert Committee which visited Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science & Technology (PRIST), (Deemed to be University), Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) and resolved that the

6

case to be reconsidered after obtaining the action plan from the Institution about improving the quality of research & publications, and innovations, and (ii) the performance and academic outcomes of the Deemed to be University in accordance with clause 9.0 of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019.

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

2.04

To consider and decide on the UGC order so as to implement the UGC (ODL) Fourth Amendment, Regulations, 2019. (*Deferred Item No.2.04 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

The Commission considered the matter and decided the following:

1. UGC shall issue an order to implement the UGC (ODL) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2019 to exempt IGNOU from the application of these Regulations.
2. The exemption shall start from the academic session 2019-20 till further orders.

Accordingly, the Order shall include the following:

“The matter was placed before the Commission in its 543rd Meeting dated 09/08/2019 and based on the decision of the Commission, this order is being issued thereby exempting the Indira Gandhi National Open University, a university established under the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985 (50 of 1985), from the application of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments, from Academic Session 2019-20 till further orders.”

[Action: JS(DEB)]

2.05

To consider and decide on the request received for the extension of last date for completion of admission process for the academic session for July 2019 for offering ODL programmes by HEIs located in the state of Assam due to unprecedented flood. (*Deferred Item No.2.05 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

The Commission considered the request of Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University, Guwahati, Assam and observed that this time there is an unprecedented flood in Assam, because of which 30 districts out of total 33 districts have been submerged and there is total communication failure.

In view of the above, Commission decided to extend the last date of admission for Academic session beginning July 2019 from 31st August, 2019 to 30th September, 2019 as a special case due to natural calamity, only for HEIs recognized by UGC for offering programmes in ODL mode and located in the State of Assam and for this time only.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

2.06

To consider and approve the recommendations of third meeting of the Working Group. (*Deferred Item No.2.06 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

The Commission considered and approved the recommendations of the DEB Working Group as per the minutes of its 3rd meeting on the following points:

1. 100 Days Action Plan of the MHRD
2. Variations found in admission data
3. Common Examination
4. Visits to HEIs recognized under UGC (ODL) 2nd Amendment Regulations, 2017
5. Maintenance of transparency
6. Nomenclature of ODL programmes
7. Devise mechanism for review of SLMs
8. Applicability of admission taken by the students in recognized HEIs outside their state
9. NAAC related issues
10. Constitution of Quality Assurance Cell with terms of reference
11. Finalization of CIQA Report
12. Posting of Aadhaar details of learners on website
13. Inclusion of additional names in the Panel of Experts
14. Offering Online courses and programmes without recognition of UGC

8

15. **Offering MBA/MCA/Travel & Tourism/other technical programmes through online mode by HEIs**
16. **Switch over of learning platform from non- SWAYAM to SWAYAM**
17. **Integration of ODL and OL Regulations**
18. **Collaborative initiatives with Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)**
19. **Rejection of proposals for extension of Admission date and uploading of admission details**

However, the Commission directed the following on the other recommendations of the Working Group :

1. **Monitoring of LSCs & its costs**
2. **Recognition of LSCs**

The Commission decided that in addition to the recommendations of the Working Group, the possibility of making use of technology should be explored with CCTV recording of activities in the LSCs. Expert Committee Visits shall be minimized.

3. **Hotel Management programmes in ODL mode**

The Commission decided that in addition to the recommendations of the Working Group, the Chairman, UGC may have consultations with the Chairman, AICTE to sort out this matter and bring clarity for all the stakeholders.

4. **Violation of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 by the HEIs**

The Commission decided that the legal opinion may be taken to impose financial penalty on the HEIs violating provisions of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and accordingly, punitive actions with the approval of the Competent Authority may be taken.

5. **Suggestions for improving ease of doing business and to enhance productivity in various sectors- to change the eligibility conditions in Online Regulations.**

The Commission approved the recommendations of the Working Group, that the “present eligibility conditions of individually meeting NAAC & NIRF set benchmarks may be changed to meeting either NAAC benchmark or NIRF benchmark”.

However, considering the fact that this will require amending the Online Regulations, the Commission decided that Working Group should holistically review all the provisions of Online Regulations and recommend changes, if required. This will ensure that Regulations are amended once incorporating all required changes.

While on the subject, the Commission also decided the following :

1. The Commission authorised the Chairman, UGC to take decisions in the matter related to implementation of UGC (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018. The decisions so taken shall be reported to the Commission.
2. No Expert Committee visit should be conducted for recognition of HEI/programmes. An undertaking is to be taken from the Vice Chancellor/Registrar, the format of which should be prepared with legal vetting and applications should be processed based on the Interface Meetings etc.

The visits shall be conducted based on the complaints, mandatory as per orders of Hon’ble Supreme Court and as decided by the UGC from time to time.

3. The Commission was of the view that the certificate, diploma and post graduate diploma programmes should be conducted only by the Universities recognised by the UGC in order to ensure the quality in ODL education. The legal opinion should be taken to ensure this in the current provisions of the Regulations and accordingly further necessary action should be taken on priority.
4. The Working Group should deliberate and recommend to the Commission on the discontinuation of practice of programme wise recognition. Instead, UGC may upload list of programmes under

10

various permissible disciplines and let the HEI offer programmes with the approval of its statutory authorities and regulatory authorities, as applicable.

UGC should monitor the implementation of these programmes to ensure quality assurance and quality enhancement on continuous basis.

The recommendations of the working group with legal vetting should be placed before the Commission for consideration.

[Action: JS(DEB)]

- 2.07 To approve two Credit Course entitled “Research and Publication Ethics” designed by S.P. Pune University (Centre for Publication Ethics) to be made compulsory for all Ph.D. students as pre registration course work. (*Deferred Item No.2.07 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

Considered and approved.

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

- 2.08 To consider the recommendation of the Expert Committee constituted to consider the proposals received from the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune and Panjab University, Chandigarh for the Establishment/Up gradation of Department on National Security Studies/Defence studies. (*Deferred Item No.2.08 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

Considered and approved.

[Action: AS-II]

- 2.09 To consider the recommendations of the Committee constituted by the Commission to look into all aspects of the off-campus of the Institutions Deemed to be Universities – Recommendations about the constituent units of MGM Institute of Health Sciences (Deemed to be University), Navi Mumbai. (*Deferred Item No.2.09 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

Considered and approved.

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

- 2.10** To accord further accreditation to The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara for conducting SET on behalf of the State of Gujarat. (*Deferred Item No.2.10 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(NET)]

- 2.11** 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)/ programme(s)/ department(s)/ Faculty(ies)/school(s). (*Deferred Item No.2.11 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

Considered and approved.

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

- 2.12** To consider the Report of the UGC Expert Committee constituted to assess the action plan submitted by Chaitanya Degree College, Warangal (Telangana) for improving quality or research & publications - Proposal for Deemed to University status under general category to the College in the name of Chaitanya Institute of Technology & Science under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. (*Deferred Item No.2.12 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

Considered and approved.

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

- 2.13** To consider and decide on specific observations/recommendations by the Expert (Review) Committee (ERC) and other issues related to confirm quality improvement in implementation of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017.

The Commission considered specific observations / recommendations by the Expert (Review) Committee (ERC) with other related issues and decided the following:

- 1. NAAC related issue pertaining to HEIs, whose applications have been / are being processed under UGC(ODL) Third Amendment Regulations, 2018.**

12

The Commission decided that the applications shall be processed as per the provisions of these Regulations. The Commission also decided that UGC should invite applications in November, 2019 from the HEIs for recognition of programmes from the academic session beginning July, 2020 with the eligibility conditions as per third amendment ODL Regulations (upto, June 2020); However, Recognition should be accorded to the HEIs complying with the eligibility requirements as per second amendment ODL Regulations.

2. Learner Support Centres (LSCs)

The Commission approved the following:

“State Private Universities getting recognition for the first time to offer ODL programmes and having NAAC score less than 3.26 should be permitted to operate from the main campus only for first 2 academic years of recognition. After this period, LSCs should be permitted and that too after each LSC is visited by the Expert Committee and adequacy cum appropriateness of the facilities are duly certified by it.”

3. Self Learning Material (SLM) readiness/preparedness:

The Commission approved the following preparedness levels, at the time of assessment of proposals:

- I. Under Graduate Programmes: 3 years duration: SLM should be ready in all respect for first two years at the time of assessment.
- II. Post Graduate Programmes: 2 years duration: SLM should be ready in all respect for first year at the time of assessment.

4. Upper limit of Students intake in Science based programmes:

The Commission approved the following:

“In case of dual mode university, the upper limit of intake in science based programmes in ODL mode should be three times conventional intake and in case of Open University, the numbers should be commensurate with the capacity of its Learner Support Centres to provide lab facilities to the admitted students.”

5. Important note to the visiting expert committees for future visits:

The Commission approved the recommendations of the working group.

13

6. YCMOU – matter related to the students admitted in 5 programmes kept under review by the UGC:

The Commission observed that a letter from DEB, UGC to HEI directing not to give admissions to students in these 5 programmes was issued on 18 October 2018. In view of this and also in view of the fact that the recognition granted to HEI to offer 17 programmes including these 5 programmes was issued vide letter dated 14th August, 2018, the fresh admissions taken in the first year of these 5 programmes for the academic session 2018-19, beginning July, 2018; admissions till October 18, 2018; should be considered valid. The HEI shall be asked to upload this data on its website and submit the same to the UGC. And HEI shall be asked to provide all necessary support to the students till their graduation.

7. Communication of VEC observations:

The Commission approved the following:

“In case Bureau observes that certain short comings/deficiencies observed by VEC apart from the recommendation of ERC, then the same with the permission of Competent Authority will be communicated to the HEI alongwith UGC letter.”

[Action: JS(DEB)]

- 2.14 To consider Categorization of Universities (only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CU)]

- 2.15 To consider release of 2nd tranche teaching positions for UGC maintained Colleges of Delhi University under OBC expansion scheme.

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(CU)]

SECTION-3

(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

(There is no item in this section)

14

SECTION-4

(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC)

4.01 To consider the Vision Document and Bye laws Governing the Recruitment to the Non-Teaching and other Academic Posts, 2019 of Inter-University Centre for Teacher Education (IUC-TE), BHU, Varanasi. (*Deferred Item No.4.01 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

The Commission considered and approved the Vision Document and Bye Laws governing the Recruitment to the non-teaching and other Academic Posts, 2019 of Inter-University Centre for Teacher Education (IUC-TE), BHU, Varanasi. The Commission also considered and approved the Cadre Recruitment Rules (CRRs) for the various posts in Inter-University Centre for Teacher Education (IUC-TE), BHU, Varanasi.

Further, the Commission considered and approved the creation of 57 positions in Inter-University Centre for Teacher Education (IUC-TE), BHU, Varanasi.

[Action: JS(IUC)]

4.02 To consider approval of additional manpower in various cadres of Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), New Delhi. (*Deferred Item No.4.02 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

The Commission considered and approved the creation of 9 positions in Scientist-C Cadre (Level-10) and 3 positions in Engineer-C Cadre (Level-10) in Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi.

[Action: JS(IUC)]

4.03 To consider the issue regarding transfer of land to Inter University Centre for Yogic Sciences (IUCYS), Bengaluru. (*Deferred Item No.4.03 of 542nd meeting held on 2nd August, 2019*).

Considered and approved.

[Action: JS(IUC)]

15

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

(Prof. Rajnish Jain)
Secretary

(Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh)
Chairman