

CONFIDENTIAL

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110002**

MINUTES OF THE 500TH MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION HELD ON 25TH, 26TH and 27TH MARCH, 2014.

The 500th Meeting of the Commission was held on 25th, 26th and 27th March, 2014 in which the following were present:

1. Prof. Ved Prakash	Chairman
2. Dr. H. Devaraj	Vice-Chairman
3. Sh. Ashok Thakur	Member
4. Prof. V.S. Chauhan	Member
5. Prof. D. Narasimha Reddy	Member
6. Prof. M.M. Ansari	Member
7. Prof. Mohammad Miyan	Member
8. Dr. K.N. Shanti	Member

Smt. Anjuly Chib Duggal, Dr. Indu Shahani, Prof. Sanjay Govind Dhande and Mr. Patanjali (Patu) G. Keshwani who could not attend the meeting due to pre-occupation were granted leave of absence. Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (HE), Ministry of Human Resource Development did not attend the meeting of the Commission on 27th March, 2014.

The following officers of the UGC also attended the meeting.

- a) **Secretary**
Prof. (Dr.) Jaspal Singh Sandhu
- b) **Financial Advisor**
Shri Upamanyu Basu
- c) **Director (Admn.)**
Shri Vikarm Sahay

The Secretary, UGC recused from the meeting during the discussion on item no.1.01(A)(ii); the Financial Adviser and Director (Admn.), UGC recused from the meeting during the discussion on item no.2.01.

Prof. Ved Prakash, Chairman, UGC, welcomed the members of the Commission and stated that apart from a few general items on the Agenda, the 3-day meeting has been specially convened in the context of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to the 44 Institutions Deemed to be Universities.

He also welcomed Prof. (Dr.) Jaspal Singh Sandhu as the new Secretary, UGC.

Subsequently, the Agenda of the meeting was taken up.

SECTION-1

- 1.01(A)(i)** To confirm the minutes of the 498th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on **27th February, 2014**.

The Commission confirmed the Minutes of the 498th meeting.

[Action: Director (Admn.)]

- (ii)** To confirm the minutes of the 499th emergent meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 13th March, 2014.

While confirming the minutes, the e-mail dated 24th March, 2014 from Prof. Sanjay Dhande was shared with the members of the Commission. The Members took note of the contents of the e-mail and confirmed the Minutes.

[Action: Director(Admn.)]

SECTION – 2
(MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

2.01 To consider/examine responses received from 41 Institutions Deemed to be Universities placed in category 'C' by MHRD Review Committee subsequent to the orders dated 21.01.2014 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India along with (i) UGC Expert Committee Reports (ii) MHRD Review Committee Report (Tandon Committee) and (iii) Report of the Committee of the Officers appointed by the MHRD.

The Commission discussed this item in detail. The deliberations of the Commission on this item are as given below:

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Order dated 21.01.2014 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No.142/2006 titled Viplav Sharma Vs. Union of India and others, directed as under:

“Under such circumstances, we feel it appropriate to give a direction to the UGC to examine all the reports, with notice to all the 44 institutions concerned. Institutions are free to raise their objections against the reports and the UGC has to consider the same and take an independent decision in accordance with law, if necessary, after affording a hearing, within a period of two months from today. UGC has then to tender its advice to the Central Government with its report. Needless to say that the advice of the UGC is not binding on the Union of India but has to be given due weight since the UGC is an expert statutory authority.”

Pursuant to the aforesaid direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Commission considered the matter in its 498th meeting held on 27.02.2014 and decided as under:

- i) *“The UGC should make a request to the Supreme Court for extension of time for a period of one month for furnishing its advice to the Ministry of HRD;*
- ii) *A copy of each of the earlier three Reports should be sent to all the members of the Commission; and*
- iii) *Reports of the three Committees along with the response received from the 44 Institutions be placed before the Commission for its consideration. “*

Accordingly, in the light of the aforesaid decision of the Commission, the UGC vide its letter dated 12.02.2014 requested the Institutions Deemed to be Universities to furnish information and data relevant to the parameters stipulated in the letter as reflected in the reports in respect of these institutions. Since one out of the 44 Institutions Deemed to be Universities had already been declared as an Institution of National Importance by the Government of India, letters were sent to 43 Deemed to be Universities alongwith a copy each of all the 3 Reports referred to above. Subsequently, it was noted that 2 of the 43 Deemed to be Universities have been allowed to surrender their Deemed to be University status by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, leaving only 41 Deemed to be Universities in this category. Since the responses of some of the Deemed to be Universities were not received upto 11th-12th March, 2014, the meeting of the Commission was re-scheduled to be held for 3 days, on 25th, 26th and 27th March, 2014.

Prof. Sanjay Dhande and Dr. (Ms.) Indu Shahani, Members of the Commission, who could not attend the meeting, conveyed their views on the subject through e-mails. Their views were duly considered by the Commission and a copy each of e-mails received from Prof. Sanjay Dhande and Dr. (Mrs.) Indu Shahani are annexed with the Minutes at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

Thereafter, the Commission in its meeting held on 25th, 26th and 27th March, 2014 considered the three Reports in respect of the Deemed to be Universities, namely, (i) the Reports of the UGC Expert Committee, (ii) Report of the Expert Committee constituted by the MHRD, Govt. of India (Tandon Committee), and (iii) the Report of the Committee of Officers appointed by the MHRD, Govt. of India, and also the fresh inputs and responses from the 41 Institutions Deemed to be Universities.

The Commission after deliberating on the Reports at length, *prima-facie*, observed that all the three Reports vary in their *approach, analysis and conclusions*. The Commission further noted that considerable time has elapsed since these reports were submitted by the respective Expert Committees. Therefore, at this stage, it is not possible to ascertain the current status of these Institutions, more so in respect of their available physical and academic infrastructure, as also in respect of their academic performance and research output. This would require that all the 41 Institutions Deemed to be Universities are visited afresh by Expert Committees.

Further, the Commission also noted that both the UGC Guidelines (2000) on Institutions Deemed to be Universities and the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010 provide for a review after a period of every 5 years or earlier, if necessary, by a committee appointed by the Commission.

Considering all the above, the Commission resolved that all the 41 Institutions Deemed to be Universities, presently in the Category-C of the Tandon Committee Report, may be visited afresh by Expert Committees in order to assess their present status and for submitting a report in this regard. Shri Ashok Thakur, Education Secretary, MHRD's views were at variance with the views of the rest of the Members of the Commission.

The Commission further resolved that the Hon'ble Supreme Court may be apprised of the necessity for fresh inspection of all the 41 Institutions Deemed to be Universities in order to enable the UGC to tender its advice to the Government of India with its report and appropriate direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court may be sought alongwith extension of time.

[Action: JS (CPP-I)]

2.02 To consider notification of One-Year Moratorium on approval of fresh proposal for affiliation/increase in intake by Technical Colleges.

The Commission looked into the pattern of enrolment vis-à-vis the approved intake capacity (data collected from AICTE) and keeping in view that the UGC (Affiliation of Colleges offering Technical Education by Universities) Regulations, 2014 is yet to be notified, resolved a moratorium for one year on:

- a) Affiliation of fresh colleges providing technical education, by universities; and
- b) Approval of increase in the intake of students in technical colleges.

[Action: FA / CPP-II]

2.03 To consider University Grants Commission (Establishment of Standards, and Maintenance thereof, in Private Universities) Regulations, 2014 as prepared by an Expert Commission.

The Commission approved the proposed modifications to the draft Regulations of 2014 with the following changes:

- i) Regulation 5(2) may be deleted;
- ii) No changes be made in Regulation 5(3).

[Action: JS (CPP-I)]

2.04 To consider grant of Raman Post-Doctoral Fellowships to selected teachers from institutions not under the ambit of 2(f) and 12B on a one-time basis.

Approved.

[Action: FA/JS(IC)]

SECTION-3
(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

(There was no item)

SECTION-4
(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES, ETC)

- 4.01** To consider the report of Expert Evaluation Committee which visited Jawaharlal Nehru University to consider its proposal for the next phase of UPE under the Scheme "Universities with Potential for Excellence" (UPE).

Approved.

[Action: JS (UPE)]

SECTION-5
(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

(There was no item)

SECTION-6
(MISCELLANEOUS)

- 6.01(a)(i) To consider certain establishment matters of the University Grants Commission.

Recorded Separately.

(JASPAL SINGH SANDHU)
SECRETARY

(VED PRAKASH)
CHAIRMAN