

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of Planning Board held on 9th Sept.2014 from 11.00 a.m. in Conference Hall of UOU under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor, Prof.Subhash Dhuliya.

Following were present:

I. External Members nominated by Executive Council of UOU:

(a) Expert in Commercial Management :

Shri Niranjan Pant	Member
Ex-Dy. CAG & ex-officio Chairperson, Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board. Flat No.B-55, Plot No.C-58/5, Yaroos Apartment Sector-62, Noida-201309, U.P.	

(b) Expert in Science/ Humanities/Social Science/ Environment: Member

Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Addl. Secretary,
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Govt. of India,
Paryawaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex,
New Delhi -110003


(c) Expert in Distance Education :

Prof. K. Ravi Kanth	Member
Joint Director, EMPC Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)Maidan Garhi, New Delhi 110068	

(d) Expert in Commerce and Industries :

Shri Devinder Singh Mann	Member
Chairman, Doon International School PARI MAHAL,32 Curzon Road Dehradun 248001, Uttarakhand	

II. Internal Members:

1. Prof.H.P.Shukla, Director, School of Humanities
 2. Prof.R.C.Mishra, Director, School of Management Studies and Commerce
 3. Prof.Govind Singh, Director, School of Journalism & Media Studies
 4. Prof.Girija Pande, Director, School of Social Sciences
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Invited Member:

Prof.N.P.Melkania, Executive Director, School of Sciences/ Agriculture & Development Studies.

Expert in Academic Excellence - Prof.Anand Kumar, School of Social Science, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067 could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, **Shri L.S.Rawat**, Registrar & Member Secretary of Planning Board welcomed the Members particularly the external expert members who had joined the Board for the first time as its new members. Shri Rawat requested Prof. Subhash Dhuliya, the Vice Chancellor and Chairman of the Planning Board to welcome the new members. The Vice Chancellor welcomed all the Members and hoped that the deliberations on each item of agenda would be meaningful to shape the University to achieve the targets, it has set for itself.

Before starting the proceedings of the meeting the University Song was played followed by a short corporate documentary on UOU.

Thereafter Shri L.S.Rawat, the Member Secretary, took up the agenda items for discussion with the permission of chair.

ITEM NO.PB/03/01: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING OF PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2011.

The minutes were glanced through. No comments from external and internal members had been received; therefore, the minutes were confirmed.

ITEM NO.PB/03/02:ACTION TAKEN REPORT (ATR) ON THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN THE 2ND MEETING OF PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2011.

The Resolution- wise **Action Taken Report** was read out and the members were satisfied with the ATR. With regard to ATR under RESOLUTION NO.PB/02/04, the issue related to constitution of an external assessment committee was discussed in detail under agenda item **No.PB/03/08 (III) (iv)**.



ITEM NO.PB/03/03:BRIEF REPORT ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY SINCE ITS INCEPTION TO DATE.


The Vice Chancellor desired Prof.R.C.Mishra, Director, School of Management Studies and Commerce to brief the house about the progress of the University. Accordingly it was done. The house was satisfied with the progress achieved by the University within such a short period. Shri Hem Pande, in particular, appreciated the efforts of the University for getting its own land and having University's own building.

ITEM NO.PB/03/04:STATUS OF FINANCIAL GRANT/ AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS AND C.F.Y. TILL 31ST AUGUST 2014

The Members were apprised of the status of the financial grant and its utilization. It was brought to the notice of the members that after conversion of Distance Education Council under IGNOU, into Distance Education Bureau under UGC, the release of grant from UGC is getting delayed. It was hoped that it would be streamlined in due course of time.

ITEM NO.PB/03/05:VISION DOCUMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF UTTARAKHAND OPEN UNIVERSITY (UOU) PREPARED BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR AFTER HIS JOINING THE UNIVERSITY ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2013 AND SUBMITTED TO GOVT.

The house was apprised of the steps taken by **Prof.Subhash Dhuliya** after his taking over as Vice Chancellor on 14th February 2013 firstly by preparation of Vision Paper of University in consultation with all Directors of Schools, and then getting its approval from Academic Council and Executive Council and then its submission to H.E. the Governor and state Govt. for granting approval on various academic and administrative issues. The outcome of the steps taken so far was,




establishing of four new Schools; reorganizing of Schools and Departments under them, (thus having total 13 Schools and 49 Departments/Centres); establishing five new Divisions for efficient functioning of different activities of the university; getting approval of State Government for creation of 10 posts of Associate Professor for the first time and 7 posts of Asstt.Professors; betterment of service conditions of teachers and staff; and so on. The house was satisfied with the activities and appreciated the steps taken by the Vice Chancellor and for the various achievements within such a short period of time.

**ITEM NO.PB/03/06: FIVE YEARS PERSPECTIVE PLAN- VISION
BEYOND 2014:**

The FIVE YEARS PERSPECTIVE PLAN- VISION BEYOND 2014, prepared by the university was seen by the house and it was appreciated. Since it is a document of far reaching impacts, it was resolved that a committee be constituted to draft a proper document, it should be discussed internally as well as with the invited experts and later be presented in the next meeting of Planning Board. The Vice Chancellor was authorized to constitute the Committee from amongst the internal members to prepare the concept note.

**ITEM No. PB/03/07: DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN TERMS OF ACADEMIC
PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND
INFRASTRUCTURE SUBMITTED BY
DIFFERENT SCHOOLS:**

The plans visualized by the following **13 Schools** of the University were examined by the Planning Board in the light of the details briefed by the Directors of Schools concerned and it was resolved that year wise rationalized demands of human resources and infrastructure of each Department/ School be chalked out and accordingly demands be submitted to the authorities concerned :

1. School of Agriculture and Development Studies (SOADS)
 2. School of Computer Sciences and IT (SOCIT)
 3. School of Education (SOE)
 4. School of Health Sciences (SOHS)
 5. School of Humanities (SOH)
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6. School of Journalism & Media Studies (SOJMC)
7. School of Law (SOL)
8. School of Library & Information Sciences (SLIS)
9. School of Management Studies & Commerce (SOMSC)
10. School of Sciences (SOS)
11. School of Social Sciences (SOSS)
12. School of Tourism, Hospitality and Hotel Management (SOTHH)
13. School of Vocational Studies (SOVS)

**ITEM NO. PB/03/08: DEVELOPMENT PLANS SUBMITTED BY
DIFFERENT
DIVISIONS/DIRECTORATES/CAMPUS.**

The Board was apprised, in brief, of the development plans submitted by following Divisions/Directorates/ Campus and the resolutions passed were as mentioned against each:

**I. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION:**

The Development Plan of the Division was endorsed by the Board for further action.

II. DIRECTORATE OF REGIONAL SERVICES:

प्रदेश में विश्वविद्यालय के अपने स्व-अध्ययन केन्द्रों तथा नोडल सेन्टर्स की स्थापना किया जाना।

The proposal was discussed in detail and the Board endorsed the same for further action.

(i) Initiation of Blended Mode of Learning

The proposal was discussed in detail and the Board endorsed the same for further action.

**(ii) Establishment of a Multipurpose Laboratory in PPP Mode at
two locations in Uttarakhand.**

The proposal was discussed in detail and the Board endorsed the same for further action.

**(iii) Establishment of Colleges under Section 3(2) of the University
Act.**



The proposal was discussed in detail and the Board endorsed the same for further action.

III. DIRECTORATE OF ACADEMICS

(iv) Reconstitution of External Assessment Committee.

Prof. Ravi Kant proposed that one member should be included in the said committee from IGNOU having vast knowledge of distance and open learning. The Vice Chancellor was authorized to constitute the committee and decide the mandate of the same.

IV. DIRECTORATE OF MATERIAL PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The proposal was discussed in detail and the Board endorsed the same for further action.

V. देहरादून परिसर

The issue was discussed and considering all the dimensions, it was decided that initially it should be strengthened as the Regional Office and later, as per the declaration made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, if the new Campus comes up, it must have sufficient space to house the Regional Centre also.

ITEM NO. PB/03/09: PROPOSAL FOR NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN "ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION".

The Vice Chancellor desired Prof. N.P. Melkania to explain the rationale of the courses proposed by the Department of Forestry and Environment Science under this item. Prof. Melkania stated that -

- With the paradigm shift in understanding of environment, the environment is now a topic of much concern for national development and global significance;
- The environment is now recognized as an important stakeholder in business, local and global sustainable living;
- The Indian Constitution under the 42nd amendment has identified "Environmental Protection" as the fundamental duty of every citizen; This calls for opportunities of formal environment- education for all who are seeking professionalism and career, and



- In majority of Institutions in India, the formal education programmes on environment are available for Science stream learners only.

Dr.Melkania, based on his wide experience in the field of environment science and ecology, was, therefore, of the strong view that in order to overcome the above constraints, especially in Uttarakhand, and other States also, the following new programmes as designed and developed by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science (School of Sciences, UOU) would be very useful to be launched by UOU, following a basket approach:

- M.Sc. in Environmental Science/ Environmental Studies / Environmental Management.
- M.A. in Environmental Studies / Environmental Management
- M. Tech. in Environmental Science and Technology
- P.G. Diploma in Environmental Science/ Environmental Studies / Environmental Management.

The Board endorsed the proposal and directed that further action be taken as per the prescribed procedure and rules for launching the new programmes.

ITEM NO. PB/03/10: ESTABLISHMENT OF A "BIO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY PARK AND ECOLOGICAL MUSEUM"

The Vice Chancellor desired **Prof.Girija Pande** and **Prof.Melkania** to apprise the house of the progress that has been made so far with regard to establishment of the said **"BIO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY PARK AND ECOLOGICAL MUSEUM"** at the level of State Government as well as Central Government. Prof. Pande and Prof.Melkania apprised of the progress. This matter was already in the knowledge of **Shri Hem Pande**, Member of the Planning Board. He indicated that the proposal is under consideration of the Central Govt. The Board endorsed the proposal for further action.

ITEM NO. PB/03/11: ESTABLISHMENT OF A "CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED URBANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES".



The Board was apprised of the Concept, Vision, Mandate and Objectives of the proposed Centre by Dr.N.P. Melkania. The Board was convinced with the establishment of the proposed Centre and endorsed the proposal for further action as per the established procedure.

ITEM NO. PB/03/12: PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUSEUM OF HIMALAYAN HERITAGE.

Prof. Girija Pande, Director School of Social Sciences apprised the Board that the ODL system or Dual mode is the most suitable method for delivering

education in the mountain regions which have a specific character of fragility, marginality and inaccessibility. Use of ODL to its fullest capacity in mountain regions would be a boon for the people living in the far-flung areas and aspiring for quality higher education. The objectives of the proposed Centre were elucidated. The Board endorsed the proposal.

ITEM NO. PB/03/13: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRE FOR HIMALAYAN STUDIES.

Prof. R.C.Mishra, Director Academic, apprised the Board that the establishment of a Centre for Himalayan Studies has already been approved by H.E. the Governor in accordance with the proposal as per the Vision paper submitted by the Vice Chancellor. Proposal for financial budget and human resources has been submitted to the Government for approval. The Board noted the progress made in this matter.

ITEM NO. PB/03/14: ANY OTHER ITEM(S) WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR.

The Directors of different Schools viz. Prof.R.C.Mishra, Prof. H.P.Shukla and Prof. Girija Pande put forth before the house, various important issues that need redressal at UGC/ State and Central Govt. levels. Accordingly in the course of further discussion with external members on planning and key issues related to University, the following points emerged:

1. Autonomy of the University must be restored with regard to offering of various programmes of study.



2. Validity and equivalence of the degrees awarded by the UOU must be considered at par with other traditional universities.
3. The system of allowing private students at UG and PG levels should be stopped.
4. The geographical situation of Himalayan States is quite different to plain States with regard to imparting knowledge to students. There is an urgent
5. need at national level to review and have a specific Policy of Distance Education in Himalayan States.
6. Certain specific programmes of studies like Social Auditing, specific accounting programmes and other programmes leading to capacity building be introduced. Similarly some programmes of studies about local bodies may also be started.
7. Collaboration with different institutions like Institute of Wood Sciences, University of Victoria, Australia and others may be explored.
8. Lessons need be learnt from IGNOU regarding offering of new programmes of study.
9. Act and Statutes of University need be revised to meet new challenges and requirements of rapidly changing situation.
10. The University must have its own Legal Cell particularly to vet all the MoUs being signed by the University.
11. Some short term skill oriented programmes in the form of training programmes be offered by the University.

Shri Niranjana Pant, one of the External Member of the Planning Board also made the following suggestions :

I. "UOU should focus on courses which are predominantly Uttarakhand context specific; e.g., environment, women (gender) studies, disaster management, local self government, adult education, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the like. UOU should also seek active partnerships with reputed civil service organizations and Government Departments at the Union and State levels, especially for academic and fiscal resource mobilization.



"There is much scope for development of relevant curricula on Local Self Government and related subjects such as Local Bodies' Accounts & Audit, Financial Management, Social Auditing, Joint Forest Management. There is much dearth of skilled grassroots professionals in these subjects, resulting in Uttarakhand remaining very backward in meaningful strengthening of Panchayati Raj, and in consequently availing itself of the fiscal devolutions and grants from the Government in the fullest measure. UOU could fill the skill building gaps across the state by offering relevant courses in distance learning mode, with active consultations and support from the relevant Union & State Ministries, especially of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Environment & Forest, with due regard to UK's geo-demographic peculiarities. UOU should leverage its position as the only State Distance Learning Institution among the Himalayan States to attract Government and CSO state holders' attention in the matter. Mr Niranjan Pant offered his services in providing liaison to some important and interested stakeholders in the subject."

II. Mr Niranjan Pant welcomed the progress made by UOU in getting better access to Satellite (MHRD's DTH initiative/EDUSAT etc). He supported the idea that given the poor internet connectivity as at present in the remote corners of the State, UOU should redouble its efforts to gain better access to - and to improve usage of - Satellite based spread of distance learning."

Having endorsed the issues as mentioned against each agenda items above, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Members as well as to the Chair.


(L.S.Rawat)
Registrar
Member Secretary