

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the 5th Governing Council held on 12-3-2009

at KSHEC, Trivandrum

The 5th meeting of the Governing Council was held at the office of the Council at Science and Technology Museum Campus on 12-3-2009. **Shri.M. A. Baby**, Hon'ble Minister for Education and Culture presided. The Following members attended the meeting:

1. Dr. K.N.Panikkar Vice Chairman
2. Sri. Kuruvilla John IAS Principal Secretary to Government
3. Dr. A. Jayakrishnan Vice-Chancellor, Kerala University
4. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal Vice Chancellor, M. G. University
5. Smt. Anwar Jahan Zuberi Vice Chancellor, Calicut University
6. Dr.P. K. Michael Tharakan Vice-Chancellor, Kannur University
7. Dr. J. Prasad Vice-Chancellor, Sanskrit University
8. Shri. Sasidhara IAS Director of Collegiate Education
9. Dr. V. Geetha Director of Medical Education
10. Dr. P. K. Ashokan Member
11. Sri. C. P. Narayanan Member
12. Dr. Achuth Sankar S Nair Member
13. Dr. Fathimathu Zuhara K Member
14. Prof. K. Aravindakshan Member
15. Dr. C. Balan Member
16. Dr. M. P. Kannan Member
17. Prof.Thomas Joseph Member Secretary

The following agenda was transacted by the Council.

Item No. 1 – Opening remarks of the Chairman

The Chairman placed on record the services rendered by Dr.M.K. Ramachandran Nair, former Vice-Chancellor, Kerala University, Dr.Jancy James former Vice-Chancellor, M.G.University, Dr.Gangan Prathap, former Vice-Chancellor CUSAT, Dr.K.S.Radhakrishnan former Vice-Chancellor, SSUS, Kalady & Dr.P.Chandramohan former Vice-Chancellor, Kannur University, during their tenure

as members of the Council. The Chairman also welcomed Dr.A.Jayakrishnan, VC, Kerala University, Dr.Rajan Gurukkal, VC, M.G.University, Dr.J.Prasad, VC, SSUS and Dr.P.K.Michel Tharakan, VC, Kannur University to the Governing Council. He said that the new members, who are all well-known academics, would be able to make stellar contributions to the deliberations of the Council.

The Chairman said that apprehensions about the possibility of the Council becoming an instrument of the Government for controlling the universities have been belied by the performance of the Council since its inception. The Council has done commendable academic work, both in terms of quality and quantity.

Item No.2 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22–10–2008, which were confirmed through circulation, was ratified.

Item No. 3 – Action taken on the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Member Secretary reported action taken, as per agenda notes circulated.

The Council noted that the present procedure for participation of Vice-Chancellors in international academic conferences is quite cumbersome and needed to be simplified. It was decided to take up the matter with the UGC.

Item No. 4 - Annual Reports & Audit Reports

The draft annual report of the Higher Education Council for the year 2007-08 was approved.

The reports of the internal audit in respect of Higher Education Commission and of the internal audit in respect of Higher Education Council for the year 2007-08 were considered and approved.

The reports of the external audit in respect of Higher Education Commission and Higher Education Council for the period upto and including December 2008 were approved.

Item No. 5 – Restructuring Undergraduate Education

After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken for the successful implementation of the programme of Restructuring Undergraduate Education from 2009-10.

- (1) The Government would be requested to take steps to fill up existing vacancies of teachers on a priority basis. The Council may request the Government to restore the authority of Universities to approve posts by repealing the 2005 amendment to various University Acts by which the Government had taken over from Universities the right to approve posts of teachers. The Universities may approve the posts after assessing their academic relevance, on the basis of work load norms approved by the Government. The above procedure for fixation of posts may be made applicable to both aided and Government colleges.
- (2) The Council would request the Government and the Universities to make alternate arrangements for the conduct of examinations for distance/off campus streams by creating a panel of approved teachers (outside the category of regular Govt/aided college teachers) who could be entrusted with the task of valuation of answer scripts.
- (3) Universities may be requested to expedite the process of computerization of the administration of all examinations
- (4) The academic calendar may be rescheduled by providing one month semester brakes in October and May. The time table may be set according to the day order system within a five day week to provide equitable distribution of working days for all courses. The colleges will ensure 90 working days in each semester by compensating unscheduled holidays/non-working days by working on Saturdays, if necessary. The Council may address the Government/ Universities in this respect.
- (5) The Council may request the Government and Universities to take necessary steps for holding district wise CV camps for the evaluation of answer scripts for the timely publication of examination results.
- (6) Grading would be implemented in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Council in this respect.
- (7) Universities would frame regulations for the implementation of the restructured curriculum after mutual consultation, so as to ensure comparability of programmes across Universities, without compromising the diverse curricular requirements of individual universities. Kannur

University would host a consultative meeting for this purpose in the first week of April.

Item No. 6 – Scheme of Cluster of Colleges

(1) The Council resolved to set up two clusters at Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam in March 2009 and to transfer grant-in-aid to the extent of one crore for each Cluster, on the basis of the execution of the M.O.U and issuance of proceedings as contemplated below.

“The Grant-in-aid is released to the Cluster of Colleges concerned, subject to the condition that the funds paid shall be utilized only for the purposes contemplated in the MOU entered into by the partnering colleges and in such a manner as provided in the MOU and within such period as may be specified by the Council. The Executive Body of the Cluster shall be responsible for the proper utilization of the funds in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Cluster as stated in the MOU and shall maintain proper accounts, which shall be subjected to internal audit every year. The audit report shall be placed before the Governing Body of the Cluster for its approval and necessary follow-up action. The Governing Body of the Cluster shall take immediate steps to clear objections, if any, in the audit report. The yearly accounts of the Cluster as certified by the auditor together with the audit report along with the remarks of the Governing Body and report on action taken to clear objections, if any, shall be forwarded to the Higher Education Council and the Government before the end of the succeeding financial year to which the accounts relate. Any funds unspent or spent for purposes other than for which they are intended are liable to be refunded to the Council within such period as the Council may specify.”

(2) It was resolved to include Al-Ameen College, Edathala in the Ernakulam Cluster.

(3) A third cluster would be set up in north Kerala during 2009-10.

Item No. 7 – Higher Education Scholarship Fund

(1) It was decided to reconstitute the Advisory Committee of the Scholarship Fund excluding His Excellency the Governor of Kerala, as desired by him.

(2) The Council considered and approved the projections made in respect of the administration of the Scholarship Fund.

(3) The Council would request the Government to modify sub section (l) of section 4 of the Kerala State Higher Education Council Act, 2007 as follows:

*“evolve schemes for providing equitable opportunities for higher education and **constitute and administer** scholarships and freeships and financial assistance to the needy students and to coordinate implementation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and other eligible backward classes welfare programmes of the Central and State Government and other Central and State Level Funding Agencies”.*

Item No. 8 – Data Bank on Higher Education

- (1) The Council decided to accept the data collected so far as sufficient for the fulfillment of contractual obligation of the State Liaison Officer, N.S.S for the collection of data in respect of Data Bank on Higher Education.
- (2) The Government would be requested to issue orders making it mandatory for individual institutions to disclose relevant data online in the format provided by the Council on its website, with a view to making the data collected more comprehensive and for updating it from time to time.

Item No. 9 – Draft State Policy on Higher Education

The Universities would discuss the draft policy in their relevant forums and communicate to the Council the consolidated views of each University within two months. The Governing Council would then discuss and finalize the proposals to be submitted to the Government for its consideration.

Item No. 10 – Review of University Acts

The Universities would consider the general guidelines and forward their views to the Council within one month, on the basis of which the Council would frame the terms of reference and general guidelines for the expert committee to be constituted by the Council for the review of various University Acts.

Item No.11 – Research Project Proposals

The Council approved the panel consisting of Dr.Ambrose Pinto, Dr.Padmini Swaminathan and Dr.R.V.G.Menon which has been constituted for undertaking the screening and selection of the Projects for which applications have been received.

Item No. 12 – Teacher Exchange Programme

The Council approved the scheme submitted as per agenda notes, for the Teacher Exchange Programme between the Councils of West Bengal and Kerala. The

Universities would submit to the Council further proposals, if any, for the enrichment of the scheme

Item No. 13 – ERUDITE Scheme

The Erudite Scheme will be implemented as and when necessary funds are made available to the Council by the Government.

Item No. 14 – Documentary History of Higher Education

The Governing Council approved the proposal for preparing a documentary history of higher education as proposed in the agenda notes, subject to the modification that Ph.D need not be insisted for the Research Officer in case an experienced persons and honorarium upto Rs.25,000/- per month may be given, depending on his/her qualification.

Item No. 15 – Implementation of UGC Scheme in the State.

The Council took the view that Chadha Commiitee recommendations in respect of central assistance for the implementation of the scheme and retirement age should be implemented in the State. The Council would address the State Government in this regard.

The meeting started at 11 A.M. and concluded at 3.30 p.m.

13/3/2009

Member Secretary