



TAMIL NADU OPEN UNIVERSITY CHENNAI 600 025.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON DECEMBER 12, 2008 AT 11:00 A.M.

Members Present:

1.	Prof. M.S. Palanichamy, Vice-Chancellor , TNOU, Chennai	Chairman
2.	Prof.P.Nandagopal Director, PSG Instt.of Management	Member
3.	Dr.Mohan Kameswaran MD, Madras ENT Research Foundation (P) Ltd. Chennai	Member
4.	Dr.P.S.Balasubramanian Prof.of Education (Retired) University of Madras, Chennai	Member
5.	Dr.K.Ayyakkannu Director of Distance Education Annamalai University, Chidambaram	Member
6.	Prof. K. Murugan, Head, School of Humanities TNOU, Chennai	Member
7.	Dr. S. Vijayan, Head, School of Social Sciences TNOU, Chennai	Member
8.	Prof. M. Murugan, Head, School of Science, TNOU, Chennai	Member
9.	Prof. S.N. Geetha, Head, School of Management Studies, TNOU, Chennai	Member-Secretary

The Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the Planning Board welcomed the members of the Planning Board and appraised them of the recent developments in the University.

Registrar

ITEM NO. 2.1

CONSIDERED THE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOR THE APPLICATION OF ICT IN THE ODL SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Chairman of the Planning Board requested Dr. Arulselvan, the Deputy Director & Head, EMPRC to make a presentation on the initiatives taken by the University in the application of ICT in the ODL system of the University.

The Deputy Director made a presentation, the genesis of the same is given below:

- 1) Establishment of Electronic Media Production and Research Centre from the scratch which includes acquiring Video & Audio Studio, 2 cameras with accessories from M/s. Thompson, Audio Video Mixture, Lighting, Video monitoring, microphone, editing suit on the production side and procurement of HP EVA 4000 2 TB server, 4 MBPS Internet connection as well as procurement of tele-education software.
- 2) Production of 100 E-Learning CDs with the help of outsourced agencies and the initiatives taken to produce multiple copies of the CDs to be sent to the students along with the print material.
- 3) The steps taken to establish a FM Radio Station which will make possible the use of the community radio network.
- 4) The research project awarded by the Distance Education Council on "Internet Radio-An effective medium for distributive communication among ODL Learners".
- 5) Allotment of 3.00 Crore rupees by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the production of Educational Television material by the TNOU on themes such as spoken English, Yoga, Preparing for Competitive Examination, and on career guidance and the steps taken by the University in this regard including Constitution of a Technical Committee by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor.

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Then, ⁴ few CDs containing e-learning materials were shown to the Hon'ble members of the Planning Board.

After the presentation session the Chairman invited the members to offer their suggestions on the initiatives taken by the University in the ICT front.

The Board made the following observations:

- 1) Getting the feedback from the students on the usefulness of the E-Learning CDs supplied to them along with the SIM materials as to whether they are user friendly and whether they can understand the subject matter by going through the CDs. It was informed to the Board that the faculty members of the University are involved in designing the CDs and also in supervising the production of the CDs and since the CDs are developed on the basis of the SIM materials, there will be no compromise in terms of quality.
- 2) The Board while acknowledging the establishment of EMPRC and steps taken to produce E-Content materials pointed that there is a need for an IT Policy of the University for the production and distribution of the same so that the students are facilitated.
- 3) The Board also stressed the importance of establishing TNOU Centres outside the State involving local participation and local language is a must to attract local people.
- 4) The Board also stressed the importance of establishing centres abroad especially in Countries like Mauritius, Bangladesh, Yemen, Cambodia & Sri Lanka. It is important to go through the Embassy and establish contacts with the local Ministry and with the help of an MOU with leading Universities in that country, courses can be offered which will be need based. Such a measure will definitely increase the demand for the courses than merely concentrating on Non-Resident Indians.

ITEM NO. 2.2

CONSIDERED MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS TO MEET THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE UNIVERSITY DUE TO EXPONENTIAL RISE IN STUDENT ENROLMENT

The Board noted the shortage in the staff strength to ensure effective service to the ODL students and emphasized that on an average for every 3000 candidates on rolls there must be at least one clerical staff. Adopting this premise the University should have minimum 60 clerical staff, 15 Superintendents, 7 Assistant Registrars / Assistant Directors and 3 Deputy Registrars to have the pyramidal structure. The Board also noted the staff strength on roll and resolved to recommend to the Finance Committee and Syndicate that additional posts of one Deputy Registrar, one Assistant Registrar, eleven Superintendents, and thirty three clerical staffs be created in order to meet the aforesaid premise.

The Chairman requested Prof. K. Murugan, to make a presentation on the faculty requirement in view of the changing scenario of the ODL requirements. Prof. Murugan stressed the importance of having at least two faculty for each of the core subjects. A copy of the presentation is annexed (Annexure-1). After detailed deliberation the Board resolved to recommend to the Syndicate that two core faculty be appointed for each of the core subject and resource persons on contract basis can be hired on the basis of number of students under each core subject.

The Planning Board suggested that if the University is unable to find full time faculty member in the Health Science, steps may be taken to recruit part time consultants who may work 3 or 4 days in a week so that one can launch paramedical courses. It also suggested that persons with medical Bio-Chemistry, Pharmacy Medical oncology with Ph.D degree can also be tried for the Reader post in the School of Health Sciences.

ITEM NO.2.3

CONSIDERED THE SPACE REQUIREMENTS TO MEET OUT THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Board noted that at present the University is housed in a portion of building belonging to the DOTE Campus. The Board also noted the additional space hired by the University owing to paucity of space to meet the growing demands of the rapidly increasing student strength.

The Board noted the steps taken by the Vice-Chancellor to get the assent of the Director, Directorate of Technical Education for making a semi permanent structure over and above the first floor of the present Building. The Board also supports the steps taken to entrust the work with the private contractor so that the work could be completed within a short period.

The Board after detailed deliberation resolved to recommend to the Syndicate that the work of constructing the New Building of the University at the land allotted by the Government at Saidapet be entrusted with a leading private contractor like the ECC/L&T who will be able to execute the work in time with quality and the University can also levy penalty if the work is not completed in time.

ITEM NO.2.4

CONSIDERED ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDY CENTRES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The Board reiterated the decision taken by it under item No.1 that the University should establish centres abroad especially in Countries like Mauritius, Bangladesh, Yemen, Cambodia and Sri Lanka through their Embassy and establish contacts with the local Ministry and with the help of an MOU with leading Universities courses can be offered which will be need based and country specific.

ITEM NO.2.5

TO SUGGEST NEW PROGRAMMES THAT MAY BE INTRODUCED IN VIEW OF THE SOCIETAL NEEDS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PREVAILING GLOBALIZED ENVIRONMENT

The Board after detailed deliberation resolved that tailor made sandwich courses be offered and the University should not lay stress on the duration of the courses and concentrate on the quality of the courses and getting recognition from the local Ministries concerned. Especially the University can offer tailor made courses to the Defence and Banking Sector who generally look in for acquiring skill.

The Board also suggested that the University should concentrate on offering the following health related courses:

- 1) Laser Technician Course
- 2) Anesthesia Technician Course
- 3) Medical Micro Biology
- 4) Intensive Care Technician course.

The Board placed on record on the excellent leadership role played by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor in guiding the members on evolving various strategies for the rapid growth and development of this University in his two successful terms.


(PROF. M.S.PALANICHAMY)
VICE-CHANCELLOR


(DR. S. MANICKAM)
REGISTRAR

Place : Conference Hall of the Tamil Nadu Open
University, Chennai – 09.

Date : December 12, 2008