

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Board of Management
Monday, August 4, 2008

Venue: Delhi Secretariat

Time: 6.30 pm

The following members participated in the meeting:

1. Professor Shyam Menon, Vice Chancellor (Chairperson)
2. Shri P.K. Tripathi, Principal Secretary (CMO) Officiating as Secretary (Finance), Government of NCT of Delhi
3. Dr G. Narendra Kumar, Principal Secretary (Higher Education), Government of NCT of Delhi

Special Invitee:

1. Shri V.P.Rao, Director (Higher Education), Government of NCT of Delhi

1. The Vice Chancellor presented a brief concept note on the new university. (Annexure 1) The Board considered the concept note and made several observations and suggestions for modification and development of the concept note. Some of the major observations were:
 - a. There is a necessity and relevance for a School of Law and a School of Liberal Studies. It was suggested that the Vice Chancellor hold consultations with experts in the field and arrive at an appropriate nomenclature and programme structure for these schools.
 - b. The nomenclature of the proposed School of Human Development may need some review and rethinking. The programmes proposed under this school may need to be scrutinized in the perspective of marketability as well.
 - c. In the proposed School of Business, domain-specific programmes may be thought of.
 - d. It is a welcome idea to establish a Foundation for raising a corpus as a source of finance for the development of the university as well as for student



bursaries and faculty fellowships. This could even be incorporated in the statutes of the university.

2. Resolved to authorize the Vice Chancellor to open a Bank Account in the name of the University.

Further resolved that till permanent arrangements are in place, the account will be jointly operated by the Vice Chancellor and the Director (Higher Education), Government of NCT of Delhi.

3. The Board considered the contractual appointment of Professor Vijaya Varma (former Dean of Planning, University of Delhi) as Advisor (Planning).

Resolved that Professor Vijaya Varma be appointed as Advisor (Planning) for a period of one year w.e.f. the date he joins duty, on a compensation of last salary drawn on retirement minus pension.

4. The Board considered the contractual appointment of Shri C.M. Sharma (former Chief Controller of Accounts, Government of NCT of Delhi) as Consultant (Finance).

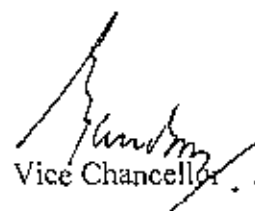
Resolved that Shri C.M. Sharma be appointed as Consultant (Finance) for a period of one year w.e.f. the date he joins duty, on a compensation of last salary drawn on retirement minus pension.

5. Resolved to authorize the Vice Chancellor to make whatever pro-tem arrangements that are necessary in the process of establishing the structures and programmes of the university, till the regular bodies, structures and processes are in place.

6. Under any other item:

- a. Resolved that whatever money that remains in the University's Savings Bank, beyond a reasonable amount that is necessary for the carrying out of the operations of the University, be invested in FD accounts of appropriate timeframes in a nationalized bank that offers the maximum interest.
- b. The Board considered and recorded the view that the University may try and launch its first academic programme in the course of the current academic year itself. This could be in the form of a pilot programme.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


Vice Chancellor

The Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar University, Delhi
A Brief Concept Note

Mandate:

Ambedkar University, Delhi (AUD) is mandated by its Act to focus on teaching and research in Social Sciences and the Humanities.

AUD is poised to be a unitary university with both post graduate and undergraduate programmes on campus.

AUD can develop into a multi-campus system with campuses spread over the National Capital Territory.

Vision:

There are some dimensions almost in-built in AUD's institutional vision. And these are:

Commitment to equity and social justice: AUD must try and go beyond mere provisioning of equitable access. We must have built-in institutional mechanisms for mentoring and nurturing students, particularly in language (say, English), study skills and so on, to assure success and excellence. For this purpose we must have a full-fledged Student Support Services Division right from the very beginning. The progression of undergraduate students could be followed through by means of a mentor system involving senior postgraduate students acting as tutors or mentors. The tutorships will also serve a means of providing financial assistance to postgraduate students selected on the basis of merit.

Emphasis on public institutions as instruments for social transformation, focus on social action, focus on the interface of civil society and the State: The programmes (both teaching and research) as well as the School structure should reflect this thrust.

Any institution established in the national capital which has a credo that it would work for equity and excellence, cannot be the second best; it has to be world class.



Academic Structure:

Schools:

The following schools of Interdisciplinary studies are tentatively thought of for offering postgraduate programmes and research. The idea is to focus on areas of knowledge and professional specializations which are relevant to our context, and the same time, not being given enough emphasis by other universities in this part of the country.

1. School of Public Policy and Development Studies

This School will offer postgraduate diploma, masters and doctoral programmes in public health, urban development, management of public systems, social entrepreneurship.

2. School of Human Ecology (or School of Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development)

This School will attempt to focus on the social dimensions of the issues in environmental change and sustainable development.

3. School of Human Development

This would be perhaps for the first time in India that an interdisciplinary group of anthropologists, psychologists, philosophers and educationists can be brought together to address issues related to individual, family, community, changing lifestyles, relationships, sexuality, changing character of workplaces, stages of life - particularly old age and so on through various teaching and research programmes.

4. School of Cultural and Creative Expressions

This school will focus on studies - and training - in literature, cinema, visual art, performing arts including theatre, contemporary art practices and cultural practices from the margins.

5. School of Design

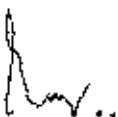
6. School of Business and Entrepreneurship

7. School of Education

This school could focus perhaps on policy studies and comparative and international perspectives in education, a task which other universities in India are not addressing adequately.

8. School of Undergraduate Studies

The UG programmes in Social Sciences and Humanities and Mathematical Sciences could have the flexibility of someone pursuing a single degree through a 3 year programme or a dual degree through a four year programme. The programmes could be



discipline centred. A mixed / multi / split mode of delivery which makes use of a continuum of instructional modes (ranging from large classroom based instruction to tutorials to on-line and self-learning modules) should be thought of. At UG level, the issue of numbers needs to be addressed satisfactorily keeping the quality parameters in mind. Since the university has a unitary character, it is desirable to think right from the beginning of innovative instructional strategies.

Centres:

AUD may also consider establishing two Centres for Research and Documentation as well as for offering courses which may be configured as part of the programmes that the various schools offer.

Centre for Engaged Buddhism
(focusing on Radical Spirituality, Social Action, conflict transformation and peace building)

Centre for Leadership in Higher Education
(a centre aiming to build capacity of senior management in higher education does not exist in this part of the world).

Campus:

One also hopes to create a campus which is a futuristic physical and social space:

energy-efficient, ecologically-ethical, disability-friendly

A space which inspires openness and communality

A space carved out of the urban landscape of Delhi and which attempts to blend a compact human habitation and workplace in a seamless continuum with nature.

A space which includes academic, residential, recreational and social facilities for students and staff.

Tuition fees:

We must formulate a rational fee structure based on actual calibration of the operational costs for running a programme. We must begin with the principle of partial cost recovery, say 20%. There will of course be full of partial tuition waivers to students admitted from



economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The AUD may consider from the very beginning setting up a Foundation to raise a corpus as a source of bursaries and other financial assistance for students.

Going ahead:

These are just dreams at present, or at best untested ideas. What exists at present is only the Act - a piece of legislation. Everything else has to be thought through and created. This is going to be of enormous challenge. But, if we manage to build a small cohesive team (with determination and idealism tempered with realism) and around this team if we manage to gather an enthusiastic and competent community of scholars and professionals as faculty and extended faculty, the task will turn out to be exciting. The task now is largely to collect ideas about possibilities for the new institution - both in terms of programmes and people, and create a blue-print and initiate a process of visioning. Simultaneously, the task also will be to enthuse a number of good and competent people to come on board and begin to share, pursue and shape further this vision.

A Calendar for five years and a more detailed one for the first year are being prepared.

