

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

(Abstract)

Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee of Academic Council held on 25.05.2016 -
Approved - Orders issued.

ACADEMIC A1 SECTION

U.O. No.5299/A1/2016/Acad

Dated, Priyadarsini Hills, 01.10.2016

Read: Item No.122/Ac.15/16204 of the minutes of the Meeting of the Academic Council held
on 18.06.2016.

ORDER

The Academic Council, vide paper read above, resolved to approve the minutes of the
meeting of the Standing Committee of the Academic Council held on 25.05.2016. A copy of
the minutes is appended herewith.

Orders are issued accordingly.


Sd/-
Komalavally K.
Deputy Registrar I (Acad)
for REGISTRAR

To

1. PS to VC/PVC
2. PA to Registrar/FO/CE
3. JR/DR/AR (Acad/Exam/Finance)
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File No. Ac.A1/2/2165/2014

Forwarded By Order


Section Officer

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH MAY 2016 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE
MINI CONFERENCE HALL**

Members present:

1. Dr.Babu Sebastian, Vice Chancellor
2. Prof.(Dr.) A.S.Padmanabhan, Dean, Faculty of Sciences
3. Prof.(Dr.) T.V.Thulasidharan, Dean, Faculty of Education
4. Prof.(Dr.) R.Vijayakumar, Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Technology
5. Prof.(Dr.) K.Sreeranganadhan, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences

Also Present:

1. Dr.P.S.Sukumaran, School of Behavioural Sciences
2. Dr.K.Sabukkuttan, Dept. of Life Long Learning & Extension
3. Dr.K.M.Krishnan, School of Letters
4. Dr.K.Indulekha, School of Pure & Applied Physics
5. Dr..Bindu V.R., School of Computer Sciences
6. Dr.T.R.Keerthi, School of Bio-Sciences
7. Dr.Davis Xavier, St.thomas College, Pala
8. Dr.K.M.Seethi, School of International Relations
9. Dr.C.T.Aravinda Kumar, School of Environmental Sciences
10. Dr.Roy C. Mathew, School of Gandhian Thought & Development Studies
11. Dr.Siby Zacharias, School of Management & Business Studies
12. Sri.Sunil Kumar Cyriac, School of Indian Legal Thought
13. Sri.Raveendran C., Joint Registrar I (Exam)

The Committee started its meeting at 3.00 p.m. and discussed the items brought before it in detail. The report of the Sub Committee is as follows:

Mahatma Gandhi University has, in the past, granted guideship to the following various sections of the faculty other than regular faculty of the University and regular faculty of the teachers of affiliated colleges in centres in their own colleges-

1. Regular teachers of the affiliated colleges in research centres of other affiliated colleges under MG University
2. Regular teachers from colleges affiliated to other Universities in research centres of affiliated colleges under MG University
3. Retired teachers who are still resourceful and having an active workplace in statutory University departments or the research centres of affiliated colleges
4. Renowned scholars from other institutions and tenure-track/adjunct faculties in the Inter University Centres funded by the State Government of Kerala as well as in the Inter School Centres of the University.
5. Qualified faculties in Self-financing institutions directly run by the University
6. Qualified faculties in Self-financing institutions affiliated to the University
7. Scientists from National research centres
8. Scientists/faculties from R&D centres of Non Governmental Organizations

The committee examined all the issues related to above categories. The committee observed the following-

The new UGC directions are meant for improving the research quality in all disciplines. It may also be noted that there is a growing need for the enhancement of research activities in our country and this can be achieved only by utilising all the resources available locally and globally. Universities are the prime centres of research and higher learning. While there are sufficient faculties/scientists in various National Institutes and research centres, very limited faculties are available in University set up, particularly in State Universities. Therefore, the committee made the following recommendations taking into account of the UGC direction in its full spirit and on the decision of the Academic Council on 19.12.2015.

1. As our University has already informed the UGC that the new rule will be implemented with effect from 01.04.2016, the existing pattern will be fully applicable in all the centres of research till this deadline. The students who registered under the above categories can continue their work and may complete the work within a maximum period of 5 years. Changing the guide after a couple of years of research is absolutely not practical and unjustifiable. Moreover, regular teachers may not have sufficient number of vacancies, particularly when there is a cut short of maximum number of students from 12 to 8 in the new UGC direction.
2. It is not necessary to announce the number of vacancies within a particular field as it is generally very difficult to commit in advance; since a regular teacher is free to admit direct JRF from National/State Funding Agencies and one cannot block such students from getting enrolled at any point of time.
3. Students can get enrolled for Ph.D programme in all the Inter University and Inter School centres of the University with regular faculty members of the University in all available interdisciplinary areas. Since the teachers of the various Schools are part of these Centres, the terminology "*adjunct faculty*" will not be applicable in this case. There are already provisions in these centres that any regular faculty member of the statutory departments (whether part of the centre or not) of this University can take up research in interdisciplinary areas. It may also be noted that in the absence of such centres, no interdisciplinary research can be taken up by any students.
4. Those existing guides of the Centres whose guideship ceases due to the new UGC guidelines may be allowed to supervise future students for Ph.D and M.Phil., as "Co-guides" in the respective centres.
5. The registration of the teachers whose guideship is in the centres of colleges other than their own college may be continued taking into consideration that they are all regular teachers under the University and that the University permitted them to guide students in specialised areas where there is no research centre in their own college.

6. The question of retaining the research centres (Engineering, Technology, Nursing etc.) in various technical institutions presently with the Technical University requires a policy decision.

The above points may be taken into account while announcing the admission for Ph.D for the current academic year 2016. In addition, the following points may be represented to UGC urgently and permission may be granted to such cases as and when the UGC clarify these points.

1. While formulating the regulations of the Inter University Centres (which is meant for advanced research in interdisciplinary areas for researchers from all the Universities in Kerala), the Government has directed the University to give provisions for approving guideship to tenure-track faculties appointed in the centre and to scholars/retired teachers from other Universities, in order to promote active research in many interdisciplinary areas. Therefore, the University has adopted a novel and very practical approach in this direction. Such well qualified scholars were given joint guideship where a permanent member of the faculty will act as a Co-guide for the registered student and this is made mandatory. This arrangement was proved very efficient in the research in such Inter University and Inter School centres. **This regulation is equally applicable to the UGC recharge faculties who are being appointed in all Universities as tenure-track faculties where UGC strictly directs the Universities to provide all facilities provided to a regular teacher.** This innovative regulation in research yielded Mahatma Gandhi University in a high degree of reputation (with respect to number of publications in high impact factor journals and citations) which was evident from the DST ranking where our University was placed 8th position in the first among 30 Universities in India. In this context, Mahatma Gandhi University may submit the following request to UGC in order to further strengthen our research. This request is mainly due to the fact that our University is facing acute shortage of permanent faculties to meet the demands of the UGC/CSIR/INSPIRE and other fellowship holders who approach our University for Ph.D programme. The Inter University Centres and Inter School centres have been designed in such a way that only tenure-track faculties will be appointed for teaching and research. **Therefore, UGC may accept our proposal to grant guideship in statutory departments/Inter University and Inter School centres for qualified people (tenure track faculties/retired faculty/renowned scholars from other universities) where a permanent faculty of the University will act as a co-guide.** This kind of joint supervision will avoid any kind of inconvenience to students related to the termination of their guide from the University.
2. Students may be permitted to get enrolled for Ph.D position in approved research centres of the Self-Financing departments with research guides of the Centre provided a co-guide from a statutory department may get involved in the guidance.
3. Research guideship to regular scientists working in National/State Research organization may be allowed as guide in approved Centres of the University. This will only enhance the quality of research in the University.

- Guideship of the qualified faculties in Self-financing institutions affiliated to the University may be retained subject to the condition that they are regular faculties of the Institution.

Resolved to recommend to follow strictly UGC Regulations 2009 regarding research from 2016 admission onwards.

Statutory teaching departments of the University, University Centres/Constituent Colleges, affiliated Colleges within the jurisdiction of the University and institutions of national importance with two regular teachers shall only be the Research Centres.

Further, resolved that the Academic Council may decide the guidelines for issuing certificates regarding compliance of UGC Regulations 2009, to the research scholars.

The meeting came to a close at 4.45 p.m.

VICE CHANCELLOR

Approved
2/16/16

VICE-CHANCELLOR