

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY EIGHTH (EMERGENT) MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

**VENUE : VICE-CHANCELLOR'S CHAMBER
GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE (DTBU)
GANDHIGRAM**

DATE : 28.07.2022

TIME : 11.30 A.M.

MODE : ONLINE & OFFLINE (BLENDED MODE)



**THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(Deemed to be University)
GANDHIGRAM – 624 302, DINDIGUL DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU**

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(Deemed to be University)
GANDHIGRAM**

**MINUTES OF THE HUNDRED AND FIFTY EIGHTH (EMERGENT) MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
MANAGEMENT HELD ON 28.07.2022 AT 11.30 AM IN THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S CHAMBER,
GRI THROUGH ON-LINE AND OFF-LINE MODE**

MEMBERS ATTENDED IN PERSON:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Prof. Gurmeet Singh | ... Chairperson |
| 2. Dr. T.T.Ranganathan | ... Member |
| 3. Dr.G.S.Kannan | ... Member |
| 4. Sri. M. Nagarajan | ... Member |
| 5. Dr.G.Muralidharan | ... Ex-officio Secretary |

MEMBERS PRESENT THROUGH ONLINE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 6. Dr.L.Raja | ... Member |
| 7. Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli | ... Member |
| 8. Prof. Kanagaraj Easwaran | ... Member |
| 9. Prof. N. Venkatesh Prajna | ... Member |
| 10. Smt. Kavita Narayan | ... Member |
| 11. Smt.N.Suganthi | ... Member |

Prof.(Retd.) Susmita Pande, Dr.K.Prasanna Sai and Dr.M.Raja Marimuthu could not attend the meeting due to preoccupation.

The meeting started at 11.30 a.m. The Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board of Management and thanked them for attending the meeting amidst their busy schedule. He welcomed the new members: Dr.L.Raja, Dean, School of Health Sciences and Rural Development, Dr.G.S.Kannan, Dean, School of Agriculture and Animal Sciences and Smt.N.Suganthi, Associate Professor, School of English and Foreign Languages.

He profusely thanked the outgoing members who resigned from the Board of Management for the services rendered by them namely, Dr.M.William Baskaran, Former Dean, School of Social Sciences, Dr.P.Anandakumar, Former Dean, School of Tamil, Indian Languages and Rural Arts and Dr.S.Balasundari, Associate Professor, School of English and Foreign Languages.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that he is impressed by the academic and research culture of the Institute. He commended the teachers and other officers for their efforts in this regard. He also stated that the CAS promotions of teachers will be soon taken care of and that the recruitment to the vacant posts is being pursued. He placed on record his appreciations towards the work culture maintained by the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Institute.

The Vice-Chancellor apprised the members that a few urgent items were to be placed before the Board of Management and as such this emergent meeting has been convened today. The agenda prepared for this meeting shall be deferred and will be however taken in the next regular meeting of the Board of Management, as per the unanimous decision of the Board of Management.

I. Item No.2027/BOM.2022/VII

The matter related to the Delhi Centre of GRI was taken up. The Vice-Chancellor briefed the Board of Management on the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education in this connection vide order F.No.12-4/2022-U3(A) dated 30.05.2022.

RESOLUTION:

The Board reiterated the decision of the earlier 157th meeting of the Board of Management to close the Centre. The Board further resolved to:

1. Close the Centre on the directions of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and UGC
2. Terminate the staff the deployed in the Centre as per the terms and conditions of their employment.
3. Shift the assets that are available at the Delhi Centre to the GRI premises and put them to proper utility.
4. A two member committee to be decided by the Institute is to be constituted to bring back the property.

II. Item No.2028/BOM.2022/VII

To apprise the Board of Management on the findings of the enquiry committee constituted by the UGC to look into the issues of the Institute and to decide on the course of action.

When this item was taken up for discussion Dr.T.T.Ranganathan and Dr.G.Muralidharan were requested to recuse themselves.

The Vice-Chancellor briefed the members that the UGC vide letter dated 02.07.2022 had constituted a two member committee to look into the issues of the Gandhigram Rural Institute as per the details given below:

- i. **Prof. T.V.Kattimani**
Vice-Chancellor
Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh
- ii. **Prof. R.P.Tiwari**
Vice-Chancellor
Central University of Punjab

In pursuance of the notification issued by UGC, the two member committee after interacting with the acting Vice-Chancellor, acting Registrar, Office bearers of the Teachers Association, Office bearers of the Non-teaching staff and also with the available members of the Board of Management in offline mode and also with the Chancellor and Registrar (under suspension) in online mode, has submitted its reports dated 13.07.2022 to the Secretary, University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

The reports (2 Nos.) were shared to the members through screen sharing. The Vice-Chancellor also read-out the reports submitted by the committee. The reports of the committee are enclosed as **Annexure-I & II**.

After detailed discussions on the point wise findings of the committee, the Board of Management made the following resolutions:

- i. **To look into the issue of not providing Board of Management nominee for the Search-cum Selection Committee for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor.**

RESOLUTION:

In view of the fact that Search-cum-Selection Committee has been constituted and meetings and process for which the committee has been constituted has already started, the item requires no further attention.

- ii. **Non appointment of the Vice-Chancellor resulting into the problems related to academic, administrative and financial management of the Institute.**

RESOLUTION:

The Board of Management unanimously agreed with the findings of the committee and was hopeful of systemic positive developments of the Institute with the appointment of the regular Vice-chancellor.

- iii. **To look into the decision by the Board of Management during the last one year.**

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved to take note of the findings.

- iv. **Any other issues which may come-up during the enquiry.**

- a) **Issue of Vigilance Clearance in respect of Prof.T.T.Ranganathan, Acting Vice-Chancellor, GRI, Dindigul.**

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved to investigate further into this issue.

- b) **The issue of suspension of Dr.V.P.R.Sivakumar, Registrar of GRI, Dindigul.**

RESOLUTION:

The Board of Management after thorough examination of the findings of the committee and the justification given thereupon, taking into account the interim stay granted by Madurai Bench of the Hon'ble Madras High Court on the suspension of Dr.V.P.R.Sivakumar, and also the fact that the Institute is facing contempt for not complying with interim order made by the Hon'ble High Court in this matter, resolved to revoke the suspension of Dr.V.P.R.Sivakumar and reinstate him in the post of Registrar of GRI with immediate effect and closing the disciplinary proceedings initiated against him.

Prof. Kanagaraj Easwaran, Member of BoM expressed his dissent on the reinstatement of Dr.V.P.R.Sivakumar.

c) Additional Report

- 1. Conflict of interest against Dr.T.T.Ranganathan, Acting Vice-Chancellor who happens to hold the position of Director in an NGO called Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).**

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved to obtain legal opinion on the issue to decide whether there is any conflict of interest or not. However, the Board of Management was of the unanimous opinion that Dr.T.T.Ranganathan should have informed and obtained the approval of the Board of Management for taking up his assignment on the Board of WASH.

- 2. Filing of Writ Petitions by the students of WASH against Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul relating to Post-Graduate Diploma offered by GRI for Sanitary Inspector.**

RESOLUTION:

After discussion and taking note that no recognition from any regulatory body was earlier required for conducting the course as it was within the powers of GRI to conduct the course and to award diploma, it was resolved to accord approval for the course until no regulatory body's recognition was required. Thereafter, approval for the course would be granted subject to recognition of the regulatory body, if any as pointed out by Smt.Kavita Narayan, Member of the Board of Management. Further, the GRI would contest the Writ Petitions appropriately.

III. Item No.2028/BOM.2022/VII

The Vice-Chancellor briefed the members that a Deputy Registrar and an Assistant Registrar of Pondicherry University are assisting him for discharging the additional duties of the Vice-Chancellor of GRI and in this connection, both the officers of Pondicherry University are required to spare significant hours of work towards dealing with day-to-day e-mails, letters, files and other communications of GRI in addition to their own work in Pondicherry University, and the Board unanimously proposed to sanction them a suitable honorarium for performing these additional duties.

RESOLUTION:

Resolved after detailed deliberations to sanction 10% of the Basic Pay of the officers per month as honorarium for the additional work of GRI performed by the concerned Deputy Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Pondicherry University, as per Government of India norms.

The meeting came to an end at 3.00 pm with thanks to the Chair and members.

Dr.G.Muralidharan
Registrar

Prof.Gurmeet Singh
Vice-Chancellor (Additional charge)

Gandhigram
28.07.2022