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ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

By Special Messenger

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग
नई दिल्ली-110 002

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002

F. No. 6-4/2005(CPP-I)

December, 2009

Shri. Upmanyu Basu
Director (ICR),
Government of India,
Ministry of Human Resource Development,
Department of Higher Education,
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi – 110 001.

10 DEC 2009

Subject: Review of the functioning of the Deemed to be Universities – **Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Pallavaram, Chennai, Tamilnadu** – Report of the Review Committee.

Sir,

The MHRD vide letter no. F. 9-26/2009-U.3 (A) dated 4th June, 2009 directed UGC to review of the functioning of all the deemed to be universities. Accordingly, a UGC Expert Committee constituted by the Chairman, UGC reviewed the functioning of **Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Pallavaram, Chennai, Tamilnadu** and submitted its report. The overview of the Report was considered by the Commission in its 466th meeting held on 19th November, 2009 (Item No. 5.00). The Commission resolved as under:-

- “(i) **The Commission considered and accepted the OVERVIEW REPORT prepared taking into account the Reports of the Expert Committee in respect of the 16 Deemed to be Universities and decided that the above reports may be sent to MHRD. The Commission further decided that the same kind of consolidation of the future Reports of the Expert Committees be undertaken in respect of the subsequent reports which are to be considered / approved by the Commission and presented at next meeting of the Commission. It was further decided that an updated summary be prepared on subsequent meetings so that the updated report could be forwarded to the Ministry at each time.**
- (ii) **The Commission further decided that a copy of the report may also be sent to the concerned Deemed to be University for taking immediate follow-up action and reporting the same within three months.**

VICE CHANCELLOR'S
OFFICE
DATE : 14/12/09



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4. Whether Committee/Nominee of the Statutory Council(s) is satisfied with increase in infrastructure in terms of increase in intake.

Yes. The University has largely enhanced its infrastructure commensurate with the intake. However, for Pharmacy, PG courses' dissertations additional infrastructure should be added.

Overall Observation

Considering the fact that the Deemed to be University status of VISTAS is only 18 months old, at structural level it has yet not completely ceased to be a group of colleges affiliated to different State universities as most of the students shall continue to be the bonafide students of these universities till they pass out. Therefore, for the purpose of syllabi, governance, teaching and examination the Deemed University shall have to remain partially under the control of affiliating universities. However, the process of conceptual and practical transition from group of affiliated colleges to a University level institution has begun. The various authorities, as are required under the norms prescribed by the UGC are in place, an experienced Vice-Chancellor has been appointed to oversee the administrative and academic governance of the Institution, examination pattern has been devised with innovative features, admission tests for professional courses are being held at All India level, collaboration with Industry and Corporate houses is gaining momentum and the Sponsors of the Deemed University appear to be willing to provide resources for overall growth of the Deemed University.

Having said that, it is pertinent to make an important observation that the Deemed University should avoid the temptation of introducing a battery of teaching programmes without proper planning and due consultations from the Experts and concerned Councils.

It should also strive hard to improve the standards of teaching and research in its flagships programmes of Pharmacy and Physiotherapy. To achieve their objectives including filling up of all seats at UG level, greater care shall have to be taken for appointment of talented faculty with aptitude for innovative research and improvement in Laboratory facilities.

The Marine programmes of the Deemed University are quite popular and therefore the distinct identity of the School of Maritime studies needs to be

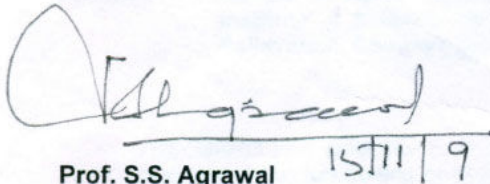
[Handwritten signatures and notes]
RKShankar
Vishwanath
Srinivasan

maintained so that this course does not lose its identity among the host of other programmes started or proposed to be started at the School.

The proposal to start PG programmes in Languages including English and Hindi is a good step. With a university status, the Institution should also consider going beyond the professional programmes and a part of the revenue mobilized through these programmes should be invested in promoting Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines.

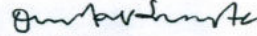
Recommendations of the Committee

Having gone through the various academic programmes, infrastructure and other related facilities and having looked into the procurement of Equipment and relevant amenities and also keeping in view that this Deemed University is about 18 months old, the Committee is of the view that the overall performance of the Vel's Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Pallavaram, Chennai, has been satisfactory.

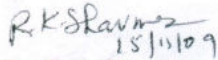


Prof. S.S. Agrawal
(Chairman)

15/11/09

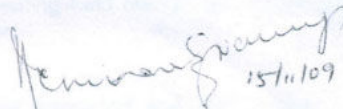


Prof. O.N. Srivastava
(Member)



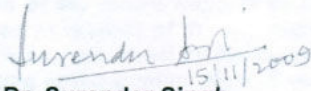
Dr. R.K. Sharma
(Member)

15/11/09



Prof. K. Chinnaswamy
(Nominee of PCI)

15/11/09



Dr. Surender Singh
(Member Secretary)

15/11/2009