

**OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTION
PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH**

Minutes of the meeting of the Chairpersons/Directors/ Coordinators of all Teaching Departments Deans and officers of the Panjab University held on 11.10.2017 at 03.00 p.m. in the Senate Hall, Panjab University, Chandigarh:

AGENDA:

1. To review new M.Phi;/Ph.D. Guidelines
2. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

PRESENT:

1. Vice Chancellor ...(In Chair)
2. Dean of University Instruction
3. Chairpersons/Directors/Coordinators/Deans and Administrative Officers (attendance attached).

The Dean of University Instruction, Professor Meenakshi Malhotra welcomed all the members and apprised them of the special agenda of the meeting to review the new M.Phil/Ph.D. guidelines.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Arun K.Grover, in his initial remarks stated that University's branding is critically dependent on the quality of research work carried out in PU Departments. Therefore, adequate number of research students with proper motivation and passion for research should be enrolled with the Panjab University for M.Phil/Ph.D. Programme. As Ph.D. programme is of an average configuration of four to six years, it is essential that research scholars must have some kind of financial support for their sustenance on the campus. Different educational organizations have been devising different strategies for providing financial support to research scholars so that they could contribute to the maximum towards their research and the organization. He informed that with regard to Panjab University, the data collated from all the teaching departments about the total number of Ph.D. research scholars enrolled and the number of research scholars receiving some kind of financial assistance showed that out of total 3000 research scholars only 1/3 of them are receiving scholarships, which is not a healthy ratio. So, it is the need of the hour that financial assistance and proper living conditions be made available to the maximum number of research scholars enrolled with Panjab University. He stated that at one time, single rooms were provided to all research scholars, but now it has become increasingly difficult. University has no convenient accommodation to meet the requirement of 2000 research scholars. The matter has been taken up with the Panjab & Haryana High Court to formulate provisions to create one women and one boys' hostel to accommodate stakeholders from UT, Haryana, Himachal and Panjab.

Initiating the discussion on the agenda item to review the M.Phil/Ph.D. guidelines, the Vice Chancellor suggested that SC/ST candidates having National Scholarships such as UGC(JRF), RGNF/Maulana Azad National Scholarship etc. or any other scholarship of Government of India ought not be denied admission particularly in M.Phil/Ph.D. program in order to give them adequate representation at Panjab University. SC/ST candidates who may not fall in the merit list prepared by the departments/Centres/Institutes for admission to M.Phil/Ph.D. Programmes, special slots may be created for such scholarship holders by the respective departments. To start with, wherever necessary, the faculty members may be given one extra candidate for supervision in addition to the stipulated number of candidates, later on the number exceeding the stipulated limit would be reduced as per norms.

Professor M. Rajivlochan, Director IQAC stated that it needs to be clarified that in case, no teacher from the respective department is available/interested to be supervisor of the student holding National scholarship, then what would be the responsibility of the Chairperson of the department.

Professor Meenakshi Malhotra replied that the Chairperson of all the departments would be required to display the names of the available supervisors from the department as well as from the affiliated colleges along with their contact details on the departmental webpage, and it would be the duty of the candidate to find a supervisor for enrollment in Ph.D. programme.

As per Circular No.7959-8058/DUI/DS regarding enrolment to Ph.D. Programme, it was proposed that candidates having M.Phil degree from Panjab University may be exempted from Ph.D. Entrance Test, but such candidates would have to qualify the interview. Candidates having M.Phil degree from any other institution/agency/University may seek admission in Ph.D. programme through its normal admission process like entrance test, interview etc. A Weightage of 10% marks may be given to M.Phil candidates as well as candidates having National Fellowships like JRF, Inspire fellowship, Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship etc.

Professor Rumina Sethi, Chairperson, Department of English, and Professor Akshaya Kumar (former President PUTA) stressed that as the admission process for M.Phil/Ph.D. programme in most of the departments has already been completed, therefore, the revised admission guidelines should be made applicable from January 2017.

Professor Meenakshi Malhotra, Dean of University Instruction clarified that more than 50% of the departments have not yet completed the admission process for M.Phil/Ph.D. programme and those who have completed the admissions are still having vacant seats. The revised criteria for admission to M.Phil/Ph.D. Programme will be applicable from the date of issue of Circular No. 7363-7462/DUI/DS dated 26.09.2017. The admissions made to M.Phil/Ph.D. prior to the issuance of the above Circular shall not be affected. However, where the departments are having vacant seats, then admission to these seats may be processed as per the instructions circulated vide Circular No. 7363-7462/DUI/DS dated 26.09.2017.

Professor Meenakshi Malhotra apprised the members that it has been observed that some departments were preparing merit lists by using 50% cut off marks as a criteria for admitting students. She proposed that there should not be any cut-off point/elimination of students on the basis of marks obtained during the interaction, for admission to M.Phil/Ph.D. programmes. The sum total of marks determined for academic record and those during the interaction may be considered for preparing merit list(s) for admission to M.Phil / Ph.D. programme. A faculty member belonging to Schedule Caste category from the respective department/allied Department/nominated by DUI/VC may be put in the Interaction Committee constituted for M.Phil./Ph.D. admission.

Professor Rajesh Gill, President PUTA raised the issue of reducing the percentage of pass percentage from 50% to 40% in Paper-I of M.Phil/Ph.D. Entrance Test 2017 for SC/ST candidates without obtaining due approval of the Governing Bodies. The Vice Chancellor stated that Governing Bodies have a pivotal role in the functioning of the Panjab University, but certain powers have been conferred on the Vice Chancellor to do occasional things in anticipation of the approval of the Syndicate/Senate. In exercise of this power, he allowed to reduce the qualifying marks by 10% on an experimental basis in the larger interest of the students.

All the Chairpersons/Directors/Coordinators agreed in principle to adopt the revised M.Phil/Ph.D. guidelines with effect from 26.09.2017.

Professor M. Rajivlochan, Director, IQAC apprised that an e-mail had been sent to the Chairpersons/Directors/Coordinators of all the Departments/Centres/Institutes seeking information to compile Information Resource Book (IRB) containing user IDs and password. He requested the Chairpersons to instruct their office staff and in-charge, mini-IQAC to start filling-up the proforma. He emphasized that the data once received would be used for providing information to ranking agencies and other stakeholders and the same will not be sought again, as promised last year. In case of any confusion, the help of the office of IQAC may be taken.

Vice Chancellor apprised the members that five year integrated programme in social sciences introduced by Institute of Social Science Education and Research (ISSER), Panjab University in 2015 as a 3 year BA Honours +2 year M.A. Scheme. The students of the first batch will be completing the BA component in May 2018. Board of Control of ISSER expressed that the parent social science departments, which remain somewhat understaffed, are not in a position to provide teaching at both the department and ISSER simultaneously. Hence, suggested to hold the MA classes for ISSER students with the parent social science departments. Vice Chancellor further apprised that students at PU-ISSER were initially admitted for the five year programme, therefore, University is now bound to provide the M.A. component on the campus. He requested all the Chairpersons/Directors/ Coordinators of Social Sciences Departments to create up to 10 seats over and above the sanctioned seats of the respective social science departments to accommodate the students having majored in B.A. Honours in that particular discipline for the academic session 2018-19. The admission of ISSER students

to M.A. programme would be direct i.e. without any entrance test or determination of merit.

Dr. Rakesh Khullar, Medical Officer, BGJH, P.U. apprised the House that Dr. Gaurav, Aggarwal, Nodal Officer U.T., Chandigarh had spared some time to sensitize the members about the preventive measures to avoid diseases like Dengu, Chickengunia, Malaria in this season.

Dr. Gaurav informed that cases of Dengu reported in Chandigarh region were more than other States of India. In Panjab University itself more than 50 odd cases of Dengu were reported out of which 23 were confirmed and more than 37 were still suspected. The source of this disease are water tanks, water coolers, earthen pots), trays under flowerpots and fridge trays. He stated that during a survey on Panjab University Campus, it was found that the overhead tanks were uncovered and lizards and dead pigeons were also seen in the tanks. He emphasized on the need to eliminate the source of production of mosquitoes as fogging was not a permanent solution of the problem. He requested to issue advisory to Chairpersons, Hostel Wardens to check their overhead tanks on the daily basis, otherwise it will lead to disastrous situation. He suggested that if any student come with symptoms of Dengu, he be sent for confirmatory tests at PGIMER, Government Multi-specialist Hospital, Sector 16, Government Medical College & Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh and Government Hospital, Manimajra, where the tests for Dengu were being conducted free of cost.

Appreciating the initiative taken by the Vice Chancellor to constitute Health Committees in Hostels last year, he recommended to revive the Committees this year too. Help of more than 200 NSS volunteers could also be taken to clean the Campus and this may be made a part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Fortnightly status reports of Hostels and departments may be sent to Vice Chancellor, DUI and Registrar by the Hostel Wardens and Chairpersons.

Col. G.S. Chadha, Registrar stated that for garbage disposal, green and blue garbage bins have been fixed at various places in the PU, but they are not used effectively. He appreciated the efforts done for cleanliness by the NSS volunteers as well as by the PU Horticulture Department.

The Vice Chancellor desired that there should be feedback in a notebook on the status of the overhead water tanks. One person from the respective Department must be assigned with the responsibility of checking water tanks every day. Water tanks must be cleaned at least four times in a year and a logbook in this regard be maintained.

Professor Meenakshi Malhotra, on behalf of the University thanked Dr. Gaurav Aggarwal for sensitizing the members about the deadly disease and remedial measures to get rid of it.

Col.G.S.Chadha, Registrar, being the Chairman of Swachhta Abhiyan complemented the entire team of SBA and apprised that the University has been placed on 7th Rank in the

Country with their contribution. He made the following suggestions to keep the campus clean and garbage free:

1. Swachhta Pledge should be taken once in three months and time schedule be fixed in this regard.
2. Swachhta pledge should be taken by all the fresher's of the teaching departments.
3. To earmark at least one hour per week for Swachhta Drive by all departments/centres/institutes in which all students, non-teaching and teaching staff should participate to clean their surroundings.
4. One extension activity in 2-3 months by all Departments/Centres/Institutes and a brief report with 3-4 snaps (before and after the activity) should be sent to regr@pu.ac.in and CC to Coordinators Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at seemakap2014@gmail.com and ajaymittal825@gmail.com for compilation of report.

Dr. Devinder Dhawan, CMO, Bhai Ghanaiya Ji Institute of Health, Panjab University requested that Chairpersons that the photocopies of medical certificates submitted by the students should be self attested. Instructions given at per Page No. 54 of the Handbook of Information 2017 must be followed before sending the medical certificates to CMO for verification, which are submitted late. Medical certificates issued by BGJ institute of Health need not to be countersigned again by the CMO.

To conclude the meeting, Professor Meenakshi Malhotra thanked all the members for attending the meeting.

Sd/-
Asstt. Registrar (DUI)

Confirmed

Sd/-
(Professor Meenakshi Malhotra)

Approved

Sd/-
Vice Chancellor