

**Minutes of the first meeting of Standing Advisory Committee under the theme
“Think-tank” of North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon**

7th September 2013

First meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee under the theme “Think-tank” was held on 7th September 2013 under the Chairmanship of Hon`ble Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram, Vice-Chancellor, North Maharashtra University,Jalgaon. In this meeting, following eminent members were present-

1. Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram, Vice-Chancellor,
North Maharashtra University,Jalgaon - Chairman
2. Prof.P.G.Chengappa,
Former VC of Bangalore Uni. &
National Professor of ICAR, Bangalore - Member
3. Prof.K.A.Ponnuswamy,
Director of Management and Extn.Divin.,
Tamilnadu Uni. Coimbatore - Member
4. Prof.Arun Lavania, Economist , New Delhi - Member
5. Shri Sugato Banerjee, Chairman,
BANSON, (Industrialist), Kolkata - Member
6. Prof.R.P.Shimpi (Invitee),
Emeritus Professor, IIT, Mumbai and
Management Council Member,
North Maharashtra University,Jalgaon - Invitee
7. Prof.A.M.Mahajan, Registrar,
North Maharashtra University,Jalgaon - Secretary

Prof.Sukhdeo Thorat, Former Chairman, UGC, New Delhi, Prof.Anand Chakrabarty, Chikago(USA) Prof.K.N.Munshi, Nagpur, Dr.Hari Gopal, New Delhi and Prof.U.B.Desai(Invitee),Director, IIT, Hyderabad expressed their inability to attend the meeting due to their prior commitments.

Management Council Members present for the meeting-

Dr.D.R.Patil,Principal,R.C.Patel Arts,Commerce and Science College,Shirpur, Dr.(Mrs.)Gauri Rane, Head, Dept.of Botany,M.J.College, Jalgaon, Dr.Arvind Chaudhari, P.O.Nahata College, Bhusawal & Prof.V.L.Maheshwari, Director, School of Life Sciences attended the meeting.

Directors of Schools and Heads of Dept.s present for the meeting-

Prof.Smt.Shobha Shinde, Director, School of Languages, Prof.P.P.Mahulikar, Director, School of Chemical Sciences, Prof.Mrs.Seema Joshi, Director, School of Management Studies, Dr.Mrs.Preeti Agrawal, Director, G.H.Raisoni Inst.of Information & Tech.Shirsoli, Jalgaon, Prof.P.P.Patil, Director, School of Physical Sciences, Prof.R.L.Shinde, Director, School of Mathematical Sciences, Prof.S.Mishra, Director, University Inst.of Chemical Technology, Prof.R.H.Gupta, Director, School of Social Sciences, Prof.J.B.Naik, Head, Dept.of Chemical Engineering, University Inst.of Chemical Technology & Prof.R.H.Gupta, Director, School of Social Sciences attended the meeting.

Officers of the university present for the meeting-

Prof.D.G.Hundiwale, Director(BCUD), Shri C.T.Patil, Executive Engineer, Shri Somnath Gohil, Dy.Finance and Accounts Officer and Shri S.R.Bhadlikar, Dy.Registrar (Law & RTI), Shri S.B.Surwade, Dy.Registrar(BCUD) and Shri A.S.Patil, Dy.Registrar(VC Office) attended the meeting.

Prof.A.M.Mahajan, Registrar of North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon welcome all the eminent members of the Standing Advisory Committee who witnessed the First historic Standing Advisory Committee Meeting of "Think-Tank" at NMU and he requested Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram to introduce members of the committee and felicitate them with a shawl and a bouquet.

Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram introduced all the committee members viz. Prof.P.G.Chengappa, Prof.K.A.Ponnuswamy, Prof.Arun Lavania, Shri Sugato Banerjee, Prof.R.P.Shimpi (Invitee) to the August House and felicitated them with a shawl and bouquet as a token of affection.

Prof.R.P.Shimpi, Management Council Member was congratulated by Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor on his receiving ***Excellence in Teaching Award*** by IIT, Powai.

Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram was felicitated at the hands of Prof.Chengappa on completion of his two years tenure as the Vice-Chancellor of North Maharashtra University,Jalgaon on the same date.

Opening remarks of the Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram about the unique concept “Think-tank” in North Maharashtra University,Jalgaon

At the outset, Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram expressed his views and ideas about this unique concept of constituting Standing Advisory Committee under one umbrella “Think-tank”. He said that it is for the first time in our country we have thought of having think tank advisory committee in the NMU. North Maharashtra University is having 8 faculties excluding medical faculty and more than 229 affiliated colleges. The main object of constituting Standing Advisory Committee is to have a regularly appropriate kind of feedback from the experts persons from different disciplines for improving and updating the academic standards of this university, setting up an efficient and very transparent administrative system, having a very credible examination pattern thereby enhancing, improving and updating the quality of education which we are providing through different disciplines. Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor expressed the views that the products of the university were the potential indicators of the university’s academic standards. These products had to match the needs of the employers. To enhance employability of the students was one of the objectives of the Think-Tank. The advice, opinions and expertise offered through the Think-Tank was imperative to steer the university in this direction as all the members of the Think-Tank were eminent people in their own fields who were recognized nationally and internationally.

New avenues to tap financial resources were to be tapped to combine the local needs with the global scenario. The knowledge-based community of Khandesh was to be created by tapping and harnessing local resources of the three districts under the university’s jurisdiction-Jalgaon,Nandurbar and Dhule. This area was to be developed as the intellectual capital not only of Maharashtra, but the entire country. In the context of the global economy, technology-based education, training the students to global levels of performance and efficiency with the help of indigenous technology was the need of the times. The university was keen to remove the various bottlenecks and hurdles with the help of the inputs and interventions suggested by the experts on the Think-Tank”. Their enriched knowledge, wisdom and experience would definitely help to create a community/society based regional intellectual capital in Khandesh region.

With a view to seek expertise opinion and suggestions of the members working in various fields, Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor asked Prof.V.L.Maheshwari, Director, School of Life Sciences and Management Council Member to present a brief report of the university to the committee members. He also assured that after getting the

feedback from think-tank members, this university will certainly act on that basis and the roadmap and vision will be created for another 25 years to achieve the goal. The desire was that North Maharashtra University be included in the list of 200 best universities in the world, a feat not achieved by any university of India.

Prof.V.L.Maheshwari presented a brief report to the committee members highlighting therein all the administrative, financial and academic activities of the university including the Satellite Centers.

Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram requested the members to have interaction on the inputs which had been placed before them.

 **Prof.P.G.Chengappa, Former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore Uni. & National Professor of ICAR,Bangalore-**

- Prof.Chengappa complimented NMU for achieving the status of 40th rank which shows that the university is improving quality of education, research and outreach program. He appreciated the efforts of the Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor in reaching to the unreached especially under Lab to Land Programme, and for the establishment of Tribal Academy at Nandurbar.

After going through the brief report, he has given most valuable suggestions as under:

- University should aim at building a right human capital and certain efforts therefor are to be made.
- Taking into consideration a dearth of academic leadership, for building up a very good institution, he emphasized on painstaking efforts for building academic leadership at school, dept. and college level.
- Inclusiveness in education especially a need to get more women into university education and provide more access to the people of depressed class.
- Inclusiveness in education is suggested for tribals not just for obtaining degrees but preparing them for competitive examinations through vocational programmes.
- Personality development & training the teachers to use innovative methods of teaching to make learner-centric. He suggested upgradation in teaching in terms of knowledge delivery.
- Major task of the university is to build the capacity of the teachers of university and affiliated colleges.
- University should encourage the colleges for obtaining autonomy.

- There should be a reward system for the teachers who get projects. University should encourage the teachers by earmarking some money for rewards and honour them by giving a Cash Prize on the eve of foundation day. Recognition is important. and therefore, suggested the Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor to start such a scheme.
- To bring financial and administrative reforms, decentralization in administrative .and financial matters is important. Teachers being pillars of the university, delegate the powers to the Directors of Schools & HoD in academic, administrative and financial matters.
- For generating funds, he suggested to have some sponsored Chairs in each school to have lot of input from the others. In each school there should be at least 2 chairs so that eminent people will come for short term in the university.
- Entrenship programme for the students is to be included by building a rapport with the industries. This will help for getting the students placed and absorb them in that particular industry.
- Suggested equipping classrooms, laboratories with state of the art facilities and at the same time the laboratories should be accredited.
- Consultancy cell should be strengthened. Suggested to create a separate wing for consultancy and outreach programme.
- Suggested that opening of FCRA – Foreign Contribution Regulatory Account – is a must for international funding.
- Suggested a separate wing for building a strong alumni. As university goes forward the alumni have enormous potential. Organisation of a programme has been suggested where you must build a strong Alumni Association. Must identify good faculty members who are good in public relations who can pursue for organization of such programmes.
- Suggested to create a system where everybody is to be taken care of.

☞ **Prof. K.A.Ponnuswamy- Director of Management and Extn.Divn.in
Tamilnadu Uni. Coimbatore**

Complimented Hon`ble V.C. for his initiative in constituting the think-tank and has given following suggestions for building up the university as a reputed one-

- Taking into consideration the major problems of climate change, University can think of doing some research to find the ways and measures of the elements of CLIMATE CHANGE and also having some centres related to climate change which is a global phenomenon. It should be included in the plan of next 25 years.
- Suggested to focus all our **efforts on Renewable Energy**, like Solar Power. India is blessed with plenty of Renewable Energies and to fix our mindset to utilize it, especially about Bioenergy and Biogas, solar energy etc.

- Suggested necessity of using **ICT Tools in education**. While the whole world is using ICT Tools, he suggested that the School of Computer Science of the university needs to offer consultancy to other Schools also for developing **e-Learning Modules for every course**.
- The **whole university** should be **computerized** in future.
- **Interdisciplinary Courses** should be started by the university, i.e. a course useful for other departments/faculties.
- University should **focus on hands-on trainings** instead of theoretical trainings. Faculties in every department should find out the possible areas of hands-on training.
- **Earn and Learn program** is also needful. Students should apply their knowledge practically what they are learning and consequently, they get paid against it. For the same, the university must have tie-up programmes with the existing/local industries/companies/NGOs.
- University should have a **Faculty Development Programme Policy** for all the Schools. Periodically, once in every 3 years or 4 years, training should be provided to the teachers in both national and international institutes.
- Reg. ICT Tools, university should **develop a Portal** wherein whole information of the university can be provided which will be useful to the planners, policy makers, bureaucrats and which should be easily accessible to the end users.
- Tribal Academy is really an appreciable project initiated by the Vice-Chancellor. The Department of Tribal Welfare just funding to establish **TriFed Centres**, wherein the products made by the tribal people, are displayed and sold to the general public.
- Govt. of India promotes establishing **Community Radio Stations**. The Govt. provides funds and transmitters through which the rural people can exchange their ideas and communicate their problems and complaints. It works within a radius of 15-20 kms.
- **Networking** with other **national and international institutions** can be very useful. entrusting responsibility to the concerned School. Regular contacts and conferences can be made with them to exchange their ideas.
- The university should provide **Policy Advocacy to the Govt. of Maharashtra**.
- Suggested to prepare **Village Development Plan** for further 3/4 years. University can adopt few villages and make it a model. The teaching, non-teaching staff and students should go to the adopted villages, should visit and stay at least for one week and get the knowledge of the scenario, the employment opportunities and how to develop these villages in the near future.
- Some **leadership and management based syllabus** should be included in the extra or co-curricular activities.
- **SWOT Analysis Workshops** are also important to make the weaker sections strong through it.

☞ **Prof.Arun Lavania, Economist , New Delhi**

- While appreciating the establishment of Tribal Academy, he suggested to provide higher education and training to Tribal people to learn various technologies. Faculties from Women Studies, Finance and few other NGOs can guide these programmes. Tribal people with the minimum basic skills can take this project, consequently, a part of the revenue will go to them and rest of the revenue will go to the university.
- Suggested to **start School of Visual Arts** through which you can display various standard paintings and handicraft items **on your website** and make these accessible globally. These paintings can be sold in dollars.
- **Hobby Centre** for Photography, Carpentry, Clay-Modeling should be started. Students can spend their extra time at Hobby Centre and they can earn from their hobbies.
- As there is only one Mountaineering Centre in the Asian Countries he suggested to have a **Mountaineering Centre & Allied Sports in NMU**. A certificate course, basic courses and advanced courses can be undertaken.
- Suggested to start **Department of Tourism Administration and Guidance**. This should be **linked with the Foreign Languages**.
- Suggested to start a **course for Fashion Designing in Jewelery**.
- Suggested to implement the **Micro Finance system**.
- Suggested to start a centre of Vivekanand or **Vedic Thoughts**.
- PSUs and NGOs will be happy to share the finances with the university.

☞ **Shri Sugato Banerjee,Chairman, BANSON,Kolkata**

- Suggested to start **hospitality training institute** in the university with a **tie up with Lucerne,Switzerland**. We can have an inhouse hospitality industry here simultaneously, if permitted in the uni.norms
- In today's **world 3D printing** has become very essential. Therefore, suggested to introduce **3D printing course in NMU**. Jalgaon being a renowned place for the **jewellery** manufacturing, it was suggested to start a **School of Design**.
- This area being a low rainfall area which means high sunshine area thinking of solar. With a view to make the villagers self-dependent, to face the power cut problem etc. let them construct their **own solar panels**.

- Suggested to start **goat farming at Nandurbar** which would be a very sustainable project and also to start **goat wool yarn** production in this region. Mere spinning this yarn will be sufficient and will be provided to all the automobile manufacturers as a fire retardant material.
- Jalgaon city has a huge banana plantation. As banana trees are the best food for the pigs. if we can just find out the harvesting tech.and how the banana is transported, the uni. will be of major help in developing export banana plant food market for Jalgaon banana as Jalgaon is India's biggest banana producing unit/area / through Lab to Land project.
- Suggested to start a **School of Diplomacy** by **collaborating with the School of Diplomacy in US** for preparing the **successful diplomats** and automatically the govt. will step in because we will deliver a quality to them.



Prof. R.P.Shimpi, Emeritus Professor,IIT,Powai,Mumbai -

- Complimented Hon`ble Vice-Chancellor,Prof.Sudhir U.Meshram for launching 'Lab-to-Land' programme, one of the NMU's unique identity..
- Suggested that **Ajanta center** can be built nearby the caves like our tribal center at Nandurbar. This will attract lot of international collaboration particularly taking into consideration the Japanese interest in Ajanta culture and this Ajanta center should address the archaeology of this era and arts and it should become internationally recognized place because we don't have that sort of center even in Aurangabad. We should use this unique opportunity.
- We should identify and encourage strong depts. of this university i.e. UICT can rival any dept. of IIT.

Foreign language should be made **compulsory for the Ph.D.students** to make them conversant at least with one foreign language like IIT.

Interaction session with the M.C.Members and Directors of Schools-



Dr.(Mrs) Gauri Rane-Management Council Member-

I would like to hear from you what we can do at college level for the students of average and below average level as you have national and international exposure, suggest some new practices which we can develop at college level-



Prof.Chengappa-

- The first step is we must think how to become autonomous, once you have become autonomous any type of prog. can be introduced. You should aim to introduce certain courses not within the boundary of the university. Vocational prog. Prepare the students to build the confidence level. Faculty need to be motivated to undertake these challenges. The whole team should work.
- You must take the income tax exemption. As per the new Corporate Social Responsibility Act 2% of the gross profit should go to this kind of activity and we should tap that and in your letter you should write that this inst.is exempted under 80G. As the university is predominantly dominated tribal area you must have more interaction with the industry, NGOs, users that is the only way you can build yourself. You must think how to become independent.



Prof.K.A.Ponnuswamy-

- Special Seminars, Sessions, Discussions should be organized once in a month by establishing a **Study Circle** or **through IDEAL** where every student can be benefited. You should prepare a Plan for One Year and invite experts from various fields from other institutes also. Through IDEAL you can start some **Satellite Courses and Online Courses** like Naturopathy, wherefrom you can get lot of money. IGNOU is successfully organizing such online courses since long time and generating money.

☞ **Prof. Shobha Shinde, Director, School of Language Studies-**

How can we streamline examination system?

☞ **Prof.P.G.Chengappa-**

The teaching and non-teaching staff from the institute or university should be strict in this working. There should not be any promotion without quality. Everybody should meet personally when a problem occurs and everybody should go through self-introspection and self-improvement.

- Technology Park or Incubation Centre for IT should also be there in the university campus which can be established in 20-30 acres land. The university has to create a separate Section-25 as per Company Act and should also hire a Management Expert who has thorough knowledge of venture capital, asset management, etc. for the same. Currently, there are only 2 Centres in India. In this way, you should think how to generate funds and how to use funds. The Technology Park must work independently.

☞ **Prof.R.P.Shimpi-**

Also shared his experiences and said that IIT has started declaring Minor Specialization on the degree certificate. For example, a student can get B.Tech. in Computer Science with a Minor in Mechanical Engg. Also someone can get B.Sc. Mathematics with Minor in Commerce. Such types of courses can be introduced.

- Regarding promotions, the requirements should be very rigid and stringent so that proper person can be promoted.
- There is always a conflict between Research & Education. A good researcher should not be given other workload of paper checking etc. Teacher assistants should be made to work for evaluation.

☞ **Prof. P.P.Mahulikar, Director, School of Chemical Sciences-**

Asked about Alumni Association.

☞ **Prof.P.G.Chengappa-**

Every alumni has his own ego, so everybody should be invited with proper respect. **Prof. Shimpi added** that every alumni should also be given some gifts or mementoes.

☞ **Prof. P.P.Patil, Director, School of Physical Sciences-**

The School of Physical Sciences has academic flexibility and they want to implement choice-based credits in addition to core credits. How to implement these credits and what percentage should be kept for implementing these credits. Further he also asked that what mechanism should be followed by the university to assess the research work of the faculty.

☞ **Prof.P.G.Chengappa-**

- Reg. assessment of research work, unless you have a number of quality research work, you cannot get FIST. Every faculty should also focus on publishing papers in rated journals. We should learn out of our own field and experience. Reg. implementation of choice-based credits, he said that you should think about it in your own way, otherwise it wouldn't work.

☞ **Prof. D.G.Hundiwale, Director, BCUD**

asked about Public Private Partnership(PPP)

☞ **Prof.P.G.Chengappa-**

- The biggest problem is that we don't have trust in private people. We should do something to build trust between both. You should have a technology in hand, without a technology no private person will come to you. The ideas of Contract Research and DBT are also there. We should send the faculty to other institutions to attend various programmes, We should identify some faculty and encourage them.

To sum up Prof.D.G.Hundiwale, Director(BCUD) thanked all the eminent members of the committee, Management Council Members, Directors of Schools, non-teaching staff and the meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.
