

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, ——— 2022

University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status Upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2022

F. No. 1-18/2021 (CPP-II) —The following is published for general information:—

Preamble

Whereas the University Grants Commission (UGC) is mandated to coordinate and determine the standards of higher education in universities;

Whereas college autonomy is instrumental for promoting broad based quality education and excellence;

Whereas the Commission, in exercise of its powers conferred by Section 26 of the UGC Act, 1956, has notified the University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018;

And whereas the higher education in the country is going through major transformation with the advent of National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020;

Now therefore, in supersession of the University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018 and in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (j) of Section 12 read with clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section (1) of Section 26 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, the University Grants Commission hereby makes the following Regulations: —

1.Short title, application and commencement: —

1.1 These Regulations shall be called the University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2022.

1.2 These Regulations shall apply to all Colleges/Institutions which are affiliated to, or are constituent colleges of Universities in the country seeking the conferment of Autonomous College status.

1.3 These Regulations shall come into force from the date of their notification in the Official Gazette.

2.Definitions: -

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

2.1 “Academic Council” means the Academic Council of the Autonomous College

2.2 “Act” means the University Grants Commission Act, 1956

2.3 “Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies of a Department of the Autonomous College

2.4“College” means any institution, whether known as such or by any other name, which provides for undergraduate and/or postgraduate and/or Ph.D. programmes for obtaining any qualification from a university and which, in accordance with the rules and regulations of such university, is recognized as competent to provide for such programmes/courses of study and present students undergoing such courses of study for the examination for the award of such qualification

2.5 “Commission” means the University Grants Commission (UGC)

2.6“Finance Committee” means the Finance Committee of the Autonomous College

2.7 “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of the Autonomous College, which is different from the Trust Board or the Board of Management or the Executive Committee or the Management Committee

2.8 “Parent Body” means the Society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, or a body corporate, established or incorporated under a Central or State Act for the time being in force, or a Trust or a Company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013; the Government or local authority or any university (for college/institution run by them)

2.9 “Notification” means a notification issued by the parent University declaring a college as an autonomous one after the conferment of autonomous status by the UGC

2.10 “Parent University” means the University to which the college concerned is affiliated, or of which the college concerned is a constituent

2.11“Statutory body” means a statutory body of the Autonomous College

2.12“Statutory Council” means a body constituted under any law for the time being in force for determining or maintaining standards of quality in the relevant areas of higher education

3.ROLE/TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AN AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE

3.1 Review existing courses/programmes and, restructure, redesign and prescribe its own courses/programmes of study and syllabi.

3.2 To formulate new courses/programmes within the nomenclature specified by UGC as per the Specification of Degrees 2014 as amended from time to time.

3.3 Evolve methods of assessment of students’ performance, conduct of examinations and notification of results.

3.4 To announce results, issue mark sheets, and other certificates; however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate.

3.5Autonomous colleges need not pay affiliation fee to the parent university every year. One-time fee can be paid at the time of conferment of autonomous status. Such fees can be decided by the Executive Council of the parent University.

3.6Prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the state government/national policy.

3.7 Autonomous Colleges may fix fees as per the norms of the State Government/ Statutory Council(s)/at their own level, as applicable.

3.8 Constitute own Governing Body, Academic Council, Finance Committee and Board of Studies.

3.9The teaching staff and Principal in all the Autonomous Colleges shall be appointed as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018 as amended from time to time or any regulations notified by UGC in this regard from time to time.

3.10Autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial, and shall cover the programmes at all levels of U.G. and P.G. offered by the college. The courses introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status shall automatically come under the purview of autonomy.

3.11 Ph.D. programmes shall be offered strictly as per the UGC Regulations notified in this regard from time to time.

3.12Autonomous status shall be granted initially for a period of ten years.

3.13Further extension of autonomy shall be for a period of ten years as per Clause 8 of these regulations.

3.14Autonomous college which has functioned as autonomous college for fifteen years continuously will be considered as autonomous college on permanent basis. However, such permanent autonomous college is required to maintain the required grade of NAAC/NBA etc. as per the eligibility condition for autonomy and inform the same to the Parent University.

4.ROLE OF THE PARENT UNIVERSITY

4.1 To examine the application of the College for autonomous status on UGC portal and give its recommendations along with reasons/ justification, within 30 days on UGC portal. If the University does not respond on UGC portal within 30 days, it shall be presumed that the University has no objection to the processing of the application by the UGC for conferment of autonomous status.

4.2 Issue notification within 30 days for a college to function as an autonomous entity once autonomous status is conferred on the college by UGC.

4.3 The college on attaining autonomous status will continue to be affiliated to the parent University but will enjoy the privileges of autonomy.

4.4 To provide nominee on various Statutory Bodies of the College.

5.ROLE OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

5.1 To provide nominee on various Statutory Bodies of the College.

5.2 The autonomous colleges shall continue to be eligible to receive funds from the State Government as being done before the grant of autonomous status, if any.

5.3 To make efforts to fill all sanctioned faculty positions on regular and ongoing basis.

6. ELIGIBILITY

6.1 Colleges (of any discipline) whether aided, partially aided and unaided/self-financing are eligible provided they are under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act.

6.2 The college should have at least 10 years of existence.

6.3 The college must be accredited either by NAAC with minimum 'A' Grade (with a score of 3.01 and above on a 4 point scale of NAAC) or by NBA for at least three programme(s) with a minimum score of 675 individually or a corresponding accreditation Grade/score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency. However, if the number of programme(s) being run by the Institution is less than three, then each of the eligible programme as per NBA norms should secure 675 or more marks. Accreditation status must be valid at least for one year at the time of application submission;

Provided that the existing autonomous colleges will be required to comply with this eligibility condition within a maximum period of three years from the date of notification of these Regulations.

The constituent colleges shall also undergo separate accreditation by NAAC/NBA/UGC empanelled accreditation agency to be considered eligible.

7.CONFERMENT OF AUTONOMOUS STATUS

7.1 A College fulfilling the eligibility as per clause 6 of these regulations, intending to become autonomous shall submit the application on UGC portal anytime during the year.

7.2 The parent University will examine the application of the college for autonomous status on UGC portal and give its recommendations along with reasons/justification, within 30 days on UGC portal. If the University does not respond on UGC portal within 30 days, it shall be presumed that the University has no objection to the processing of the application by the UGC for conferment of autonomous status.

7.3 A Standing Committee of UGC shall examine the application of the College for conferment of autonomous status. The approval/rejection letters may be issued on the basis of the decision of the Standing Committee. The decisions may be ratified by the Commission subsequently.

7.4 Autonomous status shall be granted initially for a period of ten years.

7.5 If the application of a College for the conferment of autonomous status is rejected by the UGC for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to reapply on UGC portal, but not before one year from the date of rejection of its earlier application.

7.6 An autonomous College can merge with another autonomous college(s)/institution(s) run by the same Parent Body of the Autonomous Colleges, with the prior approval of the Parent University/Universities.

8.EXTENSION OF AUTONOMOUS STATUS

8.1 If an autonomous college having NAAC with minimum 'A' Grade with a score of 3.01 and above on a 4 point scale of NAAC or by NBA for at least three programme(s) with a minimum score of 675 individually or a corresponding accreditation Grade/score from a UGC

empanelled accreditation agency (if the number of programme(s) being run by the Institution is less than three, then each of the eligible programme as per NBA norms should secure 675 or more marks) on the last day of completion of Autonomy period, the college shall automatically be granted extension of autonomous status for further ten years, provided that the College has followed the procedure stipulated in clause 8.2 below. Accordingly, at least one month before the completion of autonomy period, the College shall inform the status regarding the extension to the Parent University and UGC for their information and records.

8.2 Autonomous colleges are required to apply for reaccreditation six months before the end of the cycle of accreditation period as mentioned in the Accreditation Certificate issued by National Assessment and Accreditation Council/NBA/UGC empanelled accreditation agency. For autonomous colleges which have applied for re-accreditation six months before the end of the cycle of accreditation period, in case there is a delay in the accreditation process by the accrediting body, the delay period between two consecutive accreditations shall be condoned. For autonomous colleges which have not applied for re-accreditation six months before the end of the cycle of accreditation period, they should get the accreditation within one year from the end of last accreditation cycle failing which the autonomy automatically stands withdrawn.

8.3 As provided in clause 6.3, the existing autonomous colleges will be required to comply with the eligibility condition for extension of autonomy, within a maximum period of three years from the date of notification of these Regulations.

8.4 In case Autonomous College fails to obtain the required accreditation Grade/score as per clauses 8.1 and 8.2 above, the autonomy to such college stands automatically withdrawn and no fresh admissions will be done under autonomy mode after withdrawal of autonomous status. No communication from the University and/or UGC will be needed in this regard. It will be the responsibility of the College to inform the Parent University and UGC regarding withdrawal of autonomy. However, for students admitted during autonomy period, such withdrawal shall take effect only after the last batch of students then enrolled under autonomy passes out.

8.5 Such Colleges whose autonomy is withdrawn, shall be eligible to apply for fresh autonomy on UGC portal, but not before one year from the effective date of withdrawal of autonomy.

9. MONITORING OF AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES

9.1 IQAC cell shall be established in the college for regular monitoring of the college. The Cell shall have an external Peer Team comprising of academicians of repute. The report regarding the performance of the College shall also be put on public domain on the website of the College. The external peer review shall be conducted at least once in a year.

9.2 In case of adverse report by the external peer team of IQAC or in case of complaint, UGC may constitute an Expert Committee for scrutiny and may revoke the autonomous status of the college after giving due opportunity to the management by way of notification and by passing a speaking order.

9.3 The autonomous college shall, without fail, upload on its website information regarding the courses offered by it, the fees for the courses, the details of the faculty along with qualification and unique ID, the admission procedure, the details of relevant infrastructures, research activities of the college along with the details of Ph.D. students enrolled, if any, with

the date of enrolment, topics and supervisor.

9.4 The college shall also put on its website the constitution of various Committees/Cells as mandated in the various UGC Regulations notified from time to time. The college shall conduct the meetings of the statutory bodies regularly and upload the minutes of the meetings on the college website.

10. MATTERS REGARDING STARTING OF NEW COURSES

10.1 An autonomous college is free to start certificate or diploma courses without prior approval of the University. The College should inform the University about introduction of such new courses. Approval of the concerned statutory bodies of the college and Statutory Council(s) should be obtained, wherever required. Certificates and Diplomas shall be issued under the seal of the college.

10.2 An autonomous college is free to start a new degree programme(s) at undergraduate and postgraduate levels with the approval of the Academic Council of the college and concerned Statutory Council(s), wherever required, provided the nomenclature of the degree is in consonance with UGC Notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014 as amended from time to time. Such courses shall fulfill the minimum standards prescribed by the university/UGC/Statutory Council(s) in terms of number of hours, curricular content and standards, and the university shall be duly informed of such courses.

10.3 An autonomous college can start Ph.D. programme with the prior approval of the Parent University. UGC Regulations for Ph.D. programmes as notified from time to time must be adhered to by the University/Autonomous College.

10.4 An autonomous college may rename an existing course as per the UGC Notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014 as amended from time to time after restructuring/ redesigning it with the approval of the Academic Council of the College. The University should be duly informed of such proceedings. However, this renaming of course(s) will not be applicable to previous batches.

11. EXAMINATION CELL

11.1 Autonomous College shall have an Examination Cell and should maintain all the records of the student evaluations and examinations.

12. GOVERNANCE OF AN AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE

12.1 The autonomous college shall have the following statutory bodies to ensure proper management of academic, financial and general administrative affairs:

- (a) Governing Body
- (b) Academic Council
- (c) Board of Studies
- (d) Finance Committee

(The Governing Body is different from Trust Board/Board of Management/Executive Committee/Management Committee).

12.2 The College shall, in addition, have other non-statutory committees such as the Planning and Evaluation Committee, Grievance Redressal Committee, Examination Committee, Admission Committee, Library Committee, Student Welfare Committee, Internal Complaints Committee, Extra-Curricular Activities Committee and Academic Audit Committee, etc.

12.3 GOVERNING BODY:

A. Constitution of Governing Body of Private /Self Financing College/Constituent College run by Trust/Society

Number	Category	Nature
5 Members	Management	Parent Body Head of Parent Body will be the Chairperson
2 Members	Teachers of the College	Nominated by the Principal based on seniority by rotation
1 Member	Educationist or industrialist	Nominated by the management
1 Member	State Government nominee	Academician not below the rank of professor or State Government official of Directorate of Higher Education/State Council of Higher Education
1 Member	University Nominee	Nominated by the University
1 Member	Principal of College	Ex-Officio

Presence of minimum 50% of Members and mandatory presence of University Nominee will be the quorum.

B. Constitution of Governing Body of Government Colleges

Number	Category	Nature
3 Members one of them to be Chairperson	Educationist, Industrialist, Professional	Nominated by the State Government, persons of proven academic interest with at least PG level qualification
2 Members	Teachers of the College	Nominated by the Principal on seniority by rotation.
1 Member	Educationist or industrialist	Nominated by the Principal for two years
1 Member	State Government nominee	Nominated by the State Government
1 Member	University Professor	Nominated by the University
1 Member	Principal of College	Ex-Officio

Presence of minimum 50% of Members and mandatory presence of University Nominee will be the quorum.

C. Constitution of Governing Body of Constituent Colleges run by University

Number	Category	Nature
3 Members one of them to be Chairperson	Educationist, Industrialist, Professional	Nominated by the University, persons of proven academic interest with at least PG level qualification
2 Members	Teachers of the College	Nominated by the Principal on seniority by rotation.
1 Member	State Government nominee	Nominated by the State Government
1 Member	University Professor	Nominated by the University
1 Member	Principal of College	Ex-Officio

Presence of minimum 50% of Members and mandatory presence of University Nominee will be the quorum.

Term: The Governing Body shall be reconstituted every five years.

Meetings: Meetings of the Governing Body shall be held at least once every six months.

Functions of the Governing Body:

Subject to the existing provision in the bye-laws of respective college and rules laid down by the state government/parent university, the Governing Body shall:

- Guide the college while fulfilling the objectives for which the college has been granted autonomous status.
- Institute scholarships, fellowships, studentships, medals, prizes and certificates on the recommendations of the Academic Council
- Approve new programmes of study leading to degrees and/or diplomas.
- All recruitments of Teaching Faculty/Principal shall be made by the Governing Body/state government as applicable in accordance with the policies laid down by the UGC and State Government from time to time.
- To approve annual budget of the college.
- Perform such other functions and institute committees, as may be necessary and deemed fit for the proper development of the college.

12.4 ACADEMIC COUNCIL:

COMPOSITON OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL:

1. The Principal (Chairman)
2. All the Heads of Departments in the college
3. Four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff by rotation on the basis of seniority of service in the college.
4. Not less than four experts/academicians from outside the college representing such areas as Industry, Commerce, Law, Education, Medicine, Engineering, Sciences etc., to be nominated by the Governing Body.
5. Three nominees of the university not less than Professors.
6. The Controller of Examination of the College
7. A faculty member nominated by the Principal (Member Secretary).

Term: The term of the nominated members shall be three years.

Meetings: Meetings of the Academic Council shall be held at least once every six months.

Functions of the Academic Council:

- (a) To scrutinize and approve the proposals with or without modification of the Boards of Studies with regard to courses of study, academic regulations, curricula, syllabi and modifications thereof, instructional and evaluation arrangements, methods, procedures relevant thereto etc., provided that where the Academic Council differs on any proposal, it shall have the right to return the matter for reconsideration to the Board of Studies concerned or reject it, after giving reasons to do so.
- (b) To make regulations regarding the admission of students to different programmes of study in the college keeping in view the policy of the Government.
- (c) To make regulations for sports, extra-curricular activities, and proper maintenance

and functioning of the playgrounds and hostels.

- (d) To recommend to the Governing Body proposals for institution of new programmes of study.
- (e) To recommend to the Governing Body institution of scholarships, studentships, fellowships, prizes and medals, and to frame regulations for the award of the same.
- (f) To advise the Governing Body on suggestions(s) pertaining to academic affairs.
- (g) To perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Governing Body.

12.5 BOARD OF STUDIES:

Composition of Board of Studies:

1. Head of the Department concerned (Chairperson).
2. All faculty members of the Department.
3. Two subject experts from outside the Parent University to be nominated by the Academic Council.
4. One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six recommended by the college principal.
5. One representative from industry/corporate sector/allied areas.
6. One member of the College alumni to be nominated by the principal.
7. Experts from outside the college whenever special courses of studies are to be formulated, to be nominated by the Principal.

Term: The term of the nominated members shall be three years.

Meetings: Meetings of the Board of Studies shall be held at least once every six months.

Functions:

The Board of Studies shall recommend the following to the Academic Council:

- (a) Courses of studies;
- (b) Measures for the improvement of the standards of teaching and research;
- (c) Any other academic matter.

12.6 FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Composition of Finance Committee:

- (a) The Principal (Chairman).
- (b) One person to be nominated by the Governing Body of the college for a period of two

years.

- (c) One senior-most faculty member of the college to be nominated in rotation by the principal for two years.
- (d) Finance officer of the College (Member Secretary)

Term: Term of the Finance Committee shall be three years.

Meetings: Meetings of the Finance Committee shall be held at least once every six months.

Functions of the Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee shall act as an advisory body to the Governing Body, to consider:

- (a) Budget estimates relating to the grant received/receivable from funding agencies, and income from fees, etc. and
- (b) Audited accounts for the above.

13. CONSEQUENCES OF VOILATION OF REGULATIONS

13.1 All UGC directives shall be strictly followed, failing which UGC may take appropriate actions, as it deems fit, against the defaulting Autonomous College including revoking of autonomous status.

14. REMOVAL OF DIFFICULTIES

14.1 In the event of conflict of opinion with regard to interpretation of these Regulations, the opinion of the Commission shall be final. The Commission reserves the right to remove difficulty/difficulties in the course of implementation of these Regulations in consultation with the Government of India/Ministry of Education.