

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Madam Cama Marg, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,
Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 032, dated the 14th January 2019

NOTIFICATION

MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ACT, 2016.

No.PARINI-2018/CR NO 90/VISHI-2.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (10) of section 72 read with sub-section (7) of section 71 and section 122 of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (Mah. Act. No. VI of 2017), the Government of Maharashtra hereby, prescribes the uniform Statute, relating to norms for grant of autonomy to affiliated colleges, recognized institutions and conducted or constituent colleges, namely:—

UNIFORM STATUTE NO. 3 OF 2019

1. *Short title, application and commencement.*— (1) This Statute may be called the Maharashtra Public Universities (Norms for Grant of Autonomy to Affiliated Colleges, Recognized Institutions and Conducted or Constituent Colleges) Uniform Statute, 2018.

(2) These statutes shall apply to all colleges which are affiliated to or institutions recognized by, or are conducted or constituent colleges of Universities in the State of Maharashtra under the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 seeking the conferment of autonomous status.

(3) These statutes shall come into force from the date of their notification in the *Official Gazette*.

2. *Definitions* . —In these statutes, unless the context otherwise requires—

(1) “Academic Council” means the Academic Council of the autonomous college;

(2) “Act” means the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (Mah. VI of 2017);

(3) “Board of Studies” means the Board of Studies of a Department of the Autonomous College;

(4) “College” means any institution, whether known as such or by any other name, which provides for undergraduate or postgraduate or Doctor of Philosophy 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 or courses of study and present students undergoing such courses of study for the examination for the award of such qualification, and includes recognized institution and conducted or constituent college;

(5) “Finance Committee” means the Finance Committee of the autonomous college;

(6) “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;

(7) “Parent University” means the University to which the college concerned is affiliated, or by which the institution concerned is recognized or which has established and maintained a conducted or constituent college;

(8) "Statutory body" means a body constituted under any law for the time being in force for determining and maintaining prescribed standards of quality in the relevant areas of higher education;

(9) "UGC" means the University Grants Commission.

3. *Role/terms and conditions of an autonomous college :-* (1) An autonomous college shall,

(i) review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and prescribe its own courses or programmes of study and syllabi;

(ii) formulate new courses or programmes in consonance with the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission Specification of Degrees 2014 Notification No. F.S.-/2013(CPP-II) published in the Gazette of India, July 5, 2014;

(iii) evolve methods of assessment of students' performance, conduct of examinations and notification of results;

(iv) to announce results, issue mark sheets, migration and other certificates; however, the degree shall be awarded by the parent University with the name of the college on the degree certificate;

(v) prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the State Government or national policy;

(vi) fix fees of the courses at their own level;

(vii) constitute their own Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies and Finance Committee.

(2) Autonomous colleges need not pay affiliation or recognition fee to the parent university every year. However, onetime fee shall be paid at the time of conferment of autonomous status and/or at the time of extension of autonomous status. Such fees shall be decided by the Management Council of the parent university :

Provided that, such fees shall not be more than the amount equivalent to two years affiliation or recognition fee for continuation of affiliation or recognition, as the case may be.

(3) Autonomous Colleges shall have full academic and administrative autonomy and have privilege of appointing their own administrative staff and teachers including Principal or Director. However, the staff shall be appointed as per the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2010 or as amended from time to time:

Provided that, the college shall obtain the sanction or approval to the appointments of administrative staff and teachers from the State Government and Parent University, as the case may be.

(4) The autonomous college shall continue to receive funds in the same manner as being done before the grant of autonomous status.

(5) Autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial, and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) offered by the college. The courses introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status shall automatically come under the purview of autonomy.

(6) The autonomy shall always come into effect from the ensuing academic year.

(7) The students enrolled for the first year of any course at the time of actual commencement of autonomy to the College only shall be covered under autonomy and thereafter such students shall be covered under autonomy progressively.

(8) Autonomous status shall be granted initially for a period of ten years; further extension shall be for five years at a time except those covered under Para 6 (5).

4. *Role of the Parent University* .—(1) The parent University shall forward the application of the college for autonomous status and provide nominee on the Expert Committee within 30 days, from the date of receipt of application by the parent University.

(2) If the University does not forward the proposal and provide nominee within 30 days, it shall be presumed that the University has no objection to the processing of the proposal by the UGC for conferment of autonomous status.

(3) The parent University shall issue notification within 30 days for a college to function as an autonomous entity once autonomous status is conferred on the college.

(4) The parent University shall provide nominee on various statutory bodies of autonomous college within 30 days after the autonomous status is conferred on the college.

(5) The college on attaining autonomous status will continue to be affiliated to or recognized by the parent University but will enjoy the privileges of autonomy.

5. *Role of the State Government* :—(1) The State Government shall provide nominee on the Expert Committee or various Statutory Bodies within 30 days.

(2) The State Government shall ensure that the autonomous college will continue to receive funds in the same manner as being done before the grant of autonomous status to Government or Aided colleges.

(3) The State Government shall ensure that sanctioned teaching positions are filled on regular and ongoing basis. The State Government shall ensure that the total number of sanctioned and grant-in-aid teaching positions at the time of conferment of autonomous status shall be protected.

6. *Eligibility* .— (1) Colleges (of any discipline) whether aided, partially aided and unaided or self-financing are eligible, provided they are under Section 2(f) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956).

(2) The college shall have at least 10 years of existence.

(3) The college shall be accredited by either NAAC with minimum 'A' Grade or by NBA for at least three programmes 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 college is less than three, then each of the programmes should secure 675 or more marks. Accreditation status shall be valid at the time of application.

However, the existing autonomous colleges shall be required to comply with this eligibility condition within a maximum period of five years from 12th February 2018 that is the date of notification of UGC regulations in this regard.

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

(4) (a) Colleges accredited with a score of 3.01 and above, upto 3.25 on a 4 point scale of NAAC/corresponding NBA score/ corresponding accreditation score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency at the time of application shall be considered for grant of autonomous status with an on-site visit of the duly constituted Expert Committee.

(b) Colleges which have a NAAC score of 3.26 and above, upto 3.50 or a corresponding NBA score or a corresponding accreditation Grade/score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency for one complete cycle and also accredited accordingly in the second cycle, shall be considered for grant of autonomous status without on-site visit by the Expert Committee.

(c) Colleges with 3.51 and above in a 4 point scale of NAAC or a minimum of three programmes have been accredited by NBA with a minimum score of 750 individually or a corresponding accreditation Grade/score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency at the time of application shall be considered for grant of autonomous status without on-site visit by the Expert Committee.

The application of colleges covered under 4 (b) and (c) above shall be considered as the report of the Expert Committee for consideration of the UGC and its approval thereof.

However, the colleges are required to adhere to UGC Regulations, namely :—

- (a) curbing the menace of ragging in Higher Education Institutions Regulations, 2012;
- (b) UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012;
- (c) UGC (Grievance Redressal) Regulations, 2012, etc. in letter and spirit.

(5) If an autonomous college has obtained the score of 3.51 and above on a 4-Point scale from NAAC or a minimum of three programmes have been accredited by NBA with a minimum score of 750 individually or a corresponding accreditation Grade/score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency, the college shall be granted extension of autonomous status for further ten years without on-site visit.

7. *Conferment or extension of autonomous status* :—(1) A college intending to become autonomous shall make an application to the University, any time during the year, in the format specified by the UGC, from time to time.

(2) The college shall forward an advance copy of the proposal to UGC indicating the date of receipt of the proposal by the parent University for the record of the UGC.

(3) The college shall submit the proposal to the parent or affiliating University which may forward the same to UGC within 30 days of the receipt of proposal. In case the proposal is rejected by the University, the decision shall be communicated to the college and the UGC through a "Speaking Order".

(4) If the University and State Government fail to provide the nominees for the UGC Expert Committee, the UGC may proceed with the on-spot visit and take decision on the proposal of the college.

(5) If the college is found eligible as per the guidelines, the UGC shall examine the proposal for conferment or extension of autonomous status with the help of an Expert Committee constituted by the Chairman of the UGC consisting of three expert members (preferably at the level of Professor/Principal of an autonomous college) out of which one shall be the Chairperson, nominees from the parent University and the State Government. One UGC official may be nominated to co-ordinate the visit.

(6) The decision for conferment /extension of autonomous status shall be taken by the Standing Committee (comprising three Commission members) on autonomous colleges after due consideration of the recommendations of the Expert Committee. The approval letters may be issued on the basis of the decision of the Standing Committee. The decisions may be ratified by the UGC subsequently:

Provided that the Management Council of the parent University shall adopt the decision of the UGC and confer the autonomous status within 30 days.

(7) If the proposal of a college for the conferment of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to reapply, but not before one year from the date of rejection of its earlier proposal.

(8) The autonomous College shall apply in the prescribed format to the UGC for extension of autonomous status six months prior to expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(9) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle, the college seeking extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by NAAC/NBA to be eligible for extension.

(10) Till the extension of autonomous status is awarded by the UGC, the college shall continue to avail the autonomous status. The UGC shall also consider the interim period while granting extension of autonomous status to the college.

(11) If an autonomous college wishes to surrender the autonomous status, it shall follow due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the parent University to the UGC for consideration, with a copy to the State Government. However, such withdrawal shall take effect only after the last batch of students then enrolled under autonomy passes out.

8. *Criteria for granting autonomy to colleges* :—(1) Academic reputation and previous performance in university examinations and its academic or co-curricular/extension activities in the past.

(2) Academic or extension or research achievements of the teachers.

(3) Quality and merit in the selection of students and teachers, subject to statutory requirements in this regard.

(4) Adequacy of infrastructure in terms of classrooms, library books and e-resources, laboratories and equipments, sports facilities, facilities for recreation activities, residential accommodation for teachers and students, transport facilities etc.

(5) Quality of institutional management.

- (6) Financial strength of the institution.
- (7) Responsiveness of administrative structure.
- (8) Motivation and involvement of teachers in the promotion of innovative reforms.

9. *Monitoring of Autonomous colleges* :— (1) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) shall be established in the college for regular monitoring of the college under intimation to the UGC. The Cell shall have an external Peer Team comprising of academicians of repute and will send report to UGC regarding the performance of the college. The report 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.

(2) On receipt of adverse report by the external peer team of IQAC or in case of complaint, the UGC has the power to constitute its own Expert Committee for careful scrutiny of the report 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.

(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 teachers 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.

(4) The college shall also put on its website the creation of various Committees or 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.

(5) The college shall upload on its website all the information about the college in the prescribed format and the same shall be sent to the UGC while applying for fresh or extension of autonomous status. The college shall also submit progress report and utilization certificate annually as per the prescribed formats.

(6) All the Regulations notified by the UGC shall be followed in letter and spirit by all the autonomous colleges and an undertaking to this effect shall be uploaded on the college website.

10. *Matters regarding starting of new courses* :—(1) An autonomous college is free to start diploma (under-graduate and post-graduate) or certificate courses without prior approval of the University and State Government. However, approval of the concerned statutory bodies of the college shall be obtained. The Parent University shall, however, be informed about such introduction of new courses. Diplomas and certificates shall be issued under the seal of the University.

(2) An autonomous college is free to start a new degree or post-graduate course or Doctor of Philosophy with the approval of the Academic Council of the college and concerned Statutory Councils wherever required, provided the nomenclature of the degree is in consonance with the UGC Notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014. Such courses shall fulfill the minimum standards prescribed by the parent University or UGC in terms of number of hours, curricular content and standards, and the University and State Government shall be duly informed of such courses.

(3) 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 or redesigning it with the approval of the Academic Council of the college as per UGC norms. The University and State Government shall be duly informed of such proceedings.

11. *Examination cell and system.*—(1) An autonomous college shall have an Examination Cell headed by the Controller of Examinations. The Principal of the college shall be the Chief Controller of Examinations.

(2) The Controller of Examinations shall be assisted by the Deputy Controller of Examinations along with other office support.

12. *Governance of an autonomous college.*—(1) The college shall constitute the following statutory bodies to ensure proper management of academic, financial and general administrative affairs :—

(i) Governing Body

(ii) Academic Council

(iii) Board of Studies

(iv) Finance Committee.

(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, Sexual Harassment Committee, Extra-Curricular Activities Committee and Academic Audit Committee.

(3) *Governing Body.*—Constitution of Governing Body of Autonomous Colleges :

(i) Constitution of Governing Body of Private or Self-financing College or Constituent College run by Trust/Society.

Number	Category	Nature
5 Members	Management	Trust or Management as per the constitution or bye-laws, with the Chairman or President or Director as the Chairperson and other four members
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	UGC Nominee	Nominated by the UGC
1 Member	State Government nominee	Academician not below the rank of professor or State Government official of Directorate of Higher Education or Maharashtra State Commission for Higher Education and Development
1 Member	University Nominee	Nominated by the University
1 Member	Principal of College	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member-Secretary

(ii) 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	UGC Nominee	Nominated by UGC
1 Member	State Government nominee	Nominated by the State Government
1 Member	University Professor	Nominated by the University
1 Member	Principal of College	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member-Secretary

(iii) 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	UGC Nominee	Nominated by UGC
1 Member	Principal of College	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member Secretary

(iv) *Term*.- The Governing Body shall be reconstituted every three years except in the case of UGC nominee who shall have a term of five years.

(v) *Meetings*.- Meetings of the Governing Body shall be held at least twice a year.

(vi) *Powers and Functions of the Governing Body*.—Subject to the existing provision in the bye-laws of respective college and Regulations of Parent University, the Governing Body shall have the following powers and functions, namely : —

(a) Guide the college while fulfilling the objectives for which the college has been granted autonomous status;

(b) Institute scholarships, fellowships, studentships, medals, prizes and certificates on the recommendations of the Academic Council;

(c) Approve new programmes of study leading to degrees and/or diplomas;

(d) Make recruitments of Teachers or Principal Governing Body or State Government as applicable in accordance with the policies laid down by the UGC and State Government, from time to time;

(e) approve annual budget of the college before submitting the same at the UGC;

(f) perform such other functions and institute committees, as may be necessary and deemed fit for the proper development of the college.

(4) *Academic Council.*—

(i) Constitution of Academic Council.-

(a) the Principal (Chairman) ;

(b) the Heads of Departments in the college ;

(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff by rotation on the basis of seniority of service in the college ;

(d) not less than four experts or academicians from outside the college representing such areas as Industry, Commerce, Law, Education, Medicine, Engineering, Sciences etc., to be nominated by the Governing Body ;

(e) three nominees of the university not less than Professors ;

(f) a teachers member nominated by the Principal (Member Secretary) ;

(ii) *Term.*- The term of the nominated members shall be three years ;

(iii) *Meetings.*- Academic Council shall meet at least twice a year.

(iv) *Powers and Functions of the Academic Council.*—

The Academic Council shall have the following powers and functions, namely :—

(a) to scrutinize and approve the proposals with or without modification of the Boards of Studies with regard to courses of study, academic regulations, curricular, 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 made by it;
- (g) to perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Governing Body.

(3) *Board of Studies.*—

(i) Composition of Board of Studies.—

- (a) head of the Department concerned (Chairman);
- (b) the entire faculty of each specialization;
- (c) two subject experts from outside the Parent University to be nominated by the Academic Council;
- (d) one expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six recommended by the college principal;
- (e) one representative from industry/corporate sector/allied area relating to placement;
- (f) one post-graduate meritorious alumnus to be nominated by the principal;
- (g) The Chairman, Board of Studies, may with the approval of the principal of the college, co-opt:
 - (1) Experts from outside the college whenever special courses of studies are to be formulated.
 - (2) Other members of staff of the same faculty.

One of the member nominated by the principal shall act as the secretary.

- (ii) Term.- The term of the nominated members shall be three years.
- (iii) Meetings.- The Board of Studies shall meet at least twice a year.
- (iv) Powers and functions of the Board of Studies.-

The Board of Studies of a Department in the college shall have the following powers and functions, namely :—

- (a) to prepare syllabi for various courses keeping in view the objectives of the college, interest of the stakeholders and national requirement for consideration and approval of the Academic Council;
- (b) to suggest methodologies for innovative teaching and evaluation techniques;
- (c) to suggest panel of names to the Academic Council for appointment of examiners; and
- (d) to coordinate research, teaching, extension and other academic activities in the department or college.

(4) Finance Committee:-

(i) 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) finance and Accounts Officer of the affiliating University;

(d) one senior-most teacher of the college to be nominated in rotation by the principal for two years.

(e) One non-teaching employee nominated by Principal - Member Secretary

(ii) Term: Term of the Finance Committee shall be three years.

(iii) Meetings : The Finance Committee shall meet at least twice a year

(iv) 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 or receivable from UGC, and income from fees, etc. collected for the activities to undertake the scheme of autonomy; and

(b) Audited accounts for the above.

13. *Consequences of violation of provisions of directives or guidelines:*—All directives or guidelines of the UGC, State Government and Parent University issued, from time to time, shall be strictly followed, failing which the UGC or State Government or Parent University, as the case may be, may take appropriate action against the defaulting autonomous college.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

SIDDHARTH KHARAT,
Joint Secretary to Government.