

5: 8: OTHERS.

(1) Central Universities Information Exchange Initiative.

The Deputy Secretary, MHRD has requested the University to send some suggestions for circulation of opinion and suggestion on the above subject. The papers sent by the MHRD has been placed to the last Deans' Committee held on 30.10.99 and the Committee has appointed two members Sub-Committee with Professor S.S. Khare and Professor T.B. Subba to prepare the detail note on the subject. And the suggestions/recommendations of the Committee has again been placed to the Deans' Committee held on 1.12.99 and the Deans' Committee has decided to place the Sub-Committee recommendations ANNEXURE 'A' as well as the Deans' Committee recommendation ANNEXURE 'B' to the Academic-Council.

The matter was placed before the 62nd meeting of the Academic Council and the Council Resolved to approve the same.

The matter is placed before the Council for consideration.

CLJ /

CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES' INFORMATION EXCHANGE INITIATIVE
NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY

SHILLONG

1. Academic Organisation of the University

The University is presently spread over three towns/cities of Meghalaya and Mizoram viz Shillong, Tura and Aizawl, and three complexes within Shillong, viz Mayurbhanj Complex, Bijni Complex and Umshing or Permanent Campus, 28 departments and 4 Centres are grouped under six Schools for academic and administrative Convenience. Some departments like English and Education are there on more than one campus,. The University also has a constituent college in Aizawl called Pachhunga University College. There are six service Centres, too.

2. Asninc

The University has recently established area Studies for Northeast India and its Neighbouring Countries of ASNINC as a forum for intellectual and student interaction between Northeast India and the neighbouring countries, viz, surma, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Eastern Tibet. This is a supra-school level forum created for the above purposes.

3. COLLABURATIVE PROGRAMMES

The University has launched a number of collaborative programmes with foreign Universities or institutions. At present, some of the departments which have been successful in establishing such programmes are Geography. Bio-Chemistry RSIC, Chemistry and Physics.

4. INTERNET COUNECTIVTT

The University is finally geared to have internet connectivity by installing a VSAT of its own. The Lan facilities will also be provided to each department and Centre in the near future.

5. ACCREDITION CELL

The University has established an accreditation cell of its own to assess and monitor the standard of academic achievement in various departments and centres.

6. POPULAR PROGRAMMES

The University has been engaged in maintaining a close interaction between the University and the people by offering the latter a host of popular programmes like amateur radio, computer literacy, familiarity with sophisticated instruments at a nominal fee or free of cost. The Unit for Science Education, RSIC, Computer Centre and the Unit for Creative Arts are some such agencies involved in the same.

7. ENDOWMENT LECTURES

The University organises a number of endowment lectures every year.

8. RAJIV GANDHI CHAIR FOR PROTECTIVE DISCRIMINATION

The University has this prestigious chair to look into the project of protective discrimination in the country.

9. RESOURCE GENERATION IN NEHU

Our proposal has three parts :

- (a) resource saving
- (b) indirect resource generation, and
- (c) direct resource generation

(a) Resource saving.

Resource saved is resource generated. At present the available resources of the University are not being utilized fully or properly. Hence attention needs to be paid to this aspect and see what can be done about it. In this regard, we have identified certain areas where the expenditure could be reduced considerably if the proposals made here are accepted and implemented. These are not new discoveries but very well known facts : what may be new is a will to change the situation.

1. Telephone expenditure

The University pays a huge amount of money towards rental and call charges as each call made at present is chargeable. Expenditure would fall significantly if one EPABX with about 5 lines was installed for each campus with extensions for each faculty member or officer of the University.

2. Electricity expenditure

There is much misuse of electricity at present. This could be avoided if there was a central switch off/on system outside each department. The science departments may have their machines running throughout the day and night. In order that such machines/experiments are not damaged the central switch off/on may be separate for power and domestic lines. This matter may also be discussed with electrical engineers of the University or outside.

3. Transport expenditure : Expenditure on transport is one of the most draining things in our University. This requires a thorough study and monitoring.

4. Stationaries : A lot of expenditure on stationaries can be curtailed by reformatting the various forms and receipts. The TA bill is just one instance, instead of a one page TA bill form we have at present a four page form which is ridiculous. The various forms/receipts could also be simplified/shortened easily to reduce the print area as well as paper size.

The printing of ⁻⁴⁻ stationaries is another expensive affair and there is no reason why all printing works of the University should not be undertaken by the University Press as done elsewhere. Printing certain confidential, urgent and specialized matters may always be left to the discretion of the University. It may be remembered that the University Press has an offset machine which is under-utilised. The Press requires a full fledged director with some technical expertise in the field of publishing and printing. Since there is no post of a full-fledged director, the University may depute a talented officer at DR level or teacher at Reader level for training in this field and appointed as director on personal promotion.

5. Examination expenditure : This is one of the highest in the list of expenditure and this is bound to remain high under a semester system. However, the expenditure may be reduced considerably by taking recourse to the following:

- Printing all non-confidential matters in the University Press.
- inviting practical examiners for papers worth 100 marks only.

Currently, examiner come to "certain" departments for practical papers of a mere 25 marks as well.

6. Expenditure on subscription of journals : This is to the tune of about 50 lakhs per year. This will come down to some extent once the University has its own internet facilities but many journals, particularly in social sciences and humanities, will have to be subscribed in the traditional mode for many years to come. even in the sciences, there will not be much difference until quite some years. The expenditure will fall by about one-tenth if the University agrees to switch over from institutional to individual subscription. There is according to my information, no legal problem if the individual teachers subscribing the journals donate the journals to the library. However opinion of the legal advisor and Internal Audit section may be sought for further confirmation. As regards it modes operandi, the HOD may as a person subscribe the journals belonging to the department.

7. Expenditure on Statutory Bodies : Expenditure towards the travel and stay of experts coming to attend the meetings of various statutory bodies is quite phenomenal and is often not justified in the sense that the members often do not contribute or get the opportunity to contribute anything to such bodies. Two such bodies which I consider ornamental and without any value are Board of Research Studies and the Court. Abolition of these bodies,

or at least the former, will reduce the expenditure considerably.

(b) Indirect resource generation

Under this heading we have the following proposals :

1. Many equipment, including zerox machines, computers and printers, are lying under-utilised or unused in various teaching and non-teaching departments. For a better utilisation of the same, common utility centres may be opened on each campus, which may be manned by the surplus staff in the University. The equipment that would not be needed in such centres may be hired out to private agencies. This would certainly generate some revenue.

The Computer Centre, which has about 30 computers, may also be suggested to optimise its use-time by hiring fixed number of hours or days in a week to outside agencies. This practice has been proved fruitful in the case of some Universities. Further, this Centre may take up soft-ware development work for various agencies in the region and earn revenue by selling the same.

2. The RSIC and USIC may be reoriented to generate revenue for the University. There is tremendous scope for these two centres to enhance their revenue generation. The USIC may, for instance, fabricate/manufacture, repair and maintain the furniture of the University and thereby save the huge expenditure on the same.

3. Many faculty members and scientific staff of the University have been receiving financial assistance from various funding agencies for carrying out research and in the process they have contributed immensely to the asset building in the University. While such individuals are academically rewarded, further encouragement may be provided to them for bringing more funds to the University by simplifying the procedures of recruitment of research staff, purchase of equipment and chemicals, field work, settling of accounts etc and by giving them one time honorarium of 10 percent of the amount received. This would certainly encourage the teachers of the University to bring more funds from outside.

4. Prepare a comprehensive and world-class prospectus and sell it to each applicant to the University. The earlier prospectus, which was prepared rather hurriedly and sold at the rate of Rs 60/- generated a good amount of revenue for the University.

(c) Direct resource generation :

The above proposals will not make any substantial difference in the financial position of the University. Hence, bolder steps are necessary to directly generate the resources. Two such possible steps are as follows:

1. The Mayurbanj Complex has upper and lower campuses. The upper campus may be converted into a Professional Training Complex where various kinds of job-oriented course may be offered to the people in Shillong, and one time course fee may be charged. Due to its proximity with the city, this is feasible. The lower campus may be converted into a 5* hotel complex. The present library has the basic structure of such a hotel and the palace concept may be specially developed to attract the tourists. The hotel would be run by trainees under the supervision of a senior hotel staff and the trainees would come from a hotel Management Course that may be started by the University for which candidates will be willing to pay hefty sum. The hotel could be linked up with one of the leading chains of hotels in India.

The University would also save its revenue towards hosting distinguished guests who would otherwise have to be lodged in the best hotels in the city. For various reasons, the present guest house has not been an attractive place for experts/examiners coming from outside, who prefer to stay in the city. Such guests could also be lodged in the proposed hotel on the lower Mayurbanj Complex and indirectly earn revenue.

The present guest house, which enjoys 75% occupancy only for a few days in a year, may be converted into a transit house as in JNU. The new faculty members/officers who join the University could stay there until alternative arrangement is available. This would enable the University to earn 20 times more revenue from the guest house than it is earning now and solve the problem of its faculty members and administrative staff living in the city.

2. The Bijni Complex is proposed here to be converted into a commercial complex and leased out for a period of 50-100 years or as the legal advisor would advise the University. The Shillong city is carving for physical expansion and it has no shortage of people with high purchasing power. The feasibility of

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the complex is 100 percent though it is not based on any research. Should this come up the revenue generated from here itself will be able to support the salary of about 33% teaching staff. For this proposal to be realistic the local dorbar might have to be consulted and its consent may be availed on payment on a nominal royalty per month.

We also propose a number of other direct revenue generating ideas such as the following:-

A. The University may accept donations from persons and agencies to construct/maintain halls, hostels, auditorium, roads, etc. and name them after the donors.

B. The University may accept donations from persons and agencies for student or research fellowship or chairs named after the donors.

C. The University may also consider leasing lands to prestigious academically and research institutions like ICSSR, ASI, BSI, ZSI, AEC, etc. on terms and conditions profitable to the University.

D. The University may also earn a lot of revenue by running professional courses like MBA, MCA, Hotel Management, Mass-Communication, Bio-Technology, etc. Management of such course require professionalism which can be ensured only if such courses are governed by a separate set of ordinances and regulations. Since the fee structure will be different, the mode of employing teachers/trainers will also have to be different. Hence, a separate ordinance and a separate board/school are considered desirable for making this proposal a success.

SD/-

P.B. Subba, Dean,
School of Human and Environmental
Sciences.

SD/-

S.S. Khare, Dean,
School of Physical Sci
ces.

AGENDA NOTE TO THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

sub:- Matters relating to the Central Universities Information Exchange Initiative

The Deans Committee held on 30.11.99, nominated a two member committee to go into the details and submit report the Chairman of the Deans' Committee.

The comments of the Deans' Committee in the recommendations of the Sub-Committee were as follows :

Sub-Committee's recommendation

Deans' Committee recommended that Sl.1 to 8 may be referred to the ensuing Academic Council for deliberation and decision.

9. Resource Generation in NEHU

a(1) Telephone expenditure : The Deans' Committee accepted the recommendation made by the sub-committee

a(2) Electricity expenditure: ~~Misuse~~ of electricity (unauthorise connection, if any) shall be discontinued

a(3) Transport expenditure: The committee decided to refer the matter to a Committee to be constituted by the Chairman which will make recommendation for minimising expenditure on University transport facilities.

4. Stationaries

The Committee felt that all printing work of the University except examination question paper will be normally under-taken by the University Press.

5. Examination Expenditure

Comments of the Deans Committee are as follows:-

(i) For Post Graduate examination, printing of question paper can be done in the examination department itself on a computer by a responsible officer of the Examination Department. The Computer used for this purpose should not be part of a net-work.

The Deans' Committee also made the suggestion that the University should seriously explore the possibility of hiring rather than purchasing photo-copying machines from any of the reputed well established firms. Instead of the present practice of purchasing machines for the use of individual departments/sections, the hired machines should be treated as a Common facility. If the University decided on hiring suitably heavy-duty as common facilities some machines of the existing machines will become redundant and these should therefore be disposed.

(ii) Examiner for practical examinations should, under normal circumstances, be from the North-East itself.

(iii) The present practice of keeping confidential papers in Government Treasury/banks for security and paying honorarium to the Treasury/Bank employees should be discontinued. For the P.G. examinations in the campuses, the question papers should be entrusted, for security to the respective Pro Vice-Chancellors. For Under-Graduate examination for colleges the Committee recommended that since a college is made a Centre of Examination only in condition that it can provide adequate security in all matters relating to examinations, the college where, examinations are allowed to be held should be entrusted with responsibility of the safe-keeping of question papers. The same should be done for the Principals of the colleges.

6. Expenditure on subscription of Journals.

The Deans Committee felt that different possibilities are there in this connection. The Committee suggested the matter should be taken up in the Library Committee as soon as possible.

7. Expenditure on Statutory bodies.

Deans Committee felt that the recommendation made by the committee was unrealistic.

(b) Indirect resource generation.

Deans Committee made the following further recommendation

(iii) The interest accruing from the 30% of the over-head charges on projects which should be the Universities share of the project money should be put in the Special Fund.

9.(b)(i) The Committee accepted the recommendation of the Deans' Sub-Committee.

The Deans Committee also recommended that if necessary external uses of Computer Centre should be charged a suitable fee.

9.(b)(2) The Deans' Committee accepted the recommendation of the sub-committee.

9.(b)(3) The Deans Committee accepted the recommendation of the committee.

The Deans' Committee agreed shared the sentiment of the sub-Committee at 9(b) but it expressed doubt about the recommendation for honorarium

(c) Direct resource generation

(c)(1) The Deans' Committee accepted the recommendation regarding upper-campus or Mayurbhanj Complex. About the proposal to turn Mayurbhanj Palace and its surroundings into a 5* hotel complex., the Deans Committee had serious doubts. Instead, it preferred a proposal to turn Mayurbhanj Place into a Guest house run professional on contract basis with suitable arrangement for permanent reservation of rooms for our guests at concessional rates.

(c)(2) Regarding Bijni Complex, the Deans Committee decided that instead of converting into a commercial complex it should be kept reserved for starting new departments like M.B.A., M.C.A., ecc. in near future.

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5:8- Others-

(i) Central Universities information Exchange Initiative.

EC:105:99:5:8: (i): This item is withdrawn by the Chair.

(ii) Closure of ISOSB and transfer of the Faculty Members.

EC:105:99:5:8: (ii): The Council considered the continuance of the ISOS & BP as a Centre of Study and RESOLVED that the matter be taken up with the UGC.

(iii) NEHU Representatives to the Governing Body of Colleges.

EC:105:99:5:8: (iii): The Council considered the names of the University representatives to the Governing Bodies of the following Colleges and RESOLVED to approve the same.

Name of the College	NEHU Representatives
1. St. Edmund's College	Dr. K. Chatterjee upto 2.2.2001
2. Tirot Singh Memorial College	1. Prof.(Ms) Helen Giri For 3 Years 2. Dr. MK Das - do -
3. Saitual College, Saitual.	1. Dr. Lianzela - do - 2. Prof. KP Nath. - do -
4. Sngap Syiem College, Mawkyrwat.	1. Dr.ED Thomas - do - 2. Dr. Veena Saraf. - do -
5. Khawzawl College, Khawzawl.	1. Dr. Margareth Ch. Zama - do - 2. Dr. PK Gupta. - do -
6. Buddha Bhanu Saraswati, Shillong.	1. Prof. CS Shastry - do - 2. Prof. Pramod Tandon. - do -
7. Greater Mawlai College.	Prof. SK Srivastava - do - Prof. Kamal Kumar. - do -