

(vi) Re-organisation of the Centres of Studies
in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor constituted a Committee to look into the matter regarding re-organisation of the Centres of Studies in the University and the Committee report Annexure-'A' was placed before the 54th Academic Council meeting held on 21st and 22nd November, 1996. The Council considered the recommendations of the Committee and RESOLVED to accept the recommendations in toto . The Council further RESOLVED that the Vice-Chancellor may appoint a Committee to go into the details of implementation and also be recommend necessary modifications in the relevant Ordinances.

The matter is placed before the Council for consideration.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RE-ORGANISATION OF CENTRES OF STUDIES

The Committee on Re-organisation of Centres of Studies met on 4.11.96, 8.11.96 and 11.11.96 and recommend as follows :

1. The Committee took note of the fact that for the past several years the matters of making Centres more viable have been subjects of concern for the University community at large, the various statutory bodies as well as the Centres themselves. The matters remain unresolved for over years for various reasons. This situation is neither ideal nor desirable and needs to be faced squarely and boldly.

2. The Committee identified the following problems to make the centres more effective and productive in relation to the overall objectives of the University as well as the specific objectives of each of the centres of studies.

(a) Problems of usage of linkages between the centres & departments, centres & the School system and also between the centres;

(b) In-adequate implementation of the provisions for participation of personnel in centres in departments and the vice versa;

(c) Correct and purposeful location of centres in the Schools to be effective;

(d) Absence of clear-cut mandate for each of the centres in regards to measurable activities and their effectiveness;

(e) Shortage of man-power and infrastructure to continue with activities.

3. The above difficulties could be classified in two ways;

(i) those structural in nature and (ii) those organisational in nature. Matters relating to internal functioning of the centres could be considered structural and those relating to their place in the University system as organisational in nature.

4. The committee addressed the organisational issues first and proposes the following: The centres need to be reorganised through appropriate mergers, since some are just one person centres and thus, less effective. The mergers may be in the following way: (a) Centre for Cont. & Adult Education, Centre for Distance Education and Centre for Science Education can be merged into one centre with a new nomenclature of Centre for supportive Learning Systems(CSLS). However, the original three centres may operate as units with their specific objectives. Since there are certain degrees of commonalties between the centres, the other faculties also can be utilised in a cross cell activities. Supporting man-power can be saved to be deployed into a number of self-financing and other programmes envisaged during the Ninth Plan period; (b) The centre for Literary and Cultural Studies and Centre for Creative Arts could be merged into one with a new nomenclature of Centre for Cultural and Creative Studies. However, the original two centres will operate as units with their specific objectives;

(c) Since, issues of environment and ecology have acquired an extremely important status in the society in general and the region in specific, the Centre for Eco-Development will be renamed as Centre for Environmental Studies, but needs to be supported with man-power and infrastructure to make it an important centre of research, training and dissemination of knowledge not only in the region, but in the whole country;

(d) The Centre for Applied Statistics will remain as it is;

(e) The Centre for Computer Science being a wholly service centre, may be restructured to impart training for short term professional courses;

(f) Centres like USIC and RSIC may continue with their activities as of now since they come under specific schemes of UGC and the DST respectively. Their needs of infrastructure and man-power however, may also be looked into;

(g) The committee also proposes a certain relocation of the centre in various Schools to make them more effective after they are reorganised.

Centre for Supportive Learning Systems(CSLs)	-School of Humanities & Education
Centre for Cultural & Creative Studies(CCCS)	-School of Social Sc.
Centre for Environmental Studies(CE)	-School of Human & Environmental Sciences
Computer Centre, USIC & RSIC	-School of Physical Sc.
Centre for Applied Statistics	- do - (no change)

5. The structural issues could be addressed in the following way: (a) A regulation may be framed under NEHU Ordinance provision OAll on the exact nature of objectives, goals and activities of each of the centres. This would greatly facilitate the activities in various centres of studies and their measurable goals and functioning. It would also help in supporting them with man-power, infrastructure and finances in realising those goals and carrying out the specific activities. It may be noted, that while a single Ordinance can take care of the activities of all the departments, the very heterogeneous nature of the centres need greater specifications in each case.

(b) Using the concept of "adjunct faculties" and "guest faculties" would greatly enhanced the effectiveness of not only of the Centres, but also the departments. In this respect a draft has been prepared by Prof.A.C.Mohapatra as requested by the Committee. This would provide linkages between the Centres and the departments, centres as well as between departments. It would also meet a long felt need of the centres to participate in teaching programmes as well as to supervise research. It may be noted, while such competence and expertise is already available within the centres, the University was unable to utilise them in light of existing provision and rigidity. The above concepts provide sufficient flexibility to faculties in the centres to participate in teaching and research programmes in the University.

(c) Centres may be provided with Rs.5000/- per year under maintenance grant as seed money to prepare major research projects proposals, which could be upto Rs.10,000.00 for larger Centres. This would encourage the faculties to bring in more research projects which pay off the expenditure in form of OHC.

(d) The Centres may be provided with Rs.5000/- per year separately under the maintenance grant for individual faculty research/extension activities/to start a new programmes of courses, especially to the junior or middle level faculties. Such supportive actions would reactivate the activities in Centres. On the other hand, it will set in accountability for individual faculty members, if they are not effective or active despite the fact of availability funds even of a token nature.

(e) In case of merger of Centres, the respective centre Heads would continue to look after their respective programmes and the overall maintenance allocatiob also be merged and seaparately set aside for the components within the centres. The responsibility of the ongoing schemes and their ICs would also remain unchanged unless otherwise desired by the Vice Chancellor.

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(M.S. Sangma)
Chairman

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- (iv) Identification of the Common Courses/Allied and Cognate Deptts for the constitution of the BPGS in Linguistics.

No:EC:91:96:5:8:(iv): The Council considered the identification of allied and cognate subjects for the purpose of constitution of the Board of Post-Graduate Studies in Linguistics and RESOLVED to approve the same.

- (v) National Assessment and Accreditation Council Enhancing quality in Higher Education.

No:EC:91:96:5:8:(v): The Council considered the recommendation of the Committee appointed to look into the NAAC and RESOLVED to authorise the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a Committee consisting of employees of the University and also students if necessary and the Council also RESOLVED that the term of the Committee should be for a period of two years with 50% of the members of the first term only retiring after the end of one year so as to ensure representation of all employees. The Council, further authorised the Vice-Chancellor to appoint a Member-Secretary of the "Internal Quality Assurance Cell".

- (vi) Re-organisation of the Centres of Studies in the University.

No:EC:91:96:5:8:(vi): The Council considered the re-organisation of the Centres of Studies and RESOLVED to accept the decision of the Academic Council.

- (vii) Panel of names for Selection Committee for Faculty selection-Department of Mathematics and Mizo.

No:EC:91:96:5:8:(vii): The Council considered the Panel of Experts for the Selection Committee for the Departments of Mathematics and Mizo and RESOLVED to approve the same.

- (viii) NEHU Representatives in the Governing Body of the affiliated Colleges.

No:EC:91:96:5:8:(viii): The Council considered the constitution of the Governing Bodies of the Colleges affiliated to the North-Eastern Hill University and while noting the same RESOLVED that necessary action may be taken in cases where the term of the Governing Bodies and the term of membership of the University's Representatives has lapsed.