

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University held at J&K House, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi on September 30, 2000.

PRESENT

- 01- Chancellor (in the Chair)
- 02- Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur
- 03- Shri Ajay G. Pirmal
- 04- Prof. P. Rama Rao
- 05- Miss Sushma Choudhary
- 06- Prof. M.Y. Qadiri
- 07- Shri B.B. Vyas
- 08- Shri H.L. Maini (Special Invitee)
- 09- Dr. Roddam Narasimha (Special invitee)
- 10- Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria

Before the agenda was taken up, the chancellor welcomed the members of the first meeting of the Executive council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and thanked them for having accepted to be members of the Council. He said that he was presiding over the meeting as the Vice-chancellor of the University was still to be appointed.

The Chancellor made the following observations:-

(i) The University would aim at becoming an institution of real excellence and would endeavour to produce world-class professionals, encouraging them to combine a humanitarian or spiritual outlook with a scientific temper. A highly technical University in a developing region of the country would also help in bringing about an improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the local people.

(ii) Initially, a provision of Rs.20 crores has been set apart by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board as a foundation grant for the University, with a provision for a recurring grant of Rs. 3 crores per annum. However, this amount would not be sufficient and efforts would require to be made to find ways to raise additional resources through donations and grants from philanthropic organizations and persons.

(iii) The University will seek to achieve harmony with the environment and surroundings which go with the spirit and flavour of the nearby Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. The University will come up in phases. In the first phase, Schools of Informational Technology, Management Studies and Plant Biotechnology are proposed to be started, along with a Centre of Indian Philosophy and Culture.

(iv) The focus of the University would be on high quality education and its thrust would be to equip the

students with professional skills which will open good employment opportunities for them.

(v) The courses and instructions may need to be arranged in certain areas of studies in collaboration with institutions of international repute in India and abroad. We will look out for opportunities to involve Indian living abroad also in fulfilling the vision we have for the University.

(vi) Our efforts shall be to ensure that the campus and buildings including hostels have all the essential facilities and modern equipment, but without luxurious frills. The ambience should reflect functional simplicity and serious purpose.

(vii) The University will try to attract an excellent faculty through an extensive process of search and selection and we may have to even consider granting additional emoluments/perks on individual basis. Initially, arrangements may have to be made for the staff to commute from Jammu to the site of the University and back, but ultimately the campus should develop into a small township with various facilities available within the campus.

(viii) On the financial side, efforts may require to be made to seek possible partners in some of the projects of the University and to reach out to devotees of Mata

Vaishno Devi in India and abroad to give liberal donations.

(ix) The Executive Council has been entrusted with the task and responsibility of over-seeing the establishment of this institution of our dreams and providing guidance and direction to the functionaries of the University, to achieve its objectives and goals.

Concluding his opening remarks, the Chancellor said that with the blessing of Mata, this dream project will take shape on the expected lines and a vision would turn into reality.

Thereafter, the agenda was taken up for consideration.

Item-1

Considered the nomination of two members on the Search Committee which would recommend a panel of four persons for appointment to the post of Vice-chancellor.

Resolved that the following be nominated as members of the Search Committee:

- i) Dr. Roddam Narasimha, Director National Institute of Advance Studies, 72

Jaladrishni Layout, New Bel road,
Bangalore-560094.

- ii) Shri Dewang Metha, President, National Association of Software and Service Companies, International Youth Centre, Circular road, ChanakyaPuri, New Delhi.

Item-2

Considered the Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted by the Ed.CIL.

Prof. S.A.A. Alvi, Chief Consultant of Ed.CIL, made a presentation and explained the main features of the report. He said , interalia, that a good University should have good faculty, good students, good environment and good infrastructure. He suggested that the University should modernize its office functioning right from the very beginning and introduce a Management Information System.

The members made following suggestions:-

- i) There should be regular arrangements for faculty to have interaction with students even after classes and office hours.
- ii) Provision should be made for students to have clubs in the areas of their interest and they

should be encouraged to participate in club activities.

- iii) Academic guides for groups of 8-10 students should be designed. There should also be a system of having residential masters/guides to take care of problems of students in their respective hostels.
- iv) Teacher- student ratio should be around 1:10
- v) To attract and invite visiting and adjunct faculty, the University should have a separate faculty house.
- vi) The pay scales of teachers and the nomenclature of teaching/non-teaching posts be delinked from those of the UGC scales and posts.
- vii) Separate corpus may be created for each School as an incentive to augment resources for its development and each school should be given functional freedom for better management and growth.
- viii) Special capsule courses be arranged and run in various Departments/Schools.
- ix) Library would need bigger investment than projected in DPR as a rich library is a must for a good University.
- x) The cost of acquisition of land and construction of buildings is likely to exceed the estimated cost projected in the DPR and, therefore, the

updated costs should be worked out and kept in view.

- xi) The University should create a publicity wing and bring out a brochure for general information to enable people to know the essential facts and details about the University.
- xii) Modern management systems be introduced for administering and running the affairs of the University.
- xiii) Separate fee structure be introduced for NRI students.
- xiv) Admissions to various courses be made through a common and transparent entrance test.
- xv) Faculty be recruited through a process of careful selection.
- xvi) The Vice-Chancellor should be kept relatively free from routine work so as to be able to spare time for raising additional resources, creating national and international linkages and attracting good faculty.

The Detailed Project Report was resolved to be accepted in principle, subject to above observations and suggestions. It was further resolved that the University should continue its association with the Ed.CIL during the process of execution of the University project on terms to be mutually agreed upon.

Item-3

Considering Report on the progress of acquisition of land for setting up the Campus of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

The site plan of the proposed land along with draft master plan was displayed before the meeting of the Executive Council. It was explained that some changes were contemplated in the master plan, in consultation with the short-listed architects, and that land measuring 400 acres was proposed to be acquired.

It was resolved that the report be noted.

Item-4

Considered the report about the appointment of Architects for the University.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Item-5

Considered report about the status of progress towards the establishment of the University.

Resolved that the report be recorded. It was observed that although the schedule was very tight, efforts should be made to follow the time-frame.

Item-6

Discussed matters regarding the courses to be run, degrees to be awarded, contents and thrust of the courses and phasing of proposed courses.

Resolved that the following courses may be started in the first phase:-

- i) School of Information Technology
B. Tech.
M. Tech.
PH.D.
- ii) School of Management Studies
MBA
- iii) School of Plant Biotechnology
M.Sc.
Ph.D.
- iv) School of Indian Philosophy and Culture
Ph.D.

The syllabi and contents of the courses be finalized soon after the faculty is appointed keeping in view the thrust areas which are in greater demand and, if

possible, in consultation or collaboration with renowned foreign Universities.

Item-7

Discussed the subject of a vision statement in respect of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and the points to be high-lighted in it.

Resolved that the services of a professional be engaged to prepare a 'vision statement'. Arising out of the discussion, it was also resolved to have a logo of the University designed through an all India competition.

Item-8

With the permission of the chair, the matter regarding the appointment of Project Director-cum-Registrar of the University was discussed. The Chancellor informed the members that Dr. C.M. Seth, an officer of the J&K Cadre of Indian Forest Service, presently working as Conservator of Forests, West Circle, Jammu, has been found suitable for this post and it was proposed to appoint him on deputation basis initially for a period of two years. The J&K Government has been requested to spare the services of the officer.

It was resolved to approve the proposal.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the
Chair.

Sd/-
Project Director

Sd/-
Chancellor