



No.SGO/AIU/UGC/2014
August 27, 2014

Dear Vice Chancellor/Director,

You may be aware that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Hari Gautam, former Chairman of the University Grants Commission to review the University Grants Commission for its restructuring and strengthening to address imperatives and challenges in the Higher Education Sector. The terms of reference of the committee reads as under:

1. Evaluation of the performance of the University Grants Commission in coordinating and determining standards of education in universities, conducting an audit of its regulatory reach and identifying strengths and weaknesses on this aspect. (This will also include an evaluation of the performance of the Regional Offices and the Inter University Centres of the University Grants Commission).
2. Requirement of regulatory space for the University Grants Commission vis-a-vis other regulatory bodies for providing educational leadership in the higher education sector.
3. Assessment of regulatory space for the University Grants Commission vis-a-vis autonomy and accountability of Universities and Colleges and measures to reinforce the desired regulatory role.
4. Analysis of the regulatory function vis-a-vis grant disbursing function of the University Grants Commission and recommending changes in the balance between the twin functions.
5. To suggest ways and means to set up a robust accreditation system in the higher education sector and to revamp NAAC to meet the challenges of mandatory accreditation.
6. Use of information and communication technology, along with business process reengineering for ushering in e-governance and transparency in UGC's functioning.
7. Revamping the grant disbursing function of the University Grants Commission to introduce effectiveness and efficiency for timely utilisation of grants.
8. To introduce performance based system of release of funds and to align it with RUSA guidelines.
9. Measures for effectively regulating distance education and online education in the country and to harness the technology for enabling access to higher educational institutions.
10. Analyse the way University Grants Commission staff is organised in head office and regional offices and suggest re-structuring of the entire UGC including its regional offices.

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11. New measures for enhancing student mobility and internationalisation of the higher education sector.
12. Measures for reinvigorating the teaching environment in Universities and Colleges
13. Measures for enhancing quality research, particularly research in Basic Sciences, and ushering a climate of innovation in higher education sector in the country.
14. Regulation of Private Not-for-Profit entities in higher education and also suggest measures to curb commercialization.

It is clear that besides reviewing the present status and evaluating the performance of the University Grants Commission, the mandate of the Committee encompass a wide ranging issues having serious implications on the governance, regulations and financing of higher education in the country.

Association of Indian Universities (AIU) being a major stakeholder in the higher education policy would like to present its considered view before the committee. I solicit your kind indulgence in this regard to help the AIU form its views on each of the important issues emanating from the above terms of reference.

I shall be grateful to receive your considered views and comments by e-mail at sgoffice@aiuweb.org at the earliest, preferably within two weeks from the date of receipt of this letter, so that the same could be collated and summarised for consideration by the Governing Council.

Thanking You,

Yours Sincerely



(Furqan Qamar)

All Vice Chancellors/Directors of
Member Universities/Institutions