

# **A DECADE OF SERVICE IN THE CAUSE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TAMIL NADU**

## **1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL**

The National Policy on Education, 1986 of the Government of India has recommended that the State level planning and coordination of higher education should be done through a State Council for Higher Education. Following this, the University Grants Commission set up a Committee in this regard and the said Committee recommended that there was a pressing need for an effective machinery for promotion and coordination of higher education at the State level and coordination of State level programmes with those of the University Grants Commission.

The Government of Tamil Nadu accordingly decided to establish a State Council for Higher Education and passed a Bill (No.40 of 1992) in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly which received the assent of the Governor on 10.7.92 and the Bill thus became an Act. And the Council came into being on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1992.

## **2. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL**

The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education is headed by the Hon'ble Minister for Education of the Government of Tamil Nadu as its Chairman and has the following composition:

- Vice-Chairman
- Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu

- Secretary to Government - Higher Education Department
- Secretary to Government – Finance Department
- Secretary, University Grants Commission
- Director of Collegiate Education
- Director of Technical Education
- One member nominated by the Government from among eminent academicians or educational administrators
- One member nominated by the Government from among eminent scientists or engineers
- One member nominated by the Government from among industrialists of high repute who have contributed to the cause of higher education
- Two members nominated by the Government from among Vice-Chancellors of the Universities including Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities in this State, if any
- Not more than three eminent educationists co-opted by the Council and
- A full time Member-Secretary appointed by the Government

Note: Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu was included as Member of the Council by amendment LA Bill No.19 of 1999.

The succession lists of the three main functionaries of the Council, i.e. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Member-Secretary are given in Annexure.

### **3. ADVISORY BOARD OF VICE-CHANCELLORS**

At the first meeting of the Council held on 18.3.93, it was decided that there be a constant and continuing rapport

between the State Council and the Vice-Chancellors of Universities in Tamil Nadu, so that the Council could make suggestions and recommendations based on the considered views and suggestions of the Vice-Chancellors. To this end an Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors was constituted by the Government in their Government Order No.374 Education (H2) Department dated 8.4.93.

#### **4. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE ADVISORY BOARD**

During the period November 1992-March 2002 the Council met 37 times and the Advisory Board met 31 times. As many as 485 items were discussed at the Council meetings and 303 items at the Advisory Board meetings.

#### **5. ACTIVITIES OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COUNCIL AND THE ADVISORY BOARD**

The functions of the Council may be broadly classified as follows: Advisory, Administrative and Coordination. Many of the activities of the Council may fall on more than one function. Hence it may be difficult to group the activities and recommendations under particular heads. However, an attempt is made here to group them under the following heads:

- Academic Issues
- Administrative Issues
- Financial Issues
- Educational System
- Release of Funds
- Coordination of the System

## **6. ACADEMIC ISSUES**

6.1 The present scenario in the field of higher education is just an imprint of a system formulated in the nineteenth century. The main structure of the courses which were designed to cater to the needs of the administration of the pre-independence days is being followed even now, to a great extent by almost all universities. To cater to the present day societal needs, revamping of the system with reference to the course content, teaching-learning process and the conduct of the examination etc. has become essential.

While bringing about the foregoing changes, the objective i.e. that the qualifications acquired by a student in higher education should be such as to equip him for the task of performing a meaningful role in helping society to develop and to practise human values, should be borne in mind. Keeping this in view, the Council has endeavoured to fulfil its avowed task, on the following lines:

### **6.2 Courses of Studies**

As a first step to make the courses of studies relevant and need based, the Council discussed with the Universities the restructuring and redesigning of courses. During 93-94, the Universities in general took up revision of syllabi for UG and PG courses. Keeping in view the societal needs as well as the requirements for competitive examinations, appropriate changes have been made by various institutions.

As a next step during 1994, two week-long seminars were organised in association with the British Council at Mother Teresa Women's University and Annamalai University for University and College teachers of English on

“Renewal of Curriculum in English Language and Literature”.

A meeting of the Chairmen and Members of Boards of Studies for UG and PG courses in History and Economics of all the Universities was organised during 1994. They discussed and finalised the recommendations on “Restructuring of courses in Humanities” for adoption by the Universities.

More recently the Council took note of the necessity to guide the Universities on the issue of revision of syllabi for the various courses and decided to organise a series of seminars for the preparation of model syllabi for various undergraduate courses. As all the students of the undergraduate courses in Arts and Science Colleges are required to study two languages and as the students passing out of our colleges in general lack communicative skills the Council decided to organise the first seminar in the series on the topic of “Language Education in the Next Decade”.

Each University was requested to nominate two teachers who are members of the Boards of UG Studies in English and two teachers belonging to the Boards of Studies in Tamil. Similarly the autonomous colleges were also requested to nominate teachers in English and Tamil. The report of the Seminar was widely circulated for comments. A group of experts studied the comments and the revamped model syllabi of Part I (Tamil) and Part II (English) for undergraduate classes were finalised. This was approved by the Council and the same has been circulated to all Universities and autonomous colleges for consideration and adoption.

As a sequel to the seminar on language education, the Council organised in collaboration with University of

Madras a seminar on “Commerce and Management Education in the Next Decade” in September 1998. The seminar highlighted the necessity to improve the communicative and problem solving skills, update certain subjects like Accountancy, Banking Law, International Marketing, etc. and clearly define the unique features of the two courses in terms of the differences in the basics, course aims, course thrusts, skills and curriculum. The final report of the workshop was approved by the Council and circulated to all the Universities and autonomous colleges for consideration and adoption.

Similar seminars have been conducted in the following subjects also and the reports are being widely circulated for adoption:

- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Computer Science
- Physics
- Chemistry

The issue of prescribing uniform syllabi for all the Universities of the State in respect of arts and science courses was raised in the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors during the year 2000. After discussions, the Board resolved as follows:

- The framework of syllabus for various courses suggested by the University Grants Commission may be taken as a basis for further upgradation as and when required.
- The Boards of Studies of the Universities should meet frequently and Conveners of Boards of Studies of all Universities and subject experts should meet at

least once in a year for updating the syllabi, wherever necessary.

- The framework suggested by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education for some subjects may be used by the Universities and colleges which will provide certain degree of uniformity.
- The structure of the curriculum and regulations like number of papers, number of lectures, lab hours should be compatible among various Universities and there should be no difference between regular courses and courses offered through distance mode.

### **6.3 Vocationalisation of UG Courses**

In order to enhance the opportunities for employment of our young graduates, the UGC proposed to support the Universities and colleges to vocationalise the UG courses. It identified 35 vocational courses. The Council brought this information to the notice of the Universities and requested them to prepare themselves for getting assistance from UGC and introducing the vocational courses. The Bharathiar University organised a two-day workshop on vocationalisation of UG courses during March 1995 for the benefit of the Principals and Lecturers.

During 1997, the Council took note of the fact that a number of colleges have vocationalised their programmes with aid from UGC. Some Universities have introduced vocational components in their courses. Therefore a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. K. Aludiapillai, IAS (Retd.), former Vice-Chancellor to study the present stage of vocationalisation and make recommendations. The report submitted by the Committee

was considered and the following recommendations were made in respect of vocationalisation of higher education:

- The benefit of the UGC vocational courses shall be extended to as many institutions of higher education as possible without discrimination. Government, aided, unaided, autonomous and non autonomous colleges may be encouraged to start courses which may increase opportunities of employment and employability among the learners.
- With the desirability of making the UGC vocational programme self-supporting after the plan period, the existing fee-structure may be reviewed and the cost of running these courses may be met from student fees to a large extent. Such a fee structure will be differential according to the resource necessary for different vocational courses.
- Alternatives to the UGC programme of vocationalisation ought to be encouraged by offering incentives to the institutions which effectively operate them.
- The University may maximize the benefits of the UGC vocational programme by extending it to more number of colleges.
- A separate officer of the University may be entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing vocational programmes and of liaising with the UGC, the Council and the Government.
- The choice of a vocational course of the UGC shall depend on (a) the environment, (b) placement



availability and (c) nexus to agencies which offer on-the-job training.

- Self-generation of funds alone can sustain the UGC programme. Faculty and the institution may offer consultancy services to chosen clientele for this purpose.
- The College may consider offering short term and long term vocational programmes either outside or inside the schedule and curriculum in order to promote self-employment through entrepreneurial initiative. Local residents, who are not students of the college, may also benefit from them.

## **6.4 New Courses**

The Council has been encouraging the Universities to devise new need-based courses as specialisation in higher education has to go on simultaneously with vitalization of the existing programmes in order to cater to the needs of a heterogeneous society such as ours.

The Council noted with concern that many of the teachers in the unaided engineering colleges and polytechnics do not possess PG degrees. As a large number of youngsters are passing through these colleges and polytechnics, it is absolutely necessary that a scheme is to be devised to upgrade the qualifications of the teachers of these institutions. Therefore, the Council has taken initiative to persuade the reputed institutions in the State to start M.S. Degree in Engineering; this degree is to consist of a study for one semester or two summer vacations at the institutions offering the programme and research work for one year at the college where the teacher is employed. Presently, IIT

Chennai and Anna University are offering such courses and other reputed colleges are likely to introduce this programme in the near future.

## **6.5 Academic Calendar**

The Council had on more than one occasion considered the adoption of a common academic calendar, as the colleges have been experiencing difficulties in providing at least 180 teaching days before the commencement of the University examinations. During 1994, the Council recommended that all Universities may adopt a common academic calendar based on the model given by the Bharathidasan University. The Common Academic Calendar provides for twin vacation each of 35-40 days duration. This would ensure completion of evaluation work during the vacation itself for each semester and the publication of results in time.

In 1996, the Council made the following additional recommendations:

- Twin Vacation System should be implemented in Colleges and the vacation period for each University area may be declared by the University.
- Door Valuation of answer scripts should be adopted in respect of examinations of Distance Education.
- Steps may be taken for conducting examinations in all the Universities during the same period.

Again during the year 2000, the Council reviewed the implementation of the Twin Vacation System and recommended that the working hours per day may be

increased to 6 hours for 5 days in a week as proposed by the Director of Collegiate Education and the calendar may be finalised by each University for its jurisdiction.

## **6.6 Twin or Triple Major System**

The Advisory Board considered the need for introduction of twin or triple major schemes at the undergraduate level and recommended that the universities may consider the starting of two and three major schemes at the undergraduate level in addition to the existing single major scheme as the two and three major schemes may be more beneficial to some students.

## **6.7 Simultaneous Studies and Dual Degree Programmes**

In order to provide opportunities for the students to equip themselves better to face competitive examinations and widen the scope for employment of the students undergoing PG and UG courses in colleges and Universities, the Council recommended to the Universities to so amend their statutes and regulations as to permit the students to concurrently take Diploma/Certificate Courses if they so desire. The Universities have since started permitting students to concurrently pursue Degree/Diploma Courses while doing UG and PG courses as regular day courses.

Later during the year 2000, the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors considered the necessity for making a more permanent arrangement for the benefit of the students who would like to learn additional subjects and incidentally acquire an additional degree during an extended period of UG studies. It accepted the concept of dual degree programmes and proposed to limit it to I.T. courses in the

initial stages. The Universities were requested to take necessary steps for introduction of dual degree programmes.

### **6.8 Preparation of Text Books in Tamil**

An important constraint in implementation of the Tamil medium scheme at the tertiary level is the non-availability of sufficient number of standard textbooks in Tamil. In order to meet the demand for Tamil medium textbooks, the Council recommended that each University may undertake the responsibility to publish text books in a particular subject. Accordingly each University was allotted a subject of its choice. The State Government was approached for release of grants. The State Government was also kind enough to release Rs.77.25 lakhs to the various Universities in the State for preparation of textbooks. More than 73 books have been published by the Universities under this scheme and more books are under preparation.

### **6.9 Commencement of Courses in Periyar University**

The commencement of courses in Periyar University was discussed by the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors and the Council and the following recommendations were made to the Government:

- Instead of commencing a separate department for every arts and science subject, the University may start different schools each covering various allied disciplines.
- Every school should frame syllabi according to the local requirements.

The Government have also accepted the recommendations and issued appropriate orders.

## **6.10 Future Programmes of Tamil University**

Tamil University was established in the year 1981 and since then it has been facing several problems. Even though lack of adequate finances is one of the main reasons for the problems, experience has shown that there are other issues which require attention. Therefore, the Council decided to constitute a Committee to study the present status of the University and make recommendations for future programmes under the Convenorship of the Member-Secretary, Dr. S. Muthukumaran with Prof. K. Aludiapillai, IAS (Retd.), Former Vice-Chancellor and Prof. E. Sundaramoorthy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University as Members. The Committee has given its report bringing out the present state in fulfilling the objectives of the University and what can be done to enable the University to make strides in advancing the cause of Tamil Language and Culture.

## **6.11 Relationship between Autonomous Colleges and the Parent Universities**

Several Autonomous Colleges have been experiencing problems in designing their courses to the satisfaction of the parent University. During the year 2001, both the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors and the Council considered this issue. It was resolved that the note prepared by the Member-Secretary of the Council on this issue may be considered by the universities and the various suggestions made may be adopted with or without modifications in order to promote the spirit of autonomy in the interest of the teaching-learning process.

## **6.12 Constitution of Faculties and Boards of Studies in Engineering**

The Council considered the difficulties experienced in the working of the various academic bodies of the Universities and advised the Universities to constitute the faculties as provided for in their Statutes so that the faculties may act as connecting links between Boards of Studies and Academic Councils. They were further advised to arrange for meetings of the Board of Studies, Faculties, and Academic Councils as often as required subject to a minimum of one meeting per year.

The Council noted that several new branches have emerged in engineering sciences in the recent past and it has become impossible for a single Board of Studies in Engineering to cater to all the various branches. Hence the Council recommended that it is better to have separate Boards with qualified experts as Chairman for each branch of engineering and to discontinue the present practice of having the Director of Technical Education as Chairman of all the Boards of Studies in Engineering in the various Universities.

## **6.13 Conduct of Common Entrance Test for MBA and MCA Courses**

A large number of colleges is offering MBA and MCA courses and each one of them is calling for applications and conducting entrance tests. As this causes great hardship to the boys and girls aspiring to join these courses, the Council, during 1999, discussed the issue of conducting of common entrance test for MBA and MCA courses and recommended that Universities may conduct entrance tests for admission to MBA and MCA courses offered by the institutions under

their jurisdiction and the colleges need not conduct any entrance tests for admission. The colleges should give due weightage to the scores of the entrance test and make admissions subject to the norms prescribed by the Government in respect of reservations etc. The colleges may decide on their own regarding conduct of interviews.

Later during 2001, this issue again came up for discussion as the situation changed when the Anna University Amendment Bill was passed. Taking into consideration the present practice of conducting of entrance test by the Director of Collegiate Education for MCA programmes offered by the Government colleges and the proposed common test by the Anna University for its affiliated engineering colleges, the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors resolved to recommend the conduct of a common entrance test for MBA and MCA programmes in the State and also arrange for single window admission.

#### **6.14 Franchising University Education through Private Institutions**

The Council took note during 2001 that franchising private institutions to offer degree programmes of the Universities in the distance education mode has been introduced by some of the Universities in the State. The University Grants Commission was seized of this issue as a number of institutions in other parts of the country have also gone in, in a big way, for franchising degree programmes through private institutions. The University Grants Commission sent a circular to all universities to discontinue this practice. This was considered by the Council during 2001 and it was resolved that the recommendations of the UGC may be strictly followed by all the universities. It was

also resolved that the following points may be considered by the Vice-Chancellors:

- Standard Norms and Framework for operating the Study Centres for the Distance/Correspondence Education
- Conducting common Term End Examinations for the regular and the correspondence courses
- Digitizing the lessons/study materials in Multimedia formats for the use of students in the correspondence courses

The Council constituted a Committee with Dr. M. Mariappan, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University as Convenor and Rev. Fr. Dr. S. Ignaci Muthu, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University and Dr. A. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University as members to go into all aspects of distance education and give a report. The report is awaited.

## **6.15 Examination Reforms**

Examination is the tool used by the Universities to assess the competence of the students who have undergone a course of study in the University, its affiliated colleges or its distance education wing. The public at large rate a University in general by the performance of the University in the conduct of the examinations and declaration of results. In this particular activity of the University even a small lapse is not tolerated. Public expects that the results declared truly reflect the knowledge and abilities of the students. Therefore, the Council has been showing special attention to examination reforms.



During 1998, the Advisory Board discussed the issue of examination reforms and its observations were considered by the Council. The Council recommended to the Universities and autonomous colleges as follows:

- Credit system and Continuous Internal Assessment may be introduced as early as possible.
- Reforms may be introduced in the examination system to ensure right to information and transparency in evaluation and accountability.
- There must be scope for retotalling and revaluation of answer papers of all examinations.
- The question papers may be restructured in tune with the recommendations of University Grants Commission in this regard.

The Council further recommended to the Universities to cluster together a group of Government and aided colleges if found necessary to facilitate introduction of credit system.

These recommendations have been circulated to all Universities and autonomous colleges for consideration and adoption.

During 1999, while reiterating that the examination reforms recommended by the Council be implemented early, the Advisory Board requested the Universities to establish examination reform cells with UGC aid and requested the Government to give concurrence for such establishment.

Again in 2000, the Council organised a seminar on "Examination Reforms", considered the various issues

involved and made the following additional recommendations:

- Curriculum structure for all the courses should be reviewed and revised once in three years and the syllabus content of the topics included in the curriculum should be updated every year only in those subjects where there is a felt need.
- Since central valuation seems unavoidable at present, it should be ensured that the central valuation does not eat into the 180 working days. As the number of autonomous colleges increases, there is scope for reducing the burden of central valuation in due course. The approach of “Cluster of Colleges” may also be tried for this purpose.
- The practical examinations may be held, as far as possible, during the working days and wherever possible the practice of having external examiners for practical examinations may be dispensed with.
- Total transparency must be practised in evaluation and any student who seeks a copy of the valued answer script should be given the same for which universities may prescribe an appropriate fee.
- Revaluation should be considered as a part of the evaluation process and must be available for a fee for any student who desires the same.
- The Universities may work towards having total internal evaluation and credit system, which will solve most of the problems relating to the present examination system.

## **6.16 Conduct of Convocations**

The Council took note of the adverse effect on the employment prospects and further studies of graduates due to delay in the holding of the convocation and recommended to the Universities to hold the convocation within three months after the last date of examination and in any case before October of each year. If due to any reason, the convocation could not be held within three months, the Universities may consider the possibility of holding the grace function alone at a place and time convenient to the Chancellor so that the degree certificates could be issued soon after and the convocation may be held thereafter on a convenient date.

## **6.17 Entrepreneurship**

With the advent of globalisation and privatization, the scope for employment in the Government sector is dwindling and our youth will have to look for private employment or self-employment. Hence the Government of India made an important suggestion that “Entrepreneurship” be introduced as a subject of study. The Vice-Chancellors of all Universities in Tamil Nadu were addressed to consider the feasibility of introducing “Entrepreneurship” as a subject in the curricula and to get in touch with the Commissioner of Industries for funds for development of entrepreneurship among women. The Anna University, Bharathidasan University, Mother Teresa Women's University and Madurai Kamaraj University have since included entrepreneurship as a subject in the curricula for UG and PG courses. The Madurai Kamaraj University has in fact a separate department now for this discipline, whereas the Anna University and Mother Teresa Women's University are offering a diploma course in entrepreneurship.

## **6.18 Competitive Examinations**

During the year 1993, the Council took note of the fact that the performance of the candidates from Tamil Nadu in the All India Competitive Examinations has not been satisfactory during the past several years. It therefore conducted a seminar during January 1994, with 32 experts comprising Academicians, Administrators, Industrialists, Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants and a few others participating in it. From the papers presented and the discussions that followed during the seminar, a plan of action which includes the establishment of a coaching centre for meritorious candidates was sent to Government for necessary action. Special coaching being arranged since then has definitely yielded fruitful results.

## **6.19 Employment Status of Engineering Graduates of the University of Madras**

There has been a phenomenal growth of technical educational institutions in Tamil Nadu. From just 25 institutions in the year 1990, the number has gone upto 222 in the year 2001. It is not known whether this unprecedented growth of technical institutions and the resulting increase in the output of engineering graduates is matched by a similar growth in job opportunities for engineers. As a first step, it is proposed to make a study of the employment status of engineering graduates from the engineering colleges affiliated to the University of Madras who graduated during the years 1992-96. The study is under progress.

## **6.20 Research**

In order to improve the quality and increase the quantity of research work being carried on in our educational institutions, the Council had made several recommendations.

In 1994, the Council recommended to all the Universities that the ceiling on the number of candidates to be admitted for research under each guide be raised from four to six.

During 1995, a two-day seminar on “Emerging Trends in Educational Research” for Vice-Chancellors and Principals and Professors of Colleges of Education was organised by the Alagappa University with the financial assistance of this Council.

During 1996, the Council noted that a number of departments in the affiliated colleges have been recognised for conducting M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes; but many of them were experiencing difficulties in pursuing research work. It discussed the causes for such difficulties and recommended that the departments recognised for research must be headed by a person with a doctorate degree.

## **6.21 Identification of Centres of Excellence**

In the present context of liberalisation and globalisation there is a necessity to identify the potentials of our Universities and develop Centres of Excellence depending upon the developmental activities of the State and the country. A Committee consisting of three experts from outside the State i.e. Prof. G.J.V.J. Raju, Dr. M.I. Savadatti and Prof. M. Malla Reddy and the Member-Secretary of the

Council was constituted by the Council for this purpose. The Committee gave its report after visiting and examining the proposals of the Universities. This was considered by the Council which recommended to the Government of Tamil Nadu to consider funding of the following centres:

- Centre for Physical Education, Alagappa University
- Paramakalyani Centre for Environmental Sciences, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University
- Centre for Studies on Medicinal Plants, Periyar University
- Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics, Bharathidasan University
- Centre for Earth Sciences, Tamil University
- Centre for Production Engineering, Annamalai University
- Centre for Catalysis, Anna University
- Centre for Genetic Engineering, Madurai Kamaraj University
- Centre for Endocrinology, University of Madras

## **6.22 Internet Facilities**

Development of libraries is essential in the field of research in higher education. For proper utilization of the available information, formation of information centres has become absolutely necessary. During 1995, taking note of the ERNET facilities available in the Universities, they were advised to update the existing ERNET facilities available with them and to go in for INTERNET to enable further exchange of information. Such of those Universities who did not have the facility were advised to link up with the nearest University having the ERNET facility. Considering the importance of development of libraries, in 1997, the Council took initiative to request the Planning Commission

to allot Rs.3 crores for providing Internet facilities at all Universities and in reputed Government colleges. Later during 1999, the Advisory Board recommended that the Universities may adopt new technologies and provide multiplication of Internet access with their own resources and by utilizing the plan provisions for library improvement.

### **6.23 Publication on “Research in Tamil Nadu Universities”**

Every research scholar is expected to prepare a summary of present status of the knowledge in the area of his/her proposed research studies. In order to facilitate the research scholars in the preparation of such a summary, a publication listing research work done during 1996-2000 in the Universities of the State was proposed to be brought out by the Council. Accordingly the details regarding the research in the field of education were collected from various Universities and colleges in the State and a booklet on “Research in Education in Tamil Nadu Universities” (1996-2000) was brought out in March 2002. Details in respect of other subjects are being collected and they will be brought out during the year 2002-2003.

### **6.24 Recommendations on Specific Items**

On several occasions, questions have been raised on specific items and the opinion of the Council or the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors has been solicited by the Government or the Vice-Chancellors. Such questions have been answered in the very next available opportunity. The following is a list of some of the important items along with the views of the Council or the Advisory Board as the case may be:

- As it was found that the syllabi for the XI Std. are not seriously studied by the Higher Secondary students and this leads to the failure of the students to follow the first year subjects at the degree level, the Council recommended to the Government during 1996 that in the entrance examinations to the professional courses the portions covered in XI Std. apart from the portions covered in XII Std. are to be included. This revised pattern of entrance examination may come into force from the academic year 1998-99.
- The Council considered the language policy of the Government and recommended that the State Government may approach the Central Government to recognise Tamil as a classical language and to release special grants for its development to the same extent to which the Central Government provides grant for other classical languages.
- The Council during the year 1998 considered the guidelines issued by the National Council of Teacher Education relating to B.Ed. through Distance Education Mode and recommended to the State Government to amend the Acts of Universities to the effect that the term 'jurisdiction' applies only in respect of granting affiliation to colleges and does not apply to education conducted by the Distance Education Wing.
- The Council during the year 1998 resolved to recommend to Government the reservation of 1% of the seats for outstanding students in NCC, NSS, Scouts and Guides, Indian Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance.



- The Council considered during the year 1998 the existing method of appointment of Principals of colleges. It took note of the necessity for creating a cadre of persons who would have undergone administrative training. It resolved that promotion to the post of Principal must be made by careful selection based on objective criteria and this change over to the proposed method may be made in a period of 3 to 5 years after discussion of this issue in a wider forum.
- On a reference from the Government it was recommended that the Universities may arrange to include the mother's name also in all the forms and documents wherever father's name is required to be mentioned.
- The Universities may fix the last date for admission to the Arts and Science Colleges taking into account the last date of admission to professional colleges.
- The Universities may consider the feasibility of exempting the Government colleges from the payment of endowment and affiliation fees.
- The Universities may fix the dates of the meetings of the University bodies suitably so that the Government nominees are able to attend the same.
- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council may indicate at the time of accreditation of a college its potential to become autonomous if it so desires.
- The Director of Collegiate Education may provide all necessary support to complete expeditiously the

accreditation process of the colleges which had applied for accreditation.

- The Government may consider appointing the seniormost lecturer with doctoral degree and involved in research activities as the head of the department of the college, wherever it may be necessary.
- Regarding conduct of common entrance tests for admission to PG courses, other than MBA and MCA, the Council reiterated its earlier recommendation that it is not necessary.
- The Council during the year 2000 considered the suggestion of the Government that 'Environment' may be introduced as compulsory subject in all the branches of undergraduate studies and recommended that the concepts of environmental protection be appropriately introduced in each subject of study instead of including environment as a separate subject.
- The Universities have been requested to post their examination results in their websites and also make use of the servers at the NIC. They may permit private organisations also to copy the data or mirror them and post in their websites.
- The Universities have been requested to make optimum use of the emerging information technology by providing email facility to all the students.
- It was also recommended that each University may bring together a core team with sufficient technical

competence which would work with faculty members in developing web-compatible courses using multimedia forms to be offered in the virtual university mode through the Internet.

- The University Grants Commission was requested to include 'Cooperation' as a subject in Paper II in the syllabus for NET.
- The State Government was requested to include experts from the Universities of the State as members while establishing the Tamil Nadu Bio-Technology Board.
- The Vice-Chancellors were requested to make the NSS programme a success by encouraging the NSS Coordinators to implement the programme effectively, encouraging the colleges to conduct special camps without fail, designing the programmes to create awareness among the public about the special schemes of the Government such as rain water harvesting, improvement of wastelands, etc., encouraging the coordinator to devise programmes so as to improve the environment of the educational institutions and helping girls, especially SC/ST girls to continue their studies, create social harmony in areas which are prone to caste clashes and publicise among the students that additional marks are being awarded in recruitment for NSS experience.
- The State Government and the Universities were requested to give wide publicity to the postgraduate programmes being offered under Information Technology in the colleges and Universities.

- It was also resolved to advise all the Universities to take necessary action on the following: to arrange for payment of tuition, examination and other fees by the parents of students through nationalized banks at their place of residence, to adhere in the next academic year to the time schedule that may be finalised by the University before the closure for summer vacation, to create as many central valuation centres as may be necessary to complete the valuation work in a week or 10 days after the last date of examination, arrange for practical training for the engineering students at the end of each year, arrange to include project work relating to the subject of study in the final year of the undergraduate courses in which it is feasible and relevant and arrange for preparation of a database of engineering graduates and postgraduates as per the format to be made available by the higher education department.

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

7.1 In respect of administrative issues this Council not only made recommendations but also organised programmes for training of the University and college staff depending upon the necessity for such programmes.

### **7.2 Seminars for Principals and Other Staff**

Realising the need for updating the knowledge of Principals in management and other functions, the Council collaborated with the Academic Staff Colleges during 1993-94 in the conduct of six Three Day Seminars for Principals. Several resource personnel including those from

National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration delivered lectures on various topics connected with higher education and management of colleges.

The suggestions and recommendations that emerged from the discussions that the Principals had during these seminars on various matters including curriculum development, examination reform, faculty enrichment, students' welfare and accountability were widely circulated for necessary further action.

During the year 1994, Five day seminars were arranged at three places (Chennai, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli) for the Principals of all Government colleges on "Accounting Procedures and Administration". Again during 1995-96, the Council associated with the Madurai Kamaraj University and Bharathiar University in the organization of Seminars of Principals of affiliated colleges. These seminars were useful for exchange of experiences and views of experienced teachers leading towards more effective evaluation in higher education and enforcing effective discipline amongst students so as to shape their future.

The Council arranged during May 1994 for the conduct of one-day workshop on "Accountability in Higher Education" for Principals, Professors and Lecturers of Universities and Colleges at the Avinashilingam Institute of Home Science and Higher Education for Women.

A two-day seminar on "Accounts, Administration and Audit in Government Colleges" was organised during 1994 by the Academic Staff College at Pondicherry for the benefit of Bursars from all Government Colleges.

A two-day Seminar on “Accounting and Financial Management” was organised during 1995 by the Academic Staff College, University of Madras during 1995 for the benefit of Registrars and Finance Officers of Universities of Tamil Nadu.

A workshop for Controllers of Examinations of Universities and autonomous colleges was organised at the Academic Staff College, Tiruchirapalli during 1995.

A seminar on “University Administration” for Registrars and Controllers of Examinations was organised by the Council in October 1998, in order to provide a forum for the University administrators to discuss the problems faced by them and find remedies. Several useful recommendations on computerisation, examination reforms, improvement in degree certificates, generation of funds, implementation of credit system etc. were made. The report was noted by the Council and made available to all the Universities in the State.

During the year 2002-03, it is proposed to conduct a series of seminars for the Principals of constituent colleges, aided colleges and unaided colleges.

### **7.3 Streamlining the procedures of Administrative, Accounting and Financial Management in Universities**

With a view to streamline the financial, accounting and administrative procedures in the Universities of Tamil Nadu a committee headed by Thiru V. Karthikeyan, IAS (Retd) was constituted by the Council during 1993. The Committee gave its report in three parts. These were considered by the Council and approved for adoption by all the Universities. In order to review the implementation of

these recommendations, this Council convened a meeting with the Registrars/Finance Officers of Universities during December 2001. A report in this regard was also sent to the Universities for necessary action. As many of the Universities desire to have training for their non-teaching staff it is proposed to conduct training programmes for the new entrants in the ministerial cadre as well as for others.

#### **7.4 Conduct of SLET Examination**

As it is important that the SLET is conducted regularly for the benefit of the aspiring candidates of our State, and as it was learnt that the Bharathidasan University was reluctant to continue to take the responsibility of conducting this test the Council considered this issue during 2001 and recommended to the Government to nominate Manonmaniam Sundaranar University as the Nodal Agency for conducting SLET for the next three years.

#### **7.5 University Teachers Recruitment Board**

On a reference by the Government regarding the constitution of a University Teachers Recruitment Board for recruitment of teachers of Universities it was recommended that it is not desirable to constitute such a Board for the following reasons:

- The Universities will be handicapped in identifying persons with special requirements that suit the orientation of their teaching and research programmes.
- It would be difficult to incorporate the provision of roster system for each University.

- The academic bond between the teacher and the University would disappear.
- There is a likelihood of considerable delay in filling up the vacant positions.
- The autonomy of the University and the authority of the Chief Executive of the University, i.e. the Vice-Chancellor, will be undermined.

## **7.6 Career Development Scheme**

The Government constituted a committee under the Convenorship of Prof. S. Muthukumaran, then Vice-Chancellor of Bharathidasan University to make recommendations on the proposed Career Development Scheme of the University of Madras. The report of the committee was forwarded to the Council for its comments. The Council considered the same and while endorsing generally the recommendations, suggested certain modifications in the scheme for consideration by the Government.

## **7.7 Teachers Elected to State Assembly or Parliament**

The Council considered the proposed amendments on regulating the period of absence of duty of teachers who are elected to State Assembly or Parliament and recommended that while teachers who are nominated to the Parliament or State Legislature by the appropriate authorities may take leave of absence during their term as Member without losing their seniority or increments, the matter of permitting teachers to contest elections may be deferred and considered



at a later date, in view of the likelihood of unnecessary politicization of campus life by those who intend to contest elections, sometimes even inadvertently, and also in view of the fluidity of the political situation in the country as a whole.

## **7.8 Pension Liability of Teachers**

In the cases of college teachers who get recruited to teaching positions in the Universities, the Government ordered in G.O.No.940 dated 6.10.93 that the concerned University may bear the pension liabilities. The Council considered this issue and as the liability is that of the Government and in the case of all State Government servants, the State Government pays the pension liability to the organization to which the Government servant gets transferred, it recommended that the G.O. may be amended to provide for the State Government paying the capitalized value of the pension liability of the teacher to the University to which the teacher gets recruited.

## **7.9 Recommendations on Specific Items referred to the Council**

The Council gave its considered opinion on various issues referred to it. Some of the more important administrative items which were referred and on which the Council gave its recommendations are listed in the following:

- The Council endorsed the view of the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors that the age limit for the Principals of Unaided Colleges may be fixed as 65 and recommended the same to the Government.

- During 1997 the Council considered the issues relating to recruitment of staff in aided arts and science colleges and engineering colleges. This matter was also discussed in the meeting of the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors and the following decisions of it were recommended to the Government for consideration along with the relevant judgement delivered by the Supreme Court to pass necessary orders with regard to recruitment of staff in arts and science colleges and also in engineering colleges:
  - a) In respect of private (aided) colleges while recruiting teaching staff, in addition to the candidates sponsored by the employment exchange, the candidates applied through newspaper advertisements may also be called for interview.
  - b) In the interview committee in addition to a representative of the Government, a representative of the University and a representative of Management Committee there must be three experts whose names have been approved by the concerned University.
- The implications in implementing the revised guidelines issued by UGC along with the revision of pay scales of teachers was discussed by the Council and the Advisory Board during the year 1999. The Council recommended that the institutions may be allowed to fill up the ad hoc vacancies up to a period of one year by open advertisements with or without calling a list from employment exchange. The Universities may also provide a list of approved names to each

institution which will be useful to the college management council for deciding the members of the Selection Committee. It is further recommended that the evaluation work may be completed within the vacation period and the Universities may declare the vacation period.

- The candidates aspiring to become teachers are now required to write the SLET examination to become qualified for applying for the post and then write another test that is being conducted by the Teachers Recruitment Board. This can be avoided provided the marks obtained by the candidates in the SLET are available to the Teachers Recruitment Board for ranking the candidates. Therefore, the Council recommended to the Government to persuade the University Grants Commission to permit the publishing of marks obtained by candidates in the SLET and till such time, the Board may continue with the present procedure.
- The Council considered during the year 2000 the recognition of outstanding work by University teachers and observed that it would be a commendable initiative on the part of the Government to decide to honour meritorious teachers of Universities and resolved to request the Government to pursue the matter in a proactive manner and make awards every year during an appropriate function. The Council will on its part persuade the Vice-Chancellors to send the nominations in time.

## **8. FINANCIAL ISSUES**

### **8.1 Fixing of Application and Affiliation Fees**

The Council noticed that the application and affiliation fees vary from University to University. This has been causing some heartburn to the institutions. Therefore, it was decided to have a consultation with all the Universities and fix a uniform fee. The Council made the following recommendations during the year 1995:

An application fee of Rs.10,000/- per course has to be paid by the college along with the application seeking affiliation of courses, whether the college is newly started or is existing already. After the University agrees to affiliate the college or course as the case may be on the basis of a Commission report, the college has to pay an affiliation fee of Rs.10,000/- per UG course in Arts and Science Colleges, Rs.2,00,000/- per course in professional colleges, for PG courses in Arts and Science colleges as well as professional colleges and for para-technical courses such as MBA, MCA, etc. The fees for evening colleges will also be the same.

### **8.2 Block Grants to Universities**

The Advisory Board resolved to bring to the notice of the Government the deficiencies in the method adopted by the Government in calculating block grant and requested the Government to revise the orders in respect of block grants taking into consideration the deficiencies pointed out.

The Council took note of this resolution of the Advisory Board and expressed its deep concern about the deteriorating financial position of the Universities. It

therefore recommended the following criteria for fixing block grants to the Universities in Tamil Nadu:

- The entire expenditure on account of salaries will have to be met by the Government. The income from correspondence courses and distance education and earnings from consultancy should be excluded.
- A 5% annual growth over the previous year's expenditure should be allowed. In addition, increased rates of dearness and other allowances should be automatically granted to the Universities then and there without insisting on audited statements.
- The disbursement of block grants should be done on a quarterly basis, so as to enable the Universities to receive the grants before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the first month of every quarter.

### **8.3 Seminar on Accounting Procedures and Administration**

It was noticed that the Lecturers who get promoted as Principals in the Government colleges are not quite familiar with the accounting procedures and administration even though they are required to pass the Accounts Test. In order to refresh their knowledge of accounting procedures as they usually pass the Accounts Test in the early part of their career, the Council arranged for a 5 day seminar on “Accounting Procedures and Administration” for Principals of Government Colleges at three centres viz. Chennai, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli during 1994.

## **8.4 Construction of Buildings by Universities**

During 1997 the Council considered the procedure adopted for construction of buildings by Universities. The Council recommended to the Government to permit the Universities to entrust the construction work to the State Public Works Department or Central Public Works Department or its own construction wing. When the work is undertaken by the University construction wing, the procedures as stipulated by the University Grants Commission to have experienced engineers of the Government in the tender committee may be followed.

## **8.5 Revision of Educational Fees**

The Council during 1997 considered the Revision of Educational Fees. As the quantum of money, the University departments receive from the University and the aided colleges receive from the Government is very limited, the developmental activities like expansion of library, modernization of laboratories, procuring the required latest equipments and expansion of laboratories could not be undertaken. The Council recommended that it would be proper for the Government to increase the special fees in Government and aided colleges. Hence the Government was requested to form a committee to fix the special fees in aided arts and science colleges and a similar committee to fix the special fees in professional colleges.

## **8.6 Fund for Development of Universities**

The Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors during 2000 resolved to recommend to the Government to issue appropriate orders permitting Universities to create a corpus

fund out of the savings that they accumulate from resources raised outside the block grant and grants from University Grants Commission. This fund should be used by the Universities for development purposes and should not be taken into account by the Government while determining the quantum of block grant.

### **8.7 Recommendations on Specific Items referred to the Council**

The Council gave its considered opinion on various financial issues referred to it. Among these, the more important items are listed in the following:

- The Council recommended the proposal from the Anna University to establish a new Entrepreneurial Development Institute at Taramani at a cost of Rs.100 lakhs (non-recurring) and Rs.45 lakhs for 5 years at Rs.9 lakhs per year (recurring) – 50% of the non-recurring grant to be funded by the Government of India and the balance by the State Government. The proposed Institute would provide one-year certificate courses on Entrepreneurial Development and Quality Management and a 3-month Certificate Programme in about 10 areas such as Automobile Dynamics, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning, Electrical Wiring, Screen Printing, etc.
- The Council recommended to the Government the proposal of the Anna University to introduce M.Tech. Degree Course in Footwear Science and Engineering.
- During 1997 the Council considered the question of extending the fee concession to all handicapped

students and recommended to the Government that all students admitted as per rules as Handicapped Students may be granted concession in examination fee that is now being granted to the blind students.

- During 1999 the Council considered computerisation of the Library of Bharathidasan University and recommended to Government to consider the proposal favourably.
- Considering the importance of providing the minimum required infrastructure for the new Universities the Council during 1999 recommended the proposal received from Manonmaniam Sundaranar University to the State Government for early financial support.
- On a reference by the Government during the year 2000, on the University Grants Commission guidelines for creation of post of Professors in Autonomous Colleges, the Council recommended that the proposed scheme of University Grants Commission may be supported as this would prove to be an incentive for the colleges to opt for autonomy while the additional financial commitment may be marginal.



## **9. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

### **9.1 Streamlining of Financial, Accounting and Administrative Procedures in Universities**

In 1992 the Council took note that each University is adopting its own administrative and accounting procedures. In order to critically review the existing position and streamline the procedures adopted for improving the efficiency of the Universities, the Council appointed a Committee with Thiru V. Karthikeyan, IAS (Retd) as Convenor and Dr. S. Muthukumaran, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University and Thiru N. Arunachalam, Former Deputy Secretary to Government, Finance Department as Members to consider the various issues involved and give a report in this regard. The report of the Committee was received in 3 parts and they have been considered by the Council and recommended to the Universities for adoption during 1994. The implementation of the recommendations contained in the report will go a long way in helping the Universities in compiling and presenting their financial statements and accounts apart from streamlining administrative procedures.

### **9.2 The Location of Mother Teresa Women's University**

From the time the Mother Teresa Women's University was established in the year 1984, there has been several suggestions regarding the location of the University. The Council considered the recommendations of the Dr. Rajammal Devadoss Committee and endorsed the same. It was recommended that the University may be located at Kodaikanal itself and a constituent college of the University may be set up to offer undergraduate courses based on local

needs, such as computer applications, tax practice and accounting, journalism, travel and tourism, etc.

### **9.3 Private Universities**

Government of India had proposed that a Private Universities Bill may be introduced in the Parliament. This Bill was widely circulated for consideration. The Council arranged to get the views of the Vice-Chancellors on this Bill and suggested certain modifications and forwarded the same to the Government during 1995.

### **9.4 Granting of Deemed University status to Institutions of Higher Education**

As a number of educational institutions in the State are approaching the State Government seeking recommendation of the State Government for being declared as deemed to be a University, a committee was constituted by the Council for preparation of guidelines. The Committee gave its report recommending certain guidelines to the State Government while considering the forwarding of proposals for conferment of the Deemed University status. The Committee also recommended that the State Government may amend the TANSCH Act to provide for powers to the State Government to declare an institution as an institution of excellence empowered to confer degrees, diplomas, etc. on the advice of the Council. These recommendations have been considered by the Council and approved. The report has been forwarded to the Government for necessary action.

## **9.5 Role of Governor as Chancellor of Universities**

The Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors considered the report of the Committee of Governors constituted by the President of India on the Role of Governors as Chancellors and after detailed discussion resolved as follows:

- Drafting of a Common Act for all Universities of the State will be an exercise in futility and such an Act may not serve any useful purpose.
- As regards the wide ranging functions of the Chancellors recommended in the report, the matter may be sorted out at the level of the State Government and the Chancellor.
- There is no need to redefine the role of the Governors as Chancellors in view of the fact that the mandates and functions of the Universities vary considerably and the structure and organisation should be commensurate with the specific mandates of each University.

These recommendations were endorsed by the Council during 1998 and forwarded to the State Government.

## **9.6 Accreditation of Universities and Colleges**

The Council has been encouraging the Universities and colleges to get accredited by the respective National Councils. This will help them in getting better recognition from abroad realising their strength and weaknesses and getting grants for projects. The colleges may also be able to move up further and become autonomous and also deemed Universities if they get themselves accredited. A number of

institutions of the State have applied for accreditation, which is a welcome sign.

During the year 1999, the Council considering the importance of accreditation in improving the standards recommended to the Government to permit the institutions of higher education to collect accreditation fee as mentioned below for meeting the expenses in connection with accreditation:

Not exceeding Rs.100/- per year from Arts and Science students

Not exceeding Rs.200/- per year from students in professional courses.

## **9.7 Technical University**

The Council constituted a Committee under the Convenorship of Dr. P.V. Vaidyanathan, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University and Prof. R.M. Vasagam, Chairman, TANITEC and Dr. V.T. Patil, Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University as Members to consider the establishment of a Technical University in Tamil Nadu. The Committee gave its report in June 2001 recommending the establishment of a Technical University and also gave its recommendations on the ways and means to find necessary funds for the establishment. This report was considered by the Council and recommended to the Government for necessary action. Since then, the Government have also converted the unitary type Anna University into an affiliating type University and affiliated all the engineering colleges of the State to Anna University.

## 9.8 Governance of Universities

On consideration of the various problems in governance faced by the Universities of the State, a Committee was constituted by the Council under the Chairmanship of Prof. K. Aludiapillai to look into various provisions of the University Acts relating to governance and governing bodies and make recommendations. The Committee gave its report which was considered by the Council during 2001. It was resolved to approve the recommendations made by the Committee with the following observations:

- The tenure of the Vice-Chancellor and provision for a second term may not be altered.
- The designation of Pro-Vice-Chancellor may not be appropriate and some other name may be adopted.
- The Senate and the Academic Council of the Universities may be merged into one, which may be called the Academic Senate with adequate representation from various fields.
- Convocation should be held shortly after declaration of the results.
- Redesignation of Governor as Visitor is not necessary and the present provisions may continue.
- The search committee for selecting Vice-Chancellors of universities should include three members each one being a nominee of the Chancellor, the State Government and the Syndicate, respectively.

- All universities should be encouraged/advised to conduct undergraduate and postgraduate courses in their departments/constituent colleges.

Since then, the Government have also introduced a common bill for all Tamil Nadu universities.

### **9.9 Issues Connected with the Provisions of the Anna University Amendment Act**

The State Legislature has passed an Amendment Bill disaffiliating all the engineering colleges from the six general purpose universities of the State and affiliating the same to Anna University. The Bill also contains a provision for transfer of all the Government engineering colleges to Anna University as constituent colleges. The various issues involved in this transfer of Government colleges and in the transfer of affiliation were considered and discussed in great detail at the meeting of the Advisory Board and the doubts raised by the Vice-Chancellor of Anna University were cleared. It was pointed out that transfer of the staff from the Government Colleges to the University have been effected on the earlier occasion when Anna University came into being by merging together the Guindy Engineering College, AC College of Technology, School of Planning and Architecture and the MIT and whatever problems that have arisen at that time have been smoothly solved. The same procedure can be adopted even now in the transfer of Government colleges to Anna University. Transfer of affiliation of colleges has also been effected whenever a new University was established in the State. These experiences can be utilized now and it would be possible to resolve any problem that may arise in the transfer of affiliation of engineering colleges to Anna University.

## **9.10 Tamil Nadu Universities Bill**

A number of Universities have been established in this State since 1978. Four Universities have been established in earlier years. From 1996 onwards several amendments have been effected to the Acts pertaining to these Universities. The provisions in the bills were depending upon the views that existed at that particular point of time. Thus, the provisions in the Acts of the various Universities differ substantially. It was felt that the statutory provisions in respect of all the Universities may have to be brought in line with the current thinking on the Governance of the Universities. At the time the report of the Committee on Governance of the Universities was considered, it was proposed that a common bill may be drafted. A bill was accordingly drafted for wide circulation and comments. These comments were considered by the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors and the Council and the final draft of the bill was sent to the Government.

## **9.11 Constitution of an Education Commission**

The Council considered in during 1998 the changes that have taken place since independence in the education system in general and in higher education system in particular and resolved to recommend to the State Government to constitute an Education Commission to evolve a policy direction for the next decade.

## **9.12 Unaided Colleges**

With the increase in the number of unaided colleges, popularly known as self-financing colleges, the Council

,

during 1994, considered the need for regulating the functioning of such colleges. It recommended to the Government that a separate Self-Financing Colleges Regulation Act, apart from the existing Private Colleges Act, may be enacted to regulate the establishment and functioning of unaided colleges in the State.

### **9.13 Autonomous Colleges**

The Council has been encouraging the colleges to apply for autonomy and it has been assisting the respective Universities in selection of colleges that may be granted autonomy.

During the year 1998, the University Grants Commission revised its guidelines for autonomous colleges. The Council in collaboration with the Directorate of Collegiate Education organised a seminar on autonomous colleges in Tamil Nadu to consider the revised guidelines. The deliberations of the seminar have been useful in taking appropriate action to implement the new guidelines. Based on the deliberations of the seminar, the Council recommended as follows:

- The Autonomous Colleges may be free to rename and revise the existing aided courses without additional financial commitment to the State Government. The Universities may not demand additional endowments for such renaming of existing courses.



- The State Government may permit the aided autonomous colleges to fill up all the vacant teaching posts.
- The autonomous colleges may be exempted from the twin vacation system and allowed to decide the opening dates and closing dates as regards the second and subsequent years of undergraduate courses and the second year of the postgraduate courses.
- The State Government may speed up the release of concurrence letters pertaining to the extension of autonomy and the State Government may also consider the desirability and possibility of delegating this power to the Director of Collegiate Education or Director of Technical Education as the case may be.
- The Principals and teaching staff of Autonomous Government Colleges may not be transferred by the State Government in a routine manner within a period of five years unless it becomes unavoidable.
- The Universities may consider favourably the grant of autonomy to postgraduate courses also, if any autonomous college to which autonomy has not been granted to postgraduate courses comes forward with a request for autonomy for its postgraduate courses.

#### **9.14 Loans to Unaided Colleges**

Every college is required to create endowments when it is established and also additional endowments whenever a new course is introduced. This money usually remains idle

and the institutions, especially if they are unaided, are forced to borrow money to improve their infrastructure. This issue was considered by the Council and it was felt that the creation of an Educational Development Fund for the unaided colleges from out of the endowments they themselves have deposited will go a long way in helping them to improve their infrastructure. The Council therefore arranged to draft rules for the creation and operation of the Development Fund. These draft rules were considered by the Council during the year 1999 and recommended to the Government for implementation.

### **9.15 Community Colleges**

The Council considered the various issues connected with the community colleges run by the Universities and other institutions. In the case of programmes offered for students who have passed +2, the concerned Universities themselves may take the responsibility for the maintenance of standards, performance, monitoring and evaluation.

In respect of the courses that are offered for students who have passed 8<sup>th</sup> Standard or 10<sup>th</sup> Standard, the Government may consider the establishment of an autonomous body to regulate the working of institutions offering such programmes.

Some of the polytechnics may be transformed into community polytechnics.

## **9.16 Recommendations on Specific Items referred to the Council**

In addition to the foregoing, the Council also made specific recommendations as detailed in the following;

- The Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors considered the preparation of future plans for the Universities and recommended the establishment of consortiums of Universities and colleges in Tamil Nadu for the purposes of
  - Offering courses and transferring the credits
  - Facilitating the entry into cooperative agreement with foreign institutions
  - Organising new courses through the virtual university mode
  - Enhancing the intake of actual fee paying students to 20%
- With a view to facilitate the students to have access to information about each University in Tamil Nadu such as courses offered by the University, the affiliated colleges, fee structure, duration of courses, details of faculty and their research activities, etc. the Council during the year 1999 considered the creation of a common website for all the Universities in Tamil Nadu. Accordingly the Universities were requested to give all the information as they deem fit and a common website under a common format was created with the assistance of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). A training programme was organised for the University staff in preparing the material for the

website. For Universities which have developed their own websites a link was also provided with the common website.

- A note on College Network Cluster was prepared by the Council and considered by the Advisory Board of Vice-Chancellors during the year 2000. It was resolved that the affiliating Universities may study the note and take steps to form suitable clusters of colleges after modifying their statutes, if necessary.
- For a query whether M.Sc. Applied Sciences (Mathematics) course may be declared equivalent to M.Sc. Computer Science or M.Sc. Mathematics, the Council suggested that this issue may be referred to the relevant Government committee on recognition of courses for purposes of appointment.
- In respect of the courses being offered by the foreign universities in the institutions in this State, the following general recommendations were made to the Government: (1) Those programmes that are offered under bilateral agreements by the Universities may be of use to our country and fall within the functions of the Universities according to the legislation and hence may be continued as such, (2) those programmes that some of the affiliated colleges are trying to offer, may fall under the category of programmes offered by Universities other than the parent affiliating University and hence they may be dealt with under the present provisions in the University Acts and also the Private Colleges Rules and (3) those programmes that are offered by the foreign universities through unapproved institutions situated

in the State, action may have to be taken to regulate them by appropriate legislation which may provide for among other things the registration of all such programmes/institutions with an authority of the State – may be the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education.

- It was recommended to the Universities which are named after a dignitary to include, if possible, the bust photograph of the dignitary in the emblem if not done already. However, if it is necessary to continue with the present emblem which does not contain the bust photograph, the bust photograph may be included alongside the emblem in all letterheads and other important documents.

## **10. RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The Council has been assisting the Universities by releasing the matching grant for UGC sponsored schemes and partially meeting the expenditure on conduct of seminars and workshops and also in a few cases for development of certain infrastructure facilities. The list of schemes and seminars/workshops which were supported by the Council during the last 10 years is given in Statements 1, 2 and 3.

## **11. COORDINATION OF THE SYSTEM**

### **11.1 Allocation of Funds to Higher Education in the IX Five Year Plan**

The Council considered the allocation of funds to Higher Education recommended by the State Planning

Commission and resolved that the allocations are far below the barest minimum required for any meaningful development efforts and suggested that a normative and functional approach be made for allocation of plan funds for Higher Education. The recommendations of the Council were as follows:

- The allocation of plan funds for education should be 25% of the total plan outlay. The Higher Education should receive 10% of the allocation for education; considering a total plan outlay of Rs.25,000 crores, the allocation for Higher Education should be 2.5% which amounts to Rs.625 crores.
- The allocation to each University should be such that the plan activity should make qualitative improvement to the goals of the University. It should not be sub-critical allocation of marginal significance.
- Certain key areas of Higher Education which should receive higher priority are
  - inclusion of career oriented courses in all arts and science degree programmes
  - development of community college system in each University area
  - computerisation of Libraries; linking all University and College libraries and introduction of multimedia learning system in each University. This will be essential to contain the galloping library budgets.

## **11.2 Assistance for Fixing Plan Allocation**

The Council assisted the officials of the University Grants Commission and the officials of the State Government in finalizing the allocation of funds by the University Grants Commission for the IX Plan period to all the Universities in Tamil Nadu.

## **11.3 Recommendations of the National Commission for Backward Classes**

During 1999 the Council considered the recommendations of the National Commission for Backward Classes, observed that as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned the Government is meeting the recommendations of the Backward Classes Commission by creating administrative structures responding effectively to the special problems of the backward and depressed communities and recommended to Government to arrange for specialized programmes to compensate for the non-availability of qualified persons in specific disciplines and to meet the requirements of adult members of the backward communities in specific regions within the college framework or by establishing community colleges.

## **11.4 Establishment of New Technical Institutions as Joint Venture**

During 1999 the Council considered establishment of new technical institutions and recommended the following to the Government:

- It is desirable to strengthen the existing institutions and enable them to enter into cooperative

agreements with the private sector instead of starting new institutions as joint venture.

- Government should fill up the vacancies of teaching staff in Government colleges and encourage these colleges to enter into similar agreements.
- As sufficient scope exists for Universities and some of the private institutions to devise programmes in the advanced technology areas in cooperation with industries in the private sector giving them reasonable incentives, the Government may encourage the same.
- The Government may consider evolving a legal framework to make mandatory provision for placement of engineering students during the course period in the industries. If considered necessary, incentives may be provided.

### **11.5 Review of the Pay Scales of Teachers by the University Grants Commission**

During the year 1995 the University Grants Commission considered the revision of pay scales of the University and College teachers. The Commission had called for the recommendations from the State Governments and other bodies. This Council had consultations with all the Vice-Chancellors and sent its consolidated recommendations to the State Government for use by it during the discussion with the UGC Pay Review Committee.



## 11. 6 Recommendations on Specific Items

The Council gave its considered views on the following issues to the Government:

- It was learnt that the Government of India wishes to establish a number of Rural Universities in several States. As regards the proposed Central Rural University to be established in the Tamil Nadu State, the Council recommended in 1996 that the University may preferably be set up in Ramanathapuram and may concentrate on the studies in Rural Development.
- During 1999 the Council considered the concept of creation of a Vocational University and recommended to the Government that a Vocational University may not be viable in the present context as the University Grants Commission has been sponsoring inclusion of vocational subjects in UG courses. The Council further recommended that Universities may be encouraged to start community colleges for vocational education.
- The Council discussed during 1999 the issue of grant of permission by the All India Council for Technical Education for starting new self-financing Engineering Colleges, additional courses and/or changes in student strength without no objection certificate from the State Government and recommended to the Government to pursue this issue with Government of India with reference to the implementation of the recommendations of the Central Law Commission.

- The Government sought the advice of this Council during 2000 on the proposal by a private organisation for the establishment of a business school in Chennai in collaboration with foreign universities. It was recommended that the Government may not associate with the offering of an MBA programme in view of the large number of programmes already being offered in the State by various institutions. It was also suggested that the Government may arrange to evaluate the existing MBA programmes with foreign collaboration.

## **12. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

In the short period of its existence, the Council has taken all steps to act as a catalyst to bring about a transformation in the field of higher education in the State. It has been functioning essentially as a coordinator in its relations with the Universities at the State level and the University Grants Commission at the national level. It has been striving to facilitate the implementation of all University programmes which are aimed at academic excellence and to assist the Universities in their pursuit of advanced research. It has been assisting the State Government by providing comments and recommendations on all matters referred to it, including fixation of block grants to Universities. More recently, it has also undertaken exercises in manpower planning. In short, the Council is taking every effort to act as an integrating force bringing Universities into constant touch with each other and be the instrument of cooperative action for higher education in the State. It is the fond hope of the Council that higher education in Tamil Nadu will take a big leap forward in the coming years with the active cooperation of all the related agencies and achieve relevance and excellence.

**STATEMENT 1****DETAILS OF MATCHING GRANT RELEASED TO  
UNIVERSITIES**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT Rs. in Lakhs</b>
94-95	Alagappa University	Construction of Building for MBA Programme	4.74
	Bharathidasan University	Construction of Computer Science Building Extension	7.50
	Alagappa University	Establishment of Crystal Growth Centre at the University	5.00
96-97	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Construction of Academic Science Complex in the University – I Instalment	3.20
	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Construction of Academic Science Complex in the University – II Instalment	9.19
	Anna University	Construction of building for the Department of Crystal Growth	5.00
	Mother Teresa Women's University	Women's Hostel	4.66
97-98	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Campus Development Programme	2.49
	Alagappa University	Construction of Women's Hostel	6.66
98-99	Bharathidasan University	Women's Hostel	10.00

98-99	Bharathidasan University	Gymnasium Hall	8.33
99-00	Bharathidasan University	MBA Academic Building	8.00
	Alagappa University	Yoga Hall and Residential Quarters	1.66 0.83
	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Institute of Coastal Area Studies	9.99
00-01	Anna University	Crystal Growth Centre	5.00
		Total	92.25

**STATEMENT 2****DETAILS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONDUCT OF SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY/ INSTITUTE</b>	<b>SEMINAR / WORKSHOP ON</b>	<b>AMOUNT Rs.</b>
94-95	Anna University	Advanced Electronic Materials	25,000
	Alagappa University	Emerging Research Trends in Education	5,000
95-96	Anna University	Sol Gel Processing of Advance Ceramics	25,000
96-97	Madurai Kamaraj University	History	10,000
	Avinashilingam Institute	Vocationalisation of Higher Education	5,000
97-98	Directorate of Collegiate Education	Course for Principals/Deputy Directors	68,750
	Alagappa University	Gender Perspective Curriculum	10,000
	Avinashilingam Institute	Ariviyal Peravai	5,000
	Avinashilingam Institute	Role of Universities in Population Education	5,000
98-99	Bharathidasan University	Organa Metallic Chemistry	10,000
99-00	Madurai Kamaraj University	Advances in Electronic Transfer Process	10,000

99-00	Bharathidasan University	Recent Trends in Crop Improvement for Sustainable Development	10,000
	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Let Us Do It : Towards Purposeful Hr. Edn. During 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	10,000
	Mother Teresa Women's University	Examination Reforms	10,000
00-01	Avinashilingam Institute	IT in Higher Education	5,000
	University of Madras	Advances in Statistical Methods	10,000
	Madurai Kamaraj University	Statistical Future	10,000
	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Values of Engineering Education	10,000
	University of Madras	NAAC Satellite Seminar on Quality Standards and Recognition	20,000
	Bharathidasan University	Molecular Biophysics	10,000
	Gandhigram Rural Institute	E-Governance	10,000
	Bharathidasan University	Integrated Technology in Teaching and Learning	10,000
	Bharathidasan University	Plant Molecular Biology	10,000
	Alagappa University	Career Choice and Curriculum Designing for Women College Students	10,000
		Total	3,13,750

**STATEMENT 3****DETAILS OF OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

YEAR	NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT Rs. in Lakhs
95-96	Madurai Kamaraj University	Construction of Silver Jubilee Auditorium	5.00
	Madurai Kamaraj University	Construction of Building for Genetic Engineering Research Unit	6.00
	Madurai Kamaraj University	Construction of Building for the Centre for Future Studies	5.00
	Alagappa University	One-time Financial Grant for Setting up a Training Centre for Gem Cutting and Polishing	5.00
96-97	Mother Teresa Women's University	Purchase of Computer	2.53
	Alagappa University	Construction of Building for Industrial Chemistry	5.00
		Total	28.53

## **Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, Chennai - 600 005**

### **List of Chairmen**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Hon'ble Thiru C. Aranganayagam  | 9 <sup>th</sup> November 1992 to<br>16 <sup>th</sup> May 1993 |
| 2. Hon'ble Professor K. Ponnusamy  | 17 <sup>th</sup> May 1993 to<br>12 <sup>th</sup> May 1996     |
| 3. Hon'ble Professor K. Anbazhagan | 13 <sup>th</sup> May 1996 to<br>12 <sup>th</sup> May 2001     |
| 4. Hon'ble Dr. M. Thambidurai      | 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2001 onwards                             |

### **List of Vice-Chairmen**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Dr. S.V. Chittibabu                           | 13 <sup>th</sup> November 1992 to<br>10 <sup>th</sup> July 1996 |
| 2. Dr. M. Anandakrishnan                         | 11 <sup>th</sup> July 1996 to<br>29 <sup>th</sup> October 2001  |
| 3. Prof. S. Muthukumaran<br>in additional charge | 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2001 onwards                           |

### **List of Member-Secretaries**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Prof. K. Aludiapillai, IAS (Retd)                        | 16 <sup>th</sup> November 1992 to<br>18 <sup>th</sup> May 1995   |
| 2. Tmt. N. Jayanthi, IAS<br>Member-Secretary (i/c)          | 19 <sup>th</sup> May 1995 to<br>20 <sup>th</sup> August 1995     |
| 3. Thiru L.N. Vijayaraghavan, IAS<br>Member-Secretary (i/c) | 21 <sup>st</sup> August 1995 to<br>7 <sup>th</sup> December 1995 |
| 4. Thiru C.G. Rangabashyam, IAS (Retd)                      | 8 <sup>th</sup> December 1995 to<br>14 <sup>th</sup> July 1996   |
| 5. Prof. S. Muthukumaran                                    | 15 <sup>th</sup> July 1996 onwards                               |