

محکمہ اعلیٰ تعلیم صوبہ خیبر پختونخواہ

سوال نمبر: 7039

منجانب: محترمہ ریحانہ اسماعیل صاحبہ، رکن صوبائی اسمبلی

نمبر شمار	سوال	نمبر شمار	جواب
(الف)	کیا وزیر برائے اعلیٰ تعلیم ارشاد فرمائیں گے کہ: آیاد درست ہے کہ پی ایچ ڈی داخلے کے لئے M.S/M.Phil کی شرط ختم کی جا رہی ہے یا ختم کر دی گئی ہے؟	(الف)	اس ضمن میں عرض ہیکہ PHD میں داخلے کیلئے MS/M.Phil کی شرط ابھی ختم نہیں ہوئی، مزید براں عرض ہیکہ HEC نے اپنی 36 ویں میٹنگ جو کہ مورخہ 12، 13 جون 2020 کو منعقد ہوئی تھی میں مذکورہ آئٹم ایجنڈا نمبر 6 پر رکھا ہوا تھا جس پر مذکورہ میٹنگ میں کوئی بحث نہیں ہوئی اور مذکورہ ایجنڈا آئٹم اگلی میٹنگ کے لئے deferred کر دیا گیا۔ میٹنگ کے minutes لف ہیں۔ مزید براں اس ضمن میں عرض ہیکہ HEC کی اگلی میٹنگ مورخہ 21 اگست 2020 کو ہوئی ہے، جس کا ایجنڈا ابھی تک موصول نہیں ہوا۔
(ب)	یہ فیصلہ کس بنیاد پر کیا جا رہا ہے پہلے سے گرے ہوئے تعلیمی معیار کو مزید تباہی کی طرف لے جانے کے مترادف نہیں ہے؟ اس سلسلے میں حکومت کی نئی پالیسی کیا ہے؟ تفصیل فراہم کی جائے۔	(ب)	مذکورہ آئٹم نمبر 6 کی بابت نئی پالیسی کیلئے جو جواز HEC نے پیش کیا ہے اسکی کاپی لف ہے۔

Draft Minutes of 36th Meeting of the Commission
June 12-13, 2020 (held via MS Teams)

1. The 36th Meeting of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) was held **online (via MS Teams)** under the Chairmanship of Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC on **June 12-13, 2020**. The following Commission members attended (in alphabetical order, by last name):
 - a. Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali (SWA), President, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science & Technology (SZABIST), Karachi
 - b. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Muhammad Asghar (MA), Consultant (CPEC), HEC
 - c. Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Awan (MRA), Joint Secretary, **ex officio**, *representing the Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad*
 - d. Dr. Faisal Bari (FB), Associate Professor, CEO and Senior Research Fellow, ID&EA, LUMS, Lahore
 - e. Engr. Ahmed Farooq Bazai (AFB), Vice Chancellor, BUTEMS, Quetta
 - f. Prof. Dr. Bhawani Shankar Chowdhry (BSC), Meritorious Professor and Dean, MUET, Jamshoro
 - g. Prof. Dr. Javeid Iqbal (JI), former Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan, Quetta
 - h. Mr. Abdul Saboor Kakar (ASK), Secretary, Colleges Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Balochistan, Quetta, **ex officio**, *representing the government of Balochistan*
 - i. Mr. Shams Kassim-Lakha (SKL), Former Federal Minister for Education and S&T (via Video Conference)
 - j. Dr. Naveed A. Malik (NAM), former Rector, Virtual University of Pakistan and Special Adviser: Technology and Innovation, Commonwealth of Learning, Canada.
 - k. Dr. Fateh M. Mari, (FMM), Executive Director (Acting), HEC
 - l. Dr. Tariq Masood (TM), Joint Scientific Advisor (IL), Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology, Islamabad, **ex officio**.
 - m. Dr. Shafiq ur Rehman (SR), Advisor (QAP), Higher Education, Archives, and Libraries Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar, **ex officio**, *representing the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*
 - n. Dr. Suhail Shahzad (SS), Special Secretary, Higher Education Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore, **ex officio**, *representing the government of Punjab*
 - o. Professor Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui (NAS), Vice Chancellor, Sukkur IBA University, **ex officio**, *representative of the Government of Sindh*
 - p. Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Asif Mumtaz Sukhera (AMS), former Surgeon General, Pakistan
2. Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM on Social Safety Nets and Poverty Alleviation and Chairperson, BISP, could not attend the meeting because of scheduling conflicts. The Commission granted her request for leave of absence.
3. The meeting opened with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Commission expressed heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Mr. Kashir Asghar, son of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Muhammad Asghar (Commission Member) who lost his battle against covid-19 on May 22nd, 2020. Special Duaa was offered by the Commission for Mr. Kashir Asghar (late) and all others who died of Covid-19. Following a welcome note by the Chairman, the agenda was tabled and adopted unanimously. The Commission reviewed each agenda proposal and took the following decisions:

Item	Agenda, Discussion, and Decisions
1.	Confirmation of the Minutes of 35 th Meeting of the Commission held on November 29, 2019 Decision: The Commission confirmed and approved the minutes of the 35 th Meeting of the Commission held on November 19, 2019
2.	2a. Progress Report on HEC Funding Formula Review 2b. Distribution of Bulk Recurring Grant of Rs.70 Billion for FY 2020-21 Background: Upon direction of the 35 th Commission, the draft funding formula was

6. HEC's New Policy on PhD Degree Programs

Due to shortage of time, item was deferred for consideration at next meeting.

7. Revision of HEC's Policy Guidelines against Sexual Harassment

Background:

Sexual harassment in universities is currently being governed under two major legal or regulatory instruments i.e. The *Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010*, and HEC's *Policy Guidelines against Sexual Harassment in Institutions of Higher Learning, 2011*. However, a number of complaints have been received with regard to the gaps in these frameworks. The *2010 Act* is a broad legislation promulgated for all sectors of the economy, and does not fully incorporate the special conditions of HEIs; for instance, it does not address harassment of students by other students, harassment experienced by males, or cyber-harassment. The *2011 Guidelines* are criticised for their complicated, confusing, and cumbersome procedures. The 28th VCs' Committee Meeting (March 06, 2020) agreed on the need to revise the HEC Guidelines. Accordingly, a new policy entitled, "*Protection Against Sexual Harassment in Higher Education Institutions, 2020*" is proposed. It reflects significant improvements over the 2011 Guidelines. Specifically, it is concise, simple, covers necessary areas, and excludes unnecessary details; instead of a set of guidelines, it is a legally binding document (i.e., non-compliance by universities may lead to regulatory penalties); it is fully consistent with the 2010 Act; it provides a simpler mechanism for complaints, investigation and adjudication; it provides a concise yet comprehensive definition of the prohibited conduct, which includes cyber-harassment, gender discrimination, and gravity of the offense; it simplifies the list of designated resources (i.e., Focal Person, Inquiry Committee, and Appellate Body); and it gives the option of proceeding under either of the two regulations for common areas.

Discussion

SWA appreciated the revision of the *2011 Guidelines* to overcome its deficiencies with respect to the previously omitted areas, namely uncertain, cumbersome and overlapping procedures, and inconsistencies with the *2010 Act*. She observed that the advent of the revised policy is a step in right direction, and inquired if the new policy covers regulations for harassment of a faculty member by another. It was clarified that faculty-faculty interaction is provided in the 2020 Policy with well-defined jurisdiction and predefined list of remedies from minor to major. AMS appreciated the policy and stated that it will foster an improved academic environment for learning, safety, and accountability. He emphasized the need to conduct introductory sessions in universities to inculcate an understanding of the procedures and implementation mechanisms. SR asked whether the new policy would first need to be adopted by the federal and provincial universities through their statutory process to avoid any possible conflict with federal or provincial harassment laws. It was explained that as a regulatory instrument, it was binding on universities regardless of whether they adopted it formally.

Decision

The Commission appreciated the high-quality work undertaken by Dr. Daud Munir, Consultant Policy and Legal Affairs, in reforming the old policy, and unanimously approved "*The Protection Against Sexual Harassment in Higher Education Institutions, 2020*" regulation.

8. HEC regulations and SOPs for installation and use of the security cameras in HEIs

Background

The Safe Campus project is part of the HEC's flagship Smart University Programme. It equips university campuses with blanket Wi-Fi coverage to enable deployment of modern digital services. Under the project, 5700+ IP surveillance cameras were installed in 34 universities, under strict protocols covering both security and privacy. In the mean time, some universities installed similar programmes from their own resources, often without the ancillary protocols. This led to a number of complaints and problems. The

AGENDA

36th Meeting of the Commission

#	Description
1.	Confirmation of the Minutes of 35 th Meeting of the Commission held on November 29, 2019
2.	(a) Progress Report on HEC Funding Formula Review (b) Distribution of Bulk Recurring Grant of Rs.70 Billion for FY 2020-21
3.	Proposal for review and remodeling of the TTS.
4.	Appointments on the Board of Governors (BOG) of Education Testing Council (ETC)
5.	Report by the Chairman, HEC on the Strategic Issues
6.	HEC's New Policy on PhD Degree Programs
7.	Scholarship Management System
8.	Revision of HEC's Policy Guidelines against Sexual Harassment
9.	HEC regulations and SOPs for installation and use of the security cameras in HEIs
10.	Appeal of Mr. Farmanullah Anjum, DG HEC, on Adverse Remarks recorded in his PERs for the years 2016 and 2017.
11.	HEC Recruitment Rules

Item No.06

HEC's New Policy on PhD Degree Programs

The HEC has launched an initiative of conducting legal and institutional review of its policies and regulations for the purpose of identifying gaps in the regulatory framework, and drafting new regulations and policies to make the regulatory framework as effective as possible. One of the areas in which the regulatory framework has generally been deficient is graduate-level education, and in particular with respect to the regulation by HEC of PhD programs in the country.

The HEC's current PhD policy is deficient and problematic in a number of ways, including with respect to both form and substance. The lack of a proper regulatory framework is one of the key factors that has contributed to the generally low quality of PhD programs in the country. Further, problems in the policy have also led to significant non-compliance, continuing operation of deficient programs, problems for affected students, and litigation etc. Following are the more significant problems with the current policy:

- a. **Form:** The HEC's current PhD policy (Annex I) is in the form of 20+ notifications that have been issued in the last 15 years. The policy that emerges from the patchwork of notifications is highly confusing, often contradictory and very difficult to follow and implement. In many cases, notifications were issued in response to immediate concerns with respect to one or a small number of programs. Much of the regulatory framework was hence constructed in an ad-hoc manner, rather than by taking an approach in policymaking that starts with general principles and purposes, and then provides the set of rules that are intended to accomplish those purposes. It is difficult to imagine that there would be many universities that have diligently compiled the 20+ notifications that the HEC has issued over time, and it is hence not surprising that there is significant non-compliance with the HEC's policy. The rule of law is based on the principle that laws and regulations should be accessible, free of contradictions and easy to follow, and the current PhD Policy is significantly deficient in this respect.
- b. **Substance:** There are a large number of substantive issues and problems with the current policy. To begin with, the current policy has been framed as a policy for "PhD/MPhil/MS" programs, even though the purposes, rationale and function of these degrees is very different. Second, the requirements and procedure for launching PhD programs at universities are ad-hoc and not designed to achieve quality. Third, the prescribed admission criteria are also ad-hoc and problematic, and are not tailored to function as a mechanism to ensure that the right students get admission to PhD programs. Fourth, the completion requirements for the award of PhD degrees are similarly problematic, failing to ensure that only those who achieve certain minimal thresholds of quality are awarded the degree.

With the above in view, it was decided that a major revamp of the regulatory framework for PhD programs is required and the task was assigned to Consultant Policy & Legal