

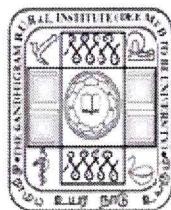
**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FIFTH MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

**VENUE : BOARD ROOM
GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE (DTBU)
GANDHIGRAM**

DATE : 28.03.2025

TIME : 10.00 A.M.

Mode : ONLINE & OFFLINE (HYBRID MODE)



**THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(Deemed to be University)
GANDHIGRAM - 624 302, DINDIGUL DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU**

THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(Deemed to be University)
GANDHIGRAM

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FIFTH MEETING (165th)
OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 28.03.2025 AT 10.00 AM
IN THE BOARD ROOM, GRI THROUGH BLENDED MODE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Prof. N.Panchanatham | ... Chairperson |
| 2. Dr.O.Muthiah | ... Member |
| 3. Dr.A.Balakrishnan | ... Member |
| 4. Dr.K.Manikandan | ... Member |
| 5. Dr.L.Rathakrishnan | ... Ex-Officio Secretary |

MEMBERS PRESENT THROUGH ONLINE:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 6. Dr.G.Muralidharan | ... Member |
| 7. Shri.P.K.Banerjee | ... Member |
| Represented by Shri.B.K.Singh, Director & Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of Higher Education | |
| 8. Prof.Shireesh Balwant Kandare | ... Member |
| 9. Prof.Vishnukant S.Chatpalli | ... Member |
| 10. Prof.(Retd.) Susmita Pande | ... Member |

The following members could not attend the meeting.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 11. Dr.Raja Marimuthu | ... Member |
| 12. Shri.M.Nagarajan | ... Member |
| 13. Dr.K.Prasanna Sai | ... Member |
| 14. Prof.N.Venkatesh Prajna | ... Member |

The meeting started at 10.00 a.m. with one minute silent prayer. The Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the Honorable Members and introduced the new member of the Board of Management Dr. A. Balakrishnan and thanked them with folded hands for attending the meeting with their busy schedule. On behalf of the Gandhigram Rural Institute and on behalf of our four thousand students, Teaching and Non-Teaching community, the Chairperson once again welcomed the honorable members of the Board of Management for the meeting.

The Vice-Chancellor presented the following achievements from January 2025 to March 2025 of GRI:

The Vice-Chancellor briefed the members on the status of the NAAC accreditations that having submitted details for DVV, the marks score is 3.52 for A++ Grade in quantitative aspects. The Institute is focusing on maintenance of buildings / roads / campus development to achieve high score in qualitative aspects. He also informed that the Institute has conducted more than 200 developmental programmes / seminar / workshop / conferences. The faculty members of GRI

have visited many countries towards academic enrichments and signed several MOUs. It is also informed that the Institute entered into more than 260 functional MoUs.

The Vice-Chancellor further stated that all these achievements have happened because of the support and guidance of the members of the Board of Management.

The items of agenda were taken up for discussion, as follows:

1. Item No.2125/BOM.2025.III

To confirm the minutes of the Hundred and Sixty Fourth meeting of the Board of Management held on 30.12.2024 through Offline/Online.

Resolved to confirm the minutes of the Hundred and Sixty Fourth meeting of the Board of Management held on 30.12.2024 through Hybrid mode.

2. Item No. 2126/BOM.2025.III – Action taken Report

To consider the report of the Registrar on the action taken on the minutes of the Hundred and Sixty Fourth meeting of the Board of Management held on 30.12.2024 through Offline/Online.

Resolved to approve the report of the Registrar on the action taken on the minutes of the Hundred and Sixty Fourth meeting of the Board of Management held on 30.12.2024 through Hybrid mode with following remarks:

Item No.2101/BOM.2024.VIII

The Board of Management resolved that the precedence cannot be taken as rule and directed to follow the UGC Regulations for granting of CAS and the CAS promotion can be awarded only to those staff who are in active in service.

Item No.2118/BOM.2024.XII

The Board of Management resolved to take decision on conducting of Prospectus-cum-fee revision committee meeting and need not wait till NAAC visit since the admission process would start from June/July 2025 onwards. Therefore decision should be taken well in advance on fee revision and also suggested that there should not be reduction of fee but the fee may remain unchanged or may be enhanced. However representations from individual departments may be placed before the committee and fee reduction for those departments may be taken up in very exceptional and deserving cases, considering the prevailing fee structures around Gandhigram Rural Institute and also the speciality of those departments.

Item No.2119/BOM.2024.XII

The Vice-Chancellor proposed to constitute a committee to reopen the issue regarding the date of relieving of Dr.Anjuli Chandra, whereas the Board has resolved to close this matter as already decided.

Item No.2122/BOM.2024.XII

The valuable suggestion/remarks of honorable BoM member Dr.G.Muralidharan has to be referred to the Committee constituted for framing the GRI Finance and Accounting Manual 2024 for critical evaluation and the committee justification and remarks for incorporating the suggestions has to be placed before the Finance Committee and Resolution of the Finance Committee can be submitted before the ensuing Board of Management.

Item No.2123/BOM.2024.XII

During the discussion regarding the case of Dr.A.Renganathan, the Vice Chancellor submitted that there were so many complaints, many political parties and public started to coming to the Institute and placed notices, posters around the Institute which started tarnishing the image of the Institute. Also during the past ten years, he did not cooperate with the Institute administration and he created problems many times and students complained regarding his derogatory remarks on the whatsapp groups especially about girls students. After his suspension from the service and change of the Headship, the department is running smoothly and peacefully.

The BoM informed to submit chronological order of documents and evidences, witnesses etc towards issuing of show cause notice and suspension order and the same document of evidences may be furnished to the Court.

3. Item No.2127/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve the action taken by the VC on the Minutes of the meeting of the committee constituted on 08.01.2025 for Earned Leave Credit procedure and Earned Leave account calculation for Teaching Staff member of GRI and Circular issued on 21.01.2025 subject for ratification.

The Board of Management resolved to approve the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor for Earned Leave Credit procedure and Earned Leave account calculation for Teaching Staff Members of GRI.

4. Item No.2128/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve the Circular issued on 11.03.2025 for CAS, approved by the Internal BoM Members of GRI to Teaching staff Promotion of Assistant Professor (AL 10 to AL 11, AL 11 to AL 12), Assistant Professor to Associate Professor (AL 12 to AL 13A), Associate Professor to Professor (AL 13A to AL 14) and Professor to Senior Professor (AL 14

to AL 15) under CAS of UGC – Self appraisal reports (PBAS Proforma) including Bio-data – invited from the eligible teaching staff subject to ratification.

The Board of Management resolved to approve the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor for inviting applications for CAS Promotion to the Teaching staff of GRI and also appreciated the GRI for granting CAS promotions to the 68 Faculty members which was approved in the earlier BoM meeting.

5. Item No.2129/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve for engagement of Professor of Practice instead of Guest Faculty / Guest/Part-Time Teachers in the Schools/Departments/Centres and entitlement of honorarium as paid to the Guest Faculty / Guest/Part-Time Teachers in the Schools/Departments/Centres.

The Board of Management resolved that the Professors of Practice can be engaged over and above the sanctioned strength and to the tune of 10% of sanctioned strength in the cadre of Professor and there is no reservation policy towards appointment of Professors of Practice and to follow the detailed guidelines of UGC.

With regard to appointment of Guest Faculty, the BoM informed to appoint Guest Faculty as per the work load.

The Board also stated that the Professors of Practice and Guest Faculty are different in nature and the Guest Faculties are appointed against sanctioned vacant positions and the Professor of Practice is 10% over and above the sanctioned strength.

With regard to appointment of Professor of Practice, the BoM informed to frame the policy as per the UGC guidelines and suggested to make a policy and proper mechanism for inviting applications, scrutinizing, selection and appointment of Professor of Practice.

6. Item No.2130/BOM.2025.III

REGISTRAR'S REPORT:

The Board of Management noted the Registrar's Report and approved.

7. Item No.2131/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve for issuing advertisement notification for recruitment of three statutory posts viz., 1. Registrar; 2. Controller of Examinations; and 3. Finance Officer.

The Board of Management resolved to approve to issue notification of fresh advertisement for filling up of three statutory posts viz., Registrar, Controller of Examinations and Finance Officer considering the norms regarding minimum period for advertisement, minimum period for submission of applications, minimum period for scrutinizing the applications and selection committee to be constituted with two members from the Board and one external expert not being the employee of the Institute, to be appointed by the Board.

The Board also informed to prepare the advertisement as per the MOA of GRI.

8. Item No.2132/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve for opening a new FCRA Account at State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch and endorse the resolution template and other details of BOM members as per notification issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI, dated 10.11.2020 in line with the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act 2020.

The Board of Management resolved to permit opening of FCRA Account at State Bank of India, New Delhi Branch and send letter of intimation to the honorable members of Board of Management requesting their details mandate for opening for FCRA Account.

9. Item No.2133/BOM.2025.III

To consider and ratify the extension of services of Dr.L.Rathakrishnan, as Registrar in-charge, GRI (DTBU) as an interim arrangement with effect from 04.02.2025 till a regular Registrar is appointed or till the visit of NAAC Peer Team is completed whichever is earlier.

The Vice-Chancellor explained in detail towards the necessity and exigency situation for extending the tenure of the Registrar in-charge beyond 62 years, since he has signed 58000 pages of documents for NAAC peer team visit. This interim arrangement of extending the tenure of Registrar has been made as per the provision of existing byelaws of GRI and also to meet out the exigency situation.

The representative from the Ministry remarked that there is no provision for any kind of extension for the tenure of Registrar as per the UGC Regulations 2023.

Further, the Board of Management elaborately discussed and informed to revise the act and byelaw and amend the byelaws as per UGC Regulations from time to time and also informed that “the rules or byelaws are always the higher orders prevailing”.

The Board of Management after having detailed discussions on the issue resolved that the extension of existing Registrar i/c. is not permitted as per the new MoA. It is also noted that the new MoA is yet to be implemented. There is a provision for extension in the GRI's existing Byelaw and GRI has already given extension for more than one person beyond 62 years.

10. Item No.2134/BOM.2025.III

To Consider and approve the Dr.T.S. Soundaram Health Centre, Gandhigram as an Authorised hospital (Medical Attendant) for medical reimbursement under CGHS Scheme for regular staff who take treatment for their illness and consultations.

The Board of Management resolved to approve Dr.T.S.Soundaram Health Centre, Gandhigram as a Authorised hospital (Medical Attendant) for Medical reimbursement under Central Govt. CGHS Scheme for regular staff and dependents who take treatment for their illness and consultations.

11. Item No.2135/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve to admit 30% seats of sanctioned students' strength before CUET in those departments where they are unable to admit the sanctioned strength for the programmes from the Academic Year 2025-2026.

The Board of Management resolved to permit to admit students to the tune of 30% seats of sanctioned strength before CUET through proper procedure and norms by placing before the admission committee and by fixing last date for the receipt of applications and by following merit and roster criteria.

12. Item No.2136/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve starting of Job Oriented new academic programmes in all the departments/schools/centres from the Academic Year 2025-2026.

The Board of Management resolved to proceed to start job oriented new programmes which are need based and demand driven in order to strengthen job employment. Further the list of programmes will be placed before Board of Studies of the concerned departments and Academic Council for review and to submit the same with strong recommendations to start such new programme before BoM for consideration.

13. Item No.2137/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve to admit foreign students to the extent of 25% over and above the (Supernumerary) sanctioned strength of each programme from the Academic Year 2025-2026 to generate revenue for the Institute.

The Board of Management resolved to approve the foreign student admission subject to the score in the NAAC and category of University as per UGC Regulations, 2018.

14. Item No.2138/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the 64th Finance Committee held on 17.03.2025 at GRI in Hybrid Mode.

The Board of Management considered and resolved to confirm the minutes of the 64th meeting of the Finance Committee of the Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), held on 17.03.2025 at Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram in Hybrid mode.

15. Item No.2139/BOM.2025.III

To Board of Management may consider and approve the action to initiate and send the proposal for Conversion of GRI into Central University.

The Vice-Chancellor presented before the BoM about the importance, privileges, necessity and advantages for conversion of GRI into a Central University. Further the GRI sent proposal for such conversion to the Ministry based on the requisite information sought from the Ministry of HRD during November 2019.

The Ministry representative stated that there is a policy decision to create one Central University in each State and funding to the Institution is not constraining criterion whether Deemed University or Central University.

The Board of Management resolved to make a proposal with justification based on data and justification based on information for such conversion.

However, the Board advised to concentrate on NAAC peer team visit and the NAAC score will help GRI for its conversion and also suggested to prepare Institute Development Policy (IDP) well in advance during the first quarter of the financial year 2025-26.

16. Item No.2140/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve the details given by the Director, IQAC in connection with 4th Cycle NAAC re-accreditation Process.

The Board of Management suggested to make proper plan for Internal Mock visit and External Mock visit well in advance to ensure the preparedness for the successful NAAC Peer Team Visit proposed and submitted to NAAC.

17. Item No.2141/BOM.2025.III

To consider and approve the appointment of Ombudsperson to GRI.

The Board of Management resolved to appoint Dr.N.Rajendran, Former Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, Karaikudi as Ombudsperson to GRI. However the Board has suggested to have a ombudsperson as per the UGC norms and the same has to be published in the Institute Web site.

18. Item No.2142/BOM.2025.III

To consider and ratify to change the Implementing Partner from BHEL SBD to REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) for establishment of a "Solar Energy Park" at GRI.

The Board of Management resolved to approve to change the Implementing Partner from BHEL SBD to REC Power Development and Consultancy (RECPDCL) for establishment of a "Solar Energy Park" at GRI.

The Board suggested to ensure the scope of work to be carried out by the new implementing partner as remains the same as BHEL.

19. Item No.2143/BOM.2025.III -Any other matter:

One of the honorable member of the Board pointed out that the UGC has already implemented the Regulations 2023 and published in the Gazette and the next Board of management may be conducted as Executive Council and appropriate composition has to be made as per the UGC Regulations 2023.

The Ministry representative suggested that the GRI can implement the MoA pending registration with Registrar of Societies of Tamil Nadu and also to follow the regulations.

After detailed deliberations, the BoM has finally resolved to expedite the process of registration as per the norms.

The Ministry representative informed that the UGC Regulations 2023 has to be implemented within one year and also suggested to write a letter in chronological order to the Ministry and a copy marked to UGC seeking the approved version of MoA from the Ministry and stating that the GRI has already completed the process. Further GRI may expedite the process of registration with Govt. of Tamil Nadu and implement the MoA as per the UGC Regulations 2023.

The Vice-Chancellor sincerely thanked with folded hands to the honorable Board members towards their membership ended during April 2025.

The meeting came to an end at 1.00 p.m with thanks to the Chair and members.

Dr. L. Rathakrishnan
Registrar i/c

Dr. N. Panchanatham
Vice-Chancellor

Gandhigram
28.03.2025



REGISTRAR
The Gandhigram Rural Institute
(Deemed to be University)
Gandhigram - 624 302
Dindigul District, Tamilnadu