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**Proceedings of the Special meeting of the Academic Council held on
02-02-2021 at 11:00 AM through 'Zoom' online meeting App**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli
Vice Chancellor, KSRDPR University, Gadag

Chairperson

2. Smt. Neeti Sharma
Sr. Vice President & Co-Founder,
Team Lease Services Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru

Member

3. Dr. S.S. Meenakshisundaram, IAS (Retd.)
Chairman, MYRADA.

Member

4. Prof. C.S. Patil
Dean & Director, KSLU Law School
Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi.

Member

5. Dr. N. Sivanna
Director I/c., Centre for Research, Innovation and
Evaluation, KSRDPRU.

Member

6. Prof. Suresh Kishanrao
Honorary Professor, KSRDPRU.

Member

7. Prof. P.P. Nageshwara Rao
Honorary Professor, KSRDPRU.

Member

8. Prof. Ajjappa Alagawadi
Professor (Rtd), UAS, Raichur.

Member

9. Prof. Gopal Naik,
Dean, Economics & Social Science,
IIM, Bengaluru.

Member

10. Dr.D. Jeevan Kumar
Honorary Professor, KSRDPRU.

Member

11. Smt. Shilpa Nag
Director, Abdul Nazeer Sab SIRD
Mysuru

Member

12. Prof Basavaraj L Lakkannavar
Registrar, KSRDPRU, Gadag

Member-Secretary

At the outset, the Registrar extended a warm welcome to the Chairperson and all the members of the Academic Council for the Special Meeting. The main purpose of Special Meeting was to discuss and to seek suggestions about the Convocation to be held in March 2021 and requested the Vice Chancellor to take over the meeting.

The Vice Chancellor formally welcomed the Members to the meeting; he briefed them about the preparations done about the Convocation.

Thereafter, the agenda was taken up for discussion.

Subject No.1: To discuss and seek suggestions regarding preliminary preparation of First Convocation of KSRDPR University to be held during the last week of March 2021 with the consent of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka.

Reference Note:

Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag started its academic activities from year 2017-18. Two batches have successfully completed their Post Graduate Programmes, 250 students are eligible for the conferment of degrees during Convocation.

With respect to organizing the First Convocation, the following communication/directions have been received from the office of the Hon'ble Governor and the Chancellor of the University:

1. The Hon'ble Governor and the Chancellor of the University has accorded approval to conduct the First Annual Convocation during the last week of March, 2021.
2. 3 names have been shortlisted out of which one distinguished person is to be invited as the Chief Guest of the Convocation.
3. Expert Scrutiny Committee has been formed to recommend the names for conferring of the Honorary Degrees. (Letter No: GS 01 RDU 2021 dated: 02.01.2021 and 27.01.2021 of Special Secretary to Governor) (Copies placed at Annexure 1).

In order to conduct the First Annual Convocation successfully, various committees consisting of University Staff have been formed and accordingly, brief guidelines/responsibilities have been assigned. (Annexure 2).

The following works are under progress with respect to Convocation:

- Quotations would be invited to procure Convocation Mace along with stand and Gold Medals. Probable Vendors are identified to design, print and supply Certificates and Robes for various dignitaries.
- Request letters are being sent to potential donors or organizations for institution of awards.
- As per the decision made during the EC meeting held on 23.12.2020 first preference for conducting the Convocation would be the new campus of University followed by Ambedkar Bhavan, Gadag.

The above points are placed before the Academic Council for kind consideration and suggestion.

RESOLUTION:

Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli, Chairperson explaining about the preparations done regarding First Convocation he said as below:

- As approved by the Hon'ble Governor and Chancellor of KSRDPR University, Gadag, First Annual Convocation would be conducted during the last week of March, 2021 and the final date is yet to be finalized.
- Two batches have successfully completed their Post Graduate Programmes and 250 students are eligible for conferment of Degrees.
- As the University is conducting the Convocation for the first time, Convocation Committee was formed. After deliberation, Committee furnished its report which was approved by the members in the EC Meeting held on 23.12.2020.
- Steering Committee is constituted for monitoring / supervising the activities.
- Various Committees are formed to carry out different responsibilities and broad guidelines are issued to each Committee.

- As per the direction of the Hon'ble Governor and the Chancellor, the Expert Scrutiny Committee is constituted. Members of the Expert Scrutiny Committee are as under:
 1. Prof. T V Kattimani, Vice Chancellor, Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh. – University Nominee
 2. Dr. Vidyashankar S, Vice Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University, Mukthagangotri, Mysore. – Hon'ble Governor's Nominee
 3. Dr. Sharanappa V Halse, Vice Chancellor, Davangere University, Davanagere. – Hon'ble Governor's Nominee
- Dr. Balasubramaniam, Founder, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement and Founder & Chairman, Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAM), Mysuru, has been finalized as Chief Guest.
- Other preparatory works such as procurement of Mace, Medals and Schedule of Robes are under progress.
- Quotations are invited as per the University Norms and Guidelines.

The Vice Chancellor sought the suggestions and guidance from the members on this agenda.

Prof. Gopal Naik, IIMB, asked whether Gold Medals are being given to the meritorious students in this Convocation. To this Vice Chancellor replied, as per the University Regulations 5,00,000/- for Endowments, 5,00,000/- for Gold Medal and 2,00,000/- for Prizes is reserved as corpus fund for awards. However, no donor has deposited the sum for the corpus fund. The University is looking for the donors for the above said corpus fund, if the corpus fund is not collected the University itself is ready to sponsor for the First Annual Convocation for the Awards.

Prof. Jeevan Kumar, Honorary Professor, KSRDPR University suggested that, then following Western Ceremonial Culture of Convocation like in Gandhi Gram Rural University, Dindigal, Khadi Jacket should be given more preference. Replying to this, the Vice Chancellor said the Schedule of Robes will be 100% Khadi material and this was decided in the Preparatory Committee meeting and also got approval in 5th Executive Council meeting.

Further, Dr. S S Meenakshisundaram told, this would set new precedent and along with ethos & spirit of our University.

All the members appreciated and congratulated for selecting Dr. Balasubramanyam as Chief Guest, since he has worked at grass root level, he would be source of motivation to our students and would be very good choice to deliver the address. With the above discussion and suggestions, Executive Council Members decided to approve the matter.

Subject No.2: To recommend the names for the consideration and approval of the Executive Council in order to place the same before the Expert Scrutiny Committee to confer Honorary Degrees during First Annual Convocation of KSRDPR University.

Reference Note:

According to the KSRDPRU Award of Honorary Degrees or Academic Distinctions at the Annual Convocations Regulations, 2019, the Chancellor may constitute Expert Scrutiny Committee consisting of three members. One among the members of the Committee is to be the nominee of the University. As per the Executive Council meeting held on 23.12.2021, it was resolved to recommend the name of Prof. T V Kattimani as the nominee of the University and the same was conveyed to the Hon'ble Governor which was duly approved.

The names of the Hon'ble Governor nominees for the constitution Expert Scrutiny Committee had been received vide Letters No: GS 01 RDU 2021 dated: 02.01.2021 and 27.01.2021 and accordingly Expert Scrutiny Committee has been notified vide Letter No: RDPRU 04 EXM 2021 dated: 28.01.2021(Annexure 3).

With respect to the KSRDPRU Award of Honorary Degrees or Academic Distinctions at the Annual Convocations Regulations, 2019 (Annexure 4), members of the Academic Council recommended that a Honorary Degree or academic distinction be conferred on any person on the ground that he/she is in their opinion by reasons of eminent attainment and position, fit and proper to receive such degree or academic distinction. These recommendations are further forwarded to members of the Executive Council.

The recommendations of the University for conferring Honorary Degree must be forwarded to the Scrutinizing Committee at least 45 days in advance to the date of Convocation. Further, Scrutiny Committee may recommend not more than three persons in an academic year for the conferment of Honorary Degree.

Above matter is placed before the Academic Council for kind consideration and further needful action.

RESOLUTION:

The Chairperson, Prof. Vishnukant S. Chatpalli explained about the procedure for selection of name for Conferring Honorary Degrees. Initially the names will be suggested and discussed in the Academic Council meetings, these names will be placed before Executive Council for further discussions and the Scrutiny Committee formed by the Hon'ble Governor will scrutinize the list of the names and later submitted to the Hon'ble Governor. The names suggested in the meetings will be kept confidential till the day of Convocation.

Since, this is the First Annual Convocation of the University, University has set below said criteria.

- Unsung Heroes who have worked in Rural development and Panchayat Raj areas.

- Non-Political and unbiased.

Further, Vice Chancellor requested the members to suggest the names for conferring Honorary Degrees.

Prof. P. P. Nageshwara Rao suggested below said names

1. **Shri Harekala Hajabba** - an orange seller from Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, was named as one of the recipients of the prestigious Padma Shri Award for 2020. All the money he saved has gone toward building schools and giving the poorest of the poor an education. Today, the school, which has grown with government support and donations from private individuals, is known as Hajabba School. He is affectionately known as 'Akshara Santa'. Hajabba's next dream is to build a Pre-University college in his village.
2. **Shri H. K. Patil** - Currently the MLA of Gadag District and former RDPR Minister is also said to be the founder/ father of KSRDPR University. He has worked extensively in Development of Rural areas. He was also responsible for starting Shuddaneeru movement (Pure Drinking Water).

Prof. C. S. Patil, completely supported the names suggested by Prof. P. P. Nageshwara Rao, said Shri H. K. Patil has worked extensively towards Grama Swaraj.

Prof. Jeevan Kumar speaking on the matter he said, supporting the names suggested by Prof. P. P. Nageshwara Rao and Prof. C. S. Patil, he also suggested

1. **Smt. Sunanda Jayaram**, a progressive women farmer who has worked extensively in promoting the cause of small and marginal farmers. Smt. Sunanda currently heads women wing of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha. 85% of the farmers belong to small and marginal group.

Prof. N. Sivanna suggested

1. **Shri C. Narayanaswamy**, is a former member of Lok Sabha with proven accomplishments in Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Co-Operative Sector, Agriculture and Sports. He has vast organizational and administrative experience ranging from Taluk, District and State to National levels. He has worked under all the 3 political parties in power in RDPR Department. As a Member of Parliament, Mr. C. Narayanaswamy represented India in the General Assembly of United Nations at New York. He served as the Convener of Parliamentarians Forum for Development of Co-Operative Movement in India and Member of Central Silk Board.
2. **Shri H. K. Patil** is doing good work for strengthening Panchayat Raj's.

Prof. Suresh Kishan Rao speaking about this he said, finding unsung heroes in the rural areas is difficult. Consideration should be given to the names based on the courses of University currently offering. He also suggested

1. **G. N. S. Reddy** – From Mandya District, a Veterinary Doctor by profession. He is also Ashoka Award Winner. Dr. G.N.S. Reddy is reversing urban migration in India by increasing the economic opportunities for small and medium farmers. By making organic dairy farming a central unit of farm design, his work creates a profitable vehicle to enable farmers to be micro-entrepreneurs of their farms.

Prof. Gopal Naik, IIMB, said that the persons whose name suggested should have done outstanding work in the field. More documentation on the background check needs to be done.

Prof. Ajjanna Alagawadi adding to the list of the names he suggested,

1. **Dr. Ashok Dalawai** – The member of Union Administrative service. He has completed Graduation in Agriculture, Post-Graduation in Agriculture Economics and Ph.D. in Economics. Presently, he is the CEO of National Rain fed Area Authority under Ministry of Agriculture, GOI. He has done lot of developmental work in Agriculture and Rural Development.

Prof. Basavaraj L. Lakkannavar, Registrar also suggested below said names

1. **Smt. Kavitha Mishra** is a BE Graduate in Computer Science. She has also done her M.A. in Psychology. She has worked mainly in the draught rural areas of the Karnataka. Kavitha has won several awards. These include, 'Best Farmer Award' from UAS Raichur (2013); 'Gold Award' from ICRIASAT (2014); 'Kisan Jyoti Award' from Shivashakti Peetha Ilkal (2015); 'National Innovative Farmer' (2016); 'Best Horticulture Farmer Award'. She has also been recently nominated syndicate member at the Veterinary University, Bidar.
2. **Smt. Tulsi Gowda** - Tulsi Gowda is an Indian environmentalist from Honnali village, Ankola taluk in Karnataka State. She has planted more than 30,000 saplings and looks after the nurseries of the Forest Department. She is a recipient of the 2020 Padma Shri Award – India's fourth-highest civilian honour – for her **invaluable environmental contribution**. While delighted about the prestigious accolade, Gowda maintains that it is plants that have brought the most joy to her life.
3. **Shri Shivaji Kaleker** – a Gandhian who has worked extensively on bio-diversity and promoting the basic primary knowledge for the village people. He has built a Gandhi Grama in his own village. He has converted drought land into a forest land.

Prof. Suresh Kishan Rao also suggested 3 more names to consider with proper background check.

1. **Dr. J. K. Lakhani** – Worked for 50 years in Child Health Development in Gadag.
2. **Dr. Anil Hanumanthagad** – From Saundatti, he has worked on for 30 years in Radiology and Cardiology Field.
3. **Dr. Irkal** – Almost 20% of the piles operation in the State was successfully done by Dr. Irkal.

Vice Chancellor supporting the names suggested by members, suggested one more name to the list.

1. **H.H. Adrushya Kadsiddheshwar Swamiji**, Spiritual Leader at Shri Kshetra Siddhigiri Math, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India. is a sole trustee of the Siddhagiri Math and Siddhagiri Gurukul Foundation (SGF) – a soul with spellbound enthusiasm bearing multiple social and spiritual responsibilities. He is keen to implement scientific and developmental experiments in educational, agricultural, health and cultural area. His insistence of E-learning for village children has become famous in Kolhapur and other parts of Maharashtra. Chalo Zilla Parishad School Movement, Vidya Chetana Projects are his some of the key educational Project.

Vice Chancellor, reacting to above discussion said, all the names suggested will be considered and will be shortlisted by consensus and not by majority. We have to shortlist the names suggested by the members based on before said criteria. Since, the list contains two Padma Award winners, their names can be removed from the list.

With the above suggestions and discussions, Academic Council Members resolved to recommend the following names.


1. Dr. Ashok Dalwai
2. Smt. Sunanda Jayaram
3. Shri Adrushya Kadsiddheshwar Swamiji
4. Shri G N S Reddy
5. Shri Harekala Hajabba
6. Smt. Kavita Mishra
7. Smt. Tulasi Gowda
8. Shri Shivaji Kaganikar
9. Shri H K Patil
10. Shri C Narayanswamy
11. Dr. J K Lakhani

Subject No.3: Any other matters with the permission of the Chairperson.

Dr. Meenakshi Sundaram suggested that at least from the next year the names of the Honorary Degrees should be given well in advance to the members, so that members can think names and their background check can be done. Replying to this Vice Chancellor said next year at least the matter will be placed before the Academic Council 3 to 4 months before the Convocation.

Registrar administered Vote of Thanks by thanking everyone present for their valuable time and suggestions.


Registrar


Vice Chancellor