MODEL GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND INCORPORATION OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

FROM SYMBIOSIS

A. SPONSORING BODY

(1) The proposal for the establishment of Private University shall be submitted by a Sponsoring Body. The sponsoring body shall be:-

   (a) A Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Central Act No. 21 of 1860); or

   (b) Any Public Trust registered under the State Public Trusts Act, or the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 (Central Act No. 2 of 1882) or under the relevant laws in any other State or Union Territory or

   (c) A Company registered under Sec 25 Companies Act, 1956.

B. APPLICATION / PROPOSAL

(2) A Sponsoring Body desirous of setting up of a Private University, shall submit an application along with detailed proposal to the Department of Higher Education, along with a demand draft of Rs.1,00,000 (Rs. One lac) in favor of the Director, Higher Education.

C. CONTENTS OF THE PROPOSAL

(3) The proposal must contain the following particulars, namely:-

   (a) the details of the sponsoring body along with the copies of its registration certificate, constitution and bye-laws;

   (b) the name, location and headquarters of the proposed University;

   (c) the objectives of the University;

   (d) justification regarding the necessity of establishing the proposed University;

   (e) details of whether the private University is proposed to be a domain specific or multi-domain and in case of multiple domain, details of the specific domain(s) proposed such as engineering, law, management etc. In case of an existing institute, the domain
in which the institute specializes as also if the institute would like to introduce any other specializations to become a multi-domain university;

(f) the nature and the type of programs of study, training, and research proposed to be undertaken by means of Conventional / Distance / Open / Vocational / Online and any other mode, by the University and their relevance to the development goals and employment needs of the country and phasing of such programs over the first five years with programwise enrollment targets. Existing institutes must provide details of programs being conducted and the mode of education being employed at present along with the facilities available for the same. If university proposes the mode as a single mode only and specifically as distance/open/on-line, i.e. if the proposed University is Online University or Open University, in such case the sponsoring body/any of its constituents, should have experience in conducting distance/open/on-line education programs for minimum of 10 years and should have been already recognized by Distance Education Council (DEC). Open/Online University being a new concept, the requirement of land, infrastructure, technology and other resources may be accordingly amended to suit the nature/mode of education being imparted;

(g) whether the University proposes to undertake programs related to local needs. If so, the nature of teaching, instruction, training or research activities to be undertaken by the University. Existing institutes to provide details of existing programs catering to local needs and provide details of training, research facilities at their disposal to conduct the same;

(h) whether the University proposes to start some programs for the benefit of farmers, women and industries. If so, details therefore. Existing institutes to provide details of existing programs being conducted for the benefit of industries, farmers and women and provide details of training, research facilities at their disposal to conduct the same;

(i) the proposed fee structure including the extent of concessions or rebates in fee or free-ships and scholarships to economically or socially backward families, including SC/ST, handicapped students and other underprivileged category. The level of fees charged shall be in relation to the cost of running the course. A detailed policy for free-ships, scholarships and rebates is mandatory for economically or socially backward families, including SC/ST, handicapped and other underprivileged category. Existing institutes must provide the fee structure of all the programs being conducted by the institute alongwith details of fee concession and fee fixation policies (such an existing institute will be required to follow the free-ships, scholarships and rebates as outlined above);

(j) the details of policy for affirmative action (for students and/or staff) proposed to be undertaken by sponsoring body for domiciles, SC/ST, socially backward classes,
handicapped and other underprivileged category; Atleast 22.5% seats shall be reserved for the all aforesaid categories put together;

(k) the system proposed to be followed for selecting students for admission to the programs of study at the University. Existing institutes to submit details of existing admission policy; Admission shall be made strictly on basis of merit. Merit for admission may be determined either on basis of marks / grade obtained in qualifying examination for admission and achievements in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities or on basis of marks/grade obtained in entrance test conducted at State level or by the University itself. Admission policy must take into account the affirmative action plan mentioned in clause (j) above;

(l) the experience and expertise in the concerned disciplines at the command of the sponsoring body or its promoters;

(m) availability of academic research and training facilities including teaching and non-teaching staff at the disposal of sponsoring body, if any;

(n) the system proposed to be followed for appointment of teachers and other employees in the University;

(o) the proof of ownership of land or plans for land procurement and infrastructural development for the proposed University in a phased manner. As also details of buildings and infrastructure facilities, in case of existing institutes. In case, the sponsoring body plans to undertake further expansion, then plans of infrastructural expansion and land procurement along with fund available / plans for fund generation for the same should be submitted;

(p) the details of plans for campus development such as construction of buildings, development of structural amenities and infrastructure facilities and procurement of equipment etc. to be undertaken before the University starts functioning and phased programs for campus and infrastructure development within first five years of its existence. In case of an existing institute, details of structural amenities and infrastructure facilities including academic buildings, labs, auditorium, library, equipment etc. already available as also plans for further expansion;

(q) details of play grounds and other facilities available or proposed to be created for games and sports and extra-curricular activities like National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme, Scouts and Guides etc;

(r) the phased outlays of capital expenditure proposed for the next five years and its sources of finance;
(s) the estimated recurring expenditure coursewise or activity wise, sources of finance and estimated expenditure per student;

(t) the scheme for mobilizing resources and the cost of capital thereto and the manner of repayment to such sources;

(u) the scheme for the generation of funds internally through the fees from students, revenues anticipated from consultancy services, industry collaborated projects and other activities relating to the objects of the University, and other anticipated incomes;

(v) whether University proposes to undertake expansion; If so, details of constituent colleges (both existing /proposed), off-campus centers within / outside the State, off-shore campus and study centres proposed to be established as per the pre-requisites and regulations of UGC and other concerned statutory bodies;

(w) the arrangements proposed to be made for academic auditing;

(x) the information regarding financial resources of the sponsoring body or promoters of sponsoring body , along with audited accounts for the last year and details of plans for funds to be arranged for purpose of the University along with in-principal approval, if any, from financial institutions or third party investors, agreeing to provide the funds;

(y) commitment to follow the norms of the regulating bodies;

(z) such other details as the sponsoring body may like to give;

(aa) such other details as may be prescribed by the Government;

(4) In addition to complying with the model guidelines, an existing educational institution applying for Private University status must meet the following additional eligibility / compliance criteria:-

(a) the institution must have an existence of at least 5 years at the time of application and must submit audited accounts for the same;

(b) the institution must be an institution approved by relevant statutory bodies/councils. In addition the institute must obtain a NOC from the University in case it is already affiliated to a University at the time of making the application;

(c) The institute must also have approval for their academic programs from respective statutory bodies like All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE), Bar Council of India (BCI), Indian Nursing Council, Distance Education Council (DEC) etc.
(d) at the time of applying, the institute must possess necessary academic and physical infrastructure as prescribed by respective statutory/regulatory bodies concerned;

(e) institute must have adequate number of full-time fully qualified faculty for teaching, training, instruction, research as prescribed by respective statutory council;

(f) institute having less than five years of existence will be treated as fresh applicant. Such institute must however have verifiable good academic and student progress record and the sponsoring body must comply with the model guidelines as prescribed by the State Govt.;

D. EXAMINATION OF PROPOSAL

(5) The State Government, on receipt of the proposal for establishment of a University, shall constitute an inspection / scrutiny Committee consisting of senior Government officials and renowned academicians.

(6) The Committee shall consider the proposal and the project report on the following grounds, namely: -

(a) financial soundness and assets of the sponsoring body or its promoters and its ability to set up the infrastructure of the proposed University;

(b) background of the sponsoring body/promoters that is to say its expertise and experience in the field of education, its general reputation etc. and its commitment to follow the norms of the regulating bodies;

(c) potentiality of the courses proposed to be offered that is to say the courses are able to develop the human resources as per the requirements of contemporary demands, the courses have new features and include emerging branches of learning;

(7) The Committee, while considering the proposal and the project report, may call for such other information from the sponsoring body as it thinks proper for the purpose.

(8) The Committee on and upon consideration of the proposed shall submit its report to the state Government within a period of two months from the date of its first meeting.

(9) While computing the period of two months, the period commencing from the date on which requisition for any information is issued and ending on the date on which requisite information is submitted to the committee shall be excluded.
(10) Deficiencies observed during the scrutiny, if any, shall be communicated to the sponsoring body for removal thereof. Besides this, specific recommendations may be communicated to the sponsoring body for compliance.

(11) The sponsoring body shall submit the report regarding removal of deficiencies and compliance of the recommendations communicated as above within reasonable time. Thereafter the Committee shall follow the procedure as mentioned in Clause (7), (8) & (9) above.

E. ISSUE OF LETTER OF INTENT

(12) After the receipt of the report of the committee, if the State Government is satisfied that it is advisable to establish the University, it may issue a letter of intent within one month of the submission of the report by the Inspection Committee and ask the sponsoring body to: –

(a) establish an Endowment Fund for the University which shall be pledged to the Government which may be increased by notification issued by State Government from time to time. The amount of endowment fund shall be :-

(i) 5 crores rupees for single-domain
(ii) 8 crores for multi-domain

(b) sponsoring body must acquire not less than 10 acres of land for its main Campus if single domain and 25 acres of land if multi-domain. An integrated campus may have certain facilities in common such as auditorium, cafeteria, hostels etc and hence the land requirement may vary accordingly. An essentiality certificate will be issued to the sponsoring body in order to procure required land/property/other facilities for the establishment of University campus. Existing institutes must acquire additional land if not already owned, as per the minimum requirement prescribed above. The State Government may relax/increase the land requirement for existing institutes depending on nature/mode of education, on case to case basis; The State Government may relax the land requirement for proposed Private Universities to be established in rural areas, on case to case basis, in order to promote reach of education to rural students;

(c) construct administrative building of at least 1000 sq mtrs, academic building including library, lecture theatre, laboratories of at least 10000 sq mtrs, adequate residential accommodations for teachers, guest houses, hostels which shall gradually be increased to accommodate at least 25% of student strength in each course within 3 years of existence. In case University is conducting professional programs of study, prevailing norms and standards of respective statutory body shall be applicable. Existing institutes must undertake expansion / renovation / restructuring to meet the prescribed norms of the State Govt;
(d) purchase books and journals of at least Rs.10 lacs or as per the norms of regulating bodies, whichever is higher, and give undertaking to invest within first three years not less than rupees 50 lacs or as per the norms of regulating bodies, whichever is higher, on books, journals, computers, library networking and other facilities so as to make the library facilities adequate for contemporary teaching and research; Existing institutes to provide list of books, journals, computers, and other facilities available and procure additional quantity in accordance with the norms of statutory bodies;

(e) purchase equipments, computers, furniture, other mobile and immobile assets and infrastructure facilities worth rupees 20 lacs or as per the norms of regulating bodies and give undertaking to procure within the first five years, equipments, computers, furniture, other mobile and immobile assets and infrastructure facilities (other than buildings, referred to in clause (c) above) worth not less than rupees 1 crore or as per the norms of regulating bodies, whichever is higher; Existing institutes must have equipments, computers, furniture, other mobile and immobile assets and infrastructure facilities as per norms of statutory bodies or must purchase the same to meet the prescribed norms;

(f) give undertaking to appoint atleast one Professors, two Associate Professors and three Assistant Professors having prescribed qualifications and necessary supporting staff in each department or discipline to be started by the University;

(g) give undertaking to take up co-curricular activities like seminars, debates, quiz programs and extracurricular activities like games, sports, National Service Scheme, National Cadet Corps etc. for the benefit of students as per the norms laid down by the regulating bodies;

(h) give undertaking for establishment of provident fund and to take up welfare programs for the employees of the University;

(i) fulfill such other conditions and provide such other information as may be prescribed by the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education or any other statutory body established by the law of the Union or State Government;

(j) give undertaking not to dissolve the University before 15 years of its establishment and if the University is dissolved before 15 years all the assets of the University without liabilities and free from all encumbrances shall vest with the Government;

(k) give undertaking that all the assets of the University without liabilities and free from all encumbrances will vest with the Government if the University is dissolved on account of the contravention of provisions of the Act, Rules, Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, Directives of the Government and other statutory bodies;
F. SUBMISSION OF COMPLIANCE REPORT BY SPONSORING BODY

(13) The sponsoring body shall, within a maximum period of two years, submit to the State Government a compliance report along with an unambiguous affidavit, necessary documents to the effect that all conditions referred to in the letter of intent have been fulfilled.

(14) On receiving the compliance report, the State Government shall appoint a committee consisting of such members, as may be deemed necessary to verify the compliance report.

(15) The sponsoring body will have the provision to include any additional details during the period of two years from the time the LOI is issued and compliance report submitted. The amended part of the proposal will be reviewed again by the committee and approval will be given thereafter if deemed fit by the Committee.

(16) The Committee will scrutinize the compliance report and point out deficiencies, if any, to the sponsoring body for removal thereof. Any additional information may be sought by the Committee for scrutiny. Besides this, specific recommendations may be communicated to the sponsoring body for compliance.

(17) The sponsoring body will submit report to the Committee regarding the removal of deficiencies and compliance of the recommendations communicated as above.

(18) Subject to clause (16), the Committee shall submit its report to the State Government within one month from the date of its constitution specifying whether the sponsoring body has fulfilled the requirements and conditions laid down in the letter of intent.

(19) If the sponsoring body fails to comply with the provisions of letter of intent within a maximum period of two year from the date of issue of LOI, the proposal submitted shall stand rejected and the letter of intent issued to the sponsoring body shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

(20) However, the State Government may extend the term of letter of intent for the further period of one year if such request is made by the Sponsoring Body and the State Government is satisfied in respect of the reasons given by the Sponsoring Body for the extension of the letter of intent.

G. ENACTMENT OF LAW FOR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

(21) After receiving satisfactory recommendations of the Inspection Committee, the State Government will table a separate Act for the specific University before the State Legislature for its approval. The State Legislature will then pass a separate Act for the establishment and incorporation of the particular Private University, thereby enabling the Government to issue a Gazette Notification.
(22) The said notification will be sent to UGC and MHRD for information. The Sponsoring Body will be further required to make an application to UGC to enlist the newly incorporated University in the UGC List of Authorized Universities.

(23) The University must meet the norms, notification, regulations and guidelines as laid down by UGC from time to time, offer all academic and non-formal courses as per UGC guidelines on the same, adhere to the nomenclature of degrees and programs as specified under the UGC Act and set up statutes, regulations, rules and authorities like Board of Governors, Academic Council, Executive Council and Finance Committee to deal with governance, academic, administration and financial issues.

(24) The University shall maintain standards, higher than the minimum, of instruction, academic and physical infrastructure, qualifications of teachers, etc. as prescribed for college level institutions by the Statutory/Regulatory body concerned, such as All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE), Bar Council of India (BCI), Indian Nursing Council (MC), etc. and shall obtain their approval for running various programs of study as applicable.

(25) The University will be required to get itself assessed by NAAC within three years of its establishment and will also have to fulfill all other requirements / criteria laid down by various statutory bodies as applicable.