

## ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

### Minutes of the 360 (a) AIU Governing Council through Circulation.

Due to the prevailing situation of COVID-19 Pandemic, the minutes of Equivalence Committee, held on July 22, 2020 were circulated through email as an Agenda of 360 (a) AIU Governing Council Meeting to all the Governing Council Members for their approval.

The following members of Governing Council submitted their approval through email:

1.	Dr. Tej Partap, President, AIU	In Chair
2.	Col. (Dr.) G Thiruvassagam, Vice President, AIU	Member
3.	Prof. M M Salunkhe, Imm. Past President, AIU	Member
4.	Prof. N C Gautam	Member
5.	Dr. N Sundararajan	Member
6.	Prof. ORS Rao	Member
7.	Prof. Rajan Welukar	Member
8.	Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar	Member
9.	Dr. Paritosh K Banik	Member
10.	Prof. (Dr.) Ami Umakant Upadhyay	Member
11.	Shri Sajal Ghose	Member
12.	Prof. (Dr.) P Kaliraj	Member
13.	Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
14.	Prof. Anupma Nautiyal	Member
15.	Prof. Parvinder Kaushal	Member
16.	Prof. Roop Kishore Shastri	Member
17.	Prof. Aditya Shastri	Member
18.	Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU	Member Secretary

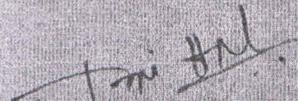
However, approval from following GC Members is still awaited:

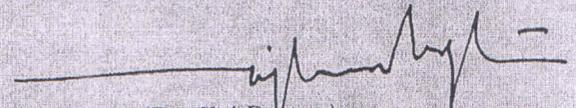
1. Prof Prem Kumar Kalra
2. Prof. J M Vyas
3. Sri Vikas Raj, IAS
4. Prof. Victor Gambhir
5. Prof. N Ethirajalu

### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

360 (a)/01 To consider the recommendations of the Equivalence Committee made in its meeting held on Wednesday the July 22, 2020 at 11.30 a.m. through Online Mode.

*Approved.*

  
(Dr. Pankaj Mittal)  
Secretary General

  
(Dr. Tej Partap)  
President

**ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES**  
**EVALUATION DIVISION**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Equivalence Committee held on  
Wednesday the 22nd July, 2020 at 11.30 a.m. through Online Mode.**

A meeting of the Equivalence Committee was held on Wednesday the 22nd July, 2020 at 11.30 a.m. through online Mode. The following attended the meeting:

1.	Dr. Tej Pratap, VC, Govind Ballabh Pant University Agriculture & Technology, President AIU	Chairman
2.	Col. Dr. G. Thiruvassagam, VC, Academy of Maritime Education and Training & Vice President AIU	Member
3.	Prof. Victor Gambhir, VC, MM University	Member
4.	Prof. Parvinder Kaushal, VC, Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry	Member
5.	Prof. V K Jain, VC, Tezpur University	Member
6.	Prof. A S Dhawan, VC, VN Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth	Member
7.	Dr (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU	Member

Special Invites:-

1. Prof O R S Rao Vice-Chancellor The ICFAI University, Jharkhand.
2. Prof. Rajan Welukar, Vice Chancellor AURO University of Hospitality & Management

The following members could not attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances and were granted leave of absence:

1. Prof R P Tiwari, VC, Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar 470003 (MP)
2. Prof. A. S Dhawan, VC, V N Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (MS)

Dr. Alok K Mishra, Joint Secretary (EV) and Shri Kuldeep Dagar, Deputy Secretary (EV) were also present and participated in the meeting.

At the outset, Dr. Tej Pratap, President AIU welcomed the members of the Committee in the first meeting under his chairmanship and appreciated the participation which was much larger than the physical meetings of the Equivalence Committee. After exchange of pleasantries he requested Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU to start the meeting.



Dr. Pankaj Mittal, welcomed all the members of the committee. She apprised the committee of the meeting agenda, the resolution of Governing Council meeting and need to revisit the minutes of Meeting of Equivalence Committee held on 27 April 2020. She welcomed the Prof. Welukar and Prof. O R S Rao as special invites in the meeting. The Members expressed appreciated the idea of conducting meeting Online which is also hassle free. After her briefing, the regular Agenda Items were taken up:

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Equivalence Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

The Minutes of last Equivalence Committee meeting were revisited as per the resolution of the Governing Council.

It is customary to take approval through signatures of the President, AIU on the Minutes of the Previous meeting. Since it was an On Line meeting it was decided to get his signatures on the Minutes Register, as and when the President, AIU visits the AIU office.

**Agenda 01 To consider the report of the Sub Committee of Equivalence held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 to re-visit the Policies and Procedures of according equivalence so far adopted by AIU, keeping in mind changing global scenario and with a view to attract more and more International students.** The Members were informed that following Sub Committee on Equivalence comprising of Five Members, was constituted with the approval of the President AIU, to revisit the existing Policies and Procedures of according equivalence, which required changes in the wake of globalization, changing paradigm of teaching learning, shift to choice based credit-based system, learning outcome based approach in teaching learning, approval of online education programmes by University Grants Commission and for encouraging foreign students to join Indian Universities. The following constituted subcommittee:-

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1) Dr. Pankaj Mittal, SG, AIU            | Chairperson |
| 2) Prof. D P Agarwal, Ex. Chairman, UPSC | Member      |
| 3) Prof. Binod Khadria, JNU              | Member      |
| 4) Dr. Surender Singh, JS, UGC           | Member      |
| 5) Prof. James Emmanuel, JS, CBSE        | Member      |

The members were then informed of the existing Policy adopted by AIU for according equivalence and the changes made in it, from time to time. In view of this and the liberalized policy of awarding degrees adopted by European and other countries in the changing global scenario and with a view to attract more and more International students, it was felt that AIU should make its existing policy of according equivalence more student friendly.



Accordingly, recommendations of the Sub Committee and decision of last Equivalence Committee meeting were placed before the Equivalence Committee for consideration on the various issues as mentioned under items in subsequent paragraphs.

**Item No. 01** To accord equivalence to various Bachelor, Master and PhD degrees awarded by the foreign accredited/approved/recognized degrees on the basis of the Credits instead of the Duration.

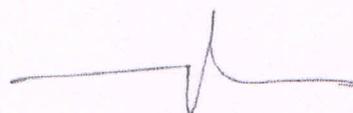
The foreign degrees are evaluated by the AIU based on the 04 parameters set for accord of equivalence with the corresponding degree of Indian university. The one of the parameters is that the duration of the foreign degree should be equivalent to that of the Indian degree. **As the foreign universities have provision of taking up courses during the summer/winter breaks so as meet the minimum credit requirement and thereby completing the degree in shorter duration. The degree completed in shorter duration beyond a threshold are not accorded equivalence by AIU. The committee was therefore of the view that there is need to switch credit-based evaluation instead of duration requirement alone.**

The members of Equivalence committee perused the minutes of last Equivalence committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and recommendations of the subcommittee constituted for the purpose. The committee recommended that the minimum credits prescribed by regulatory bodies like University Grant Commission (UGC)/ All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE) for programmes under their preview should be accepted for evaluation of foreign degrees. The present number of credits for engineering courses including computer science engineering prescribed by AICTE are to be accepted:-

	Bachelor	Master
Regular Bachelor Degree Course	160 credit	68 credit
Honours Degree	180 credit	80 credit

In case of Arts/Humanities and Social science disciplines, the following minimum credits prescribed by UGC shall be accepted: -

	Bachelor	Master
Regular Bachelor Degree Course	120 credit	80 credit
Honours Degree	140 credit	80 credit



For PhD degree equivalence the Equivalence Committee recommended requirements that student should have earned 18 Credits along with Two Papers/Patents Published (Published/Accepted) in the journals listed in UGC CARE/SCOPUS/Web of Science or any other peer reviewed journal with course work OR in case of no course work, minimum 04 papers published in the journals listed in UGC CARE/SCOPUS/Web of Science any other peer reviewed journal. The minimum duration of PhD should in accordance with minimum duration prescribed by UGC/AICTE or any other regulatory bodies of respective field in India.

The committee recommended that a credit comparison chart may be developed by AIU for different countries to evaluate of foreign degrees.

**Item No. 02 To consider the issue of according equivalence to the PhD & Master degree programmes, being presently awarded in India through various modes.**

The Equivalence Committee recommended that Degrees awarded by a foreign university in collaboration with any department or autonomous body/organization/PSU of Government of India can be equated with the corresponding Indian Degrees if the Indian organization has got it approved from their respective Governing Boards.

**Item No. 03 To accept the online Foreign University degrees at par with the Indian Universities.**

The member of Equivalence Committee recommended that online Degrees awarded by the foreign universities which are accredited/approved/recognized Universities in their Own Countries may accept at par with the corresponding Indian degrees, provided the other conditions as prescribed by AIU are fulfilled.

**Item No.04 To accept the foreign Bachelor/Master Degrees awarded by the foreign accredited universities for the course pursued on the campus of the university on 'Part Time' basis.**

The part time Bachelor/Master degree awarded by foreign university in collaboration with recognized Indian University can be given equivalence with degree of Indian University provided other conditions like credit, accreditation status are fulfilled.

**Item No.05 Acceptance of Degrees awarded on the basis of Diploma, Advanced Diploma/Higher National Diploma.**



The EC recommended that more information about these programmes be collected to ascertain whether the Diploma and Higher National Diploma can be considered as equivalent to First and Second year of Bachelor degree programme.

**Item No. 06 Acceptance of Chartered Accountants qualification for the purpose of employment, apart from registration to Ph.D. Degree.**

The committee decided to wait for the recommendations of UGC in the matter which was accepted by the members of the EC

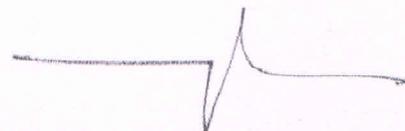
**Item No.07 To accord equivalence to the LLM Degree Programme offered by the foreign universities.**

Presently the AIU considers the equivalence of only those degrees awarded by foreign accredited universities which are awarded in non-Professional subjects (except for Engineering and Technology) where a student is not required to obtain a License to Practice. As such, for the degrees in the field of Medical and allied disciplines, Law, Architecture, Veterinary etc. the equivalence is established by their respective professional Councils, as per their existing Rules & Regulations. However, the issue of equivalence of LLM degree was brought to the notice of the members. It was felt that LLM cannot be considered as a professional degree as it does not give a license to practice. Therefore, although Bar Council may continue to give equivalence for the LLB degree (three years as well as integrated 5 years) as it is a professional degree which is the minimum eligibility requirement to apply/obtain a License to practice. However, LLM does not fall into this definition. Therefore, it shall fall under the purview of AIU.

The Committee recommended that the equivalence of LLM Degrees, which is the Second Level Degree, and hence an academic degree should be the prerogative of AIU. Hence, the matters relating to equivalence of LLM degree awarded by the foreign universities to the Indian degrees shall be dealt with by AIU. The Members recommended that the decision of AIU be conveyed to both UGC and Bar Council of India."

**Item No.08 To consider the request of students/candidates having passed their terminal/final examinations from foreign boards as 'Private Candidates' for the purpose of admission to higher studies.**

The EC Members recommended that all those students who are in possession of School Completion Certificates, for the examinations conducted by the Accredited/Approved Boards of India and abroad, may be considered for issue of equivalence certificate if they have completed the duration of schooling as prescribed in India.



**Agenda No 02.** To consider the report of the AIU Committee constituted in a case filed by Dr. S K Jain in the Supreme Court of India on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 vide SPL No.(SPL)© Diary No.34284/2017 against the judgement and orders dated 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh in light of Legal opinion taken on the minutes of the Meeting.

The committee perused following facts of the case:-

Dr. S K Jain was working as Assistant Professor since 1983 in CCS HAU, Hisar. In June 1989 with the permission of the University he joined The University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany to pursue a Ph. D Degree programme. He was awarded a Dr. Med. Vet. Doctor Medicinae Veterinariae (Dr. Med. Vet.) Degree by The University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany in 1994.

Dr. Jain pursued 03 Months Language Course from Goethe Institute, Gottingen, Germany from June 1989 till September 1989. He got himself registered with the University as a Ph.D. candidate on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1989 and was finally awarded Degree on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1994.

On a reference received from CCS Haryana Agricultural. University, Hisar, AIU issued a letter on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1997 stating therein that Dr. Med. Vet. Degree awarded by Hanovar School of Veterinary Medicine, to Dr. S K Jain can be equated with Ph.D. Degree of an Indian University.

The matter of equivalence to the Ph.D. Degree obtained by Dr. Jain was also placed before a 4-Member Committee constituted by CCS Haryana Agril. University held on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1999 who also recommended that the Ph. D. Degree obtained by the Dr. Jain can be equated with the corresponding Degree of an Indian University.

The matter was also referred to various German Organization/Universities seeking clarification/opinion on the parity & nomenclature of the degree obtained by Dr. Jain. The opinion of some of the German professors was taken into consideration by the committee.

The matter was also referred to Academic Council of CCS Haryana Agril. University, Hisar, which consider the matter of equivalence in its 384<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting which is reproduced below :-

**Item No. B-3- Clarification regarding equivalence of Dr. Med. Vet. Degree of Germany with Ph.D. of Indian Universities.**

The Academic Council, after due deliberations, decided that the degree of Dr. Med. Vet. obtained by Dr. S K Jain from Germany be treated equivalent to Ph.D.

The members were briefed of the Court Case and informed that as per the directives of the Court, AIU as per the directive, had invited all the three Parties and a detailed Report was prepared after giving due hearing to all of them and obtaining written submission from the parties.



The Equivalence Committee perused the report of Sub-Committee and the legal advice on the report. The Equivalence Committee took cognizance of observations of AIU Committee and found that Dr. S.K. Jain after 12 years of school education from Indian Board obtained 04 years of Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry from Grovind Ballabh Pant Krishi Evam Praudyogik Viswavidyalaya, Pantnagar and further pursued 02-year Master of Veterinary Science Degree from The Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. The foreign degree (Dr. Met Vet) degree awarded to Dr S. K. Jain meets all the 4 parameters of evaluation criteria of AIU policy and concluded that:-

- a) The university of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover is an accredited university in Germany;  
Dr S K jain pursued PhD Degree on the campus of the university full time;
- b) The duration of his degree was two year and ten months against the minimum requirement of two years during that period;
- c) He met the minimum eligibility requirement to join a PhD course e.g. two-year master's degree in veterinary science from HAU Hisar under 10+2+4+2 system of education.

The Equivalence Committee also perused the legal opinion of the advocate on AIU Committee report and the letters from various German Authorities and agencies that clarifies the requirements highlighted by advocate in his legal opinion on AIU Committee report.

**The Equivalence Committee accordingly resolved that Dr. Met. Vet Degree obtained by Dr. S K Jain from Hannover University; Germany can be equated with the corresponding PhD degree of the Indian University.**

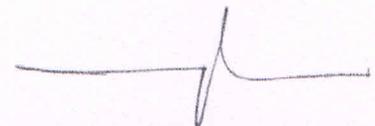
**Agenda No 3 To Consider the Case of Equivalence of Diplom Master/Master of Engineering degree obtained by Shri Rajiv Kumar, Director at DST from Moscow Technology University Russia successor of Moscow State Instrumentation and Informatics Academy with Bachelor of Engineering Degree of an Indian University.**

**The Committee perused the following: -**

(a) Shri Rajiv Kumar joined Voronezh Technological Institute as "PREPARATORY FACULTY" (Preparatory courses for foreign citizens) from April 1992 after completing his 12<sup>th</sup> class from Bihar Intermediate Education Council. He continued his studies of Diplom at Voronezh Technological Institute till Dec. 1995.

(b) He then joined Moscow State Academy of Instrument Engineering (MIREA) and Computer Science on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1996 to pursue 3<sup>rd</sup> course/year based on the Transfer from Voronezh Technological Institute. The MIREA has considered his studies at Voronezh Technological Institute and allowed him admission in 3<sup>rd</sup> course/year.

(c) After seven months on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1996 he was promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Course/Year at the MIREA. He was promoted 5<sup>th</sup> course/year in Feb. 1997.



(d) By the decision of state examination board of Russia, Mr. Rajiv Kumar was awarded with engineer-system designed qualification and with Master of Technical Science Degree.

The committee also considered that Sh Rajiv Kumar joined Voronezh Technological Institute after 12 years of schooling from India. AIU policy of equivalence of Diplom Engineer (5 years) of Russia as equivalent to BE degree of Indian University is based on the premises that Russia and other CIS countries have 11 years of education. Therefore, the degree of an applicants with 12 years of schooling cannot be treated in similar manner as that of a student from CIS countries with 11 years of schooling.

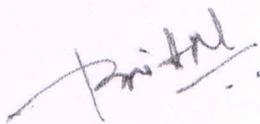
The total period of study in case of Mr. Rajiv Kumar till graduation is 15 years 06 months (12+03.6) excluding foreign language and preparatory course. Mr. Rajiv enrolled for full 05 years program but completed it in accelerated manner as per the provision of Moscow State Instrumentation and Informatics Academy, Russia now Moscow Technology University.

AIU in such cases that involves completing program in accelerated mode has relaxed the duration of degree program in accordance with para 25(a) of AIU Policy & Procedures on equivalence. The student enrolled initial for a full time program whose duration is equivalent to that of Indian degree program.

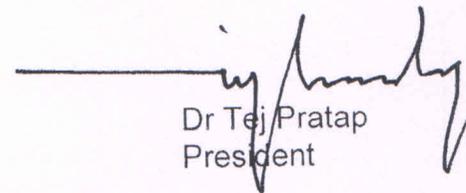
*Degrees awarded where the University has accepted credits taken by students from other universities/degree-awarding institutions including those in India: In view of the acceptance of credits and credit transfer is a normal practice in most foreign universities and that the same is also being encouraged in India, the AIU may accord equivalence to such foreign degrees where the duration have been shortened on account of credits accepted by the foreign universities so long as the degrees awarded by foreign universities meets all other parameters specified by the AIU;*

**The Committee therefore resolved that Diplom program awarded to Mr Rajiv Kumar may be equated with the bachelor degree of Indian University.**

**The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.**



Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal  
Secretary General



Dr Tej Pratap  
President