

**Fifteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly**

**Bill No. 54**

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**THE UNIVERSITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021**

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*BILL*

*further to amend the Kerala University Act, 1974, the Calicut University Act, 1975, the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985, the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994, the Kannur University Act, 1996 and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005.*

*Preamble.*—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005) for the purposes hereinafter appearing ;

BE it enacted in the Seventy- second Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the University Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) In this Act,—

(a) clause (c) of section 2, clause (c) of section 3, clause (c) of section 4 and clause (c) of section 6 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020;

(b) item (ii) of clause (a) and clause (d) of section 5 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021; and

(c) the remaining provisions shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2021.

2. *Amendment of Act 17 of 1974.*—In the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (1) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (4A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomous College” means a college conferred with autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and declared as such by the University by notification;”;

(iii) for clause (4B), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4B) “autonomy” means a privilege given to a college to conduct programmes of study, to develop its curriculum and syllabus, to devise teaching, learning and evaluation and assessment methods, to conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of the results of the respective programmes of study in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(iv) for clause (5A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College constituted under section 69G;”;

(v) after clause (7), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(7A) “Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LB;

(7B) “Course” means one of the subjects which comprises a programme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(vi) after clause (9), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(9A) “Expert Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LC;”;

(vii) for clause (10A), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(10A) “Finance Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Finance Committee of an Autonomous college constituted under section 69 LD;

(10B) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of an Autonomous College ;”;

(viii) after clause (12), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(12A) “Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College” means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LA;

(12B) “Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 65A;”;

(ix) after clause (17), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(17A) “Programme” means higher education programme pursued for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University of specified duration conducted in an Autonomous College in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(x) after clause (19), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(19A) “re-structured programme” means a programme approved by the University by incorporating or substituting inter disciplinary or multi disciplinary courses to the programme;”;

(xi) after clause (25), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(25A) “Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LE;”.

(b) in section 5,—

(i) for clause (ia), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ia) to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission;”;

(ii) clause (ib) shall be omitted.

(c) after the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 56, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes made thereunder, the Syndicate may receive and consider application for affiliation of a new course in an affiliated college for the academic year 2020-21 within one month from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (72 of 2020).”.

(d) for section 65, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“65. *Appellate Tribunal*.—(1) The Government shall constitute an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act at such place notified by the Government.

(2) The Government shall appoint a person who has been a Judge of the High Court or who has been a Judicial Officer not below the rank of District Judge as the Appellate Tribunal.

(3) The term of office of the Appellate Tribunal shall be three years from the date of its nomination.

(4) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the power to make regulation consistent with the provisions of this Act, with the previous sanction of the Government for regulating its procedure and disposal of its business. The regulations so made shall be published in the Gazette.

(5) The remuneration and other conditions of service of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be fixed by the Government.

(6) The Government shall provide such facilities for the establishment and functioning of the office of the Appellate Tribunal including creation of required posts and appointment thereto.

(7) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the jurisdiction to adjudicate dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.

(8) The decision of the Appellate Tribunal on a question as to whether a matter coming under this Act or not shall be final.

(9) The Appellate Tribunal shall, for the purpose of exercising the powers conferred by or under this Act, have all the powers of a Civil Court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act 5 of 1908), in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavit;

(d) issuing commission for the examination of witnesses or for local investigation;

(e) inspecting any property or thing concerning with any decision to be taken;

(f) requisitioning of any public record or copy thereof from any court, authority or office;

(g) any other matter which may be prescribed.”.

(e) after section 65, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“65A. *Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) The Vice-Chancellor - Member;

(c) The Vice-Chancellors of other - Member  
Universities established by State law  
nominated by the Pro-Chancellor

(d) The Secretary to Government - Member.  
in charge of the Higher Education  
Department

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”.

(f) section 69A shall be omitted.

(g) section 69B shall be omitted.

(h) in section 69C, in the marginal heading and in the section for the words “academic autonomy” the word “autonomy” shall be substituted.



(i) in sub-section (1) of section 69D,—

(i) in item (iii), for the words, “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) after item (iii), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College;

(v) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vi) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vii) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College;

(viii) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.”.

(j) in section 69E,—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for item (c), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff, of whom two shall be nominated by the Principal of the college based on seniority and rotation and two shall be elected by the regular teachers of the college from among themselves;”;

(b) for item (d), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(d) four experts from the field of industry, commerce, law, education, medicine, engineering, administration and finance, nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(c) for item (e), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(e) three Professors who are academic experts nominated by the University;”;

(d) in item (f), the words, “with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education” shall be omitted;

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three years:

Provided that, a person who has become a member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of his tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier.”;

(iii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall be two-third of its total members.

(6) The Member Secretary of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(7) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College within seven clear days, by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(k) in section 69F,—

(i) in item (ii), the words “subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be” shall be omitted;

(ii) in items (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(l) for section 69G, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69G. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department offering the programme concerned - Chairman;

(b) Faculty member teaching the course of the programme concerned;

(c) Two experts in the programme concerned from outside the University to be nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts in the programme concerned recommended by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(e) One representative from the field of industry, corporate sector or allied field related to the student placement, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(f) One meritorious alumnus who has completed the Post Graduation of the University, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(g) One representative of the Board of Studies of the University in the related or allied programme, nominated by the Syndicate;

(h) Special invitees, from the following categories co-opted by the Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College with the approval of the Principal of the Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the Autonomous College whenever special or new programme are to be designed;

(ii) teachers from other departments of the Autonomous College who are experts in the programme concerned.

(2) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College shall decide the programme or group of programmes to be brought under a Board of Studies.

(3) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College may decide whether separate Board of Studies shall be constituted for programme or group of programmes at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate level.

(4) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three academic years:

Provided that, in the case of a teacher who is a member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall cease to be a member on the date of retirement.

(5) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for different departments.

(6) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary:

Provided that, it shall meet at least twice in an academic year.

(7) The Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College within seven clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(9) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall

examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.

(10) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.”.

(m) in section 69H,—

(i) for item (i) the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) to prepare curriculum and syllabus for programmes conducted in the Department of the Autonomous College keeping in view of the objects of the college, interest of the stake holders of the programme and requirements of the nation and the State in particular and submit it for the consideration and approval of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College:

Provided that, the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that all existing programme, revision of existing programme and proposal for commencing new programme or restructured programme are in conformity with the duration of the programme, total credits for the programme, number of semester, minimum required credit for each semester and letter grading system prescribed for similar, allied or core programme approved by the University:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for new or restructured programme shall not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the discretion to distribute the percentage of marks between continuous assessment and end semester examination but however the percentage of marks for the end semester examination shall not be lower than sixty percent of the total marks.”;

(ii) in item (iv), for the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners; and” the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners and question paper setters;” shall be substituted;

(iii) after item (v), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(vi) to evaluate academic outcome of the assessment methods or tools adopted for each programme in respect of every batch of students admitted to the programme as and when such batch of students complete the programme;

(vii) to prepare continuous assessment methods or tools in respect of a programme in the Autonomous College before the commencement of the programme;

(viii) to review and modify as required on the basis of the academic outcome and submit the same to the Academic Council of the college for the consideration and approval.”.

(n) in section 69 I,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in sub-section (1) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The Governing Body of a Government College conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Three eminent persons of proven academic excellence who shall be an educationist, industrialist and professional nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be designated by the Government as the Chairman of the Governing Body;

(b) One teacher of the college nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(c) One teacher of the college elected from among themselves;

(d) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(e) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(f) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(g) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, nominated by the Government;

(h) One representative of the University, nominated by the Syndicate;

(i) The Chairman of the College Union;

(j) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Governing Body of a private college conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Manager, Chairman, Director or President of the Educational Agency- Chairman;

(b) Four persons of proven academic interest nominated by the Educational Agency;

(c) One teacher of the college nominated by the Principal of the private college on seniority by rotation;

(d) One teacher of the private college elected from among themselves;

(e) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Educational Agency;

(f) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(g) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(h) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(i) One representative of the University nominated by the Syndicate;

(j) The Chairman of the College Union;

(k) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”.

(o) for section 69J, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69 J. *Tenure of office of the Governing Body.*—The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Body shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term:

Provided that, member of the Governing Body, nominated by the University Grants Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of nomination:

Provided further that a person who has become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier:

Provided also that a student who has become a member of the Governing Body shall cease to be such member on cessation of the term of college union or cease to be a student of the college, whichever is earlier.”.

(p) for section 69K, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69K. *Meeting of the Governing Body.*—(1) The Governing Body shall normally meet at least twice a year:

Provided that, the meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened by the Chairman within ten clear days on receipt of a written request of not less than one third members of the Governing Body.



(2) Two third of the members shall constitute the quorum of a meeting of the Governing Body.

(3) The Member Secretary of the Governing Body shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(4) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Governing Body within ten clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) A member of the Governing Body who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(q) in section 69 L, for item (v) and proviso the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(v) to issue migration certificate and provisional degree certificate with the approval or concurrence of the University.”.

(r) after section 69 L, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“69LA. *Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College in accordance with the rules, orders, regulations and guidelines of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

(2) There shall be an external peer team for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College under the jurisdiction of the University constituted by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(i) An eminent academican nominated by the Governing Body of the Autonomous College - Chairman;

(ii) Two academic experts nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.

(3) The term of External Peer Team shall be four years.

(4) The External Peer Team shall devise its own procedures for exercising its powers and performing its duties.

(5) The External Peer Team shall review the comprehensive performance of the Autonomous College in various fields of academic activities such as teaching-learning process, conduct of examination and achievement of academic outcomes. The External Peer Team shall send its report to the University. The University shall forward it along with its recommendation to the University Grants Commission within one month of the receipt of the report. The review shall be conducted by the External Peer Team in every Autonomous College under its jurisdiction at least once in a year.

(6) The powers, duties and functions of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College shall be as laid down by the University from time to time.

69 LB. *Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute a Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College for the purpose of Chapter VIII B of the Act consisting of the following members, namely:—

- |  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| (a) The Vice-Chancellor  | - | Chairman; |
| (b) The Secretary to Government,<br>Higher Education Department<br>or his nominee not below the rank<br>of Joint Secretary to Government                                 | - | Member;   |
| (c) A member of the Executive Body<br>of the Kerala State Higher Education<br>Council nominated by the Vice-<br>Chairman of the Kerala State Higher<br>Education Council | - | Member;   |

- (d) One Manager of an Autonomous - Member.  
College affiliated to the University  
nominated by the Vice-Chancellor

(2) The term of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years from the date of its constitution.

(3) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be competent to hear and dispose of complaints relating to admission and fee in Autonomous Colleges affiliated to the University.

(4) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall devise its own procedures for the conduct of its business and proceedings.

(5) The decisions and orders of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be binding on the parties.

69 LC. *Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) The University shall constitute an Expert Committee of an Autonomous College with the following members, namely:—

- (a) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;
- (b) Two members of the Syndicate elected from among themselves;
- (c) Head of the department of the related or allied programme conducted by the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitee;
- (d) Dean of the Faculty concerned of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College as special invitee nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;
- (e) Two members of the Board of Studies of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitees;
- (f) Three experts related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as special invitees;

(g) The Registrar of the University who shall be the convenor of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the members of the Syndicate in the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be co-terminus with the term of the Syndicate which elected them.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members other than special invitees.

69LD. *Finance Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) There shall be a Finance Committee of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;

(b) Two persons of the Governing Body elected from among themselves;

(c) A teacher nominated by the Principal of the College;

(d) Finance Officer of the University.

(2) The term of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years. The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(3) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College within ten clear days.

(4) A member of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate to the members.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(6) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and duties, namely:—

(a) to advise the Governing Body on such matters brought to its notice;

(b) to prepare budget estimates relating to the grants and other amounts received from the University Grants Commission, University and the Government;

(c) to prepare, scrutinize and approve audited statement of accounts pertaining to the college.

69 LE. *Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College .. Chairman;

(b) Three senior teachers of the College, nominated by the Principal, of whom one shall be a woman;

(c) The Chairman of the College Union;

(d) One parent nominated by Parent Teacher Association of the Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two years. The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet during the first month of every academic year.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(4) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall follow the procedures as laid down by the University from time to time by its regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

(5) The recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be considered by the Principal of the College and shall take appropriate decision and communicate to the aggrieved student within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The report and recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon by the Principal shall be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the order under sub-section (5) may prefer an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within fourteen days from the date of receipt of such order. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall take decision in such appeal within sixty days after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.”.

(s) for section 69M, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69M. *Procedure for conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college.*—(1) Where a college intends to change its status to an autonomous one, it shall make an application to the University at any time during the year in the format specified by the University Grants Commission.

(2) On receipt of the application, the Syndicate or Executive Council shall constitute a committee consisting of five members of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within seven days of receipt of the application. The committee shall verify whether the college satisfies the eligibility criteria fixed by the University Grants Commission from time to time, its academic performance, availability of infrastructure facilities, qualified faculty facilities for the conduct of assessment and evaluation with confidentiality and transparency, functional existence of various statutory committees under the Act and Statutes and the Committee shall submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within seven days.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall consider the report of the Committee and forward the application to the University Grants Commission within thirty days of the receipt of application with such documents as required. Where the application is rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, his decision shall be communicated to the college and the University Grants Commission. The decision of the University shall be reported to the Government also.

(4) The University and the Government shall provide their nominees to the University Grants Commission Expert Committee for an on-spot visit as and when required by the University Grants Commission.

(5) Where the application of a college for the conferment or extension of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to re-apply within one year from the date of such rejection of its earlier application.

(6) An Autonomous College shall apply in the format prescribed by the University Grants Commission for extension of autonomous status, six months prior to the expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(7) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle fixed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation, the college seeking extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation to be eligible for extension of autonomy status.

(8) Where an Autonomous College desires to surrender their autonomous status, it shall follow the due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the University to the University Grants Commission for consideration of such resolution.”.

(t) in section 69N, for sub-section (1) and proviso, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Principal of the college shall constitute an examination cell for every Autonomous College headed by a teacher of the college.”.

(u) after section 69 O, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“69 OA. *Powers and duties of an Autonomous College.*—(1) An Autonomous College shall continuously maintain the academic quality and standards in accordance with the statutory guidelines, orders and regulations issued by the University Grants Commission or the University from time to time.

(2) The Autonomous College shall without fail, upload in its website information regarding the live accreditation status, national ranking, programmes offered by it, prospectus for admission to programmes, the fee and all other amounts payable by students for the programmes, the profile of the faculty, the admission procedures, the details of relevant infrastructure, research activities of the college and hostel facilities.

(3) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the constitution of the authorities referred in section 69 D and the profile of the members in the respective authorities. The approved minutes of the authorities and the action taken on the same shall be also put in its website.

(4) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the detailed audited statement of accounts, annual budget and institution development plans.

(5) The Autonomous College may review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and determine its courses, programmes of study and syllabus, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(6) The Autonomous College may formulate new courses or programmes within the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission as per the Specification of Degrees, 2014 subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(7) The Autonomous College may evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct of examination and notification of results, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(8) The Autonomous College may announce results, issue mark sheets and other certificate, however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(9) The Autonomous College shall pay one-time affiliation fee and such other amounts to the University at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status, in accordance with the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(10) The Autonomous College shall constitute the Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Students Grievance



Redressal Committee and Internal Quality Assurance Cell required to be constituted under this Chapter.

(11) The Autonomous College shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee as required under the University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

(12) The Autonomous College shall constitute a Committee as required under the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

(13) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Autonomous College shall appoint teachers and other academic staff as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.

(14) The Autonomous College shall continue to receive funds as being done before the grant of autonomous status, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes, rules and regulations made thereunder and agreements executed with the Government or the University.

(15) The autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. offered by the college and shall include the programmes introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status.

(16) The students enrolled in the Autonomous College at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status shall also be covered under autonomous status.”.

(v) in section 69 P,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “rules made thereunder” the words “rules made under this Chapter” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-sections (2) to (17), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) To fix and demand from an Autonomous College, the one-time affiliation fee and other fees under specific head or item payable by an Autonomous College for the period of autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission or for the extended period of autonomous status, as the case may be.

(3) Where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College has approved and submitted a proposal for the commencement of a new programme in the college to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College for consideration and appropriate decision:

Provided that, every such proposal shall be submitted to the University on or before the 31st day of October of every year.

(4) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall within ninety days of receipt of the proposal by the University, take a decision, approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor who shall communicate the decision to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College as the decision of the University:

Provided that, the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider the proposal with reference to the duration of the programme, number of semesters, minimum required credits for each semester, total credits for the programme, letter grading systems fixed for similar programme conducted by the University and also ensuring that the proposal does not have the effect of lowering the academic standards or is against the interest of the nation or the State before approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor for communicating it to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College:

Provided further that, where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University within ninety days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(5) Where the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College returns the proposal for resubmission to the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the same to be returned to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College for resubmitting the proposal after rectifying the defects pointed out by the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within forty five days.

(6) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall on receipt of the resubmitted proposal, either approve or reject the proposal within thirty days:

Provided that, where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College which resubmitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University by the Vice-Chancellor within thirty days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall place the report of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon before the Syndicate.

(8) The Syndicate shall have the power to inspect and verify whether a college that has been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission has violated any of the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomous status.

(9) For the purpose of sub-section (8), the Syndicate may constitute a committee with such members as it deems fit, to inspect the college, verify its relevant records and collect evidence relevant to the purpose of the inspection, for which all information and documents called for by the committee shall be provided by the Autonomous College on the appointed date and time fixed by the committee:

Provided that, such enquiry shall extend only to complaint or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(10) The committee constituted under sub-section (9) shall finalise its report only after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.

(11) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said committee, is of the opinion that the autonomous status conferred on the college has to be suspended or revoked, it shall communicate the same to the University Grants Commission as the recommendation of the University.

(12) If any complaint or information in writing is received by the Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and information, refer it to the University for necessary action if it deems so:

Provided that, such reference shall extend only to complaint or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying of fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(13) The procedure and action provided in sub-sections (8), (9) and (10) shall be followed in respect of a reference made by the Government under sub-section (12).

(14) Every Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual of Examinations within sixty days of such submission. The Autonomous College shall incorporate the modifications required to be made by the University in their Manual of Examinations and report the same to the University.”.

(w) in sub-section (3) of section 69Q, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(x) for section 69R, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69R. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*—All correspondences by the Government and the University with the Autonomous College or a College applying for autonomous status shall be made with the Principal.”.

(y) for section 69S, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69S. *Vacancies in the authorities of an Autonomous College under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*—No decision of any authority of an Autonomous College under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such authority not having been filled up.”.

3. *Amendment of Act 5 of 1975.*—In the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (1) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (4A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomous College” means a college conferred with autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and declared as such by the University by notification;”;

(iii) for clause (4B), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4B) “autonomy” means a privilege given to a college to conduct programmes of study, to develop its curriculum and syllabus, to devise teaching, learning and evaluation and assessment methods, to conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of the results of the respective programmes of study in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(iv) for clause (5A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 H;”;

(v) after clause (7), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(7A) Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 MB;

(7B) “Course” means one of the subjects which comprises a programme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(vi) after clause (9), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(9A) “Expert Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 MC;”;

(vii) for clause (10A), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(10A) “Finance Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 MD;

(10B) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(viii) after clause (12), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(12A) “Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College” means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 MA;

(12B) “Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 65A;”;

(ix) after clause (17), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(17A) “Programme” means higher education programme pursued for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University, of specified duration conducted in an Autonomous College in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(x) after clause (19), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(19A) “re-structured programme” means a programme approved by the University by incorporating or substituting inter disciplinary or multi disciplinary courses to the programme;”;

(xi) after clause (25), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(25A) “Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 ME;”.

(b) in section 5,—

(i) for clause (ia), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ia) to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission;”;

(ii) clause (ib) shall be omitted;

(c) after the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 56, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes made thereunder, the Syndicate may receive and consider application for affiliation of a new course in an affiliated college for the academic year 2020-21 within one month from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (72 of 2020)”;

(d) for section 65, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“65. *Appellate Tribunal*.— (1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.

(e) after section 65, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“65A. *Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

- (a) The Pro-Chancellor .. Chairman;
- (b) The Vice-Chancellor .. Member;
- (c) The Vice-Chancellors of other Universities .. Member;  
established by State law nominated  
by the Pro-Chancellor
- (d) The Secretary to Government in charge of .. Member.  
the Higher Education Department

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”.

(f) section 68 B shall be omitted.

(g) section 68 C shall be omitted.

(h) in section 68 D, in the marginal heading and in the section for the words “academic autonomy” the word “autonomy” shall be substituted.

(i) in sub-section (1) of section 68E,—

(i) in item (iii), for the words, “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) after item (iii), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College;

(v) Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vi) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College;



(vii) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College;

(viii) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.”.

(j) in section 68F,—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for item (c), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff, of whom two shall be nominated by the Principal of the college based on seniority and rotation and two shall be elected by the regular teachers of the college from among themselves;”;

(b) for item (d), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(d) four experts from the field of industry, commerce, law, education, medicine, engineering, administration and finance, nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(c) for item (e), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(e) three Professors who are academic experts nominated by the University;”;

(d) in item (f), the words, “with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education” shall be omitted;

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three years:

Provided that, a person who has become a member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of his tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier.”;

(iii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall be two-third of its total members.

(6) The Member Secretary of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(7) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College within seven clear days, by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(k) in section 68G,—

(i) in item (ii) the words “subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be” shall be omitted;

(ii) in items (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(l) for section 68 H, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68 H. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department offering the programme concerned-Chairman;

(b) Faculty member teaching the course of the programme concerned;

(c) Two experts in the programme concerned from outside the University to be nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts in the programme concerned recommended by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(e) One representative from the field of industry, corporate sector or allied field related to the student placement, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(f) One meritorious alumnus who has completed the Post Graduation of the University, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(g) One representative of the Board of Studies of the University in the related or allied programme, nominated by the Syndicate;

(h) Special invitees, from the following categories co-opted by the Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College with the approval of the Principal of the Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the Autonomous College whenever special or new programmes are to be designed;

(ii) teachers from other departments of the Autonomous College who are experts in the programme concerned.

(2) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College shall decide the programme or group of programmes to be brought under a Board of Studies.

(3) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College may decide whether separate Board of Studies shall be constituted for programme or group of programmes at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate level.

(4) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three academic years:

Provided that, in the case of a teacher who is a member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall cease to be a member on the date of retirement.

(5) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for different departments.

(6) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary:

Provided that, it shall meet at least twice in an academic year.

(7) The Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College within seven clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(9) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.

(10) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.”.

(m) in section 68 I,—

(i) for item (i) the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) to prepare curriculum and syllabus for programmes conducted in the Department of the Autonomous College keeping in view of the objects of the college, interest of the stakeholders of the programme and requirements of the nation and the State in particular and submit it for the consideration and approval of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College:

Provided that, the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that all existing programme, revision of existing programme and proposal for commencing new programme or restructured programme are in conformity with the duration of the programme, total credits for the programme, number of semester, minimum required credit for each semester and letter grading system prescribed for similar, allied or core programme approved by the University:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for new or restructured programme shall not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the discretion to distribute the percentage of marks between continuous assessment and end semester examination but however the percentage of marks for the end semester examination shall not be lower than sixty percent of the total marks.”;

(ii) in item (iv), for the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners; and” the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners and question paper setters;” shall be substituted;

(iii) after item (v), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(vi) to evaluate academic outcome of the assessment methods or tools adopted for each programme in respect of every batch of students admitted to the programme as and when such batch of students complete the programme;

(vii) to prepare continuous assessment methods or tools in respect of a programme in the Autonomous College before the commencement of the programme;

(viii) to review and modify as required on the basis of the academic outcome and submit the same to the Academic Council of the college for the consideration and approval.”.

(n) in section 68 J,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in sub-section (1), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The Governing Body of a Government College conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Three eminent persons of proven academic excellence who shall be an educationist, industrialist and professional nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be designated by the Government as the Chairman of the Governing Body;

(b) One teacher of the college nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(c) One teacher of the college elected from among themselves;

(d) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(e) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(f) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(g) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, nominated by the Government;

(h) One representative of the University, nominated by the Syndicate;

(i) The Chairman of the College Union;

(j) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Governing Body of a private college conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Manager, Chairman, Director or President of the Educational Agency- Chairman;

(b) Four persons of proven academic interest nominated by the Educational Agency;

(c) One teacher of the college nominated by the Principal of the private college on seniority by rotation;

(d) One teacher of the private college elected from among themselves;

(e) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Educational Agency;

(f) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(g) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(h) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(i) One representative of the University nominated by the Syndicate;

(j) The Chairman of the College Union;

(k) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”.

(o) for section 68 K, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68 K. *Tenure of office of the Governing Body.*— The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Body shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term:

Provided that, member of the Governing Body, nominated by the University Grants Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of nomination:

Provided further that a person who has become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier:

Provided also that a student who has become a member of the Governing Body shall cease to be such member on cessation of the term of college union or cease to be a student of the college, whichever is earlier.”.

(p) for section 68 L, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68 L. *Meeting of the Governing Body.*— (1) The Governing Body shall normally meet at least twice a year:

Provided that, the meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened by the Chairman within ten clear days on receipt of a written request of not less than one third members of the Governing Body.

(2) Two third of the members shall constitute the quorum of a meeting of the Governing Body.

(3) The Member Secretary of the Governing Body shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(4) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Governing Body within ten clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) A member of the Governing Body who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.”.



(q) in section 68 M, for item (v) and proviso the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(v) to issue migration certificate and provisional degree certificate with the approval or concurrence of the University.”.

(r) after section 68 M, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“68 MA *Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College*.— (1) There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College in accordance with the rules, orders, regulations and guidelines of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

(2) There shall be an External Peer Team for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College under the jurisdiction of the University constituted by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(i) An eminent academician nominated by the Governing Body of the Autonomous College- Chairman;

(ii) Two academic experts nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.

(3) The term of External Peer Team shall be four years.

(4) The External Peer Team shall devise its own procedures for exercising its powers and performing its duties.

(5) The External Peer Team shall review the comprehensive performance of the Autonomous College in various fields of academic activities such as teaching-learning process, conduct of examination and achievement of academic outcomes. The External Peer Team shall send its report to the University. The University shall forward it along with its recommendation to the University Grants Commission within one month of the receipt of the report. The review shall be conducted by the External Peer Team in every Autonomous College under its jurisdiction at least once in a year.

(6) The powers, duties and functions of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College shall be as laid down by the University from time to time.

68 MB. *Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) The University shall constitute a Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College for the purpose of Chapter VIII B of the Act consisting of the following members, namely:—

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| (a) The Vice-Chancellor   | .. Chairman; |
| (b) The Secretary to Government,<br>Higher Education Department or<br>his nominee not below the rank of<br>Joint Secretary to Government                                | .. Member;   |
| (c) A member of the Executive Body<br>of the Kerala State Higher Education<br>Council nominated by the<br>Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State<br>Higher Education Council | .. Member;   |
| (d) One Manager of an Autonomous<br>College affiliated to the University<br>nominated by the Vice-Chancellor  | .. Member.   |

(2) The term of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years from the date of its constitution.

(3) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be competent to hear and dispose of complaints relating to admission and fee in Autonomous Colleges affiliated to the University.

(4) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall devise its own procedures for the conduct of its business and proceedings.

(5) The decisions and orders of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be binding on the parties.

68 MC. *Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) The University shall constitute an Expert Committee of an Autonomous College with the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor .. Chairman;

(b) Two members of the Syndicate elected from among themselves;

(c) Head of the department of the related or allied programme conducted by the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitee;

(d) Dean of the Faculty concerned of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College as special invitee nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(e) Two members of the Board of Studies of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitees;

(f) Three experts related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as special invitees;

(g) The Registrar of the University who shall be the convenor of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the members of the Syndicate in the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be co-terminus with the term of the Syndicate which elected them.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members other than special invitees.

68 MD. *Finance Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) There shall be a Finance Committee of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College .. Chairman;

(b) Two persons of the Governing Body elected from among themselves;

- (c) A teacher nominated by the Principal of the College;
- (d) Finance Officer of the University.

(2) The term of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years. The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(3) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College within ten clear days.

(4) A member of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate to the members.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(6) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and duties, namely:—

(a) to advise the Governing Body on such matters brought to its notice;

(b) to prepare budget estimates relating to the grants and other amounts received from the University Grants Commission, University and the Government;

(c) to prepare, scrutinize and approve audited statement of accounts pertaining to the college.

68 ME. *Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College .. Chairman;

(b) Three senior teachers of the College, nominated by the Principal, of whom one shall be a woman;

(c) The Chairman of the College Union;

(d) One parent nominated by Parent Teacher Association of the Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two years. The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet during the first month of every academic year.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(4) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall follow the procedures as laid down by the University from time to time by its regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

(5) The recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be considered by the Principal of the College and shall take appropriate decision and communicate to the aggrieved student within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The report and recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon by the Principal shall be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the order under sub-section (5) may prefer an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within fourteen days from the date of receipt of such order. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall take decision in such appeal within sixty days after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.”.

(s) for section 68 N, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68N. *Procedure for conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college.*—(1) Where a college intends to change its status to an autonomous one, it shall make an application to the University at any time during the year in the format specified by the University Grants Commission.

(2) On receipt of the application, the Syndicate or Executive Council shall constitute a committee consisting of five members of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within seven days of receipt of the application. The committee shall verify whether the college satisfies the eligibility criteria fixed by the University Grants Commission from time to time, its academic performance, availability of infrastructure facilities, qualified faculty facilities for the conduct of assessment and evaluation with confidentiality and transparency, functional existence of various statutory committees under the Act and Statutes and the committee shall submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within seven days.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall consider the report of the Committee and forward the application to the University Grants Commission within thirty days of the receipt of application with such documents as required. Where the application is rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, his decision shall be communicated to the college and the University Grants Commission. The decision of the University shall be reported to the Government also.

(4) The University and the Government shall provide their nominees to the University Grants Commission Expert Committee for an on-spot visit as and when required by the University Grants Commission.

(5) Where the application of a college for the conferment or extension of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to re-apply, within one year from the date of such rejection of its earlier application.

(6) An Autonomous College shall apply in the format prescribed by the University Grants Commission for extension of autonomous status, six months prior to the expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(7) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle fixed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation, the college seeking extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation to be eligible for extension of autonomy status.

(8) Where an Autonomous College desires to surrender their autonomous status, it shall follow the due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the University to the University Grants Commission for consideration of such resolution.

(t) in section 68 O, for sub-section (1) and proviso, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Principal of the college shall constitute an examination cell for every Autonomous College headed by a teacher of the college.”.

(u) after section 68 P, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“68 PA. *Powers and duties of an Autonomous College.*— (1) An Autonomous College shall continuously maintain the academic quality and standards in accordance with the statutory guidelines, orders and regulations issued by the University Grants Commission or the University from time to time.

(2) The Autonomous College shall without fail, upload in its website information regarding the live accreditation status, national ranking, programmes offered by it, prospectus for admission to programmes, the fee and all other amounts payable by students for the programmes, the profile of the faculty, the admission procedures, the details of relevant infrastructure, research activities of the college and hostel facilities.

(3) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the constitution of the authorities referred in section 68E and the profile of the members in the respective authorities. The approved minutes of the authorities and the action taken on the same shall be also put in its website.

(4) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the detailed audited statement of accounts, annual budget and institution development plans.

(5) The Autonomous College may review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and determine its courses, programmes of study and syllabus, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(6) The Autonomous College may formulate new courses or programmes within the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission as per the Specification of Degrees, 2014 subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(7) The Autonomous College may evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct of examination and notification of results, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(8) The Autonomous College may announce results, issue mark sheets and other certificate, however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(9) The Autonomous College shall pay one-time affiliation fee and such other amounts to the University at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status, in accordance with the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(10) The Autonomous College shall constitute the Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Students Grievance Redressal Committee and Internal Quality Assurance Cell required to be constituted under this Chapter.

(11) The Autonomous College shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee as required under the University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

(12) The Autonomous College shall constitute a Committee as required under the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.



(13) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Autonomous College shall appoint teachers and other academic staff as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.

(14) The Autonomous College shall continue to receive funds as being done before the grant of autonomous status, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes, Rules and Regulations made thereunder and agreements executed with the Government or the University.

(15) The autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. offered by the college and shall include the programmes introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status.

(16) The students enrolled in the Autonomous College at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status shall also be covered under autonomous status.”.

(v) in section 68Q,—

(i) in sub-section (1) for the words “rules made thereunder” the words “rules made under this Chapter” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-sections (2) to (17), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) To fix and demand from an Autonomous College, the one-time affiliation fee and other fees under specific head or items payable by an Autonomous College for the period of autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission or for the extended period of autonomous status, as the case may be.

(3) Where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College has approved and submitted a proposal for the commencement of a new programme in the college to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College for consideration and appropriate decision:

Provided that, every such proposal shall be submitted to the University on or before the 31st day of October of every year.

(4) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall within ninety days of receipt of the proposal by the University take a decision, approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor who shall communicate the decision to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College as the decision of the University:

Provided that, the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider the proposal with reference to the duration of the programme, number of semesters, minimum required credits for each semester, total credits for the programme, letter grading systems prescribed for similar programme conducted by the University and also ensuring that the proposal does not have the effect of lowering the academic standards or is against the interest of the nation or the State before approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor for communicating it to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College:

Provided further that where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University within ninety days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(5) Where the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College returns the proposal for resubmission to the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the same to be returned to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College for resubmitting the proposal after rectifying the defects pointed out by the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within forty-five days.

(6) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall on receipt of the resubmitted proposal, either approve or reject the proposal within thirty days:

Provided that, where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College which resubmitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University by the Vice-Chancellor within thirty days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall place the report of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon before the Syndicate.

(8) The Syndicate shall have the power to inspect and verify whether a college that has been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission has violated any of the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomous status.

(9) For the purpose of sub-section (7), the Syndicate may constitute a committee with such members as it deems fit, to inspect the college, verify its relevant records and collect evidence relevant to the purpose of the inspection for which all information and documents called for by the committee shall be provided by the Autonomous College on the appointed date and time fixed by the committee:

Provided that, such enquiry shall extend only to complaint or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(10) The committee constituted under sub-section (9) shall finalise its report only after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.

(11) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said committee, is of the opinion that the autonomous status conferred on the college has to be suspended or revoked, it shall communicate the same to the University Grants Commission as the recommendation of the University.

(12) If any complaint or information in writing is received by the Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and information, refer it to the University for necessary action if it deems so:

Provided that, such reference shall extend only to complaint or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying of fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(13) The procedure and action provided in sub-sections (8), (9) and (10) shall be followed in respect of a reference made by the Government under sub-section (12).

(14) Every Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual of Examinations within sixty days of such submission. The Autonomous College shall incorporate the modifications required to be made by the University in their Manual of Examinations and report the same to the University.”.

(w) in sub-section (3) of section 68R, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(x) for section 68S, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68S. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*— All correspondences by the Government and the University with the Autonomous College or a College applying for autonomous status shall be made with the Principal.”.

(y) for section 68T, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68T. *Vacancies in the authorities of an Autonomous College under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*— No decision of any authority of an Autonomous College under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such authority not having been filled up.”.

4. *Amendment of Act 12 of 1985.*— In the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (1) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (4A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomous College” means a college conferred with autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and declared as such by the University by notification;”;

(iii) for clause (4B), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4B) “autonomy” means a privilege given to a college to conduct programmes of study, to develop its curriculum and syllabus, to devise teaching, learning and evaluation and assessment methods, to conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of the results of the respective programmes of study in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IX of the Act;”;

(iv) for clause (5A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College constituted under section 109;”;

(v) after clause (7), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(7A) “Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114 B;

(7B) “Course” means one of the subjects which comprises a programme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IX of the Act;”;

(vi) after clause (9), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(9A) “Expert Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114C;”;

(vii) for clause (10A), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(10A) “Finance Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114D;

(10B) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(viii) after clause (12), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(12A) “Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College” means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114A;

(12B) “Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69A;”;

(ix) after clause (19 A), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(19B) “Programme” means higher education programme pursued for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University, of specified duration conducted in an Autonomous College in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IX of the Act;”;

(x) after clause (21), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(21A) “re-structured programme” means a programme approved by the University by incorporating or substituting inter disciplinary or multi disciplinary courses to the programme;”;

(xi) after clause (27), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(27A) “Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114E;”.

(b) in section 5,—

(i) for clause (ia), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ia) to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission;”;

(ii) clause (ib) shall be omitted.

(c) after the second proviso to sub-section (2) of section 58, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes made thereunder, the Syndicate may receive and consider application for affiliation of a new course in an affiliated college for the academic year 2020-21 within one month from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (72 of 2020)”;

(d) for section 69, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69. *Appellate Tribunal.*— (1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.”.

(e) after section 69, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“69 A. *Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

- |   |    |           |
|---|----|-----------|
| (a) The Pro-Chancellor  | .. | Chairman; |
| (b) The Vice-Chancellor   | .. | Member;   |
| (c) The Vice-Chancellors of other Universities established by State law nominated by the Pro-Chancellor | .. | Member;   |
| (d) The Secretary to Government in charge of the Higher Education Department                            | .. | Member.   |

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”.

(f) section 103 shall be omitted.

(g) section 104 shall be omitted.

(h) in section 105, in the marginal heading and in the section for the words “academic autonomy” the word “autonomy” shall be substituted.

(i) in sub-section (1) of section 106,—

(i) in item (iii), for the words, “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) after item (iii), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College;

(v) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vi) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vii) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College;

(viii) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.”.

(j) in section 107,—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for item (c), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff, of whom two shall be nominated by the Principal of the college based on seniority and rotation and two shall be elected by the regular teachers of the college from among themselves;”;

(b) for item (d), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(d) four experts from the field of industry, commerce, law, education, medicine, engineering, administration and finance, nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(c) for item (e), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(e) three Professors who are academic experts nominated by the University;”;



(d) in item (f), the words, “with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education” shall be omitted;

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three years:

Provided that, a person who has become a member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of his tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier.”;

(iii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall be two-third of its total members.

(6) The Member Secretary of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(7) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College within seven clear days, by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(k) in section 108,—

(i) in item (ii), the words “subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be” shall be omitted;

(ii) in items (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(l) for section 109, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“109. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department offering the programme concerned—Chairman;

(b) Faculty member teaching the course of the programme concerned;

(c) Two experts in the programme concerned from outside the University to be nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts in the programme concerned recommended by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(e) One representative from the field of industry, corporate sector or allied field related to the student placement, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(f) One meritorious alumnus who has completed the Post Graduation of the University, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(g) One representative of the Board of Studies of the University in the related or allied programme, nominated by the Syndicate;

(h) Special invitees, from the following categories co-opted by the Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College with the approval of the Principal of the Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the Autonomous College whenever special or new programme are to be designed;

(ii) teachers from other departments of the Autonomous College who are experts in the programme concerned.

(2) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College shall decide the programme or group of programmes to be brought under a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.

(3) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College may decide whether separate Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be constituted for programme or group of programmes at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate level.

(4) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three academic years:

Provided that, in the case of a teacher who is a member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall cease to be a member on the date of retirement.

(5) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for different departments.

(6) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary:

Provided that, it shall meet at least twice in an academic year.

(7) The Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College within seven clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(9) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.

(10) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.”.

(m) in section 110,—

(i) for item (i) the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) to prepare curriculum and syllabus for programmes conducted in the Department of the Autonomous College keeping in view of the objects of the college, interest of the stake holders of the programme and requirements of the nation and the State in particular and submit it for the consideration and approval of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College:

Provided that, the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that all existing programme, revision of existing programme and proposal for commencing new programme or restructured programme are in conformity with the duration of the programme, total credits for the programme, number of semester, minimum required credit for each semester and letter grading system prescribed for similar, allied or core programme approved by the University:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for new or restructured programme shall not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the discretion to distribute the percentage of marks between continuous assessment and end semester examination but however the percentage of marks for the end semester examination shall not be lower than sixty percent of the total marks.”;

(ii) in item (iv), for the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners; and” the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners and question paper setters;” shall be substituted;

(iii) after item (v), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(vi) to evaluate academic outcome of the assessment methods or tools adopted for each programme in respect of every batch of students admitted to the programme as and when such batch of students complete the programme;

(vii) to prepare continuous assessment methods or tools in respect of a programme in the Autonomous College before the commencement of the programme;

(viii) to review and modify as required on the basis of the academic outcome and submit the same to the Academic Council of the college for the consideration and approval.”.

(n) in section 111,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in sub-section (1), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The Governing Body of a Government College conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Three eminent persons of proven academic excellence who shall be an educationist, industrialist and professional nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be designated by the Government as the Chairman of the Governing Body;

(b) One teacher of the college nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(c) One teacher of the college elected from among themselves;

(d) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(e) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(f) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(g) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, nominated by the Government;

(h) One representative of the University, nominated by the Syndicate;

(i) The Chairman of the College Union;

(j) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Governing Body of a private college conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Manager, Chairman, Director or President of the Educational Agency- Chairman;

(b) Four persons of proven academic interest nominated by the Educational Agency;

(c) One teacher of the college nominated by the Principal of the private college on seniority by rotation;

(d) One teacher of the private college elected from among themselves;

(e) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Educational Agency;

(f) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(g) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(h) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(i) One representative of the University nominated by the Syndicate;

(j) The Chairman of the College Union;

(k) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”.

(o) for section 112, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“112. *Tenure of office of the Governing Body.*—The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Body shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term:

Provided that, member of the Governing Body, nominated by the University Grants Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of nomination:

Provided further that, a person who has become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier:

Provided also that, a student who has become a member of the Governing Body shall cease to be such member on cessation of the term of college union or cease to be a student of the college, whichever is earlier.”.

(p) for section 113, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“113. *Meeting of the Governing Body.*—(1) The Governing Body shall normally meet at least twice a year:

Provided that, the meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened by the Chairman within ten clear days on receipt of a written request of not less than one third members of the Governing Body.

(2) Two third of the members shall constitute the quorum of a meeting of the Governing Body.

(3) The Member Secretary of the Governing Body shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(4) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Governing Body within ten clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) A member of the Governing Body who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(q) in section 114, for item (v) and proviso, the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(v) to issue migration certificate and provisional degree certificate with the approval or concurrence of the University.”.

(r) after section 114, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:-

“114A *Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College in accordance with the rules, orders, regulations and guidelines of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

(2) There shall be an External Peer Team for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College under the jurisdiction of the University constituted by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(i) An eminent academician nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College - Chairman;

(ii) Two academic experts nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.

(3) The term of External Peer Team shall be four years.

(4) The External Peer Team shall devise its own procedures for exercising its powers and performing its duties.

(5) The External Peer Team shall review the comprehensive performance of the Autonomous College in various fields of academic activities such as teaching-learning process, conduct of examination and achievement of academic



outcomes. The External Peer Team shall send its report to the University. The University shall forward it along with its recommendation to the University Grants Commission within one month of the receipt of the report. The review shall be conducted by the External Peer Team in every Autonomous College under its jurisdiction at least once in a year.

(6) The powers, duties and functions of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College shall be as laid down by the University from time to time.

114B. *Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute a Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College for the purpose of Chapter IX of the Act consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government - Member;

(c) A member of the Executive Body of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council - Member;

(d) One Manager of an Autonomous College affiliated to the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor- Member.

(2) The term of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years from the date of its constitution.

(3) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be competent to hear and dispose of complaints relating to admission and fee in Autonomous Colleges affiliated to the University.

(4) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall devise its own procedures for the conduct of its business and proceedings.

(5) The decisions and orders of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be binding on the parties.

114C *Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute an Expert Committee of an Autonomous College with the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) Two members of the Syndicate elected from among themselves;

(c) Head of the department of the related or allied programme conducted by the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitee;

(d) Dean of the Faculty concerned of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College as special invitee nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(e) Two members of the Board of Studies of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitees;

(f) Three experts related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as special invitees;

(g) The Registrar of the University who shall be the convenor of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the members of the Syndicate in the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College be co-terminus with the term of the Syndicate which elected them.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members other than special invitees.

114D *Finance Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Finance Committee of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College- Chairman;

(b) Two persons of the Governing Body elected from among themselves;

(c) A teacher nominated by the Principal of the College;

(d) Finance Officer of the University.

(2) The term of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years. The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(3) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College within ten clear days.

(4) A member of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate to the members.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(6) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and duties, namely:—

(a) to advise the Governing Body on such matters brought to its notice;

(b) to prepare budget estimates relating to the grants and other amounts received from the University Grants Commission, University and the Government;

(c) to prepare, scrutinize and approve audited statement of accounts pertaining to the college.

114E. *Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of following members, namely:—

1420/202(a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;

(b) Three senior teachers of the College, nominated by the Principal, of whom one shall be a woman;

(c) The Chairman of the College Union;

(d) One parent nominated by Parent Teacher Association of the Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two years. The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet during the first month of every academic year.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(4) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall follow the procedures as laid down by the University from time to time by its regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

(5) The recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be considered by the Principal of the College and shall take appropriate decision and communicate to the aggrieved student within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The report and recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon by the Principal shall be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the order under sub-section (5) may prefer an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within fourteen days from the date of receipt of such order. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall take decision in such appeal within sixty days after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.”.

(s) for section 115, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“115. *Procedure for conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college.*—(1) Where a college intends to change its status to an autonomous one, it shall make an application to the University at any time during the year in the format specified by the University Grants Commission.

(2) On receipt of the application, the Syndicate or Executive Council shall constitute a committee consisting of five members of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within seven days of receipt of the application. The committee shall verify whether the college satisfies the eligibility criteria fixed by the University Grants Commission from time to time, its academic performance, availability of infrastructure facilities, qualified faculty facilities for the conduct of assessment and evaluation with confidentiality and transparency, functional existence of various statutory committees under the Act and Statutes and the committee shall submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within seven days.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall consider the report of the committee and forward the application to the University Grants Commission within thirty days of the receipt of application with such documents as required. Where the application is rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, his decision shall be communicated to the college and the University Grants Commission. The decision of the University shall be reported to the Government also.

(4) The University and the Government shall provide their nominees to the University Grants Commission Expert Committee for an on-spot visit as and when required by the University Grants Commission.

(5) Where the application of a college for the conferment or extension of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to re-apply within one year from the date of such rejection of its earlier application.

(6) An Autonomous College shall apply in the format prescribed by the University Grants Commission for extension of autonomous status, six months prior to the expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(7) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle fixed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation, the college seeking

extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation to be eligible for extension of autonomy status.

(8) Where an Autonomous College desires to surrender their autonomous status, it shall follow the due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the University to the University Grants Commission for consideration of such resolution.”.

(t) in section 116, for sub-section (1) and proviso, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Principal of the college shall constitute an examination cell for every Autonomous College headed by a teacher of the college.”.

(u) after section 117, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“117A. *Powers and duties of an Autonomous College.*—(1) An Autonomous College shall continuously maintain the academic quality and standards in accordance with the statutory guidelines, orders and regulations issued by the University Grants Commission or the University from time to time.

(2) The Autonomous College shall without fail, upload in its website information regarding the live accreditation status, national ranking, programmes offered by it, prospectus for admission to programmes, the fee and all other amounts payable by students for the programmes, the profile of the faculty, the admission procedures, the details of relevant infrastructure, research activities of the college and hostel facilities.

(3) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the constitution of the authorities referred in section 106 and the profile of the members in the respective authorities. The approved minutes of the authorities and the action taken on the same shall be also put in its website.

(4) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the detailed audited statement of accounts, annual budget and institution development plans.

(5) The Autonomous College may review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and determine its courses, programmes of study and syllabus, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(6) The Autonomous College may formulate new courses or programmes within the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission as per the Specification of Degrees, 2014, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(7) The Autonomous College may evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct of examination and notification of results, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(8) The Autonomous College may announce results, issue mark sheets and other certificate, however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(9) The Autonomous College shall pay one-time affiliation fee and such other amounts to the University at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status, in accordance with the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(10) The Autonomous College shall constitute the Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Students Grievance Redressal Committee and Internal Quality Assurance Cell required to be constituted under this Chapter.

(11) The Autonomous College shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee as required under the University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

(12) The Autonomous College shall constitute a Committee as required under the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

(13) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Autonomous College shall appoint teachers and other academic staff as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in

Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.

(14) The Autonomous College shall continue to receive funds as being done before the grant of autonomous status, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes, rules and regulations made thereunder and agreements executed with the Government or the University.

(15) The autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. offered by the college and shall include the programmes introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status.

(16) The students enrolled in the Autonomous College at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status shall also be covered under autonomous status.”.

(v) in section 118,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “rules made thereunder” the words “rules made under this Chapter” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-sections (2) to (17), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) To fix and demand from an Autonomous College, the one time affiliation fee and other fees under specific head or items payable by an Autonomous College for the period of autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission or for the extended period of autonomous status, as the case may be.

(3) Where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College has approved and submitted a proposal for the commencement of a new programme in the college to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College for consideration and appropriate decision:

Provided that, every such proposal shall be submitted to the University on or before the 31st day of October of every year.



(4) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall within ninety days of receipt of the proposal by the University, take a decision, approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor who shall communicate the decision to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College as the decision of the University:

Provided that, the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider the proposal with reference to the duration of the programme, number of semesters, minimum required credits for each semester, total credits for the programme, letter grading systems fixed for similar programme conducted by the University and also ensuring that the proposal does not have the effect of lowering the academic standards or is against the interest of the nation or the State before approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor for communicating it to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College:

Provided further that, where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University within ninety days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(5) Where the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College returns the proposal for resubmission to the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the same to be returned to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College for resubmitting the proposal after rectifying the defects pointed out by the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within forty five days.

(6) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall on receipt of the resubmitted proposal, either approve or reject the proposal within thirty days:

Provided that, where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College which resubmitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University by the Vice-Chancellor within thirty days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall place the report of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon before the Syndicate.

(8) The Syndicate shall have the power to inspect and verify whether a college that has been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission has violated any of the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomous status.

(9) For the purpose of sub-section (8), the Syndicate may constitute a committee with such members as it deems fit, to inspect the college, verify its relevant records and collect evidence relevant to the purpose of the inspection, for which all information and documents called for by the committee shall be provided by the Autonomous College on the appointed date and time fixed by the committee:

Provided that, such enquiry shall extend only to complaint or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(10) The committee constituted under sub-section (9) shall finalise its report only after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.

(11) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said committee, is of the opinion that the autonomous status conferred on the college has to be suspended or revoked, it shall communicate the same to the University Grants Commission as the recommendation of the University.

(12) If any complaint or information in writing is received by the Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and information, refer it to the University for necessary action if it deems so:

Provided that, such reference shall extend only to complaint or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or

unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying of fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(13) The procedure and action provided in sub-sections (8), (9) and (10) shall be followed in respect of a reference made by the Government under sub-section (12).

(14) Every Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual of Examinations within sixty days of such submission. The Autonomous College shall incorporate the modifications required to be made by the University in their Manual of Examinations and report the same to the University.”.

(w) in sub-section (3) of section 119, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(x) for section 120, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“120. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*—All correspondences by the Government and the University with the Autonomous College or a College applying for autonomous status shall be made with the Principal.”.

(y) for section 121, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“121. *Vacancies in the authorities of an Autonomous College under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*—No decision of any authority of an Autonomous College under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such authority not having been filled up.”.

5. *Amendment of Act 5 of 1994.*—In the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) after clause (j) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ja) “Inter University Consultative Committee” means the Inter University Consultative Committee constituted under section 15A.”;

(ii) for clause (t), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(t) “teacher” means a Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor or such other person appointed as per University Grants Commission norms for the purpose of imparting instruction or conducting and guiding research in the University;”;

(b) in section 11, after item (i) the following item shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ia) Inter University Consultative Committee;”;

(c) after section 15, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“15A. *Constitution of Inter University Consultative Committee.*- (1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) The Vice-Chancellors - Member;

of other Universities  
established by State law  
nominated by the  
Pro-Chancellor

(c) The Secretary to - Member.

Government in charge  
of the Higher Education  
Department

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”;

(d) in section 19 for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Academic departments shall constitute the basic units of the academic studies of the University headed by a Professor or in the absence of a Professor, by an Associate Professor of that department on rotation basis for a period of three years. In the absence of both, the senior most teacher may discharge duties as ‘Teacher-in-charge’.”;

(e) for section 22A, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“22A. *Appellate Tribunal*.—(1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.”.

6. *Amendment of Act 22 of 1996*.—In the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (i) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (ivA) the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ivA) ‘Autonomous College’ means a college conferred with autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and declared as such by the University by notification.”;

(iii) for clause (ivB), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ivB) “autonomy” means a privilege given to a college to conduct programmes of study, to develop its curriculum and syllabus, to devise teaching, learning and evaluation and assessment methods, to conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of the results of the respective programmes of study in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIIIA of the Act;”;

(iv) for clause (vA), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(vA) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College constituted under section 74G;”;

(v) after clause (vii), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(viiA) Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74LB;

(viiB) “Course” means one of the subjects which comprises a programme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIIIA of the Act;”;

(vi) after clause (ix), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ixA) “Expert Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74LC;”;

(vii) for clause (xA), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(xA) “Finance Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74LD;

(xB) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(viii) after clause (xii), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xiiA) “Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College” means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74 LA;”;

“(xiiB) “Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 72A;”;

(ix) after clause (xvii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xviiA) “Programme” means higher education programme pursued for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University, of specified duration conducted in an Autonomous College in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII A of the Act;”;

(x) after clause (xx), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xxA) “re-structured programme” means a programme approved by the University by incorporating or substituting inter disciplinary or multi disciplinary courses to the programme;”;

(xi) after clause (xxvi), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xxviA) “Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74LE;”.

(b) in section 5,—

(i) for clause (ia), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

“(ia) to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission;”;

(ii) clause (ib) shall be omitted.

(c) after the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 61, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes made thereunder, the Syndicate may receive and consider application for affiliation of a new course in an affiliated college for the academic year 2020-21 within one month from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (72 of 2020)”;

(d) for section 72, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“72. *Appellate Tribunal*.—(1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.”.

(e) after section 72, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

“72A. *Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College*.-(1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

- |                          |    |           |
|--------------------------|----|-----------|
| (a) The Pro-Chancellor   | .. | Chairman; |
| (b) The Vice-Chancellor  | .. | Member;   |
| (c) The Vice-Chancellors | .. | Member;   |
| of other Universities    |    |           |
| established by State law |    |           |
| nominated by the         |    |           |
| Pro-Chancellor           |    |           |
| (d) The Secretary to     | .. | Member.   |
| Government in charge     |    |           |
| of the Higher Education  |    |           |
| Department               |    |           |



(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”.

(f) section 74A shall be omitted.

(g) section 74B shall be omitted.

(h) in section 74C, in the marginal heading and in the section for the words “academic autonomy” the word “autonomy” shall be substituted.

(i) in sub-section (1) of section 74D,—

(i) in item (iii) for the words, “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) after item (iii), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College;

(v) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vi) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vii) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College;

(viii) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.”.

(j) in section 74E,—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for item (c), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff, of whom two shall be nominated by the Principal of the college based on seniority and rotation and two shall be elected by the regular teachers of the college from among themselves;”;

(b) for item (d), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(d) four experts from the field of industry, commerce, law, education, medicine, engineering, administration and finance, nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(c) for item (e), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(e) three Professors who are academic experts nominated by the University;”;

(d) in item (f), the words, “with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education” shall be omitted;

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three years:

Provided that, a person who has become a member of the Academic Council by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of his tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier.”;

(iii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall be two-third of its total members.

(6) The Member Secretary of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(7) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College within seven clear days, by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronics means;”.

(k) in section 74F,—

(i) in item (ii), the words “subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be” shall be omitted;

(ii) in items (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(l) for section 74 G, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

“74G. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department offering the programme concerned-Chairman;

(b) Faculty member teaching the course of the programme concerned;

(c) Two experts in the programme concerned from outside the University to be nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts in the programme concerned recommended by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(e) One representative from the field of industry, corporate sector or allied field related to the student placement, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(f) One meritorious alumnus who has completed the Post Graduation of the University, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(g) One representative of the Board of Studies of the University in the related or allied programme, nominated by the Syndicate;

(h) Special invitees, from the following categories co-opted by the Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College with the approval of the Principal of the Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the Autonomous College whenever special or new programme are to be designed;

(ii) teachers from other departments of the Autonomous College who are experts in the programme concerned.”.

(2) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College shall decide the programme or group of programmes to be brought under a Board of Studies.

(3) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College may decide whether separate Board of Studies shall be constituted for programme or group of programmes at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate level.

(4) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three academic years:

Provided that, in the case of a teacher who is a member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall cease to be a member on the date of retirement.

(5) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for different departments.

(6) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary:

Provided that, it shall meet atleast twice in an academic year.

(7) The Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College within seven clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(9) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.

(10) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.”.

(m) in section 74 H,—

(i) for item (i), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) to prepare curriculum and syllabus for programmes conducted in the Department of the Autonomous College keeping in view of the objects of the college, interest of the stake holders of the programme and requirements of the nation and the State in particular and submit it for the consideration and approval of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College:

Provided that, the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that all existing programme, revision of existing programme and proposal for commencing new programme or restructured programme are in conformity with the duration of the programme, total credits for the programme, number of semester, minimum required credit for each semester and letter grading system prescribed for similar, allied or core programme approved by the University:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for new or restructured programme shall not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the discretion to distribute the percentage of marks between continuous assessment and end semester examination but however the percentage of marks for the end semester examination shall not be lower than sixty per cent of the total marks.”;

(ii) in item (iv), for the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners; and” the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners and question paper setters;” shall be substituted;

(iii) after item (v), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(vi) to evaluate academic outcome of the assessment methods or tools adopted for each programme in respect of every batch of students admitted to the programme as and when such batch of students complete the programme;

(vii) to prepare continuous assessment methods or tools in respect of a programme in the Autonomous College before the commencement of the programme;

(viii) to review and modify as required on the basis of the academic outcome and submit the same to the Academic Council of the college for the consideration and approval.”.

(n) in section 74I,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in sub-section (1) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The Governing Body of a Government College conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Three eminent persons of proven academic excellence who shall be an educationist, industrialist and professional nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be designated by the Government as the Chairman of the Governing Body;

(b) One teacher of the college nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(c) One teacher of the college elected from among themselves;

(d) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(e) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(f) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(g) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, nominated by the Government;

(h) One representative of the University, nominated by the Syndicate;

(i) The Chairman of the College Union;

(j) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Governing Body of a private college conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Manager, Chairman, Director or President of the Educational Agency Chairman;

(b) Four persons of proven academic interest nominated by the Educational Agency;

(c) One teacher of the college nominated by the Principal of the private college on seniority by rotation;

(d) One teacher of the private college elected from among themselves;

(e) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Educational Agency;

(f) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(g) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(h) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(i) One representative of the University nominated by the Syndicate;

(j) The Chairman of the College Union;

(k) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”.

(o) for section 74J, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74J. *Tenure of office of the Governing Body.*— The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Body shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term:

Provided that, member of the Governing Body, nominated by the University Grants Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of nomination:

Provided further that, a person who has become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier:

Provided also that, a student who has become a member of the Governing Body shall cease to be such member on cessation of the term of college union or cease to be a student of the college, whichever is earlier.”.

(p) for section 74K, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74K. *Meeting of the Governing Body.*—(1) The Governing Body shall normally meet at least twice a year:

Provided that, the meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened by the Chairman within ten clear days on receipt of a written request of not less than one third members of the Governing Body.

(2) Two third of the members shall constitute the quorum of a meeting of the Governing Body.



(3) The Member Secretary of the Governing Body shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(4) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Governing Body within ten clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) A member of the Governing Body who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(q) in section 74L, for item (v) and proviso the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(v) to issue migration certificate and provisional degree certificate with the approval or concurrence of the University.”.

(r) after section 74L, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“74 LA. *Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College in accordance with the rules, orders, regulations and guidelines of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

(2) There shall be an External Peer Team for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College under the jurisdiction of the University constituted by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(i) An eminent academician nominated by the Governing Body of the Autonomous College- Chairman;

(ii) Two academic experts nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.

(3) The term of External Peer Team shall be four years.

(4) The External Peer Team shall devise its own procedures for exercising its powers and performing its duties.

(5) The External Peer Team shall review the comprehensive performance of the Autonomous College in various fields of academic activities such as teaching-learning process, conduct of examination and achievement of academic outcomes. The External Peer Team shall send its report to the University. The University shall forward it along with its recommendation to the University Grants Commission within one month of the receipt of the report. The review shall be conducted by the External Peer Team in every Autonomous College under its jurisdiction at least once in a year.

(6) The powers, duties and functions of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College shall be as laid down by the University from time to time.

74LB. *Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute a Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College for the purpose of Chapter VIII A of the Act consisting of the following members, namely:—

- |  |    |           |
|--|----|-----------|
| (a) The Vice-Chancellor  | .. | Chairman; |
| (b) The Secretary to Government,<br>Higher Education Department<br>or his nominee not below the<br>rank of Joint Secretary to<br>Government                                | .. | Member;   |
| (c) A member of the Executive<br>Body of the Kerala State<br>Higher Education Council<br>nominated by the Vice-Chairman<br>of the Kerala State Higher<br>Education Council | .. | Member;   |
| (d) One Manager of an<br>Autonomous College<br>affiliated to the University<br>nominated by the Vice-Chancellor  | .. | Member.   |

(2) The term of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years from the date of its constitution.

(3) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be competent to hear and dispose of complaints relating to admission and fee in Autonomous Colleges affiliated to the University.

(4) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall devise its own procedures for the conduct of its business and proceedings.

(5) The decisions and orders of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be binding on the parties.

74 LC. *Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute an Expert Committee of an Autonomous College with the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor .. Chairman;

(b) Two members of the Syndicate elected from among themselves;

(c) Head of the department of the related or allied programme conducted by the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitee;

(d) Dean of the Faculty concerned of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College as special invitee nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(e) Two members of the Board of Studies of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitees;

(f) Three experts related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as special invitees;

(g) The Registrar of the University who shall be the convenor of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the members of the Syndicate in the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be co-terminus with the term of the Syndicate which elected them.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members other than special invitees.

74 LD. *Finance Committee of an Autonomous College*.—(1) There shall be a Finance Committee of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College .. Chairman;

(b) Two persons of the Governing Body elected from among themselves;

(c) A teacher nominated by the Principal of the College;

(d) Finance Officer of the University.

(2) The term of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years. The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(3) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College within ten clear days.

(4) A member of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(6) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and duties, namely:—

- (a) to advise the Governing Body on such matters brought to its notice;
- (b) to prepare budget estimates relating to the grants and other amounts received from the University Grants Commission, University and the Government;
- (c) to prepare, scrutinize and approve audited statement of accounts pertaining to the college.

74 LE. *Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

- (a) The Principal of the College .. Chairman;
- (b) Three senior teachers of the College, nominated by the Principal, of whom one shall be a woman;
- (c) The Chairman of the College Union;
- (d) One parent nominated by Parent Teacher Association of the Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two years. The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet during the first month of every academic year.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(4) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall follow the procedures as laid down by the University from time to time by its regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

(5) The recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be considered by the Principal of the College and shall take appropriate decision and communicate to the aggrieved student within a

period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The report and recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon by the Principal shall be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the order under sub-section (5) may prefer an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within fourteen days from the date of receipt of such order. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall take decision in such appeal within sixty days after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.”.

(s) for section 74 M, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74 M. *Procedure for conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college.*—(1) Where a college intends to change its status to an autonomous one, it shall make an application to the University at any time during the year in the format specified by the University Grants Commission.

(2) On receipt of the application, the Syndicate or Executive Council shall constitute a committee consisting of five members of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within seven days of receipt of the application. The committee shall verify whether the college satisfies the eligibility criteria fixed by the University Grants Commission from time to time, its academic performance, availability of infrastructure facilities, qualified faculty facilities for the conduct of assessment and evaluation with confidentiality and transparency, functional existence of various statutory committees under the Act and Statutes and the committee shall submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within seven days.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall consider the report of the committee and forward the application to the University Grants Commission within thirty days of the receipt of application with such documents as required. Where the application is rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, his decision shall be communicated to the college and the University Grants Commission. The decision of the University shall be reported to the Government also.

(4) The University and the Government shall provide their nominees to the University Grants Commission Expert Committee for an on-spot visit as and when required by the University Grants Commission.

(5) Where the application of a college for the conferment or extension of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to re-apply within one year from the date of such rejection of its earlier application.

(6) An Autonomous College shall apply in the format prescribed by the University Grants Commission for extension of autonomous status, six months prior to the expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(7) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle fixed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation, the college seeking extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation to be eligible for extension of autonomy status.

(8) Where an Autonomous College desires to surrender their autonomous status, it shall follow the due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the University to the University Grants Commission for consideration of such resolution.

(t) in section 74N, for sub-section (1) and proviso, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Principal of the college shall constitute an examination cell for every Autonomous College headed by a teacher of the college.”.

(u) after section 74O, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“74 OA. *Powers and duties of an Autonomous College.*—(1) An Autonomous College shall continuously maintain the academic quality and standards in accordance with the statutory guidelines, orders and regulations issued by the University Grants Commission or the University from time to time.

(2) The Autonomous College shall without fail, upload in its website information regarding the live accreditation status, national ranking, programmes

offered by it, prospectus for admission to programmes, the fee and all other amounts payable by students for the programmes, the profile of the faculty, the admission procedures, the details of relevant infrastructure, research activities of the college and hostel facilities.

(3) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the constitution of the authorities referred in section 74D and the profile of the members in the respective authorities. The approved minutes of the authorities and the action taken on the same shall be also put in its website.

(4) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the detailed audited statement of accounts, annual budget and institution development plans.

(5) The Autonomous College may review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and determine its courses, programmes of study and syllabus, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(6) The Autonomous College may formulate new courses or programmes within the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission as per the Specification of Degrees, 2014 subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(7) The Autonomous College may evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct of examination and notification of results, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(8) The Autonomous College may announce results, issue mark sheets and other certificates however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(9) The Autonomous College shall pay one-time affiliation fee and such other amounts to the University at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status, in accordance with the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(10) The Autonomous College shall constitute the Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Students Grievance Redressal Committee and Internal Quality Assurance Cell required to be constituted under this Chapter.



(11) The Autonomous College shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee as required under the University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

(12) The Autonomous College shall constitute a Committee as required under the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

(13) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Autonomous College shall appoint teachers and other academic staff as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.

(14) The Autonomous College shall continue to receive funds as being done before the grant of autonomous status, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes, rules and regulations made thereunder and agreements executed with the Government or the University.

(15) The autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. offered by the college and shall include the programmes introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status.

(16) The students enrolled in the Autonomous College at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status shall also be covered under autonomous status.”.

(v) in section 74P,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “rules made thereunder” the words “rules made under this Chapter” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-sections (2) to (17), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) To fix and demand from an Autonomous College, the one-time affiliation fee and other fees under specific head or items payable by an

Autonomous College for the period of autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission or for the extended period of autonomous status, as the case may be.

(3) Where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College has approved and submitted a proposal for the commencement of a new programme in the college to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College for consideration and appropriate decision:

Provided that, every such proposal shall be submitted to the University on or before the 31st day of October of every year.

(4) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall within ninety days of receipt of the proposal by the University, take a decision, approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor who shall communicate the decision to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College as the decision of the University:

Provided that, the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider the proposal with reference to the duration of the programme, number of semesters, minimum required credits for each semester, total credits for the programme, letter grading systems fixed for similar programme conducted by the University and also ensuring that the proposal does not have the effect of lowering the academic standards or is against the interest of the nation or the State before approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor for communicating it to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College:

Provided further that, where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University within ninety days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(5) Where the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College returns the proposal for resubmission to the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the same to be returned to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College for

resubmitting the proposal after rectifying the defects pointed out by the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within forty-five days.

(6) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall on receipt of the resubmitted proposal, either approve or reject the proposal within thirty days:

Provided that, where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College which resubmitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University by the Vice-Chancellor within thirty days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall place the report of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon before the Syndicate.

(8) The Syndicate shall have the power to inspect and verify whether a college that has been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission has violated any of the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomous status.

(9) For the purpose of sub-section (8), the Syndicate may constitute a committee with such members as it deems fit, to inspect the college, verify its relevant records and collect evidence relevant to the purpose of the inspection, for which all information and documents called for by the committee shall be provided by the Autonomous College on the appointed date and time fixed by the committee:

Provided that, such enquiry shall extend only to complaint or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(10) The committee constituted under sub-section (9) shall finalise its report only after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.

(11) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said committee, is of the opinion that the autonomous status conferred on the college

has to be suspended or revoked, it shall communicate the same to the University Grants Commission as the recommendation of the University.

(12) If any complaint or information in writing is received by the Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and information, refer it to the University for necessary action if it deems so:

Provided that, such reference shall extend only to complaint or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying of fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(13) The procedure and action provided in sub-sections (8), (9) and (10) shall be followed in respect of a reference made by the Government under sub-section (12).

(14) Every Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual of Examinations within sixty days of such submission. The Autonomous College shall incorporate the modifications required to be made by the University in their Manual of Examinations and report the same to the University.”.

(w) in sub-section (3) of section 74Q, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(x) for section 74R, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74R. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*—All correspondences by the Government and the University with the Autonomous College or a College applying for autonomous status shall be made with the Principal.”.

(y) for section 74S, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74S. *Vacancies in the Authorities of an Autonomous College under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*—No decision of any Authority of an Autonomous College under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such Authority not having been filled up.”.

7. *Amendment of Act 27 of 2005.*— In the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005),-

(a) in section 2, after clause (9) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(9A) “Inter University Consultative Committee” means the Inter University Consultative Committee constituted under section 16A;”;

(b) in section 11, after item (i) the following item shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ia) Inter University Consultative Committee;”;

(c) after section 16, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(16A) *Constitution of Inter University Consultative Committee.*— (1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Chancellor .. Chairman;

(b) The Vice-Chancellors of .. Member;

other universities established

by State law nominated by the

Pro-Chancellor

(c) The Secretary to Government .. Member.

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Department

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”;

(d) after section 25, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“25A. *Appellate Tribunal*.—(1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act. “.

8. *Repeal and saving*.—(1) The Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (96 of 2021), the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021(97 of 2021) and the University Laws (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 2021 (99 of 2021) are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or deemed to have been done or any action taken or deemed to have been taken under the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005) as amended by the said Ordinances shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005) respectively as amended by this Act.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

On the basis of the budget speech 2020-21 Government have decided to start new courses in the colleges affiliated to the Universities. The University Grants Commission has declared 1<sup>st</sup> November as the last date for starting classes in colleges. Under the existing provisions of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985) and the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and the Statutes made thereunder, starting of new courses within the time

limit stipulated was not possible. Hence it was decided to amend section 56 of the Kerala University Act, 1974, section 56 of the Calicut University Act, 1975, section 58 of the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 and section 61 of the Kannur University Act, 1996.

2. As the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala was not in session and the above proposals had to be given effect to immediately, the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 2259 dated 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020 as Ordinance No. 72 of 2020.

3. A Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Kerala Legislative Assembly during its session which commenced on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2020 and ended on the same day.

4. A Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Kerala Legislative Assembly during its session which commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 and ended on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2021.

5. In order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 672 dated 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021 as Ordinance No. 31 of 2021.

6. A Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Fifteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly during its session which commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 and ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

7. In order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 1916 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2021 as Ordinance No. 68 of 2021.

8. A Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Kerala Legislative Assembly during its session which commenced on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2021 and ended on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

9. In order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 2454 dated 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021 as Ordinance No. 97 of 2021.

10. The Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit has adopted University Grants Commission Regulations 2010 and 2018. In view of this, certain amendments necessitated in the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994). Hence the Government have decided to amend section 2 of the said Act. For constituting academic departments as the basic units of academic studies of the University, it has also decided to amend section 19.

11. As the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala was not in session and the above proposals had to be given effect to immediately, the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 943 dated 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021 as Ordinance No. 45 of 2021.

12. A Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Fifteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly during its session which commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 and ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

13. In order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 1925 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2021 as Ordinance No. 67 of 2021.

14. A Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Kerala Legislative Assembly during its session which commenced on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2021 and ended on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.



15. In order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 2451 dated 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021 as Ordinance No. 96 of 2021.

16. For making University Laws in conformity with the University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018 and on the basis of the recommendation of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, some amendments are required in certain University Laws. Moreover, the Government have decided to amend the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994) and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005) by including provision regarding the Inter University Consultative Committee and amendment to the existing provision in respect of Appellate Tribunal only. Hence, it was decided to amend sections 2, 5, 65, 69A, 69B, 69C, 69D, 69E, 69F, 69G, 69H, 69I, 69J, 69K, 69L, 69M, 69N, 69O, 69P, 69Q, 69R and 69S of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), sections 2, 5, 65, 68 B, 68C, 68D, 68E, 68F, 68G, 68H, 68I, 68J, 68K, 68L, 68M, 68N, 68O, 68P, 68Q, 68R, 68S and 68T of the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), sections 2, 5, 69, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120 and 121 of the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), sections 2, 11, 15 and 22A of the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), sections 2, 5, 72, 74A, 74B, 74C, 74D, 74E, 74F, 74G, 74H, 74I, 74J, 74K, 74L, 74M, 74N, 74O, 74P, 74Q, 74 R and 74S of the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and sections 2, 11, 16 and 25 of the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005).

17. As the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala was not in session and the above proposals had to be given effect to immediately, the University Laws (Amendment) (No.2) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 1030 dated 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2021 as Ordinance No. 48 of 2021.

18. A Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Fifteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly during its session which commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 and ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

19. In order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the University Laws (Amendment) (No.2) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 1938 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2021 as Ordinance No. 69 of 2021.

20. A Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Kerala Legislative Assembly during its session which commenced on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2021 and ended on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

21. In order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the University Laws (Amendment) (No.2) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2021 and the same was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 2461 dated 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021 as Ordinance No. 99 of 2021.

22. The Bill seeks to replace Ordinance No. 96 of 2021, Ordinance No.97 of 2021 and Ordinance No. 99 of 2021 by an Act of the State Legislature.

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill, if enacted and brought into operation, would not involve any additional expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

## MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause (ia) of section 5 proposed to be substituted in the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) by sub-clause (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, clause (ia) of section 5 proposed to be substituted in the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975) by sub-clause (b) of clause 3 of the Bill, clause (ia) of section 5 proposed to be substituted in the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985) by sub-clause (b) of clause 4 of the Bill and clause (ia) of section 5 proposed to be substituted in the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) by sub-clause (b) of

clause 6 of the Bill, empowers the University concerned to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission.

2. Sub-section (1) of section 65 proposed to be substituted in the Kerala University Act, 1974 by sub-clause (d) of clause 2 of the Bill, empowers the Government to notify the place for constituting an Appellate Tribunal.

3. Clause (g) of sub-section (9) of section 65 proposed to be substituted in the Kerala University Act, 1974 by sub-clause (d) of clause 2 of the Bill, empowers the Government to prescribe any matter which the Appellate Tribunal may exercise power.

4. The matters in respect of which rules and notifications that may be issued, are matters of procedure and are of routine or administrative in nature. Moreover, the rules so made and the notifications issued are subject to the scrutiny of the Legislative Assembly. The delegation of legislative power is, therefore, of a normal character.

DR. R. BINDU.



(9) “ educational agency” means any person or body of persons who or which establishes and maintains a private college or more than one private college;

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(10A) “ Governing Council” means the Governing Council of an Autonomous College;

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(12) “ hostel” means a unit of residence for the students of the University or the colleges or institutions maintained by, or affiliated to, the University in accordance with the provisions of this Act or the Statutes or Ordinances;

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(17) “ Pro-Chancellor” means the Pro-Chancellor of the University;

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(19) “ recognized institution” means an institution for research or special studies, other than an affiliated college, recognized as such by the University;

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(25) “ Students’ Council” means the Students’ Council of the University;

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5. *Powers of the University.*—The University shall have the following powers, namely:—

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(ia) to confer academic autonomy to a University department;

(ib) to confer academic autonomy to an affiliated college or department of an affiliated college as provided for under Chapter VIII B of this Act;

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56. *Affiliation of colleges.*—(1) An application for affiliation to the University of any college or for affiliation in new courses in any affiliated college, shall be sent by the educational agency to the Registrar within such time and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Statutes.

(2) The terms and conditions of affiliation of a college or of affiliation in new courses in an affiliated college and the procedure to be followed by the Syndicate in granting such affiliation, including the period within which the Syndicate shall consider an application under sub-section (1), shall be prescribed by the Statutes:

Provided that the Chancellor may, by notification in the Gazette, for reasons to be specified in the notification, extend the period within which the Syndicate shall consider any application under sub-section (1), whether such period has already expired or not, by such further period, not exceeding one year, as may be specified in such notification.

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65. *Constitution of Appellate Tribunal.*—(1) The Government shall constitute an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) The Appellate Tribunal shall be a judicial officer not below the rank of District Judge nominated by the Chancellor in consultation with the High Court.

(3) The term of office of the Appellate Tribunal shall be three years from the date of its nomination.

(4) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the power to make regulations consistent with the provisions of the Act with the previous sanction of the Government, for regulating its procedure and disposal of its business. The regulations so made shall be published in the Gazette.

(5) The remuneration and other conditions of service of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed by rules.

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69A. *Autonomy Approval Committee.*—(1) There shall be an Autonomy Approval Committee in Government consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) the Minister-in-charge of the Higher Education Department, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council;

(c) the Secretary to Government, Finance Department;

(d) the Vice-Chancellors of the University of Kerala, the University of Calicut, the Mahatma Gandhi University and the Kannur University;

(e) one representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(f) the Law Secretary, Government of Kerala; and

(g) the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department.

(2) The Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Autonomy Approval Committee and shall chair the meeting of the Committee in the absence of the Chairman.

(3) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department shall be the Member Secretary of the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the University shall comply with the directions issued by the Autonomy Approval Committee in so far as it relate to the grant of academic autonomy.

(5) All directions of the Autonomy Approval Committee shall be issued in the form of Orders, Circulars or Letters of the Committee.

(6) The Government may, by notification in the Gazette, delegate any or all of the powers and functions of the Autonomy Approval Committee to the

University to be exercised by the Senate, Syndicate or Academic Council, as the case may be, or the Kerala State Higher Education Council:

Provided that the Government may, at any time, by notification in the Gazette, withdraw such delegation granted.

69B. *Powers and functions of the Autonomy Approval Committee.*—The Autonomy Approval Committee shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

(i) to invite applications from the eligible colleges categorised as such under section 69M to apply for academic autonomy;

(ii) to prescribe criteria and conditions for admission of students and matters connected therewith, in conformity with and in addition to the criteria for autonomous colleges prescribed by the University Grants Commission, for preserving and ensuring high standards of quality of higher education;

(iii) to direct the University to forward the application of a college recommended by the Autonomy Approval Committee to the University Grants Commission for approval;

(iv) to enquire into any complaint or petition regarding the violation of the terms and conditions under which autonomy has been granted to a college;

(v) to consider the report of the Syndicate or the Academic Council on any matter pertaining to the breach or misuse of the standards set for autonomy by a college;

(vi) to rescind or alter the terms and conditions of academic autonomy granted to any college and to report the same to the University Grants Commission:

Provided that no such decision shall be taken without giving the Principal, in the case of a Government College for which autonomy has been granted and to the representative of the Manager of the College, in the case of Autonomous Colleges that is not a Government College, an opportunity of being heard;



(vii) to direct the University to implement the order rescinding or altering the terms and conditions of academic autonomy granted to an autonomous college;

(viii) to hear appeals of the Autonomous Colleges;

(ix) to inspect or cause to inspect the records and the premises of any Autonomous College or any college that has applied for grant of academic autonomy for ascertaining any fact, or for any other purpose, relevant under this Chapter.

(x) to frame guidelines for the nomination of expert members to the Academic Council of an Autonomous College from outside the college;

(xi) to give directions to the University and Autonomous Colleges for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Chapter.

69C. *Date of effect of grant of academic autonomy.*—An affiliated college authorised under this Chapter to apply for academic autonomy to the University Grants Commission shall be deemed to be an Autonomous College of the University from the date on which it is granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission.

69D. *Authorities of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The following shall be the authorities of an Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(ii) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College;

(iii) The Governing Council.

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69E. *Academic Council of an Autonomous College.*— (1) There shall be an Academic Council for every Autonomous College.

(2) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

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(c) Four teachers of the college representing different departments, not below the rank of an Associate Professor, to be nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education in the case of Government Colleges and the Principal in the case of a college other than a Government College;

(d) Not less than four experts from outside the college representing the areas such as Industry, Commerce, Law, Education, Medicine, Engineering, Administration, Finance etc., to be nominated by the Governing Council of the Autonomous College from a panel of six persons in accordance with the guidelines for the purpose framed by the Autonomy Approval Committee;

(e) Three nominees of the University who are academic experts not below the rank of an Associate Professor;

(f) One member from among the teachers of the college not below the rank of an Associate Professor nominated by the Principal, who shall be the Member Secretary of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education.

(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of two years or when he is, at the time of nomination, a teacher of the college, till his date of retirement, whichever is earlier, and shall be eligible for renomination.

(4) The Principal of the Autonomous College shall convene a meeting of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College at least once in six months.

69F. *Powers and functions of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

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(ii) to make academic regulations regarding the admission of students to different programmes of study in the college subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be in conformity with the rules and criteria for admission specified by the Government, as amended from time to time;

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(v) to recommend to the Governing Council, any proposal for institution of new programmes of study;

(vi) to recommend to the Governing Council, regarding the institution of scholarships, studentships, fellowships, prizes and medals and to make regulations for the award of the same;

(vii) to advise the Governing Council on the suggestions made by it with respect to academic affairs; and

(viii) to perform such other academic functions as may be assigned to it by the Governing Council.

69G. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) Every Autonomous College shall constitute a Board of Studies of its own for each subject of study or group of subjects in which the college conduct courses or intends to conduct courses:

Provided that the Governing Council of the Autonomous College shall, for this purpose, decide the subjects to be brought under a Board of Studies of the Autonomous College and the number of such Boards of Studies to be constituted.

(2) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department not below the rank of an Associate Professor, if he has a Ph.D., on the basis of seniority from among the Heads of Departments whose subjects are covered by that Board of Studies, who shall be the Chairman of the Board:

Provided that in the absence of such a Head of Department, a teacher not below the rank of an Associate Professor with Ph.D. in a subject covered by that Board of Studies, nominated by the Government in the case of Government Colleges and the Principal in the case of other colleges, shall be the Chairman of the Board:

Provided further that the Government or the Principal, as the case may be, shall, while nominating teachers give prime consideration to the quality of academic work including research and publications of such teachers.

(b) not more than six teachers with Ph.D., nominated by the Principal in consultation with the Head of the Departments offering subjects covered by that Board of Studies, from different areas of specialisation, as identified by the Principal, in subjects covered by that Board of Studies:

Provided that the Principal shall, while nominating teachers, give prime consideration to the quality of academic work including research and publications of such teachers;

(c) two experts in the subject from outside the college to be nominated by the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(d) one expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts recommended by the Principal;

(e) one representative each from industry, corporate sector or allied area relating to placement;

(f) one meritorious alumnus who has completed a Post Graduate Programme of the University, to be nominated by the Principal;

(g) the Chairman of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College may, with the approval of the Principal of the college, co-opt, from time to time, as special invitees to the meetings of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, for the purpose of academic consultation, from the following categories, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the college whenever special courses of studies are to be designed;

(ii) other teachers of the college who are experts in the related discipline.

(3) The term of the members nominated to the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two academic years:

Provided that the same person shall not be eligible for nomination beyond a period of four academic years.

(4) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College for different departments.

(5) The meeting may be held as and when necessary, but at least two such meetings shall be held in a year.

(6) One-third of the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall constitute the quorum.

(7) In the temporary absence of the Chairman, the teacher next in seniority shall act as the Chairman and convene the meeting on the request of the Principal.

(8) Where it is necessary to deal with any academic matter that affects more than one Boards, the Principal may convene a joint meeting of two or more Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, as he deems necessary, and such meeting shall be presided over by a Chairman elected in such joint meeting.

69H. *Powers and functions of Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*— Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

(i) to prepare curriculum for various academic programmes keeping in view the objectives of the college, interest of the stake holders and national requirement, with the approval of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College:

Provided that the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for the academic programme conforms substantially to the duration, number of credits, evaluation and grading system prescribed, if any, by the University for that academic programme:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal will not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that such proposal shall not be against national interest;

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(iv) to suggest panel of names to the Academic Council of the Autonomous College for appointment of examiners; and

(v) to co-ordinate research, teaching, extension and other academic activities in the department or college.

69I. *Constitution of the Governing Council.*—(1) The Government shall constitute a Governing Council for each Government Autonomous College for the purposes of this Act, to function as the executive body of the college.

(2) The Governing Council of a Government Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) an eminent person of repute having significant experience in academic related matters, who shall be the Chairman:

Provided that in the absence of the Chairman in any meeting, the Government may nominate an officer mentioned in item (b) to be the Chairman of the Governing Council in that meeting ;

(b) an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Director of Collegiate Education or a Joint Secretary to Government in the Higher Education Department ;

(c) three teachers with Ph.D. from different departments of the college, to be nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education, on rotation, for a period of two years on the basis of their seniority;

(d) one nominee of the University, not below the rank of a Professor, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor ;

(e) one nominee of the University Grants Commission;

(f) Principal of the college, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governing Council.

(3) The Managing Council of an Autonomous College, other than a Government College shall constitute a Governing Council for each Autonomous College under its management, for the purposes of this Act, to function as the executive body of the college.

(4) The Governing Council of an Autonomous College that is not a Government college shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Manager or one nominee of the Manager, who shall be a senior and eminent person of repute having sufficient experience in academic related matters, who shall be the Chairman of the Governing Council;

(b) three senior teachers of that college from different departments not below the rank of an Associate Professor, to be nominated on rotation, by the Manager;

(c) one nominee of the University not below the rank of a Professor, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(d) one nominee of the University Grants Commission;

(e) one nominee of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, to be nominated by the Government;

(f) Principal of the college, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governing Council.

69J. *Tenure of office of the Governing Council.*—The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Council shall be for a period of two academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of two academic years:

Provided that the same person shall not be eligible for nomination beyond a period of four years.

69K. *Meetings of the Governing Council.*—(1) The Governing Council shall meet at least three times a year.

(2) The interval between successive meetings shall in no case exceed four months.

(3) Emergency meetings of the Governing Council can be convened with a notice of at least seven days, either on a written request of one-third of the members or on a direction from the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) One-third of the members who have been nominated at any point of time shall constitute the quorum for the meeting.

69L. *Powers and functions of the Governing Council.*—Subject to the provisions laid down by the bye-laws, if any, of the respective Autonomous College and the rules laid down by the State Government and the University, the Governing Council shall have the following powers, namely:—

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(v) to fix the fees and other charges payable by the students of the Autonomous College with the concurrence of Government :

Provided that in the case of aided courses or courses restructured from the aided courses, the fees shall be as determined by the Government;

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69M. *Procedure for granting autonomy.*—(1) The Autonomy Approval Committee shall, every year, invite applications from the eligible colleges categorised as such under sub-section (2) for recommending the granting of autonomy.

(2) The Autonomy Approval Committee shall specify the categories of colleges as eligible colleges for recommending for the granting of autonomy, which may be Government College and Private College other than Un-aided College and such categories from which applications are invited, the criteria for eligibility for granting autonomy, the forms in which the application has to be submitted. The documents necessary with the application and other information as are deemed necessary by the Autonomy Approval Committee shall also be specified :

Provided that no such criterion shall have the effect of lowering the standards prescribed by the University Grants Commission for the grant of the status of autonomy.



(3) The Autonomy Approval Committee shall scrutinise the applications received from the eligible colleges and accept those from the colleges satisfying the criteria prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) The Autonomy Approval Committee may constitute a committee either from among itself with experts in the field of higher education or a committee of experts as it deems fit, to inspect the facilities in the college and verify records of the college relevant to the grant of autonomy.

(5) The Committee constituted under sub-section (4) shall have the power to enter into the college premises and its building and the college shall be bound to facilitate such inspection and furnish all information and records pertinent to the enquiry, to the Committee.

(6) The Committee constituted by the Autonomy Approval Committee under this section may give instructions to the Principal of the college to rectify the defects in meeting the criteria of eligibility prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(7) Where the Autonomy Approval Committee is satisfied itself that a college that has submitted application meets the criteria prescribed for grant of autonomy, it shall forward its recommendation for the grant of autonomy to the college, to the Vice-Chancellor.

(8) On receipt of a recommendation under sub-section (7), the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the application for grant of autonomy to be forwarded to the University Grants Commission, with the seal of the officer of the University, as prescribed by the Commission, within fifteen working days from the date of receipt of the intimation by the Vice-Chancellor.

69N. *Conduct of examinations.*—(1) The Government in the case of Government Autonomous College and the Principal in the case of Autonomous Colleges which are not Government Colleges, shall appoint a person not below the rank of an Associate Professor, with experience of not less than two years in a Department offering Post Graduate Course of study in a Government College or a college other than an Un-aided College, as the Controller of Examinations for the Autonomous College:

Provided that such a person shall not have been disqualified or punished for any breach of conduct or failure to perform any duty assigned in connection with the conduct of examinations by the University or any other Universities.

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69O. <i>Award of Degrees.</i> —(1)		**	**
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69P. *Powers of University over Autonomous Colleges.*—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Chapter and the provisions of the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules made thereunder, the University shall have all other powers over the Autonomous Colleges as are applicable to any affiliated college of the University under this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances and the Regulations made thereunder.

(2) Where the Governing Council of an Autonomous College has approved and recommended any academic programme to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the relevant Board of Studies of the University for approval:

Provided that where there is no Board of Studies with respect to the academic programme proposed, the University shall constitute a Board of Studies or an Expert Committee for the purpose :

Provided further that the Expert Committee so appointed shall have adequate number of members to facilitate a fair and objective assessment of the Academic Programme submitted to the University.

(3) The Board of Studies or the Expert Committee, as the case may be, shall, within thirty working days from the date of receipt of the proposal, consider it for the Academic Programme referred to in sub-section (2) and approve, reject or return the same, with remarks, to the Vice-Chancellor:

Provided that such rejection shall be on the ground that the proposal received from the Governing Council of an Autonomous College

does not conform to the duration, number of credits, evaluation and grading system for that Academic Programme already prescribed by the University or where the Board of Studies or Expert Committee feels, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that the proposal of the Governing Council of an Autonomous College will have the effect of lowering academic standards or it is against national interest:

Provided further that where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision within thirty working days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University except where the proposal is against national interest.

(4) Where the Board of Studies or Expert Committee returns the proposal to the Vice-Chancellor with remarks pointing out the defects for transmitting the same to the Governing Council of an Autonomous College, the Governing Council may re-submit the proposal to the University with its remarks within thirty working days of receipt of such remarks.

(5) The Board of Studies shall, thereafter, within a period of thirty working days, either approve or reject the proposal and the Vice-Chancellor shall intimate the same to the Governing Council of that College through the Principal of that College:

Provided that where the Autonomous College re-submitting the proposal has not been informed of the decision within thirty working days from the date of re-submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University except where the proposal was rejected on the ground that it was against national interest.

(6) A copy of all such approvals or rejections shall be sent to the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(7) All such decisions to approve or reject the proposal shall be reported to the Academic Council of the Autonomous College:

Provided that the Academic Council of the Autonomous College may, if it

differs with the decision, address the Chancellor for a review of the same.

(8) The Governing Council of an Autonomous College can appeal to the Autonomy Approval Committee against any order of rejection and the decision of the Autonomy Approval Committee shall be final :

Provided that where the Autonomy Approval Committee deems it fit, it may appoint a panel of experts to advise the Autonomy Approval Committee in arriving at a decision on the appeal so preferred.

(9) The Syndicate of the University shall have powers to inspect to verify whether a college that has been granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission violates the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomy.

(10) For the purpose of sub-section (9), the Syndicate may constitute a Committee either from among itself with experts in the field or a committee of experts as it deems fit, to inspect the facilities in the college, verify records of the college relevant to the purpose of the above inspection:

Provided that such experts shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor:

Provided further that such enquiry shall extend only to complaints or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admissions, levying fees and conduct of examinations, adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(11) The Committee constituted under sub-section (10) shall not finalise any report without giving the representative of the college that has been granted autonomy, a fair and reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(12) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said Committee, recommend to the Autonomy Approval Committee through the Vice-Chancellor, the suspension or revocation of the autonomy granted to it.

(13) If any complaint or information in writing is received in Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the contents of the complaint and the importance of the same, refer it to the Autonomy Approval Committee :

Provided that such reference shall extend only to complaints or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admissions, levying fees and conduct of examinations, adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(14) On receipt of any report of the University containing its recommendations under sub-section (12) or on receipt of any reference from Government under sub-section (13), the Autonomy Approval Committee shall consider the report or reference, as the case may be:

Provided that the Autonomy Approval Committee may conduct an enquiry for which it can constitute a committee either from among itself or from among the field of experts as it deems fit.

(15) The Committee constituted under sub-section (10) shall have powers to inspect the facilities in the college and to verify records of the college relevant to the purpose of such enquiry.

(16) All Autonomous Colleges shall furnish records and provide information sought by the Committee for the purpose of such enquiry:

Provided that no such enquiry shall be completed without giving the Principal of the Autonomous College a fair and reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(17) Each Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual within sixty working days of such submission. The remarks of the University shall be offered with the object of improving the safeguards in the conduct of the examinations and for ensuring the integrity of the examinations conducted by an Autonomous College. The Autonomous College shall incorporate all the necessary modifications consistent with the remarks of the University in the Manual





(9) “ educational agency” means any person or body of persons who or which establishes and maintains a private college or more than one private college;

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(10A) “ Governing Council” means the Governing Council of an Autonomous College;

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(12) “ hostel” means a unit of residence for the students of the University or the colleges or institutions maintained by, or affiliated to, the University in accordance with the provisions of this Act or the Statutes or Ordinances;

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(17) “ Pro-Chancellor” means the Pro-Chancellor of the University;

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(19) “ recognised institution” means an institution for research or special studies, other than an affiliated college, recognised as such by the University;

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(25) “ Students’ Council” means the Students’ Council of the University;

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5. *Powers of the University.*— The University shall have the following powers, namely:—

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(ia) to confer academic autonomy to a University department;

(ib) to confer academic autonomy to an affiliated college or department of an affiliated college as provided for under Chapter VIII B of this Act;

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56. *Affiliation of colleges.*—(1) An application for affiliation to the University of any college or for affiliation in new courses in any affiliated college shall be sent by the educational agency to the Registrar within such time and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Statutes.

(2) The terms and conditions of affiliation of a college or of affiliation in new courses in an affiliated college and the procedure to be followed by the Syndicate in granting such affiliation, including the period within which the Syndicate shall consider an application under sub-section(1), shall be prescribed by the Statutes:

Provided that the Chancellor may, by notification in the Gazette, for reasons to be specified in the notification, extend the period within which the Syndicate shall consider any application under sub-section (1), whether such period has already expired or not, by such further period, not exceeding one year, as may be specified in such notification.

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65. *Constitution of appellate tribunal.*—(1) The Government shall constitute an Appellate Tribunal for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Appellate Tribunal shall be a judicial officer not below the rank of a District Judge nominated by the Chancellor in consultation with the High Court.

(3) The term of office of the Appellate Tribunal shall be three years from the date of its nomination.

(4) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the power to make regulations consistent with the provisions of this Act with the previous sanction of the Government, for regulating its procedure and disposal of its business. The regulations so made shall be published in the Gazette.

(5) The remuneration and other conditions of service of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed by rules.

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68B. *Autonomy Approval Committee.*—(1) There shall be an Autonomy Approval Committee in Government consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) the Minister-in-charge of the Higher Education Department, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council;

(c) the Secretary to Government, Finance Department;

(d) the Vice-Chancellors of the University of Kerala, the University of Calicut, the Mahatma Gandhi University and the Kannur University;

(e) one representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(f) the Law Secretary, Government of Kerala; and

(g) the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department.

(2) The Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Autonomy Approval Committee and shall chair the meeting of the Committee in the absence of the Chairman.

(3) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department shall be the Member Secretary of the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the University shall comply with the directions issued by the Autonomy Approval Committee in so far as it relates to the grant of academic autonomy.

(5) All directions of the Autonomy Approval Committee shall be issued in the form of Orders, Circulars or Letters of the Committee.

(6) The Government may, by notification in the Gazette, delegate any or all of the powers and functions of the Autonomy Approval Committee to the University to be exercised by the Senate, Syndicate or Academic Council, as the case may be, or to the Kerala State Higher Education Council:

Provided that the Government may, at any time, by notification in the Gazette, withdraw such delegation granted.

68C. *Powers and functions of the Autonomy Approval Committee.*—The Autonomy Approval Committee shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

(i) to invite applications from the eligible colleges categorised as such under section 68N to apply for academic autonomy;

(ii) to prescribe criteria and conditions for admission of students and matters connected therewith, in conformity with and in addition to the criteria for autonomous colleges prescribed by the University Grants Commission, for preserving and ensuring high standards of quality of higher education;

(iii) to direct the University to forward the application of a college recommended by the Autonomy Approval Committee to the University Grants Commission for approval;

(iv) to enquire into any complaint or petition regarding the violation of the terms and conditions under which autonomy has been granted to a college;

(v) to consider the report of the Syndicate or the Academic Council on any matter pertaining to the breach or misuse of the standards set for autonomy by a college ;

(vi) to rescind or alter the terms and conditions of academic autonomy granted to any college and to report the same to the University Grants Commission:

Provided that no such decision shall be taken without giving the Principal, in the case of a Government College for which autonomy has been granted and to the representative of the Manager of the College, in the case of Autonomous Colleges that is not a Government College, an opportunity of being heard;

(vii) to direct the University to implement the order rescinding or altering the terms and conditions of academic autonomy granted to an Autonomous College;

(viii) to hear appeals of the Autonomous Colleges;

(ix) to inspect or cause to inspect the records and the premises of any Autonomous College or any college that has applied for grant of academic autonomy for ascertaining any fact, or for any other purpose, relevant under this Chapter.

(x) to frame guidelines for the nomination of expert members to the Academic Council of an Autonomous College from outside the college;

(xi) to give directions to the University and Autonomous Colleges for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Chapter.

68D. *Date of effect of grant of academic autonomy.*—An affiliated college authorised under this Chapter to apply for academic autonomy to the University Grants Commission shall be deemed to be an Autonomous College of the University from the date on which it is granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission.

68E. *Authorities of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The following shall be the authorities of an Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(ii) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College;

(iii) The Governing Council.

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68F. *Academic Council of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Academic Council for every Autonomous College.

(2) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

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(c) Four teachers of the college representing different departments, not below the rank of an Associate Professor, to be nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education in the case of Government Colleges and the Principal in the case of a college other than a Government College;

(d) Not less than four experts from outside the college representing the areas such as Industry, Commerce, Law, Education, Medicine, Engineering, Administration, Finance etc., to be nominated by the Governing Council of the Autonomous College from a panel of six persons in accordance with the guidelines for the purpose framed by the Autonomy Approval Committee;

(e) Three nominees of the University who are academic experts not below the rank of an Associate Professor;

(f) One member from among the teachers of the college not below the rank of an Associate Professor, nominated by the Principal, who shall be the Member Secretary of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education.

(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of two years or when he is at the time of nomination, a teacher of the college, till his date of retirement, whichever is earlier, and shall be eligible for renomination.

(4) The Principal of the Autonomous College shall convene a meeting of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College at least once in six months.

68G. *Powers and functions of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

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(ii) to make academic regulations regarding the admission of students to different programmes of study in the college subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be in conformity with the rules and criteria for admission specified by the Government, as amended from time to time;

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(v) to recommend to the Governing Council, any proposal for institution of new programmes of study;

(vi) to recommend to the Governing Council, regarding the institution of scholarships, studentships, fellowships, prizes and medals and to make regulations for the award of the same;

(vii) to advise the Governing Council on the suggestions made by it with respect to academic affairs; and

(viii) to perform such other academic functions as may be assigned to it by the Governing Council.

68H. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) Every Autonomous College shall constitute a Board of Studies of its own for each subject of study or group of subjects in which the college conduct courses or intends to conduct courses:

Provided that the Governing Council of the Autonomous College shall, for this purpose, decide the subjects to be brought under a Board of Studies of the Autonomous College and the number of such Boards of Studies to be constituted.

(2) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department not below the rank of an Associate Professor, if he has a Ph.D., on the basis of seniority from among the Heads of Departments whose subjects are covered by that Board of Studies, who shall be the Chairman of the Board:

Provided that in the absence of such a Head of Department, a teacher not below the rank of an Associate Professor with Ph.D. in a subject covered by that Board of Studies, nominated by the Government in the case of Government Colleges and the Principal in the case of other colleges, shall be the Chairman of the Board:

Provided further that the Government or the Principal, as the case may be, shall, while nominating teachers, give prime consideration to the quality of academic work including research and publications of such teachers.

(b) not more than six teachers with Ph.D nominated by the Principal in consultation with the Head of the Departments offering subjects covered by that Board of Studies, from different areas of specialisation, as identified by the Principal, in subjects covered by that Board of Studies:

Provided that the Principal shall, while nominating teachers, give prime consideration to the quality of academic work including research and publications of such teachers;

(c) two experts in the subject from outside the college to be nominated by the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(d) one expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts recommended by the Principal;

(e) one representative each from industry, corporate sector or allied area relating to placement;

(f) one meritorious alumnus who has completed a Postgraduate Programme of the University, to be nominated by the Principal;

(g) the Chairman of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College may, with the approval of the Principal of the college, co-opt, from time to time, as special invitees to the meetings of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, for the purpose of academic consultation, from the following categories, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the college whenever special courses of studies are to be designed;

(ii) other teachers of the college who are experts in the related discipline.

(3) The term of the members nominated to the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two academic years:

Provided that the same person shall not be eligible for nomination beyond a period of four academic years.

(4) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College for different departments.

(5) The meeting may be held as and when necessary, but at least two such meetings shall be held in a year.

(6) One-third of the members of the Board of Studies shall constitute the quorum.

(7) In the temporary absence of the Chairman, the teacher next in seniority, shall act as the Chairman and convene the meeting, on the request of the Principal.

(8) Where it is necessary to deal with any academic matter that affects more than one Boards, the Principal may convene a joint meeting of two or more Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, as he deems necessary, and such meeting shall be presided over by a Chairman elected in such joint meeting.

68I. *Powers and functions of Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

(i) to prepare curriculum for various academic programmes keeping in view the objectives of the college, interest of the stake holders and national requirement, with the approval of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College:

Provided that the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for the academic programme conforms substantially to the duration, number of credits, evaluation and grading system prescribed, if any, by the University for that academic programme:



Provided further that the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal will not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that such proposal shall not be against national interest;

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(iv) to suggest panel of names to the Academic Council of the Autonomous College for appointment of examiners; and

(v) to co-ordinate research, teaching, extension and other academic activities in the department or college.

68J. *Constitution of the Governing Council.*—(1) The Government shall constitute a Governing Council for each Government Autonomous College for the purposes of this Act, to function as the executive body of the college.

(2) The Governing Council of a Government Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) an eminent person of repute having significant experience in academic related matters, who shall be the Chairman:

Provided that in the absence of the Chairman in any meeting, the Government may nominate an officer mentioned in item (b) to be the Chairman of the Governing Council in that meeting ;

(b) an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Director of Collegiate Education or a Joint Secretary to Government in the Higher Education Department ;

(c) three teachers with Ph.D. from different departments of the college, to be nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education, on rotation, for a period of two years on the basis of their seniority ;

(d) one nominee of the University, not below the rank of a Professor, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor ;

(e) one nominee of the University Grants Commission;

(f) Principal of the college, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governing Council.

(3) The Managing Council of an Autonomous College, other than a Government College, shall constitute a Governing Council for each Autonomous College under its management, for the purposes of this Act, to function as the executive body of the College.

(4) The Governing Council of an Autonomous College that is not a Government college shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Manager or one nominee of the Manager, who shall be a senior and eminent person of repute having sufficient experience in academic related matters, who shall be the Chairman of the Governing Council;

(b) three senior teachers of that college from different departments not below the rank of an Associate Professor, to be nominated on rotation, by the Manager ;

(c) one nominee of the University not below the rank of a Professor, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor ;

(d) one nominee of the University Grants Commission ;

(e) one nominee of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, to be nominated by the Government ;

(f) Principal of the college, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governing Council.

68K. *Tenure of office of the Governing Council.*—The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Council shall be for a period of two academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of two academic years:

Provided that the same person shall not be eligible for nomination beyond a period of four years.



Provided that no such criterion shall have the effect of lowering the standards prescribed by the University Grants Commission for the grant of the status of autonomy.

(3) The Autonomy Approval Committee shall scrutinise the applications received from the eligible colleges and accept those from the colleges satisfying the criteria prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) The Autonomy Approval Committee may constitute a committee either from among itself with experts in the field of higher education or a committee of experts as it deems fit, to inspect the facilities in the college and verify records of the college relevant to the grant of autonomy.

(5) The Committee constituted under sub-section (4) shall have the power to enter into the college premises and its building and the college shall be bound to facilitate such inspection and furnish all information and records pertinent to the enquiry, to the Committee.

(6) The Committee constituted by the Autonomy Approval Committee under this section may give instructions to the Principal of the college to rectify the defects in meeting the criteria of eligibility prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(7) Where the Autonomy Approval Committee is satisfied itself that a college that has submitted application meets the criteria prescribed for grant of autonomy, it shall forward its recommendation for the grant of autonomy to the college, to the Vice-Chancellor.

(8) On receipt of a recommendation under sub-section (7), the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the application for grant of autonomy to be forwarded to the University Grants Commission, with the seal of the officer of the University, as prescribed by the Commission, within fifteen working days from the date of receipt of the intimation by the Vice-Chancellor.

680. *Conduct of examinations.*—(1) The Government in the case of Government Autonomous College and the Principal in the case of Autonomous Colleges which are not Government Colleges, shall appoint a person not below the

rank of an Associate Professor, with experience of not less than two years in a Department offering Post Graduate Course of study in a Government College or a college other than an Un-aided college, as the Controller of Examinations for the Autonomous College:

Provided that such a person shall not have been disqualified or punished for any breach of conduct or failure to perform any duty assigned in connection with the conduct of examinations by the University or any other Universities.

**	**	**	**
68P. <i>Award of Degrees.</i> —(1)		**	**
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68Q. *Powers of University over Autonomous Colleges.*—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Chapter and the provisions of the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules made thereunder, the University shall have all other powers over the Autonomous Colleges as are applicable to any affiliated college of the University under this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances and the Regulations made thereunder.

(2) Where the Governing Council of an Autonomous College has approved and recommended any academic programme to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the relevant Board of Studies of the University for approval:

Provided that where there is no Board of Studies with respect to the academic programme proposed, the University shall constitute a Board of Studies or an Expert Committee for the purpose :

Provided further that the Expert Committee so appointed shall have adequate number of members to facilitate a fair and objective assessment of the Academic Programme submitted to the University.

(3) The Board of Studies or the Expert Committee, as the case may be, shall, within thirty working days from the date of receipt of the proposal, consider it for the Academic Programme referred to in sub-section (2) and approve, reject or return the same, with remarks, to the Vice-Chancellor:

Provided that such rejection shall be on the ground that the proposal received from the Governing Council of an Autonomous College does not conform to the duration, number of credits, evaluation and grading system for that Academic Programme already prescribed by the University or where the Board of Studies or Expert Committee feels, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that the proposal of the Governing Council of an Autonomous College will have the effect of lowering academic standards or it is against national interest:

Provided further that where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision within thirty working days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University except where the proposal is against national interest.

(4) Where the Board of Studies or Expert Committee returns the proposal to the Vice-Chancellor with remarks pointing out the defects for transmitting the same to the Governing Council of an Autonomous College, the Governing Council may re-submit the proposal to the University with its remarks within thirty working days of receipt of such remarks.

(5) The Board of Studies shall, thereafter, within a period of thirty working days, either approve or reject the proposal and the Vice-Chancellor shall intimate the same to the Governing Council of that college through the Principal of that College:

Provided that where the Autonomous College re-submitting the proposal has not been informed of the decision within thirty working days from the date of re-submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University except where the proposal was rejected on the ground that it was against national interest.

(6) A copy of all such approvals or rejections shall be sent to the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(7) All such decisions to approve or reject the proposal shall be reported to the Academic Council of the Autonomous College:

Provided that the Academic Council of the Autonomous College may, if it differs with the decision, address the Chancellor for a review of the same.

(8) The Governing Council of an Autonomous College may appeal to the Autonomy Approval Committee against any order of rejection and the decision thereon of the Autonomy Approval Committee shall be final :

Provided that where the Autonomy Approval Committee deems it fit, it may appoint a panel of experts to advise the Autonomy Approval Committee in arriving at a decision on the appeal so preferred.

(9) The Syndicate of the University shall have powers to inspect to verify whether a college that has been granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission violates the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomy.

(10) For the purpose of sub-section (9), the Syndicate may constitute a Committee either from among itself with experts in the field or a committee of experts as it deems fit, to inspect the facilities in the college, verify records of the college relevant to the purpose of the above inspection:

Provided that such experts shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor :

Provided further that such enquiry shall extend only to complaints or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admissions, levying fees and conduct of examinations, adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(11) The Committee constituted under sub-section (10) shall not finalise any report without giving the representative of the college that has been granted autonomy, a fair and reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(12) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said Committee, recommend to the Autonomy Approval Committee through the Vice-Chancellor, the suspension or revocation of the autonomy granted to it.

(13) If any complaint or information in writing is received in Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the contents of the complaint and the importance of the same, refer it to the Autonomy Approval Committee:

Provided that such reference shall extend only to complaints or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admissions, levying fees and conduct of examinations, adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(14) On receipt of any report of the University containing its recommendations under sub-section (12) or on receipt of any reference from Government under sub-section (13), the Autonomy Approval Committee shall consider the report or reference, as the case may be :

Provided that the Autonomy Approval Committee may conduct an enquiry for which it may constitute a committee either from among itself or from among the field of experts as it deems fit.

(15) The Committee constituted under sub-section (10) shall have powers to inspect the facilities in the college and to verify records of the college relevant to the purpose of such enquiry.

(16) All Autonomous Colleges shall furnish records and provide information sought by the Committee for the purpose of such enquiry:

Provided that no such enquiry shall be completed without giving the Principal of the Autonomous College a fair and reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(17) Each Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual within sixty working days of such submission. The











as may be specified in the notification not exceeding one year from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Act, 1989.

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69. *Constitution of Appellate Tribunal.*—(1) The Government shall constitute an Appellate Tribunal for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Appellate Tribunal shall be a judicial officer not below the rank of a District Judge nominated by the Chancellor in consultation with the High Court.

(3) The term of office of the Appellate Tribunal shall be three years from the date of its nomination.

(4) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the power to make regulations consistent with the provisions of this Act with the previous sanction of the Government for regulating its procedure and disposal of its business.

(5) The regulations so made shall be published in the Gazette.

(6) The remuneration and other conditions of service of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed by rules.

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103. *Autonomy Approval Committee.*—(1) There shall be an Autonomy Approval Committee in Government consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) the Minister-in-charge of the Higher Education Department, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council;

(c) the Secretary to Government, Finance Department;

(d) the Vice-Chancellors of the University of Kerala, the University of Calicut, the Mahatma Gandhi University and the Kannur University;

(e) one representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(f) the Law Secretary, Government of Kerala; and

(g) the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department.

(2) The Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Autonomy Approval Committee and shall chair the meeting of the Committee in the absence of the Chairman.

(3) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department shall be the Member Secretary of the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the University shall comply with the directions issued by the Autonomy Approval Committee in so far as it relates to the grant of academic autonomy.

(5) All directions of the Autonomy Approval Committee shall be issued in the form of Orders, Circulars or Letters of the Committee.

(6) The Government may, by notification in the Gazette, delegate any or all of the powers and functions of the Autonomy Approval Committee to the University to be exercised by the Senate, Syndicate or Academic Council, as the case may be, or to the Kerala State Higher Education Council:

Provided that the Government may, at any time, by notification in the Gazette, withdraw such delegation granted.

104. *Powers and functions of the Autonomy Approval Committee.*— The Autonomy Approval Committee shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

(i) to invite applications from the eligible colleges categorised as such under section 115 to apply for academic autonomy;

(ii) to prescribe criteria and conditions for admission of students and matters connected therewith, in conformity with and in addition to the criteria for autonomous colleges prescribed by the University Grants Commission, for preserving and ensuring high standards of quality of higher education;

(iii) to direct the University to forward the application of a college recommended by the Autonomy Approval Committee to the University Grants Commission for approval;

(iv) to enquire into any complaint or petition regarding the violation of the terms and conditions under which autonomy has been granted to a college;

(v) to consider the report of the Syndicate or the Academic Council on any matter pertaining to the breach or misuse of the standards set for autonomy by a college ;

(vi) to rescind or alter the terms and conditions of academic autonomy granted to any college and to report the same to the University Grants Commission:

Provided that no such decision shall be taken without giving the Principal, in the case of a Government College for which autonomy has been granted and to the representative of the Manager of the College, in the case of Autonomous Colleges that is not a Government College, an opportunity of being heard;

(vii) to direct the University to implement the order rescinding or altering the terms and conditions of academic autonomy granted to an autonomous college;

(viii) to hear appeals of the Autonomous Colleges;

(ix) to inspect or cause to inspect the records and the premises of any Autonomous College or any college that has applied for grant of academic autonomy for ascertaining any fact, or for any other purpose, relevant under this Chapter.

(x) to frame guidelines for the nomination of expert members to the Academic Council of an Autonomous College from outside the college;

(xi) to give directions to the University and Autonomous Colleges for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Chapter.

105. *Date of effect of grant of academic autonomy.*—An affiliated college authorised under this Chapter to apply for academic autonomy to the University Grants Commission shall be deemed to be an Autonomous College of the University from the date on which it is granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission.

106. *Authorities of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The following shall be the authorities of an Autonomous College, namely:—

- (i) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College;
- (ii) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College;
- (iii) The Governing Council.

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107. *Academic Council of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Academic Council for every Autonomous College.

(2) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

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(c) Four teachers of the college representing different departments, not below the rank of an Associate Professor, to be nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education in the case of Government Colleges and the Principal in the case of a college other than a Government College;

(d) Not less than four experts from outside the college representing the areas such as Industry, Commerce, Law, Education, Medicine, Engineering, Administration, Finance etc., to be nominated by the Governing Council of the Autonomous College from a panel of six persons in accordance with the guidelines for the purpose framed by the Autonomy Approval Committee;

(e) Three nominees of the University who are academic experts not below the rank of an Associate Professor;





109. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*— (1) Every Autonomous College shall constitute a Board of Studies of its own for each subject of study or group of subjects in which the college conduct courses or intends to conduct courses:

Provided that the Governing Council of the Autonomous College shall, for this purpose, decide the subjects to be brought under a Board of Studies of the Autonomous College and the number of such Boards of Studies to be constituted.

(2) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department not below the rank of an Associate Professor, if he has a Ph.D., on the basis of seniority from among the Heads of Departments whose subjects are covered by that Board of Studies, who shall be the Chairman of the Board:

Provided that in the absence of such a Head of Department, a teacher not below the rank of an Associate Professor with Ph.D. in a subject covered by that Board of Studies, nominated by the Government in the case of Government Colleges and the Principal in the case of other colleges, shall be the Chairman of the Board:

Provided further that the Government or the Principal, as the case may be, shall, while nominating teachers give prime consideration to the quality of academic work including research and publications of such teachers;

(b) not more than six teachers with Ph.D., nominated by the Principal in consultation with the Head of the Departments offering subjects covered by that Board of Studies, from different areas of specialisation, as identified by the Principal, in subjects covered by that Board of Studies:

Provided that the Principal shall, while nominating teachers, give prime consideration to the quality of academic work including research and publications of such teachers;

(c) two experts in the subject from outside the college to be nominated by the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(d) one expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts recommended by the Principal;

(e) one representative each from industry, corporate sector or allied area relating to placement;

(f) one meritorious alumnus who has completed a Post Graduate Programme of the University, to be nominated by the Principal;

(g) the Chairman of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College may, with the approval of the Principal of the college, co-opt, from time to time, as special invitees to the meetings of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, for the purpose of academic consultation, from the following categories, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the college whenever special courses of studies are to be designed;

(ii) other teachers of the college who are experts in the related discipline.

(3) The term of the members nominated to the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two academic years:

Provided that the same person shall not be eligible for nomination beyond a period of four academic years.

(4) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College for different departments.

(5) The meeting may be held as and when necessary, but at least two such meetings shall be held in a year.

(6) One-third of the members of the Board of Studies shall constitute the quorum.

(7) In the temporary absence of the Chairman, the teacher next in seniority shall act as the Chairman and convene the meeting on the request of the Principal.

(8) Where it is necessary to deal with any academic matter that affects more than one Boards, the Principal may convene a joint meeting of two or more Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, as he deems necessary, and such meeting shall be presided over by a Chairman elected in such joint meeting.

110. *Powers and functions of Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*— Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

(i) to prepare curriculum for various academic programmes keeping in view the objectives of the college, interest of the stake holders and national requirement, with the approval of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College:

Provided that the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for the academic programme conforms substantially to the duration, number of credits, evaluation and grading system prescribed, if any, by the University for that academic programme:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal will not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that such proposal shall not be against national interest;

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(iv) to suggest panel of names to the Academic Council of the Autonomous College for appointment of examiners; and

(v) to co-ordinate research, teaching, extension and other academic activities in the department or college.

111. *Constitution of the Governing Council.*— (1) The Government shall constitute a Governing Council for each Government Autonomous College for the purposes of this Act, to function as the executive body of the college.

(2) The Governing Council of a Government Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) an eminent person of repute having significant experience in academic related matters, who shall be the Chairman:

Provided that in the absence of the Chairman in any meeting, the Government may nominate an officer mentioned in item (b) to be the Chairman of the Governing Council in that meeting;

(b) an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Director of Collegiate Education or a Joint Secretary to Government in the Higher Education Department ;

(c) three teachers with Ph.D from different departments of the college, to be nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education, on rotation, for a period of two years on the basis of their seniority;

(d) one nominee of the University, not below the rank of a Professor, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor ;

(e) one nominee of the University Grants Commission;

(f) Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governing Council.

(3) The Managing Council of an Autonomous College other than a Government College shall constitute a Governing Council for each Autonomous College under its management, for the purposes of this Act, to function as the executive body of the college.

(4) The Governing Council of an Autonomous College that is not a Government college shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Manager or one nominee of the Manager, who shall be a senior and eminent person of repute having sufficient experience in academic related matters, who shall be the Chairman of the Governing Council ;

(b) three senior teachers of that college from different departments not below the rank of an Associate Professor, to be nominated on rotation, by the Manager;

(c) one nominee of the University not below the rank of a Professor, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(d) one nominee of the University Grants Commission;

(e) one nominee of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, to be nominated by the Government;

(f) Principal of the college, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governing Council.

112. *Tenure of office of the Governing Council.*— The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Council shall be for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of two years:

Provided that the same person shall not be eligible for nomination beyond a period of four years.

113. *Meetings of the Governing Council.*— (1) The Governing Council shall meet atleast three times a year.

(2) The interval between successive meetings shall in no case exceed four months.

(3) Emergency meetings of the Governing Council may be convened with a notice of at least seven days, either on a written request of one-third of the members or on a direction from the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) One-third of the members who have been nominated at any point of time shall constitute the quorum for the meeting.

114. *Powers and functions of the Governing Council.*—Subject to the provisions laid down by the bye-laws, if any, of the respective Autonomous College and the rules made by the State Government and the University, the Governing Council shall have the following powers, namely:—

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(v) to fix the fees and other charges payable by the students of the Autonomous College with the concurrence of Government :

Provided that in the case of aided courses or courses restructured from the aided courses, the fees shall be as determined by the Government ;

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115. *Procedure for granting autonomy.*—(1) The Autonomy Approval Committee shall, every year, invite applications from the eligible colleges categorised as such under sub-section (2) for recommending the granting of autonomy.

(2) The Autonomy Approval Committee shall specify the categories of colleges as eligible colleges for recommending for the granting of autonomy, which may be Government College and Private College other than Un-aided College and such categories from which applications are invited, the criteria for eligibility for granting autonomy, the forms in which the application has to be submitted. The documents necessary with the application and other information as are deemed necessary by the Autonomy Approval Committee shall also be specified :

Provided that no such criterion shall have the effect of lowering the standards prescribed by the University Grants Commission for the grant of the status of autonomy.

(3) The Autonomy Approval Committee shall scrutinise the applications received from the eligible colleges and accept those from the colleges satisfying the criteria prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) The Autonomy Approval Committee may constitute a committee either from among itself with experts in the field of higher education or a committee of experts as it deems fit, to inspect the facilities in the college and verify records of the college relevant to the grant of autonomy.

(5) The Committee constituted under sub-section (4) shall have the power to enter into the college premises and its building and the college shall be bound to facilitate such inspection and furnish all information and records pertinent to the enquiry, to the Committee.





other powers over the Autonomous Colleges as are applicable to any affiliated college of the University under this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances and the Regulations made thereunder.

(2) Where the Governing Council of an Autonomous College has approved and recommended any academic programme to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the relevant Board of Studies of the University for approval:

Provided that where there is no Board of Studies with respect to the academic programme proposed, the University shall constitute a Board of Studies or an Expert Committee for the purpose :

Provided further that the Expert Committee so appointed shall have adequate number of members to facilitate a fair and objective assessment of the Academic Programme submitted to the University.

(3) The Board of Studies or the Expert Committee, as the case may be, shall, within thirty working days from the date of receipt of the proposal, consider it for the Academic Programme referred to in sub-section (2) and approve, reject or return the same, with remarks, to the Vice-Chancellor:

Provided that such rejection shall be on the ground that the proposal received from the Governing Council of an Autonomous College does not conform to the duration, number of credits, evaluation and grading system for that Academic Programme already prescribed by the University or where the Board of Studies or Expert Committee feels, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that the proposal of the Governing Council of an Autonomous College will have the effect of lowering academic standards or it is against national interest:

Provided further that where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision within thirty working days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University except where the proposal is against national interest.

(4) Where the Board of Studies or Expert Committee returns the proposal to the Vice-Chancellor with remarks pointing out the defects for transmitting the same to the Governing Council of an Autonomous College, the Governing Council may resubmit the proposal to the University with its remarks within thirty working days of receipt of such remarks.

(5) The Board of Studies shall, thereafter, within a period of thirty working days, either approve or reject the proposal and the Vice-Chancellor shall intimate the same to the Governing Council of that College through the Principal of that College :

Provided that where the Autonomous College resubmitting the proposal has not been informed of the decision within thirty working days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University except where the proposal was rejected on the ground that it was against national interest.

(6) A copy of all such approvals or rejections shall be sent to the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(7) All such decisions to approve or reject the proposal shall be reported to the Academic Council of the Autonomous College:

Provided that the Academic Council of the Autonomous College may, if it differs with the decision, address the Chancellor for a review of the same.

(8) The Governing Council of an Autonomous College may appeal to the Autonomy Approval Committee against any order of rejection and the decision thereon of the Autonomy Approval Committee shall be final :

Provided that where the Autonomy Approval Committee deems it fit, it may appoint a panel of experts to advise the Autonomy Approval Committee in arriving at a decision on the appeal so preferred.

(9) The Syndicate of the University shall have powers to inspect to verify whether a college that has been granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission violates the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomy.

(10) For the purpose of sub-section (9), the Syndicate may constitute a Committee either from among itself with experts in the field or a committee of experts as it deems fit, to inspect the facilities in the college, verify records of the college relevant to the purpose of the above inspection:

Provided that such experts shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor :

Provided further that such enquiry shall extend only to complaints or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admissions, levying fees and conduct of examinations, adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(11) The Committee constituted under sub-section (10) shall not finalise any report without giving the representative of the college that has been granted autonomy, a fair and reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(12) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said Committee, recommend to the Autonomy Approval Committee through the Vice-Chancellor, the suspension or revocation of the autonomy granted to it.

(13) If any complaint or information in writing is received in Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the contents of the complaint and the importance of the same, refer it to the Autonomy Approval Committee :

Provided that such reference shall extend only to complaints or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admissions, levying fees and conduct of examinations, adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(14) On receipt of any report of the University containing its recommendations under sub-section (12) or on receipt of any reference from Government under sub-section (13), the Autonomy Approval Committee shall consider the report or reference, as the case may be :

Provided that the Autonomy Approval Committee may conduct an enquiry for which it can constitute a committee either from among itself or from among the field of experts as it deems fit.

(15) The Committee constituted under sub-section (10) shall have powers to inspect the facilities in the college and to verify records of the college relevant to the purpose of such enquiry.

(16) All Autonomous Colleges shall furnish records and provide information sought by the Committee for the purpose of such enquiry:

Provided that no such enquiry shall be completed without giving the Principal of the Autonomous College a fair and reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(17) Each Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual within sixty working days of such submission. The remarks of the University shall be offered with the object of improving the safeguards in the conduct of the examinations and for ensuring the integrity of the examinations conducted by an Autonomous College. The Autonomous College shall incorporate all the necessary modifications consistent with the remarks of the University in the Manual.

119. *Power of University to amend Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations etc.—*

(1) The University shall have power to amend its Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules to give effect to the provisions of this Chapter:

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(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Academic Council of an Autonomous College and the Governing Council may make regulations for the purposes mentioned in this Chapter with the approval of the University:

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120. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*—All correspondence between the Academic Council or Board of Studies of the University or the Autonomy Approval Committee with an Autonomous College or a college applying for autonomy under this Chapter, shall be made with the Principal of such College.

121. *Vacancies in the Committees, Councils or Boards under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*—No decision of the Autonomy Approval Committee or of any Academic Council of an Autonomous College, Board of Studies of an Autonomous College or the Governing Council under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such Committee, Councils or Board not having been filled up.

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EXTRACT FROM THE SREE SANKARACHARYA UNIVERSITY OF  
SANSKRIT ACT, 1994

(5 OF 1994)

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2. *Definitions.*- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

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(j) “ Government” means the Government of Kerala;

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(t) “ teacher” means a Professor, Reader or such other person appointed or recognised by the University for the purpose of imparting instruction or conducting and guiding research in the University and includes any other person who may be declared by the Statutes to be a teacher;

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11. *Authorities of the University.*— The following shall be the authorities of the University, namely :—

(i) the Syndicate ;

(ii) the Academic Council;

(iii) the Faculties;

(iv) the Boards of Studies;

(v) the Finance Committee; and

(vi) such other bodies as may be specified by the Statutes to be the authorities of the University.

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15. *Meetings of the Syndicate.*—(1)

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## EXTRACT FROM THE KANNUR UNIVERSITY ACT, 1996

(22 OF 1996)

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2. *Definitions.*—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

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(i) “academic autonomy” means a privilege of a college or University department to conduct academic programmes, develop syllabus for the respective subjects, devise teaching, learning and evaluation methods, conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of results in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and the rules made thereunder;

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(ivA) “Autonomy Approval Committee” means the Autonomy Approval Committee constituted under section 74A;

(ivB) “Autonomous College” means a college to which the status of autonomy is granted by the University Grants Commission with the concurrence of the State Government, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIIIA of this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules made thereunder;

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(vA) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College, constituted under section 74G;

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(vii) “college” means an institution maintained by, or affiliated to the University, in which instruction is given in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations;

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61. *Affiliation of colleges.*— (1) An application for affiliation to the University of any college or for affiliation in new courses in any affiliated college, shall be sent by the educational agency to the Registrar within such time and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Statutes.

(2) The terms and conditions of affiliation of a college or of affiliation in new courses in an affiliated college and the procedure to be followed by the Syndicate in granting such affiliation, including the period within which the Syndicate shall consider an application under sub-section (1), shall be prescribed by the Statutes:

Provided that the Chancellor may, by notification in the Gazette, for reasons to be specified in the notification, extend the period within which the Syndicate shall consider any application under sub-section (1), whether such period has already expired or not, by such further period, not exceeding one year, as may be specified in the notification.

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72. *Constitution of Appellate Tribunal.*—(1) The Government shall constitute an Appellate Tribunal for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Appellate Tribunal shall be a judicial officer not below the rank of District Judge nominated by the Chancellor, in consultation with the High Court.

(3) The term of office of the Appellate Tribunal shall be three years from the date of its nomination.

(4) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the power to make regulations consistent with the provisions of this Act, with the previous sanction of the Government, for regulating its procedure and disposal of its business.

(5) The regulation so made shall be published in the Gazette.

(6) The remuneration and other conditions of service of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed by rules made by the Government.

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74A. *Autonomy Approval Committee.*—(1) There shall be an Autonomy Approval Committee in Government consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) the Minister-in-charge of the Higher Education Department, who shall be the Chairman;

(b) the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council;

(c) the Secretary to Government, Finance Department;

(d) the Vice-Chancellors of the University of Kerala, the University of Calicut, the Mahatma Gandhi University and the Kannur University;

(e) one representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(f) the Law Secretary, Government of Kerala; and

(g) the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department.

(2) The Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Autonomy Approval Committee and shall chair the meeting of the Committee in the absence of the Chairman.

(3) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department shall be the Member Secretary of the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the University shall comply with the directions issued by the Autonomy Approval Committee so far as it relates to the grant of academic autonomy.

(5) All directions of the Autonomy Approval Committee shall be issued in the form of Orders, Circulars or Letters of the Committee.

(6) The Government may, by notification in the Gazette, delegate any or all of the powers and functions of the Autonomy Approval Committee to the University to be exercised by the Senate, Syndicate or Academic Council, as the case may be, or to the Kerala State Higher Education Council:

Provided that the Government may, at any time, by notification in the Gazette, withdraw such delegation granted.

74B. *Powers and functions of the Autonomy Approval Committee.*—

The Autonomy Approval Committee shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

(i) to invite applications from the eligible colleges categorised as such under section 74M to apply for academic autonomy;

(ii) to prescribe criteria and conditions for admission of students and matters connected therewith, in conformity with and in addition to the criteria for autonomous colleges, prescribed by the University Grants Commission, for preserving and ensuring high standards of quality of higher education;

(iii) to direct the University to forward the application of a college recommended by the Autonomy Approval Committee to the University Grants Commission for approval;

(iv) to enquire into any complaint or petition regarding the violation of the terms and conditions under which autonomy has been granted to a college;

(v) to consider the report of the Syndicate or the Academic Council on any matter pertaining to the breach or misuse of the standards set for autonomy by a college ;

(vi) to rescind or alter the terms and conditions of academic autonomy granted to any college and to report the same to the University Grants Commission:

Provided that no such decision shall be taken without giving the Principal, in the case of a Government College for which autonomy has been granted and to the representative of the Manager of the college, in the case of an Autonomous College that is not a Government College, an opportunity of being heard;

(vii) to direct the University to implement the order rescinding or altering the terms and conditions of academic autonomy granted to an autonomous college;

(viii) to hear appeals of the Autonomous Colleges;

(ix) to inspect or cause to inspect the records and the premises of any Autonomous College or any College that has applied for grant of academic autonomy for ascertaining any fact, or for any other purpose, relevant under this Chapter.

(x) to frame guidelines for the nomination of expert members to the Academic Council of an Autonomous College from outside the college;

(xi) to give directions to the University and Autonomous Colleges for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Chapter.

74C. *Date of effect of grant of academic autonomy.*—An affiliated college authorised under this Chapter to apply for academic autonomy to the University Grants Commission shall be deemed to be an Autonomous College of the University from the date on which it is granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission.

74D. *Authorities of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The following shall be the authorities of an Autonomous College, namely:—

- (i) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College;
- (ii) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College;
- (iii) The Governing Council.

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74E. *Academic Council of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Academic Council for every Autonomous College.

(2) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

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(c) Four teachers of the college representing different departments, not below the rank of an Associate Professor, to be nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education in the case of Government Colleges and the Principal in the case of a college other than a Government College;

(d) Not less than four experts from outside the college representing the areas such as Industry, Commerce, Law, Education, Medicine, Engineering, Administration, Finance etc., to be nominated by the Governing Council of the Autonomous College from a panel of six persons in accordance with the guidelines for the purpose framed by the Autonomy Approval Committee;

(e) Three nominees of the University who are academic experts not below the rank of an Associate Professor;

(f) One member from among the teachers of the college, not below the rank of an Associate Professor nominated by the Principal, who shall be the Member Secretary of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education.

(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of two years or when he is, at the time of nomination, a teacher of the college, till his date of retirement, whichever is earlier, and shall be eligible for re-nomination.

(4) The Principal of the Autonomous College shall convene a meeting of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College at least once in six months.

74F. *Powers and functions of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

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(ii) to make academic regulations regarding the admission of students to different programmes of study in the college subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be in conformity with the rules and criteria for admission specified by the Government, as amended from time to time;

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(v) to recommend to the Governing Council, any proposal for institution of new programmes of study;

(vi) to recommend to the Governing Council, regarding the institution of scholarships, studentships, fellowships, prizes and medals and to make regulations for the award of the same;

(vii) to advise the Governing Council on the suggestions made by it with respect to academic affairs; and

(viii) to perform such other academic functions as may be assigned to it by the Governing Council.

*74G. Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*— (1) Every Autonomous College shall constitute a Board of Studies of its own for each subject of study or group of subjects in which the college conduct courses or intends to conduct courses:

Provided that the Governing Council of the Autonomous College shall, for this purpose, decide the subjects to be brought under a Board of Studies of the Autonomous College and the number of such Boards of Studies to be constituted.

(2) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department not below the rank of an Associate Professor, if he has a Ph.D., on the basis of seniority from among the Heads of Departments whose subjects are covered by that Board of Studies, who shall be the Chairman of the Board:

Provided that in the absence of such a Head of Department, a teacher not below the rank of an Associate Professor with Ph.D. in a subject covered by that Board of Studies, nominated by the Government in the case of Government Colleges and the Principal in the case of other colleges, shall be the Chairman of the Board:

Provided further that the Government or the Principal, as the case may be, shall, while nominating teachers, give prime consideration to the quality of academic work including research and publications of such teachers.

(b) not more than six teachers with Ph.D. nominated by the Principal in consultation with the Head of the Departments offering subjects covered by that Board of Studies, from different areas of specialisation, as identified by the Principal, in subjects covered by that Board of Studies:

Provided that the Principal shall, while nominating teachers, give prime consideration to the quality of academic work including research and publications of such teachers;

(c) two experts in the subject from outside the college to be nominated by the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(d) one expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts recommended by the Principal;

(e) one representative each from industry, corporate sector or allied area relating to placement;

(f) one meritorious alumnus who has completed a Post Graduate Programme of the University, to be nominated by the Principal;

(g) the Chairman of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College may, with the approval of the Principal of the college, co-opt, from time to time, as special invitees to the meetings of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, for the purpose of academic consultation from the following categories, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the college whenever special courses of studies are to be designed;



(ii) other teachers of the college who are experts in the related discipline.

(3) The term of the members nominated to the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two academic years:

Provided that the same person shall not be eligible for nomination beyond a period of four academic years.

(4) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College for different departments.

(5) The meeting may be held as and when necessary, but at least two such meetings shall be held in a year.

(6) One-third of the members of the Board of Studies shall constitute the quorum.

(7) In the temporary absence of the Chairman, the teacher next in seniority shall act as the Chairman and convene the meeting on the request of the Principal.

(8) Where it is necessary to deal with any academic matter that affects more than one Boards, the Principal may convene a joint meeting of two or more Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, as he deems necessary, and such meeting shall be presided over by a Chairman elected in such joint meeting.

*74H. Powers and functions of Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and functions, namely:—

(i) to prepare curriculum for various academic programmes keeping in view the objectives of the college, interest of the stake holders and national requirement, with the approval of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College:

Provided that the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for the academic programme conforms substantially to the

duration, number of credits, evaluation and grading system prescribed, if any, by the University for that academic programme:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal will not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University :

Provided also that such proposal shall not be against national interest.

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(iv) to suggest panel of names to the Academic Council of the Autonomous College for appointment of examiners; and

(v) to co-ordinate research, teaching, extension and other academic activities in the department or college.

74I. *Constitution of the Governing Council.*—(1) The Government shall constitute a Governing Council for each Government Autonomous College for the purposes of this Act, to function as the executive body of the college.

(2) The Governing Council of a Government Autonomous College shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) an eminent person of repute having significant experience in academic related matters, who shall be the Chairman:

Provided that in the absence of the Chairman in any meeting, the Government may nominate an officer mentioned in item (b) to be the Chairman of the Governing Council in that meeting ;

(b) an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Director of Collegiate Education or a Joint Secretary to Government in the Higher Education Department ;

(c) three teachers with Ph.D. from different departments of the college, to be nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education, on rotation, for a period of two years on the basis of their seniority;

(d) one nominee of the University, not below the rank of a Professor, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(e) one nominee of the University Grants Commission;

(f) Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governing Council.

(3) The Managing Council of an Autonomous College other than a Government College, shall constitute a Governing Council for each Autonomous College under its management, for the purposes of this Act, to function as the executive body of the college.

(4) The Governing Council of an Autonomous College that is not a Government college shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Manager or one nominee of the Manager, who shall be a senior and eminent person of repute having sufficient experience in academic related matters, who shall be the Chairman of the Governing Council ;

(b) three senior teachers of that college from different departments not below the rank of an Associate Professor, to be nominated on rotation, by the Manager;

(c) one nominee of the University not below the rank of a Professor, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(d) one nominee of the University Grants Commission;

(e) one nominee of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, to be nominated by the Government;

(f) Principal of the college, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governing Council.

74J. *Tenure of office of the Governing Council.*— The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Council shall be for a period of two academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of two academic years:

Provided that the same person shall not be eligible for nomination beyond a period of four years.



Provided that no such criterion shall have the effect of lowering the standards prescribed by the University Grants Commission for the grant of the status of autonomy.

(3) The Autonomy Approval Committee shall scrutinise the applications received from the eligible colleges and accept those from the colleges satisfying the criteria prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(4) The Autonomy Approval Committee may constitute a committee either from among itself with experts in the field of higher education or a committee of experts as it deems fit, to inspect the facilities in the college and verify records of the college relevant to the grant of autonomy.

(5) The Committee constituted under sub-section (4) shall have the power to enter into the college premises and its building and the College shall be bound to facilitate such inspection and furnish all information and records pertinent to the enquiry, to the Committee.

(6) The Committee constituted by the Autonomy Approval Committee under this section may give instructions to the Principal of the college to rectify the defects in meeting the criteria of eligibility prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(7) Where the Autonomy Approval Committee is satisfied itself that a college that has submitted application meets the criteria prescribed for grant of autonomy, it shall forward its recommendation for the grant of autonomy to the college, to the Vice-Chancellor.

(8) On receipt of a recommendation under sub-section (7), the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the application for grant of autonomy to be forwarded to the University Grants Commission, with the seal of the officer of the University, as prescribed by the Commission, within fifteen working days from the date of receipt of the intimation by the Vice-Chancellor.

74N. *Conduct of examinations.*—(1) The Government, in the case of Government Autonomous College and the Principal in the case of Autonomous Colleges which are not Government Colleges shall appoint a person not below the rank of an Associate Professor, with experience of not less than two years in a Department offering Post Graduate Course of study in a Government College or a college other than an Un-aided college, as the Controller of Examinations for the Autonomous College:

Provided that such a person shall not have been disqualified or punished for any breach of conduct or failure to perform any duty assigned in connection with the conduct of examinations by the University or any other Universities.

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74O. *Award of Degrees.*—(1)

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74P. *Powers of University over Autonomous Colleges.*—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Chapter and the provisions of the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules made thereunder, the University shall have all other powers over the Autonomous Colleges as are applicable to any affiliated college of the University under this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances and the Regulations made thereunder.

(2) Where the Governing Council of an Autonomous College has approved and recommended any academic programme to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the relevant Board of Studies of the University for approval:

Provided that where there is no Board of Studies with respect to the academic programme proposed, the University shall constitute a Board of Studies or an Expert Committee for the purpose :

Provided further that the Expert Committee so appointed shall have adequate number of members to facilitate a fair and objective assessment of the Academic Programme submitted to the University.

(3) The Board of Studies or the Expert Committee, as the case may be, shall, within thirty working days from the date of receipt of the proposal, consider it for the Academic Programme referred to in sub-section (2) and approve, reject or return the same, with remarks, to the Vice-Chancellor:

Provided that such rejection shall be on the ground that the proposal received from the Governing Council of an Autonomous College does not conform to the duration, number of credits, evaluation and grading system for that Academic Programme already prescribed by the University or where the Board of Studies or Expert Committee feels, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that the proposal of the Governing Council of an Autonomous College will have the effect of lowering academic standards or it is against national interest:

Provided further that where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision within thirty working days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University except where the proposal is against national interest:

(4) Where the Board of Studies or Expert Committee returns the proposal to the Vice-Chancellor with remarks pointing out the defects for transmitting the same to the Governing Council of an Autonomous College, the Governing Council may re-submit the proposal to the University with its remarks within thirty working days of receipt of such remarks.

(5) The Board of Studies shall, thereafter, within a period of thirty working days, either approve or reject the proposal and the Vice-Chancellor shall intimate the same to the Governing Council of the College through the Principal of that College except where the proposal was rejected on the ground that it was against national interest:

Provided that where the Autonomous College re-submitting the proposal has not been informed of the decision within thirty working days from the date of re-submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(6) A copy of all such approvals or rejections shall be sent to the Autonomy Approval Committee.

(7) All such decisions to approve or reject the proposal shall be reported to the Academic Council of the Autonomous College:

Provided that the Academic Council of the Autonomous College may, if it differs with the decision, address the Chancellor for a review of the same.

(8) The Governing Council of an Autonomous College may appeal to the Autonomy Approval Committee against any order of rejection and the decision thereon of the Autonomy Approval Committee shall be final:

Provided that where the Autonomy Approval Committee deems it fit, it may appoint a panel of experts to advise the Autonomy Approval Committee in arriving at a decision on the appeal so preferred.

(9) The Syndicate of the University shall have powers to inspect to verify whether a college that has been granted autonomy by the University Grants Commission violates the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomy.

(10) For the purpose of sub-section (9), the Syndicate may constitute a Committee either from among itself with experts in the field or a committee of experts as it deems fit, to inspect the facilities in the college, verify records of the college relevant to the purpose of the above inspection:

Provided that such experts shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor :

Provided further that such enquiry shall extend only to complaints or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admissions, levying fees and conduct of examinations, adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(11) The Committee constituted under sub-section (10) shall not finalise any report without giving the representative of the college that has been granted autonomy, a fair and reasonable opportunity of being heard.



(12) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said Committee recommend to the Autonomy Approval Committee through the Vice-Chancellor, the suspension or revocation of the autonomy granted to it.

(13) If any complaint or information in writing is received in Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and the importance of the same, refer it to the Autonomy Approval Committee:

Provided that such reference shall extend only to complaints or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admissions, levying fees and conduct of examinations, adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(14) On receipt of any report of the University containing its recommendations under sub-section (12) or on receipt of any reference from Government under sub-section (13), the Autonomy Approval Committee shall consider the report or reference, as the case may be:

Provided that the Autonomy Approval Committee may conduct an enquiry for which it can constitute a committee either from among itself or from among the field of experts as it deems fit.

(15) The Committee constituted under sub-section (10) shall have powers to inspect the facilities in the college and to verify records of the college relevant to the purpose of such enquiry.

(16) All Autonomous Colleges shall furnish records and provide information sought by the Committee for the purpose of such enquiry:

Provided that no such enquiry shall be completed without giving the Principal of the Autonomous College a fair and reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(17) Each Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its

remarks on the Manual within sixty working days of such submission. The remarks of the University shall be offered with the object of improving the safeguards in the conduct of the examinations and for ensuring the integrity of the examinations conducted by an Autonomous College. The Autonomous College shall incorporate all the necessary modifications consistent with the remarks of the University in the Manual

74Q. *Power of University to amend Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations etc.*—(1) The University shall have power to amend its Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules to give effect to the provisions of this Chapter:

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(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Academic Council of an Autonomous College and the Governing Council may make Regulations for the purposes mentioned in this Chapter with the approval of the University:

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74R. *Communications with the Autonomous Colleges.*—All correspondence between the Academic Council or Board of Studies of the University or the Autonomy Approval Committee with an Autonomous College or a college applying for autonomy under this Chapter, shall be made with the Principal of such College.

74S. *Vacancies in the Committees, Councils or Boards under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*—No decision of the Autonomy Approval Committee or of any Academic Council of an Autonomous College, Board of Studies of an Autonomous College or the Governing Council under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such Committee, Councils or Board not having been filled up.

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