

THE UNIVERSITY LAWS (THIRD AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2014

(As passed by the Assembly)

A

BILL

further to amend the Kerala University Act, 1974, the Calicut University Act, 1975, the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 and the Kannur University Act, 1996.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala University Act, 1974, the Calicut University Act, 1975, the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 and the Kannur University Act, 1996 for the purposes hereinafter appearing ;

BE it enacted in the Sixty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the University Laws (Third Amendment) Act, 2014.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 30th day of November, 2013.

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 renumbered as clause (1A) of that section and before clause (1A) as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1) “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;”;

KNPP.1463/2014.

(ii) after clause (1A) as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1B) “Academic Council of an Autonomous College” means the Academic Council of an Autonomous College consisting of the members as provided under section 69E;”;

(iii) after clause (4), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomy Approval Committee” means the Autonomy Approval Committee constituted under section 69A ;

(4B) “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 VIII B of this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules made thereunder;”;

(iv) after clause (5), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69G;”;

(v) after clause (10), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(10A) “Governing Council” means the Governing Council of an Autonomous College;”;

(vi) in clause (23), the words “and includes the Regulations of an Autonomous College and the rules made by the Government” shall be added at the end;

(vii) after clause (31), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(31A) “University Grants Commission” means the University Grants Commission established under section 4 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (Central Act 3 of 1956);”;

(b) in section 5,—

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

“(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;”

(c) after Chapter VIII A, the following Chapter shall be inserted, namely:—

“CHAPTER VIII B

AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES

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 to 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.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the Statutes, Ordinances or Regulations made under this Act, all matters including the invitations, processing and approval of application for grant of autonomy, the constitution of the authorities in an Autonomous College and their powers and the powers of the University over an Autonomous College shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(3) If there is any dispute whether any provision in any existing Statute, Regulation and Ordinances of the University is inconsistent with or has the effect of overriding or contradicting any provision in this Chapter, the decision of Government shall be final.

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:—

- (a) The Principal, who shall be the Chairman of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;
- (b) All Heads of Departments in the college;
- (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:—

(i) to scrutinize the proposals of Boards of Studies of an Autonomous College, with regard to the courses of study, academic regulations, curricula, syllabi and modifications thereof, instructional and evaluation arrangements, methods, procedures relevant thereto and to approve the same with or without modifications:

Provided that if the Academic Council of an Autonomous College differs on any proposal submitted by any Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, it may either reject the proposal giving reasons for the same or return the same to the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College with its remarks, for reconsideration:

Provided further that if the proposal is returned and the Board of studies re-submits the proposal to the Academic Council of the college with or without the proposed modifications, the Academic Council shall approve the proposal;

(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;

(iii) to make regulations for the conduct of examinations and initiate measures for improving quality of teaching, student evaluation and student advisory programmes in the college;

(iv) to make and approve proposals for research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge;

(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;

(ii) to recommend books wherein the prescribed subjects are suitably dealt with, for the reference of teachers and students and also to recommend text books as and when required;

(iii) to suggest methodologies for innovative teaching and evaluation techniques;

(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.

69 L. *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:—

(i) to submit to the University the proposal for the institution of new programmes of study leading to the award of degrees and diplomas ;

(ii) to conduct examinations for each course and publish the results ;

(iii) to recommend and forward the results of examinations to the University for the award of degree or diploma, as the case may be ;

(iv) to approve the issue of marklists to the students ;

(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 ;

(vi) to institute scholarships, fellowships, studentships, medals and certificates on the recommendations of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College ;

(vii) to make regulations for sports, extra-curricular activities, proper maintenance and functioning of the playgrounds and hostels ;

(viii) to exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and to constitute such Committees as it may deem necessary for the proper development of the Autonomous College and to fulfil the objectives of autonomy.

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 Unaided 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 Unaided 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.

(2) All examinations leading to the award of degree or diploma issued by the University shall be conducted under the supervision of the Controller of Examinations.

(3) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall frame a Manual of Examinations for the conduct of examinations in the Autonomous College within three months from the grant of autonomy or six months before the conduct of the first set of examinations, whichever is earlier.

(4) The Manual of Examinations shall be based on the following matters, namely:—

(a) the functions of conducting examinations and its supervision, evaluation of examinations and publication of results, shall be specifically assigned to persons designated for the purpose and their roles shall also be specified ;

(b) the independence of framing of questions, valuation and monitoring processes shall be maintained;

(c) there shall be adequate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the examination processes; and

(d) there shall be adequate penalties of such nature and subject to such maximum penalty as may be prescribed by the Government, that may be provided for any individual responsible for the conduct of examinations in case of any breach of the provisions of the Manual of Examinations :

Provided that in framing the Manual of Examinations, an Autonomous College shall ensure that the safeguards in the Examination Manual of the University itself are, *mutatis mutandis* incorporated in the Manual of Examinations for the conduct of examinations of the Autonomous College :

Provided further that the Manual of Examinations shall be submitted by an Autonomous College to the University for its remarks and modifications for improving the quality of the process of examinations and upon receiving such remarks, incorporate them in the Manual of Examinations to the extent possible and inform the University of the reasons for not being able to comply with any of the suggestions.

(5) The Manual of Examinations shall contain specific provisions for the redressal of grievances of students relating to examinations and assessments in conformity with the relevant regulations made and guidelines issued from time to time by the University and the University Grants Commission.

(6) On approval of the issue of the marklists by the Governing Council, the mark list shall be issued under the names and seal of the Principal of the Autonomous College and the Controller of Examinations of the Autonomous College, in a format consistent with that prescribed by the University.

69O. *Award of Degrees.*—(1) The University shall award degrees, diplomas, titles, certificates and other academic distinctions to the students evaluated and recommended by an Autonomous College after levying a reasonable fee as may be prescribed by the University for the same:

Provided that such degree, diploma, title or certificates shall be in a common format prescribed by Statutes :

Provided further that the name of an Autonomous College shall be mentioned in the certificate conferring the degree, diploma, title, certificate and other academic distinctions, if such college requests for the same.

(2) The University shall issue the degree, diploma, title or certificates within forty five working days of the receipt of recommendations from an Autonomous College.

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 the 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 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.

69Q. *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:

Provided that the grant of autonomy to colleges eligible under the provisions of this Chapter and the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations made thereunder shall not be withheld on account of the pendency of such amendments.

(2) In order to avoid difficulties in the case of an Autonomous College or college applying for the grant of autonomy, the Government shall have power to make rules for the removal of such difficulties that may arise in the implementation of the provisions of this Chapter in addition to the other powers of the Government to make rules under any other Chapter of this Act and such rules shall be binding on the University and the Autonomous College or college applying for autonomy.

(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:

Provided that the procedure for making Regulations, prescribed in section 39 shall not be applicable for making such Regulations.

69R. *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.

69S. *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.”.

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 renumbered as clause (1A) of that section and before clause (1A) as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(1) “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;”;

(ii) after clause (1A), as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1B) “Academic Council of an Autonomous College” means the Academic Council of an Autonomous College consisting of the members as provided under section 68F;”;

(iii) after clause (4), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomy Approval Committee” means the Autonomy Approval Committee constituted under section 68B;”;

(4B) “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 VIII B of this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules made thereunder;”;

(iv) after clause (5), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College, constituted under section 68H;”;

(v) after clause (10), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(10A) “Governing Council” means the Governing Council of an Autonomous College;”;

(vi) in clause (23), the words “and includes the Regulations of an Autonomous College and the rules made by the Government” shall be added at the end;

(vii) after clause (31), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(31A) “University Grants Commission” means the University Grants Commission established under section 4 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (Central Act 3 of 1956);”;

(b) in section 5,—

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

“(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;”;

(c) after Chapter VIII A, the following Chapter shall be inserted, namely:—

“CHAPTER VIII B

AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES

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.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the Statutes, Ordinances or Regulations made under this Act, all matters including the invitations, processing and approval of application for grant of autonomy, the constitution of the authorities in an Autonomous College and their powers and the powers of the University over an Autonomous College shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(3) If there is any dispute whether any provision in any existing Statute, Regulation and Ordinances of the University is inconsistent with or has the effect of overriding or contradicting any provision in this Chapter, the decision of the Government shall be final.

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:—

(a) The Principal, who shall be the Chairman of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(b) All Heads of Departments in the College;

(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:—

(i) to scrutinize the proposals of Boards of Studies of an Autonomous College, with regard to the courses of study, academic regulations, curricula, syllabi and modifications thereof, instructional and evaluation arrangements, methods, procedures relevant thereto and to approve the same with or without modifications :

Provided that if the Academic Council of an Autonomous College differs on any proposal submitted by any Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, it may either reject the proposal giving reasons for the same or return the same to the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College with its remarks, for reconsideration :

Provided further that if the proposal is returned and the Board of Studies re-submits the proposal to the Academic Council of the college with or without the proposed modifications, the Academic Council shall approve the proposal;

(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;

(iii) to make regulations for the conduct of examinations and initiate measures for improving quality of teaching, student evaluation and student advisory programmes in the college ;

(iv) to make and approve proposals for research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge ;

(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;

(ii) to recommend books wherein the prescribed subjects are suitably dealt with, for the reference of teachers and students and also to recommend text books as and when required;

(iii) to suggest methodologies for innovative teaching and evaluation techniques;

(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.

68L. *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 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.

68M. *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:—

(i) to submit to the University the proposal for, the institution of new programmes of study leading to the award of degrees and diplomas;

(ii) to conduct examinations for each course and publish the results;

(iii) to recommend and forward the results of examinations, to the University for the award of degree or diploma, as the case may be;

(iv) to approve the issue of marklists to the students;

(v) to fix the fees and other charges payable by the students of the Autonomous College with the concurrence of the 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;

(vi) to institute scholarships, fellowships, studentships, medals and certificates on the recommendations of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(vii) to make regulations for sports, extra-curricular activities, proper maintenance and functioning of the playgrounds and hostels;

(viii) to exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and to constitute such Committees as it may deem necessary for the proper development of the Autonomous College and to fulfil the objectives of autonomy.

68N. *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 Unaided 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.

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 Unaided 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.

(2) All examinations leading to the award of degree or diploma issued by the University shall be conducted under the supervision of the Controller of Examinations.

(3) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall frame a Manual of Examinations for the conduct of examinations in the Autonomous College within three months from the grant of autonomy or six months before the conduct of the first set of examinations, whichever is earlier.

(4) The Manual of Examinations shall be based on the following matters, namely:—

(a) the functions of conducting examinations and its supervision, evaluation of examinations and publication of results, shall be specifically assigned to persons designated for the purpose and their roles shall also be specified;

(b) the independence of framing of questions, valuation and monitoring processes shall be maintained;

(c) there shall be adequate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the examination processes; and

(d) there shall be adequate penalties of such nature and subject to such maximum penalty as may be prescribed by the Government, that may be

provided for any individual responsible for the conduct of examinations in case of any breach of the provisions of the Manual of Examinations:

Provided that in framing the Manual of Examinations, an Autonomous College shall ensure that the safeguards in the Examination Manual of the University itself are *mutatis mutandis*, incorporated in the Manual of Examinations for the conduct of examinations of the Autonomous College:

Provided further that the Manual of Examinations shall be submitted by an Autonomous College to the University for its remarks and modifications for improving the quality of the process of examinations and upon receiving such remarks, incorporate them in the Manual of Examinations to the extent possible and inform the University of the reasons for not being able to comply with any of the suggestions.

(5) The Manual of Examinations shall contain specific provisions for the redressal of grievances of students relating to examinations and assessments in conformity with the relevant regulations made and guidelines issued from time to time by the University and the University Grants Commission.

(6) On approval of the issue of the marklists by the Governing Council, the marklist shall be issued under the names and seal of the Principal of the Autonomous College and the Controller of Examinations of the Autonomous College, in a format consistent with that prescribed by the University.

68P. *Award of Degrees.*—(1) The University shall award degrees, diplomas, titles, certificates and other academic distinctions to the students evaluated and recommended by an Autonomous College after levying a reasonable fee as may be prescribed by the University for the same:

Provided that such degree, diploma, title or certificates shall be in a common format prescribed by Statutes:

Provided further that the name of an Autonomous College shall be mentioned in the certificate conferring the degree, diploma, title, certificate and other academic distinctions, if such college requests for the same.

(2) The University shall issue the degree, diploma, title or certificates within forty-five working days of the receipt of recommendations from an Autonomous College.

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 the 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 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 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.

68R. *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:

Provided that the grant of autonomy to Colleges eligible under the provisions of this Chapter and the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations made thereunder shall not be withheld on account of the pendency of such amendments.

(2) In order to avoid difficulties in the case of an Autonomous College or college applying for the grant of autonomy, the Government shall have power to make rules for the removal of such difficulties that may arise in the implementation of the provisions of this Chapter in addition to the other powers of the Government to make rules under any other Chapter of this Act and such rules shall be binding on the University and the Autonomous College or college applying for autonomy.

(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:

Provided that the procedure for making Regulations, prescribed in section 39 shall not be applicable for making such Regulations.

68S. *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.

68T. *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.”.

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 renumbered as clause (1A) of that section and before clause (1A) as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1) “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;”;

(ii) after clause (1A) as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1B) “Academic Council of an Autonomous College” means the Academic Council of an Autonomous College consisting of the members as provided under section 107;”;

(iii) after clause (4), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomy Approval Committee” means the Autonomy Approval Committee constituted under section 103;

(4B) “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 IX of this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules made thereunder;”;

(iv) after clause (5), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College constituted under section 109;”;

(v) after clause (10), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(10A) “Governing Council” means the Governing Council of an Autonomous College;”;

(vi) in clause (25), the words “and includes the Regulations of an Autonomous College and the rules made by the Government” shall be added at the end;

(vii) after clause (33), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(33A) “University Grants Commission” means the University Grants Commission established under section 4 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (Central Act 3 of 1956);”;

(b) in section 5,—

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

“(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 IX of this Act;”;

(c) after Chapter VIII, the following Chapter shall be inserted, namely:—

“CHAPTER IX

AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES

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 Autonomus 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.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, or the Statutes, Ordinances or Regulations made under this Act, all matters including the invitations, processing and approval of application for grant of autonomy, the constitution of the authorities in an Autonomous College and their powers and the powers of the University over an Autonomous College shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(3) If there is any dispute whether any provision in any existing Statute, Regulation and Ordinances of the University is inconsistent with or has the effect of overriding or contradicting any provision in this Chapter, the decision of Government shall be final.

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:—

(a) The Principal, who shall be the Chairman of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(b) All Heads of Departments in the college;

(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.

108. *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:—

(i) to scrutinize the proposals of Boards of Studies of an Autonomous College, with regard to the courses of study, academic regulations, curricula, syllabi and modifications thereof, instructional and evaluation arrangements, methods, procedures relevant thereto and to approve the same with or without modifications:

Provided that if the Academic Council of an Autonomous College differs on any proposal submitted by any Board of Studies of the Autonomous College, it may either reject the proposal giving reasons for the same or return the same to the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College with its remarks, for reconsideration:

Provided further that if the proposal is returned and the Board of Studies re-submits the proposal to the Academic Council of the college with or without the proposed modifications, the Academic Council shall approve the proposal;

(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;

(iii) to make regulations for the conduct of examinations and initiate measures for improving quality of teaching, student evaluation and student advisory programmes in the college;

(iv) to make and approve proposals for research and advancement, and dissemination of knowledge;

(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.

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;

(ii) to recommend books wherein the prescribed subjects are suitably dealt with, for the reference of teachers and students and also to recommend text books as and when required;

(iii) to suggest methodologies for innovative teaching and evaluation techniques;

(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 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.

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:—

(i) to submit to the University the proposal for, the institution of new programmes of study leading to the award of degrees and diplomas;

(ii) to conduct examinations for each course and publish the results;

(iii) to recommend, and forward the results of examinations, to the University for the award of degree or diploma, as the case may be;

(iv) to approve the issue of marklists to the students;

(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;

(vi) to institute scholarships, fellowships, studentships, medals and certificates on the recommendations of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(vii) to make regulations for sports, extra-curricular activities, proper maintenance and functioning of the playgrounds and hostels:

(viii) to exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and to constitute such Committees as it deems necessary for the proper development of the Autonomous College and to fulfil the objectives of autonomy.

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 Unaided 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.

116. *Conduct of examination.*—(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 Unaided 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.

(2) All examinations leading to the award of degree or diploma issued by the University shall be conducted under the supervision of the Controller of Examinations.

(3) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall frame a Manual of Examinations for the conduct of examinations in the Autonomous College within three months from the grant of autonomy or six months before the conduct of the first set of examinations, whichever is earlier;

(4) The Manual of Examinations shall be based on the following matters, namely:—

(a) the functions of conducting examinations and its supervision, evaluation of examinations and publication of results shall be specifically assigned to persons designated for the purpose and their roles shall also be specified;

(b) the independence of framing of questions, valuation and monitoring processes shall be maintained;

(c) there shall be adequate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the examination processes; and

(d) there shall be adequate penalties of such nature and subject to such maximum penalty as may be prescribed by the Government, that may be provided for any individual responsible for the conduct of examinations in case of any breach of the provisions of the Manual of Examinations:

Provided that in framing the Manual of Examinations, an Autonomous College shall ensure that the safeguards in the Examination Manual of the University itself are *mutatis mutandis* incorporated in the Manual of Examinations for the conduct of examinations of the Autonomous College:

Provided further that the Manual of Examinations shall be submitted by an Autonomous College to the University for its remarks and modifications for improving the quality of the process of examinations and upon receiving such remarks, incorporate them in the Manual of Examinations to the extent possible and inform the University of the reasons for not being able to comply with any of the suggestions.

(5) The Manual of Examinations shall contain specific provisions for the redressal of grievances of students relating to examinations and assessments in conformity with the relevant regulations made and guidelines issued from time to time by the University and the University Grants Commission.

(6) On approval of the issue of the marklists by the Governing Council, the marklist shall be issued under the names and seal of the Principal of the Autonomous College and the Controller of Examinations of the Autonomous College, in a format consistent with that prescribed by the University.

117. *Award of Degrees.*—(1) The University shall award degrees, diplomas, titles, certificates and other academic distinctions to the students evaluated and recommended by an Autonomous College after levying a reasonable fee as may be prescribed by the University for the same:

Provided that such degree, diploma, title or certificates shall be in a common format prescribed by Statutes:

Provided further that the name of an Autonomous College shall be mentioned in the certificate conferring the degree, diploma, title, certificate and other academic distinctions, if such college requests for the same.

(2) The University shall issue the degree, diploma, title or certificates within forty five working days of the receipt of recommendations from an Autonomous College.

118. *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 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 the 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:

Provided that the grant of autonomy to colleges eligible under the provisions of this Chapter and the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations made thereunder shall not be withheld on account of the pendency of such amendments.

(2) In order to avoid difficulties in the case of an Autonomous College or college applying for the grant of autonomy, the Government shall have power to make rules for the removal of such difficulties that may arise in the implementation of the provisions of this Chapter in addition to the other powers of the Government to make rules under any other Chapter of this Act and such rules shall be binding on the University and the Autonomous College or college applying for autonomy.

(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:

Provided that the procedure for making Regulations, prescribed in section 40 shall not be applicable for making such Regulations.

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.”.

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

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (i) shall be renumbered as clause (iA) of that section and before clause (iA) as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(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;”;

(ii) after clause (iA) as so renumbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iB) “Academic Council of an Autonomous College” means the Academic Council of an Autonomous College consisting of the members as provided under section 74E;”;

(iii) after clause (iv), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(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 VIII A of this Act and the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, bye-laws and rules made thereunder;”;

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

“(vA) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College, constituted under section 74G;”;

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

“(xA) “Governing Council” means the Governing Council of an Autonomous College;”;

(vi) in clause (xxiv), the words “and includes the Regulations of an Autonomous College and the rules made by the Government” shall be added at the end;

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

“(xxxiiA) “University Grants Commission” means the University Grants Commission established under section 4 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (Central Act 3 of 1956);”;

(b) in section 5,—

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

“(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 A of this Act.”

(c) after Chapter VIII, the following Chapter shall be inserted, namely:—

“CHAPTER VIII A

AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES

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 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.

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 condition 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.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, or the Statutes, Ordinances or Regulations made under this Act, all matters including the invitations, processing and approval of application for grant of autonomy, the constitution of the authorities in an Autonomous College and their powers and the powers of the University over an Autonomous College shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(3) If there is any dispute whether any provision in any existing Statute, Regulation and Ordinances of the University is inconsistent with or has the effect of overriding or contradicting any provision in this Chapter, the decision of the Government shall be final.

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:—

(a) The Principal, who shall be the Chairman of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(b) All Heads of Departments in the college;

(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:—

(i) to scrutinize the proposals of Boards of Studies of an Autonomous College, with regard to the courses of study, academic regulations, curricula, syllabi and modifications thereof, instructional and evaluation arrangements, methods, procedures relevant thereto and to approve the same with or without modifications:

Provided that if the Academic Council of an Autonomous College differs on any proposal submitted by any Board of Studies of the Autonomous College,

it may either reject the proposal giving reasons for the same or return the same to the Board of Studies of the Autonomous College with its remarks, for reconsideration:

Provided further that if the proposal is returned and the Board of Studies re-submits the proposal to the Academic Council of the college with or without the proposed modifications, the Academic Council shall approve the proposal;

(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;

(iii) to make regulations for the conduct of examinations and initiate measures for improving quality of teaching, student evaluation and student advisory programmes in the college;

(iv) to make and approve proposals for research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge;

(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 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.

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.

(ii) to recommend books wherein the prescribed subjects are suitably dealt with, for the reference of teachers and students and also to recommend text books as and when required;

(iii) to suggest methodologies for innovative teaching and evaluation techniques;

(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.

741. *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.

74K. *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 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.

74L. *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:—

(i) to submit to the University the proposal for the institution of new programmes of study leading to the award of degrees and diplomas;

(ii) to conduct examinations for each course and publish the results;

(iii) to recommend, and forward the results of examinations, to the University for the award of degree or diploma, as the case may be;

(iv) to approve the issue of marklists to the students;

(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;

(vi) to institute scholarships, fellowships, studentships, medals and certificates on the recommendations of the Academic Council of the Autonomous College;

(vii) to make regulations for sports, extra-curricular activities, proper maintenance and functioning of the playgrounds and hostels;

(viii) to exercise such other powers and perform such other functions and to constitute such Committees as it may deem necessary and for the proper development of the Autonomous College and to fulfil the objectives of autonomy.

74M. *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 Unaided 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.

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 Unaided 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.

(2) All examinations leading to the award of degree or diploma issued by the University shall be conducted under the supervision of the Controller of Examinations.

(3) The Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall frame a Manual of Examinations for the conduct of examinations in the Autonomous College within three months from the grant of autonomy or six months before the conduct of the first set of examinations, whichever is earlier.

(4) The Manual of Examinations shall be based on the following matters, namely:—

(a) the functions of conducting examinations and its supervision, evaluation of examinations and publication of results, shall be specifically assigned to persons designated for the purpose and their roles shall also be specified;

(b) the independence of framing of questions, valuation and monitoring processes shall be maintained;

(c) there shall be adequate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the examination processes; and

(d) there shall be adequate penalties of such nature and subject to such maximum penalty as may be prescribed by the Government, that may be provided for any individual responsible for the conduct of examinations in case of any breach of the provisions of the Manual of Examinations:

Provided that in framing the Manual of Examinations, an Autonomous College shall ensure that the safeguards in the Examination Manual of the University itself are *mutatis mutandis* incorporated in the Manual of Examinations for the conduct of examinations of the Autonomous College:

Provided further that the Manual of Examinations shall be submitted by an Autonomous College to the University for its remarks and modifications for improving the quality of the process of examinations and upon receiving such remarks, incorporate them in the Manual of Examinations to the extent possible and inform the University of the reasons for not being able to comply with any of the suggestions.

(5) The Manual of Examinations shall contain specific provisions for the redressal of grievances of students relating to examinations and assessments in conformity with the relevant regulations made and guidelines issued from time to time by the University and the University Grants Commission.

(6) On approval of the issue of the marklists by the Governing Council, the marklist shall be issued under the names and seal of the Principal of the Autonomous College and the Controller of Examinations of the Autonomous College, in a format consistent with that prescribed by the University.

74O. *Award of Degrees.*—(1) The University shall award degrees, diplomas, titles, certificates and other academic distinctions to the students evaluated and recommended by an Autonomous College after levying a reasonable fee as may be prescribed by the University for the same:

Provided that such degree, diploma, title or certificates shall be in a common format prescribed by Statutes:

Provided further that the name of an Autonomous College shall be mentioned in the certificate conferring degree, diploma, title, certificate and other academic distinctions, if such college requests for the same.

(2) The University shall issue the degree, diploma, title or certificates within forty-five working days of the receipt of recommendations from an Autonomous College.

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 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 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:

Provided that the grant of autonomy to colleges eligible under the provisions of this Chapter and the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations made thereunder shall not be withheld on account of the pendency of such amendments.

(2) In order to avoid difficulties in the case of an Autonomous College or college applying for the grant of autonomy, the Government shall have power to make rules for the removal of such difficulties that may arise in the implementation of the provisions of this Chapter in addition to the other powers of the Government to make rules under any other Chapter of this Act and such rules shall be binding on the University and the Autonomous College or college applying for autonomy.

(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:

Provided that the procedure for making Regulations prescribed in section 42 shall not be applicable for making such Regulations.

74R. *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.

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.”.

6. *Repeal and saving.*—(1) The University Laws (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (18 of 2014) is 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, the Calicut University Act, 1975, the Mahatma Gandhi

University Act, 1985 and the Kannur University Act, 1996 as amended by the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the said Acts respectively, as amended by this Act.
