



ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

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LETTER BY AMU VICE-CHANCELLOR ON FUTURE ACTION PLAN OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE WAKE OF EXTENDED NATIONAL LOCKDOWN DUE TO CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Dear Teachers, Students, Parents & Members of AMU Fraternity

As you are aware, the National Lockdown has been extended till 3 May (subject to some exemptions w.e.f. 20 April). We will continuously monitor the situation at regular intervals and take decisions which are in the best interest of students.

For teachers, the current challenges should be translated into opportunities to acquire new skills in virtual teaching-learning-evaluation methods. The teachers who are engaging online classes through Google Classroom, Google Hangouts, Jitsi, Zoom etc. deserve appreciation, and others are encouraged to follow suit without further delay. At this time, it is imperative to fully go ahead with online teaching-learning in whatever mode it is feasible and to cover as much syllabus as possible under the prevailing difficult circumstances. While we are aware of some obstacles regarding internet connectivity in few areas, but let us all try to make maximum use of online teaching-learning processes because universities may not find it possible to conduct traditional physical classroom lectures/practicals for some time to come. The teaching community should be ready to make small sacrifices, if required, to safeguard the academic interests of our students, especially those in the final year of their programmes.

The university is exploring various alternate modes of conducting examinations, including "Online Examinations", if possible, particularly for final year students. The matter will be discussed with all concerned, once the details are worked out.

The problems of this infection may remain for a significant time and physical distancing will be an integral part of it. In such a situation, instead of merely highlighting problems which are common to everybody, we all need to rise to the occasion by working on solutions through innovations related to online teaching and examination. We should make efforts to help colleagues who may require support due to limited technology skills. Chairpersons of Departments can form a group of 2 to 3 teachers within their department to help those who require assistance. The younger teachers should come forward to lead the way as "Online Education" may be the pivot on which higher education will evolve in future.



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We are arranging an Orientation Course on "Online Teaching" by UGC HRDC Centre/Computer Centre for teachers. This Orientation Course may be counted for promotion of teachers under both CAS/Direct Cadre.

The Website Committee/Computer Centre are running helpline for teachers needing assistance. Faculties and Departments are advised to conduct webinars on important academic topics to augment the teaching learning process. The invitation links and proceedings of webinars can be uploaded on university website and further be publicised on university social media forums. Teachers and students may also attend webinars conducted by other universities/organizations.

No University is same and all have their own issues and special features which may also be unique to each of them depending upon its location, diversity, infrastructure available, demographic composition of students etc. Hence, solutions may also be varied.

The MHRD/UGC have also constituted two expert committees, one regarding "Online Teaching" and "Online Examination" and another to work out "Academic Calendar" including schedule of admissions etc. The report of these two expert committees are expected to come very soon. Decisions which are in the best interest of students in the given difficult circumstances will be considered by the university. These are not ideal times and solutions may also not be ideal.

The first priority will be the final year students and admission tests for various programmes. Since these issues are linked to public health issue of COVID-19 pandemic, matters will be considered after due consultations depending upon how the situation unfolds in the country.

In the end, I strongly urge all the members of teaching/non-teaching staff/students to maintain social distancing, perform regular hand washing, wear masks at public places, disinfect surfaces, improve personal hygiene and adhere to all other guidelines issued by various competent authorities.

With Profound Regards and Wishes

Tariq Mansoor
Professor Tariq Mansoor 15/4/20