FEES REGULATING AUTHORITY

Maharashtra Unaided Private Professional Educational Institutions
(Regulation of Admissions and Fees)
"शिक्षण-नव्हेव्यवसाय -ज्ञान यज्ञ"

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(Part-II)

Minutes of Meeting of Authority

Dt. 28/03/2024

The Meeting of the Fees Regulating Authority (constituted under section 11(2)(3)(4) of the Maharashtra Unaided Private Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admissions and Fees) Act, 2015 held on **28th March, 2024** in the Conference Hall, Room No. 305, Government Polytechnic Building, 49 Kherwadi, Ali Yawar Jung Marg, Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400 051.

The following were present/absent:

1.	Hon'ble Justice V. L. Achliya (Retd.), Chairperson of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Present.
2.	Dr. Vijay Vasant Khole, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Mumbai University, Member of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Not Present.
3.	Shri. Manoj Damodar Chandak, Chartered Accountant, Member of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Present.
4.	Shri. Nitin Bapurao Chavan, Chartered Accountant, Member of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Absent. Presence is dispensed for a day.
5.	Shri. Ratnakar (Shirish) Phadtare, Cost Accountant, Member of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Present through video conferencing.
6.	Shri. Atul Damodar Dharap, Cost Accountant, Member of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Present.
7.	Shri. Adv. Dharmendra Dilip Mishra, Professional Educationist, Member of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Present.
8.	The Director, Technical Education, Mumbai, Ex-Officio Member of Fees Regulating Authority.	:	Absent.
9.	The Director Higher Education, (M.S), Ex-Officio Member of Fees Regulating Authority.	:	Absent.
10.	Commissioner Medical Education (M.S) , Ex-Officio Member of Fees Regulating Authority .	:	Presence dispensed for a day
11.	The Director, Directorate of AYUSH, Maharashtra State, Ex-Officio Member of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Absent

12.	The Member Secretary of the Maharashtra Council of Agriculture Education and Research , Pune , Ex-Officio Member of Fees Regulating Authority.	:	Presence dispensed for a day.
13.	Dr. Rajendra S. Bangal, Registrar, Maharashtra University of Health Science Nashik, Invitee Member of Fees Regulating Authority.		Present.
14.	Shri. S.Ramamoorthy,I.A.S., Member Secretary of Fees Regulating Authority	:	Absent. On Election Duty.

Item No.2: **To consider the Complaint No. 109/2023 received from Dr. Yogesh M. Papade, father of Rugved Y . Patade, student studying in 2nd year M.B.B.S for academic year 2022-2023 against NKP Salve Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur for collecting 3 academic years full fees within 18-20 months after 1st years M.B.B.S admission.**

"Discussed.

The Dean of the college has sent letter dated 27/03/2024 through email informing that due to illness he is unable to appear for hearing. He has requested to adjourn & post the hearing in the month of April 2024.

List after six weeks".

Item No.3: **To consider the Complaint No. 174/2023 received from Shri. Ravindra Zaware, parent of Piyush Zaware, studying in 1st year B.A.M.S for academic year 2023-2024 against Dhaneshwari Ayurved Medical College, Aurangabad for demanding excess fees as well as 5 times fees under Institutional Quota.**

"Discussed.

Inspite of notice the complainant absent. The Principal of the college appeared and denied the allegations. It was decided to direct the Principal of the Institute to file Affidavit dealing with the allegations made in the complaint. The Affidavit be filed within three weeks.

List after four weeks".

Item No.4: **To consider the Complaint No. 10/2023 received from Shri Aniruddha Dnyaneshwar Funde, the student admitted in first year B.A.M.S course against Matoshri Ayurvedic College, Nashik demanding the fees five times the regular fees for admitting complainant under Institutional Quota.**

"Discussed.

The parents of the complainants are present.The Affidavit filed taken on record.

The Principal of the college is absent.

It was decided to issue notice to the Principal of the College and the Management running the Institute to show cause as to why the action as contemplated u/s. 20 of the Maharashtra Unaided Private Professional Educational

Institutions (Regulation of Admissions and Fees)Act, 2015 may not be taken against them for demanding and collecting the fees over and above the fees approved by the Authority. They be directed to furnish the explanation within eight days . Failure to furnish the explanation it will be presumed that the Institute has no explanation to be offered.

List after three weeks.".

Item No.5: **To consider the Complaint No. 168 / 2023 received from Irfan Shaikh, student 1st year B.A.M.S for the academic year 2023-2024 against Matoshri Ayurvedic College, Ahmednagar for demanding fees over and above the fees approved by the Fees Regulating Authority.**

"Discussed.

Inspite of notice the complainant absent.

The Chairman and Principal of the College are present.

Irfan Shaikh, the complainant has sent complaint through email dated 29/10/2023 alleging therein that the Institute has demanded Rs. 2,20,000/- as security deposit in addition to the fees approved by the Fees Regulating Authority for admitting him from open category as per merit list. In the complaint sent the complainant has stated that in the third round of admission declared by the Commissioner, State CET Cell he was allotted B.A.M.S seat in above referred Institute. Pursuant to communication received the complainant approached the said Institute to secure admission. He was ready to pay the adhoc fees of Rs. 1,65,000/- as approved by the Fees Regulating Authority .However, the Officials of the Institute demanded Rs. 2,20,000/- as deposit in addition to fees of Rs. 1,65,000/-. He being son of Auto Driver unable to meet such exhorbitant demand of Rs. 2,20,000/- . The complainant has forwarded the copy of the communication received from Commissioner, State CET Cell and fee structure displayed by the college.

On receipt of the complaint the Institute was directed to offer its explanation to allegations made in the complaints and more particularly the demand of Rs. 2,20,000/- as deposit over and above the fees approved by the Authority.

The Principal of the Institute has offered explanation that their Institute has only collected Rs. 1,65,000/- the fees from the students & denied the demand of Rs. 2,20,000/- from the complainant as deposit in addition to fees.

On due consideration of the allegations made in the complaint and the documents as well as the explanation submitted by the Principal it was decided to call the Complainant as well as the Principal of the Institute for hearing.

The Complainant not appeared inspite of notice.

Mr. Pradhan the Officer of the Authority dealing with the complaints informed that the notice of hearing was send to complainant. He has also tried to contact the complainant on phone. However, the Phone was received by his father. He has reiterated the allegations made in the complaint. He has stated that the demand of Rs. 4,50,000/-, was made by the Principal of the College for admitting his son in 1st year B.A.M.S course. He being a poor person running Auto Rickshaw unable to meet such demand. Due to this reason his son could not

secure admission though he was ready to pay the fees of Rs. 1,65,000/-. He has stated that neither he nor his son would like to appear for hearing. Now his son is working as a delivery boy with Swiggy.

It was noticed that in last one year there is spurt in complaints alleging demand of amount more than the fees approved by the Authority. The Authority has received more than twenty complaints against the Unaided Institutes running B.A.M.S course alleging demand of fees more than the fees prescribed by the Authority from the students seeking admission from regular quota as well as Institutional Quota. In most of the complaints received the complainants have alleged that the Institutes have demanded the amount more than the fees prescribed by the Authority. The Institutes are denying the admission by making exhorbitant demand to pay the huge amount as deposit and the payment of hostel mess charges though such facilities are optional in nature. Sometime the students are forced to pay the huge amount as Association fees, admission fees etc. Although such Institutional cannot charge more than three times the regular fees from the student seeking admission under Institutional Quota, the Institutes are demanding five times the regular fees. Some of the Institutes demand the fees of entire course duration though there is a bar u/s. 14 (5) of the Maharashtra Unaided Private Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admissions and Fees) Act, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the "said act 2015") to make such demand.

The Authority is of the view that such grievances at the stage of admission needs to be addressed by the Commissioner, State CET Cell. In terms of the provisions of the act of 2015 the Fees Regulating Authority expected to address the grievances of the students studying in the college . The Fees Regulating Authority is empowered to entertain the grievances of 'Stake Holders' defined u/s. 2(w) of the act of 2015. The meaning of word 'Stake Holders' as define u/s. 2(w) of the act of 2015, includes the management or the students studying in the institute or their parents. The Fees Regulating Authority is receiving large number of complaints from the students or their parent in respect of demand of excess fees at the stage of taking admission. It is therefore necessary for the Commissioner, State CET Cell to evolve the mechanism to rule out or minimize the grievances of students at the time of taking admission. It is advisable for the Commissioner, State CET Cell to deliberate on the issue with 'Stake holders' to evolve the mechanism to rule out such grievances. The Commissioner, State CET Cell may consider to evolve the mechanism to avoid the human interface between the students or their parents with the institutions . The Commissioner, State CET Cell may consider to provide the mechanism to pay fees centrally in the account of Commissioner, State CET Cell and then to transfer the same to Institute after the admission is confirmed. So also the Commissioner, State CET Cell may consider to notify the name of college, its bank account the fees is to be payable by the students or their parents directly to Institute through NEFT to confirm their admissions, by incorporation such details in the letter of allotment of seat issued to student by the Commissioner, State CET Cell. The reasonable time may be provided to students to pay the fees online to the extent the fees mentioned in the letter of allotment in the account of the institute. On payment of amount &

uploading of screen shot of the payment receipt the Commissioner, State CET Cell may consider to confirm the admission of such student.

It was decided to forward the minutes of meeting with copies of complaints received by the Authority pertaining to excess demand of fees at the stage of taking admission to the Commissioner, State CET Cell to consider the same and evolve mechanism to avoid such grievances and the harassment faced by the students and their parents while seeking admission as per seat allotted.

The Commissioner, State CET Cell be requested to take the decision at the earliest & more particularly before the commencement of allotment of seat for the academic year 2024-2025 and appraise the Fees Regulating Authority the steps taken.

Let the follow up action be taken".

Date: 28th March, 2024

Place: Mumbai

Justice Vijay L. Achliya (Retd.)
Chairperson
Fees Regulating Authority
State of Maharashtra