



## FEES REGULATING AUTHORITY

Maharashtra Unaided Private Professional Educational Institutions  
(Regulation of Admissions and Fees)

"शिक्षण-नव्वेवसाय -ज्ञान यज्ञ"

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### Minutes of Meeting of Authority

Dt. 05/08/2022

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 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022 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:

1.	Hon'ble Justice V. L. Achliya (Retd.)	:	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Vijay Vasant Khole, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Mumbai University	:	Member
3.	Shri. Manoj Damodar Chandak, Chartered Accountant	:	Member
4.	Shri. Ratnakar (Shirish) Phadtare, Cost Accountant	:	Member
5.	Shri. Dharmendra Dilip Mishra, Professional Educationist	:	Member

#### **Item No.1: To consider the complaint received from students against Modern College of Engineering, MBA Department, Pune.**

"Discussed.


In view of the complaints received from the students against the Institutions alleging the charging of the fees over and above the fees approved by the Fees Regulating Authority and the officials of the Institute are pressurizing them to pay the excess fees, the notice was issued to the Principal of the Institute as well as the President and the Secretary of the Trust to appear and explain the allegations made by the complainants against the Management running the Institute.

In response to the notice, the Principal of the Institute has sent a letter dated 04/08/2022 through email for adjournment and further requested to fix the next date in the last week of August 2022.



The students/complainants present for hearing submitted that they are from poor and middle-class families. They opted to take admission in M.B.A. course run by Modern College of Engineering, Pune looking to the fees structure approved by the Fees Regulating Authority for the academic year 2021-2022. The fees approved by the Authority for said course as Rs. 84,000/- was affordable and within their reach & therefore they have taken admission for said course. They were shocked and surprised when they received the demand from the Institute for payment of Rs. 35,000/- as additional fees to be paid. The officials of the Institute individually called the students & asked to pay the additional amount and they were told that the fees has been revised by the Fees Regulating Authority. It is submitted that the students were not heard before revising the fees from Rs. 84,000/- to Rs. 1,11,000/-. The enhancement in fees is about 32% over the fees earlier declared by the Authority. The complainants further submitted that though the fees revised by the Fees Regulating Authority is Rs. 1,11,000/- the Institute is demanding Rs. 1,16,500/- which is over and above the fees approved by the Fees Regulating Authority. They submit that their examinations are scheduled to commence w.e.f 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022. They are undergoing tremendous mental stress due to the sudden demand of additional fees of Rs. 35,000/- received from the Institute. Their family members are also under stress due to their inability to meet the demand raised by the Institute. There is likelihood that the Institute may not permit them to appear for examination which will spoil their career. They are ready to pay the revised fees finalised by the Fees Regulating Authority from the next academic year i.e. the academic year 2022-2023. They had made written representation to the Principal of the Institute and requested not to charge the enhanced fees from the current academic year (i.e. 2021-2022). They had also requested to Institute to clarify as to they have raised the demand to claim the fees over and above the fees approved by the Fees Regulating Authority. However, the Institute has not responded to their letters/representations.

The fee which was approved by the Authority as Rs. 84,000/- was revised Rs. 1,11,000/- pursuant to the Review Application filed by the Institute against the decision of the Authority. At the time of hearing & revising the fees, the Principal of the Institute and Secretary of the Trust were apprised that due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the financial condition of the parents of the students has been affected and therefore,






the enhanced fees to be charged from the next academic year and no student will be insisted and pressurized to pay the revised fees for the current academic year (i.e. 2021-2022). Both the officials representing the Institute and Trust had assured the Authority that the Institute will not insist and pressurized the students to pay the difference in amount for the academic year 2021-2022 and the enhanced fees shall be charged from next academic year i.e. 2022-2023. In spite of oral assurance given before the Authority, the Institute has made the demand of Rs. 35,000/- from each of the students. So also the demand as raised is much more than the fees approved by the Fees Regulating Authority. The students/complainants have produced the copies of the receipts issued by the Institute towards payment of fees paid by them as well as the demand of additional fees made to them. The allegations made by the complainants are supported with documentary proof. In that view the prima facie case has been made out against the Management running the Institution of charging the fees over and above the fees approved by the Authority. The Management of the Institute also acted in breach of the oral assurance given before the Authority.

The Authority is of the view that necessary orders need to be passed to protect the interest of the students till the hearing is concluded. It is well within the knowledge of the Management running the Institute, the plight and suffering of the people due to the pandemic of COVID-19. The Management of the Institute should not have insisted the students to pay the difference in amount from the current academic year as per the assurance given to the Authority. The fees for the academic year 2021-2022 has been decided on the basis of Audited financial statements of the financial year 2019-2020. In the financial year, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 the expenditure of the Institute must have considerably reduced on account of the pandemic of COVID-19. In that view also the Institute should not have insisted for additional payment of fees from the students for the academic year 2021-2022.

The cause assigned is not sufficient to remain absent for the hearing and seek the next date of hearing in the last week of August 2022. However, it was decided to adjourn the hearing to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022. In meantime, the Management running the Institute are directed not to charge, collect the difference in the amount of fees from the batch of students admitted in the academic year 2021-2022 and honour its



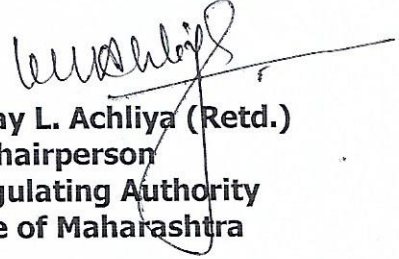
commitment made before the Authority. The Management running the Institute directed that no student admitted to the Institute be harassed, humiliated and pressurized on account of non-payment of difference in amount based upon the additional demand of Rs. 35,000/- raised by the Institute for the academic year 2021-2022 & none of the students be prevented from appearing from the examination on account of non-payment of difference in the amount of fees for academic year 2021-2022. The order and direction issued by the Authority be implemented in letter and spirit.

The Management running the Institute are directed to appear before the Authority on 25/08/2022 and explain in writing the basis on which the demand of Rs. 35,000/- has been raised to individual students by the Institute. The order be communicated to the Institute forthwith.

List on 25/08/2022".

**Date : 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Place: Mumbai**

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