



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

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Professor Bakul Dholakia GNLU Review Commission Report & Future Directions

Professor Bakul Dholakia submitted his GNLU Review Commission Report to Mr Justice Anil R. Dave, GNLU Visitor and Judge Supreme Court of India. A separate committee of Mr Justice C. K. Thakker, former Judge, Supreme Court of India and Mr Justice S. M. Soni, former Judge, Gujarat High Court studied both reports – Prof Menon and Prof Dholakia. The Reports were discussed and deliberated by the GNLU Executive Council and the General Council.

Few prominent observations:

Academics and Research:

GNLU has put in place a robust and effective system to ensure high quality of academic input and output. GNLU is being increasingly recognized by top law firms, government departments, public sector undertakings, corporate houses for its applied research programs & projects.

Extension and Training:

GNLU has laid a solid foundation to emerge as a credible centre of training and capacity-building for institutions and individuals alike.

Governance and Management:

The commitment and accountability found within the teaching community of GNLU deserves appreciation and should be a source of inspiration for other institutions. Director should be given significant autonomy in exercising executive authority in all institutional matters subject to meeting the requirements of full accountability for all administrative and financial decisions to the General Council. With regard to internal functioning of the University, the principles of accountability, empowerment, the separation of power between decision-making and implementing offices, fairness and work-load are observed in formation and functioning of internal committees.

GNLU faculty:

GNLU faculty diligently live up to legitimate expectations of the University and ensure that their external engagements yield mutually beneficial results which can contribute to their growth and bring benefits to students and the University as a whole. GNLU should do its best to protect and promote such culture of mutual benefit.



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Financial Management:

The Review Commission would like place on record its appreciation and compliment the top management of GNLU for various remarkable achievements in a challenging economic environment. GNLU has adopted a result-based budget system which is an outcome of well-established annual practice of collective inputs obtained from faculty members, centre directors and head of administrative departments on the annual goals and corresponding requirements of resources. This system has yielded good results in terms of faculty and students collectively devising ways and means to mobilize more resources and networking to enrich their research and training programs.

Recruiters: The Recruiters, who participated in the Campus Placement and recruited GNLU graduates during the last three years, have given an overwhelmingly positive feedback on the performance of GNLU graduates.

Future Directions:

GNLU in Next Three Years:

The Commission recommends that the medium term vision of GNLU should be to emerge as ***Number One National Law University in India over the next three years.*** GNLU should immediately constitute a five to seven member Think Tank for defining measurable parameters of excellence in various fields and suggest a comprehensive action plan for its implementation commencing in 2014.

Reconstitution of Statutory bodies:

GNLU statutory bodies shall be reconstituted with reduced numbers of members and participation from various stakeholders such as law firms, advocates, corporate sector, eminent academicians, foreign experts, professional experts from public sector undertakings (PSUs), etc. to enrich the overall composition of the statutory bodies and bring critical input from various sectors into the decision making process at GNLU.

Internal Autonomy:

The Director should be given significant autonomy for exercising the executive authority vested in the office of Director. But simultaneously the Director should be fully accountable to the General Council for all administrative and financial decisions. The Commission recommends further strengthening of the internal academic governance structure of GNLU with an explicit focus on the principle of faculty governance based on a democratic & participative structure. The Commission recommends that GNLU should recruit full-time professors to guide and provide



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additional experienced hands in the overall academic and research excellence management of the University.

Academic Partnership – Outreach with Institutions of Economy and Governance: GNLU should take the lead in designing and offering new diploma or certificate courses that aim at integrating diverse fields such as economy, industry, governance, judiciary and civil society within the framework of law education.

Collaboration with premier institutions:

GNLU should launch a unique master's programme that integrates law and management, based on the pattern followed by leading universities in North America that offer such programmes. In this context, GNLU can consider collaboration with institutions such as IIM Ahmedabad or IIM Bangalore or Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. GNLU should make an all-out effort to establish linkages with leading international law schools, with the long term objective of converting such linkages into mutually beneficial collaborations in future.

Extension and training:

A diversified portfolio of training programmes, which caters to the special needs of specific segments and which are contemporary & contextual in terms of the programme design, will not only enhance GNLU brand image but also contribute to annual revenues.

Financial Management and Corpus:

The Commission recommended to have a corpus of around Rs. 50 crores, which could be created over a period of the next three years. The Commission feels that the Government of Gujarat should consider sanctioning an annual grant of Rs. 5 crores for a period of next five years, specifically for the purpose of meeting the needs of GNLU for achieving overall excellence. The General Council can monitor the utilisation of this grant.

Conclusion:

India needs excellent legal education and research institutions, which can also provide much needed critical legal and regulatory advice and assistance to policymaking institutions. The State Government & the Central Government should seek active academic partnership with NLUs like GNLU and the top management of these NLUs should be consulted on a regular basis to ensure that such partnerships are productive and mutually beneficial for all stakeholders.

GNLU General Council renewed the term of the incumbent Director, Dr Bimal N. Patel, for a period of five years. GNLU will implement the complimentary suggestions made in both



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reports of Professor Bakul Dholakia and Professor Mahdavi Menon.