To,
All AICTE Colleges / Institutions

Sub: Instructions to Institutes/Colleges during lockdown / on-going pandemic COVID – 19 – regarding.


AICTE is in continuous receipt of grievances from the Faculty/Staff regarding termination of services, non-payment of salary etc. and also from students regarding insistence by institutes for paying full year / full term fee in one go.

AICTE upon considering the current state of the country during on-going National Emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic second wave and presently observing a lockdown by some of the states and also ensure safety precautions during the threat posed by possible third wave of Covid variants, which is fundamental responsibility of all citizens of India, during this hour of crisis. Likewise, Heads of Institutions have the onerous responsibility of safeguarding the health and associated interests of all stakeholders of their respective colleges / institutions.

In view of the above conditions, the following guidelines are being re-issued by AICTE for strict compliance by all Colleges/Institutions:

1. **Payment of Fee**: institutions/colleges shall NOT insist on payment of full fee and shall collect it in 3 / 4 equal installments till normalcy is restored. Accordingly, all colleges / institutions are directed to display this information on their website and also communicate the same to all the students through e-mail.
2. **Payment of salary to faculty members:** There shall be NO termination of faculty without enough disciplinary ground & due process of redressal. Salary and other dues to the faculty/staff members shall be released monthly on time and also terminations (if any) made during the lockdown shall be withdrawn. This is to be complied strictly.

3. **Discouraging fake news:** Various interest groups/individuals are circulating fake news on social media platforms thereby creating misinformation and rumors. Discouraging any such fake news and reporting the matter to concerned authorities would be the prime responsibility of all stakeholders. It is also advised that any information published on the official website of MoE/UGC/AICTE only may be relied upon. Hence, these websites should be regularly perused for any updates. Similarly, for other government circulars, official websites of the concerned Ministries/Departments may be referred to.

4. **Sharing of internet bandwidth with other Colleges / Institutions:** Due to the inability of certain students to access internet services, colleges / institutions are advised to allow students of other colleges / institutions in their vicinity to access the internet facility at their colleges / institutions. Hence, colleges/ institutions may accordingly permit students of other colleges/ institutions to share their campus internet wi-fi facility against showing i-card of a college where they are studying. Attendance rule may be relaxed in the light of lockdown and non-availability of bandwidth in certain remote areas.

All Colleges / Institutions shall strictly adhere to these instructions, any instance of non-compliance reported to the Council, if proved, shall attract severe penal action as per norms.

(Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe)

**Copy to:**

1. DTEs of all States / Universities to ensure proper implementation of the above instructions by the institutions falling under their jurisdiction.