

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Enclosures

1915.

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G.O. No. 590, 5th June 1915.

University Regulations

Sanctioning the alteration proposed in regulation 166 (a) of the —in regard to the admission of students to the Intermediate courses of study.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from F. DEWSBURY, Esq., Registrar, University of Madras.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—the 10th November 1914.
No.—6050.

I have the honour, by direction of the Syndicate, to request the sanction of the Government, in accordance with section 25 (1) of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, to the following alteration in the regulations, which was adopted by the Senate at its meeting held on 30th October 1914:—

“That in regulation 166 (a) the words ‘if he be satisfied as to their fitness’ be omitted.”

I have to explain that, in view of the number of admissions to the Intermediate courses of study, made by the Principals of affiliated colleges under the above regulation, of students with whose secondary school-leaving certificates the Syndicate after scrutiny were not satisfied, a proposal was made to the Senate in March last by the Syndicate for amending the regulations so as to provide for the annual publication of a list of colleges the Principals of which would be entitled to make admissions as under the existing regulations, and for admissions to colleges not in the list being provisional only and subject to confirmation by the Syndicate. This proposal was not accepted by the Senate, and a committee of that body was appointed “to consider and report upon the question of the admission of students to Intermediate courses of study.” This committee reported to the Senate in October last, and in accordance with the report the following motions were placed before the Senate and were accepted :—

(1) That the Syndicate be requested to issue definite rules and directions under regulation 166 (a) to provide that no holder of a completed secondary school-leaving certificate shall be admitted to a University course of study or shall be registered as a Matriculate, unless he has obtained a minimum percentage of marks in certain subjects, the percentage and subjects being from time to time specified by the Syndicate, and that it be a recommendation to the Syndicate that the above minimum should be fixed on the basis of the public examination marks as well as the school marks, the latter being moderated in all cases with reference to the school average in the public examination.

(2) That in regulation 166 (a) the words “if he be satisfied as to their fitness” be omitted.

A copy of the report of the Senate Committee is forwarded herewith for information.

ENCLOSURES.

(i)

Report of the Senate Committee appointed “to consider and report upon the question of admission of students to Intermediate courses of study”.

A meeting of the committee was held in the Senate House, on Saturday, 5th September 1914, which was well attended, though it is a matter of regret that no representatives of the States of Hyderabad or Mysore were present.

2. The proposals of the Syndicate which were before the Senate at its meetings on 20th and 21st March last were first considered and, though a minority of the committee was of opinion that they might be accepted, the majority was not in favour of their adoption.

3. The committee was agreed that a very large number of unsuitable students were being admitted to the Intermediate courses of study and that such action was grossly unfair, not only to these students themselves who were thus being permitted to waste time and money over a hopeless effort to qualify themselves for a pass in the Intermediate examination, but also to the other students in the college classes the progress of which must necessarily be seriously retarded by the presence of students unable properly to benefit by the instruction afforded. A suggestion that the admission of a few students (not more than five to ten per cent. of the total number of admissions) who had not attained the minimum standard which should be demanded might be permitted was negatived by the committee.

4. The opinion was freely expressed that definite action must be taken not only to prevent the admission to colleges of the unfit, but also to put an end as far as possible to the present system of the “hawking” of certificates by students from college to college in the hope of persuading some Principal to grant admission. Memoranda on these questions prepared by the Hon’ble Mr. Justice Seshagiri Ayyar (who was unable to be present at the meeting) and by Rao Bahadur A. C. Pranatartihara Ayyar had been printed and circulated to the committee. The committee finally accepted with some modification the principles underlying one of the proposals of Mr. Pranatartihara Ayyar, which may be briefly stated as follows :—

(i) That the discretion hitherto allowed to Principals of colleges must be discontinued, and that a definite standard of attainment qualifying for admission to University courses of study must be clearly laid down for the information of Principals and students alike.

It was the opinion of many of the committee that the statements of the principles upon which admissions should be made, issued from time to time by the Syndicate, were not definite enough; that, in the absence of an absolute direction, differences of opinion as to the suitability of candidates for admission must necessarily arise and that too much opportunity was being afforded by the present uncertainty to outside pressure upon the Principals of colleges in favour of students with slender claims to admission. It was recognized that the adoption of a proposal on these lines would not be altogether in accordance with the principles underlying the secondary school-leaving certificate scheme, but it was contended that for other than University purposes the value of secondary school-leaving certificates would be unimpaired and that, in view of the apparent impossibility of inducing Principals of colleges to accept and follow the suggestions made to them by the Syndicate or even to adhere to the principles of admission formulated by themselves for their own guidance, some slight departure from the original intention of the scheme was more than justified. It was also emphasized that the school-leaving certificate scheme was introduced, not by the University for the purpose of Matriculating students, but by the Government for quite other purposes, and that however well it may serve these latter purposes without the application of any “pass” and “failure” test, it does not without such test furnish sufficiently definite information to enable Principals of colleges to determine in many cases whether a student should or should not be admitted to a University course.

(ii) That the qualification for admission should be a fixed minimum percentage of marks in certain specified subjects: that, in order to ascertain whether this minimum had been reached, the marks gained in the public examination and the school marks should be taken into consideration together, the latter being moderated in all cases with reference to the school average in the public examination.

The committee was aware that in setting up a fixed standard of marks as a qualification of admission there was some risk of a return to the evils of the Matriculation examination. It was recognized that students well qualified by their attainments and school performances for admission to a University course might, and frequently did, fail to do justice to themselves in the public examination. The combination of school marks with examination marks should meet almost, if not quite, all such cases, and there is this further advantage over the Matriculation examination that under the school-leaving certificate scheme a candidate may to a very large extent choose his own subjects. In this was the secondary school-leaving certificate scheme would afford great assistance in the selection of students for further study in the University. A proposal that the moderation of school marks should be effected by a reference to the presidency average (which appears in the present form of certificate) was negatived on the ground that such moderation would adversely affect the cases of students in schools which had uniformly done well in the public examination and had gained a much higher average mark than the presidency average. Effective moderation of school marks can only be effected by a comparison in any instance of the average marks awarded by the school authorities with the average marks gained by the students of the school in the public examination. It is unfortunate that in the present form of certificate the necessary information is not supplied, but the committee hopes, with some confidence, that this omission will be rectified in the certificates of candidates who desire to Matriculate, either in the certificates themselves or by the issue from the offices of the various Directors of Public Instruction of separate statements showing the final percentage of marks gained after moderation in accordance with these principles. Some assurance that this would be the case was given at the meeting.

In accordance with the foregoing the following resolutions were passed by the committee:—

(i) That it be a recommendation to the Senate that regulation 166 (a) be amended by the omission of the words "if he be satisfied as to their fitness."

(ii) That in the opinion of the committee no holder of a completed secondary school-leaving certificate should be admitted to a University course of study or registered as a Matriculate of the University unless he has obtained a minimum percentage of marks in certain subjects, the percentage and subjects to be specified by the Syndicate from time to time; and that the above minimum should be fixed on the basis of the public examination marks as well as school marks, the latter being moderated in all cases with reference to the school average in the public examination.

(iii) That it be a recommendation to the Senate that the Syndicate be requested to issue definite "rules and directions" on the above lines under regulation 166 (a).

A copy of the minutes of the meeting is appended to this report.

SENATE HOUSE,
9th September 1914.

F. DEWSBURY,
Registrar.

Minutes of a meeting of a committee of the Senate appointed on 21st March 1914, "to consider and report upon the question of admission of students to Intermediate courses of study."

PRESENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone.
The Rev. J. D. W. Sewell, S.J.
Rao Bahadur A. C. Pranatartihara Ayyar.
Mr. E. W. Middlemast.
„ K. Ganapathi Ayyar
„ C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar
„ Ferrand E. Corley.
„ F. S. Davies.
„ L. C. Hodgson.
„ R. Littlehailes.
„ K. Ramanuja Achariyar

Resolved that the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone be the Chairman of the committee.

Read a letter from the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Seshagiri Ayyar apologising for unavoidable absence, also a letter from the Rev. W. H. M. Lonsdale, Acting Principal, S. P. G. College, Trichinopoly, explaining the views of the Rev. A. F. Gardiner (who was unable to be present) on the question before the committee.

Considered the proposals laid by the Syndicate before the Senate at its meeting in March last. Also printed memoranda prepared by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Seshagiri Ayyar and Rao Bahadur A. C. Pranatartihara Ayyar which had been circulated to the committee. After considerable discussion it was

(i) Resolved:—that it be a recommendation to the Senate that regulation 166 (a) be amended by the omission of the words "if he be satisfied as to their fitness."

(ii) That in the opinion of the committee no holder of a completed secondary school-leaving certificate should be admitted to a University course of study or registered as a Matriculate of the University unless he has obtained a minimum percentage of marks in certain subjects, the percentage and subjects to be specified by the Syndicate from time to time; and that the above minimum should be fixed on the basis of the public examination marks as well as the school marks, the latter being moderated in all cases with reference to the school average in the public examination.

(iii) That it be a recommendation to the Senate that the Syndicate be requested to issue definite "rules and directions" on the above lines under regulation 166 (a).

(iv) That the Registrar be empowered to draft the report of the committee and to frame the resolutions to be moved in the Senate.

(v) That Mr. L. C. Hodgson be appointed the mover of the resolutions in the Senate on behalf of the committee.

J. H. STONE,
Chairman.

F. DEWSBURY,
Registrar.

Order—No. 590, Educational, dated 5th June 1915.

Under section 25, sub-section (i) of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, the Government sanction the alteration in regulation 166 (a) of the University regulations proposed in the letter read above.

(True Extract.)

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Registrar, University of Madras.
„ Director of Public Instruction.
Editors' Table.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 590, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
THE 5TH JUNE 1915.

[SUBJECT.—*Alteration in the University regulations.*]

From the Registrar, University of Madras, dated the 10th November 1914, No. 6050.

Submitted that the proposed alteration may be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks in the first instance.

P.R.—13-11-14.

T. KRISHNASWAMI AYYAR—13-11-14.

E. A. HARVEY—15-11-14.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

U.O. No. 223, dated the 25th November 1914.

I am not convinced of the necessity for this alteration, and it certainly is contingent on the Syndicate's action on the Senate's resolutions explained in the Registrar's letter. I think that the sanction of Government may be deferred for the present, the matter being simply allowed to lie over.

J. H. STONE—25-11-14.

To the Educational Department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

For orders as to whether the matter may lie over as advised by the Director of Public Instruction in his note above.

P.R.—30-11-14.

T.K.—30-11-14.

May lie over for a while as suggested by the Director of Public Instruction.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—1-12-14.

Yes.

P[ENTLAND]—4-12-14.

The file may be sent to the Director of Public Instruction u.o. for further remarks if any with reference to his note above.

P.R.—7-5-15.

B. GOPALACHARI—10-5-15.

P.R.—13-5-15.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The alteration in regulation 166 (a) of the Regulations of the Madras University may be sanctioned. I enclose a copy of the Registrar's letter No. 2132, dated the 10th April 1915. The Syndicate have approved the Senate's recommendation prescribing the minimum number of marks, and the Director has informed the Registrar in a separate communication that the moderation of the marks gained by pupils at the Secondary School-leaving Certificate public examination in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Registrar's Circular letter will be carried out by the Secretary to the Secondary School-leaving Certificate Board and that the moderated marks will be shown in the secondary school-leaving certificates of the candidates.

H. S. DUNCAN—22-5-15.

ENCLOSURES.

(1)

Letter—from FRANCIS DEWSBURY, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Registrar of the University of Madras.

To—the Principals of all Colleges affiliated in Arts.

Dated—Senate House, 10th April 1915.

No.—2132.

I have the honour to enclose herewith an amended copy of this office letter, No. 1344 of March 10, 1915, regarding the admission of holders of completed secondary school-leaving certificates to University courses of study.

It will be observed that in paragraph 5 the wording of the recommendations numbered (b) and (c) has been slightly altered, so as to remove the ambiguity in the original recommendations when read with paragraph B (a) (i) of the circular.

2. In this connection I am directed to state that in considering secondary school-leaving certificates issued by the Government of Travancore,

(i) Geography, History and Drawing placed in Group A among the compulsory subjects should be regarded as equivalent to the corresponding subjects in Group B of the Madras Secondary School-leaving Certificate scheme,

(ii) Nature study, one of the compulsory subjects in Group A, should be regarded as equivalent to Science in Group B of the Madras scheme,

(iii) and, consequently, for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of Travancore students for admission to Intermediate courses, the only subjects of Group A of the Travancore scheme to be considered under paragraph 2, B (a) (i) of this office circular letter, No. 1344, March 10, 1915, will be English (including Composition—the marks in the two subjects being combined and reduced to one percentage), Vernacular Composition and Translation, and Elementary Mathematics, the remaining subjects of that Group being treated as subjects under Group B of the Madras scheme and as coming only under the operation of paragraph 5 (a) of the circular under reference.

(2)

Letter—from FRANCIS DEWSBURY, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Registrar of the University of Madras.

To—the Principals of all Colleges affiliated in Arts.

Dated—Senate House, the 10th March 1915.

No.—1344.

I have the honour to inform you that the Syndicate has accepted a recommendation of the Senate that no holder of a completed secondary school-leaving certificate be admitted to a University course of study, or registered as a Matriculate, unless he has obtained a minimum percentage of marks in such subjects as may be specified by the Syndicate.

2. The Syndicate, accordingly, has resolved—

A. That the marks obtained by a holder of a secondary school-leaving certificate before being made the basis of admission to an affiliated college, should be moderated as follows:—

The individual mark gained by him for the last year at school in each subject of Groups A and C of the Secondary School-leaving Certificate scheme should be multiplied by the average mark for the school at the public examination and the result divided by the average mark of his class for the last year at school. The figure thus obtained should be added to the individual mark gained by him at the public examination and the total should then be divided by two.

B. (a) That admission to University courses should be restricted to those holders of completed secondary school-leaving certificates whose final marks as moderated above are above the Presidency or State average in the final examination

(i) by fifteen marks (of which five marks shall be in English) in the subjects of Group A taken together,

(ii) by five marks in each of any two of the subjects in Group C.

(b) That any student who has failed to qualify for admission to a University course of study by reason of deficiency in any subject or subjects should be required to undergo a supplementary course at school in all subjects and to appear again at the public examination in the subject or subjects in which he failed to qualify, and his eligibility for admission should be then determined by the marks gained by him after moderation as follows:—

(i) in the case of the subjects in which he failed to qualify for admission, as in paragraph 2 A above, his latest school and public examination marks being taken,

(ii) in the case of the subjects in which he previously qualified for admission, by multiplying the individual mark obtained by him at school during the supplementary year by the average mark of the school at the public examination of that year and dividing the result by the average mark of his class for the same year at school.

3. I am directed to state that it is the intention of the Syndicate that from and after the year 1916-17 the selection of candidates for admission to University courses of study shall be made by the Principals of affiliated colleges only from among those eligible under the rules adopted as above which in that year will come into force as express "rules and directions" issued under Regulation 166 (a). The Syndicate proposes to issue from time to time, for the guidance of Principals, recommendations similar to those of previous years as to the candidates eligible for admission under the rules who should be admitted to particular courses of study. It should be clearly understood that these rules lay down merely the *minimum preliminary qualification* for admission to University courses of study; a considerable discretion is still left to the Principals of colleges as to which among those students so preliminarily qualified should be admitted to the colleges.

4. I am further directed to state that for the year 1915-16 the resolutions in paragraph 2 above may be considered not as "rules and directions" issued under Regulation 166 (a), but as recommendations which, however, ought to be observed as strictly as possible in making admissions to colleges for the ensuing academical year; and that the certificates of all students admitted contrary to these recommendations during the year must be submitted to the Syndicate for inspection, together with a full statement of the special grounds upon which such students were admitted.

In this connection I may add that the several Directors of Public Instruction have been requested to arrange, if possible, for the final marks as moderated according to the foregoing resolutions being shown upon each certificate issued.

5. I have to call the attention of the Principals of colleges to the following further recommendations of the Syndicate for their guidance in making admissions for the year 1915-16:—

(a) Any marked deficiency in the subjects of Group B on the part of a candidate otherwise eligible for admission should be considered a disqualification until such deficiency has been removed as the result of a supplementary course at school.

(b) Students proposing to take Vernacular Composition under Part II of the courses for the Intermediate examination should have gained moderated marks under the above rules at least five above the Presidency or State average in the final examination in Vernacular Composition in Group A of the School-leaving Certificate course.

(c) Students proposing to study the subjects of Intermediate Group (i) should have taken the public examination in at least two of the three following subjects under Group C, viz.:—

(i) Algebra and Geometry, (ii) Physics, and (iii) Chemistry, and have gained the minimum number of moderated final marks therein, and moderated marks at least five above the Presidency or State average in the final examination in Elementary Mathematics, and should also have shown aptitude in Science

(d) Students proposing to study the subjects of Intermediate Group (ii) should have taken the public examination in at least two of the following subjects under Group C:—(i) either Botany or Algebra and Geometry, (ii) Physics, and (iii) Chemistry, and have gained the minimum number of moderated final marks therein, as well as in Elementary Mathematics, and should also have shown aptitude in Science.

(e) Students proposing to take Intermediate Group (iii) should have taken the public examination under Group C in the History of England, if they propose to take a History subject, and in any language they propose to take for the Intermediate Examination in Arts and have gained the minimum number of moderated final marks therein, and should have shown aptitude in Geography and History of India.

To the Educational Department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

P.R.—22-5-15.

B.G.—24-5-15.

May now be approved. Please see C on page 2 ante.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—27-5-15.

P[ENTLAND]—3 6-15.

Issue.

P.R. —4-6-15.

[G.O. No. 590, Educational, dated the 5th June 1915.]

ORDINARY.

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DEPARTMENT.

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