

**24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Council**  
**Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla**

**March 25, 2026**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Council at HPNLU Shimla was held on March 25, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in hybrid mode. The Meeting was presided over by Professor (Dr.) Priti Saxena, Vice-Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla.

**The following members were present:**

1.	Prof. (Dr.) Priti Saxena, Vice-Chancellor, HPNLU, Shimla	Chairperson
2.	Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa	Member
3.	(Representative) Secretary (Finance) Government of Himachal Pradesh	Member
4.	Sh. Rajeev Bali, LR-Cum Secretary (Law)	Member
5.	Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar	Member
6.	Prof. (Dr.) Poonam Saxena	Member
7.	Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao	Member
8.	Prof. (Dr.) G.B. Reddy	Member
9.	Prof. (Dr.) Girjesh Shukla	Member
10.	Dr. Chandreshwari Minhas	Member
11.	Prof. (Dr.) Alok Kumar (Registrar)	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Secretary

**The following members could not attend the meeting:**

1. Chief Secretary Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. Secretary (Higher Education), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
3. Secretary (Home), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
4. Chairman, Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh.

At the outset the Chairperson welcomed all the Esteemed Members of the Executive Council. The Chairperson asked Registrar, HPNLU, *Ex-officio* Secretary to present the agenda items before the Executive Council.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING**

**Item No. 24.1: - To Confirm the Minutes along with Action Taken Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Council Meeting held on December 31, 2025.**

The Registrar placed the Minutes along with the Action Taken Report, of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Council, which was held on December 31, 2025. After thorough deliberation, the members unanimously confirmed the Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and approved the Action Taken Report.

**Resolution: -** The minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Council meeting were unanimously confirmed along with the approval of Action Taken Report.

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**Item No. 24.2: - To Consider the Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2026.**

The Registrar placed the agenda item before the Executive Council for consideration of the recommendations of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Finance Committee, held on March 23, 2026. One of the members of the Executive Council stated that the Minutes of the Finance Committee should not be placed as a whole, rather each agenda item should be placed separately for consideration. Other esteemed members concurred with the opinion.

The Registrar, with the permission of the chairperson requested the members that as suggested by the said member, he may be allowed to placed Agenda Item No. 2 as separated item wise for consideration. All the members agreed to this proposal and accordingly the Finance Officer, also member of the Executive Council, presented each agenda items of the Finance Committee individually along with the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

<b>Finance Committee Agenda</b>	<b>Finance Committee Resolution</b>	<b>Executive Council Discussion</b>	<b>Executive Council Resolution</b>
<p><b>Agenda Item No. 19.2:</b></p> <p>To consider and approve the statement of Receipt, Expenditure and Balance Sheet audited for the Financial Year 2024-2025.</p>	<p>The Finance Committee unanimously resolved that the audit observations raised by the auditors be thoroughly examined and reply be prepared and placed before the Audit Firm for receiving their observations.</p> <p>The Finance unanimously resolved to recommend that observations received from the Audit Firm along with modifications, if any, in the Audit Report, should be placed before the Executive Council for consideration.</p>	<p>The Finance Officer presented the reply of the University of audit para and related reply of the University along with observation of the Audit Firm on para-wise reply of the University.</p> <p>The Finance Officer further apprised the esteemed members that out of 22 paras, the reply of the university on 8 paras have partially been accepted by the firm, and remaining observations has either been executed since Financial Year 2024-25, and accordingly the Audit observations may be considered.</p> <p>One of the members of the Finance</p>	<p>After a thorough deliberation on the Finance Committee Agenda item, the Executive Council unanimously resolved to comply with the observations of the Audit Firm in the Financial Year 2025-26 as mentioned by the Auditor, and accordingly approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee.</p>

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		Committee observed that para noted by the Audit Firm is required to be complied in letter and spirit and required to resolve.	
<b>Agenda Item 19.3:</b>  To consider the Budget Estimates prepared for the Financial Year 2026-2027.	The Finance Committee unanimously resolved to accept the observations of Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kuamr, and explanatory note should be added to the entries at Sr. No. Sr. Nos. 13, 14, 18, and 19 of the Budget for the Financial Year 2026–2027 and recommended the same to the Executive Council.	The Finance Officer placed the Budget 2026-27 along with explanatory notes added to the entries at Sr. Nos. 13, 14, 18, and 19 (Part A), and Sr. No. 1 (Part B) and Sr. No. 1 to 9 (Part C) as recommended by the Finance Committee.	After a thorough deliberation on the Finance Committee Agenda Item No. 19.3, the Executive Council unanimously approved recommendations of the Finance Committee, and approved the University Budget 2026-27.
<b>Item No. 19.4:</b>  To consider the balance amount of the Mess Account for the different activities if the students.	The Finance Committee unanimously resolved to recommend that the University should treat the penalty recovered from the mess vendor as income of the University.  The Finance Committee further resolved to recommend that the balance amount should be treated as part of mess account only and if remained balance, the same should be refunded to the students or carry forwarded to next academic year/semester and adjusted against mess fee.	The Finance Officer placed the agenda item and stated that the University has been collecting mess fees separately from students and maintaining the same in a dedicated bank account exclusively for mess-related transactions. He further apprised that the amount so collected is utilized solely for settling the bills raised by the mess vendor, based on the actual consumption of food services by the students. Officer stated that the mess fee does not form part of composite fee and is collected against actual expenditure.	After a thorough deliberation on the Finance Committee Agenda Item No. 19.3, the Executive Council unanimously resolved to modify recommendation of the Finance Committee with following effect:  <i>firstly, penalty imposed on vendors etc., shall be part of University Income;</i>  <i>Secondly, efforts shall be made to adjust the balance amount against expenditure incurred on student related activities such as food fests etc.; and</i>  <i>thirdly, no balance amount from the mess account shall be transferred to general</i>

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		<p>He further apprised the members that the Finance Committee has recommended the mess expenses should strictly be accounted for on an actual basis, and a semester-wise statement of expenditure must be provided to the students, clearly reflecting the amount collected and the actual expenditure incurred on mess services.</p> <p>He further stated that hostels are scattered between 10 kilometers radius of the campus mess, and thus, strict compliance to name-count is not possible, and thus quantity has been ordered based on headcount for each hostel. He further apprised the esteemed members that the accumulated amount in the mess account consists of previous years' balance as well as penalties on mess vendors including earlier vendors.</p> <p>One of the members of the Executive Council suggested that any penalty imposed on or recovered from the mess vendor should</p>	<p><i>account until expiry of one year from the last day of the financial year in which the mess fee was collected.</i></p>
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		<p>be treated as income of the University. However, other balance amount should be treated as part of mess account only and if remained unspent.</p> <p>Member suggested that the recommendation of the Finance Committee may be accepted with modification that the balance amount may be transferred to general account only after meeting other expenditures related to food etc., incurred from this fund. The member further suggested that such transfer of balance amount should be made after expiry of one year from the last date of financial year in which the mess fee as collected. This will ensure exploring possibility of adjustments of mess fee against claims of refund by students.</p>	
<p><b>Item No. 19.5</b></p> <p>To consider the insertion of Rule 9.3 (vi) in the HPNLU Financial Regulations, 2020 for procurement of essential services.</p>	<p>The Finance Committee unanimously resolved to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 9.3 of the HPNLU Financial Regulations, 2020, by insertion of Clause 9.3 (vi) for procurement of essential and urgent services under specified circumstances.</p>	<p>The Finance Officer placed and explained the agenda item.</p> <p>After a thorough deliberation on the recommendation of Finance Committee, the Executive Council approved the same.</p>	<p>After a thorough deliberation on the Finance Committee Agenda Item No. 19.5, the Executive Council unanimously approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee.</p>

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	<p>The Committee further resolved that a Local Purchase Committee /Spot Purchase Committee be constituted by the Vice Chancellor with defined financial limits and responsibilities.</p> <p>It was also resolved that all procurements made under this provision should be properly recorded and reported periodically to the appropriate authority to maintain transparency.</p>		
<p><b>Item No. 19.6:</b></p> <p>To consider the insertion of Rule 10.5 (ii) in the HPNLU Financial Regulations, 2020 to provide the composition of the “Auction Committee”</p>	<p>The Finance Committee unanimously resolved to approve the proposed amendment to Rule 10.5 of the HPNLU Financial Regulations, 2020, by insertion of Clause 10.5(ii) and renumbering of the existing provision as Clause 10.5(i).</p> <p>The Committee further resolved that the above rule be modified as:</p> <p>(ii) The Vice Chancellor may constitute an “Auction Committee” for a period of two years of the following to complete the auction process, namely:</p> <p>(a) Registrar, as Chairperson</p> <p>(b) Finance Officer</p> <p>(c) One Faculty member nominated by the Vice Chancellor</p>	<p>The Finance Officer placed and explained the agenda item to the esteemed members of the Executive Council.</p> <p>After a thorough deliberation on the recommendation of Finance Committee, the Executive Council approved the same.</p>	<p>After a thorough deliberation on the Finance Committee Agenda Item No. 19.5, the Executive Council unanimously approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee.</p>

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	<p>(d) Deputy Registrar/Assistant Registrar (Establishment)</p> <p>(e) Store-in-Charge as member cum convener</p> <p>(f) Civil Engineer / Electrical Engineer / I.T. Consultant, etc. as invited member.</p>		
<p><b>Item No. (T) 19.1:</b></p> <p>To consider the request for Payment of Bill – Fresh &amp; More Hospitality Services.</p>	<p>The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend that a Local Purchase Committee / Spot Purchase Committee be constituted to verify the occurrence of the event and related expenses. The Committee can consider all such bills and make recommendations accordingly. All the departments should be asked to provide their respective pending bill, and this should be a one-time measure only.</p>	<p>The Finance Officer apprised the members certain bills of the previous financial years are pending for payment due to very late receipt of such bills. Further, some of these bills are without specific supply order etc.</p> <p>The Finance Committee recommended for formation of a Local Purchase Committee which will verify the executive of such programme / event and related expenses.</p>	<p>After thorough deliberation, the Executive Council accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee and approve the constitution of a Local Purchase Committee to verify the event and related expenses and submit recommendation for payment etc.</p>
<p><b>Item No. (T) 19.2:</b></p> <p>To consider the request for Payment of Bill – Fresh &amp; More Hospitality Services.</p>	<p>The Finance Committee unanimously resolved to recommend the agenda item in the line of discussion and resolution for Agenda Item (T) 19.1.</p>	<p>The Finance Officer apprised the member about the Agenda Item.</p>	<p>The Executive Council accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee.</p>
<p><b>Item No. (T) 19.3</b></p> <p>To consider the Proposal for Purchase of Water Tanker</p>	<p>The Finance Committee unanimously resolve in favour of the withdrawal of the agenda item (T) 19.3 and recommended that purchase should be done using the proposed</p>	<p>The Finance Officer apprised the member about the Agenda Item.</p>	<p>The Executive Council accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee.</p>

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for HPNLU, Shimla.	expenditure for vehicle purchase etc., under the university Budget 2026-27.		
<p><b>Item No. (T) 19.4</b></p> <p>To consider and decide the representation of Ms Meera Sharma &amp; Mr Anuj Sharma, both of whom are presently working as Stenographers, for counting of their previous services as 'clerk' etc</p>	<p>The Finance Committee unanimously resolved that that since these employees were given appointments afresh after considering the relevant facts and circumstances, the employee should be allowed to claim their leave encashment, if any, and their services should be part of a separate record for all other purposes, except promotion, seniority and financial benefits, and recommended the to same to the Executive Council.</p>	<p>The Finance Officer presented the agenda item and submitted that by advertisement HPNLU-A(7)-11(Advt.)/2021/11 dated August 12, 2021, vacancies for various non-teaching posts, including clerks, were advertised as per the then applicable. However, based on the selection committee's recommendation, 6 clerks were selected and appointed under the open category, without duly sanctioned clerks' seats and in violation of the reservation roster. Later, the confirmation committee, citing the non-availability of a sanctioned seat and the reservation roster, declined to confirm their services. The matter was placed before the Executive Council at its 22nd Meeting, dated March 10, 2025, at which the Executive Council approved the revised sanctioned seats for various categories of non-teaching posts, along with the reservation roster.</p>	<p>The Executive Council unanimously accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee.</p>

The Executive Council further approved the fresh appointment by converting the above 6 clerks into the available/newly sanctioned positions.

Accordingly, two clerks out of the above 6 clerks were appointed against the newly created post of stenographer (Ms Meera Sharma and Mr Anuj Sharma), whereas three clerks (Mr Himanshu Gandhi, Mr Rahul Sharma and Ms Reena Devi) were appointed against newly vacant posts of clerks (due to promotion of three clerks to Junior Assistant). Fresh appointments were given to the above employees, along with an entry-level pay scale or their applicable cadre, but without any recovery whatsoever. The Action Taken Report was placed in the 23rd Meeting of the Executive Council held on December 31, 2025.

Ms Meera Sharma and Mr Anuj Sharma have now submitted a representation requesting that their previous services as

		<p>clerks [appointed against unsanctioned positions and in violation of the reservation roster] be counted.</p> <p>During the Finance Committee Meeting, one of the member, suggested that since these employees were given appointments a fresh based after considering the relevant facts and circumstances, the university should not proceed with any recovery etc. The employee should be allowed to claim their leave encashment, if any, and their services should be part of a separate record for all other purposes, except promotion and financial benefits.</p> <p>On query raised by one another member of the Executive Council as to the propriety of these appointments, the other member clarified that at present the question is only as to the counting of previous services and net about their confirmation etc.</p>	
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<p><b>Item No. (T)</b> <b>19.5</b></p> <p>To consider the need for empanelment of chartered accountant Firms for Consultancy on case-to-case basis.</p>	<p>The Finance Committee resolved and recommended that university statutory auditors should be given all matters pertaining to taxes, and rate should be fixed while appointing the university statutory auditor.</p>	<p>The Finance Officer apprised the member about the Agenda Item.</p>	<p>The Executive Council accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee.</p>
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**Item No. 24.3: - To Conduct a Hearing and Decide the Show-Cause Notice pertaining to Dr. Ruchi Sapahia (Associate Professor of Law) as per Hon'ble High Court Order dated January 2, 2026.**

Registrar placed the agenda item. He stated that as per the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh vide CWP NO. 4256 of 2023 the Hon'ble High Court directed to decide the matter and after giving a personal hearing to Dr. Ruchi Sapahia.

The Registrar outline the brief facts of the case. He stated that the University advertised three posts of Associate Professor (Law) vide Ref. No. HPNLU/Advp/2017/3 dated 09-09-2017. Applications were received as per the HPNLU Executive & Service Regulations, 2016 which was in accordance with the UGC Regulations 2010. As per the records, the candidates were called for interview without any screening of the applications. The selection process i.e., interview was conducted in the Month of February, 2018. Dr. Ruchi Sapahia was appointed as Associate Professor of Law, and she joined on 01<sup>st</sup> of March, 2018. Her services were later on confirmed by the Executive Council in its 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on March 20, 2019.

In the month of February 2021, Dr. Sapahia applied for promotion from Associate Professor to the Post of Professor claiming that she falls under the UGC Regulations 2010, and thus her application should be considered under the said Regulations only. However, the Screening Committee found her ineligible to be promoted to the Post of Professor under UGC Regulations, 2018 [on the remarks that "Proof of publication of article not enclosed and Proof of successfully supervised Ph.D. candidate is not on record.] later on she gave a representation against the rejection of her candidature for promotion to the Post of Professor. The representation was placed before the Executive Council in its meeting held on 18-09-2021, and the same was rejected by the Executive Council.

Against the decision of the Executive Council, Dr. Ruchi Sapahia filed a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh bearing Writ Petition No. CWP No. 2190 of 2022. While preparing reply in the Writ Petition no. CWP No. 2190 of 2022, it came to the notice of the University Counsel that Dr. Ruchi Sapahia was not eligible/did not possess/fulfilled minimum qualifications, at the time of appointment, to the Post of Associate Professor of Law in 2017/2018. Accordingly, the University sought an Expert Legal Opinion from the University Legal Advisor/Counsel. The University Counsel in the legal opinion pointed out that Dr. Ruchi Sapahia was not eligible at the time of appointment for the post to which she applied and appointed by the Selection Committee.

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The University submitted the matter before the then Hon'ble Chancellor, for directions vide office Note, dated, 23-12-2022. The Hon'ble Chancellor directed the University to place the matter before the Executive Council of the University. In compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble Chancellor the matter was placed before the 18th Executive Council meeting held on February 24, 2023. The Executive Council deliberated the matter and unanimously decided that:

1. The University shall provide the copy of the legal opinion to Dr. Ruchi Sapahia and require her to submit her comments within 15 days.
2. The comments received from Dr. Ruchi Sapahia shall be sent to the University Counsel for placing as part of record of written statement before the Hon'ble High Court in the writ petition filed by her against the University.
3. The copy of the comments received from Dr. Ruchi Sapahia shall also be forwarded to the Hon'ble Chancellor of the University for information.
4. The comments so received shall be placed before the Executive Council in its next meeting for decision.

In compliance with the decision of the 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Council, in its meeting held on 24th February, 2023, the University asked Dr. Ruchi Sapahia to furnish her comments on the legal opinion supplied by the University Legal Counsel. Further, in compliance with the decision at Point No. 3., the matter along with the comments received from Dr. Ruchi Sapahia on the Legal Opinion was placed on 04-04-2023, before the then Hon'ble Chancellor. Hon'ble Chancellor order the matter be placed before the Executive Council. In compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble Chancellor, dated 04-04-2023, the matter was placed before the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of Executive Council, held on 2nd June, 2023. In the meeting, the Executive Council unanimously decided to constitute a Sub-Committee of five members of the Council, to consider the eligibility and legality of appointment of Dr. Ruchi Sapahia to the post of Associate Professor of Law and make recommendations to the Hon'ble Chancellor. The Sub-Committee held its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023 finds that "*even if her adhoc/contractual service at RGNUL, Patiala is counted (from July, 2011-February, 2018) it comes out to be six years and seven months only*". Further the Sub-Committee recommended that she was not eligible to be appointed as Associate Professor of Law at HPNLU Shimla on 1st March, 2018. The Committee recommends that this report be placed before the Hon'ble Chancellor for further necessary action.

Thereafter, the University tender the *Show Cause* notice on 27/06/2023 with subject line "*for making false declaration about your qualifications in our application form in response to the Advertisement for the post of Associate Professor and not fulfilling basic or minimum essential qualifications as per UGC Regulations*". Further, in the mentioned Show Cause Notice it is mentioned that "*You are accordingly advised to appear before the Executive Council of this University on July 4th 2023, Monday, at 11,10 A.M. in the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, along with two copies of all relevant documents, if any, in support of your contentions and submissions to be presented before the Council*".

Subsequently Dr. Ruchi Sapahia filed Civil Writ Petition vide No. CWP/4256/2023, dated 01-07-2023, in the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. Hon'ble High Court pleased to pass the Interim order in favour of the petitioner. The matter was then discussed at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council held on 4th July 2023. Dr. Sapahia was given a personal hearing, and her response to the *Show Cause* Notice.

The Executive Council deliberated the matter and unanimously decided as follows:

1. The Executive Council accepts and adopts the Minutes of Sub-Committee dated 2nd June, 2023.
2. The Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar of the University is authorized to look into the further records of the case and make a detailed report to the Council.
3. The matter may be placed along with the Report prepared by the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar for consideration and final decision in the special meeting of the Executive Council.
4. Once the report is ready the University shall call a special meeting of the Executive Council for the purpose and the requirement of notice period shall not be required to be followed in this case.

In pursuance of Resolution No. 2, a report was duly prepared by the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar wherein the report provides that Dr. Ruchi Sapahia has zero-year experience as per UGC 2010 Regulations. However, the said report and the matter was not placed before the Executive Council nor before the Hon'ble Chancellor, and no further action was taken by the University thereafter. The matter was again placed before the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Executive Council, meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2025. The Executive Council unanimously resolved to recommend the matter of Dr. Ruchi Sapahia to Hon'ble Chancellor for his final decision under Section 8(6) of HPNLU Act 2016. The Chancellor has verbally returned the matter to the Executive Council for decision.

Further, on the Civil Writ Petition bearing No. CWP/4256/2023, the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh, vide order dated 02.01.2026, passed the following directions:

*"In view of the stand taken by learned counsel for the parties, this writ petition is disposed of reserving liberty to the petitioner to supplement her reply to the show cause notice within two weeks from today, i.e. by or before 19.01.2026. The Executive Council of the respondent-University shall proceed to decide the show cause notice issued against the petitioner after giving due opportunity of hearing to her in accordance with law by or before 31.03.2026. The order so passed by the Executive Council, in case goes against the petitioner, shall not be implemented for two weeks thereafter. Interim order dated 03.07.2023 shall stand modified to that effect."*

After a brief deliberation on the facts, Members agreed to invite Dr. Sapahia for a personal hearing.

Dr. Sapahia presented her case and stated that she applied to the University in accordance with the university advertisement and she had never misrepresented any fact. When one of the member of the Executive Council asked about her teaching experience, she stated that she has worked as Assistant professor on contractual basis with consolidated salary at Punjab College of Law and thereafter at Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala. She has worked as Guest Faculty Regional Centre Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. She further said that she worked for 6 years and 7 months as Assistant Professor (on contractual basis at RGNUL Patiala) on UGC Full scale. The said Executive Council member further sought explanation as to whether she was on full scale during any of those periods except while working in RGNUL Patiala, to this Dr Ruchi Sapahia responded that though she was on full scale only for 6 years and 7 months (at RGNUL Patiala) only, and rest all other experience was based on consolidated salary. However, she reiterated that since her experience was considered at the time of her selection as Associate Professor, the same should not be disputed now. One another member of the Executive Council asked whether she as teacher of law knew that she was not qualified as per the then existing UGC Regulations, she claimed that she was fully qualified based on her understanding of Regulation 4

of the UGC Regulations, 2010. She further claimed that the word teaching experience under Rule 4 of the Regulations, 2010 nowhere stated teaching experience as a 'regular teacher with full scale'. To this, all members asked the Registrar to read the Rule 4 of the UGC Regulations, 2010. After reading the Rule 4, members opined that Rule 4 is required to be read in the light of Rule 10 of the said Regulations, 2010. The Rule 10 was then read over. After a thorough deliberation on Rule 10(1) (c), the members agreed that teaching experience must be the one with UGC prescribed scale and not the consolidated or guest faculty scale.

Another member of the Executive Council said that even if the screening committee committed error, one wrong cannot set another wrong right. Other members agreed with observation that her teaching experience fall short of 8 years teaching with UGC prescribed scale.

Dr. Sapahia also claimed that she had requisite number of publication which she placed before the selection committee, and she had an API of 300. She also claimed that the legal opinion of the University Legal Advisor is illegal and based on wrong appreciation of facts and interpretation.

After patiently hearing her for more than one hour, the committee asked if she has anything else to state to which stated that she had placed all the records.

The members further deliberated the matter based on her submissions. The member Executive Council pointed out that Dr Sapahia herself admitted that she was having teaching experience on full-scale only for 6 years and 7 months, and remaining of her teaching experience is without UGC scale. Based on this admission and after perusal of records, she *prima facie* fall short of Thus, she was having a deficit of one year and five months teaching experience, and thus was not having requisite teaching experience for the post of Associate Professor. Other members agreed to this. Another member Executive Council opined since she is working as regular faculty here for more than 8 years, the deficit of one year five months may be adjusted against her present experience, and her promotion etc. should be considered accordingly.

All other members requested that the matter requires more deliberation and Executive Council members should be given sometime to examine all documents in this regard, preferably physically. One of the members of the Executive Council stated that s/he would be not available till April 15, and the next meeting should be scheduled only after April 15, 2026 and then the matter should be placed again for a decision.

**Resolution:** - After thorough deliberations, the Executive Council resolved that the members need to examine the case thoroughly before reaching to a reasoned conclusion for which another meeting of the Executive Council, preferably in physical mode, after April 15, 2026 is required.

Members unanimously decided to communicate this resolution to the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh for seeking the time to reach a reasoned conclusion.

**Item No. 24.4 Any other Item.**

No other item was presented under this agenda item.

**TABLE AGENDA:**

**Item No. (T) 24.1:** To consider the request of Dr. Chandrika, Assistant Professor of Law, for deputation to the post of Assistant Professor (Law) at the Indian International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) for an initial period of three years, extendable up to five years.

The Registrar placed the agenda item before the Executive Council and apprised that a request vide email dated 20.03.2026 had been received from Dr. Chandrika, Assistant Professor (Law), HPNLU, Shimla, seeking deputation to the post of Assistant Professor (Law) at the Indian International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) for an initial period of three years, extendable up to five years.

**Resolution:** After a thorough deliberation, the Executive Council unanimously resolved to authorize the Vice Chancellor to take a decision in accordance with deputation policy adopted in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Council along with availability of teachers, academic schedules etc.

**Item No. (T) 24.2:** To Consider the Change in R&P Rules regarding Non-Teaching Staff in Executive and Service Regulations, 2020.


The Registrar placed the agenda item before the Executive Council and submitted that the University is facing administrative difficulties in respect of the Recruitment and Promotion (R&P) Rules for non-teaching staff. It was highlighted that, in certain positions, there are no promotional avenues (for instance, no promotional hierarchy exists for security guards/caretakers). Accordingly, the matter was placed before the Executive Council to consider authorizing the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee for framing draft R&P Rules for non-teaching staff.

One member of the Executive Council suggested that the University may adopt or align with the R&P Rules of other National Law Universities to ensure smooth functioning. In this regard, other member observed that different National Law Universities have distinct cadres and posts, and therefore, a tailored approach may be necessary.

After detailed deliberations, the Executive Council suggested that a small committee be constituted to frame the R&P Rules. It was proposed that the Registrar shall act as the Chairperson of the Committee, along with other members, including a service expert, and that the Committee shall complete the task within a period of two months.

**Resolution:** It was unanimously resolved to authorize the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor to constitute a committee for framing the draft R&P Rules for non-teaching staff, with the Registrar as Chairperson and inclusion of a service expert as a member. The Committee shall submit its report within a period of two months for further consideration by the competent authority.

**The meeting ended with an expression of gratitude to all the esteemed members.**

  
**Registrar**  
HPNLU, Shimla  
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