

## University of Peradeniya Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

## **BY-LAWS**

### THE UNIVERSITIES ACT NO. 16 OF 1978

By-laws made by the Council of University of Peradeniya under Section 29(n) read with Section 135 (1) (d) of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978

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#### **BY-LAWS**

#### PART I – GENERAL

- 1. These By-laws may be cited as the "By-laws relating to Student Discipline" and shall come into operation on 28/06/2020. These By-laws supersede any other By-laws or Regulations related to Student Discipline that may have been issued to students earlier.
- 2. For all internal disciplinary proceedings, suits, prosecutions, appeals or other legal proceedings civil and criminal which have been commenced or instituted in any court/s or tribunal by or against the University of Peradeniya (hereinafter referred to as the University) prior to the date of coming into operation of the present By-laws, the provisions of the previous By-laws No. 01 of 1996 shall apply.
- 3. Without prejudice to the generality of the powers, duties and functions conferred upon or imposed on the Council by the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 (hereinafter referred to as the Universities Act) or any other instrument, the Council shall be responsible for the administration and implementation of these By-laws.
- 4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any of the provisions of these By-laws, the Vice-Chancellor shall take appropriate action he deems necessary to maintain discipline at the University and nothing in these By-laws shall be construed in any manner to detract from the powers, duties and functions, conferred on or imposed upon the Vice-Chancellor by the Universities Act or by any other Instrument.
- 5. These By-laws shall apply to every registered student (herein after referred to as the "Student") of the University.
- 6. Students are admitted and registered as undergraduates or graduate students of the University, subject to their good behavior and the observance of strict discipline.
- 7. Each and every student of the University shall be issued with a copy of these Bylaws, the provisions of which will be binding on him/her in conformity with the declaration made by him/her in terms of Section 8 of the application form for enrolment of new entrants submitted by him/her to the University of Peradeniya.
- 8. Upon coming into operation of these By-laws, the University shall have full power and authority to consider and assess the conduct of each student in determining the eligibility of such students for the conferment of the degree, diploma, certificate or other academic distinction.

- 9. Upon the receipt of an application on the prescribed form for registration as a student, together with such documents as may be necessary for this purpose, the Registrar or such other officer as may be nominated by him/her for this purpose, shall register such student and shall issue the student, so registered, an Identity Card and Student's Record Book bearing the photograph of the student concerned duly embossed with the seal of the University.
- 10. Identity Card and the Student's Record Book shall be the final and conclusive evidence pertaining to the identity of the student and also to the accuracy of the particulars stated therein. The particulars stated in the Identity Card or Student's Record Book shall be deemed to contain *prima facie* evidence of the status of the student.

#### <u>PART – II</u>

#### **Responsibilities & Duties of a Student and Offences**

#### Responsibilities & Duties:

- 11. Every student of the University shall have in his possession either such Identity Card or Students' Record Book which he shall produce when called upon to do so bythe Proctor, Dean, Deputy Proctor, Warden, Sub-warden, a member of the Academic Staff, Marshals, Security Officers, Chairman/Senior Student Counselors, Student Counselors or by a person authorized by the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or Registrar for this purpose.
- 12. Every student of the University shall be of good behavior and shall, at all times, conduct himself/herself in an orderly manner befitting the status of an undergraduate, graduate or an affiliated student.
- 13. Students of the University at all times shall endeavor to safeguard the dignity, good name and the reputation of the University.
- 14. Every student shall be bound to protect and safeguard the property of the University.
- 15. Every student shall endeavor to foster a corporate and community spirit of life and shall always respect the liberty, freedom and personhood of other students.

#### Offences:

- 16. Any student who acts in any manner stipulated in the following paragraphs (i) to (xv) shall be deemed to have committed an offence/s and he or she shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws and any other instrument.
  - i. Fails, willfully refuses, or neglects to produce the Identity Card or Student's Record Book when called upon to do so by any officer as prescribed under the paragraph 11 above.

In such instances, such officer, shall have the power to take such student into custody and produce him/her before the Prescribed Authority for further action.

- ii. Incites, provokes or aids and abets any other student within the University to commit an offence punishable under the laws of country or incites, provokes or aids and abets any other student within the University to commit any one or more offences prescribed herein these By-laws and any other instrument.
- iii. Engages in any act which may be calculated to humiliate, ridicule, hurt or harass another student, a member of the University Community or any other person within the University premises or engages in any conduct which may bring the University to disrepute.
- Engages in ragging or any act causing any other form of Physical and/or Mental distress to a student or a person within or outside the University in contravention of the provisions of the Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act No 20 of 1998.
- v. Conducts any act which could lead to disruption of the University academic and/or administrative functions/procedures.
- vi. Disrupts the social and/or personal life and/or harmony of other students, the University community and/or any other person within the University.
- vii. Damages and/or destroys, attempts to damage and/or destroy property of the University.
- viii. Does not comply with any By-Laws, Regulations, Rules, Policies, Circulars, orders and/or directions issued by the University authorities from time to time.
- ix. Summons, canvasses, causes the holding or hold meetings and/or public gathering and/or public speeches and/or any other similar activity within the University premises by any student/s, University Union or Society, or other association of students of the University under the following conditions:
  - a. Without the prior written approval of the prescribed authority.
  - b. Nonconformity with the terms and conditions relating to the venue and the date of such meeting and its duration and any other matter as may be deemed necessary in the circumstances as approved by the prescribed authority.
- x. Steals property belonging to other students or any other person within the University and the property belongs to the University.
- xi. Engages in any act that would be detrimental or prejudicial to the good name of the University or acts in contravention of the Universities Act or any other instrument.

xii. Collects subscriptions or currency and/or solicits money among the students, staff of the University or the general public by any student/s or office bearer of any Union, Society or Association without having first obtained the prior written consent of the Vice-Chancellor.

Provided, however, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to subscriptions collected by a registered Union, Society or Association in accordance with its constitution or any By-law made in terms of Section 115(2) of the Act.

xiii. Publishes and/or distributes, circulates or exhibits any words, notice, pamphlets, publications and printed material detrimental to the good name and discipline of the University, defamatory of any member of the staff or students of the University in the University premises and or its territorial boundaries.

Provided however, that the provision of this paragraph shall not apply to the following:

- a. Notices, pamphlets, publications and printed material related to the activities of any registered student union, society or other association established and recognized under section 115 of the Act and intended solely for the furthering of academic or social objectives.
- b. Such material that is not detrimental to the good name and discipline of the University or any member of the staff or student of the University.
- xiv. Prints such notices, pamphlets, publications and printed material as mentioned under paragraph xiii, without the signature of the President or the Secretary of such students' Union, Society or other association.
- xv. Fails or neglects to comply with the other By-laws, Rules, Regulations, Ordinances and policies and any other instrument applicable to the University.

#### PART III

#### Powers of Board of Discipline, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Proctor, Dean, Deputy Proctor, Warden and Marshals in student discipline

#### **BOARD OF DISCIPLINE**

 Upon coming into operation of these By-laws, there shall be established a Board of Discipline (Hereinafter referred to as "BOD") constituted as provided in paragraph 18 hereof.

- 18. The BOD shall consist of the following members, who shall hold office for a period of 01 (one) year with effect from the date of appointment.
  - i. Dean of each Faculty
  - ii. The Proctor, or a Deputy Proctor nominated by the Proctor other than the Deputy Proctor nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
  - iii. A Deputy Proctor nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
  - iv. Two Wardens nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
  - v. Two members of the Council nominated by the Council, from among its appointed members
  - vi. Two Senior Student Counselors nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
- 19. The Registrar or his nominee shall be the ex-officio Secretary of the BOD.
- 20. The Chairman of the BOD shall be elected by the members from among the Deans and he shall preside at all meetings of the BOD. If the Chairman is unable to preside at a meeting, the members shall appoint any other Dean to preside at such meeting.
- 21. The Chairman shall hold office for a period of 1 year reckoned from the date of his election so long as he retains the status of membership by virtue of which he was eligible for election as the Chairman of the BOD and is eligible for reelection. If he wishes to resign from the services as the Chairman, he must inform in writing to the Vice-Chancellor who would then request the BOD to appoint another member from among the Deans.
- 22. The quorum for the meetings of the BOD shall be seven members.
- 23. The BOD shall meet at least once in every three months.
- 24. Subject to the provisions of the Act, and of any other instrument, the BOD shall have the following powers, duties and functions:
  - i. To regulate and determine all matters concerning the maintenance of student discipline within the University;
  - ii. To make Rules pertaining to student discipline within the University;
- iii. To review the report of the Committee of Inquiry and recommend to the Vice-Chancellor either of the following:
  - a. To impose appropriate penalties or punishments, on any student or students who have been found guilty of any acts of indiscipline or misconduct or who have been found guilty of an offence or acting in contravention of the provisions of these By-laws or the Rules made by the BOD;
  - b. If the BOD requires further clarification on any point, the Board may refer the matter back to the Committee of Inquiry, or for further inquiry as necessary. If circumstances justify, the BOD may recommend to quash

any inquiry proceeding and request the Vice-Chancellor to hold a fresh inquiry;

- iv. To invite any person to the BOD proceedings, if the Board requires further clarification on any point;
- v. To do all other acts incidental to the powers aforesaid, as may be required in order to further the objectives of these By-laws.
- vi. The BOD may recommend to the Vice-Chancellor any one or more of the following punishments to any student for any breach of these By-laws or for any offense punishable under the provisions of these By-laws.
  - i. A written warning or a severe reprimand.
  - ii. Suspension from the University for a Specific Period; when a student has already been suspended pending disciplinary proceedings, such period may be considered to be part of the punishment.
  - iii. Withdrawal of residential facilities and accommodation.
  - iv. Withdrawal, cancellation or suspension of any benefits, assistance or award under the Mahapola Scholarship Scheme, any Bursary Scheme or endowed Scholarship Scheme.
  - v. Disqualification from sitting any University Examination for a specific Period.
  - vi. Suspension of the release of the results of any University Examination for a specific period.
  - vii. Withhold/withdraw conferment of the degree, diploma, certificate or other academic distinctions;
  - viii. Expulsion from the University;

#### VICE- CHANCELLOR

- 25. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any of the provisions of these Bylaws, the Vice-Chancellor shall take appropriate actions he deems necessary to maintain discipline at the University.
- 26. The Vice-Chancellor is the authority in maintaining discipline among the University students. Such authority may be exercised by the Vice-Chancellor through the (a) Board of Discipline (b) Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (c) Proctor (d) Dean (e) Warden and (f) Chief Marshal as the case may be.
- 27. In the event the Vice-Chancellor receives a complaint or becomes aware of a breach of discipline, he may take one or more of the following actions;
- 28. The Vice-Chancellor may direct the Proctor to carry out a Preliminary Inquiry on the incident and report to him/her.

- 29. After perusing the report of such a Preliminary Inquiry, the Vice-Chancellor may take any one of the following actinos:
  - a. If the Vice-Chancellor is of the view that the offence committed is not of a serious nature, the matter can be directed to the Proctor for appropriate action.
  - b. If the Vice-Chancellor is of the view that the offence committed is of a serious nature, he may forthwith charge sheet the student/s concerned.
  - c. If the Vice-Chancellor is not satisfied with the explanation/s submitted by the student/s, he may appoint a Committee of Inquiry comprising 03 senior academic staff members or an Inquiring Officer approved by the Council to inquire into the incident.
- 30. Forward the report of the Committee of Inquiry to the BOD.
- 31. Upon receiving the recommendations from the BOD, the Vice- Chancellor may carry out such recommendations.
- 32. If the breach of discipline is of serious nature and if the Vice-Chancellor is fully satisfied that the presence of any student is detrimental to the investigation/disciplinary proceedings to be commenced or detrimental to the smooth functioning and harmonious atmosphere of the University, the Vice-Chancellor may temporarily suspend the student/s from the University until the conclusion of the inquiry or until a final decision is reached with regard to the findings of the inquiry.
- 33. The Vice-Chancellor shall entertain all appeals from student/s aggrieved by the punishment imposed and shall direct them to the Appeals Board for a final recommendation.
- 34. The Vice-Chancellor shall communicate to the student the decision after receiving the recommendation of the Appeals Board by varying, amending, cancelling or affirming his earlier decision. Such decision made by the Vice-Chancellor in the exercise, performance and discharge of his powers, duties and functions as aforesaid shall be final and conclusive.
- 35. The decision of the Appeals Board once communicated by the Vice-Chancellor shall be final and conclusive.

#### **DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR**

36. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, subject to the provisions of the Universities Act, shall attend to the affairs of the students of the University.

- 37. In that context, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall assist the Vice-Chancellor to maintain discipline in the University.
- 38. In the absence of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall perform the duties of the office of the Vice-Chancellor.
- 39. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall supervise the activities of the Proctor and Marshals in relation to maintenance of student discipline.

#### PROCTOR

40. The Vice-Chancellor may appoint a senior academic member as the Proctor of the University and he shall act on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor in matters of student discipline within the University.

#### Powers vested with Proctor

- 41. Subject to the provisions of the Universities Act and any other instruments applicable to the University, the Proctor shall be in charge of the maintenance of discipline among students of the University.
- 42. In discharging his/her duties, the Proctor shall act under the instructions of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and with the assistance of the Deputy Proctors and Marshals.
- 43. The Proctor shall conduct a Preliminary Inquiry into complaints of breach of discipline in the University and take appropriate action under the instructions of the Vice-Chancellor.
- 44. Where the incident of indiscipline is of such a nature that it can be adequately dealt with by the imposition of one of the following punishments, the Proctor may act by himself/herself:
  - i. Suspension from the University for a period not exceeding four (4) weeks.
  - ii. A written warning
- 45. In every case in which the Proctor acts under these provisions, he shall submit a report to the Vice-Chancellor for his concurrence.
- 46. In the event the investigation conducted by the Proctor reveals incidents of serious indiscipline which cannot be adequately dealt with by imposing the above punishments, the Proctor shall conduct or cause to conduct a Preliminary Inquiry and submit his findings together with the recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate action under these By-laws.

47. If the Proctor is of the view that allowing a particular student or particular students involved in a misconduct to stay within the University premises will be detrimental to the smooth functioning and harmonious atmosphere of the University or to the conduct of the inquiry, the Proctor may, with the concurrence of the Vice-Chancellor, suspend the student/s from the University premises pending Preliminary Inquiry and/or formal inquires. In every case in which the Proctor acts under these provisions, he shall submit a report to the Vice-Chancellor.

#### DEAN

- 48. The Dean of each Faculty of the University shall have full power and authority to exercise supervisory control over the discipline of all students within the Faculty. For the purpose of exercising the powers conferred upon the Dean by the preceding paragraphs the Dean may issue, from time to time, instructions as he deems necessary for the maintenance of discipline in such Faculty.
- 49. The Dean of a Faculty shall impose discipline among the students of the Faculty and may act in consultation with the Proctor and Deputy Proctor/s and Marshals of the Faculty regarding matters pertaining to students' discipline in his Faculty.
- 50. The Dean of a Faculty shall hold a Summary/Preliminary Inquiry into complaints of breach of discipline and take appropriate action by himself/herself where the act of indiscipline is of such a nature that it could be adequately dealt with by imposing any of the following punishments.
  - **a.** Suspension from academic activities for a period not exceeding two weeks.
  - **b.** A written warning
    - i. Copies of all written warnings/punishments should be sent to the personal file of the accused student.
    - ii. In every case in which a Dean acts under the above provisions, he shall submit a report to the Vice-Chancellor for his concurrence with a copy to the Proctor.
- 51. In the event the investigation conducted by the Dean reveals incidents of serious indiscipline which cannot be adequately dealt with by imposing the above punishments, the Dean shall forward the matter to the Proctor for appropriate action under these By-laws.
- 52. If the Dean is of the view that allowing a particular student or students involved in undisciplined behavior to stay within the University premises will be detrimental to the smooth functioning and harmonious atmosphere of the Faculty or to the University, the Dean shall report the same to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate action.

#### **DEPUTY PROCTOR**

- 53. The Vice-Chancellor may, on the recommendation of the Dean appoint a senior member of the academic staff of a Faculty as the Deputy Proctor. In circumstances where a single Deputy Proctor is not sufficient to maintain discipline in a Faculty, the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the Dean and the Proctor may appoint an additional Deputy Proctor or Proctors to the same Faculty. The Deputy Proctor/s shall hold the office for a period of one year, and the appointment may be renewed by the Vice-Chancellor.
- 54. The Deputy Proctor shall assist the Proctor and the Dean of the relevant Faculty in the maintenance of discipline among the students of the Faculty. Deputy Proctor shall report to the Proctor and Dean regarding such indiscipline. He or she shall inquire into complaints of a breach of discipline within the Faculty and report to the Dean of the Faculty and/or Proctor for appropriate action.
- 55. The Deputy Proctor shall investigate complaints of breach of discipline in the respective Faculty and take appropriate action with the assistance of the Marshals.
- 56. Where the incident of indiscipline is of such a nature that it can be adequately dealt with by the imposition of a punishment, the Deputy Proctor shall recommend to the Dean the following punishments:
  - **a.** Suspension from academic activities for a period not exceeding two weeks.
  - b. A written warning.
- 57. In every case in which a Deputy Proctor acts under the above provisions, he or she shall submit a report to the Dean with a copy to the Proctor.
- 58. In the event the investigation conducted by the Deputy Proctor reveals incidents of serious indiscipline which cannot be adequately dealt with by imposing the above punishments by the Dean, the Deputy Proctor, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty shall forward the matter to the Proctor for appropriate action under these By-laws.

#### WARDEN

59. The Warden is responsible for maintaining the discipline of all students within the Hall of Residence within its perimeter with the assistance of the Sub-wardens of the respective Hall of Residence and the Marshals.

- 60. It would be the duty of a Warden of Halls of Residence to
  - maintain discipline among student/s of the Hall of Residence and act in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Proctor, Deputy Proctor and Marshals regarding matters pertaining to student discipline in the Halls of Residence;
  - ii. Conduct a Preliminary Inquiry into complaints of breach of discipline and take appropriate action by himself/herself where the act of indiscipline is not of a serious nature and may impose any of the following punishments.
    - i. Suspension from Halls of Residence for a period not exceeding two weeks.
    - ii. A written warning.
  - iii. submit a report to the Vice-Chancellor for his or her concurrence with a copy to the Proctor in every case in which a Warden acts under the above provision;
  - iv. A copy of such letter imposing the punishment should be sent to the Dean/s of the relevant Faculty of the punished student/s to be recorded in the personal file of the student/s.
- 61. In the event the investigation conducted by the Warden reveals incidents of serious indiscipline which cannot be adequately dealt with by imposing the above punishments, the Warden shall forward the matter to the Proctor to conduct or cause to conduct a Preliminary Inquiry and submit his or her findings together with the recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate action under these By-laws.
- 62. If the Warden is of the view that allowing a particular student or students involved in undisciplined behavior to stay within the University premises will be detrimental to the smooth functioning and harmonious atmosphere of the Hall of Residence or the University, the Warden shall report the same to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate action.

#### MARSHAL

63. A Marshal of the University shall have supervisory control over the discipline of all students within the University. For the purpose of maintaining the smooth functioning and harmonious environment of the University, the Marshal shall work in consultation with the Prescribed Authority and recommend preventive measures to the Administration.

- 64. The Marshal shall be responsible to:
  - i. Assist the University Administration in the maintenance of discipline among the students of the University.
  - ii. Report to the Proctor regarding such acts of indiscipline.
  - iii. Report to the prescribed authority, if an offence against the bylaws or the Laws of the country has been committed by any student.
  - iv. Investigate into complaints of a breach of discipline within the University and report to the Proctor for appropriate action.
  - v. Assist the police in concurrence with the prescribed authority in maintaining public order within the University.
  - vi. Take appropriate measures to prevent the occurrence of any student unrest, ragging, etc., that will disrupt University activities.
  - vii. Be vigilant and monitor all student activities within and also outside the University premises where necessary.
  - viii. Act as liaison officer between the authorities and the students in instances of student unrest.
    - ix. In situations where a breach of discipline is noted, assist the Dean, Proctor, Warden and the Deputy Proctor to conduct inquiries.
    - x. In instances where a major offence is noted, prepare report in liaison with the Proctor, Deputy Proctor and/or Warden and report to the Vice-Chancellor for further action.

#### Powers vested with the Marshal

- 65. The Marshal shall have the following powers in order to carry out his duties:
  - i. Request from students for evidence of identity such as student record book and identity card, if and when necessary;
  - ii. Request for written statements and/or record statements from any person, including the students and the staff of the University, for investigation purposes, for offences against these By-laws or the Laws of the country within the University premises against the property of the University or a person;
  - iii. Take into custody any student who fails to abide by the instructions, and to deliver him/her to the prescribed authority forthwith;
  - iv. Any other power he/she may deem necessary to exercise in maintaining student discipline, harmony and interpersonal relations among students and between students and authorities. Any such action taken shall be reported to the prescribed authority forthwith.

#### PART- IV

#### **Inquiry Process & Appeals**

#### PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

- 66. A Preliminary Investigation shall be held by the Proctor under paragraph 43 and 46, by the Dean under paragraph 50, and by the Warden under paragraph 60(ii) under these By-laws.
- 67. In the process of a Preliminary Investigation, statements should be recorded from student/s involved and witnesses, in a language preferred by the accused student/s or the witnesses and collect other evidence.
- 68. The Preliminary Investigation should be completed within 2 weeks, wherever possible.
- 69. Report of the Preliminary Investigation shall be submitted to the Vice Chancellor.

#### FORMAL INQUIRY

- 70. If the Preliminary Investigation reveals incidents of serious indiscipline warranting a Formal Inquiry, the suspect student/s will be issued with a charge sheet or charge sheets giving them a time period stipulated in the charge sheet to submit their explanations as to why they should not be punished under paragraph 24 (vi) of these By-Laws.
- 71. If the Vice-Chancellor is not satisfied with the explanations submitted by the student/s, a Committee of Inquiry shall be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor under paragraph 29(c) under these by laws to conduct a formal Inquiry.
- 72. The Committee of Inquiry will commence the formal inquiry within one month from such appointment and complete the Inquiry within 6 months, wherever possible. The report of the inquiry shall be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor.
- 73. (1) The Committee of Inquiry shall have the power to summon any student/s of the University to attend any inquiry or to give evidence thereat and to direct any student to make a written statement concerning any matter pertaining to his or her conduct/behavior or to the conduct/behavior of any other student. The Committee of Inquiry may request any member of the staff of the University to give evidence at an inquiry.
  - (2) Such Committee of inquiry shall conduct the inquiries in accordance with the rules of natural justice as far as possible.
  - (3) An accused student shall attend in person and is allowed to be accompanied by a representative of the Peradeniya Students' Union or the respective Faculty Students' Union at the Formal Inquiry.

#### APPEALS

- 74. Any student who is aggrieved by the punishment shall have the right to present an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within a period of 1 month from the date of communication to him/her of such punishment, exclusive of the day of that date itself and of the day when the appeal is presented and of Sundays and public holidays.
- 75. The Vice-Chancellor shall refer an appeal to an Appeals Board appointed by him/her to review the punishments given by him/her on the recommendation of the Board of Discipline.
- 76. Such Appeals Board as appointed by the Vice-Chancellor shall consist of three persons of Legal/Academic eminence.
- 77. The Appeals Board, using the information already available from the Formal Inquiry will then decide on the appeal. The Appeals Board shall have the power to review the decision of the Board of Discipline regarding the punishment imposed and may either affirm, vary or set aside the decision regarding the punishment.
- 78. The decision of the Appeals Board, once communicated by the Vice-Chancellor, shall be final.

#### PART –V

#### **INTERPRETATION**

- 79. If there is any discrepancy and/or difficulty in understanding the By-laws or inconsistency, the Vice-Chancellor's interpretations shall be final and conclusive. For the purpose of these By-laws;
  - 1. "A registered student" any student who has been duly admitted and registered in the University including any Postgraduate or affiliated Institute, for any academic year or any student who is duly admitted and registered from time to time in respect of any academic year or other period of study.
  - 2. "Academic year" the academic year as decided by the Senate from time to time.
  - 3. "Any other Instrument": any Order, Ordinance, Statute, By-law, Regulation Policy, Circular or Rule applicable to the University.
  - 4. "University Property"- buildings, libraries, lecture halls, furniture, equipment and all other movable, immovable, tangible and intangible assets of the University.
  - 5. Prescribed authority: Vice-Chancellor/Deputy Vice Chancellor/Dean/Proctor.

Note:

Words importing the masculine gender shall include females, words in the singular shall include the plurals and words in the plural shall include the singular.