

Correspondence School's proposal rejected

By A Staff Reporter

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NEW DELHI, June 20.

THE academic council of Delhi University today rejected by an overwhelming majority the proposal mooted by the principal of the School of Correspondence Courses to reduce the minimum qualifying marks for admission to these courses.

The issue was hotly debated by the council members for over two hours and was finally rejected by 17 to eight votes. At present students seeking admission to the B.A. or B.Com. courses need a minimum of 40 per cent marks, while for M.A. and M.Com courses the requirement is 50 per cent marks, the same as in regular colleges.

The principal of the School of Correspondence Courses had sought a reduction in the minimum qualifying marks to 33 per cent on the plea that the University Grants Commission (UGC) had issued a directive to this effect. According to the directive, the UGC has said that harsh eligibility conditions for admissions to correspondence courses are uncalled for as these courses are meant for those students who are unable to enter a regular institution because of economic and other reasons. Of the 22 universities running correspondence courses Delhi University is the only one to insist on minimum requirements.

The managing committee of the School of Correspondence Courses had endorsed the UGC view and 53 of the 67 teachers had sent a memorandum to the vice-chancellor urging him to implement the UGC directive. The proposal was taken up for discussion today although it had been

rejected twice before in the last one month.

Dr. O. P. Gupta and Dr. S. C. Gupta pointed out at the meeting that normally all eligibility conditions were first discussed by the committee of courses and then presented before the academic council. In this case, no set procedure had been followed. Mr Sydney Ribeiro questioned as to how an intem, which was rejected barely five weeks ago, had been brought up once again before the council for discussion.

At today's meeting the vice-chancellor also postponed any discussion on extension of approval of the B.A. (Hons.) History course, Mr P. K. Chandla, Dr. Mahender Kumar and Dr. S. K. Aggarwal, members of the council, alleged that the vice-chancellor had flouted the mandate given to him by the academic council by approving the syllabi. They further alleged that the syllabi had been sent for printing and were being circulated in various colleges although it had not been confirmed by the council.

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