UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110 002.

S Recd Post

No. F.1-5/2007 [CPP-II] April 28th, 2008

To,
The Vice Chancellor,
Allahabad Agricultural Institute – Deemed University,
Allahabad-211007,
Uttar Pradesh.

Subject:- Clarification regarding the status of " Ph.D. Degree in Theology" awarded by the Allahabad Agricultural Institute.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. VC-19-A/UGC/RVT/2008 dated 12.04.2008 regarding the status of Ph.D. Degree [Ph.D. in theology] awarded by the Allahabad Agriculture Institute, Allahabad. The matter was examined with the help of an expert committee by the Commission.

Under section 22(1) of U.G.C Act, 1956, the Deemed Universities are empowered to award degrees and being an autonomous organization in the academic matters they can offer courses leading to degrees specified by the UGC with help of their Academic Council, Board of Studies, Senate, Syndicate, etc. Further, the Deputy Educational Advisor, Ministry of Human Resource Development vide his D.O.No.F.20-71/2005-U.3 dated 21.12.2005 has clarified that in terms of the provision under Article 30 (I) of the constitution of India, your university being a minority institution may conduct its theology courses in whatever mode it wants to as it has the right to do so. Subsequently, the Commission also issued clarification vide D.O. letter No.F.6-1(II)/2006(CPP-I) dated 15th July, 2006 regarding starting of courses of study leading to award of degrees as specified and notified under Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956, in which it was clarified that for the purpose of offering general courses in Sciences, Social Studies & Humanities, Institutions Deemed to be University are at par with the State & Central Universities mentioned in section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 and no prior approval of the Commission would be mandatory to start such general courses.

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Therefore, keeping in view the recommendations made by the expert committee, approved by the competent authority, this is to inform you that the Ph.D. is a degree specified by the UGC under section 22 of the UGC Act,1956. Accordingly, the Allahabad Agriculture Institute, Allahabad, a Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act,1956, is entitled to award "Ph.D. in theology" and the degree of "Ph.D. in theology" awarded by it, is a valid degree.

Your Sincerely.

[A. K. DOGRA]
Joint Secretary,

Copy in supersession of all communication to the following along with copies of the letters mentioned above. :-

[1] The Principal, St. Stephens college, New Delhi-110007.

[2] The Chairman, Governing Board, St. Stephens college, New Delhi-110007.

[3] Dr. Valson Thampu, Former OSD [Principal], St. Stephens college, New Delhi-110007.

[A. K. DOGRA]
Joint Secretary,