From

The Secretary, Haryana State Board of Technical Education, Bays No. 7-12, Sector-4, Panchkula.

To

The Principal(s), All Govt./ Aided Polytechnics and PVt. Polytechnics,

Memo No: 123 /Exam / HSBTE Dated: 20.07.2021

Subject: Conduct of upcoming Board Examinations in Conventional Mode

in August, 2021

Ongoing Academic Session has been completed on 20.07.2021 and latest UGC Guidelines dated 16.07.2021 on Examination in view of COVID-19 Pandemic – July 2021 have been issued as per which the provisions contained in the earlier UGC guidelines dated 29.4.2020 and 06.07.2020 has been made applicable for current academic session 2020-21 also. The only change is regarding Intermediate semester / year for which exams are not to be conducted and students are to be promoted by giving marks as per the UGC formula given under the UGC Guidelines dated 29.04.2020 and Terminal Semester / Final Year Examination are to be compulsorily conducted in online / offline / blended mode not later than 31.8..2021. AICTE vide its letter No. AICTE / MS Office / Special 02 dated 01.05.2020 and again vide its letter No. AICTE / AB / Academic Calendar / 2020-21 dated 07.07 2020 had already directed all the Polytechnics, Universities, Deemed to be Universities and affiliated Technical Institutions to follow UGC Guidelines.

However, in case of Diploma in Pharmacy, point 2 & 3 of Recommendations under Section- D of **PCI Guidelines dated 09.07.2020** makes it mandatory to pass both 1st year and 2nd year examination as and when planned by the examining authority in view of COVID and the students shall be eligible for the award of the diploma only if they are successful in both D.Pharm Part I and Part II. Therefore, exams of Diploma in Pharmacy cannot be cancelled to promote the students on the basis of Sessionals / previous performance and hence Examination must be held as and when feasible.

 It may please be noted that in view of the hardships faced by the students during online Exam held in Oct 2020 due to network / mobile related technological disruptions, deserving students suffered whereas undeserving students scored very high marks by resorting to unfair means. Out of 10,920 students of 6th semester in Online Exams of Oct 2020, 5230 students who had very low average percentage in previous 5 semesters, scored very high marks with difference in percentage increasing upto 70% (for instance, a student with average 12.47% in previous 5 semesters scored 81.33% marks in 6th semester through Online Exam) Therefore, when the Covid situation improved, the next Board Examinations were successfully conducted in Offline Mode during Feb / March 2021 by following the COVID SOPs issued by Govt.

2. It is an established fact that to ensure academic credibility, career opportunities and global acceptance, conventional mode of examination (offline) is best suited to assess / evaluate the learning outcome of students, and more so in case of professional courses (technical, medical etc.). Online Exams are not suitable to check technical knowledge and skill of the students such as computer programming/coding, engineering drawing, textile design, steel structure design & drawing etc. and therefore, cannot be the first preference for mode of examination unless forced by the circumstances such as Covid.

If an easy option of online exams is provided wherein students can score very high marks without studying, an education ecosystem will be created where students will have no inclination / interest to study or attend the online classes which even now are not being taken seriously by the students.

3. Further, the Covid situation after the second wave has now largely become normal and therefore, Haryana State Government vide instructions No. DMC-SPO-2020/7567 dated 11-07-2021 has allowed to open Universities / Colleges for students for doubt classes, Practical Classes in Laboratories, Practical Examinations and Offline Examination by following the SOPs issued by Central/ State Government. Hostels are also allowed to open for students appearing in examination. The same has been reiterated by Principal Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Higher Education Department vide Memo dated 12.7.2021.

 3^{rd} and 4^{th} session of JEE (Mains) exam at dedicated centers shall be held during 20.07.2021 - 27.07.2021 & 26.08.2021 - 02.09.2021 respectively. NEET and many other exams shall also be held in offline mode. Even Himachal Board of Technical education shall conduct diploma exams in Offline Mode as conveyed vide email.

- 4. In pursuance of aforesaid UGC / PCI guidelines, the Board has decided as below regarding the next Board Exams of Diploma Courses:
 - a) In pursuance of the mandate vested with the Board vide UGC Guidelines dated 29.04.2020, 06.07.2020 and 16.07.2021 to decide the mode of the Examinations as per the feasibility and suitability, **Terminal Semester / Final**

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Year Exam of Engg. Diploma Courses and 1st & 2nd Year Exam of D Pharmacy will be held in offline mode w.e.f. 09.08.2021 by following the COVID Protocols / SOPs issued by the Government. As in case of previous offline Exam held in Feb-Mar 2021, more choices of questions shall be provided in the Examination. Datesheet shall be displayed shortly on the website of the Board.

Last date for seeking admission to B. Tech Courses under Lateral Entry is 30.10.2021 as per the AICTE Revised Academic Calendar dated 12.07.2021.

- b) In pursuance of UGC Guidelines dated 16.07.2021 Students of Intermediate Semester / Year shall be promoted by giving marks as per the prescribed UGC Formula.
- c) Clause 6 (i) of UGC Guidelines dated 29.4.20 provides for scheme of "Carry Forward" of Reappears / Backlog which students may clear whenever the examination is held next.

Accordingly, **Re-appears / Compartments / Backlog** shall be 'Carried Forward' for which Exams will be held at the earliest as and when feasible (previous Exams for re-appears of all semesters / Years were just concluded on 19.03.2021 and result was declared in April 2021).

Controller of Examination, HSBTE, Panchkula

Endst. No: 124-127 / Exam / HSBTE

Dated: 20.07.2021

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following:

- PS to PSTE-cum-Chairman, HSBTE for kind information of W/PSTE-cum-Chairman, HSBTE please.
- 2. PS to DGTE for the kind information of DGTE please
- 3. PA to Secretary, HSBTE for kind information of Secretary, HSBTE please.
- 4. COAF, HSBTE for kind information please.

Controller of Examination, HSBTE, Panchkula