

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

to upgrade the status of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad into COMSATS University

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for upgrading the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology as COMSATS University and matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**CHAPTER-I
PRELIMINARY**

1. Short title, application and commencement.— (1) This Act may be called the COMSATS University Islamabad Act, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.— In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

- (i) "Academic Council" means the Academic Council of the University;
- (ii) "affiliated college" means an educational institution affiliated to the University but not maintained or administered by it;
- (iii) "Authority" means any of the Authorities of the University specified in this Act;
- (iv) "Campus" means a constituent campus;
- (v) "Chairman" means the Chairman of Department to whom the status of Department is granted by this Act or by the Statutes or Regulations;
- (vi) "Chancellor" means the Chancellor of the University;
- (vii) "College" means a constituent college or an affiliated college;

- (viii) "Commission" means the Higher Education Commission set up by the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (LIII of 2002);
- (ix) "COMSATS" means the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South;
- (x) "Constituent college" means an educational institution, by whatever name described, maintained and administered by the University;
- (xi) "Dean" means the head of a Faculty or the head of an academic body granted the status of a Faculty by this Act or by the Statutes or Regulations;
- (xii) "Department" means a teaching department maintained and administered, or recognized by the University in the manner prescribed;
- (xiii) "Director" means the head of an institute or a constituent campus established by the University under Statutes or Regulations;
- (xiv) "Faculty" means an administrative and academic unit of the University consisting of one or more departments, as prescribed;
- (xv) "Government" means the Federal Government;
- (xvi) "prescribed" means prescribed by Statutes, Regulations or Rules made under this Act ;
- (xvii) "Principal" means the head of a college;
- (xviii) "Pro-Chancellor" means the Pro-Chancellor of the University;
- (xix) "Pro-Rector" means Pro-Rector of the University;
- (xx) "Rector" means the Rector of the University;
- (xxi) "Representation Committees" means the Representation Committees constituted under section 25;
- (xxii) "Review Panel" means the Review Panel set up by the Chancellor in accordance with the provisions of section 8;

- (xxiii) "Search Committee" means the Search Committee set up under section 12;
- (xxiv) "Senate" means the Senate of the University;
- (xxv) "Statutes", "Regulations" and "Rules" mean respectively the Statutes, the Regulations and the Rules made under this Act and for the time being in force;
- (xxvi) "Syndicate" means the Syndicate of the University;
- (xxvii) "Teachers" include Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Lecturers engaged whole-time by the University or by a constituent or affiliated college and such other persons as may be declared to be teachers by Regulations;
- (xxviii) "University" means the COMSATS University Islamabad; and
- (xxix) "University Teacher" means a whole-time teacher appointed and paid by the University, or recognized by the University as such.

CHAPTER- II THE UNIVERSITY

3. Incorporation.— (1) The COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Islamabad is hereby upgraded to the status of COMSATS University Islamabad.

- (2) The University shall have the following campus, namely:-
 - (a) Islamabad main campus
 - (b) Abbottabad campus;
 - (c) Attock campus;
 - (d) Lahore campus;
 - (e) Sahiwal campus;
 - (f) Vehari campus; and
 - (g) Wah campus.

(3) The University may open and administer new campuses and institutes.

(4) The University shall consist of the following, namely:-

(a) the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor;

(b) the Rector and the Pro-Rector;

(c) the Chairman and Deans;

(d) the members of the authorities of the University established under section 17;

(e) all University teachers and persons recognized as students of the University in the prescribed manner; and

(f) all other full-time officers and members of the staff of the University.

(5) The University shall be a body corporate by the name of COMSATS University Islamabad and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued by the said name.

(6) The University shall be competent to acquire and hold property, both movable and immovable, and to lease, sell or otherwise transfer any movable and immovable property which may have become vested in or been acquired by it.

(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the University shall have academic, financial and administrative autonomy, including the power to employ officers, teachers and other employees on such terms as may be prescribed, subject to the terms of this Act and the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (LIII of 2002).

(6) All properties, rights and interests of whatever kind, used, enjoyed, possessed, owned or vested in, or held in trust by or for COMSATS Institute of Information Technology and liabilities legally subsisting against COMSATS Institute of Information Technology shall hereafter be transferred to the COMSATS University established under the Act.

4. Powers and Purposes of the University.— The University shall,-

- (i) provide for education and scholarship in such branches of knowledge as it may deem fit, and to make provision for research, service to society and for the application, advancement and dissemination of knowledge in such manner as it may determine;
- (ii) prescribe courses of studies to be conducted by it and the colleges;
- (iii) hold examinations and award or confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions on persons who have been admitted to and have passed its examinations under prescribed conditions;
- (iv) prescribe the terms and conditions of employment of the officers, teachers and other employees of the University and to lay down terms and conditions that may be different from those applicable to government servants in general;
- (v) engage, where necessary, persons on contracts of specified duration and to specify the terms of each engagement;
- (vi) confer honorary degrees or other distinctions on approved persons in the prescribed manner;
- (vii) institute programmes for the exchange of students and teachers between the University and other universities, educational institutions and research organizations, inside as well as outside Pakistan;
- (viii) provide career counseling and job search services to students and alumni;
- (ix) maintain linkages with alumni;
- (x) develop and implement fund-raising plans;
- (xi) provide and support the academic development of the faculty of the University;

- (xii) confer degrees on persons who have carried on independent research under prescribed conditions;
- (xiii) affiliate and disaffiliate educational institutions under prescribed conditions;
- (xiv) inspect colleges and other educational institutions affiliated or seeking affiliation with it;
- (xv) accept the examinations passed and the period of study spent by students of the University at other universities and places of learning equivalent to such examinations and periods of study in the University, as it may prescribe, and to withdraw such acceptance;
- (xvi) co-operate with other universities, public authorities or private organizations, inside as well as outside Pakistan, in such manner and for such purposes as it may prescribe;
- (xvii) institute Professorships, Associate Professorships, Assistant Professorships and Lectureships and any other posts and to appoint persons thereto;
- (xviii) create posts for research, extension, administration and other related purposes and to appoint persons thereto;
- (xix) to recognize selected members of the teaching staff of affiliated colleges or educational institutions admitted to the privileges of the University or such other persons as it may deem fit, as University teachers;
- (xx) institute and award financial assistance to students in need, fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, medals and prizes under prescribed conditions;
- (xxi) establish teaching departments, schools, colleges, faculties, institutes, museums and other centres of learning for the development of teaching and research and to make such arrangements for their maintenance, management and administration as it may prescribe;

- (xxii) provide for the residence of the students of the University and the colleges, to institute and maintain halls of residence and to approve or license hostels and lodgings;
- (xxiii) maintain order, discipline and security on the campuses of the University and the colleges;
- (xxiv) promote the extra curricular and recreational activities of such students, and to make arrangements for promoting their health and general welfare;
- (xxv) demand and receive such fees and other charges as it may determine;
- (xxvi) make provision for research, advisory or consultancy services and with these objects to enter into arrangements with other institutions, public or private bodies, commercial and industrial enterprises under prescribed conditions;
- (xxvii) enter into, carry out, vary or cancel contracts;
- (xxviii) receive and manage property transferred and grants, contributions made to the University and to invest any fund representing such property, grants, bequests, trusts, gifts, donations, endowments or contributions in such manner as it may deem fit;
- (xxix) provide for the printing and publication of research and other works; and
- (xxx) to do all such other acts and things, whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not, as may be requisite or expedient in order to further the objectives of the University as a place of education, learning, and research.

5. University open to all classes, creeds, etc. – (1) The University shall be open to all persons of either gender and of whatever religion, race, creed, class, colour or domicile and no person shall be denied the privileges of the University on the grounds of religion, race, caste, creed, class, colour or domicile.

(2) An increase in any fee or charge that is in excess of ten percent per annum on annual basis from the last such increase may not be made except in special circumstances, and only with the approval of the Chancellor.

(3) The University shall institute financial aid programmes for students in need, to the extent considered feasible by the Senate, given the resources available, so as to enable admission and access to the University and the various opportunities provided by it to be based on merit rather than ability to pay:

Provided that the University may institute self-finance schemes not covering more than ten percent of the total number of candidates in any on campus taught course or research based programme of study.

6. Teaching at the University.— (1) All recognized teaching in various courses shall be conducted by the University or the colleges in the prescribed manner and may include lectures, tutorials, discussions, seminars, demonstrations, distance learning and other methods of instruction as well as practical work in the laboratories, hospitals, workshops and other governmental or private organizations.

(2) The authority responsible for organizing recognized teaching shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) The degree awarding programmes of the university shall conform to the approved criteria of the Commission.

(4) No degree shall be granted unless student has passed an examination in Islamic and Pakistan Studies at the Bachelor's degree level or, in case of non-muslim student, in Ethics and Pakistan Studies at his option.

CHAPTER III OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

7. Principal Officers.— The following shall be the principal officers of the University, namely:—

- (a) the Chancellor;
- (b) the Pro-Chancellor;
- (c) the Rector;
- (d) the Pro-Rector;
- (e) the Directors;

- (f) the Deans;
- (g) the Principals of the constituent colleges;
- (h) the Chairpersons of the teaching departments;
- (i) the Registrar;
- (j) the Treasurer;
- (k) the Controller of Examinations; and
- (l) such other persons as may be prescribed by the Statutes or Regulations to be the principal officers of the University.

8. Chancellor.— (1) The President of Pakistan shall be the Chancellor of the University and the Chairperson of the Senate.

(2) The Chancellor shall, when present, preside at the meetings of the Senate and the Convocation of the University.

(3) The selected members of the Senate and the Rector shall be appointed by the Chancellor from amongst the persons recommended by the Representation Committee and the Search Committee respectively set up for this purpose in accordance with the Act.

(4) Every proposal to confer an honorary degree shall be subject to confirmation by the Chancellor.

(5) If the Chancellor is satisfied that serious irregularity or mismanagement with respect to the affairs of the University has occurred, he may as regards proceeding of,—

- (a) Senate, direct that specified proceedings be reconsidered and appropriate action taken be within one month of this direction:

Provided that if the Chancellor is satisfied that either no reconsideration has been carried out or that the reconsideration has failed to address the concern expressed he may, after calling upon the Senate to show cause in writing, appoint a five member Review Panel to examine and report to the Chancellor on the functioning of the Senate. The report of the Review Panel shall be submitted within such time as may be prescribed by the Chancellor. The Review Panel shall be drawn from persons of eminence in academics and in the fields of law, accountancy and administration; and

- (b) any Authority or with respect to matters within the competence of any Authority other than the Senate, direct the Senate to exercise powers under section 19.

9. Power of Chancellor to removal from the Senate.– (1) The Chancellor may, upon the recommendation of the Review Panel, remove any person from the membership of the Senate on the ground that such person,-

- (a) has become of unsound mind; or
- (b) has become incapacitated to function as member of the Senate; or
- (c) has been convicted by a court of law for an offence involving moral turpitude ; or
- (d) has absented himself from two consecutive meetings without just cause; or
- (e) has been guilty of misconduct, including use of position for personal advantage of any kind, or gross inefficiency in the performance of functions.

(2) The Chancellor shall remove any person from the membership of the Senate on a resolution calling for the removal of such person supported by at least three -fourths of the membership of the Senate:

Provided that before passing such resolution the Senate shall provide the member concerned a fair hearing:

Provided further that the provisions of this section shall not be applicable to the Rector in his capacity as a member of the Senate.

10. Pro-Chancellor.– (1) The Federal Minister concerned with the subject of Science and Technology shall be the Pro-Chancellor of the University.

(2) In the case of non-availability of Chancellor, the Pro Chancellor shall preside at the Convocation of the University. In case of the non-availability of the Chancellor and the Pro Chancellor, the Executive Director of COMSATS shall preside at the Convocation of the University.

