

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



House of the Federation

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL EDUCATION AND
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

ON

"THE AL-BIRUNI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BILL, 2023"

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR IRFAN-UL-HAQUE SIDDIQUI

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ON "THE AL-BIRUNI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BILL, 2023" LAID IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 7TH AUGUST, 2023 BY SENATOR ENGR. RUKHSANA ZUBERI, REFERRED BY THE HOUSE TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT

I, Senator Irfanul Haque Siddiqui, the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training have the honour to present, on behalf of Committee, this report on "The Al-Biruni International University Bill, 2023" laid in the Senate Sitting held on 7th August, 2023, by Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir, referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The Composition of the Standing Committee is given as under:-

1. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Chairman
2. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
3. Senator Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary	Member
4. Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
5. Senator Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar	Member
6. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
7. Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad	Member
8. Senator Mushtaq Ahmad	Member
9. Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad	Member
10. Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
11. Senator Khalida Sikandar Mandhro	Member
12. Senator Falak Naz	Member
13. Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting held on the agenda on 8th August, 2023. The following Members were present at the time of consideration of the Bill:

1. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Chairman
2. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
3. Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed	Member
4. Senator Falak Naz	Member
5. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
6. Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member

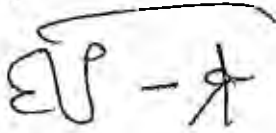
4. Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir briefed the Committee that the Bill is to provide for establishment of the al-Biruni International University, Islamabad in the Private Sector. The Principal seat of the University shall be at Islamabad and it shall set up its campuses in Jhelum, Abbottabad, Gilgit, Gujjar Khan including at all such places in Pakistan and abroad as the Board of the University may determine from time to time. The purposes of the University inter-alia shall be advancing knowledge, fostering critical thinking and contributing to the betterment of society.

5. The Chairman Committee then asked the Director General, Higher Education Commission to brief the Committee. The DG HEC briefed the Committee that the proposed Institute has submitted the feasibility report to HEC which is under evaluation. Thereafter, upon meeting all requirements, completion of all modalities including physical inspection and issuance of HEC's NOC, the charter of the proposed Institute will be vetted as per Federal Universities Ordinances (FUO), 2002 and forwarded to Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training for processing and enactment from the National Assembly of Pakistan. Since HEC's NOC is a pre-requisite for processing of Charter/Act by the National Assembly of Pakistan/Provincial Assemblies and commencement of academic operations by any university/institute.

6. Senator Irfan ul Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Committee while appreciating the spirit behind the proposed legislation stated that all codal formalities should be completed before the operationalization of the institute in order to adhere to the procedural requirements. The Chairman Committee was of the considered view law making power of the Parliament is not subservient to any procedural requirements or any other organization.

7. Thereafter, the Committee decided to put the Bill for the voting. The Members present voted in favour of the Bill with a caveat that HEC's NOC should be obtained as soon as possible and in case of non-obtainment the said NOC within one year of the passing of the law, the Charter should be revoked.

8. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that "The Al-Biruni International University Bill, 2023", as passed by the National Assembly and introduced in the Senate, may be passed by the Senate of Pakistan. (Copy of Bill as passed by the National Assembly and introduced in the Senate is annexed).



(ABDUL RAZIQUE)

Secretary Committee



(SENATOR IRFAN-UL-HAQUE SIDDIQUI)

Chairman Committee

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]**A
BILL**

to provide for establishment of the al-Biruni International University, Islamabad
Preamble whereas it is expedient to provide for the establishment of the al-Biruni International University at Islamabad in the private sector and connected matters;
it is enacted as follow:

**CHAPTER I
THE PRELIMINARIES****1. Short title, extent and commencement. -**

- (1) This Bill may be called the al-Biruni International University Bill 2023.
- (i) It shall extend to the whole of Pakistan.
- (ii) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions, - in this Bill, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context

- (i) "Academic Council" means the Academic Council of the University;
- (ii) "College" means an educational institution, by whatever name described, authorized by the Board of Governors to conduct academic programs, research and development projects and maintained or administered by the University;
- (iii) "Authority" means any of the Authorities of the University specified or set up in terms of Chapter IV;
- (iv) "Board" means Board of Governors of the University;
- (v) "Board of Directors" means the Board of Directors of the company;
- (vi) "Chancellor" means the Chancellor of the University;

- (vii) "Company" means Grafton College of Management Sciences (Private) Limited;
- (viii) "Commission" means the Higher Education Commission set up by the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (LIII of 2002);
- (ix) "Constituent College" means an educational institution, by whatever name described, maintained and administered by the University;
- (x) "Controller" means the Controller of Examination department of 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 Bill or by the Statutes, Regulations or Rules;
- (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 established as a constituent institution/college/campus of the University as approved by the Board;
- (xiv) "Faculty" means an administrative and academic unit of the University consisting of one or more departments or school(s), as prescribed;
- (xv) "Government" means the Federal Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
- (xvi) "Institute" means an institute or centre, maintained and administered by the University;
- (xvii) "Officer" means any officer of the University;
- (xviii) "Patron" means the Patron of the University;
- (xix) "Prescribed" means prescribed by Statutes, Regulations or Rules made by the Board;
- (xx) "Principal" means the head of a College;

- (xxi) "Pro-Chancellor" means the Pro-Chancellor of the University appointed under Section 12 of the Bill;
- (xxii) "Registrar" means the Registrar of the University;
- (xxiii) "Statutes", "Regulations" and "Rules" mean respectively the Statutes, the Regulations and the Rules made by the Board from time to time;
- (xxiv) "Treasurer" means the Treasurer of the University, appointed by the Board on such terms as it may prescribe;
- (xxv) "Sponsoring Body" means Grafton College of Management Sciences (Private) Limited;
- (xxvi) "Statutes", "Regulations" and "Rules" mean respectively the Statutes, the Regulations and the Rules made under this Bill and for the time being in force;
- (xxvii) "Teachers" include Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Lecturers engaged whole-time by the University or by a Constituent or Affiliated College or sub-campus visiting faculty, flying faculty, international faculty member as well, irrespective of their whole time engagement with the university and such other persons as may be declared to be teachers by the Regulations;
- (xxviii) "University" means the al-Biruni International University, established under the Bill; and
- (xxix) "Vice-Chancellor" means the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

CHAPTER-II
THE UNIVERSITY

3. Establishment and Incorporation of the University,—

- (1) There shall be established a university to be called al-Biruni International University, located at Islamabad, in the private sector, consisting of:
 - (i) the Patron, Chancellor, Pro Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, members of the Board, the Deans, the Teachers and such other officers and members of the staff as may be prescribed from time to time;
 - (ii) the members of such councils, committees, and other bodies as the Board may establish or authorize from time to time; and
 - (iii) the members of the faculties, departments and students of the Colleges, schools, and Institutes.
- (2) The University shall be a body corporate by the name of al-Biruni International University, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, among others, to acquire and hold property, and to lease, sell or otherwise transfer any movable and immovable property and investments, which may have become vested in or be acquired by it and shall by the said name sue and be sued.
- (3) The principal seat of the University shall be at Islamabad and it shall set up its campuses in Jhelum, Abbottabad, Gilgit, Gujar Khan including at all such places in Pakistan, and abroad, as the Board may determine from time to time.
- (4) 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.

- (5) All properties, rights and interests of whatever kind, used, enjoyed, possessed, owned or vested in, or held in trust by or for any of its Colleges shall pass to the University established under this Bill.

4. The Aims and Purposes of the University. – The University shall have the following aims and purposes:–

- (1) advancing knowledge, fostering critical thinking, and contributing to the betterment of society;
- (2) providing a holistic, student-centered educational experience that nurtures intellectual curiosity, personal growth, and professional development;
- (3) fostering an environment that promotes academic excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, research, innovation, and community engagement;
- (4) establishing a globally recognized institution of higher learning that empowers individuals to become future leaders, critical thinkers, and positive change-makers in a rapidly evolving world;
- (5) cultivating a diverse and inclusive community that values intellectual freedom, respect for different perspectives, and ethical conduct; and
- (6) collaborating with universities, colleges, institutes, schools, centers, private and public sector organizations, both nationally and internationally, to foster and facilitate academic exchange, joint research and other initiatives.

5. Powers and Functions of the University. —

- (1) The University shall have the power to deliver education and foster academic excellence in various fields of knowledge, as deemed appropriate, within its main campus, sub-campus, colleges and institutes. Additionally, it shall be empowered to facilitate research endeavours, engage in community service, and promote the practical implementation, progress, and dissemination of

knowledge through methods and guidelines in such manner as may be prescribed.

- (2) to provide for the establishment, management, teaching, training, curriculum development, examination procedures, and granting of certificates, diplomas, and degrees in the academic programs offered within the respective faculties and their related fields of knowledge, as specified or determined periodically by the Board. Additionally, the institution aims to provide a comprehensive range of programs spanning from introductory courses to advanced research levels across all recognized areas of study.
- (3) Provided that in case of fields such as Medicine, Engineering, Nursing, Allied Health, and other professional disciplines, obtaining approval from the appropriate Accreditation Councils is mandatory prior to undertaking any educational activities;
- (4) to admit and examine students;
- (5) to hold examinations and confer or award degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions on and to persons who have passed its examinations under prescribed conditions;
- (6) to establish and support such other facilities for education, training and research as prescribed;
- (7) to affiliate or associate itself with other institutions, colleges, schools, universities, centers in Pakistan or abroad for the effective discharge of its functions and responsibilities;
- (8) to decide teaching methodology and strategies to provide the most effective educational and training programs;

- (9) to use its financial and other resources to the fullest extent possible for the execution of its programs;
- (10) to enter into agreements, contracts and arrangements, with universities, schools, colleges, organizations, institutions, bodies and individuals for carrying out its functions and activities;
- (11) to provide such training and instruction for persons not being students of the University as it may prescribe, and to grant certificates and diplomas to such persons;
- (12) to institute programmes for the exchange of students and teachers between the University and other universities, educational institutions, centers and research organisations, inside and outside Pakistan;
- (13) to 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, nationally and internationally, as it may prescribe, and to withdraw such acceptance;
- (14) to co-operate with other universities, public authorities or private organisations, inside as well as outside Pakistan, in such manner and for such purposes as it may prescribe;
- (15) to start sandwich programs and split programs between domestic and international universities and to collaborate with other educational institutions in all academic matters;
- (16) to award an honorary degree in recognition of outstanding performance or other distinctions, awards, prizes etc. on any person on the recommendations of the Board;
- (17) to institute Professorships, Associate Professorships, Assistant Professorships and Lectureships and any other posts and to appoint persons thereto as prescribed;

- (18) to create posts for research, administration and other related purposes and to appoint persons thereto as prescribed;
- (19) 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;
- (20) to institute and award financial assistance to students, fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, medals and prizes under prescribed conditions;
- (21) to establish teaching departments, schools, colleges, faculties, institutes, and other centres of learning for the development of teaching and research and to arrange for their maintenance, management and administration as prescribed;
- (22) to establish, maintain, manage, regulate and administer Authorities of the University, Faculties, departments, Colleges; teaching hospitals, laboratories, organizations, bodies, trusts, and such other facilities as the Board may determine and approve from time to time;
- (23) to 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 lodging;
- (24) to maintain order, discipline and security on the campuses of the University, Colleges, schools, centres and facilities;
- (25) to promote extracurricular and recreational activities of students, and to make arrangements for promoting their health, safety and general welfare;
- (26) to fix, demand and receive such fees and other charges from the students as maybe determined by the Board from time to time;
- (27) to provide 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, nationally and internationally;

- (28) to enter into, carry out, vary or cancel contracts, memorandums and arrangements with other persons, institutions and organizations;
- (29) to 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 consider fit;
- (30) to print and publish research papers and other documents and get Intellectual Property Rights registered and protected under the relevant laws and to license the same;
- (31) to establish physical, virtual, online, blended learning and distance teaching methods of education and strategies to ensure the conduct of most effective educational and training programs in light of policy on the subject made by the Board; and
- (32) to do all such other acts and things, whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not, as may be requisite or expedient to further the objectives of the University as a place of education, learning, training and research.

6. **Jurisdiction.** –The principal seat of the University shall be at Islamabad, and it may set up any number of campuses and Colleges, at such places in Pakistan and offshore, as the Board may determine including Abbottabad, Jhelum, Gujar Khan and Gilgit.

7. **University open to all classes, creeds, etc.**– (1) the University shall be open to all persons of all genders 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.

8. **Teaching at the University.** – 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, online learning, and other methods of instruction as well as practical work in the laboratories, hospitals, workshops, centres, clinics and other governmental or private organizations as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III

PATRON AND OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

9. Patron.—

- (1) The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall be the Patron of the University.
- (2) The Patron shall, when present, preside at the convocation of the University or may authorize the Chancellor or any other person of eminence to preside over the convocation of the University.

10. Principal Officers. – The following shall be the principal officers of the University, namely:

- (a) the Chancellor;
- (b) the Pro Chancellor;
- (c) the Vice-chancellor;
- (d) the Deans;
- (e) the Registrar;
- (f) the Treasurer;
- (g) the Controller of Examinations; and
- (h) such other persons as prescribed by the Statutes, Regulations or Rules to be the principal officers of the University.

11. Chancellor.—

(1) The chairman for the time being of the Sponsoring Body shall be the Chancellor.

(2) The Chancellor shall preside at meetings at which business of the University is transacted.

(4) Visitation.—

(i) The Chancellor may, under the terms and procedures as prescribed, cause an inspection or inquiry to be made on the Chancellor's own motion regarding any matter connected with the affairs of the University and shall, from time to time, direct any person or persons to inquire into or inspect:

(a) the University, its building, laboratories, Colleges, institutes, schools, centers, libraries and other facilities;

(b) any institution, department or hostel maintained by the University;

(c) the adequacy of financial and human resources;

(d) the teaching, research, curriculum, examination and other matters of the University; and

(e) such other matters as the Chancellor may specify.

(ii) The Chancellor shall communicate to the Board the Chancellor's views with regards the result of visitation and shall, after ascertaining the views of the Board, advise the Vice Chancellor on the action to be taken.

(iii) The Vice Chancellor shall, within such time as specified by the Chancellor, communicate such action, if any, as has been taken or may be proposed to be taken upon the results of the visitation.

- (iv) Where the Board does not, within the time specified, act to the satisfaction of the Chancellor, the Chancellor may issue such directions as the Chancellor considers fit and the Board shall comply with all such directions.

12. Pro-Chancellor.—

- (1) The Pro-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor for such period and on such terms as the Chancellor may determine.
- (2) At any time when the office of Chancellor is vacant, or the Chancellor is absent or cannot perform the functions of his office due to any cause, the Pro-Chancellor shall act for him.
- (3) The Pro-Chancellor shall perform such other functions as entrusted to him by the Chancellor.

13. Vice Chancellor.—

- (1) The Vice Chancellor, who shall be an eminent academic or a distinguished administrator, shall be appointed by the Chancellor, for such period and on such terms and conditions, as the Chancellor may determine.
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the chief academic and administrative officer of the University and shall have overall responsibility for the direction, organization, administration and programmes of the University, under the guidelines and general policies formulated by the Board, and for implementing the decisions and policies of the Board.
- (3) Subject to approval of the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor may delegate such of his powers and functions under this Bill to such person as he may determine, including but not limited to, the academic and administrative affairs of the University. Every such person shall report and be responsible to the Vice Chancellor, who shall be responsible to the Chancellor.

- (4) The Vice Chancellor shall perform 'such other functions as may be entrusted to the Vice Chancellor by the Chancellor and exercise and perform such other powers and functions as may be prescribed.

14. Dean.—

- (1) There shall be a Dean of each Faculty who shall be in-charge of the faculty and assist the Vice Chancellor on the matters related to teaching, research, academic program, extension of other development projects, and perform 'such functions as may be entrusted to him by the Vice Chancellor or prescribed from time to time.
- (2) The Dean(s) shall be appointed by the Board on recommendation of the Vice Chancellor, on such terms as prescribed.

15. The Registrar. – There shall be a Registrar of the University, who shall be the administrative head of the secretariat of the University, appointed by the Chancellor on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, on such terms and to perform such functions as prescribed.

16. Treasurer.– There shall be a Treasurer of the University, who shall be its chief financial officer, to be appointed by the Chancellor on the recommendation of the Vice Chancellor, on such terms and with such functions and powers as prescribed.

17. Controller of Examinations. – There shall be a Controller of Examinations, to be appointed by the Chancellor on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

18. Board of Directors.— The Board of Directors shall be responsible for financial viability of the University including responsibility for ensuring effectiveness of its operations and their continuity including:

- (a) Providing strategic leadership and guidance to the University;
- (b) determining policy framework for investment of unapplied income of the University in securities and acquisition of immovable property; and
- (c) Performing such other functions as deemed necessary.

CHAPTER IV

AUTHORITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

19. Board of Governors :-

- (1) the general supervision and control of the affairs of the University, and the power to lay down the policies of the University shall rest in the Board of Governors, consisting of—
 - (a) the Chancellor, as its Chairman;
 - (b) the Pro Chancellor;
 - (c) the Vice Chancellor;
 - (d) Four (04) nominees of the Chancellor;
 - (e) Chairman Higher Education Commission or his nominee, not below the rank of BPS 20;
 - (f) Secretary Ministry of Education and Professional Training or his nominee;
 - (g) Four persons from civil society being persons of distinction in the fields of administration, management, industry, education, academics, law, accountancy, medicine, fine arts, architecture, agriculture, science, technology and engineering to be appointed by the Chairman;
 - (h) One member from Pakistan Bar Council, Pakistan Engineering Council, Pakistan Pharmacy Council; Pakistan Medical and Dental

Council, and others, as applicable and as may be determined by the Chairman;

- (i) Registrar - who shall be the secretary of the Board;
- (2) All the nominated / Non-ex officio members of the Board, shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment on the expiry of their term.
- (3) The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant if the member resigns or fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board without sufficient cause or leave of absence, or if his nomination is changed by the person nominating him.
- (4) The Board shall meet at least twice in a year on dates to be fixed by the Chairman provided that a special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman to consider any matter of urgent nature.
- (5) The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be one-third of its members, a fraction being counted as one.
- (6) The decisions of the Board shall be based on the majority vote of the members present and voting.
- (7) In case of equality of votes the Chairman of the Board shall have and exercise a casting vote
- (8) The Board shall lay down its own rules of procedure and may amend or modify them from time to time.
- (9) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (1), the Board shall exercise and perform the powers and functions hereinafter specified, namely:—
 - (a) to approve the proposed annual plan of work, the annual and revised budgets, the annual report and the annual statement of account;

- (b) to hold, control and lay down policy for the administration of the property, funds and investments of the University, including the approval of the sale and purchase or acquisition of immovable property;
- (c) to oversee the quality and relevance of the University's academic programmes and to review the academic affairs of the University in general;
- (e) to institute schemes, directions and guidelines for the terms and conditions of appointment of all officers, teachers and other employees of the University;
- (f) to approve strategic plans;
- (g) to approve establishment of sub-campuses, Colleges and affiliation of the Colleges.
- (h) to approve financial resource development plans of the University;
- (i) to consider the drafts of Statutes and Regulations proposed by the Academic Council and deal with them in the manner as provided for in sections 26 and 27, as the case may be;
- (j) to annul by order in writing the proceedings of any Authority or officer if the Board is satisfied that such proceedings are not in accordance with the provisions of the Bill, Statutes or Regulations after calling upon such Authority or officer to show cause why such proceedings should not be annulled;
- (k) to recommend to the Chancellor removal of any member of the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Bill;
- (l) to make appointment of members of the Academic Council, other than *ex officio* members;
- (m) to appoint Emeritus Professors on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed;

- (n) to remove any person from the membership of any Authority after giving such person an opportunity of being heard;
- (o) to determine the form, provide for the custody and regulate the use of the common seal of the University;
- (p) to accord approval with retrospective effect in cases of action taken or orders passed by the Chancellor or his designated officers; and
- (q) to take all such steps, measures, actions and initiatives as it may consider necessary or desirable for the efficient and effective management and functioning of the University.

21. Academic Council – The Academic Council shall consist of:-

- (a) The Vice Chancellor;
 - (b) All the Deans;
 - (c) All the Head of the Departments;
 - (d) Three Professors of the University to be nominated by the Chairman;
 - (e) Registrar;
 - (f) The Director Academics of the University, who will also act as the Secretary; and
 - (i) Such other person or persons as may be prescribed.
- (2) Members appointed by nomination shall hold office for three years
 - (3) The Academic Council shall meet at least twice in a year on dates as may be notified by the Vice Chancellor provided that a special meeting may be called at any time by the Vice Chancellor to consider any matter of urgent nature.
 - (4) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council shall be one-half of its members, a fraction being counted as one.
 - (5) The decisions of the Academic Council shall be based on the majority vote of the members present and voting.
 - (6) In case of equality of votes the Vice Chancellor shall have and exercise a casting vote.

22. Powers and duties of Academic Council:-

- (1) The Academic Council shall be the academic body of the University and shall by the statutes have the power to lay down proper standards of instruction research publication and examination and to regulate and promote the academic life of the University.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power and subject to the provisions of this Bill and the Statutes the Academic Council shall have the powers:-
 - a) to advise the Board on academic matters;
 - b) to regulate the conduct of teaching, research, publication and examinations;
 - c) to regulate the admission of students to the courses of studies and examinations in the University;
 - d) to regulate the conduct and discipline of the students of the University;
 - e) to propose to the Board schemes for the constitution and organization of faculties and teaching departments;
 - f) to consider or formulate proposals for the planning and development of teaching and research in the University;
 - g) to make Regulations prescribing the courses of studies, the syllabi and the outlines of tests for all University examinations subject to the approval of the Board;
 - h) to regulate the award of studentships, scholarships, exhibitions, medals and prizes; and
 - k) to perform such other functions as may be prescribed by Statutes.

23. Academic and administrative staff.—

- (1) The academic and administrative staff of the University shall be selected to achieve its stated objectives and the basic criteria for their selection shall be the highest standards of competence, integrity and efficiency.
- (2) The academic staff of the University shall enjoy freedom of expression in their research and educational work to achieve the objectives of the University.

24. University Fund, Audit and Accounts.—

- (1) The University shall have a Fund to which shall be credited its income from fees, donations, trusts, bequests, endowments, grants, contributions and any other sources and which shall be under the control of the Board.
- (2) Capital and recurrent expenditure of the University shall be met from out of the University Fund, contributions made by the Sponsoring Body and any other sources, including other foundations, universities and individuals, and from the income derived therefrom.
- (3) The accounts of the University shall be maintained in such form and manner as may be determined by the Board and shall be audited each year within four months of the closing of the financial year of the University by a firm of Chartered Accountants appointed by the Board.
- (4) The accounts, with the report of the auditor shall be submitted to the Board for approval.
- (5) The auditor's report shall certify that the auditor has complied with the standards of audit and certification laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan.

25. AUTHORITIES CREATED BY STATUTE.— The bodies created by Statute to perform such functions as may be prescribed by the Board, will include, inter alia, the following:

- (a) Board of Faculty
- (b) Board of Advanced Studies and Research
- (c) Selection Board
- (d) Board of Studies
- (e) Finance and Planning Committee

CHAPTER V

STATUTES, RULES AND REGULATIONS

25. Statutes.--

- (1) Subject to the provisions of the Ordinance, Statutes, to be published in the official Gazette, may be made to regulate or prescribe all or any of the following matters:—
- (a) the contents of and the manner in which the annual report to be presented by the Vice-Chancellor before the Board shall be prepared;
 - (b) the University fees and other charges;
 - (c) the constitution of any pension, insurance, gratuity, provident fund and benevolent fund for University employees;
 - (d) the scales of pay and other terms and conditions of service of officers, teachers and other University employees;
 - (e) the maintenance of the register of registered graduates;
 - (f) affiliation and disaffiliation of educational institutions and related matters;
 - (g) admission of educational institutions to the privileges of the University and the withdrawal of such privileges;
 - (h) the establishment of Faculties, departments, institutes, colleges and other academic divisions;
 - (i) the powers and duties of officers and teachers;

- (j) conditions under which the University may enter into arrangements with other institutions or with public bodies for purposes of research and advisory services;
 - (k) conditions for appointment of Emeritus Professors and award of honorary degrees;
 - (l) efficiency and discipline of University employees;
 - (m) the constitution and procedure to be followed by Representation Committees in carrying out functions in terms of this Ordinance;
 - (n) the constitution and procedure to be followed by the Search Committee for appointment of the Vice Chancellor;
 - (o) constitution, functions and powers of the Authorities of the University; and
 - (p) all other matters which by this Ordinance are to be or may be prescribed or regulated by Statutes.
- (2) The draft of Statutes shall be proposed by the Board to the Board which may approve or pass with such modifications as the Board may think fit or may refer back to the Board, as the case may be, for reconsideration of the proposed draft:

Provided that Statutes concerning any of the matters mentioned in clauses (a) and (l) of subsection (1) shall be initiated and approved by the Board, after seeking the views of the Board:

Provided further that the Board may initiate a Statute with respect to any matter in its power or with respect to which a Statute may be framed in terms of the Ordinance and approve such Statute after seeking the views of the Board.

26. Regulations.--

- (1) Subject to the provisions of the Ordinance and the Statutes, the Academic

Council may make Regulations, to be published in the official Gazette, for all or any of the following matters:—

- (a) the courses of study for degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University;
 - (b) the manner in which the teaching referred to in sub-section (1) of section 6 shall be organized and conducted;
 - (c) the admission and expulsion of students to and from the University;
 - (d) the conditions under which students shall be admitted to the courses and the examinations of the University and shall become eligible for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates;
 - (e) the conduct of examinations;
 - (f) conditions under which a person may carry on independent research to entitle him to a degree;
 - (g) the institution of fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, medals and prizes;
 - (h) the use of the Library;
 - (i) the formation of Faculties, departments and board of studies; and
 - (j) all other matters which by the Ordinance or the Statutes are to be or may be prescribed by Regulations.
- (2) Regulations shall be proposed by the Academic Council and shall be submitted to the Board which may approve them or withhold approval or refer them back to the Academic Council for reconsideration. A Regulation proposed by the Academic Council shall not be effective unless it receives the approval of the Board.
- (3) Regulations regarding or incidental to matters contained in sub-clauses (g) and (i) shall not be submitted to the Board without the prior approval of the Board.

27. **Amendment and repeal of Statutes and Regulations.**— The procedure for adding to, amending or repealing the Statutes and the Regulations shall be the same as that prescribed respectively for framing or making Statutes and Regulations.

28. **Rules.**—

- (1) The Authorities and the other bodies of the University may make Rules, to be published in the official Gazette, consistent with the Ordinance, Statutes or the Regulations, to regulate any matter relating to the affairs of the University which has not been provided for by the Ordinance or that is not required to be regulated by Statutes or Regulations, including rules to regulate the conduct of business and the time and place of meetings and related matters.
- (2) Rules shall become effective upon approval by the Board.

CHAPTER VI GENERAL PROVISIONS

26. **Indemnity and bar of jurisdiction.**—

- (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person or authority for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Bill.
- (2) No decision taken, or act or thing done, by the Chancellor or the Board shall be called in question before any Court or other authority.

27. **Bill to override other laws.**— This Bill shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force.

28. **Removal of difficulties.**—

- (1) If any question arises as to the interpretation of any of the provisions of this Bill, it shall be placed before the Chancellor whose decision thereon shall be final.

- (2) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provision of this Bill, the Chancellor may make such order, not-inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill, as may appear to the Chancellor to be necessary for removing the difficulty.
- (3) Where this Bill makes any provision for anything to be done but no provision or no sufficient provision has been made as respects the authority of whom, or the time at which, or the manner in which, it shall be done, then, it shall be done by such authority, at such time, or in such manner as the Chancellor may direct.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill is to provide for establishment of the al-Biruni International University, Islamabad in the Private Sector. The Principal seat of the University shall be at Islamabad and it shall set up its campuses in Jhelum, Abbottabad, Gilgit, Gujjar Khan including at all such places in Pakistan and abroad as the Board of the University may determine from time to time. The purposes of the University inter-alia shall be advancing knowledge, fostering critical thinking and contributing to the betterment of society.

The Bill is designed to achieve the abovementioned objectives.


(Dr. Zulfikar Ali Bhatti)

Member National Assembly