UNIVERSITTY OF MUMBAI

Press Note

Date – 25th November, 2014

MU pushes for National Academic Depository to serve online degrees, Marksheets

Mumbai – University of Mumbai to start National Academic Depository (NAD) to maintain national level database of all academic qualifications. First University in India took the major initiative in the academic system. Students of MU can obtain Marksheets and degrees from this electronic database.MU will serve this system from the second half examination and fully fledged implementation will be from next academic year 2014-15. NAD will facilitate online verification and easy retrieval of academic records thereby removing the need to physically approach the educational institutions to obtain attestations / transcripts of certificates. Database deals with issues of forged certificates since it enables online verification. Decided in today's Management Council.

Academic Database of University of Mumbai with NAD

It is proposed to secure academic records of University of Mumbai in National Academic Depository.

The aims and objectives are:

1.   To participate with National Academic Depository.

2.   To develop database of academic records and secure academic records in electronic form.

3.   To provide interface for verification of academic records of the candidates to the employers and other academic intuitions on the consent of the candidate.

4.   Curbing the attempts of fake academic certificates such as mark sheets and convocation certificates as the certificates can be verified from the depository.

5.   Issue of digitally signed mark sheets and other academic certificates.

6.   Allowing other Universities and Boards to verify records of the candidate seeking admission for higher studies. That will eliminate the delay in Eligibility Checking process. The candidate may request to send the verified records.

7. Eliminating printing of physical mark sheets at University and authorize digitally signed mark sheets printed from the website (depository) for all purposes such as further studies or employment.

8. The mark sheet shall be designed with watermark and print securities and can be printed anywhere by the candidates or authorised persons/ institutions.

9. Convocation Certificates will be printed with various securities and the images shall be stored on depository along with database of convocation awards.

10. The depository can be assessed by the candidate with due authorization such as login password for printing his mark sheet or authenticated digitally signed image of convocation certificate.

11. Account, mapping and dematting of academic certificates of a candidate in one account.

12. This will eliminate delay in issuance of conventional paper printed mark sheets and enhance security against forgery.

13. The academic records can be linked with Unique ID *(Adhaar Card)* being issued by central Government.

14. Dematting of Marksheets will be an appreciable initiative towards combating malpractices and contribution towards green technology and sustainable development which is the main area to proliferate by 2020.

The process:

1) After declaration of result, the result data shall be uploaded on NAD by authorised officer in the predetermined database format.

2) The data will be digitally signed.

3) The mark sheet generated from the data shall be verified and permission will be granted to publish it.

4) The candidates can download and print their mark sheet from the link provided on the web site of University of Mumbai. The mark sheet will bear encrypted digital signature of controller of examination. (As per IT Act digitally signed documents and soft copies are valid for all purposes)

5) Verification

a) Any verifying agency can verify the academic records of the candidate by paying required fees with consent of the candidate. The consent can be obtained by automatic email to the candidate with details of verifying agency.

b)   The candidate can apply for verification of academic record for the verifying agency with its details. The verifying agency shall be sent verification report on email from the system.

Share of the fees as decided shall be transferred automatically to CDSL towards the cost of maintaining database.

6)   Convocation Certificates.

a)   The convocation certificates shall be printed as usual and the image of each certificate shall be uploaded on the NAD.

b)   The candidate or the verifier can obtain the authentic print of the convocation certificate by the procedure mentioned at SN 5.

How will NAD help?

- Students can use the NAD database for duplicate certificates, attested copies.

- All academic details of students will be mapped onto one list.

- Academic details of a student from different states, universities to also be available on same page.

- Employers carrying out verification of certificates will have to pay one-time registration fee.

- Print-out of every award will have a unique 2D barcode.

- Employers can also verify print-out of documents by scanning the barcode.

- If there has been any tampering of data, barcode scan will show authentic details.

How will NAD work?

Education boards, schools, colleges will register students and link their certificates.

- Registration of students will be done after verification of proof of identity.

- Centre will appoint a depository as National Academic Depository to establish the database.

Unlike the original draft, the present government has done away with private agents. The government will bear the costs of setting up the hardware and software to manage the National Academic Depository. Students will not have to pay extra to access the database.

Quote- Dr.Rajan Welukar,Vice-Chancellor,University of Mumbai

("Security and authenticity of Mark sheet and degree certificates is a prime important in competitive world today. Education has to learn to integrate high end security processes adopted by businesses.")

Leeladhar Bansod,Deputy Registrar (PR)