

Now, it's UGC that faces plagiarism charge

Curriculum framework copied: union

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Large sections of the University Grants Commission's draft curriculum framework for its new four-year undergraduate (UG) programme have been plagiarised word-for-word from guidelines published by the University of Michigan and the University of Arizona, according to an analysis by the Democratic Teachers' Front, a Left-affiliated Delhi University faculty association.

"It is indeed shocking that the UGC Draft Curriculum Framework and Credit System for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) stacks plagiarised phrases and sentences as motivation for different kinds of courses to be offered under FYUP," the DTF said, in its feedback on the regulations submitted to the UGC on Monday.

The UGC's Chairperson and Secretary did not respond to *The Hindu's* queries regarding the allegations of plagiarism.

"Borrowed ideas, divorced from the ground realities and real needs of our education system, cannot result in the reforms that will be an improvement on our present system," said Abha Dev Habib, DTF secretary and member of the physics faculty at Miranda House.

She noted that the draft UGC document does not make any reference to the sources used to draw the framework.

Para on courses

For instance, the UGC draft included a paragraph on the introductory courses to be taken by all students in the first three semesters. "The courses relating to these areas of learning aim at in-



The UGC has allegedly plagiarised sentences for the FYUP. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

still an understanding and an appreciation of all main areas of learning. Though students are not required to master all areas in detail, they are expected to develop a coherent view of essential concepts, structures, and intellectual methods that characterise each of these areas of learning," it said.

The University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA) has a very similar paragraph on its webpage regarding course requirements. "LSA seeks to instill an understanding and an appreciation of all major areas of learning. Students are not expected to master all areas in detail, but they should develop a coherent view of essential concepts, structures, and intellectual methods that typify these disciplines," it said.

Other sections of the UGC framework describing courses on mathematics, natural sciences, creative expression and interdisciplinary courses are also similar to content on the LSA's website, while other paragraphs have been copied from the University of Arizona's academic policy documents.

The UGC released the draft curricular framework on March 17.