

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE AND ACADEMIC STAFF UGC panel to look into regulation on minimum qualification for teachers

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THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a five-member committee to look into a regulation on minimum qualification for university, college teachers and other academic staff. Former Himachal Pradesh University Vice Chancellor Sunil Kumar Gupta-led panel was notified on Friday following the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry's direction to amend the regulation.

The UGC's new regulations notified in July 2016 for maintenance of standards had triggering protests. The regulations included increase of two-hour workload with tutorials being taken away from the ambit of

teaching hours. They prescribed stringent rules for calculation of Academic Performance Indicators for promotion of teachers.

Then HRD Minister Smriti Irani had assured the teachers that the workload will remain unchanged following protests across the country.

Some teachers are concerned over the panel's constitution especially when the Seventh Pay Commission is to be implemented. "With the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission, service conditions of teachers will change. So why is this being reviewed now," said Delhi University's political science teacher Rajesh Jha. "Either this is to delay the implementation of the pay commission or to create chaos which is already existing."