



**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON
BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 4TH JANUARY, 2008 AT 11.00
A.M. IN THE UGC OFFICE**

The 14th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on 04.01.2008 at 11.00 a.m. in the UGC Office.

The following attended the meeting:

1. Prof.Sukhadeo Thorat
Chairman, UGC
2. Prof.Mool Chand Sharma
Vice Chairman, UGC
3. Prof.P.Rama Rao
Flat No. 301,
Naimisum, Plot No.22,
Tri Nagar Colony,
Hyderabad - 500 073
4. Prof.Goverdhan Mehta
Hon.Prof. & CSIR
Bhatnagar Fellow
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012
5. Dr.Kota Harinarayan
Raja Ramana Fellow
Structure Division
National Aerospace Laboratories
Bangalore - 560 017
6. Prof.S.P.Thyagarajan
#, 1st Main Road,
Nehru Nagar, Adyar,
Chennai - 600 020
7. Dr.(Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal
Joint Secretary, UGC

8. Mrs.Parbati Bose
Under Secretary, UGC

Prof. M.M. Sharma could not attend the meeting. In his absence, Prof. P. Rama Rao chaired the meeting.

After the initial welcome remarks by the Chairman, the agenda items were then taken up one by one.

Item No.1:- Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 20.11.2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 20.11.2007 were confirmed.

Item No.2:- Action taken on the minutes

The Committee noted with appreciation the action taken by the UGC on the minutes of the last meeting of the Empowered Committee.

Item No.3:- Information received with regard to strengthening of infrastructure in non-SAP Science Departments in Universities

The committee recommended an infrastructural grant of Rs.10-25 lacs to each non-SAP Departments in Sciences, Bio-Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Science. The following criterion was laid down for deciding the grant in terms of full time faculty in the university department (excluding faculty in affiliated colleges and distance education), publication of the faculty (of the department) in journals, and the Ph.Ds produced by the University under regular mode.

Faculty	Publications in last 5 years	Ph.D's produced in last 5 years	Infrastructural grant recommended (amt. in Rs.)
5 & above	25	10 & above	10 lacs
10 & above	50	20 & above	15 lacs
15 & above	75	25 & above	25 lacs

The committee decided that all the universities may be requested to furnish the information with regard to the above parameters to enable the UGC to implement this recommendation. The letter may also be posted on the UGC website for wider circulation. On receipt of the information from the universities, the grant may be released to the departments based on criterion laid down in the above table.

Item No.4:- To finalize the list of referees in 6 major areas for the scheme of "Dr. D.S. Kothari" Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

The Committee desired that a hyperlink in the UGC website shall be provided for Prof. D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship. Similarly, a hyperlink may be provided in the Prof. D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship scheme for the UGC website. The committee suggested that it should be clearly indicated in the UGC website that the fellowships are open internationally, particularly to neighbouring countries. The committee recommended that bridging fellowship should be a part of the programme from the very beginning. The committee was of the opinion that there shall be a formal launch of the website for Prof. D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship for generic Visibility. The committee felt that since it is a premier fellowship being launched for the first time by the organization like UGC through an independent agency in an electronic mode which is completely paper less, it deserves national visibility to enable more and more meritorious students to make use of it.

The Empowered Committee approved the list of the referees sent by Prof. Gadre in various subjects. The members were authorized to suggest additional names to Prof. Gadre in due course of time.

Item No.5 :- List of Non-SAP departments based on the numbers of Ph.D's produced.

The committee recommended that information may be obtained from the non-SAP Science Departments in Sciences, Bio-Sciences, Agricultural Science and Engineering Sciences as indicated in item no.3 above and the JRFs may be allocated to these departments as per the following criterion:-

Faculty	Publications in last 5 years	Ph.D's produced in last 5 years	JRFs allocated
5 & above	25	10 & above	2
10 & above	50	20 & above	3
15 & above	75	25 & above	5

Item No.6 :- To consider the appointment of Prof. R.P. Gandhi as consultant and the budget received

The committee approved the appointment of Prof. R.P. Gandhi as Consultant for implementing the scheme of "Operation Faculty Recharge" alongwith the budget of Rs.1.02 Crores, suggested by him for implementing of the project. The committee proposed that Prof. Gandhi may be invited for discussions with the Empowered Committee to deliberate upon various issues involved in implementing the scheme. In the meantime, the possibility of getting space in INSA may be explored. The committee mentioned that in case space is not available in INSA, the possibility may be explored in other universities.

The committee felt that the UGC should take necessary steps to sensitize the universities to absorb the faculty recruited under the scheme. The committee felt that the scheme of "Operational Faculty Recharge" shall be widely advertised in the newspapers and scientific journals for a global visibility.

Item No.7 :- To consider revised proposals received for establishment of Net-working / Summer-Winter School

The Committee considered the revised proposals received from various departments for establishment of networking resource centre including summer and winter schools. The committee selected four departments for establishing the networking centres. The selected departments and the grant recommended by the Empowered Committee is given below:-

S.No.	Name of the Department	Grant recommended by the Empowered Committee (Amt. in Rs.)
1	School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	10.00 crores
2	Institute of Radio Physics & Electronics, University of Calcutta, Kolkata	5.00 crores
3	School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad	10.00 crores
4	School of Biological Sciences, Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai.	10.00 crores

The Committee indicated the following activities which shall be performed by the proposed networking centres.

1. Research, training and skills development of the faculty and research scholars through periodic discussion, workshop and summer / winter schools.
2. Capacity building by adopting faculty and departments for augmenting their research skills and to mentor them.
3. Hosting and facilitating researcher from other institutes / universities to carryout key experiments.

4. Augmentation of information resource facility of the department to provide quality research information to other institutes / researchers.
5. To enhance and build state of the art in-house research infrastructure and other research facilities in the department.

The committee desired that the above four departments may be called in the next meeting of the Empowered Committee for discussions after which 50% of the amount indicated above may be released to them.

The committee also desired that the following six departments may be called for presentation before the Expert Committee to consider their proposals for establishment of networking centres in Material Engineering and Geology.

Department of Materials Engineering

1. Indian Institute of Science Bangalore,
2. Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar
3. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Department of Geology

1. Jadavpur University, Kolkata
2. University of Delhi, Delhi
3. Punjab University, Chandigarh

Item No.8 :- To prepare agenda for joint meeting fixed to February 6, 2008 at 11.00 a.m. in the UGC of UGC-CSIR for formal linkages

The committee noted that the joint meeting of the UGC-CSIR would be held on 6th February, 2008 at 11.00 a.m. in the UGC office, New Delhi. The committee recommended that the joint committee shall be treated like an empowered joint council with an authorization to approve and sanction grants.

Item No.9:- Budget for M.M. Sharma Committee

The allocation of budget for the Empowered Committee with further distribution to Central University, State Universities and Deemed Universities was discussed with the Chairman, UGC. It was recalled that a sum of Rs.205.00 crores was allocated to the Empowered Committee for the year 2007-08, for augmenting the research and advanced studies in the universities. The Empowered Committee had accordingly taken several decisions considering the sum of Rs.205.00 crores as the total allocation. The Chairman, UGC agreed that this indeed was the position and sources from which the amount of Rs.205.00 crores are drawn need not be the concern of the committee. This would be an in-house exercise to be taken by the UGC. Any difficulty in this regard will be resolved by the UGC internally.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on February 5, 2008 at 11.00 a.m in the UGC Office
The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 8TH October, 2007 AT 10 AM IN THE UGC OFFICE.**

The Twelfth meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research in universities under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was held on 8th October, 2007 at 10 A.M. in the UGC Office, New Delhi. The following attended the meeting:

1. Prof Sukhadeo Thorat
Chairman, UGC.
2. Prof. Mool Chand Sharma
Vice Chairman, UGC.
3. Prof. M.M. Sharma
3, Jaswant Baugh
Behind Akbar Allya
V.N. Purav Marg
Chambder Nake
Mumbai-400 071.
4. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta
Hon. Prof. &CSIR
Bhatnagar Fellow
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore-560 012.
5. Dr. Kota Harinarayan
Raja Ramana Fellow
Structure Division
National Aerospace Laboratories
Bangalore-560 017.
- 6.. Prof. P. Rama Rao
Flat No.301
Naimisum, Plot No.22,
Tri Nagar Colony
Hydeabad-500 073.
7. Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan
#, 1st Main Road
Nehru Nagar, Adyar
Chennai-600 020.
8. Dr.(Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal
Joint Secretary, UGC.

9. Ms. Parbati Bose
Under Secretary, UGC.

At the outset, Prof. M.M. Sharma welcomed the members. He requested the Chairman, UGC to expedite the Creation of an Empowered Cell in the UGC to implement the recommendations of the Empowered Committee. The Chairman, UGC assured Prof. Sharma that a Cell would be created in UGC at the earliest.

The Empowered Committee suggested that the schemes floated by the UGC on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee may be posted on the UGC website and their status may continuously be updated. The UGC website should have a hyperlink to M.M. Sharma committee's recommendations & the status of implementation.

The Committee also recommended that the status of recommendations of the Empowered Committee may be apprised to the vice chancellors in the forthcoming National Conference of Vice Chancellors to be held on October 10-11, 2007. A copy of the status note to be circulated in the Conference as approved by the Empowered Committee is enclosed as Annexure-I.

The Agenda items were then taken up one by one. The following was recommended:-

1. **Item No.1:- Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September, 2007.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3.9.2007 were confirmed:

2. **.Item No.2:-Action taken on the minutes.**

The committee noted the action taken on each point and appreciated the efforts made by the UGC in this regard.

3. **Item No.3:-Information received with regard to Science Departments in the Colleges of Potential for Excellence.**

It was decided that Rs.5 lakhs each may be released to each science departments in Colleges with Potential for Excellence for development of infrastructure in terms of power supply, water supply, safety equipments, laboratory working table and upgradation of laboratory.

- Item No.4:-Information received with regard to Establishment of UGC Networking/ Winter - Summer Schools.**

The Committee felt that instead of clubbing the Networking and the Summer-Winter Schools, the committee in the first instance may select the departments who have the capacity to establish Networking Centres and then request them to hold Summer-Winter Schools as one of the activities.

The Empowered Committee carefully went through the 81 proposals received under the scheme and selected the following CAS departments for inviting detailed proposal & subsequently for presentation before the Empowered Committee. The guidelines for inviting detailed proposals are enclosed. The Empowered Committee chose five subjects viz. Physics, Chemistry, Life Sciences, Material Sciences & Engineering and Geology to be considered under the programme. The list of universities along with the name of department in each case is indicated below:

Sl.No	Subject	Name of the Department & the University
1	Physics	Deptt. of Physics, Andhra University Deptt. of Physics, Banaras Hindu University Deptt. of Radio-Physics University of Calcutta
2	Chemistry	Deptt. of Chemistry, Hyderabad University Deptt. of Chemistry, Jadavpur University Deptt. of Chemistry, Panjab University
3	Life Science	Deptt. of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University Deptt. of Biochemistry, Microbiology, Cell Biology, Molecular Reproduction, Development & Genetics, Molecular Bio-Physics, Indian Institute of Sciences Deptt. of Biological Sciences, Madurai Kamraj University
4	Material Sciences & Engineering	Deptt. of Material Sciences & Engg. Sardar Patel University Deptt. of Material Sciences & Engg. Banaras Hindu University
5	Geology	Deptt. of Geology, Jadavpur University Deptt. of Geology, Delhi University Deptt. of Geology, Panjab University

The Committee further suggested that in the first instance only three subjects viz. Physics, Chemistry and Life Sciences may be considered.

The Committee also recommended that the Vice-Chancellor, NEHU may be requested to send a proposal in Life Sciences rather than Botany.

Item No.5:Information received with regard to Strengthening of infrastructure in DSA/CAS department of UGC approved SAP departments.

The Committee after examining the statement of utilization certificate received from various universities and the proposals received for the next installment of grant recommended to allocate a grant of upto Rs.30 lakhs to each of the departments who have fully utilized the earlier grant of Rs.20 lakhs. The grant may be given for the infrastructural development as per the request received from each university.

Item No.6:-Information received with regard to strengthening of infrastructure in non-SAP Science Departments in universities.

The item was deferred.

The committee further recommended as under:

NAAC may be requested to send a list of A+ accredited colleges running PG courses in Sciences for consideration of the Committee. A letter in this regard may be sent to the Director, NAAC.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee on November 20, 2007 at 11.00 A.M. in the UGC Office.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.