

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON
BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 4th & 5th December, 2008 AT 11.30
A.M. AND 9.30 A.M. IN THE UGC OFFICE**

The 22nd meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on 4th & 5th December, 2008 at 11.30 A.M. & 9.30 A.M. in the UGC Office. The following attended the meeting:

1. Prof. M.M. Sharma
3, Jaswant Baugh (Runwal Park)
Behind Akbarallys
V.N. Purav Marg, Chembur Naka
Mumbai – 400 071
2. Prof.Goverdhan Mehta
Hon.Prof. & CSIR
Bhatnagar Fellow
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012
3. Prof.P.Rama Rao
Flat No. 301,
Naimisum, Plot No.22,
Tri Nagar Colony,
Hyderabad - 500 073
4. Prof. Kota Harinarayan
Raja Ramana Fellow
Structure Division
National Aerospace Laboratories
Bangalore-560 017.
5. Prof.S.P.Thyagarajan
#5, 1st Main Road,
Nehru Nagar, Adyar,
Chennai - 600 020
6. Mr. A.K. Dogra
Joint Secretary, UGC
7. Parbati Bose
Under Secretary, UGC

Prof. S.K. Thorat, Chairman, UGC and Prof. Mool Chand Sharma, Vice-Chairman, UGC could not attend the meeting.

In the introductory remarks, Dr. M.M. Sharma, Chairman of the Committee and all the members have remarked that BSR initiatives are the most pro-active type of research support to universities and colleges. It is to be stressed at every level of implementation of these programmes to see that the fellowships and grants are effectively utilized so that there is a quantum jump in the quality and quantity of Ph.D.s produced from our universities. The Chairman also mentioned that the colleges which have received the infrastructure grants seem to have quickly and effectively utilized the grants rather than the CAS/DSA departments.

Then the Committee started the interface meeting in batches. The first batch consisted of the CAS/DSA/DRS departments. The following departments participated in the interface meeting:

i) CAS/DSA

1. Bio Chemistry, Calcutta University.
2. Mechanical Engineering, Andhra University.
3. Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Anna University.
4. Chemistry, Burdwan University.
5. Marine Science, Cochin University of Science & Technology
6. Zoology, M.S. University of Baroda
7. Astronomy, Osmania University
8. Botany, North Eastern Hill University

ii) DRS

1. Physics, Barkatullah University
2. Physics, Jammu University
3. Chemistry, Utkal University

The second batch included the following Non-SAP Science Departments:

iii) Non-SAP

1. Chemistry, Bhavnagar University

2. Marine Science, Goa University
3. Microbiology, Gulbarga University
4. Botany, Magadh University
5. Life Science, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University
6. Behavioral Science, Mahatma Gandhi University
7. Environmental Science, University of Kalyani
8. Bio-chemistry, Sri Krishnadevaraya University
9. Chemical Technology, North Maharashtra University

The third batch consisted of Colleges with Potential of Excellence and the Autonomous Colleges as mentioned below:

iv) Autonomous Colleges

1. S.N. Govt. Girls P.G. College, Bhopal
2. PSGR Krishnamal College for Women, Coimbatore
3. Banki College, Cuttack
4. Govt. Science College, Raipur (CG)

v) College with Potential for Excellence

1. Nizam College (Osmania University), Hyderabad
2. Cotton College (Gauhati University)
3. St. Xavier College (Ranchi University)
4. Jyothi Niwas College (Bangalore University)
5. Farook College (Calicut University)
6. Kulbhasker Ashram Degree P.G. College (Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University).

In addition to the above as per the earlier decision of the Committee and UGC, the Members of Empowered Committee visited certain University Departments and CPE Colleges as per the list given below:

1. Prof. P. Rama Rao (**Report at Annexure-I**)
 - (i) Department of Physics, Osmania University, Hyderabad

- (ii) Nizam College, Hyderabad
- 2. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta
 - (i) St. Joseph's College, Bangalore
 - (ii) Jyoti Niwas College, Bangalore
- 3. Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan (**Report at Annexure-II**)
 - (i) Loyola College, Chennai
 - (ii) Lady Doak College, Madurai
- 4. Prof. Kota Harinarayan
 - (i) Christ College, Bangalore
 - (ii) Department of Zoology, University of Mysore, Mysore

04.12.2008

Based on the visits made by the Empowered Committee Members as well as the interactions held with the above three batches of Departments and Colleges called for, the Committee made the following observations:

1. All the recipients of the infrastructure grant have expressed their satisfaction and gratitude to UGC and the Committee for having provided this very essential support for strengthening infrastructure which is not available to them either from their universities or any other source.
2. Overall the DRS departments and the colleges have utilized the grants provided to them quickly and submitted the Utilisation Certificates in time rather than the CAS/DSA Departments.
3. While the nature of utilization of the infrastructure grant is satisfactory to the level of expectations in both the university departments and colleges, appointment of candidates for the meritorious fellowships provided has not been carried out in a time bound manner in view of the different norms and guidelines followed by the various universities. Hence, the Committee recommends that the fellowships provided under this BSR scheme are for those who are selected for registering to the Ph.D. programme of the university through a procedure outlined already in the UGC notification by a regular admission procedure. The registration for Ph.D. may follow after the admissions. If the university has clearly followed the UGC norms for Ph.D. admission, these fellowships can be provided to those who are

already admitted and not having any stipend or fellowship in their respective departments.

4. The grants for the research fellowships will be released by UGC only after the joining report of the candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme is duly forwarded to UGC with attention to Sh. A.K. Dogra/Ms. Parbati Bose.

Based on all the interactions and deliberations, a revised guidelines has been formulated for the release of their second and third installment of infrastructure grant to the university departments and colleges as mentioned below:

Guidelines to the university departments and colleges who would receive 2nd and 3rd installment of infrastructure grant under the BSR scheme.

1. The second/third installment of infrastructure grant to CAS/DSA departments of universities is Rs.30.00 lakh per department in addition to Rs.50 lakh already released thereby making Rs.80 lakh to each of DSA/CAS department.
2. The second/third installment grant to CPE colleges would be Rs.6.00 lakh per each Science department of that CPE college in addition to Rs.5 lakh for each science department already released thereby making Rs.11 lakh for each science department.. It is to be noted that this grant of Rs.6.00 lakh is for the department and not for each of the UG/PG programmes offered by a single department.
3. The second installment grant to the Autonomous Colleges would be Rs.20.00 lakh per college in addition to Rs.10 lakh already released for per Autonomous college thereby making Rs. 30 lakh for each Autonomous college.
4. The next installment for DRS departments of universities would be Rs.20.00 lakh per department in addition to Rs.20 lakh already released thereby making Rs.40 lakh for each DRS department..
5. Out of the grants received, the university departments and the colleges can utilize upto 5% of the grants released for offering UG and PG students/ projects during the course period to be selected on a merit based defined process. To motivate the research culture among students,

selected students could be provided with a "Project Grant" of Rs.3000/- per student and a stipend of Rs.2000/- per student. The period of such project shall be 6-8 weeks.

6. This grant is to be released only to those departments which have submitted (a) the report on infrastructure development that were carried out with the earlier installment (b) the U.C. for the grant received (c) the statement of requirements for the next installment.
7. The second/third installment grant cannot be used for (a) repair of toilets (b) repair of faculty rooms (c) meeting recurrent expenditures like telephone charges for internet connectivity, and other consumables for meeting day-to-day functioning of the department (d) water facilities for the department.
8. The present installment is to be exclusively devoted for augmenting teaching-learning requirements and upgradation of laboratory and research infrastructure.

05.12.2008

After welcoming the committee members, Prof. M.M. Sharma took up the agenda Items one-by-one:-

Item No. 1 :- Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September, 2008

The minutes of the 21st meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 15th September, 2008 were confirmed.

Item No.2:- Action taken on the minutes

The Committee noted with satisfaction the action taken by the UGC.

Item No.3:- Presentation for Networking Centre by the following two Departments:

1. **Pharmaceutical Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh**
2. **Division of Biological Science, IISc., Bangalore**

- (i) After the presentation of the proposal, the Committee clarified several aspects of implementation of the networking programme while appreciating the strength of the Pharmaceutical Science Department of

Panjab University. The Committee also highlighted the thrust areas of the programme and advised the Department to revise the proposal in the light of those thrust areas. It was advised that they would submit the revised proposal with a total budget requirement of Rs.5.00 crores for five years.

- (ii) The Committee after having the detailed discussions with the Department of Division of Biological Science, IISc, Bangalore and recommended a Networking Centre in Biological Science with a budget of Rs.10.00 crores for five years.

Item No.4:- Letter received from V.C., JNU with regard to “Operation Faculty Recharge”.

The Committee recommended as under:

- (i) Shri Avias Ahmed who will be superannuating as Registrar, JNU on 31.01.2009 can be made as Officer on Special Duty for the scheme of “Operation Faculty Recharge” as suggested by Vice-Chancellor, JNU.
- (ii) The honorarium for Mr. Avias Ahmed is recommended as Rs.25,000/- p.m. The Committee also noted the revision of the honorarium which can be taken after UGC implements the Pay Commission recommendations.
- (iii) The duties and responsibilities of OSD appointed under this scheme shall be to assist the National Coordinator, Prof. R.P. Gandhi, for the smooth coordination and operation of the “Operation Faculty Recharge” programme of UGC.

Item No.5:- Minutes of the meeting of the UGC Expert Committee to prepare the “Scheme for Cluster of Colleges” held on 15th May, 2008.

Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan, Chairman of the UGC Expert Committee on “Scheme for Cluster of Colleges” presented the summary of the recommendations of that UGC Committee. After deliberations, Empowered Committee recommended that since this scheme has close connection with the building up of faculty strength in the university system as well as optimal views of infrastructure, it was felt that this scheme can be called as “Networking Scheme for Cluster of Colleges”. Under this category, it was recommended that to test the feasibility and logistics of implementing the scheme as recommended by Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan’s Committee, a pilot programme may be launched in two states with one cluster each in Assam and Madhya Pradesh. The Assam Cluster may be based at Guwahati linking with five other colleges and similarly in Madhya Pradesh, the Cluster can be around the city of Bhopal with a similar number of colleges. It was also recommended that a grant of Rs.1.00 crore can be sanctioned for Cluster to begin with.

The guidelines for operating this scheme shall be as follows:-

1. The colleges to be identified for joining the clusters could be a combination of Government/Government-aided colleges and those included under 2(f) and 12(b) of the UGC Act, 1956.
2. The area restriction for forming the clusters is recommended to 20-30 Kms so that sharing of laboratories and other infrastructure would be feasible.
3. The issue of including PG courses or both UG & PG courses into these cluster of colleges is to be left to the universities which come up with the proposal.
4. The administrative structure for each of the cluster will be specified in the scheme and the same should be acceptable to concerned State Government/University.
5. The financial assistance to each cluster is suggested as under:-

A. Non-Recuring:

- a) College Instrumentation Centre with equipments & required furniture.
- b) IT-Networking of the colleges forming the cluster.
- c) Automation of the library.
- d) A common Placement Cell to each cluster.
- e) A common administrative cell for each cluster of college.

B. Recuring:

- a) One lecturer per each of the colleges of the cluster on contractual basis.
- b) Book Bank facility without overlap of the titles.
- c) Consumables & contingencies.
- d) Travel for faculty & students of the cluster.
- e) Joint seminars/workshops.
- f) Collaborative extension projects.
- g) Joint Sports & Athletic programmes.

Other recommendations of the Committee:

1. The proposed document prepared by Dr. Goverdhan Mehta on UGC Scheme ENCORE was discussed by the Committee and found to be commendable programme and recommended that this could also be a topic for discussion in the proposed meeting of UGC-CSIR Coordination

Committee. The Committee also requested that the Chairman may initiate the process of calling for meeting of UGC-CSIR Coordination Committee. A copy of the concept note on UGC Scheme ENCORE prepared by Prof. Goverdhan Mehta is enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

2. A letter received from MHRD was placed before the Empowered Committee. While the Committee appreciated the suggestion of the Joint Consultative Parliamentary Committee to have an interaction meeting with Dr. M.M. Sharma, Empowered Committee, it was felt that the Committee will be pleased to interact with them as and when a meeting is called for. It was felt desirable that a couple of dates may be suggested for convening the meeting of the above Committee.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair. It has been decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee at 10.00 A.M. on 30th January, 2009 at University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.

The Members of the Empowered Committee, interalia desired that the presence of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, UGC will be highly appreciated in the meeting to be held on 30th January, 2009 at Hyderabad.