



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the New Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research held on 23rd December, 2014 at 2.30 p.m. in Mumbai.

The 1st meeting of the New Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on **23rd December, 2014 at 2.30 p.m. in Mumbai.** List of participants is at **Annexure - I.**

At the outset Dr. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members of the New Empowered Committee. There after the Agenda was taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 65th meeting held on 24th June, 2014 at UGC, New Delhi.

The minutes of the 65th meeting of the BSR Bureau held on 24th June, 2014 at UGC, New Delhi were noted and confirmed.

Item No. 2: Action taken on the Minutes.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the action taken by the UGC on the minutes of the 65th meeting of BSR Bureau.

The members of the new committee requested to appraise them about different schemes approved by the previous committee and the effectiveness and achievements of each of these schemes.

Accordingly each of the five schemes were narrated to the members. The members appreciated the efforts taken by the previous committee regarding introduction of several innovative schemes to improve R and D culture in universities and colleges. However members wanted to know about methodology of review of progress made by recipients of these schemes, net outcome, research output etc. which was then taken up as a separate agenda item.

Item No. 3: Discussion regarding Faculty Recharge Programme.

The Faculty Recharge Programme is being coordinated through "Operational Faculty Recharge Cell" located at JNU, New Delhi.

Prof. R.P. Gandhi has been appointed as National Coordinator and Prof. Sudesh Nangia as Associate Coordinator of the Cell and grant is released through IUAC.

1. An annual **advertisement** given by Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator of Operational Faculty Recharge Cell, JNU, New Delhi for UGC Faculty Recharge Programme for the positions of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in areas of basic sciences, i.e. Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology and Engineering and Earth Sciences was **approved** by the Empowered Committee.
2. The Committee desired that FRP Cell should give presentation of their programme in the next meeting of Empowered Committee.

Item No 4: The tenure of the term of Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator and Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Associate Coordinator has already over on 24.11.2014. The further course of action may please be suggested.

The New Empowered Committee has approved the tenure of the term of Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator and Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Associate Coordinator for **next one year w.e.f. 25.11.2014 to 24.11.2015.**

Item No. 5: Discussion regarding Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Cell, Pune.

This Cell is being coordinated by Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator for Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship and Prof. Joag, Associate Coordinator for Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Prof. D.S. Joag, National Coordinator, DSKPDF submitted the 53rd, 54th and 55th lists of PDF selected candidates and 38th, 39th and 40th list of unsuccessful PDF candidates to the Empowered Committee which was approved by the new Empowered Committee of BSR.

Follow up of requests received from the D.S.Kothari Fellows were approved by the Empowered Committee. Follow-up steps for the requests will be taken up by the UGC and prompt action will be taken.

12th and 13th referee honorarium list was approved by the Empowered Committee. UGC will urgently release the grant to the University of Pune.

The D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Cell at University of Pune will give presentation of their programme in the next meeting of Empowered Committee.

Item No. 6: Discussion regarding three schemes i.e. (i) Start up Grant, (ii) One Time Grant and (iii) UGC BSR Faculty Fellowships.

The selections under these schemes are being done by Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator on UGC-FPRS.

The Empowered Committee approved the selection of the candidates for “**One-Time Grant**”, “**UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowships**” and “**Start-up-Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty under BSR**”.

The UGC-FPRS Cell, University of Hyderabad will give presentation of their programme in the next meeting of Empowered Committee.

Item No 7: Budget of BSR

The Committee noted the Expenditure status under the Basic Scientific Research Programme.

Item No 8: Monitoring of BSR schemes

Since the three Cells i.e. FRP Cell, DSKPDF Cell and UGC-FPRS Cell are working from the last so many years, the Committee desired to evolve a monitoring mechanism as follows.

1. Each of these three Cells have already developed a software for receiving applications, selecting the candidates through peer review etc. Hence it is in fitness of things that the cells should develop a mechanism for getting feedback from the recipients too. In this regard, existing software may be modified by all the Cells to collect the feedback which may consist of the following information:

- (i) Advance plan for next one year by the recipient
- (ii) After the completion of one year, the recipient will submit a progress report of the achievements.
- (iii) A self-assessment report of the programme/scheme will be submitted by the recipients.

2. All the three Cells should provide a link/URL to the BSR Empowered Committee and BSR Section so that they can have a direct access to the feedback collected by all the three Cells.

3. Under all the BSR fellowship schemes viz. Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship, BSR Fellowships which are under DBT, Contingency grant will be utilised with the prior approval of the Mentor and UC will be submitted duly signed by the Mentor and Competent Authority of the university.

Item No. 9: Any other item:

The Empowered Committee in its meeting held on 21.06.2013 has decided earlier that the allocation of Research Fellowships approved by UGC, should be availed within one year from the date of issue of approval letter of fellowship under BSR Fellowships.

Now, this is submitted for approval that the allocation of fellowship should be valid for three months from the date of the issue of the letter so that all the official procedure can be processed within one year and the fellowship for the next year can be granted in time.

The above issue could not be discussed in the Empowered Committee meeting. This will be discussed in the next meeting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on **February 18, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.** in UGC, New Delhi.

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

Annexure- I

**List of Participants who attended the 1st Meeting of the New Empowered
Committee held on 23rd December, 2014 in Mumbai**

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| 1. | Dr. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe
Director and Professor
College of Engineering
Pune | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala
Department of Electrical Engineering
IIT Madras,
Chennai | - | Member |
| 3. | Prof. Syed A. Bari
Vice-Chancellor
Central University of Gujarat | - | Member |
| 4. | Dr. Vijay Bhatkar
Chancellor
India International Multiversity
Pune | - | Member |
| 5. | Prof. Jawahar Lal Kaul
Vice-Chancellor
Vikram University
Ujjain | - | Member |
| 6. | Prof. Dr. Jaspal Singh Sandhu
Secretary
University Grants Commission
New Delhi-110002 | - | Member |
| 7. | Dr. Sunita Siwach
Deputy Secretary (BSR)
University Grants Commission
New Delhi-110002 | - | DS(BSR) |