



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Minutes of the 70th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research held on July 8, 2015 at 10.30 A.M. in UGC Office, New Delhi.

The 5th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on **July 8, 2015 at 10.30 a.m. in UGC office, New Delhi.** List of participants is at **Annexure - I.**

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

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 69th meeting of Empowered Committee held on May 25-26, 2015 in UGC Office, New Delhi.

The minutes of the 69th meeting of the Empowered Committee held on **May 25-26, 2015** in UGC office, 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 69th meeting of the Empowered Committee.

Item No. 3: Discussion with Prof. R.P. Gandhi, Coordinator, Faculty Recharge Programme and Prof. Nangia regarding feedback and review of the scheme.

Prof. RP Gandhi, National Coordinator, Faculty Recharge Programme informed the committee about status of placement of the FRP-faculty selected in the III cycle. It was decided that the final placements of the selectees of the III cycle may be circulated among the members of the Empowered Committee at the earliest. The committee further suggested that before making final placements for the next cycle, the selected

candidates should be asked to submit at-least 7 universities in order of their preference.

Item No 4: Discussion with Prof. S.R. Gadre, Coordinator, and Prof. D.S. Joag, Associate Coordinator of Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Cell and regarding the progress of the scheme.

Prof. S. R. Gadre and Prof. D. S. Joag could not attend the meeting, on their behalf Mr. Subodh Khire, submitted the lists of successful /unsuccessful candidates under the Dr. DS Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship Scheme. The Committee approved the 59th list of successful candidates and 44th list of unsuccessful candidates. Requests regarding change of mentor, conversion from bridging to normal/higher etc. received from the Dr. DS Kothari Fellows were approved by the Empowered Committee.

The Committee recommended that only those candidates who have been awarded Ph. D should apply under the scheme.

Item No. 5: Discussion with Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator, UGC-Faculty Research Promotion Schemes regarding the review of three schemes i.e. (i) Start up Grant, (ii) One Time Grant and (iii) UGC BSR Faculty Fellowships.

Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator submitted the lists of candidates recommended/not-recommended candidates for (i) Start up Grant, (ii) One Time Grant and (iii) UGC BSR Faculty Fellowships. The committee approved the lists.

Prof. Samanta also submitted proposal on revision of selection criteria, quantum of support, grant tenure and grant utilization flexibility for the Faculty Research Promotion Schemes.

The committee discussed the proposal for the **Start-up grant** in details and recommended the following:

- a. The minimum eligibility conditions for Start-up grant remain the same. However, the applicant should have at least 5 research papers (instead of 2) to his/her credit, published in journals of international repute.

- b. The quantum of support under the scheme should be enhanced from Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 10 Lakhs.
- c. The grant can be utilized for purchasing items like minor equipment, consumables, contingencies (maximum Rs. 50,000/- pa), fieldwork (maximum Rs. 50,000/- pa), travel etc.
- d. The grant cannot be used for international travel or for appointing project assistant or research fellow.
- e. The quantum of funds under these heads can be decided by the PI depending on his/her needs.
- f. The grant may be released in 2 instalments. Initially, 80% of the grant will be released. The remaining grant shall be released after the receipt of the UC of first instalment. However, the tenure to utilize whole grant shall be 2 years from the date of issue of sanction letter of the first instalment.

Revision of the other two schemes i.e. **One Time Grant** and **BSR Faculty fellowship** were deferred for the next meeting. Till then, it was decided by the committee to put the selection under these schemes on hold.

Item No 6: Review of other BSR Schemes:

i) UGC Networking Resource Centers

The Committee recommended that new Networking Resource Centres may be established. UGC may invite applications from all the eligible Universities in this regard. The Existing Networking Resource Centres may mentor the New Centres.

ii) Review of other BSR schemes pertaining to infrastructure grant to Universities and colleges.

The Empowered Committee observed that infrastructure grants (under various BSR schemes) are being provided to the departments/ colleges that are already receiving Infrastructure grants from UGC in other schemes e.g. Special Assistance Programme (SAP), College of Potential for Excellence (CPE), Autonomous College etc. Keeping in view this duplicity, it was decided that all the

schemes pertaining to infrastructure grants to universities and colleges by BSR section may **be discontinued**.

Item No 7: Any other item:

- i) Query regarding utilization of startup grant in which 90% of the grant is sanctioned first.**

The Committee reiterated that the start-up grant has to be utilized within 2 years from the Date of issue of the first sanction letter.

- ii) Query regarding re-appropriation of grant for Start-up Grant and One time grant.**

The empowered Committee decided that for **One-time grant** and **Start-up grant**, the quantum of funds under different heads (minor equipment, consumable, contingency, field work etc.) can be decided by the selectee depending on his/her needs as per the guidelines of the schemes, with the approval of the concerned University. No separate approval from UGC is required for re-appropriation of funds.

- iii) Query regarding transfer of grant for UGC FRPS schemes, if the selectee changes the institute**

The empowered Committee is of the view that if the selectee has changed the institute, the respective grant (ONE-TIME GRANT , START-UP GRANT or BSR FACULTY FELLOWSHIP) may be transferred (**only once during the whole tenure to utilize grant**) to the new institute, if the institute is covered under section 12(B) of UGC act.

Item No 8: Budget of BSR:

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

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee by mutual consultation of the members to ensure attendance of full committee as far as possible in UGC, New Delhi.

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

Annexure- I

**List of Participants who attended the 70th meeting of the Empowered Committee
(EC) held on July 8, 2015 in UGC, New Delhi**

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe | - | Chairman, EC |
| 2. Prof. S. A. Bari | - | Member, EC |
| 3. Prof. Jawaharlal Kaul | - | Member, EC |
| 4. Prof. Jaspal Singh Sandhu | - | Member, EC |
| 5. Prof. R. P. Gandhi | - | National Coordinator, FRP |
| 6. Prof. Sudesh Nangia | - | Assoc. Coordinator, FRP |
| 7. Dr. Anunay Samanta | - | Coordinator, FRPS |
| 8. Mr. Subodh Khire | - | Sr. Project Assistant, DSKPDF |
| 9. Dr. Sunita Siwach | - | DS(BSR) |
| 10. Mrs. Paramjeet | - | US(BSR) |
| 11. Dr. Shalini | - | EO(BSR) |