



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Minutes of the 64th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research held on 31st March, 2014 at 10.30 a.m. in UGC, New Delhi.

The 64th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on **31st March, 2014 at 10.30 a.m. in UGC, New Delhi.** List of participants is at **Annexure - I.**

(Prof. Goverdhan Mehta and Prof. P. Rama Rao could not attend the meeting).

At the outset Prof. M.M. Sharma, Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members to the 64th Meeting of the Empowered Committee.

Prof. Sharma appreciated the contribution of each Member of the Empowered Committee. The Empowered Committee put on record the deepest appreciation for the marvellous services rendered by present and past staff members of UGC BSR Section.

The Chairman, UGC also appreciated the work done by the Empowered Committee and assured the Committee to give support, recognition and enlightenment and he also hope to receive similar kind of support in future.

Prof. Sharma repeatedly requested the Chairman, UGC to reconstitute the new Empowered Committee but for some reasons, it did not happen so far. The Empowered Committee has got dissolved itself through this final meeting.

There after the Agenda was taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 63rd meeting held on 3rd February, 2014 at UGC, New Delhi.

The minutes of the 63rd meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 3rd February, 2014 at *UGC, New Delhi* were confirmed.

Item No. 2: Action taken on the Minutes.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the fast-track action taken by the UGC on the minutes of the 63rd meeting of Empowered Committee, especially the Budget allocation for BSR for 2013-14 as Rs. 160 crores and incurring a total expenditure of Rs. 158.00 crore as on 31.03.2014, Rs.2.00 crore is in pipeline (total Rs.160.00 crore).

Item No. 3: Discussion with Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator and Prof. (Mrs.) Sudesh Nangia, Associate Coordinator, FRP.

1. The Empowered Committee approved the Provisional Budgetary Estimates, to the tune of Rs. 212 lakhs, of the Faculty Recharge Programme for the fiscal year, 2014-15.
2. The National Coordinator, FRP, presented the Status Report of the Programme. The Programme is currently in the midst of 3rd Cycle of Selections. The Committee was apprised of the progress made in regard to placement, in Indian Institutions, of the First and Second Cycle Selectees.

Item No. 4: Discussion with Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator for Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme.

Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator, DSKPDF submitted the 50th list of PDF selected candidates (**Annexure-II**) and 36th list of unsuccessful PDF candidates (**Annexure-III**) to the Empowered Committee which was approved.

- 1) 50th Successful and 36th Unsuccessful candidate lists were approved except for one candidate, who was not recommended due to ineligibility of the workplace.
- 2) Followup of requests (list attached) received from the DSK Fellows were approved. Follow-up steps for the requests will be taken up by the UGC and prompt action will be taken.
- 3) 11th and 10th referee honorarium lists were approved. UGC will urgently release Rs. 4,45,500/- + Rs. 4,62,000/- to DSKPDF cell in the University of Pune.
- 4) Modus operandi for utilization of contingency: Contingency utilization guidelines, where to submit bills, what about stock entries etc. was discussed. UGC will issue guidelines to candidates, mentors and Universities for this.
- 5) The terms of National Co-ordinator and Associate Co-ordinator beyond May 31, 2014 were extended by one year.
- 6) Enhancement of Honorarium to the seniormost SPA and JPA was discussed. In view of excellent services rendered by them for the past 5 years, their honorarium will be enhanced of Rs. 4000 p.m. each. Now it will be Rs. 28,000/- and Rs. 24,000/- (consolidated) p.m. UGC will issue sanction letter and release this amount.
- 7) Request for the closure of DKPDF website for one month from 1st June 2014 to 30 June 2014 for maintenance, clerical and accounts work was approved.

Item No. 5: Recommendations by Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator on UGC-FPRS, “Start up Grant”, “One Time Grant” and “UGC BSR Faculty Fellowships”.

The Committee approved the lists of candidates for “One-Time Grant” (**Annexure-IV**), “UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowships (**Annexure-V**)” and “Start-up-Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty (**Annexure-VI**).

The Empowered Committee has approved the extension of term of National Coordinator on UGC-FPRS by one year w.e.f. 12th April, 2014.

Item No. 6:(i) Issue regarding Start-up Grant i.e. if a faculty has already availed Start-up grant and appointed under FRP scheme, will he/she be eligible for getting Start-up grant second time?

The Committee resolved that the **Start-up Grant** can be availed only once.

(ii) Clarification regarding to spent the money allocated under Start-up Grant.

- The Committee resolved that travel is approved within India.
- Any minor equipment can be purchased out of the approved Start-up Grant upto Rs.1.00 lakh.

(iii) Request of Dr. Rambichar Singh Yadav for secretarial assistance from the Start-up Grant under BSR

The Committee regretted the request of Dr. Rambichar Singh.

(iv) Request of Dr. Shamik Chakraborty for re-appropriation of budget for the start-up grant

The Committee approved the request of Dr. Shamik Chakraborty.

Item No. 7: A letter has been received from Ms. Brinda Karat, Former Member, Rajya Sabha in respect of Dr. Eswari Pandaranayaka, DSKPDF regarding to change her Mentor

The Empowered Committee has resolved that they can not interfere between university and the fellow i.e. Dr. Eswari Pandaranayaka.

It is decided by the Committee that as per guidelines of DSKPDF, a person can take-up Dr. D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship in the university with the permission of the university. If the university does not permits the fellow, UGC can not force the university to do the same.

Item No8: All the guidelines of the schemes under BSR are to be revised.

The Committee resolved that this issue will be placed before the new Empowered Committee.

Item No 9: Budget of BSR

The Committee also recommended to increase the annual budget of BSR upto Rs.200.00 crore.

Item No. 10: Any other item

- (i) **A case of Prof. C. Umashankar, Registrar, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati and Department of OR & SQC, Rayalaseema University, Kurnool (on lien) has been received. He has been approved UGC one-time grant under BSR scheme during the year 2012-13 but he could not get the grant of Rs.7.00 lakh as the university in which he was working, was not under Section 12B. After 8 months, he was selected as Registrar in R.S. Vidyapeetha, Tirupati which comes under Section 12B of UGC Act. Now he has requested to kindly consider his appeal for sanctioning Rs.7.00 lakh as one-time grant.**

The Committee resolved that Prof. Umashankar has been selected as Registrar of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati and this is an **administrative** post and not an academic post, so he is not eligible for **one time grant**.

- (ii) **A request has been received from Guru Jambheshwar University, Department of Environment Science and Engineering Hissar to consider the case of the five fellows. In this regard following are the observations for approval and consideration please.**

- **Allocation for five fellowships was granted to the University on 10-01.2012.**
- **The Selection Committee of the University meeting was held on 04.03.2013 (after the stipulated time period of one year).**
- **The University sent the report of the Selection Committee and the name of the fellows on 30.01.2014.**

Can we consider the BSR Fellowships for the candidates as the University has not submitted the documents in stipulated time i.e. one year.

The Empowered Committee rejected the above request.

- (iii) **A similar request has been received from University of North Bengal Department of Zoology for five fellows. In this regard following are the observations for approval and consideration please.**

- **Allocation for five fellowships was granted to the University on 05.01.2011.**
- **The selection of the candidate was done in September, 2012 due to the following reasons that “the Scholars could not be appointed due to non implementation of Ph.D programme. There was no registration of Ph.D Scholars during the translation period from July, 2009 to September, 2012”.**

- **The University sent the report of the Selection Committee in February, 2013.**

Can we consider the BSR Fellowships for the above candidates.

The Empowered Committee rejected the above request also.

- (iv) **If university has not availed the allocated fellowships during the last two years with their own reasons, that fellowship will be treated as lapsed for that year. However, can we allocate fresh fellowships to that University Department as per the request received by University/Department for the current year i.e. 2014-15.**

The Empowered Committee resolved that allocation of fresh fellowships can be given to a University Department on the basis of the performance of the last three years of that Department.

- (v) **The EC has decided in minutes of the 58th meeting held on 21st June, 2013 that new fellows can not be appointed against the post vacated due to resignation or submission of thesis by the existing fellows. If the university recruits new fellows against such posts vacated due to resignation before the said date and submits the documents in UGC after one year, can such cases be considered?**

The Empowered Committee agreed to the above request.

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

Annexure I

List of Participants who attended the 64th Meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 31st March, 2014 in UGC, New Delhi

1. Prof. H. Devaraj
2. Prof. M.M. Sharma
3. Prof. Kota Harinarayan
4. Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan
5. Prof. R.P. Gandhi
6. Prof. (Mrs.) Sudesh Nangia
7. Prof. S.R. Gadre
8. Prof. Anunay Samanta
9. Dr. Sunita Siwach
10. Mrs. Ritu Oberoi
11. Dr. Shalini