

## UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

### **MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2007 AT 9.30 AM IN THE UGC OFFICE.**

The Sixth meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research in Universities under the Chairmanship of Prof.M.M.Sharma was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 at 9.30 AM in the UGC Office, New Delhi. The following attended the meeting:-

1. Prof.Mool Chand Sharma  
Vice-Chairman,UGC.
2. Prof.M.M.Sharma  
3, Jaswant Baugh,  
Behind Akbar Allys,  
V.N.Purav Marg,  
Chember Nake,  
Mumbai-400 071
3. Prof.G.Mehta  
Hon.Prof. & CSIR,  
Bhatnagar Fellow,  
Indian Institute of Science,  
Bangalore-560 012
4. Dr.Kota Harinarayan  
Raja Ramana Fellow,  
Structure Division,  
National Aerospace Laboratories,  
Bangalore-560 017
5. Prof.P.Rama Rao  
Flat No.301,  
Naimisum, Plot No.22,  
Tri Nagar Colony,  
Hyderabad-500 073
6. Prof.S.P.Thyagrajan  
#5, Ist Main Road,  
Nehru Nagar, Adyar,  
Chennai-600 020

7. Dr.T.R.Kem  
Secretary, UGC,  
New Delhi
8. Dr.(Mrs.)Pankaj Mittal  
Joint Secretary,UGC
9. Ms.Parbati Bose  
Under Secretary, UGC

As the Chairman of UGC had some other office engagement, in his absence Prof. Mool Chand Sharma, the Vice-Chairman,UGC and member of the Empowered Committee, welcomed the members. Dr.(Mrs.)Pankaj Mittal, Joint Secretary, UGC, presented the Committee members of the actions taken by the UGC, since the last meeting held in January, 2007. It was informed that 650 JRFs have been allotted for the year 2006-2007 @ 5 JRF each to each Science SAP Departments in State Universities and Universities/Centres with Potential for Excellence. A sum of Rs.20.00 lakh each has been given to 113 DSA/CAS Department of SAP for infrastructure development in terms of power supply, water supply, safety equipments and equipments required for introducing the research components at PG level. The Commission has approved "in principle", the scheme of Operation Faculty Recharge wherein 1000 positions would be created to be filled at national level through global advertisement. A communication has been sent to DG, CSIR for promoting joint appointments by appointing small research groups from CSIR Laboratories in the Universities. A letter has also been sent to all the State Universities, requesting them to follow uniform retirement policy for teachers in Universities and Colleges. The Committee was informed that information is also being collected from all the Departments of Universities with regard to number of faculty members, total Ph.Ds registered and produced and the method adopted for admitting Ph.D. students etc. to find out the capacity of the Universities to absorb more Ph.Ds.

Professor M.M.Sharma and the members appreciated the efforts made by the UGC in implementing the recommendations of the Task Force and suggested that 5 more fellowships may be given to each SAP Departments in Science for the year 2007-2008.

Dr.T.R.Kem, Secretary, UGC informed the Committee that Rs.2374 Crores was allotted by the MHRD for UGC under general plan for the year 2007-2008 out of which Rs.1156 Crores (including implementation of Moily Committee Report) has been allocated for Central Universities, Rs.25 Crores for deemed Universities and Rs.1193 Crores for rest of the Universities and schemes. The Committee welcomed the enhancement in the budget but expressed its concern over the fact that no ear-marked funding has been made for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force. The Committee was of the opinion that a letter may be sent by the Chairman, UGC to the Secretary, MHRD requesting for additional ear-marked funding for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force. It was indicated that the Task Force was constituted by the MHRD and its recommendation to allocate Rs.600 Crores per annum for implementing its recommendations were accepted by the MHRD. The Committee was of the view that the UGC may request the Government to honour the commitments made in past and allocate additional funds for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force.

It was also recommended that till the additional funds are allocated by the MHRD, UGC may allocate Rs.200 Crores for the year 2007-2008, initially out of its own budget. The Committee felt that unless Rs.600 Crores is allocated for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force, as agreed by the MHRD, research will not get the required impetus and the quantum jump in number of Ph.Ds and desired qualitative growth in research and development can not be achieved.

The Committee was also of the view that the status of implementation of various recommendations of the Task Force may be posted on the UGC website.

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

1. **Item No.1:- Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 16.1.2007.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16.1.2007 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:- Policy to create 10 Networking Centres in Basic Sciences.**

The item was deferred.

4. **Item No.4:- Establishment of winter and summers schools.**

The item was deferred.

5. **Item No.5:- Introduction of postdoctoral research fellowships in Basic Scientific Research.**

The item was deferred.

6. **Item No.6:- Introduction of 5 year integrated M.Sc. and Ph.D. Programme.**

The item was deferred.

## 7. **Any Other Item**

There was no item.

The Committee further recommended as follows:-

- (a) A separate communication seeking information about the Ph.D. students may be sent to DRS Departments in Sciences.
- (b) A letter may be sent to all the State Education Secretaries seeking information about filling up of vacant faculty positions.
- (c) Regarding appointment of Consultant for filling up of 1000 positions under the scheme of Faculty Recharge, the Committee desired that a recently retired Delhi based, eminent scientist/technologist/academician may be appointed as Senior Advisor on honorarium basis for filling up these 1000 positions. The person selected should have a strong network in academic community. It was decided that the Empowered Committee would give 3 names in the next meeting out of which one may be selected.
- (d) The Committee was of the opinion that a reminder may be sent to Dr.T.Rama Samy ,DG,CSIR regarding joint appointments.
- (e) Information may be obtained from all State Education Secretaries with regard to the status of implementation of the uniform retirement policy of 62 years of age.
- (f) In all the UGC schemes relating to fellowships and post doctoral fellowships schemes, a para may be included mentioning that there would be no age bar for women researchers and they may be allowed to work on flexi time basis.

- (g) The Committee recommended that Rs.20 lacs each may be allocated for infrastructure development to Science Departments of DSA/CAS in Central Universities also at par with State Universities.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting of the Committee on **21<sup>st</sup> March, 2007** at 11 AM in the UGC Office, New Delhi, wherein Secretary, MHRD, may be specially invited for discussions. The Committee desired that Chairman and Vice-Chairman, UGC may meet the Education Secretary prior to the meeting to apprise him of the concerns of the Committee, especially with regard to funding.

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