



ज्ञान-विज्ञानं विमुक्तये

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 16 MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON
BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 20TH MARCH, 2008 AT 11.00
A.M. IN THE UGC OFFICE**

The 16^h meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on 20th March, 2008 at 11.00 a.m. in the UGC Office.

The following attended the meeting:

1. Prof.Sukhadeo Thorat
Chairman, UGC
2. Prof.Mool Chand Sharma
Vice Chairman, UGC
3. Prof. M.M. Sharma
3, Jaswant Baugh (Runwal Park)
Behind Akbar Allya
V.N. Purav Marg, Chembur Naka
Mumbai – 400 071
4. Prof.P.Rama Rao
Flat No. 301,
Naimisum, Plot No.22,
Tri Nagar Colony,
Hyderabad - 500 073
5. Prof.Goverdhan Mehta
Hon.Prof. & CSIR
Bhatnagar Fellow
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012
6. Dr.Kota Harinarayan
Raja Ramana Fellow
Structure Division
National Aerospace Laboratories
Bangalore - 560 017

7. Prof.S.P.Thyagarajan
#, 1st Main Road,
Nehru Nagar, Adyar,
Chennai - 600 020
8. Dr. Raju Sharma
Secretary,
UGC, New Delhi
9. Dr.(Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal
Joint Secretary, UGC
- 10 Ms.Parbati Bose
Under Secretary, UGC

The Committee was introduced to Dr. Raju Sharma who had recently joined as Secretary, UGC. The Committee members welcomed Dr. Raju Sharma.

Before discussing the actual agenda, the Chairman, UGC in his opening remarks raised some general issues on which the committee had brief deliberations. He mentioned that although the CSIR has taken the responsibility of giving honorarium to Bhatnagar Awardees, the issue of giving honorarium to teachers in university system who have been a member of two of the following four academics still needs to be addressed.

1. National Academy of Science, Allahabad
2. Indian Science Academy, Bangalore
3. Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi
4. Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi

He requested Prof. Goverdhan Mehta to frame guidelines to operationalize the scheme.

He also mentioned that on the lines of application of UGC-D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship, UGC is also proposing to launch the scheme of Dr. Radhakrishnan Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Humanities and Social Sciences. He requested Prof. Gadre who is coordinating the work of UGC-D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship to identify an eminent person in Pune who could

work under his leadership and provide logistic support in terms of software etc. for implementing the scheme of Dr. Radhakrishnan Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

The agenda items were then taken up one-by-one.

Item No.1:- Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 05.02.2008

The minutes of the 15th meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 05.02.2008 were confirmed with the following corrections.

In item No.7 – the following corrections may be made;-

Para 2. To recognize CSIR scientists as recognized Ph.D guides by the universities under whose geographic jurisdiction the CSIR laboratory-falls.

may be replaced with

Para 2 To facilitate recognition of CSIR scientists as recognized Ph.D guides by the universities under whose geographic jurisdiction the CSIR laboratory-falls.

And

3. To appoint CSIR scientists as adjunct proposals adjunct faculty in respective university departments.

May be replaced with

Para 3 To appoint CSIR scientists as adjunct faculty in respective university departments and reciprocally to appoint academics from university Departments

as Visiting Scientists in respective CSIR laboratories.

Item No.2:- Action taken on the minutes

The Committee noted with appreciation the action taken by the UGC on the minutes of the last meeting of the Empowered Committee.

Item No.3:- Empowered Committee to suggest names of the New departments for presentation for UGC Networking Centre/Summer-Winter School from the enclosed list of departments

The Committee after going through the list of departments who have applied under the scheme of Networking Resource Centres and on their personal assessment, identified following five departments who may be invited for the presentation before the Empowered Committee in its next meeting.

1. Department of Chemical Engineering, UICT, Mumbai
2. Department of Chemical Engineering, BHU, Varanasi
3. Department of Geology, Punjab Univ. Chandigarh
4. Department of Foods Nutrition, MS Univ. of Baroda, Vadodara
5. Department of Food Technology and Bio-Engg., Jadavpur University, Jadavpur.

Item No.4:- To consider terms and conditions for the appointment of Prof. R.P. Gandhi as National Coordinator for the scheme," Operation Faculty Recharge".

The Item was withdrawn since the action has already been taken in the last meeting and the committee felt that a formal letter to Prof. Gandhi can be sent only after receiving the consent from INSA, New Delhi for launching programme in collaboration with INSA.

Item No.5 :- Empowered Committee to suggest follow up action with regard to the five points emerged out of the meeting with DG-CSIR and the Empowered Committee

The Committee recommended that the joint UGC-CSIR committee constituted to work out joint action taken by UGC and CSIR to promote joint research programme, joint appointments and other collaborative arrangements should start its work at the earliest. The committee should indicate concrete steps to be taken by UGC as well as by CSIR to operationalize the collaborative mechanism. The meeting of the committee may be called at the earliest.

Item No.6 :- Discussion with Prof. Shridhar Gadre, National Coordinator for “Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowships.”

Prof. Gadre who was invited as special invitee for the meeting of the Empowered Committee, gave a brief presentation about the status of applications received for UGC-D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship. He indicated that he has generated 350 login passwords, has received 170 applications on-line and has received 100 hard copies of the application so far. All the applications have been referred to three referees and about 2 reports have already been received for 100 applications. He mentioned that in the next meeting of the Empowered Committee he would be able to present the first list of 25 candidates selected under UGC-D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship.

The committee appreciated the efforts made by Prof. Gadre in implementing the scheme in an efficient manner and ensuring that every application is processed in about 6 week's time after online receipt. The Committee further took following decisions with regard to UGC-D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship:-

1. The minimum age limit for applying under the scheme which is 35 years may be relaxed by 5 years. In case of

women, SC/ST and Physically Handicapped candidates as is being provided in most of the other schemes of the UGC.

2. The information may be obtained about category of candidates i.e. whether General / SC/ST/PH in the application proforma.
3. The scheme shall be applicable only to Science departments in the universities who are eligible to receive grant from UGC. The decision to extend the scheme to other Scientific bodies and CSIR labs may be taken later after two rounds of selection, if not enough Post Doctoral Fellows are available from the university system.
4. The schemes shall be widely advertised in "Universities News and Current Sciences.
5. Dr. Gadre shall present the list of 25 candidates selected under the scheme and the UGC office should up the draft award letter in the next meeting.
6. The Chairman, UGC may explore the possibility of arranging a ceremony in which these certificates are handed over by the Hon'ble HRM to the selected candidates to ensure wider visibility.
7. Prof. Gadre may be invited for the next meeting of the Empowered Committee.
8. The Committee on the request of Prof. Gadre approved the following re-appropriation of the funds within the overall budget of Rs.47.25 lacs approved for the UGC-D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship.

S.No.	Item	Amount approved (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Non Recurring Two server-grade itanium /xeon/ opteron-based machines with 2/4 GB RAM, 160/250 GB disks each, with authorized software's, 5 KVA UPS, Air conditioners and office furniture, telephone, fax, photocopy and additional email facility etc. and Purchase / In-house development of software for the project.	16.00
2.	Recurring: (a) Service of Senior Project Assistant and Junior Project Assistant @ Rs.12,000/- and Rs.8,000/- p.m. for 3 years. (b) Travel, communication charges, telephone charges honorarium and stationery, contingency @ Rs.8.00 lacs per year	7.20 24.00
	Total Estimated expenses	47.20

Item No.7 :- Budget for M.M. Sharma Committee

The committee noted that out Rs.205.00 crores allocated for the implementing the recommendations of M.M. Sharma report in the year 2007-08 only Rs.150.00 crores was spent so far which were expected to go upto Rs.163.00 crores with the proposals in the pipe line.

The committee further recommended the following new initiatives under the scheme of promotion of Basic Scientific Research.

1. Based on the presentation made in the last meeting of the Empowered Committee, the committee selected the

following department for establishment of Networking Resource Centre.

- (1) Department of Materials Engineering, IISc, Bangalore.

The Committee recommended a grant of Rs.10.00 crores for the above centre. The Committee further recommended that 50% of the grant as first installment may be released to the department on receipt of a commitment to undertake the following tasks, from the university.

1. Research, training and skills development of the faculty and research scholars through periodic discussion, workshop and summer / winter schools.
2. Capacity building by adopting faculty and departments for augmenting their research skills and to mentor them.
3. Hosting and facilitating researcher from other institutes / universities to carryout key experiments.
4. Augmentation of information resource facility of the department to provide quality research information to other institutes / researchers.
5. To enhance and build state of the art in-house research infrastructure and other research facilities in the department.

The committee also recommended that all the five Networking Resource Centres identified so far by the UGC may be requested to identify the coordinator who should act as a single point of contact for the UGC.

The committee also recommended that a grant of Rs.10.00 lacs per college may be given to each autonomous college having Science Faculty for modernization of Science Labs including power supply, water supply, safety equipments, laboratory working table etc. However the colleges, who have already received grant for modernization of Science Laboratories under the scheme of Colleges with Potential for Excellence may be eliminated from the above list.

Item No.8:- Any other item

The matter regarding merging of ASSIST scheme with the SAP scheme was also discussed and the committee recommended that since both the schemes were for a similar purpose, the ASSIST scheme may be merged with SAP scheme during the XI Plan.

The committee also noted that 57 university departments have so far not sent the utilization certificate for the first infrastructural grant of Rs.20.00 lacs. The committee recommended that a letter may be sent to the Vice Chancellors of these 57 defaulter departments requesting them to make personal efforts to ensure that the grant is properly utilized since these departments would otherwise be deprived of further grants on this account.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting of the Committee on 22nd April, 2008 at 11.00 a.m. in the UGC Office at New Delhi.

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