

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 23<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON  
BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2009 AT 10.30  
A.M. AT UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD, HYDERABAD, A.P.**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 at 10.30 A.M. at University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. The following attended the meeting:

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

Prof. S.K. Thorat, Chairman, UGC, Prof. Mool Chand Sharma, Vice-Chairman, UGC and Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan could not attend the meeting.

Prof. M.M. Sharma welcomed all the Members and thanked the University of Hyderabad for making arrangements for the meeting of the Empowered Committee. The Committee also took note of the article written by Prof. G. Padmanaban, Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in the "Current Science, Vol.95, No.11, 10 December, 2008". A copy of the Article is enclosed as Annexure-I. Prof. M.M. Sharma took up the agenda Items one-by-one:-

**Item No. 1 :- Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2008**

The minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 were confirmed.

**Item No.2:- Action taken on the minutes**

The Committee noted with satisfaction the action taken by the UGC.

**Item No.3:- Discussion with Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator for "D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship"**

The Members of the Committee appreciated the efforts of Prof. S.R. Gadre for the smooth operationalisation of the UGC scheme "Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship". Prof. Gadre placed the 8<sup>th</sup> list of selected candidates for award of Post-Doctoral Fellowship before the Empowered Committee for approval. The Committee approved the list (Annexure-II).

Prof. Gadre requested the Committee for enhancement of the payment of salary to the contractual staff working with him. The Committee recommended the enhancement of payment of salary to the contractual staff from Rs.8,000/- p.m. to Rs.12,000/- p.m. in case of Junior Project Assistant and Rs.12,000/- p.m. to Rs.16,000/- p.m. in the case of Senior Project Assistant. This will be effective from 01.02.2009.

**Item No.4:- Letter received from Prof. Suresh K. Sharma, Chairperson, Department of Statistics regarding facilities of a seminar room in the Department of Statistics, Punjab University, Chandigarh**

The Committee agreed for improving video conferencing facilities for Seminar Room in the Department of Statistics within Rs.30.00 lakh released.

**Item No.5:- Letter received from Dr. Kamanio Chattopadhyay, Chairman, Department of Materials Engineering Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore requesting for autonomy in running the UGC Networking Resource Centre.**

The Committee noted the guidelines.

**Item No.6:- Letter received from V.C.JNU regarding UGC Scheme “Operation Faculty Recharge”.**

The Committee agreed to the proposal made by the Vice-Chancellor, JNU with regard to the payment of honorarium in line with his last pay drawn as Registrar minus his pension plus admissible DA, HRA and Transport Allowance on his last basic pay. The honorarium will be revised on the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission. Accordingly, the honorarium to Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator will appropriately be revised. The appointment of Ex-Registrar, JNU as OSD in the UGC Scheme.”Operation Faculty Recharge” initially will be for a period of one year.

**Item No.7:- Letter received from Prof. Saraswati Raju Co-ordinator, SAPCSR, JNU requesting purchase of equipment.**

The Committee agreed to the request made by Prof. Saraswati Raju, Coordinator, SAPCSR, JNU for purchase of equipment.

**Item No.8:- Budget**

The Committee was satisfied with the proper utilization of the budget.

**Item No.9:- Discussion with Coordinators of SAP Departments of University of Hyderabad with Members of Empowered Committee.**

The Empowered Committee held discussions with the Coordinators, SAP Departments and Dean Sciences and got the feedback of the grant released and utilized by all the Departments. They found infrastructure and networking grants very useful. The members of the Committee replied to all the queries made with regard to the infrastructure development grant, meritorious fellowship and Post-Doctoral Fellowships. The Coordinator (SAP) of Department of Mathematics requested for allocation of a Networking Centre for Department of Mathematics, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. Prof. M.M. Sharma told the Coordinator to send a proposal with regard to this. It may be noted that in the UGC records, the Department of Mathematics are in the third phase of DRS. Till date, the

Empowered Committee decided to give Networking Centres only to DSA/CAS Departments.

**Item No.10:- Any other item**

The Empowered Committee further recommended as under:

- (i) Information will be sought from Colleges with Potential for Excellence regarding total number of full time Ph.Ds produced during last three years on annual basis. If the number of Ph.Ds produced is more than 10, an additional grant of Rs.50.00 lakh to the college as a whole will be given for strengthening of Post Graduate teaching and research at M.Sc. level and some additional grant of Rs.30.00 lakh in case of Ph.Ds produced is less than 10.
- (ii) A letter may be sent to all the University Departments at the level of DRS/DSA/CAS, Colleges with Potential for Excellence and Autonomous Colleges giving them an extension of time upto September 30, 2009 for utilization of second/third installment of grant released.

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

It has been decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on March 6, 2009 at 11.30 A.M. in the UGC office, New Delhi.

1. The Empowered Committee is greatly concerned about the unusual delay in the execution of the scheme of "Faculty Recharge". The Empowered Committee noted that the MoU with the JNU has still not been signed. Prof. Gandhi, who had graciously agreed to execute this exceptionally important scheme of great national importance, has waited for almost a year. The Empowered Committee now understands that Sh. Avias Ahmad has been appointed as an OSD by the JNU and therefore, his non-availability will further delay this scheme. The Empowered Committee requests the Chairman, UGC, to settle this matter with the JNU before end of March, 2009 so that the launch of the Scheme is not further delayed.
  
2. The Empowered Committee has noted the frequent changes in the Joint Secretary assigned to the Empowered Committee which has hampered its functioning; to start with the Empowered Committee had Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Batra and then it had Dr.(Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal and finally Sh. A.K. Dogra. The Empowered Committee understands that yet another change is under consideration for assigning to the Empowered Committee and this is a matter of concern and a senior person, preferably the one dealing with SAP programme, may be assigned in case Sh. Dogra cannot be continued.