

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 41st MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE
ON BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 25th APRIL, 2011 IN ICT,
MUMBAI**

The 41st meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on 25th April, 2011 in ICT, Mumbai. 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
National Research Professor and
Lilly-Jubilant Chair
School of Chemistry
University of Hyderabad
Hyderabad-500046 (A.P.)
3. Prof. P. Rama Rao
Flat No.301
Naimisum, Plot No.22
Tri Nagar Colony
Hyderabad-5000073.
4. Prof. Kota Harinarayan
Raja Ramana Fellow
Structure Division
National Aerospace Laboratories
Bangalore-560 017.
5. Dr. P. Prakash
Additional Secretary
UGC, New Delhi.
6. Ms. Parbati Bose
Former US(BSR)
UGC, New Delhi.

Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan could not attend the meeting.

Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator, Dr. D.S. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellowship, Prof. R.P.Gandhi ,National Coordinator and Prof.(Mrs.) Sudesh Nangia, Associate Co-ordinator, Faculty Recharge Programme attended the meeting as special invitees.

Prof. M.M. Sharma welcomed all the Members. The Committee congratulated Prof. P. Rama Rao for getting “Padmabibhushan” award and placed on record appreciation for his outstanding work.

Prof. M.M. Sharma, Chairman, Empowered Committee then took up the agenda.

Item No.1:- Confirmation of the minutes of the 40th meeting held on 01.03.2011at UGC, New Delhi.

The minutes of the 40th meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 1st March,2011 were confirmed.

Item No.2:- Action taken on the minutes

The Committee noted with satisfaction the action taken by the UGC. The following modifications were made under SI.No.3 of the action taken.

Árising out of discussions on, "UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowships" under item 3 , it was further recommended that faculty members who might have superannuated as per their institutions' rules but who also enjoy fellowships of two out of four academies recognized by the UGC namely, Indian National Science Academy, Indian Academy of Science, Indian National Science Academy of Engineering and

National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad be included. This clause will be applicable for professors for a period of 3 years after superannuation as per concerned institution norms.

It is recommended that Prof.B.B. Chattoo, Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, M.S. University of Baroda , is also included in the list approved for UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowship.

Item No.3:- Discussions with Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator, and Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Associate Coordinator, regarding Faculty Recharge Programme.

The members of the Committee were apprised By Prof. R.P. Gandhi ,National Co-ordinator that the security clearance of uploaded application in PDF form has been obtained and the website can be launched as per the convenience of the Hon'ble HRM.

Prof. R.P. Gandhi further submitted the following budget for the year 2011-12 which was approved by the Committee.

Budgetary Estimates for 2011-2012

(I) Non-recurring Expenditure, towards development of Infrastructure:

- (i) Procurement of electronic gadgets: High-speed (broadband) **25.0 lacs**
Internet; Liquid Crystal Display (LCD); Laptops;
Projector (wireless) (backup); Multifunctional printer and
a second dedicated Server (ERNET); Connectivity through
National Knowledge Network (NKN); Web Cam and Wireless
keyboard (for establishment of a Video Conferencing Facility)
- (ii) Renovation - & maintenance of the Office **5.0 lacs**
Building at JNU; Purchase of Office equipment & furniture
i.e. Conference - and Executive tables, etc.

Total = 30.0 lacs

(II) Recurring Expenditure:

(i) Traveling allowance for subject specialists (to be invited on Interview Boards/in other meetings under the Programme); DA/Honorarium for specialists **40.0 lacs**

(ii) Contingent Expenditure:

(a) Stationary/Computer Stationary, including maintenance of electronic gadgets 5.0 lacs
(b) Communications (telephones, fax, internet, etc.) 5.0 lacs
(c) Local transport 5.0 lacs
(d) Postage, Courier Services 2.0 lacs
(e) Hospitality 5.0 lacs

(f) Miscellaneous : 5.0 lacs
Includes expenditure towards meeting contingency and other expenses during operationalization of the Programme

Total = 27.0 lacs

(iii) Expenditure on Advertisements In National Dailies and in Scientific Journals, namely Nature, Science & Current Science) **65.0 lacs**

(for 4 insertions)

(iv) Website Hosting: Includes maintenance of the website, and its further development to enable higher levels of sophistication; Extending bandwidth connectivity; Maintenance of the existing Server and dedicated 2nd Server (to be procured) **10.0 lacs**

(v) Honorarium for 6-8 staff members, hired at various levels; **28.0 lacs**
Apex Level Technical Advisors' Consultancy Fee

(vi) Honorarium for Programme Coordinators **9.6 lacs**

**Total Estimated Expenditure = Rs.30 lacs
(non-recurring) + Rs. 179.6 lacs (recurring)
= 209.6 lacs**

Item No.4:- Discussions with Prof. Gadre,National Co-ordinator for Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowships Scheme.

During the discussions with Prof. Shridhar Gadre, National Coordinator and Prof Joag, Associate Coordinator,"Dr. 'Dr.D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship", it transpired that in some subjects notably, Geology, Mathematics, Electronics , Engineering Sciences etc., the number of referee reports are always very limited and in such cases it is recommended that honorarium to referees in a year should be given at pro rata basis.

The National Coordinator and Associate Coordinator submitted the 25th successful candidates for Dr. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellowship, 14th list of unsuccessful candidates applied for Dr. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellowship and also the list of requests of PDFs (attached as Annexure-I,II and III) for approval of the Empowered Committee. The same was discussed and approved.

The Co-ordinators then submitted a map of state-wise distribution of Dr. D.S. Kothari fellows (upto April,11,2011 enclosed as Annexure-IV).

Item No.5:- Discussion about the framing of guidelines for the ~One Time Grant" of Rs.7.00 lakhs for the Faculty members under BSR Scheme.

The item was deferred.

Item No.6:- Letter received from D. P. Gunasekaran, Coordinator, Networking Resource Centre in Biological Sciences, Madurai Kamaraj University regarding Establishment of High Throughput,"DNA Sequencer" facility.

The Empowered Committee acceded to the request and approved.

Item No.7:-Letter received from Dr. Sukrat Sinha, Dr.D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Biotechnology, University of Allahabad regarding payment of VISA Fee for attending International Conference from earmarked contingency grant.

The committee recommended that it can be met out of the contingency grant.

Item No.8: Budget of BSR

It was noted and observed that in spite of approval by the committee at various heads, due to procedural problems and non-availability of funds budgeted expenditure could not be released. The committee recommends that the earmarked funds for the activities of the Empowered Committee as agreed upon may not be re-appropriated for other schemes of UGC. The committee recommended that for the financial year 2011-2012, an amount of Rs.200 crores may be allocated.

Item No9:- Letter received from the DRS Department of Biotechnology, Panjab University, Chandigarh regarding purchase of deionized system for the supply of Deionized water to the labs.

The committee acceded to the request and approved..

Item No.10:-Prersentation by Prof. G.D. Yadav, Vice-Chancellor,ICT, Mumbai about the work of the Networking/Summer-Winter School, infrastructure development grant, fellowships out of the BSR grant..

Prof. G.D. Yadav, Vice-Chancellor.ICT, made pointed references of the benefits derived by ICT particularly large number of beneficiaries of doctoral fellowships and infrastructural development to science laboratories grant. The Empowered Committee also interacted with the Coordinators and HoDs of all the SAP Departments of ICT and took note of the progress made by them.

Item No:11:-: Any other item

The Committee further took the following decisions under any other item:

The committee held discussions on the letter received from Shri R.R.Meena, Under Secretary, M/HRD forwarding the application of Dr, S.K. Kushwaha, Department of Chemistry, BHU with regard to relaxation of 5 years in age for OBC candidate. As per the reservation policy of the Commission, the relaxation is given to SC/ST candidates and not to OBC applicants. The committee recommended that the guidelines need rectification and, if there was any inadvertent error, is regretted.

Prof. M.M. Sharma, Chairman along with members of Empowered Committee thanked Prof G.D. Yadav , Vice-Chancellor, ICT for hosting the meeting and making excellent arrangements.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on June 20, 2011 in Chennai.

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