



**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**  
**NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 44<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON  
BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2011 IN UGC  
OFFICE, NEW DELHI.**

The 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 in UGC Office, New Delhi. The following attended the meeting:

1. Prof. Ved Prakash  
Chairman  
UGC  
New Delhi- 110 002
2. Prof. M.M. Sharma  
3, Jaswant Baugh (Runwal Park)  
Behind Akbarallys  
V.N. Purav Marg, Chembur Naka  
Mumbai – 400 071
3. Prof.Goverdhan Mehta  
National Research Professor and  
Lilly-Jubilant Chair  
School of Chemistry  
University of Hyderabad  
Hyderabad-500 046 (A.P.)
4. Prof. P. Rama Rao  
Flat No.301  
Naimisum, Plot No.22  
Tri Nagar Colony  
Hyderabad – 500 073.
5. Prof. Kota Harinarayan  
Raja Ramana Fellow  
Structure Division  
National Aerospace Laboratories  
Bangalore - 560 017.

6. Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Batra  
Joint Secretary  
UGC  
New Delhi -110 002
7. (Mrs.) Jasvinder Pal  
Under Secretary (BSR)  
UGC, New Delhi.
8. Ms. Parbati Bose  
Former US (BSR)  
UGC, New Delhi.

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

Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Co-ordinator, Dr. D.S. Post-Doctoral 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 and then took up the agenda.

**Item No.1:- Confirmation of the minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 at UGC Office, New Delhi.**

The minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 at UGC, New Delhi were confirmed.

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

The Committee noted with satisfaction the action taken by the UGC on the minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Empowered Committee.

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

The Committee reviewed the progress under the "Faculty Recharge Programme" and, in view of faculty selections expected to take place during the coming months, requested the UGC Chairman to send, rather

urgently, a communication to Vice-Chancellors of the Universities in India in order to ascertain their faculty-upgradation needs and their willingness, in this context, to commit to an MoU with the UGC.

On a communication from the National Coordinator, Faculty Recharge Programme, the Empowered Committee considered afresh the issue of cut-off age for short listing of candidates under FRP, and agreed that, for the first batch of candidates, the cut-off age shall be 55 years as on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, which is the cut-off date for processing of first batch of applications. And, the cut-off age of candidates (55 years) in subsequent batches (there are expected to be four cut-off dates in a year) shall coincide with the cut-off date for processing of applications in respective following batches.

Committee emphasized that there is a need to sensitise the Vice-Chancellors about the scheme and some mechanism should be developed that there is no time lag between selection of the candidates and their actual placement in the university system. Committee felt that the Universities subscribing to the scheme may be provided with desirable incentive.

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

Prof. Gadre, National Co-ordinator Dr. D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship submitted the 28<sup>th</sup> list of successful candidates for Dr. D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship (**Annexure-I**) for approval of the Empowered Committee. The same was discussed and approved.

The committee noted with appreciation the list prepared by Prof. Gadre indicating the publications of DSKPDFs. The Committee suggested that a window on the website may be created where the publications may be posted.

With regard to the status of PDFs selected from the Agricultural Universities, falling under section 12(B) of the UGC Act, the committee suggested that the UGC may look into this matter for taking a policy decision and till such time selected candidate may choose a mentor from a university (other than Agricultural University) under the purview of UGC.

Committee recommended to release two posts (one JPA & one Office Assistant) on contract basis to Prof. Gadre, National Coordinator for Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme.

**Item No.5:- Discussion on the guidelines for the scheme of giving some start up grant to newly recruited Faculty Members in SAP Departments prepared by Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan.**

The Empowered Committee approved the guidelines for MHRD / UGC Empowered Committee Initiatives on “Start up Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty” prepared by Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan with some modifications. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as **Annexure –II**.

**Item No.6:- Discussion on the guidelines for the scheme to provide some Support to Networking Centre’s/Summer-Winter Schools for Infrastructure – prepared by Prof. Rama Rao.**

The Committee approved the guidelines on “Augmenting Infrastructure Facilities in Networking Resource Centres” prepared by Prof. P.Rama Rao with some modifications. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

**Item No.7:- Letter received from University of Calicut regarding ratification for purchase of Computers and LCD Projector.**

The Empowered Committee ratified the purchase of computers and LCD Projector out of the grant of Rs. 20 lakhs sanctioned to Calicut University for development of infrastructural strength of laboratories.

The Committee further recommended that Universities / Departments can incur 20% of the Infrastructure Grant for the purpose of purchase of LCD Projector / Computers / Laptops etc.

**Item No: 8:- Budget of BSR**

The Committee noted with concern the expenditure incurred so far under BSR and felt there is a need to expedite the pace of expenditure.

**Item No: 9:- Any other item**

1. The Empowered Committee recommended that the scheme of “One-Time Grant” which was confined to only faculty members of the SAP departments may be extended to all the Non-SAP departments also.

The Committee further recommended that Rs. 7.00 lakh for “One-Time Grant” could be utilized for minor equipments (not more than Rs. 2 lakhs), chemicals glassware & consumables, contingency and field work. The University may be advised to send utilization certificate along with statement of expenditure.

2. Information on number of Ph.D produced so far, no. of scholar’s submitted thesis, and no. of papers published may be called from SAP / Non-SAP departments which were allocated BSR – Fellowship during 2007.
3. Empowered Committee mentioned that Initiative of Rejuvenation of Basic Scientific Research was launched by M/HRD and implemented through UGC during XI Plan. The Committee stressed that the scheme should continue in the same manner as an initiative of the M/HRD in XII Plan also.

4. The Committee felt that there is a need to institutionalize the monitoring mechanism. Committee further suggested that Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan may be requested to prepare a note on the monitoring mechanism for the deliberation in the next meeting of the Empowered Committee.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on October 11, 2011 at 11.00 A.M. in UGC, New Delhi. The Committee proposed that the Secretary, (Higher Education), M/HRD and Joint Secretary (Higher Education), M/HRD may be requested to attend the meeting.

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

## **MHRD/UGC Empowered Committee Initiative on “Start-UP Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty”**

The MHRD/UGC Empowered Committee spearheading a national effort to strengthen Basic Scientific Research in universities and colleges has found it desirable to launch a scheme on “Research start-up grant for Newly Recruited Faculty” at Assistant Professor level.

### ***ELIGIBILITY:***

All teachers who are newly appointed at the level of Assistant Professor, against the permanent post in the faculties of Basic Science, Engineering and Technology, following the specified procedure of university will be eligible to receive financial support under the scheme.

The Assistant Professor should possess Ph.D degree with minimum two research publications in approved / cited journals. The Assistant Professor should apply within a period of six months from the date of joining the post in the Department / University as per the prescribed proforma (**ANNEXURE - A**).

### ***NATURE OF ASSISTANCE:***

The UGC will provide grant of Rs. 6.00 lakh for items like minor equipment (upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs only), consumables, contingencies and field work. There shall not be any request for the post of Research fellow/Project assistant etc., since it expected that the assistant professor as a young researcher need to conduct bench work by himself/herself). The grant should be utilised within two years of approval. The Assistant Professor will send the Utilization Certificate along with statement of expenditure through the University / College.

### ***MECHANISM OF SELECTION:***

The Empowered Committee will select the candidates on the basis of expert appraisal.



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**FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL FOR  
MHRD / UGC EMPOWERED COMMITTEE INITIATIVES ON  
“START-UP GRANT FOR NEWLY RECRUITED FACULTY”**

1. Broad Subject
2. Area of Specialization
3. Assistant Professor (Research Investigator)
  - (i) Name:
  - (ii) Sex: (M/F)
  - (iii) Date of Birth:
  - (iv) Category: (GEN/SC/ST/OBC)
  - (v) Qualification:
  - (vi) Designation:
  - (vii) Address:
    - Office:
    - Residence:
    - E-mail:
4. Whether the University / College / Institution is approved under Section 2 (f) and 12 (B) of the UGC Act?  
  
YES / NO
5. Teaching and Research Experience of Assistant Professor (Research Investigator)
  - (i) Teaching Experience:
  - (ii) Research Experience:
  - (iii) Year of award of Doctoral Degree:
  - (iv) Title of thesis for Doctoral Degree:
  - (v) Publication:
    - (a) Papers Published: Accepted:  
Communicated:
    - (b) Books Published: Accepted:  
Communicated:



(Please enclose the list of papers and books published and / or accepted during last five years)

6. (i) Project Title
  - (ii) Introduction
    - Origin of the research problem
    - Interdisciplinary relevance
    - Review of Research and Development in the Subject:
      - International Status
      - National Status
      - Significance of the Study
      - Its potential contribution to knowledge in the field of social relevance or national importance.
  - (iii) Objectives
  - (iv) Methodology
  - (v) Year Wise Plan of work and targets to be achieve
  - (vi) Details of collaboration, if any intended
7. Financial Assistance (Rs. 6.00 lakhs)
  8. Any other information which the investigator may like to give in support of this proposal which may be helpful in evaluating.

To certify that:

- a) The University / College / Institute is approved under Section 2(f) and 12(b) of the UGC Act and is fit to receive grants from the UGC.
- b) I shall abide by the rules governing the scheme in case assistance is provided to me from the UGC for the above project.
- c) I shall complete the project within the stipulated period and will submit the completion report and shall attempt to Publish the outcome of Research Start-Up Grant.

**NAME AND SIGNATURE:**      **a) Assistant Professor (Research Investigator)**  
   **b) Registrar / Principal (Signature with seal)**

**Note on Augmenting Infrastructure Facilities in**  
**Networking Resource Centres**

The Empowered Committee for Basic Scientific Research (BSR) in Indian Universities had approved Networking Resource Centres in the following nine Universities/Departments:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of University</b>	<b>Name of School/Department</b>
1.	Madurai Kamaraj University	School of Biological Science
2.	Indian Institute of Science	Department of Materials Engineering
3.	Banaras Hindu University	Department of Physics
4.	Punjab University	Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
5.	University of Hyderabad	School of Chemistry
6.	Calcutta University	Department of Radio Physics and Electronics
7.	Institute of Chemical Technology	Chemical Engineering
8.	Indian Institute of Science	Department of Biological Science
9.	Jawaharlal Nehru University	School of Life Sciences

Included among the objectives underlying the establishment of networking centres is the following:

*“to enhance and build state-of-the-art in-house research infrastructure and other research facilities in the Department” which needs to be read along with another stated objective viz. “hosting and facilitating researchers from other institutes/universities to carry out key experiments”.*

In this context, it is emphasised that several measures taken so far by the Empowered Committee, including the establishment of networking resource centres, have been designed so as to realize implementation of specific recommendations made by the Task Force for BSR in its 2005 Report entitled **Rejuvenation of Basic Scientific Research in Indian Universities**, which was duly approved by MHRD. The aim of *increasing the number of PhDs from Indian Universities five-fold, with proper standards, in a span of ten years* was central to the Report, in pursuance of which several recommendations were made. One among the recommendations, which is awaiting implementation, concerns **providing “exclusive research students’ hostel”** (item 8 of the list of recommendations in the 2005 report of the task force refers).

**It clearly emerges that while the objective of augmenting physical infrastructure in the networking resource centres has not so far been fully met, there is the specific recommendation in the task force report for providing exclusive research students’ hostel which is awaiting implementation.**

Now therefore the Empowered Committee approves a grant of up to Rs. 2 crore for augmenting research students’ hostel in each of the Universities/ Institutes which has been granted a networking facilitating centre(s). The provision of a hostel dedicated to research students will help augment doctoral students’ accommodation in the university/institute concerned as well as house research students visiting its networking centre for “performing key experiments”. In addition, these hostels should make provision for accommodating two more categories of researchers: (1) DS Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellows assigned to the University/Institute and (2) teaching staff belonging to other institutes/universities who have been encouraged to visit the networking centres for enhancing their knowledge in advanced subjects by attending workshops and summer/winter schools as also for performing selected experiments using advanced research-related equipment available in the networking centers.

A proposal in this regard justifying the need for addition requirement of hostel should be submitted to the UGC for consideration.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As recommended by the Members of the Empowered Committee constituted by the Ministry of HRD under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma, Ex-Director, ICT, Mumbai in its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2010, all the SAP departments in science were requested to submit updated details of faculty members who have singly successfully guided at 15 full time Ph.D. (s) out of which at least five Ph.D.(s) have been graduated during preceding five years. It is proposed to allocate, "One-Time Grant" to individual faculty member who can utilize for capital and revenue expenditure to intensity research in his/her area.

Now, the Empowered Committee in its meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 recommended that the scheme of "One-Time Grant" may be extended to all the Non-Sap departments. Accordingly, you are requested to submit updated details of faculty members who have singly successfully guided at 15 full time Ph.D. (s) out of which at least five Ph.D.(s) have been graduated during preceding five years. A copy of the guidelines for "One-Time Grant" is enclosed.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Renu Batra)

The HoD

Non-SAP Department

University of -----

Copy to:

1. The Registrar,-----University.

(Jasvinder Pal)

Under Secretary