

CONFIDENTIAL

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002**

Minutes of the 415th meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 24th February, 2004.

The following were present:-

1.	Prof. Arun Nigavekar	Chairman
2.	Prof. V.N. Rajsekharan Pillai	Vice-Chairman
3.	Prof. S.K. Joshi	Member
4.	Prof. B.H. Briz-Kishore	Member
5.	Prof. Sureshwar Sharma	Member
6.	Prof. Vasant Gadre	Member
7.	Prof. Ashok Kumar Gupta	Member
8.	Dr. G. Karunakaran Pillai	Member
9.	Dr.(Ms.) Aruna Goel	Member
10.	Dr. P.N. Tandon	Member

Shri S.K. Tripathi, Secretary (Education) and Shri Dinesh Chander Gupta, Secretary (Expenditure) could not attend the meeting.

Shri Ravi Mathur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development attended the meeting as a special invitee.

While dealing with Administrative agenda items, all the Non-Commission Members were requested to withdraw from the meeting.

Following officers of the UGC also attended the meeting:

Secretary

Prof. Ved Prakash

Financial Advisor

Shri Pawan Agarwal

Additional Secretary

Dr. R.K. Chauhan

Director (Admn./Meetings)

Dr. P.S. Rajput

While welcoming the Commission Members, the Chairman highlighted the significance of all the Inter-University Centres. He said that the time had come when we ought to undertake the critical analyses of all the initiatives that the Commission has launched during the X Plan period. The Chairman then requested the Director, INFLIBNET to make the presentation both on the activities and the vision of the Centre. During the interventions, it was observed by the members that the INFLIBNET ought to connect bridges with other organizations including DST, CSIR and other educational enterprises in the country.

Subsequently Prof. Ajit Kembhavi of the IUCAA made a presentation on the Infonet initiatives. He focused more on access for the want of time. He briefed the house on the status of providing electronic access to scholarly literature in all areas of learning.

The Commission Members were also of the view that efforts should be made to increase occupancy of internet facility from the present of 30% to at least 70%. Besides, it was also suggested that resource materials available on other sites might also be tapped for ensuring increased access to literature. It was also suggested that this facility might be used for monitoring purposes.

The Commission also decided that the agenda items prepared by the UGC office should provide adequate background information including financial provision and the total liability in respect of every single proposal. As regards the development radars, it was observed that since enough time had been given to the Vice-Chancellor, the Office of the UGC might finalize them without any further wait.

SECTION-1

Item No.1.01(a): To receive the minutes of the meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 27th December, 2003.

The Commission confirmed the minutes of the last meeting of the UGC held on December 27, 2003.

Item No.1.01(b): To receive the action taken on the minutes of the meeting held on 27th December, 2003.

Examined and noted. The Commission further desired that the recommendations of the Expert Committee on franchising of higher education through off campus study centres be properly implemented and monitored.

Item No.1.02(a): To approve the action taken on certain matters.

No item

Item No.1.02(b): To receive the items of information.

No item

Item No.1.03: Review of Grants Position – Receipts and Payments – both under Plan and Non-Plan Heads for the year 2003-2004 (as on 23.2.2004).

The Commission noted the Receipts and Expenditure position as on February 23, 2004 and was happy to note that out of the total allocation of Rs.163055.00 lakhs under Plan and Non-Plan for the year 2003-2004, the UGC has already released Rs.123658.00 lakhs. The Commission appreciated the efforts of the Ministry for restoring the level of plan grants for the current year to the earlier level of Rs.516.75 crore. The Commission also welcomed earmarked allocations made by the Ministry for different high priority projects. The Commission, however, desired that in future this might be done in consultation with the UGC and that it should be over and above the plan outlay so that the projects already included in the Plan do not suffer. It was also decided that in future the Finance Bureau should present a detailed note indicating head-wise and scheme-wise receipt and expenditure.

Action: FA

SECTION-2
(MATTERS RELATING TO STANDARDS)

Item No.2.01: To consider revised regulations for recognition of colleges in terms of regulations framed under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act.

Having regard to the views of the Ministry on this subject, the Commission observed that there was a need for harmonization and simplification of procedure for recognition and affiliation of colleges. The Commission authorized the Chairman to constitute a High Powered Committee to examine all related aspects for the purposes of ensuring comprehensive and simplified procedure for greater harmonization.

Action: JS(CPP)

Item No.2.02: To consider Comprehensive Higher Education Information Systems Project (HISP).

The Commission appreciated the idea of a comprehensive information system project for higher education and desired that it should come in the form of a blue print.

Action: FA

SECTION-3
(REFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL BODIES)

There is no agenda under this Section.

SECTION-4
(SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, QUALITY PROGRAMMES ETC.)

Item No. 4.01 : To consider the proposal of NAAC, Bangalore for the construction of own permanent building and campus development.

The Commission considered and deliberated on the proposal and resolved to authorize the Chairman to constitute a two member Committee from amongst the Members of the Commission to examine the proposal in its entirety and then it be brought back to the Commission with greater clarity.

Action: JS(IUC/MC)

SECTION-5
(GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)

Item No.5.01: To consider the revised guidelines for the scheme of

- (i) Remedial Coaching for Minority Community Students in Universities and College.
- (ii) Coaching Classes in Universities/Colleges for entry in services for minority community students.

The Commission discussed the revised guidelines for the scheme of Remedial Coaching and Coaching Classes for Minority Community Students in Universities and Colleges and accorded its approval in principle. At the same time, it authorized the Chairman to ensure the inclusion of all the salient points into these guidelines.

Action: JS(SCT/CCM)

Item No.5.02: To consider the revised guidelines for Establishment of SCs/STs Cell in Universities for X Plan period.

The Commission considered and discussed the revised guidelines for establishment of SCs/STs Cell in Universities for X Plan period and, in principle, approved the guidelines. It was also decided that before finalizing the provision of grants under these guidelines, the UGC may cross check about the status and liability of the staff given under the scheme during the earlier Plan.

Action: JS(SCT/CCM)

Item No.5.03: To consider the revised guidelines for Introduction of Remedial Coaching for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Universities and Colleges.

The Commission discussed the revised guidelines and resolved that the Financial Adviser in consultation with the Bureau should bring in complete clarity and submit it to the Vice-Chairman for finalization.

Action: JS(SCT/CCM)

Item No.5.04: To consider X Plan guidelines for “Organisation of Adventure Sports Activities” by Universities/Colleges.

The Commission considered the X Plan guidelines for Organisation of Adventure Sports Activities by the Universities/Colleges and agreed that UGC may fund Universities/Colleges directly and allow them to engage any agency for implementing the Scheme.

Action: JS(PES)

SECTION-6
(MISCELLANEOUS)

Item No.6.01: To consider certain establishment matters of the University Grants Commission.

There was no agenda under this Item.

Item No. 6.02 : To receive the status notes on UGC Programmes/ Scheme.

There was no agenda item under this Item.

Item No.6.03: To note the date and place of the next meeting of the Commission.

The next date of the meeting of the Commission will be sometime during the second week of April subject to adjustments due to general elections.

Item No.6.04: To consider the recommendation of the High Powered Committee constituted to consider the issue of conducting SLET in some Indian languages with an all India accreditation and deleting them from the list of UGC NET subjects.

The Commission considered the recommendations of the High Powered Committee and decided that the UGC should continue to conduct NET in all Indian languages. The Commission further decided that while writing the languages paper in NET Examination, the candidates must write their answers in the concerned language only.

Action: DS(NET)

SECTION-7
(SUPPLEMENTARY)

Item No.7.01: To consider certain establishment matters of the University Grants Commission.

Recorded Separately.

Item No.7.02: To consider the inclusion of Amrita College of Dentistry, Cochin under the ambit of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Cochin.

The Commission considered the proposal of inclusion of Amrita College of Dentistry, Cochin under the ambit of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Cochin and agreed for its inclusion subject to the condition that UGC shall refer the matter to Ministry of Human Resource Development only after Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham submits the second year's renewal from Dental Council of India.

Action: JS(CPP)

Item No.7.03: To consider the constitution of Committee for development of Central Universities in the North East.

The Commission agreed to the constitution of Committee for development of Central Universities in the North East and decided that this Committee be comprised Commission Members; Vice-Chancellors from North-East; Secretaries of Education of NE States and Members from North-East Councils, the Ministry of Human Resource Development and UGC. This Committee will be entrusted with the responsibility of systematic development of these Universities.

Action: AS-I

Item No.7.04: To consider X Plan guidelines for the UGC scheme on Population Education.

The Commission considered and discussed the guidelines of the UGC scheme on Population Education and decided that a Committee comprising Members of the Commission be constituted to look into all its aspects including the budget and also the objectives realized under this programme during the IX Plan period.

Action: JS(NFE)

Item No.7.05: To consider the establishment of Centre of Biomedical Magnetic Resonance as an autonomous Inter University Centre by the UGC.

The Commission considered the establishment of Centre of Biomedical Magnetic Resonance as an autonomous Inter-University Centre by the UGC and while welcoming the idea in principle decided to set up a Committee to come up with a comprehensive blue print including its objectives, governance, financial liabilities, the place for location of the Institution etc. It was further resolved that the Committee be requested to work on (i) Immediate interim arrangements to keep system operational and (ii) Comprehensive approach as stated above.

Action: JS(IUC)

Item No.7.06: To note the decision of the UGC to include “Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital, Chennai” under the ambit of Bharath Institute of Higher Education & Research, Chennai (Deemed University).

The Commission endorsed the decision of the Chairman, UGC to include Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital, Chennai under the ambit of Bharath Institute of Higher Education & Research, Chennai (Deemed to be University).

Action: JS(CPP)

Item No.7.07: To consider guidelines for the UGC scheme on Adult, Continuing Education and Extension and Field Outreach for the X Plan.

The Commission considered and deliberated on the guidelines of the UGC Scheme on Adult, Continuing Education and Extension and Field outreach. It was pointed out that there is an urgent need for finalization of these guidelines in context of the decision of Hon'ble Allahabad High Court dated 9-2-2004 and the earlier Judgment of the Hon'ble Court dated 22-7-1999 regarding the continuance of the Programme in BHU. After examination of the matter, the Commission authorized the Chairman to take appropriate decision keeping in view the entirety of the matter.

Action: JS(NFE)

Item No.7.08: To consider allocation of X Plan development assistance to Jagadguru Rambadhracharya Handicapped University, Chitrakootdham – 210 204 (UP) during X Plan.

The Commission agreed to the recommendations of the Expert Committee to allocate Rs. 227.40 lakhs as plan development assistance to Jagadguru Rambadhracharya Handicapped University, Chitrakootdham.

Action: JS(CPP)

Item No.7.09: To consider the guidelines for selection and award of the UGC Swaran Jayanti Post Graduate Scholarships in General Education.

The Commission considered the guidelines for selection and award of the UGC Swarn Jayanti Post Graduate Scholarships in General Education and resolved that the item with all the details be placed in the next meeting of the Commission.

Action: JS(IUC/MC)

(VED PRAKASH)
Secretary

(ARUN NIGAVEKAR)
Chairman