



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Minutes of the 73rd meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research held on December 22, 2015 at 10:30 A.M. in UGC Office, New Delhi.

The 73rd meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on **December 22, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in UGC office, New Delhi**. List of participants is at **Annexure - I**.

At the outset Dr. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe Chairman, Empowered Committee welcomed all the members of the Empowered Committee. The committee members discussed about state of science research in Indian Universities. Prof. Bhatkar pointed out that various state of art national facilities for research remain under-utilized as most of the academic fraternity do not know about them. He stressed upon the need to promote and advertise these facilities through the UGC web portal. Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala suggested exploring the ways through which well established departments in the IITs and IISERs could mentor the budding science departments in the Universities to improve and enhance research in their universities. There after agenda was taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 72nd meeting of Empowered Committee held on November 3, 2015 in UGC Office, New Delhi.

The minutes were confirmed with the following observation:

Under the item no. 7 minutes should be read as:

The committee extended the tenure of Prof. RP Gandhi by 3months and Prof. Sudesh Nangia by one year w.e.f. 26.11.2015. As Prof. RP Gandhi is not keeping well, Prof. Nangia shall act as National Coordinator FRP. The name of Associate Coordinator will be announced in the next meeting.

Item No. 2 : Action taken on the Minutes.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the action taken by the UGC on the minutes of the 72nd meeting of the Empowered Committee.

Item No. 3: Discussion regarding Faculty Recharge Programme with Prof. Sudesh Nangia (National Coordinator) regarding the progress of the scheme.

i) Regarding FRP Selectees availing other fellowships in lieu of their salaries

It was brought to the notice of the Empowered committee that some of the faculty members are still availing other fellowships in lieu of their salaries. The Committee resolved that the selectees availing other fellowships need to resign from their fellowship before joining as UGC-faculty under the Faculty Recharge Programme.

(ii) Resignation of Professor Gandhi and handing over of charge of co-ordinator to Prof. Sudesh Nangia

The committee noted the same and recorded their appreciation for the support rendered by Prof. Gandhi. It was resolved that Chairman EC in consultation with Prof. Sudesh Nangia and others identify a retired faculty stationed in Delhi to handle the Faculty Recharge Programme.

Item No 4: Discussion with Prof Prof. D.S. Joag, Associate Coordinator of Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Cell and regarding the progress of the scheme.

Prof. D.S. Joag, Associate Coordinator submitted the 62nd list of recommended and 47th list of not recommended candidates of Dr. D S Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship Scheme. The committee approved the same. The committee also approved the 17th referee honorarium list.

Request regarding change of mentor, conversion of fellowship, leave applied were also approved by the Empowered Committee. Follow up actions on them will be taken up by UGC.

Item No. 5: Discussion with Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator, UGC-Faculty Research Promotion Schemes regarding the review of three schemes.

- i) Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator submitted the lists of candidates recommended/not-recommended candidates for (i) Start up Grant. The committee approved the lists.
- ii) **Review of One Time Grant Scheme:** The committee analysed the proposal on revision of selection criteria, quantum of support, grant tenure of **One Time Grant** scheme in detail and recommended to **rename** the Scheme of One Time Grant as **MID CAREER AWARD** with the following changes in the guidelines:
 - a) The applicant must have successfully supervised the Ph.D. dissertation of 15 full-time candidates, 5 of whom should have received their degrees during the preceding 5 years.
 - b) The applicant must have successfully completed at least 5 sponsored research projects funded by national/international government or private agencies.
 - c) The applicant should have a minimum 3 years of service left in the University from the date of submission of his/her application.
 - d) The cumulative impact factor of the published papers by the applicant should be ≥ 30 (according to the Journal Citation Reports of Thomson Reuters).
 - e) The quantum of support under the scheme should be Rs.10 lakhs.
 - f) The grant can be utilized for purchasing items like minor equipment, consumables, contingencies, fieldwork, travel etc.
 - g) The grant **cannot** be used for international travel, purchasing furniture items or for appointing project assistant or research fellow.
 - h) The quantum of funds under these heads can be decided by the recipient depending on his/her needs.
 - i) The grant may be released in 2 instalments. Initially, 80% of the grant will be released. The remaining grant shall be released

after the receipt of the UC of first instalment. However, the tenure to utilize whole grant shall be 2 years from the date of issue of sanction letter of the first instalment.

iii) **Review of BSR Faculty Fellowship scheme:** The Committee also discussed the proposal on revision of selection criteria, quantum of support, grant tenure **BSR Faculty Fellowship** scheme and recommended as under:

- a) The applicant must have successfully supervised the Ph.D. dissertation of 15 (in basic sciences) or 10 (in engineering and technology) full-time candidates, 5 of whom having received their degrees during the preceding 10 years.
 - b) The cumulative impact factor of the published papers by the applicant should be ≥ 50 (according to the Journal Citation Reports of Thomson Reuters).
 - c) The applicant must have handled, as Principal Investigator, at least 3 sponsored research projects funded by national/international agencies, in the last 10 years.
 - d) The applicant must apply within one year of the date of superannuation in the University.
 - e) The tenure of fellowship remains the same i.e. 3 years.
 - f) Financial assistance under the scheme shall be: ₹ 50,000/- pm (exclusive of the pension and/or other retirement benefits), and a research grant of ₹ 5,00,000/- pa.
 - g) The Research grant can be utilized for purchase equipments, computer/laptop, printer, chemicals, glassware and consumables, contingency, hiring project/technical assistant, field work, travel (within India), etc.
 - h) The grant cannot be utilized for International travel and purchase of furniture.
 - i) The recipient can decide the quantum of funds under these heads depending on his/her needs.
- iv) The committee noted that the present MOU with the University of Hyderabad on the operation of the UGC FRPS Cell from its premises expires on April 12, 2016. After discussion it recommended that the MOU will be renewed for a period of another

3 years with earlier terms and conditions with Prof. Anunay Samanta, as the National Coordinator. The committee also approved the budget of the Cell for the next 3 years.

Item No 6: *Review of the BSR fellowships.*

The committee was of the view that the selection of the fellows should be done by merit of the candidates. Given the divergence in methods of evaluation adopted by various universities, the selection of candidates based on marks obtained by them in Post Graduate degree is not appropriate. In order to avoid anomalies in selections, the Empowered Committee proposed to merge BSR fellowships with NET-JRF by enhancing the number of fellowships by 600 per year in Science disciplines provided by UGC through NET-JRF examination.

Item No 7(i): *Discussion about the modalities in establishing new Networking Resource Centres.*

The Empowered Committee discussed the matter in detail and decided to establish new networking centres in emerging areas.

Item No 7(ii): *Request of Prof. Furqan Kumar regarding research in agricultural Universities.*

The Empowered Committee discussed the matter and resolved that providing financial support to agricultural universities is a policy matter and the committee does not have the mandate to take decision on the matter.

Item No. 7(iii): *Request of Dr. Sandeep Gupta regarding the utilization of startup grant*

The Empowered Committee approved the request of Dr. Sandeep Gupta start-up grant beneficiary to purchase the PC workstation (costing more than Rs.1.00 lakh) along with the accessories for the Start-up grant sanctioned. However, it is to be noted that the items bought from the Start-up grant are University property.

Item No 7(iv): Request of Dr. Manika Khanuja (FRP selectee) for change of Host University from Institute of Chemical Technology to Jamia Millia Islamia.

The committee considered and approved the request of Dr. Manika Khanuja keeping in view her limitations to relocate from Delhi.

Item No 7(v): Request of Dr. Arunima Sengupta (FRP selectee) for change of Host University from Bangalore University to Jadavpur University.

The committee considered and approved the request of Dr. Arunima Sengupta keeping in view her limitations to relocate from Kolkata.

Item No 8: Budget of BSR:

The Committee noted with satisfaction the Expenditure status under the Basic Scientific Research Programme.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee in February, 2016. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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List of Participants who attended the 73rd meeting of the Empowered Committee (EC) held on December 22, 2015 in UGC, New Delhi

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| 1. Dr. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe | - | Chairman, EC |
| 2. Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala | - | Member, EC |
| 3. Prof. Vijay P Bhatkar | - | Member, EC |
| 4. Prof. Sudesh Nangia | - | National Coordinator, FRP |
| 5. Prof. D S Joag | - | Assoc. Coordinator, DSKPDF |
| 6. Prof. Anunay Samanta | - | National Coordinator, FRPS |
| 7. Dr. Sunita Siwach | - | DS(BSR) |
| 8. Dr. Shalini | - | EO(BSR) |