



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Minutes of the 75th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research held on June 30, 2016 at 10:30 A.M. in UGC Office, New Delhi.

The 75th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on **June 30, 2016 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. Prof. Sahasrabudhe discussed about the hardship faced by the fellows for delay in payment of fellowships. Prof. Jhunjhunwala suggested bringing all the grievances in the FAQ format and putting it on the UGC website. There after agenda was taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 74th meeting of Empowered Committee held on February 20, 2016 in IIT Madras.

The minutes 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 74th meeting of the Empowered Committee.

Item No. 3: Discussion regarding the Faculty recharge programme.

- (i)** The Committee approved the budget of the Faculty Recharge Programme Cell for the financial year 2016-17 as proposed by the cell.
- (ii)** The Committee also inquired about the Prof. KC Upadhyaya on his joining as Associate Coordinator, Faculty Recharge Programme. It was decided to send a reminder in this regard to Prof. Upadhyaya.

(iii) It was brought to the notice of the Committee many FRP selectees mainly in state universities are facing problems at their workplace the regarding a) delay in payment of salary, b) enrollment in CGHS & NPS, facilitating LTC claim and payment of permissible Allowances, c) Teaching Work Load particularly for UGC-Assistant Professors, d) Awarding Ph.D. guides ship to UGC-Assistant Professors and e) Providing Basic Infrastructure Facilities to UGC-Faculties, i.e. Office Room & Lab Space with Minimum furniture, and internet etc.

The Committee reiterated that the UGC faculty is entitled for all the benefits, facilities available to the permanent faculty of the university. The host university shall ensure that UGC faculty the academic, administrative, co-curricular facilities (e.g. departmental transfer, work load, leave, health centre, NOC etc.) at par with the permanent faculty of the University. The decisions regarding day today administrative/ academic matters pertaining to the UGC faculty lies with the host University only.

It was also decided by the Committee to create a web page on the UGC website which provides information regarding the FRP selectees (designation, date of joining, host institution).

(iv) The Committee resolved that the FRP cell shall assess the progress of the FRP faculty as per UGC Regulations on minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers and other academic staff in universities and colleges and measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education 2010 as amended from time to time. The FRP cell shall follow the procedure as recommended in the above said regulations for for constitution of screening/selection Committees for promotions of the UGC faculty under CAS as per recommendation from the host university. In Addition, the all the Members of the Pay Fixation Committee of FRP faculty shall also be part of all such Committees.

(v) As there is no provision of change of host university the Empowered Committee constituted a sub-Committee on to take decisions on individual requests on case to case basis. The constitution of the sub committee is as follows:

- i) Prof. Anil D Sahasrabudhe
- ii) Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala
- iii) Prof. Jawaharlal Kaul

(vi) The Committee approved the placement of the following FRP selectees:

1. Dr. Kaustuv Das (Jadavpur University)
2. Dr. Kunwar Alkendra Singh (Banaras Hindu University)
3. Dr. Anjali D Ganjiwale (Bangalore University)
4. Dr. Suryani Deb (University of Delhi)
5. Dr. Aparna Dixit (National Brain Research Institute (provided the university is funded by MHRD and has signed the MoU with UGC otherwise she may be placed at University of Delhi)

(vii) The Committee approved the requests of the following candidates for extension in joining the host universities:

- i) Dr. Prashant Singh (extension given upto March 1, 2017)
- ii) Dr. Bikash Rajan Parida (extension granted upto September 1, 2016)

Since, Dr. Hirak K Patra has request for extension in joining by more than one year, the Committee did not approve it.

The request of Dr. Sreedevi (II cycle selectee) regarding change of host University was also not approved.

(viii) The Empowered Committee cancelled the selection of Ms. Kiran Chaturvedi (Candidates selected in FRP cycle III) as she has misinformed the FRP cell by submitting false information that she had completed her Ph. D Degree in 2013 in her online application form which she did not. Having a Doctoral Degree was one of the prerequisite for short listing the candidates for interview. The Committee asked UGC to withdraw the appointment letter issued to her.

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

- (i) The Committee approved the 64th list of recommended candidates and 49th list of not recommended candidates. The Committee also approved the requests made by DSK Fellows were approved regarding extension in joining and leaves applied. The 18th Referee honorarium list was approved.
- (ii) The Committee extended the tenure of Prof. S. R. Gadre as the National Coordinator of the DSKPDF Scheme and of Prof. D. S. Joag as the Associate Co-ordinator of the Scheme by one year i. e. June 01, 2016 to May 31, 2017.
- (iii) The Committee noted that the present MOU with Savitri Bai Phule Pune University on the operation of the UGC Dr. DS Kothari Postdoctoral Fellowship (DSKPDF) Cell from its premises expires on June 1, 2016. After discussion it recommended that the MOU will be renewed for a period of another 3 years with earlier terms and conditions.
- (iv) The budget for the next 3 years for DSKPDF cell was presented by Prof. S. R. Gadre. The budget was approved along with the revised salaries of the staff and the honorarium for the National and Associate Coordinators.

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

- (i) Prof. Samanta's recommendations for the Start-up Grant, Mid-career Award and Faculty Fellowship Schemes were considered and approved by the Empowered Committee.
- (ii) Prof. Samanta's own application for Mid-career Award, which was placed before the Committee without any recommendation, was considered and approved by the Empowered Committee members in the absence of Prof. Samanta.

- (iii) The Empowered committee decided to disburse BSR Faculty Fellowship on DBT mode from the year 2016-17. To facilitate the selectees, the Empowered Committee further decided that the award letters of all the Faculty Research Promotion schemes should be made available on line on the UGC web-portal.
- (iv) The Committee enhanced the honorarium of Prof. Samanta, National Coordinator from Rs. 30,000/-pm to Rs. 35,000/- pm w.e.f. 12.04.2016.
- (v) The Empowered Committee approved the proposal of claim and reimbursement of TA/DA of the National Coordinator/Associate Coordinator (FRP cell, DSKPDF cell, FRPS cell) for attending the EC meetings from their respective grants as per UGC norms, instead of the present practice of reimbursement from UGC.

Item No 6: *Merge of the BSR fellowships with CSIR NET pool.*

The merger of 600 BSR Fellowships to the CSIR-UGC NET pool was discussed at length. It was also decided that 50 students each in engineering and pharmacy shall be selected through GATE and GPAT respectively.

Considering that these Fellowships were created for students pursuing their research in Universities, the Empowered Committee resolved that these Fellowships be labeled as UGC-BSR NET Fellowship and the candidates selected under this category can avail these Fellowships only in the Universities (excluding private universities).

Item No 7: *Extension in of tenure for Networking Resource Centres.*

The Empowered Committee gave extension for continuing research activities for 2016-17 to UGC Networking Resource Centre in Biology, Madurai Kamaraj University and Jawaharlal Nehru University and UGC Networking Resource Centre in Pharmacy, Punjab University. The Committee further decided that these centres may utilize the grant sanction in the previous years to carry out the research activities.

While considering specific requests for extension of tenure of the above UGC Networking Resource Centres (NRCs), the Empowered Committee also discussed about the tenure of other NRCs. The Committee felt that NRCs, which have completed 5-year tenure and performed well, can be considered for another 5-year term with budgetary support. For this purpose, it was resolved that all NRCs having completed their 5-year term be asked to submit proposal before the Committee highlighting their present activities and a detailed proposal for the next 5 years for consideration.

Item No 8: *New Schemes on collaborations between Universities and IITs/IISERS/ CSIR Laboratories in emerging areas of Sciences.*

The Empowered Committee emphasized on the need of closer linkages between the Universities and CSIR laboratories/IITs/IISERS for strengthening higher education and research in sciences. The following programmes were proposed in this regard:

- i) Establishing UGC-CSIR centers of Excellence in identified areas of scientific research, where the universities and the IITs/ IISERS/ CSIR laboratories shall mutually utilize the scientific infrastructure including libraries for teaching and training of post-graduates and Ph.D students.
- ii) Active partnership of CSIR scientists/IIT faculty with university faculty in selected area of research.

The Committee requested Prof. Jhunjunwala to work on the idea and come up with a proposal on framework for implementation of the scheme in the next meeting.

Item No 9: *Any other item:*

- (i) The Committee approved the request of Prof. A.V. Rao (BSR Faculty Fellow) for payment of stipend of Rs.10,000/- p.m. to the Ph.D. student from his contingency grant.
- (ii) The Empowered approved the Request of Prof. K. Chowdoji Rao, (BSR Faculty Fellow), Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapuram for extension to join the BSR Faculty Fellowship on 01.07.2016, since the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has enhanced the retirement age of teachers from 60 to 62 years.

- (iii) The Committee considered and approved the request of Prof. G.C. Pandey (BSR Faculty Fellow), Dr. R.M.L. Avadh University, Faizabad and gave him extension to join the fellowship from 01.07.2016.
- (iv) The Empowered Committee approved the request Prof. H Devaraj for extension in joining BSR fellowship from 1.07.2016.
- (v) The Committee also approved the request of Jagmeet Kaur (BSR Fellow) for Termination of UGC-BSR Fellowship for the year 2014-15 w.e.f. 31.12.2015.

Item No 10: Budget of BSR:

The Committee noted with satisfaction the Expenditure status under the Basic Scientific Research Programme. The Committee recommended to enhance the salary of FRP administrative assistants working in UGC by 10%.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on September 1, 2016 at UGC Head Office, New Delhi. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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Annexure- I

List of Participants who attended the 75th -meeting of the Empowered Committee (EC) held on June 30, 2016 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. Jawaharlal Kaul | - | Member, EC |
| 5. Prof. Sridhar Gadre | - | National Coordinator, DSKPDF |
| 6. Prof. D S Joag | - | Assoc. Coordinator, DSKPDF |
| 7. Prof. Anunay Samanta | - | National Coordinator, FRPS |
| 8. Dr. Sunita Siwach | - | DS(BSR) |
| 9. Dr. Shalini | - | EO(BSR) |