



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Minutes of the 63rd meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research held on 3rd February, 2014 at 9.30 a.m. in UGC, New Delhi.

The 63rd meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on **3rd February, 2014 at 9.30 a.m. in UGC, New Delhi.** List of participants is at **Annexure - I.**

At the outset Prof. M.M. Sharma, Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members to the 63rd Meeting of the Empowered Committee. Prof. Sharma once again requested the Chairman, UGC that the work of the Empowered Committee may be reviewed and the Empowered Committee may be reconstituted.

Prof. Sharma put on record the appreciation for the services rendered by Ms. Parbati Bose, Former Under Secretary (BSR) UGC and the other members of the Committee endorsed the same.

There after the Agenda was taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 62nd meeting held on 18th December, 2013 at UGC, New Delhi.

The minutes of the 62nd meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 18th December, 2013 at *UGC, New Delhi* were confirmed.

Item No. 2: Action taken on the Minutes.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the fast-track action taken by the UGC on the minutes of the 62nd meeting of Empowered Committee, especially the Budget allocation for BSR for 2013-14 as Rs. 160 crores and incurring a total expenditure of Rs. 119.16 crores as on 03.02.2014 largely due to the release of the fellowship amount which was pending.

Item No. 3: Discussion with Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator and Prof. (Mrs.) Sudesh Nangia, Associate Coordinator, FRP.

1. The Empowered Committee approved the 'Placement Details' of candidates selected in the Second Cycle of FRP Appointments, presented at the meeting by the National Coordinator, FRP.

2. The Committee decided that, for fixation of pay of the faculty at the level of Assistant Professor, under FRP, one increment for each year of post- doctoral experience be given to the appointee subjected to a maximum of 5 non-compounded advance increments. This shall be in addition to five non-compounded advance increments admissible to Ph.D degree- holder-selectees as Assistant Professor under the existing UGC rules.

REMARKS on Item No. 3 Para 2

This issue was consulted with the Pay Scale Section of UGC and they have given clarification as under:

“The UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations 2010 do not have any provision of additional/advance non-compounded increments at entry level of Assistant Professor and equivalent except in the cases where the candidate is appointed with M.Phil/Ph.D. degree awarded in accordance with UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009.

The Regulations are mandatory in nature and any change, specifically on financial aspect cannot be made without the approval of M/HRD”.

Therefore, as per the directions of the Chairman, UGC, advance increments to the appointees selected under Faculty Recharge Programme shall be given as per UGC Regulations, 2010.

3. The Committee deliberated on the issue of joining of the host Institution by the select faculty on deputation from the parent Institution. However, since the Programme was conceived for career-building in bright committed faculty, the protocol of ‘Joining on Deputation’ did not find favour with the Committee.
4. The Committee emphasised that all FRP positions are regular faculty positions and that the incumbents are entitled to mentor pre- doctoral students in their respective host Institutions. Further, they have the entitlement to seeking funds for research including budget for pre doctoral Fellowships from the Govt. of India funding agencies such as DST, DBT, and Industry.

Item No. 4: Discussion with Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator for Dr. D.S.

Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme.

Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator, DSKPDF submitted the 49th list of PDF selected candidates (**Annexure-II**) and 35th list of unsuccessful PDF candidates (**Annexure-III**) to the Empowered Committee. The following is recommended.

1. 49th Selection list of DSKPDF is amended after the following correction and is approved.
 - a. BL/13-14/0151: Since the Mentor is not eligible the candidate is requested to find another Mentor.
2. 35th rejection list of DSKPDF is approved.
3. Requests of the selected candidates are approved.
4. The Committee regretted the request of Dr. P.J. Eswari Pandaranayaka from Madurai Kamaraj University to award the post doctoral fellowship at Madurai Kamaraj University. The Empowered Committee further suggested her to find a new Mentor as the mentor is not eligible for guiding a DSKPDF candidate and if she is unwilling to find the same, the Commission is constrained to terminate the fellowship.
5. Request for urgent release of the first installment of funds for 3rd phase (Total grant of Rs. 92.52 lakhs) of DSKPDF Cell.

Request to release an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- which was approved in EC meeting may 2013 for improvising and up-gradation of DSKPDF website.

Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, one of the members of the Empowered Committee as in earlier times rescued himself while considering the 49th list of successful candidates for DSK fellowship being mentor of one of the candidates.

Item No. 5: Lists of Candidates for “One-Time Grant”, “UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowships” and “Start-up-Grant for newly recruited faculty” recommended by Prof.Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator, FRPS Cell, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad for approval by Empowered Committee.

The Committee approved the lists of candidates for “One-Time Grant” (**Annexure-IV**), “UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowships (**Annexure-V**)” and “Start-up-Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty (**Annexure-VI**).

Item No. 6: To discuss the minutes of the Pay Fixation Committee for fixing the pay of the candidates selected under FRP who have joined their respective institutes so far.

The Committee approved the minutes of the Pay Fixation Committee Meeting held on 24.01.2014 in UGC, New Delhi for fixing the pay of the candidates selected under FRP who have joined their respective Institutes so far.

Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan, Chairman, Pay Fixation Committee raised the issue of grant of additional increments for post-doctoral research experience. In response to the above, the Empowered Committee recommended the following:

An additional increment will be given to the candidates selected under FRP for having post-doctoral research experience for each year subjected to a maximum of 5 non-compounded increments.

Item No. 7: *Approval of the Empowered Committee for uploading the format of HRA and Utilization Certificate for the old cases of DSKPDF and BSR Fellowship on the UGC website.*

The Committee approved the format of HRA and Utilization Certificate for the old cases of DSKPDF and BSR Fellowship for uploading on the UGC website.

Item No8: *Approval of the Empowered Committee for obtaining the selection proceedings/minutes for official use of BSR Section of the following schemes: Faculty Recharge Programme, DSKPDF, BSR Faculty Fellowship, Start-up grant for newly recruited faculty, One time grant.*

The Committee suggested a monthly meeting with all the Coordinators for the following schemes to discuss the proceedings and progress of the scheme :

FRP, DSKPDF, Start-up grant for newly recruited faculty, One-time grant and BSR Faculty Fellowships.

Item No 9: *Budget of BSR*

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

Item No. 10: *Any other item*

DD (IA), UGC raised the query regarding the extension of Networking Centres after the Plan Period of 5 years. The Committee recommended that the amount lying pending with the Networking Centres may be utilized within the extended period upto the year 2014-2015 including the additional grant being released during this period. No further extension will be given beyond the extended period of 2014-15 for utilizing the grant.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on **March 11, 2014** at **10:00 a.m.** in Chennai.

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

Annexure I

List of Participants who attended the 63rd Meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 3rd February, 2014 in UGC, New Delhi

1. Prof. H. Devaraj
2. Prof. M.M. Sharma
3. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta
4. Prof. P. Rama Rao
5. Prof. Kota Harinarayan
6. Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan
7. Prof. R.P. Gandhi
8. Prof. (Mrs.) Sudesh Nangia
9. Prof. S.R. Gadre
10. Prof. Anunay Samanta
11. Dr. Sunita Siwach
12. Mrs. Ritu Oberoi
13. Dr. (Mrs.) Shalini

