



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Minutes of the 77th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research held on November 9, 2016 at 10:30 A.M. in UGC Office, New Delhi.

The 77th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on **November 9, 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. The committee discussed about the hardship faced by the fellows for delay in payment of fellowships, salaries and other grants. The committee urged UGC to redress the grievances of the beneficiaries at the earliest and to prepare the FAQs of schemes to resolve the queries. There after agenda was taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 76th meeting of Empowered Committee held on September 1, 2016 in UGC Head office Delhi.

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 76th meeting of the Empowered Committee.

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

- (i) The Committee was informed that the commission in its meeting held on Septemeber 2, 2016 has decided to discontinue the scheme of Faculty Recharge Programme, prospectively. The committee discussed the matter in details.
- (ii) It was decided to close the FRP website for new applications.

- (iii) The Committee also requested Prof. Sudesh Nangia (National Coordinator, FRP) to compile a status report on the performance of Programme.
- (iv) As the another round selection process was completed before the Commission's decision was taken (i.e. 2nd September, 2016), it was decided unanimously, to approve the minutes of the Selection Committee meetings for faculty, under UGC FRP relating to 4th cycle of appointments. **However, it was also decided that there shall be no further selections under this scheme.**
- (v) The Empowered Committee appreciated the role played by the programme by providing skilled manpower in science research and teaching despite initial hiccups. The Committee was of the view that this through this programme many talented people have been selected to promote research and teaching in the universities and institutes of higher learning. Many Universities have been strengthened and there is enough demand of the UGC faculty even now. Although, some of the universities have not accepted the programme in true spirit, and have been reluctant in accepting the UGC faculties, the response from a lot of universities has been very encouraging. The Committee strongly felt that the programme should be revisited and be re-casted in a new Avatar, modified to minimize the problems faced by the UGC-Faculty and the Universities.
- (vi) Keeping in view of the problems faced by the FRP faculty the Empowered Committee decided to reframe the service rules, promotion rules carefully to avoid any confusion and delay.
- (vii) The requests for transfer of following FRP faculty considered by the committee and were rejected:
- a. Dr. Moumita Saharay
 - b. Dr. Basir Ahmed
 - c. Dr. Avaneesh Kumar Singh; However, he could still join Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai as a special case
 - d. Dr. Senoy Thomas; However, He could still join Savitri Bai Phuele Pune University, Pune as a special case.

(viii) The transfer request of Dr. Kanan Kumar Dutta and Dr. Supriyo Kumar Das was also not accepted. However, it was decided to request the Vice-Chancellor of Presidency University for allowing research guidance facilities to UGC Faculty.

(ix) The Committee approved the request of Dr. Manika Gupta for extension in joining the University of Delhi with effect from 23.09.2016.

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

(i) The Committee approved the 66th list of recommended candidates and 51th list of not recommended candidates. The Committee also approved the requests made by DSK Fellows regarding extension in joining and leave applied. The 19th Referee honorarium list was approved.

(ii) It was decided by the committee that **not more than three** DS Kothari Post Doctoral Fellows should be allowed to work with a Mentor at any given time, as proposed by the National Coordinator of Dr. DS Kothari Postdoctoral Cell.

(iii) To stream line the process of disbursement of referee honoraria and to cover the travel claim and reimbursement of TA/DA of the National Coordinator/Associate Coordinator, DSKPDF cell for attending the EC meetings the Committee approved an additional grant of Rs. 15 lakh per year to Dr. DS Kothari Post Doctoral Cell.

(iv) The Committee also resolved that the National Coordinator of DSKPDF Cell can re-appropriate the funds allocated under different heads as per the requirement of the Cell.

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) To cover the TA/DA of the National Coordinator/Associate Coordinator of the FRPS cell for attending the EC meetings the committee approved an additional grant of Rs. 10 lakhs for 3 years (2016-19) to the FRPS cell.

(iii) The Committee also resolved that the National Coordinator of FRPS Cell can re-appropriate the funds allocated under different heads as per the requirement of the Cell.

Item No 7: *Networking Resource Centres (NRC).*

It was decided that the existing NRCs should submit their proposals by December 31, 2016 , so that the selections could be completed before the end of current financial year.

Item No 8: *Budget of BSR:*

The Committee noted with satisfaction the Expenditure status under the Basic Scientific Research Programme. However, the committee was concerned about the hardship faced by the beneficiaries and requested the UGC officials to expedite the disbursement of grants and resolve the issues related to PFMS and legacy portal at the earliest.

The Empowered committee desired to meet the Chairman and Secretary, UGC in the next meeting to discuss the status of implementation of schemes of BSR. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on **January 10, 2017**. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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Annexure- I

List of Participants who attended the 77th meeting of the Empowered Committee (EC) held on November 9, 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. SA Bari | - | Member, EC |
| 5. Prof. Sridhar Gadre | - | National Coordinator, DSKPDF |
| 6. Prof. Anunay Samanta | - | National Coordinator, FRPS |
| 7. Prof. Sudesh Nangia | - | National Coordinator, FRP |
| 8. Mrs. Paramjit | - | US(BSR) |
| 9. Dr. Shalini | - | EO(BSR) |