



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the New Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research held on 17th February, 2015 at 11.00 A.M. in UGC office, New Delhi.

The 2nd meeting of the New Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on **17th February, 2015 at 11.00 a.m. in UGC office, New Delhi**. List of participants is at ***Annexure - I***.

At the outset Prof. Ved Prakash, Chairman, UGC welcomed all the members of the New Empowered Committee. He briefed the Committee about the various schemes of BSR and the work done by the previous Empowered Committee. The Committee appreciated the commendable work done by the previous Empowered Committee. The Chairman, UGC also requested the Committee to look into the various schemes and also come up with new ideas and suggestions to improve the Basic Scientific Research in the country. He also emphasised on the monitoring of various schemes under BSR and the Empowered Committee members echoed the same.

There after the Agenda was taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st meeting of New Empowered Committee held on 23rd December, 2014 in Mumbai.

The minutes of the 1st meeting of New Empowered Committee held on 23rd December, 2014 in Mumbai were noted and 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 1st meeting of New Empowered Committee.

Item No. 3: Presentation by Prof. R.P. Gandhi, Coordinator, Faculty Recharge Programme regarding the status of the Scheme.

- (i) Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator, Faculty Recharge Programme Cell gave presentation on the scheme of "Faculty Recharge Programme" (FRP). The Committee applauded the efforts made by FRP Cell. Prof. Gandhi also discussed about the problems faced by the FRP selectees vis-à-vis their work conditions, financial problems in their respective universities. In this regard, the Committee was of the view that the universities need to be sensitized towards the requirements of the FRPs and the UGC should promote the scheme of Faculty Recharge Programme in a much wider scale.
- (ii) The Committee also felt the need of review the work done by faculties selected under FRP. The Committee also suggested to develop feedback system under the existing portal to know about the feedback of the selectees of the scheme.

Item No 4: Presentation by Prof. S.R. Gadre, Coordinator, Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Cell regarding the progress of the scheme.

- (i) Prof. S.R. Gadre, Coordinator, Dr. D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship (DSKPDF) Cell presented the status of the scheme. He also informed that as per the recommendation of the Empowered Committee in its first meeting regarding evolving monitoring mechanism, the DSKPDF has already set-up a portal to collect/monitor the feedback of the awardees. The Committee praised the work done by the DSKPDF Cell.
- (ii) The Committee also suggested that the work done by the awardee should be evaluated by one of the referees who has recommended the highest grade to the awardee during the selection process. Prof. Gadre assured the Committee to incorporate the same in the web portal.
- (iii) Prof. Gadre also requested the Committee to enhance the salaries of the personnel in DSKPDF Cell by 30%. The Committee approved the hike as per UGC norms.
- (iv) Prof. D.S. Joag, Associate Coordinator, DSKPDF submitted the 56th list of PDF selected candidates and 41st list of unsuccessful PDF candidates to the Empowered Committee which was approved by the new Empowered Committee of BSR.

- (v) Requests regarding change of mentor, conversion from bridging to normal/higher etc. received from the D.S.Kothari Fellows were approved by the Empowered Committee. Follow-up steps for the requests will be taken up by the UGC and prompt action will be taken.

Item No. 5: Presentation by Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator, UGC-Faculty Research Promotion Schemes regarding the status of the three schemes i.e. (i) Start up Grant, (ii) One Time Grant and (iii) UGC BSR Faculty Fellowships.

- (i) Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator, UGC-Faculty Research Promotion Schemes (UGC-FRPS) presented the status of the schemes. The Committee was of the view that the selection criteria of FRPS needs to be relooked at. The Committee emphasized on the need to bring in quality of the research work of the candidate instead of quantity for selection in the scheme. It also emphasized upon the monitoring of the scheme and also suggested to develop feedback system in the existing portal to submit the reports **online**.
- (ii) The Empowered Committee also approved the selection of the candidates for “**One-Time Grant**”, “**UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowships**” and “**Start-up-Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty under BSR**”.

Item No. 6: To develop/design a designated web portal through INFLIBNET for BSR Fellowships to avoid the delay in payment to the fellows.

The Committee considered and approved the same.

Item No 7: Budget of BSR

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

Item No 8: Any other item:

- (a) **Request received from Dr. M.S. Barak, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Mathematics, Indira Gandhi University, Meerpur regarding the transfer of Start-up grant from M.D. University, Rohtak to Indira**

Gandhi University, Meerpur as Indira Gandhi University is not covered under Section 12B of the UGC Act.

The Committee approved the request of Dr. M.S. Barak to transfer the Start-up grant to the Indira Gandhi University, Meerpur. However, decisions on such requests will be decided on the merit of each case.

- (b) ***Request received from Dr.O.P. Jasuja, Prof. & Head, Deptt. of Forensic Science, Punjabi University, Patiala regarding extension in utilization of infrastructure grant given in the year 2012.***

The Committee rejected the request.

- (c) ***Request received from Prof. C. Durga Rao, Coordinator, UGC Networking Centre, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore regarding continuation of UGC Networking Centre in Biological Sciences at IIS, Bangalore.***

The Committee approved the request of continuation of UGC Networking Centre in Biological Sciences at IIS, Bangalore till May, 2015.

- (d) The Committee extended the tenure of Prof. Anunay Samanta, National Coordinator, UGC-Faculty Research Promotion Schemes **by another one year w.e.f. 12.04.2015**. The Committee also extended the tenure of Prof. S.R. Gadre, Coordinator, Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Cell and Prof. D.S. Joag, Associate Coordinator, Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship Cell **by another one year w.e.f. 31.05.2015**.
- (e) The Committee discussed the status of various schemes and was especially concerned about the Networking Resource Centres. The Committee desired to assess the overall performance of all the Networking Resource Centres at the earliest to be able to initiate the second phase of the Networking Resource Centres.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on **April 06, 2015** at **10.30 a.m.** in UGC, New Delhi.

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

Annexure- I

**List of Participants who attended the 2nd Meeting of the New Empowered
Committee (EC) held on 17th February, 2015 in UGC, New Delhi**

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| 1. | Prof. Ved Prakash | - | Chairman, UGC |
| 2. | Dr. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe | - | Chairman, EC |
| 3. | Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala | - | Member, EC |
| 4. | Dr. Vijay Bhatkar | - | Member, EC |
| 5. | Prof. Jawahar Lal Kaul | - | Member, EC |
| 6. | Prof. R.P. Gandhi | - | National Coordinator, FRP |
| 7. | Prof. Sudesh Nangia | - | Associate Coordinator, FRP |
| 8. | Prof. Shridhar Gadre | - | National Coordinator, DSKPDF |
| 9. | Dr. Dilip S. Joag | - | Associate Coordinator, DSKPDF |
| 10. | Dr. Anunay Samanta | - | Coordinator, FRPS |
| 11. | Dr. Sunita Siwach | - | DS(BSR) |
| 12. | Mrs. Paramjeet | - | US(BSR) |
| 13. | Dr. Shalini | - | EO(BSR) |