

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 21ST March, 2007 AT 11 AM IN THE UGC OFFICE.

The Seventh meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research in universities under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was held on 21st March, 2007 at 11 A.M. in the UGC Office, New Delhi. The following attended the meeting:

1. Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat
Chairman, UGC.
2. Prof. Mool Chand Sharma
Vice-Chairman, UGC,
3. Prof. M.M. Sharma
3, Jaswant Baugh
Behind Akbar Allya
V.N. Purav Marg
Chambder Nake
Mumbai-400 071.
4. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta
Hon. Prof. &CSIR
Bhatnagar Fellow
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore-560 012.
5. Dr. Kota Harinarayan
Raja Ramana Fellow
Structure Division
National Aerospace Laboratories
Bangalore-560 017.
6. Prof. P. Rama Rao
Flat No.301
Naimisum, Plot No.22,
Tri Nagar Colony
Hydeabad-500 073.
7. Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan
#, 1st Main Road
Nehru Nagar, Adyar
Chennai-600 020.

8. Shri R.P. Aggarwal
Secretary
Higher Education
M/HRD, New Delhi.
9. Dr. T.R. Kem
Secretary, UGC.
10. Dr.(Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal
Joint Secretary, UGC.
11. Ms. Parbati Bose
Under Secretary, UGC.

Mr. Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary, Higher Education, M/HRD, New Delhi also attend the meeting as a special invitee.

Prof. M.M. Sharma mentioned about the special allocation in Engineering & Technology.SACC.. In the past recommendations of the Task Force was accepted in toto by M/HRD, He further mentioned that the slots for Ph.D. will be increased five fold. For implementation of Faculty Recharge, the selection will be make for Lecturer, Reader and Professor at national level. Prof. Sharma mentioned further that a separate Cell be created in UGC Resource Networking Centres in Basic Sciences and Summer & Winter Schools.

The Education Secretary that the M/HRD stands by the commitments made by the M/HRD for Task Force. He further informed about the enhancement of budget for Moily \committee and non-Moily by Rs.3000 cores (State Universities –Rs.400 crores, Central universities- 60 cores (including Rs.50 cores for Rs.150 crores each for Bombay, Calcutta and Madras for centenary celebratilon). The UGC general development grants includes component of M.M. Sharma committee report. Out of the development grant to universities, some earmarked percentage to go for Science basked programmes.

In addition, Rs.205 crores is earmarked for MM Sharma Committee report by UGC.The Education Secretary explained that an additional Rs.600 crores is not possible. He requested the committee to guide, how MM Sharma Committee recommendatilon can be implemented out of development grant.

Prof. M.M. Sharma suggested that a meeting can be convened with the Planning Commission and RBI(Finance Ministry) and they can be urged to give additlional allocation for smooth implementation of the recommendations of the Empowered Committee.

The Chairman, UGC mentioned that Rs.26.36 crores allocated last year for UGC, has now allocated Rs.205 crores (for Central Universities, State Universities and Deemed Universities) plus out of development grant. Modification of the existing schemes to fall in line with recommendations of M.M. Sharma.

He further suggested that the issues of uniform age of superannuation and insufficient funding to State Universities can be raised in the Meeting with Stated Education Ministers scheduled to be held on April, 2007.

Prof. Prof. Kota Harnarayan mentioned that UGC grant is insignificant. Research in State Universities is dead. To revive it, enough resources are required. Incremental increase will not work.

Prof. S. Rama Rao recommended that importance of research to be made in changing economic scenario to community. We need to motivate students to take up research.

Shri Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary(HE),M/HRD mentioned that utility and employability of graduates is focal point right now and no one is focusing on research. Report in May, 2005, which was end of X Plan. He stressed to modify existing schemes to suit M.M. Sharma recommendations.

The Chairman, UGC informed about the modification of existing schemes relating to Sciences. NITS may be asked to produce more Ph.D.s.

Prof. G. Mehta suggested that concentration should be given to State Universities rather than on IITs, IIMS and Central Universities.

Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan suggested that autonomy of State Universities be respected and bridging fund to be provided by the Central Government for bridging between Central Universities and National Laboratories. He further informed that the number of Ph.Ds. are increasing in IITs since it has been taken as a goal. He also suggested that residential facilities be linked additionally in salaries.

An extraordinary – mechanism required. The Chairman, UGC briefed about giving fellowship for M.Phil/Ph.D. to all = and of enhancing fellowship to NET & Non-Net candidates in selected institutes.

The Agenda items were then taken by one by one. The following was recommended:-

1. Item No.1:- Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March, 2007.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9.3.2007 were confirmed.:

2. Item No.2:-Action taken on the minutes.

The committee noted the action taken on each point and appreciated the efforts made by the UGC in this regard.

3. Item No.3:-Policy to create 10 Networking Centres in Basic Sciences.

This item was clubbed with the scheme of Winter and Summer Schools. To begin with it was decided to select 3-4 departments in a transparent and defined way. Define what UGC expects them to do. They should have residential facility. What would their functions and amount of money and equipment to be provided for the purpose and Networking Centres.

The Committee recommended the following subjects for Networking Centres:-

1. Life Sciences.
2. Chemistry.
3. Physics.

For the purpose, the Science Departments in the universities who have CAS in these subjects and who have FIST support and also to find out who are interested. The UGC will give full support for:

- (a) Winter School (20-30)
- (b) To suggest their facilities
- (c) Visiting teachers(Mobility grant)

Backup equipment facility will be given for networking. Proposals can be invited mentioning that the university/CAS department to network with atleast 6 universities and 50 visitors.

One or two inters schools for 30-50 persons.

Item No.4:-Establishment of Winter and Summer Schools.

This item was clubbed with Item No.3 above.

Item No.5:- Introduction of postdoctoral research Fellowships in Basic Scientific Research.

Appointment of Consultant was discussed and for work out of financial Implications.

Item No.6:-Introduction of 5-year integrated M.Sc. and Ph.D. Programme.

The item was deferred for the time being.

Item No.7:-Rationalization and Standardization of M.Ph. and Ph.D. Programmes.

It was suggested that instead of separate examination for selecting students for Ph.Ds, The NET/SLET qualified candidates with above 50% marks (who have not come in the merit for JRF/Lecturer) may be selected.

Item No.8:- Any other item

There was no item.

The committee further recommended as follows:

1. Dr. S.P. Thayagarajan to draft a note in consultation with Prof. Goverdhan Mehta. The expenditure involved on TA/DA etc. would be borne by UGC.

2. With regard to subsidizing thesis. Independent thesis where supervisor has not role which is essential for Ph.D. degree and for evaluation, all thesis on public domain having a list of UGC examiner is not feasible.

Thesis is to be submitted in electronic form to UGC after award of degree. Penalizing Clause: Degree won't be issued, if it is not submitted.

3. A National Doctoral thesis repository is to be created in INFLIBNET.
4. Universities must reform their procedure to accept thesis in electronic form.
5. Evaluation purpose, make foreign examiner must and other outside the state.

It was proposed unanimously to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on May 9, 2007 at 11,30 A.M. in the UGC Office, New Delhi.

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