

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 27th MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON
BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 31st August, 2009 IN UGC, NEW
DELHI**

The 27th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on 31st August, 2009 in UGC, New Delhi. The following attended the meeting:

1. Prof. M.M. Sharma
3, Jaswant Baugh (Runwal Park)
Behind Akbarallys
V.N. Purav Marg, Chembur Naka
Mumbai – 400 071
2. Prof.Goverdhan Mehta
Hon.Prof. & CSIR
Bhatnagar Fellow
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore - 560 012
3. Prof.P.Rama Rao
Flat No. 301,
Naimisum, Plot No.22,
Tri Nagar Colony,
Hyderabad - 500 073
4. Prof.S.P.Thyagarajan
#5, 1st Main Road,
Nehru Nagar, Adyar,
Chennai - 600 020
5. Dr. P. Prakash
Joint Secretary, UGC
6. Ms. Parbati Bose
Under Secretary, UGC

Prof. R.P. Gandhi and Prof. Sudesh Nangia attended the meeting as a special invitee(s).

Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman, UGC and Prof. Ved Prakash, Vice-Chairman, UGC and Prof. Kota Harinarayan could not attend the meeting due to prior engagements.

Prof. M.M. Sharma welcomed all the Members of the Committee and took up the agenda.

Item No.1:- Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July, 2009 at UGC office, New Delhi

The minutes of the 26th meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 17th July, 2009 were confirmed with the following modifications:

- (i) Under Item No.8, the addendum is **“In view of the requirement connected to his Post-doctoral fellowship”** in the last sentence.
- (ii) Under point 3 of “Any other item”, the following change may be made in the sentence:

“and approved the same”.

Item No.2:- Action taken on the minutes

The Committee noted with satisfaction the action taken by the UGC.

Item No.3:- Discussion on “Operation Faculty Recharge” regarding the facilities provided to Prof. R.P. Gandhi and Prof. Sudesh Nangia

The matter was discussed by the Members of the Empowered Committee with the Secretary, UGC in detail and solicited that JNU should expedite it expeditiously.

Item No.4:-- Request received from Dr. R. Sankar regarding change of Mentor.

The Committee recommended that the matter may be referred to Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator, Pune.

Item No.5:- Request received from Dr. Mukesh Kumar Gautam regarding change of Mentor.

The Committee recommended that the matter may be referred to Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator, Pune.

Item No.6:- Budget of BSR

The Committee expressed satisfaction with regard to the budget expenditure incurred during 2009-2010 but however, **expressed concern of the total budget allocation for the present financial year. The Committee again emphasized the UGC to restore the original allocation of Rs.200.00 crores for BSR Scheme for the year 2009-2010.**

The Empowered Committee further recommended as under:

1. A letter may be sent to all the University Departments/Constituent colleges of Engineering and Technology inviting proposal(s) for support of infrastructure and to promote research culture by way of short term summer/winter vacation projects of 6-8 weeks duration. A grant of Rs. 5 lakhs per department may be accorded. This may include a small stipend for the students for taking up short-term research projects.
2. In order to motivate and promote the culture of research, at the undergraduate level, it has been decided to support an innovative programme for the students who may be picked up from second and third year of their undergraduation on a defined basis of selection by the Department with a stipend of Rs.3,000/- and a contingency amount of Rs.700/- per student upto a maximum of 8 students per annum. It has been decided to make an allocation of Rs.5,00,000/- per SAP departments of Engineering and Technology for the above objective enabling the requisite infrastructure to support such a programme.
3. The change of Mentor for PDF proposals may appropriately scrutinized by Prof. S.R. Gadre, National Coordinator, Pune. He may be requested to scrutinize the application(s) whether the Mentor has the requisite credentials to be a Mentor of a Post-Doctoral Fellow to facilitate for such a change. Such an academic exercise may ensure quality research.

4. The referee(s) who have extended their expertise to scrutinize the Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowships's proposals may be paid an honorarium @ Rs.10,000/- for 20 proposals.
5. The matter with respect to request for purchase of vehicle by the Principal, S.S. Jain Subodh P.G. College, Jaipur was placed before the Committee. The Committee opined that the college may hire a vehicle for field visit(s) vis-à-vis purchase of vehicle as envisaged in the proposal.
6. The Committee reiterated its earlier recommendation that as and when the UGC issues notification enhancing the fellowship amount for NET qualified JRFs, the fellowship amount for BSR JRFs should also be enhanced commensurately.

It has been decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on Monday October 12, 2009 at NAAC, Bangalore.

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