

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG  
NEW DELHI-110 002**

Minutes of the 424<sup>th</sup> meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2005.

The following were present:-

1.	Prof. Arun Nigavekar	Chairman
2.	Prof. S.K. Joshi	Member
3.	Prof. B.H. Briz-Kishore	Member
4.	Prof. Sureshwar Sharma	Member
5.	Dr.(Ms.) Aruna Goel	Member
6.	Dr. P.N. Tandon	Member
7.	Dr. Shivajirao Shripatrao Kadam	Member

Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chairman, UGC, Shri Sudip Banerjee, Education Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Dr. Adarsh Kishore, Secretary (Expenditure), Prof. Suranjan Das, Member of the Commission and Prof. Damodar Acharya, Chairman, AICTE (Special Invitee) could not attend the meeting.

Following officers of the UGC also attended the meeting:

**Secretary**

Prof. Ved Prakash

**Financial Advisor**

Shri Pawan Agarwal

**Additional Secretaries**

Dr. T.R. Kem

Dr. R.K. Chauhan

**Director (Administration)**

Dr. P.S. Rajput

The Chairman welcomed the members in the 424<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission. He informed the members that this would be his last meeting. Further, he said that he would like to take a couple of minutes to share with the members the achievements of the Commission during the last one and a half year. The Chairman said that the higher education system in the country has passed through a difficult phase because of the impact of liberalization, privatization and globalization. The Chairman complimented the Commission members for their great support that they have provided to the Commission during this turbulent period. He further observed that the Commission would continue to face the turbulent period for another decade or so and therefore, the Commission will have to work hard for the development of higher education system in the country. The Chairman also opined that the Commission might have to follow two to three level approaches for the development of higher education i.e. i) E-learning, ii) Multimedia & iii) Connectivity. He said that the Commission has already connected all the Universities and almost forty percent of the Colleges registered with it and that it was not a mean achievement. The Chairman also informed the Commission about certain new initiatives which are given as under:

- I) Publication of research handbooks for students to give them awareness about the procedure and other steps required to do quality research. This handbook will be posted on the UGC website.
  
- II) Submission of soft as well as hard copies of all Ph.D. thesis – requesting all the students and teachers through universities and colleges to publish their thesis in hard copy as well as in E-format.

- III) To strengthen the research facility and publish the papers in the E-format also.
- IV) Steps taken by the UGC with regard to “Right to Information” Act. The UGC has taken a major step like appointing PIO, placement of status of various activities on website- a move towards complete transparency in its working. The Chairman desired that copies of the aforesaid Act be purchased and made available to all the members of the Commission.
- V) The Commission has also taken a great step for making provision for the training of educational administrators.
- VI) Launching of Promotion of Indian Higher Education Abroad.
- VII) Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the UGC. During the celebration of the Golden Jubilee, the UGC changed its Emblem with new moto line.
- VIII) Presentation of the UGC proposal before the twelfth Finance Commission with a view to soliciting additional allocation for state universities which are starving of funds.

While concluding his remarks, the Chairman thanked Prof. S.K. Joshi and Prof.(Mrs.) Aruna Goel, who are completing their tenure as Commission Members in the month of October, 2005 for their guidance and unstinted support. He welcomed Prof. Shivajirao S. Kadam as a new member of the Commission.

He hoped that with his rich experience in higher education, Prof. Kadam would provide valuable guidance to the Commission for the betterment of higher education. Prof. S.K. Joshi and Prof. (Mrs.) Aruna Goel also thanked the Chairman and observed that they had fully enjoyed working in the Commission. All the other members thanked the Chairman for his able guidance and also thanked Prof. S.K. Joshi and Prof.(Mrs. ) Aruna Goel for providing great support to the Commission.

Prior to taking up the regular agenda, the Secretary, UGC informed the member of the Commission about the MHRD's Order No.F.6-6/2005-U.I(A) dated 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 received by the UGC. The Secretary, UGC read out the MHRD's order to all the members of the Commission. Having learnt about the MHRD's order, the Commission resolved as under :-

*“Members of the Commission, while fully recognizing the authority of the MHRD vis-à-vis the UGC, considered the aforesaid order as unfortunate and an infringement on the autonomy of the Commission. Further, the Commission noted that the agenda papers were sent to the MHRD well in advance and if the MHRD felt that any agenda item were under the purview of Section 20(1) of the UGC Act, the Commission would have been so advised by the MHRD. Having regard to the above, the Commission unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting without transacting any business.”*

**(VED PRAKASH)  
SECRETARY**

**(ARUN NIGAVEKAR)  
CHAIRMAN**

