

**UNIVERSITYGRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002**

Minutes of the 444th (Special Meeting) of the University Grants Commission held on 10.03.2008 in the UGC office at 10.00 A.M. The following were present:

1. Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat	Chairman
2. Prof. Mool Chand Sharma	Vice Chairperson
3. Prof. K. Ramamurthy Naidu	Member
4. Prof. Shivajirao Shripatrao Kadam	Member
5. Prof. Xavier Alphonse, S.J.	Member
6. Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar	Member
7. Prof. D. Singh Chauhan	Member
8. Prof. Achyutananda Samanta	Member
9. Prof. Jalees Ahmed Khan Tareen	Member

Dr.(Ms.) Shashi Rai, Member, Commission sought leave from attending the meeting. Shri R.P.Agrawal Secretary [Department of Higher Education], and Dr. Sanjiv Misra, Secretary (Finance & Expenditure) did not attend the meeting.

Shri S.K.Ray, Financial Adviser, MHRD attended the meeting as Special Invitee. The following officers of the UGC also attended the meeting.

Secretary

Dr. Raju Sharma

Additional Secretary

Dr.(Ms.) N.A Kamzi

Chairman, UGC welcomed and thanked the members for attending the meeting and expressed his appreciation for their co-operation.

Dr. Raju Sharma Secretary, UGC was introduced by the Chairman to all the Commission Members.

Chairman explained to the members that the special meeting was called as the UGC Plan Budget Estimate for 2008-09 is to be submitted to the MHRD by 30th March, 2008.

Chairman UGC further explained that the Budget includes provisions for General Development Grant to Universities, committed liability of Xth Plan including various Schemes, UGC campus and E-Governance of Higher Education in UGC office etc.

Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu brought to the notice of the Chairman that the Action Taken Reports of the last two meetings have not been received by the Commission Members. Secretary, UGC was requested to look into the matter.

ITEM NO.1: To consider UGC Plan Budget Estimates for 2008-09.

Before going into the details of the Plan Budget Estimate for 2008-09, Chairman, UGC explained the UGC has given a new thrust to the Higher Education policy in the XIth Plan which has been approved and accepted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Planning Commission and that the Annual Budget has been framed keeping these thrusts in mind.

After going through the Annual Plan Budget Estimate for the year 2008-09 and discussing the same at length, the Commission approved the same to be sent to MHRD and resolved as under:-

1. It was agreed that the Annual Plan Budget Estimates 2008-09 placed before the Commission be sent to MHRD. However, after consultation of the Bureau Heads with Commission Members a modified Budget be prepared and sent to MHRD for consideration. The approval by the Commission members of the modified budget could be obtained through mail instead of calling a separate meeting of the Commission.
2. The UGC should take up the matter with MHRD requesting that a consolidated amount be placed at the disposal of UGC annually and that the UGC should be given the liberty to re-appropriate as per requirement for effective implementation of the schemes of the UGC.

ITEM NO.2: To prove the Agreement signed on the 26th February, 2008 between Ed.Cil & UGC regarding New Building Complex at JNU Campus.

The Chairman informed the members of the Commission, that in the light of the observations/recommendations made by the PAC, a revised agreement has been signed between the UGC and the Ed.CIL on 26th February, 2008.

In reference to point No.4, an issue arose as to whether UGC would require the approval by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Finance and consequently an issue of the Autonomy of the UGC also came up for extensive discussion of the members of the Commission. The aforesaid issue was discussed by the members of the Commission at length in the light of the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and particularly in the light of the provisions made in section 12, 12[b], 12[c], 12[cc],

12[j] and 16[3] of the University grants Commission Act, 1956, the legal advice and the following observations [which is the reply of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to question No.4] recorded in minutes of the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee dated 30th July, 2007: -

“Under section 16[3] of the UGC Act dealing with the fund of the Commission, the Commission may spend such sums, as it may think fit for performing it’s sanctions under the Act and such sums shall be treated as expenditure payable out of the funds of the Commission. Further, in section 12 dealing with the “Functions of the Commission” clause [j] empowers the Commission to perform such other functions as may be deemed necessary by the Commission as may be incidentally or conducive to the discharge of it’s general duty for the promotion and coordination of the University Education. Therefore, section 16[3] read with section 12[j] implies that for the plan of construction of the proposed campus of the UGC, being conducive to the discharge of it’s functions, the Commission was well within it’s power to use it’s fund for the said purpose.”

In the light of the aforesaid, after discussion the above matters at length, the members of the Commission unanimously resolved that UGC being an Statutory Body established and governed under the University Grants Commission Act,1956, has complete autonomy to perform it’s functions as prescribed under the UGC Act,1956. the UGC is empowered to perform all such other functions as may be deemed necessary by the Commission for advancing the cause of Higher Education in India or as may be incidental or conducive to the discharge of it’s other functions as provided in section of the UGC Act,1956. The Commission, therefore, further emphasized and unanimously resolved that no financial and Administrative approval of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Finance is required.

After extensive deliberations, the Commission further unanimously resolved to approve the following: -

1. Agreement between Ed.Cil. and UGC.
2. Creation of Project Monitoring Cell and assign Director (Admn.) as Project Co-ordinating Officer.
3. Approval of the escalation cost from Rs.6811.00 lacs to the present value based of prevailing scheduled rates which shall be submitted by Ed.Cil.

ITEM NO.3 To approve the Draft Agreement submitted by the TCS and finalized by the Negotiation Committee and for introduction of e-governance in the office of University Grants Commission, its ROs and linking the Universities, colleges and other institutions of Higher Educations with UGC.

The Draft Agreement between UGC and M/s. TCS as finalized by the Negotiation Committee at the meeting held on February 29, 2008 was considered by the Commission Members and the Commission unanimously resolved to approve the same. The Commission also authorized the Chairman, UGC to take further necessary action including the Notification of Award of the e-Governance project to M/s T.C.S. Ltd., signing of the Agreement and implementation of the e-Governance project.

ITEM NO.4: To consider the specific request received from Ms. P.M. Mini, M.A.M.O. College, Mukkon, Kerala in the light of Interim Order dated 18.1.2008 by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala for granting exemptions from NET for appointment as Lecturer.

It was agreed that Ms. P.M. Mini, M.A.M.O. College, Kerala be granted exemption from NET for appointment as Lecturer on the basis of Interim Order of the Hon'ble Kerala High Court.

[SUKHADEO THORAT]
Chairman
