

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON
BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER, 2010 IN
NATIONAL CHEMICAL LABORATORY, PUNE

The 36th meeting of the Empowered Committee on Basic Scientific Research was held on 12th October, 2010 in NCL Office, Pune. 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
Additional Secretary
UGC, New Delhi

Prof. Kota Harinarayan could not attend the meeting

Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Co-ordinator, Prof.(Mrs.) Sudesh Nangia, Associate Co-ordinator, Prof. D.S. Joag, Associate National Co-ordinator and Dr. Raja Rao, Principal, Govt. Degree College, Rampachodavaram attended the meeting as special invitees.

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

Item No.1&2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 35th meeting held on 26.08.2010 at UGC, New Delhi.

The Minutes of the 35th meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 26th August, 2010 were confirmed with the following corrections.

Action taken on item No.6:

* Prof. S.P. Thygrajan has carefully scrutinized all the applications received (for one time grant). He submitted that out of 120 applications received (ref. Annexure-I), 33 applications have been identified which fulfill all the criteria and a grant of Rs.7.00 lakhs may be released. There were 41 applications, where a clarification is required for their date of birth and date of superannuation as per the rule of host institution so that they may be also considered accordingly.

* The committee noted with satisfaction, action taken by the UGC for rest of the items.

Item No.3 Discussion with Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator, “Operation Faculty Recharge”.

The committee had detailed discussions with regard to the “Faculty Recharge”, its Website, Server and tentative Modules viz. User Module, Advertisement and Management Module, Application Format Management Module, Experts Panel Module and Search Engine. It was suggested to the National Coordinator Prof. R.P. Gandhi that he may approach Enet or NIC for the services of their Server so as to enable “Faculty Recharge Cell” for posting their website and its related issues apart from high-band width internet facility in the Cell. It was also suggested to the National Coordinator Prof. R.P. Gandhi to formulate a detailed system of selection procedures for the appointment of the faculty so that the same may be discussed in the next meeting to be held on November 23, 2010.

Item No.4 Discussion with Prof. D.S. Joag, Associate Coordinator, “Dr. D.S. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellowship”.

Discussions were held with Prof. D.S. Joag, Associate National Coordinator, Pune. He placed the vetted list of applications of Dr. D.S. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellows. The Committee considered and approved the 22nd list of eligible candidates for Dr. D.S. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellowship(s) and 12 applications were rejected as they do not fulfill the eligibility criteria (ref. Annexure-II). The Committee also approved the request for hike in House Rent

Allowance (HRA) from 15% to 20% for the BSR Fellows working in various academic institutions in Pune.

The issue of the Mentor for Postdoctoral Fellows were also discussed and it was resolved that the faculty members who have atleast guided one Ph.D. candidate may be only considered as Mentor for BSR Postdoctoral Fellow(s).

Item No. 5 Discussion with the Principals of Govt. Colleges with regard to development of Science labs at the Undergraduate level.

Three Government College Principals have been invited for interaction with the committee i.e. (i) Dr. Vita Balho, Principal, Kohima Science College, Nagaland (ii) Dr. Raja Rao, Principal, Govt. Degree College, Rampachodavaram and (iii) Dr. Savita Rohtagi, Principal, Govt. Women's College, Patna. Among the three Government Colleges invited, only one college Principal, Dr. Raja Rao, Principal, Govt. Degree College, Rampachodavaram attended the meeting and interacted with the committee. The other two college Principals could not attend the meeting. The Committee regretted to note the poor infrastructure of the Science Department(s) of the college and resolved that we may invite 3-4 more Govt. College Principals from Mofusil area(s) in the next meeting before arriving at the decision for extending the financial assistance to the institutions under BSR scheme.

Item No. 6 Budget of BSR

The committee noted the budget utilization of BSR.

Item No.7 Any other item

The Committee further took the following decisions under any other item.

1. Since most of the Universities which are enfolded in Section 2(f) and 12(B) Act of UGC for assistance have the dearth of funds for purchasing some of the commonly used/utilized equipments particularly in non SAP Science departments, it was resolved that we may look forward for assisting them, subject to the condition that the university is not possessing the same and is not enlisted under UPE programme of UGC. Equipment may be one or two scientific gadgets for an approximate amount of Rs.30 to 40 lakhs.
2. The Committee recommended the extension of tenure of Prof. R.P. Gandhi, National Coordinator and Prof.(Mrs.) Sudesh Nangia, Associate Coordinator for "Operation Faculty Recharge" programme for another period of one year w.e.f. **26.11.2010 to 25.11.2011**.

It has been decided to hold the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on November 23, 2010 at UGC, New Delhi

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair
