

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF 17TH MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES, NEW DELHI ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2017

Members Present:

1. Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Vice-Chancellor(offg) -Chairman
2. Mrs. Darshana M. Dabral [Visitor's Nominee] -Member [Represented by Shri Fazal Mahmood, DS (Finance), MHRD]
3. Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu [Visitor's Nominee] -Member [Represented by Shri Surat Singh, DS (CU&L), MHRD]
4. Dr. Jitendra K. Tripathi [Visitor's Nominee] -Member
5. Prof. Ashoke Dutta [EC's Nominee] -Member
6. Prof. Chetan Singh [EC's Nominee] -Member
7. Shri M.G. Kiran [EC's Nominee] -Member
8. Shri T.K. Kaul [Registrar] -Special Invitee
9. Shri Debasish Pal [Finance Officer] -Secretary

Shri C. Talukdar, Joint Registrar (Finance) assisted the Committee.

Before the start of the meeting, the Registrar introduced Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, Vice-Chancellor (offg) and Shri Debasish Pal, Finance Officer, who has joined recently in Sikkim University.

Quorum of the meeting having been attained, the Chairman called the meeting to order.

The Chairman proceeds with agenda items one by one.

FC: 17.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the Finance Committee dated 19.06.2017.

The representative of JS&FA, MHRD, emphasized the need to suitably include in the minutes the views and comments received from the IFD, MHRD, with the approval of JS&FA, MHRD, as also those expressed in the FC meeting by the representatives of MHRD, on the specific agenda points, so that there was no need for issuing any amendments to the minutes. In case of disagreements, the views of the representatives should also be clearly stated, to set the record straight. Alternatively, the University may also like to make a Power - Point presentation on the Agenda Items in the FC meeting and the recommendations of the FC may be included in the minutes, itself. Thereafter, the

comments received from JS & FA, MHRD, and those from AS (CU&L),MHRD, were taken on record.

The Committee confirmed the minutes of previous meeting held on 19.06.2017 after amendment the resolutions of previous Agenda items No. FC: 15:08 and 16:04 as follows:-

FC 15.08; Delegation of Financial Powers to Officers of Sikkim University:

The Committee decided to re-consider the matter after the University has established internal audit system in place and in consultation with the Finance Officer.

The Committee further advised that the University to follow the MHRD letter no. 61-19/2015-Desk (U) dated 3rd March, 2016.

FC:16.04: Plan Expenditure of Building Projects in Prescribed Format of UGC:

The Committee was informed that the work order for Building project at Yangang Campus was issued following GFR and CVC guidelines. The approval of UGC Standing Committee is not applicable as the UGC order was on 25.11.2016, which is after the issue of Work order by the Sikkim University on 25.10.2016.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

FC: 17.02: Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 16th Meeting of Finance Committee held on 19.06.2017.

The details of action taken by the University against the decisions taken in the last meeting (Item no. FC 16:01 to FC 16:10) were reported one by one.

The Committee noted the same.

ITEMS FOR REPORTING

FC: 17.03: Report on utilization of grants for quarter ending June, 2017 & September, 2017

The progress in utilization of grants for both Recurring heads and Non-recurring heads was reported to the Committee.

The Committee noted the utilization progress.

FC: 17.04: Expenditure and Building Projects of the University in prescribed format of UGC vis-a-vis Non- Recurring Grant for 2017-18

Noted The observations of Shri Fazal Mahmood, DS (Finance),MHRD, the representative of JS&FA, MHRD: "He wanted to know whether the award of "Civil Works" i.e. Construction of Sikkim University Campus phase - 1 (package - 1) at Yangang at the accepted cost of Rs. 106.45 crore (and estimated cost of Rs. 103.97 crore) was strictly as per the relevant provisions of GFRs 2017 and related Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines, as prima-facie, selection of the Project Management Consultant (PMC) i.e. M/s Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd appeared to be not in order. The Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar were, however, emphatic on the issue and

categorically stated that the above selection of PMC and execution of "Civil Works" were strictly as per the relevant provisions of GFRs and related CVC guidelines. The representative of JS&FA, MHRD, however, asked to review the matter, as per the relevant provisions of GFRs and CVC guidelines."

The Committee noted the progress of the project.

It is resolved that from next meeting PPT presentation be made on the progress of building projects and the matter may be reviewed as per the relevant provisions of GFRs and CVC guidelines.

FC:17.05 : Audited Annual Accounts & Separate Audit Report for 2016-17

The Finance Officer informed the members that in spite of several attempts, the University could not receive the final SAR with Annual Accounts for 2016-17 from C&AG.

The members discussed and authorized the Vice-Chancellor to approve the final SAR with Annual Accounts for 2016-17 for submission before EC and MHRD. It will be ratified in next Finance Committee meeting.

FC: 17.06: Outstanding Audit Paras:

1) The committee advised to constitute a Standing Audit Committee with the following members:

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|------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| i) | Vice Chancellor | Chairman |
| ii) | Registrar | Member |
| iii) | Finance Officer | Member |
| iv) | Internal Audit Officer | Member |
| v) | Joint Registrar(Finance) | Member & Convenor |

The representative from Department/School/Centre/Project etc may be invited to the meeting as and when require.

2) The Committee also suggested that status of all outstanding paras may be appraised in the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

3) The issue of rental subsidy/assistance was also discussed in the meeting but the members could not arrive at unanimous decision:

Noted: Shri Fazal Mahmood, DS (Finance), MHRD, Shri Surat Singh, DS (CU&L), MHRD and Dr. Jitendra K. Tripathi, JS(CU), UGC opined that the payment of Rental Subsidy was irregular and needs to be stopped immediately.

Prof. A. K. Dutta did not agreed to this and he opined that due to special conditions prevailing in Sikkim the EC has taken the decision the rental subsidy.

The Chairman informed the committee about the difficulties being faced by the faculty and staff in getting accommodation due to various reasons like non availability of

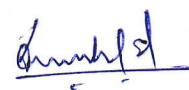
Staff quarter, exorbitant rent, adverse tenancy Act and shortage of buildings, which were the facts for EC to take decisions for rental subsidy. This was endorsed by Prof. Dutta and Shri M G Kiran. Prof. Chetan Singh was of the view that while the decision to pay rental subsidy was required and necessary to encourage staff and faculty to join the University in its early founding years, the practice may now be reviewed/stopped, if it is against current financial rules.

However, the representative of JS&FA, MHRD, reiterated the need for strict compliance of rules/ procedures and for adherence of financial propriety and financial discipline, by all concerned, as clearly delineated in the MHRD's letter No. 61-19/2015-Desk(U) dated 3rd March, 2016, addressed to all VCs, which has also been re-iterated by UGC.

- 4) The members discussed the issue of double HRA paid to the Registrar and requested Chairman to examine the matter afresh and report it to the next Finance Committee.

Noted :The observations of Shri Fazal Mahmood, DS (Finance),MHRD, the representative of JS&FA, MHRD: "There must be a Standing Audit Committee. The meeting of the Standing Audit Committee (SAC) should be held every month, and the progress of liquidation / settlement of pending Audit Paras should be monitored by the SAC, on a continuing and sustained basis and every effort should be made by the University to settle the long pending Audit Paras. Thereafter, the position of individual Audit paras, as per the list provided by the University, was reviewed by the Finance Committee. The representatives of MHRD expressed their serious concerns on the long pending Audit Paras, in view of the observations made by the C&AG.

Thereafter, the representative of JS&FA,MHRD, emphasized that all pending Audit Paras should be examined by the University, afresh, in the light of extant rules and the University must effect recoveries, forthwith, wherever found necessary, as per rules. Further, he also emphasized the fact that VC / Competent Authority in the University should take action against officers who are responsible for acts of delay and serious lapses in furnishing the replies / requisite information for settlement of pending Audit Paras. He also reiterated that the Vice-Chancellor / University authorities should put in place a system of fixing responsibilities for serious lapses. Accordingly, for proven acts of gross irregularities, both administrative and financial; responsibilities should be fixed, under intimation to UGC / MHRD. Also, action taken in this regard should be brought, as a separate Agenda Item, in the next meeting of the Finance Committee. In this regard, particular attention was drawn to the issue of rental subsidy and payment of double HRA to the Registrar".



ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

FC: 17.07: Finalization of Revised Budget Estimates 2017-18 (Salary and Recurring) of Sikkim University

The Committee approved the Revised Budget Estimates 2017-18 (Salary and Recurring of Sikkim University).

The Finance Officer reported that the non-recurring grant for Books & Journal of Rs.1.00 core and Equipment grant of Rs.1.00 crore for the year 2017-18 are not sufficient. The UGC may be requested to release more fund in these heads for current year.

FC: 17.08: Any other item, with the permission of the Chair

The following item was placed with permission of the Chair:

1) Additional Fund for Construction of permanent campus at Yangang.

The Chairman has explained the difficulties of not having permanent campus before the committee. The committee listen the matter sympathetically but opined that it is not possible to commit anything at present. However the committee appreciated the concern of the Chair. The Committee also suggested that the University may priorities the Buildings and proposal may be sent to UGC accordingly.

2) Implementation of the 7th Pay Commission's Recommendations:


The Committee advised the University to implement the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission to all categories of employees after obtaining implementation order from the UGC.

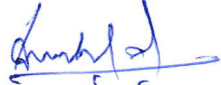
3) Letter dated 06.10.2017 sent by Shri P K Singh, former Finance Officer, Sikkim University to Joint Secretary, MHRD:

Dr. J K Tripathi, Joint Secretary (CU), UGC has raised the matter before the members. The Chairman informed the committee that the reply to this issue dated 13.11.2017 has already been sent to MHRD with a copy to Secretary, UGC.

It is resolved that the issue with the reply shall be placed in the next meeting.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang)
Vice-Chancellor (offg)
& Chairperson, Finance Committee


(Shri Debasish Pal)
Finance Officer
& Secretary, Finance Committee