



MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT GANGTOK

ON 28th May 2009

1. The second meeting of the First Finance Committee of Sikkim University was held on 28th May 2009 at 1000 hours at Hotel Sikkim Retreat, Gangtok.
2. The following members were present.

Name & Designation		
1	Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University, Gangtok	Chairperson
2	Shri S.S.Mahlawat, Under Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi 110 115.	Member
3	Shi M.P.Bezbaruah, Honorary Director, Administrative Staff College of India, C-24, Qutub Institutional Area, Behind Qutub Hotel, New Delhi 110016	Member
4	Shri Arjun Syangden Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Akshay Tara Apartments, Block No.6, Flat No.9, 2 ½, Mile, Sevoke Road, Siliguri 734401	Member
5	Shri T.P.Koirala, Finance Secretary (Officiating), Government of Sikkim, Gangtok	Member
6	Shri P V Ravi, Finance Officer Sikkim University, Gangtok	Secretary



Other Officers from University	
7	Shri S.K.Sarkar, Registrar, Sikkim University, Gangtok 737102
8	Shri S.Gopinath, Officer on Special Duty, Sikkim University, Gangtok 737102

4. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the esteemed members of the Committee. The Chairperson remarked that after a period of nearly two years, the full fledged Finance Committee has been constituted now. He also announced in the meeting that the Hon'ble President of India in her capacity as the Visitor of the University has been pleased to appoint the following members to the Finance Committee.

1	Shri Amit Khare, Joint Secretary (ICC), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, New Delhi
2	Dr. (Mrs) Renu Batra, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission, New Delhi
3	Shri S.Mohan, Director (Finance), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, New Delhi.

5. The Chairperson informed the members that Shri S. S. Mahlawat is representing Shri Amit Khare in the meeting. He had also informed that the other two members nominated by the Visitor could not attend the meeting due to official exigencies. Then he made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the progress made by the University on various academic fronts since its formation in July 2007. The Chairperson has also brought to the notice of the members of the Committee that Sikkim University is following transparent procedures in all cases so that it becomes a 'zero corruption' institution. The Committee expressed satisfaction over the fast pace of progress the University has achieved so far and



suggested that the same may be kept up in the years to come to accomplish the objectives of the university.

6. The Internal Audit Report for the year 2008-09 was placed before the Committee. The Committee enquired as to how the internal audit firm was selected. The Secretary explained that the firm which conducted internal audit for the year 2008-09 is one of the established firms in Gangtok. Hon'ble member Shri T.P.Koirala informed the Committee that this firm is also engaged by the Government of Sikkim for taxation matters and expressed satisfaction over its performance. The Committee after duly considering the various points made in the report requested the Chairperson to take remedial action quickly. Hon'ble member Shri M.P.Bezbaruah emphasized that as the University is young it would be easier for the Chairperson to introduce proper systems and procedures from the initial stages. Hon'ble Member Shri S.S.Mahlawat suggested that suitable control mechanism shall be placed before on the areas highlighted by the internal audit. The Committee enquired about the response to the entrance examination held by the University in May 2009 and the Chairperson replied that the same is quite encouraging. The Committee suggested the following points in general.

- The Chairperson shall ensure good architectural design for the proposed university complex at Yangang.
- The University may try to link up institutions like *Infosys* etc in various functional areas in developing its curriculum and also for the benefit of the students.
- The University shall ensure that there is no let-up in the standards which are being followed by it as regards curriculum and the evaluation system.
- The university can have more interaction with the colleges to find out periodically the weak areas and initiate suitable remedial measures for continuous improvement of academic quality.

7. The Chairperson thanked the members for their valuable suggestion and assured the Committee that these will be borne in mind and implemented.

8. The Committee also examined the internal Control Manual of the University (**Annexure 1**) submitted by the Secretary. The Committee suggested that the internal control system as enunciated in the manual shall be followed scrupulously. The Committee expressed its appreciation on record to the Secretary for drafting the manual in a concise and practicable manner.

9. After that the Agenda items were taken up for discussion.



Group –I –Items which needed acceptance

FC: 02:01	Confirmation of the Minutes of the First meeting of the Finance Committee held on 08.02.2009
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01.1 The Committee after examining the contents of the Minutes confirmed the same (**Annexure 2**).

FC: 02:02	Action Taken Report of the last meeting of the Finance Committee held on 08.02.2009
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02.1 The Committee examined the Action Taken Report placed before it and confirmed the same (**Annexure 3**).

FC: 02:03	To consider and adopt the Annual Accounts of the University for the year 2008-09.
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03.1 The Secretary informed the Committee that inspite of inadequate human resource strength in the Finance Wing and the University at large, it was able to finalize its accounts for the year 2008-09 within two months of closure of the financial year. This became possible because of the commitment and dedication shown by the team members in the Finance Wing. The Committee noted the efforts taken by the Finance wing team and placed on record its appreciation. The Committee then examined the Annual accounts in detail (**Annexure 4**).

03.2 Thereafter, the Committee approved the Annual accounts and directed the Secretary to place the same before the Executive Council.

FC: 02:04	To note and consider the decision taken by the Executive Council on the proposal for creation of teaching posts.
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04.1 The Committee noted the item placed before it. The Committee has also suggested that the University may also take steps to get all the posts sanctioned by the Government of India/UGC at the earliest.



FC: 02:05	To consider the proposal for creation of non-teaching posts (repeat item from First meeting)
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05.1 The Committee approved the item placed before it *post-facto*. The Committee also suggested that the issue may be pursued vigorously with UGC for sanction of remaining non-teaching posts sought for by the university.

FC: 02:06	To review and consider purchase of land at Gangtok for the City Campus of the University.
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06.1 The Committee discussed the issue in great detail. Hon'ble member Shri S.S.Mahlawat reiterated that it is the policy of the Government of India that in all the cases of Central University, the land shall be provided by the concerned State Government free of cost. The Hon'ble member requested that his view point on this should be recorded specifically in the minutes. The Chairperson explained that as compared to other parts of the country, being a mountain state, the land availability in Gangtok is scarce. Further, the State Government also did not own any land in Gangtok for allotment to the University. This statement was supplemented and re-affirmed by the Hon'ble member Shri T.P.Koirala. Under the circumstances, the Chairperson reiterated that the only option available before the University was to purchase the land from open market. He also mentioned that because of the liberal industrial policy enunciated by the Government of India and the State Governments in the North-East there has been a very pressure on land purchase by the private agencies. Under the circumstances, the land may go up steadily making it both highly scarce and expensive. If university does not procure/purchase the same immediately, it might have to pay much higher than the present rate. Both these points were appreciated by the entire members present. The Committee suggested that Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India may be quickly addressed highlighting the position in this regard. The Committee also desired that the Chairperson may again take up with the Government of Sikkim to explore the possibility if some land could be made available to the University in Gangtok. The Committee also noted that UGC in its XI plan allocation already made a token provision of Rs.300 lakh for acquisition of land in Gangtok by the University.

06.2 With the above suggestions and directions the Committee has accepted the proposal



.FC: 02:07	Infrastructure support to the colleges (Repeat item from first meeting).
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07.1 The Committee considered the item placed before it once again, in great detail. The Committee was explained about the geographical and topographical constraints of the State of Sikkim. The Chairperson explained that it is the need of the hour for the University to improve the quality of education in the state and bring up the knowledge level of local students *at-par* with those in other parts of the country. The Chairperson has specifically mentioned that ultimate beneficiaries of the infrastructure provided to colleges will be none other than the students of Sikkim University.

07.2 He mentioned that the infrastructure support provided by the University to the colleges included satellite libraries, leased line connectivity, fax machine, computers etc. The Committee desired to know why such facilities could not be provided by the Government of Sikkim to its colleges. Hon'ble member Shri T.P.Koirala replied that at present such financial support for development of infrastructure would not be feasible from the Government of Sikkim. The Committee also enquired to know whether any special fund is available with UGC for providing such support and requested the Chairperson to take up with UGC for allocation of funds specifically for the purpose of providing infrastructure support to colleges duly explaining the position obtained in the State of Sikkim.

07.03 The Committee with the above suggestions approved the agenda item placed before it.

FC: 02:08	Reimbursement of Transfer Travelling Allowance in the case of statutory officers on joining and demitting
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08.1 The Committee was explained that in the case of statutory officers holding tenure post, and who are serving the university for limited period, the *extant* TA Rules of Government of India did not allow payment of Travelling Allowance on Transfer at the time of their joining the University and at the time of demitting office. The Committee after duly hearing the case, directed the Secretary to verify the position with sister universities to find out whether such type of facilities are extended to the statutory officers employed there.

08.2 The Committee requested that this item may again be presented before it after ascertaining the above in the next meeting.



FC: 02:09 **Fixation of ceilings for remuneration and other incidental expenses for examination work**

09.1 The item has been deferred to the next meeting.



Group II –items which needed ratification

FC: 02:10	To consider and ratify the Final Expenditure Vs. Budget Estimates for the year 2008-09
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10.1 The Committee examined the Budget and Actuals data presented before it (**Annexure 5**). The Committee noted that in many cases the expenditure could not be incurred by the University as these were expenditure of capital in nature and unless the land is made available to the university the same could not be incurred. As regards other items of expenditure the Committee directed the Secretary that in future suitable explanation for the variation be indicated against each item of expenditure. The Committee noted that in the case of certain heads the expenditure has exceeded the appropriation. The Committee was informed that presently the University did not have any regulations for re-appropriation within budget heads. Keeping these observations in view, the Committee directed that necessary proposals for delegation of powers for re-appropriation within a Group head and within a Minor-head be made and presented before the Committee in the next meeting for its consideration and approval.

10.2 With the above remarks, the Committee ratified the item placed before it.

FC: 02:11	To consider and ratify the revised emoluments to the teaching and academic staff w.e.f 01.04.2009
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11.1 The Committee after discussion approved and ratified the above item.



Group III –Items which were reported for information

FC: 02:12 Rush of Expenditure and Unspent balances

12.1 The Committee studied the instructions of the MHRD in this regard and appreciated the University for bringing out the agenda item on this. The Committee also noted that in the case of Sikkim University, being young university, the expenditure incurred by it is mainly of capital nature. The Committee further observed that in the initial years of formation of the University, the extant provisions cannot be practiced in full force. The Committee directed the Secretary to make a power point presentation in the next meeting showing the trend and pattern of expenditure so that it would be easier for the Committee to understand and issue suitable guidelines.

12.2 With the above remarks the Committee noted the item for its information.

FC: 02:13 Any other Items – with the permission of Chair

13.1 No other item was discussed in the meeting.

The meeting ended with Vote of thanks by the members and the Chairperson.

**Sd/-
P.V.Ravi
Finance Officer
Ex-Officio Secretary, Finance Committee**