



SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT ICSSR BHAWAN, NEW DELHI ON SUNDAY, 03. 03. 2013

Members present

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| 1. Prof. T. B. Subba, Vice-Chancellor | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. Mr. A. K. Singh [Visitor's nominee] | MEMBER |
| 3. Dr. Renu Batra [Visitor's nominee] | MEMBER |
| 4. Mr. Sonam Wangdi [EC's nominee] | MEMBER |
| 5. Mr. Arjun Syangden [EC's nominee] | MEMBER |
| 6. Mr. K. M. Deb | SPECIAL INVITEE |
| 7. Mr. D. Kanunjna | SECRETARY |

Mr. C. Talukdar, Deputy Registrar [Finance] assisted the Committee.

Mr. M.J. Kiran, Member [EC's nominee] could not attend the meeting due to urgent preoccupation.

Quorum of the meeting having been attained, the Chairman called the meeting to order. After a brief welcome address, he proceeded with the agenda item by item.

FC:09:01	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance Committee held on 20.04.2012
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Agenda

The minutes of the meeting held on 20.04.2012 was placed for confirmation of the Committee.

Minute

The Chairman informed the House that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20/04/2012 were circulated to the members on 21/04/2012 and that no comments from the members were received. He, however, highlighted some of the resolutions of the previous meeting for the benefit of those members who were not present in the previous meeting. Members present perused the minutes and confirmed the same.

FC:09:02

Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the last meeting of Finance Committee held on 20.04.2012

Agenda

The Action Taken Report on the minutes of the meeting held on 20.04.2012 was placed before the Committee for its consideration and approval.

Minute

Parawise details of action taken by the University on the directions of the Finance Committee in meeting dated 20.04.2012 were reported by the Chairman. The House noted the same.

FC:09:03

Utilization of grants for the period ended December 2012

Agenda

In terms of the UGC Letter No.F.1-1/2012(CU) dated 17th October 2012 the Certificates of Utilization are to be furnished every quarter to it and are to be placed before the members of the Finance Committee in its next meeting for their information and consideration. Accordingly, Certificates of Utilization for the quarters ended June and September 2012 were submitted for consideration of the members.

Minute

Amount of grants received and utilized by the University, as reported to the UGC, was considered and noted by the members.

FC:09:04

Transfer of land for Sikkim University Campus.

A land measuring approximately 300 acres was earmarked at Yangang, South District of Sikkim, by the Govt. of Sikkim for transfer to Sikkim University for building its campus. Part of the liability of acquiring the land has been agreed to be borne by the Central Govt. and accordingly a sum of Rs. 15 crores was paid to Govt. of Sikkim in two phases in 2008 & 2009 (Rs. 7.5 crore each).

The Govt. of Sikkim has formally transferred the land measuring 265.94 acres on 25th January 2013. The University is now in the process of taking up the project of building the campus at the earliest. As the University has no in-house expertise, engagement of a Project Management Consultant (PMC) is felt essential to manage the project properly under overall control and supervision of the Building Committee. Accordingly, Expression of Interest (EOI) has been called from reputed and experienced agencies that have expertise in handling projects of this magnitude. The University also envisages some preliminary expenses like survey, demarcation, boundary work, to commence during this financial year. Provision has been sought in the Revised Estimates 2013 for this purpose within overall allocation made by the UGC for 2012-13.

Meanwhile, the constitution of building committee is being finalized as per the UGC norms.

Minute

The Committee noted the development.

FC:09:05	SAR of the AG (Sikkim) on the Annual Accounts 2011-2012
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Agenda

The draft annual accounts and Balance Sheet of the University for the Year 2011-2012 was approved by the Finance Committee in its last meeting held on 20/04/2012. Thereafter, these were approved by the Executive Council on 21/04/12. These Accounts were then audited by the Principal Accountant General [Audit], Sikkim on behalf of the Statutory Auditors, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India. The Separate Audit Report (SAR) was issued on 16/10/12. Copy of the Annual Accounts together with the SAR were annexed for consideration by the members.

Minute

Members noted that the Annual Accounts 2011-12, duly audited by the statutory auditors, were forwarded to the MHRD before due date for being placed on the tables of both the Houses of Parliament. The University was directed to obtain a copy of the "Management Letter" mentioned in Para iv (G) of the SAR and circulate the same to members.

FC:09:06	Internal Audit report for the Quarter ended June 2012
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Agenda

M/S D.P Sen & Company has been engaged as the internal auditors of the University for the year 2012-2013. The 1st Quarterly report for the quarter ended June 2012 has been submitted by the auditors on 12/10/12. Report for the second quarter ended September 2012, which was subsequently received, and a copy of the report were placed for consideration of the members.

Minute

The members expressed concern over the shortcomings pointed out by Internal Auditors in different operational areas and asked for urgent rectification and systemic improvement. It further directed to present a comprehensive report, duly testified by the auditors, in the next meeting.

FC:09:07	Revised Estimates 2012-2013 and Budget Estimates 2013-2014
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Agenda

The Revised Estimates 2012-2013 and Budget Estimates 2013-2014 of the University, as forwarded to the UGC and the MHRD, were placed for consideration of the members.

Minute

The members deliberated upon the estimates presented and found that projected provisions under the Revised Estimates 2012-13 under many heads were not based on optimal requirement for the year. The Committee, therefore, directed the University to revise the estimates on a realistic basis and circulate the same among the members.

FC:09:08	One time incentive to employees who had served on contract in the formative stage of the University
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Agenda

Sikkim University passed through the challenges of formative years when it had started functioning without any basic infrastructure facilities. A handful of contractual employees worked very diligently and effectively to bring the University to the position where it stands today. Some of them have become regular employees in different cadres, both teaching and non-teaching, through open competition and their salaries and emoluments have been fixed at the same base level along with other recruits. That way their service to the University on uncertain contractual period remained unrecognized.

In order to motivate these employees to continue to serve with same zeal and dedication, it is proposed to make a onetime grant of incentive equal to an incremental value without any cumulative effect the lump sum amount payable to each of them. Total expenditure on this worked out to Rs. 1, 61,400.

Minute

The Committee, after due consideration of the proposal, felt that such incentive had neither the legal basis nor were covered under the explicit conditions of contract of concerned employees. Grant of such incentive would therefore create wrong precedence and hence decided against approving it.

FC:09:09	Pension ignorance to regular Faculty Members as applied to Statutory Offices Vide EC Resolution No: EC: 08:13
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Agenda

The First Executive Council in its Eighth Meeting held on 27.12.2010 approved the Ordinances on Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service to the post of the Registrar, Finance Officer and Librarian.

The conditions of service contained, inter-alia, the following clause

Para 3 (g) reads as follows *“In view of the special physical and topographical circumstances prevalent in Sikkim, even if the incumbent is in receipt of pension from any other organization (Government or Semi-Government or Private), neither the pension nor the pension equivalent of gratuity shall be deducted from the emoluments payable by the University.”*

The above special clause was introduced to attract senior persons with long experience so that the University could benefit at its initial stage.

The University is facing serious problems in appointing experienced teachers because of geographical disadvantages prevailing in the state. In fact 27 out of 29 sanctioned posts of

Professors remained unfilled due to lack of proper response. In order to encourage senior teachers to join Sikkim University after seeking voluntary retirement from their present institution it was proposed to extend the benefit of ignoring pension and pension equivalent to gratuity in regulating their pay of reemployment in Sikkim University.

Minute

The members deliberated upon the proposal in consonance with the extant orders of DOPT on the fixation of pay on re-employment of pensioners. They advised the University to refer to a recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India on the subject and submit a concrete proposal to UGC for further consideration.

FC:09:10

Purchase of New Vehicles

Agenda

Sikkim University does not have a campus and is functional from 18 different locations. Its internal transportation arrangement is therefore very demanding. The University owns only one vehicle and three other vehicles are hired. The reliability of the hired vehicles cannot always be ensured at times of pressing need. Moreover, with the prospect of having to take up the campus building at Yangang, 56 km away from the present location, will require frequent movement for which a sturdy vehicle is necessary to negotiate the terrains. The only vehicle that the University has is five years old and has run 1.20 lakh km already. In order to facilitate the Vice-Chancellor and other functionaries to have easier and quicker mobility, it is proposed to purchase new vehicles immediately, which according to the cost-benefit calculations for 10 years vis-à-vis hired vehicles was found highly cost-effective. Besides it would also lead to asset-building of the University. The vehicle presently being used by the Vice-Chancellor would be used for as a pool vehicle for other administrative purpose of the University.

Minute

The members considered the justification of owning vehicles in view of the local as well as cost constraints of hiring them. It was, however, felt that the cost benefit analysis should be reworked on suggested lines. Keeping in consideration the blanket ban imposed by the Ministry of Finance on purchase of new vehicles for official purpose, the University was advised to forward a comprehensive proposal to MHRD immediately for consideration of seeking relaxation from the Finance Ministry.

FC:09:11

Terms of Deputation on Foreign Service of Prof T.B Subba as the Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University


Agenda


Prof. T.B. Subba joined as Vice-Chancellor on 15.10.2012. He is on lien for five years from NEHU, Shillong. The period of his service as Vice Chancellor will be treated as on deputation on Foreign Service. The Terms of his service, duly vetted by the lending university were placed for consideration of members.

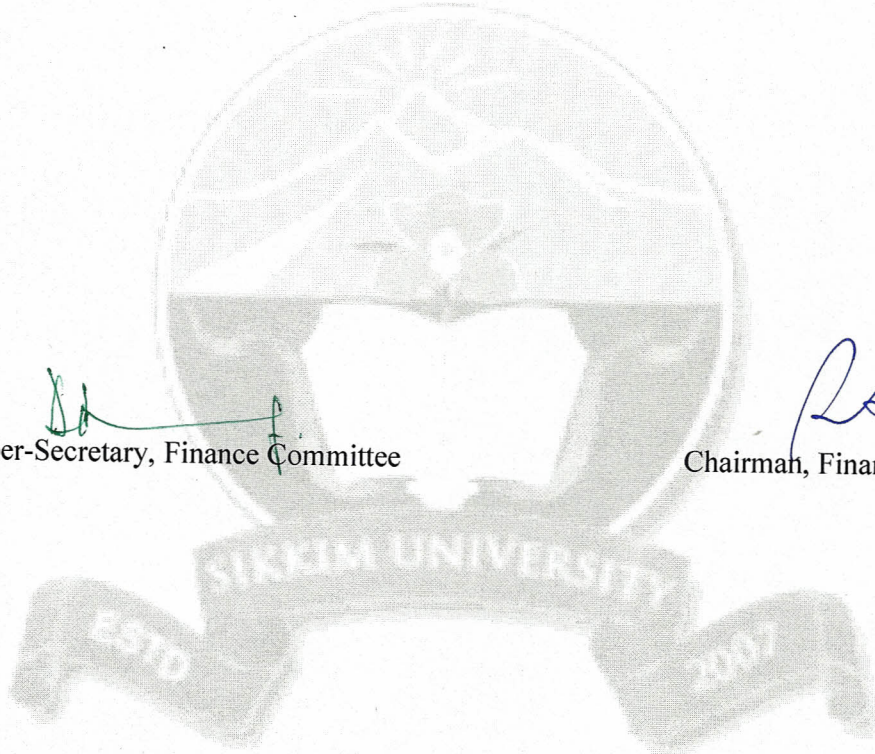
Minute

The members expressed that in view of provisions contained in Section (5) of Statute 2 of Sikkim University Act 2006, intervention of the Finance Committee may not be warranted. The University was advised to consult the model ordinance circulated by the UGC in this behalf for the Central Universities.

There being no other items for discussion, the meeting ended with thanks from the Chair.


Member-Secretary, Finance Committee


Chairman, Finance Committee



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(स्थापित - २००७)