

MINUTES OF THE 57TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER 2007 AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM, IGNOU CAMPUS.

The following were present :

1. Prof. V.N. Rajsekharan Pillai	Vice Chancellor	Chairman
2. Prof. Omprakash Mishra	Pro Vice Chancellor	Member
3. Prof. Parvin Sinclair	Pro Vice Chancellor	Member
4. Prof. C.L. Anand	Member, BOM	Member
5. Sh. M.P. Gupta	Addl. Secretary (Retd.)	Member
6. Prof. N.V. Narasimham	Director (SOMS)	Member
7. Sh. R. Chauhan	Finance Officer	Secretary

Sh. K. Laxman, Officiating Registrar (Admn.) attended as a Special Invitee.

Sh. N.K. Sinha, Joint Secretary, MHRD was represented by Sh. D.K. Paliwal, DEA, MHRD.

Sh. Cherian Thomas, Joint Registrar; Sh. T.K. Kaul, Deputy Registrar; Sh. P.K. Vishwanathan, Asstt. Registrar and Mrs. C. Kaul, Consultant were present to assist the Secretary.

The Chairman welcomed the members attending the meeting of the Finance Committee. The Chairman appreciated the contributions made by Sh. S.K. Ray, Financial Advisor, MHRD in the Finance Committee meetings as a member of Finance Committee whose term expired in November, 2007. The Chairman then requested the Secretary to present the agenda items. The following items were presented.

FC 57.1 To confirm the minutes of the 56th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27th August, 2007.

57.1.1 The Secretary informed that the minutes of the 56th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27th August, 2007 were circulated to the members. No comments have been received from any member. The minutes were placed before the Board of Management in its 92nd meeting held on 29th August, 2007. The Board of Management approved the minutes. The Secretary, therefore, proposed that the minutes of the 56th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27th August, 2007 may be confirmed.

57.1.2 The Finance Committee noted that no comments have been received from any member and also noted the approval of the Board of Management to the minutes and confirmed the minutes.

FC 57.2 Action Taken Report on the decisions of 56th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27th August, 2007.

57.2.1 The Committee noted the action taken on the decisions of the Finance Committee in its 56th meeting held on 27th August, 2007 and the remaining items of 54th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 14th May, 2007.

- 57.2.2 The Committee also noted that in Item No. 9 of the minutes of 56th meeting of Finance Committee, a letter dated 12th December, 2007 has been sent to DG, AIR to reconsider their decision and allow hiring of transmitters to IGNOU. The Committee also noted that under Item 10 of the minutes of 56th meeting of Finance Committee, a Committee under the chairpersonship of Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Pro-Vice-Chancellor has been constituted for setting up of 15 new Gyanvani Stations, as per the recommendations of the Finance Committee.
- 57.2.3 The Secretary also informed that under Item No. 5 of 56th meeting, work on pilot basis has been entrusted to IPAI for conduct of audit of 2 centres viz Patna and a centre in Delhi.
- 57.2.4 The Secretary also informed the Committee that under the action taken in Item No. 17 of 56th meeting, Director, SR&E may be read as Registrar, SR&E and Director, PPD may be read as Registrar, MPDD.
- 57.2.5 While confirming the Minutes, Dr. Paliwal mentioned that creation of Administrative Posts should be with the approval of the Ministry. The Committee noted that this observation of Dr. Paliwal has been already recorded in the minutes of the 56th meeting and the minutes were recorded appropriately. The Committee also noted that only post for which budgetary approval is there have been created. The Committee unanimously agreed to the suggestion that all new posts should be included in the budget and approval of such budget from the Ministry should be sought. Further all the new plan posts need to be appropriately incorporated into the EFC of the University.
- 57.2.6 The Committee took note of Action Taken Report and what has been reported further in the preceding paras.
- FC 57.3 To consider the proposal for payment of Non-Practising Allowance to the Teachers in School of Agriculture with Veterinary Qualifications.**
- 57.3.1 The Committee noted that there is a practice of paying Non Practising Allowance to teachers with veterinary qualifications where possessing of veterinary qualifications is one of the essential qualification for selection. The Committee also noted that there is a practice being followed in other Institutions like Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Science University of Ludiana, College of Veterinary Science/Animal Science, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar and College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Aizawl (a constituent college of Central Agricultural University, Imphal) for payment of Non-Practising Allowance to Veterinary Doctors. The Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, U.P. and ICAR, New Delhi are also paying NPA to their Veterinary Scientists/Technical Personnel who possess a degree in Veterinary Science and/or Animal Husbandry and the Govt. of India Rules also provide for payment of NPA to veterinary doctors.
- 57.3.2 Dr. D.K. Paliwal suggested that a consolidated ordinance containing terms & conditions, Recruitment Rules and other rules applicable to Teachers, Academics and Administrative staff may be finalized and got approved by the competent authority. The Committee appreciated the suggestion and desired that necessary action by Registrar (Admn.) and Director (Academic Coordination) may be initiated. Against a query as to whether the lecturers, whose case is under consideration, have to be veterinary doctors as per the Recruitment Rules are relevant here, Dr. B.S. Saraswat, who was called in by the Finance Committee,

informed that M.V. Sc. was one of the essential qualifications for the post they hold

57.3.3 The Committee after deliberations approved the proposal to pay NPA to Dr. P. Vijayakumar and Dr. Mita Sinhamahapatra of School of Agriculture @ 25% of Basic Pay from the date of their joining IGNOU, subject to the rules of Govt. of India on the subject.

FC 57.4 To consider the report of the Sub-Committee of the Investment Committee constituted to suggest framework of guidelines for future investments of surplus finds of IGNOU.

57.4.1 The Committee had a detailed discussion on the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Investment Committee suggesting framework of guidelines for future investments of surplus funds of IGNOU and the minor modifications suggested in the guidelines by the Investment Committee.

57.4.2 After discussion, the Committee approved the guidelines and the procedures for investment of surplus funds of IGNOU as suggested by Sub-Committee of the Investment Committee with modifications as suggested by the Investment Committee.

FC 57.5 To ratify the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in transfer of funds during 2007-08.

57.5.1 The Committee noted the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in re-appropriation of funds in various Plan and Non Plan heads during 2007-08. The details are given at **Appendix-1**.

FC 57.6 To Report the Summary of Expenditure/Utilization of Funds under Plan and Non-Plan.

57.6.1 The Committee members were provided with additional statement showing utilization of funds upto 30th November, 2007.

57.6.2 Representative from MHRD pointed out that there had been heavy under - utilization under some heads while in some other heads over - utilization such as excess expenditure under Advertisement head in Non-Plan and very less expenditure under a head Special Measures for Disadvantaged Groups in Plan. The Chairman explained in detail about the need for giving advertisements in local newspapers to enable IGNOU to penetrate in far flung areas and have accessibility of the programmes of IGNOU. He further informed that introduction of examination fees has resulted not only in generation of additional revenue to the tune of **Rs. 4.00 cores** but also in huge cost savings on necessary arrangements that are required to be made for conducting the examinations. All these require due publicity through properly designed advertisements.

57.6.3 The Committee noted the utilization of funds in major heads of Plan and Non Plan accounts upto 30th November, 2007.

FC 57.7 To consider and approve the Payment of License Fees to Prasar Bharati.

57.7.1 The Committee approved the proposal for payment of **Rs. 5,46,43,880/-** as license fee inclusive of Service Tax and Education Cess to Prasar Bharati in respect of 22 Gyan Vani Stations for the period of 01-04-07 to 31-12-07.

- FC 57.8 To consider and approve the Revised Estimates 2007-08 and Budget Estimates 2008-09.**
- 57.8.1 Finance Officer gave a detailed account to the Committee spelling out the salient features of Revised Estimates 2007-08 and Budget Estimates 2008-09. The Committee discussed the Revised Estimates 2007-08 and Budget Estimates of the next year in detail with reference to the on going schemes and new schemes in the Plan Estimates. The Committee after thorough deliberations approved the Revised Estimates for 2007-08 at **Rs. 210.63 crores** & Budget Estimates for 2008-09 at **Rs. 466.20 crores** plus the funds required for discharging the liabilities arising out of the agenda items being tabled in this meeting for purchase of land at RCs at Karnal and Jabalpur, conducting an International Seminar in collaboration with ICAF and release of grants to Study Centres. The Committee also approved the Revised Estimates for Operational Fund (Non Plan) at **Rs.278.20 crores** and the Budget Estimates 2008-09 at **Rs. 254.10 crores**.
- FC 57.9 To consider and approve the special rate of Remuneration for German Language Counsellors.**
- 57.9.1 The Committee considered the proposal and approved the special rate of remuneration of **Rs. 250/- per hour (Rs. 5000/-** for one lecture per hour per week per semester) for German Language Counsellors.
- FC 57.10 To consider extension of benefits of two advance increments to Section Officer (Publication).**
- 57.10.1 The Committee desired that the item may be examined in detail by Administration Division and place before it again, if considered necessary.
- FC 57.11 To consider Half yearly Account for the period April-September, 2007.**
- 57.11.1 The Committee noted that the half yearly Account for the period April–Sept, 2007 has been completed. The Committee also appreciated the efforts put in by F&A Division in timely compilation of Accounts.
- FC 57.12 To report a comprehensive note submitted by Chairman, Campus Development Unit (CDU) on the Construction of Permanent Campus of University including Administrative Buildings.**
- 57.12.1 The Committee appreciatively noted the progress being made in the development of Permanent Campus as pointed out in the note and recommended construction of state-of-the-art administrative block in the University Campus.
- FC 57.13 To ratify the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in releasing the payment to HUDA, Karnal for the Allotment of land for construction of IGNOU Regional Centre Building at Sec-12, Karnal.**
- 57.13.1 The Committee ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in releasing the payment of **Rs. 4,41,15,840** to HUDA, Karnal for allotment of land at Sector-12 Karnal for construction of Regional Centre building.
- 57.13.2 The Committee also noted that at the time of payment, sufficient Plan funds were not available with the University, the Committee, therefore, also approved and

ratified the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor by making payment from IGNOU's own resources at that time and to recoup the amount when the Plan Grant is received from MHRD.

FC 57.14 To consider the proposal for IGNOU collaboration with the India-Central Asia Foundation (ICAF), New Delhi and partial funding of Rs.6.00 lakh towards the expenditure on Joint Conference between ICAF and IGNOU on 'Regional Cooperation as Development Tool in Eurasia'.

57.14.1 The Committee considered and approved the proposal for providing partial funding of **Rs. 6 lakhs** towards expenditure on Joint Conference between ICAF and IGNOU on 'Regional Cooperation as Development Tool in Eurasia'. The Committee also desired that the requisite clearances from Ministry of External Affairs, etc. may be obtained for having joint collaboration with India - Central Asia Foundation.

FC 57.15 To consider the recommendations of the Committee constituted to examine the scheme for providing the MTNL Telephone Exchange in IGNOU.

57.15.1 The Committee considered and approved the recommendations of the Committee for providing MTNL Telephone Exchange in IGNOU.

FC 57.16 To consider and approve payment norms for programme M.Sc. (DFSM).

57.16.1 The Committee considered the proposal for payment norms for M.Sc. (DFSM) and approved the rates as are applicable to other M.Sc. programmes.

FC 57.17 To consider the purchase of land for Regional Centre, Jabalpur.

57.17.1 The Committee considered and approved the proposal for purchase of land for Regional Centre, Jabalpur of about 3815 sq mts @ **Rs. 1300** (approx.)/sq mt, totalling **Rs. 55 lakhs** approx. which includes registration charges from the Jabalpur Development Authority, Jabalpur.

FC 57.18 To consider the Categorisation of Study Centres for the purpose of providing grant.

57.18.1 The Committee considered the proposal and approved the scheme for giving grant to Study Centres on the criteria of student enrolment per year as per details given below:

Category	Criteria (Student Enrolment per year)	Quantum of Amount (Rs. Per Annum)
1	500 to 1000	25,000
2	1001 to 2000	50,000
3	2001 to 4000	1,00,000
4	Above 4000	1,50,000

The Committee also took note of IGNOU Study Centres located in difficult and backward regions of the country where the enrolment may not be high. The Committee felt that the University may add some more criteria and devise a mechanism for providing grants to such centres also, evolving appropriate criteria.

- FC 57.19** The Chairman brought to the notice of the members of the Finance Committee a letter dated 2nd November, 2007 from Sh. Sam Pitroda, Chairman, National Knowledge Commission to the Prime Minister of India which has been forwarded by Ministry of HRD to the Vice-Chancellor.
- 57.19.1 The letter contains recommendations of the Working Group on Open & Distance Education (ODE) constituted by the Knowledge Commissioner. It recommends:
1. Create a national ICT infrastructure for networking ODE institutions.
 2. Set up a National Education Foundation to develop web-based common open resources.
 3. Establish a credit bank to effect transition to a Course Credit System.
 4. Establish a National Education Testing Service for assessing ODE students.
 5. Facilitate convergence with Conventional Universities.
 6. Set up a Research Foundation to support research activity in ODE.
 7. Overhaul training programs for educators.
 8. Increase access for learners with special needs.
 9. Create a new Standing Committee for regulation of ODE.
 10. Develop a system for quality assessment.
- 57.19.2 The Chairman informed the members that some of the activities are already under progress in IGNOU and a scheme of “Convergence of the ODL system with the Conventional University system” has already been approved by the Board of Management, presented to the MHRD and Planning Commission and the scheme has been launched on the 90th Birth Anniversary of Smt. Indira Gandhi i.e. 19/11/2007 (Foundation Day of IGNOU) by the Hon’ble Minister of HRD Shri Arjun Singh. This scheme is as per the recommendation 5 above. For other initiatives separate proposals will be placed before the Finance Committee.
- 57.19.3 The suggestion of Dr. Paliwal that the schemes of the Ministry in this direction may also be kept in view so that there is no duplication of efforts and expenditure, was appreciated by the Finance Committee.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai)
Chairman