

MINUTES OF THE THIRD FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF INFLIBNET CENTRE

Third meeting of the Finance Committee of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at the UGC, New Delhi on 6th July, 1998 at 1030 hrs. Following were present :

In the Chair :

Prof. Yash Pal, National Research Professor

Members :

Dr. G.D.Sharma, Secretary, UGC

Dr. R.P.Gangurde, Additional Secretary, UGC

Shri Pramod Kumar, Director, INFLIBNET Centre

Shri S.M. Salgar, Scientist "G", INFLIBNET Centre

Shri C.K.Shah, Administrative Officer-III, INFLIBNET Centre and non-member
Secretary to FC

Invitees :

Mrs.Niloufer A.Kazmi, Joint Secretary, UGC

Shri R.K.Sharma, Under Secretary, UGC

Shri V.R.Dabral, Section Officer, UGC

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Following members could not attend the meeting :

Shri P.P.Kale

Shri O.P.Nigam, FA, UGC

The deliberations on various agenda items are summarised below :

Agenda item No.1 : Chairperson's Remarks

Chairperson welcomed the members to the meeting. He enquired about the total expenditure of INFLIBNET including grant in aid provided to universities. He wanted to know whether INFLIBNET has clear picture of the grants to be given to the universities and wanted the grant in aid provided to the universities to be included in the budget for the sake of completeness even though it may not form part of the Centre's budget. He added that it is the responsibility and commitment of UGC to pay recurring grant to the universities under INFLIBNET Programme. Secretary and IUC staff of the UGC informed that provision has already been made for recurring grant for this year in the UGC's budget.

Chairperson was concerned about the obsolescence period of computers which is very short. He was worried that, most of the universities funded earlier may now have obsolete computers. Many of them may not be having even Windows 95 in their computers. It may be difficult to get even spare parts for these computers. He wanted some thought to be given to this problem.

Chairperson told that journals are becoming costlier day by day. Many researchers have started putting their articles/papers on servers for access through networks.

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This provides an excellent alternative to publications in journals. Papers published become available the very next day. The papers more frequently accessed remain in the foreground and those referred infrequently automatically drop back.

Dr. Sharma suggested, that INFLIBNET should present it's budget under plan and non-plan heads.

Dr. Gangurde advised, that the agenda papers should include approved minutes of the last meeting as well as the action taken report on various items.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Presentation of Audited Accounts 1997-98.

The audit report was presented to the FC by Director explaining details.

Dr. Sharma observed that Comments of the auditors were not given in the auditor's report. The first page of the report contained only general observation. He advised that the auditor's report should include his critical comments

The Audited Accounts for F.Y. 1997-98 were accepted by the FC and passed for putting upto GB.

Agenda Item No.3 : Creation of Posts.

Director, INFLIBNET Centre, briefed the Committee regarding the regularisation of 23 initial posts of INFLIBNET Centre, which has been pending with the UGC for some time. Chairperson wanted that this matter should be cleared at the earliest. Dr. Sharma assured that this matter will be cleared in about a week's time. They will take the approval of Chairperson, UGC and inform the Commission.

Director, INFLIBNET Centre put forward Centre's requirement for five new posts

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of Scientist-B in the pre-revised scale of Rs.2200-4000 in the field of computer science and seven new posts in the same grade and scale in the field of library science. Justification for the creation of these posts was given in the agenda papers. After detailed deliberation on the need aspect, FC recommended creation of two posts in the field of computer science in the grade of Scientist-B having pre-revised pay scale of Rs.2200-4000 against INFLIBNET's projected requirements of five posts. FC also recommended creation of four new posts in the field of library science against INFLIBNET's projected requirement of seven posts. Three of these posts will be in the grade of Scientist-B having pre-revised pay scale of Rs.2200-4000 and one in the grade of Scientist-C in the pre-revised scale of Rs.3000-4500.

Chairperson remarked that establishment of VSAT Network will be a quantum jump in INFLIBNET's activities. People are under the wrong impression that, all the wisdom comes from abroad. He felt, that, a group of people who are scholars, technocrats should get together and decide as to what information should be gathered and put on the net. They should think, how to set up a Cyber Community and to enrich the network and make it truly Indian. University scholars who are not working in research laboratories have to be brought in the net. Dr. Sharma advised, that, a small scholastic group may be set up for brainstorming. He and the Chairperson, suggested, few institutions from which such experts may be inducted to form such a group.

Agenda Item No.4 : Upgradation of existing posts.

INFLIBNET Centre had requested FC to recommend upgradation of some of the existing Scientific/Technical and Administrative posts in view of the new norms approved for the Centre by the UGC. This has become necessary to avoid a paradoxical situation where new recruits may become senior to existing employees with the same entry qualifications. Dr. Sharma was of the view that, Government

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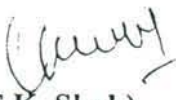
rules do not permit upgradation of existing employees. Chairperson remarked that not only for proper health of the Centre but also for personal justice this type of upgradation is necessary. He added that he would like to discuss this matter further in GB.

Agenda Item No.5 : Replies furnished to Internal Audit of UGC.

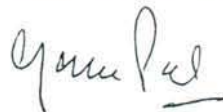
Chairperson desired to know the type of objections raised by the Internal Audit. It was informed that some of the manual records are not prepared due to computerisation of accounts and all relevant records are kept in the computer. Chairperson advised that manual system should be stopped. It was decided that internal audit should respond to the replies furnished by the INFLIBNET Centre.

The Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair at 1225 hrs.

Minutes prepared by


(C.K. Shah)
Non-Member Secretary, FC

Minutes approved by


(Yash Pal)
Chairperson, FC

Third Finance Committee meeting
INFLIBNET CENTRE,
at UGC

6/7/98

Name

signature

R. P. Gangude

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Dr G. D. Sharma

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YASH PAL

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FC MI