

January 3, 1997

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

The second meeting of the Governing Board was held at the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad on 20th December, 1996 at 1030 hrs. The following were present :

In the Chair :

Prof. Yash Pal

National Research Professor

Members :

Dr. G.D.Sharma

Secretary, UGC

Prof. J.P.Gupta

Member Secretary, AICTE

Shri P.P.Kale

Communication Expert

Shri Pramod Kumar

Director, INFLIBNET &
Secretary to the GB

Invitee :

Dr. Y. Narasimhulu

Deputy Secretary, UGC

Also Present :

Shri S.M.Salgar

Scientist "G", INFLIBNET

Shri C.K.Shah

Admn. Officer-III, INFLIBNET

Other members of the GB who were unable to be present :

Prof.Chandrakant Mehta

Dr. Vansant Gowarikar

Prof.T.Viswanathan

Prof.Jayant Narlikar

Ms.Harsha Parekh

Two members, in place of Prof. Y.K.Alagh who has become Minister of State in Central Government and Prof. Ramlal Parikh who has become Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, are yet to be nominated.

The deliberations on the various agenda items are summarised below.

1.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS :

The Chairperson welcomed the members and invitees to the meeting. In his opening remarks, he said that a number of things have been done but we are far from dreams of INFLIBNET. He felt that INFLIBNET should strive hard to connect people together. Intranet is more important than Internet. Following points emerged during the opening remarks.

- 1.1 A project proposal should be prepared for providing 25 VSATs and Intranet connectivity to a number of universities so that possibility of getting necessary funds from agencies outside government can be explored. Shri Kale agreed to help in preparing the proposal.
- 1.2 Shri Kale felt that INFLIBNET Project Report was written long back and in the changed environment it needs a relook. He informed that IUCAA has provided Internet and Intranet access facilities to University of Pune. He suggested that INFLIBNET should try to provide similar facilities in other universities.
- 1.3 Dr.Sharma advised that INFLIBNET should demonstrate its services and full utilities in at least five universities. Other universities after seeing this will feel encouraged and will try to follow suit even by putting their own money.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 1ST GB MEETING :

Suggestions received on minutes of the first GB meeting were taken up for discussion and the minutes were confirmed with following modifications.

- 2.1 Modified draft of minutes regarding Agenda item No. 5 based on Prof. Narlikar's suggestion was approved and is kept at Annexure-I.
- 2.2 Modified draft of Agenda item No.12 based on comments from Dr. P.S.Rajput and Prof. Viswanathan and approved by the GB are kept at Annexure-II.

2.3 In light of Prof. Viswanathan's suggestion, discussion took place on minutes regarding Agenda item No. 5, para-C regarding regularisation of staff of INFLIBNET Programme recruited under IUCAA. Chairperson clarified that GB has already decided that services of 22 staff members including 6 vacant posts of INFLIBNET Programme stand transferred to INFLIBNET Centre and all of them will be treated as appointed on regular basis as permanent staff of the centre till superannuation. Dr.Sharma advised that proper procedure may be followed for giving effect to this decision. It was decided that the Director will set up a committee which will go through individual cases and forward its recommendation to the Chairperson of GB for approval.

3.0 SUGGESTIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING :

Minutes of the first meeting of the Finance Committee, held at UGC office, New Delhi on 26th September, 1996 were discussed. Following decisions were taken regarding action item generated in the meeting.

- 3.1 Video Programme for Training :
It was decided to request EMRC, Pune, to make video programmes for training on behalf of INFLIBNET. Shri P.P.Kale can coordinate this activity.
- 3.2 Involvement of UGC Information Centres for INFLIBNET :
It was decided that UGC will call a meeting of UGC Information centres to discuss what they can do for INFLIBNET. INFLIBNET will prepare the necessary background paper for this and send it to the UGC.
- 3.3 Involvement of Associate Members :
A draft copy of MOU for Associate members was presented. UGC will study it and give comments.
- 3.4 Additional Manpower Requirement :
Additional Manpower requirement for the year 1997-98 approved by FC was discussed in the GB and approved as per the details provided in the Annexure-III

4.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT :

Director presented status report given in Annxure-IV. Under item No.11.2 of Director's status report (agenda item No.6) it was proposed that libraries of two more universities viz. Bhavanagar University and Mangalore University be funded under INFLIBNET Programme in the current financial year out of Rs. 14 lakhs available for grant-in-aid. GB agreed and asked INFLIBNET to send proposal to the UGC for this.

It was also suggested that in the next financial year libraries of two remotely located universities viz. Nagaland and Tezpur be funded under INFLIBNET Programme.

5.0 BYE-LAWS AND SERVICE CONDITIONS :

Draft copies of Bye-laws and Service conditions were circulated among the members of the GB. It was decided that UGC will go through them and offer their comments.

6.0 ACTION PLAN :

Action plan for the next year was presented by the Director. The GB did not favour setting up of Regional Centres and advised to drop the plan to establish Regional Centres and instead set up VSAT Network.

7.0 FORMATION OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE :

GB discussed formation of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). It was agreed generally to have the TAC as suggested by the Review Committee set up by the UGC with following modifications :

The Chairperson of the TAC will be an eminent information scientist/ expert in place of an eminent library expert and representatives from DOT, UGC and INFLIBNET Centre should also be included as members. Constitution of TAC is given in Annexure-V.

The Technical Advisory Committee should meet ones or twice a year.

The one time Advisory Committee suggested by the FC can be an informal committee which can be called once to help in generating ideas and develop concept. Director can call meeting of this committee.

8.0 FORMATION OF USERS COMMITTEE :

The GB discussed formation of the Users Committee as suggested in the agenda papers based on Review Committee set up by UGC. It was decided to have four academicians from various regions in place of Regional Directors as the proposal to have RCs has already been dropped. It was also decided to have a representative each from Regional Engineering Colleges and Technical Universities. Committee finalised is given in Annexure-VI.

9.0 AUTHORISATION FOR SIGNING CHEQUES :

Authorisation to three officers of the Centre to sign cheques as suggested in the agenda papers was approved by the GB.

10.0 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS :

The GB agreed to appoint Shri Deepak J. Shah, Chartered Accountant, of Deepak Jayantilal Shah & Co. as the auditor for the next financial year. The remuneration to the auditor will be fixed by the Director depending on the work load.

11.0 OTHER POINTS DISCUSSED :

11.1 Shri Salgar informed the Board that many universities have expressed difficulty in getting the recurring grant. The sanction letters specify that the universities have to pay for recurring expenses out of development grant for the 8th plan. Universities say that they did not make any provision for this

expenditure in their budget. Further, regarding appointment of the Information Scientist the sanction letters do not clearly state that UGC will pay for the salary for first five years. Without this clarity universities are not recruiting these persons. Dr. Sharma said that he will look into the matter of recurring grants and sanction of the post of Information Scientist.

11.2 GB advised that since INFLIBNET database is connected to INET, information should be sent to all the libraries, news letters, computer centres etc. on how to access this database on-line.

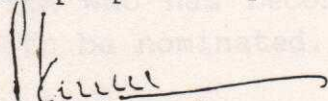
11.3 Dr. Sharma suggested that INFLIBNET should coordinate with academic staff colleges of universities for providing training in computerised library operations.

11.4 Copies of the Review Committee report were given to the GB members who will go through them and offer their suggestions.

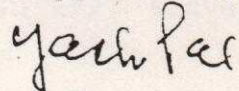
Chairman, in his concluding remarks reiterated that our country is full of useful information which has to be made available to the whole world through INTERNET. Major efforts have to be made with the help of the UGC to get synopsis of theses published in our universities. INFLIBNET should take effective steps for marketing of its services.

The meeting ended at 1400 hrs with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes prepared by


(Pramod Kumar)
Secretary

Minutes approved by


(Yash Pal)
Chairperson

Enclosures: Annexure-I
Annexure-IV

Annexure-II
Annexure-V

Annexure-III
Annexure-VI