MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD OF INFLIBNET CENTRE

The ninth meeting of the Governing Board of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at the UGC HQs., New Delhi on 29th May, 2001. The meeting started at 1510 hrs. and ended at 1630 hrs.

Following were present:

In the Chair:
Dr. Hari Gautam, President of the Council / Chairman, UGC

Members:

Dr. Arun Nigavekar	Vice-Chairman, UGC
Dr. M. P. Kapoor	TIET, Patiala
Prof. R. K. Jha	BHU, Varanasi
Prof. S. K. Kak	BHU, Varanasi
Dr. M. S. Rame Gowda	Karnatak Open University, Mysore
Dr. T.A.V. Murthy	CIEFL, Hyderabad & Director Designate, INFLIBNET
Shri S. M. Salgar	Acting Director, INFLIBNET & Member Secretary

Invitees:

Dr. Rajasekharan Pillai	Director, NAAC
Shri Pradip Kaul	Acting Director, CEC
Dr. S.P.Das Thakur	Jt. Secretary, UGC
Dr. P. Prakash	Dy. Secretary, UGC
Shri V. R. Dabral	SO, UGC
Dr. T. S. Kumbar	Scientist "D", INFLIBNET

Dr. Amit Roy, Director, NSC had come for the meeting but had to leave before start of the proceedings due to prior commitment elsewhere. Dr. G. G. Dandapat, Prof. Naresh Ved, Prof. R. S. Nirjar and Dr. Y. V. Reddy could not attend the meeting.

The deliberations on various agenda items are summarised below:

Agenda Item No. 1:   **Opening remarks by the Chairman, UGC**

Dr. Hari Gautam explained that due to sudden meeting in the ministry, he was delayed and the meeting could not be started on time. He welcomed the members and invitees to the meeting and asked the Acting Director, INFLIBNET to begin the proceedings.

Agenda Item No. 2:   **Confirmation of the minutes of last GB meeting**

Since no specific comments were received from the members on the minutes of the 8th meeting of the GB, the minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 3:   **Action taken report**

GB members were briefed about the actions taken by INFLIBNET on the action items generated in the last GB meeting.

- In the last GB meeting, INFLIBNET was advised to put up a note to the UGC about recruitment of "Information Scientists" by universities by converting existing vacant posts of lecturers. Chairman was of the view that such a step was neither desirable nor practicable. He advised that those universities who can recruit such persons should go ahead and do so but the nomenclature of the post will remain as Information Scientist.
- Acting Director informed that as per GB's advice, INFLIBNET has already incorporated a software system in SOUL for correcting spelling and grammatical mistakes made during data entry.
- GB was informed that hyper links were provided to 102 more universities in the INFLIBNET's web site. Prof. Kak said that these links were not working properly and databases of universities could not be accessed. Acting Director clarified that these links were provided solely for the purpose of accessing home pages of universities for getting more information about them. Since INFLIBNET was advised by GB earlier to stop putting home pages of universities on its web site, this facility was provided.
- Regarding on-line training courses, members were informed that IGNOU has been approached for possible collaboration in this matter. INFLIBNET was advised by the Chairman to approach CEC for this purpose rather than IGNOU.

- Acting Director informed that since the project of establishing a wide area network "UGCNET" was given to ERNET India, there was no need to prepare a separate project proposal by INFLIBNET for this purpose.
- GB was informed that as per its advice, import/export facility from / to MARC 21 was incorporated in SOUL.
- INFLIBNET has developed a Demo. version of SOUL for distribution to college libraries and others. Copies of this version on CDs were distributed to the members and invitees. It was pointed out that on the top cover of the CD, name of UGC was not appearing. Acting Director informed that it was inadvertently left out and will be incorporated in new copies. It was also suggested to give URLs of INFLIBNET and UGC web sites on the top cover. Acting Director agreed to do so in future copies.
- GB was informed that stand- alone version of SOUL was developed and was ready for distribution to college libraries.
- As per GB's advice, FTP site was opened on INFLIBNET's web site. RISC server procurement is in progress. Acting Director informed that to make access to INFLIBNET's web site / databases faster, it was being planned to locate this RISC server in the premises of the local ISP. Prof. Kak suggested that since ERNET was given the responsibility of creating backbone for UGCNET, the server may be located at ERNET and not at another ISP.
- As per GB's advice, INFLIBNET had generated a note on its data security policy and put it as Agenda item No. 6. Due to lack of time, it could not be discussed. It will be taken up in next meeting of GB.
- GB was informed that copy of INFLIBNET's MOU was put on its web site.
- A note was circulated to members regarding response received from five universities, who were willing to serve as service centres for SOUL. Chairman advised to delete University of Roorkee from this list as it was going to be given the status of IIT soon. Due to lack of time, terms of operating these service centres could not be discussed. Chairman advised that a paper containing these terms and conditions be circulated by post to the members and their opinions obtained. Members were of the opinion that if a prospective service centre does not have SOUL, then it should buy a copy of SOUL first.
- As per GB's advice, INFLIBNET had generated a note on formation of consortia and put it as Agenda item No. 7. Due to lack of time, it could not be discussed. It will be taken up in next meeting of GB.
- As per GB's advice, INFLIBNET had generated a note incorporating futuristic suggestions given in last meeting of GB and put it as Agenda item No. 5. Due to lack of time, it could not be discussed. It will be taken up in next meeting of GB.

Agenda Item No. 4:   **Status report**

Acting Director summarised the status report of the Centre.

GB noted that out of 123 university libraries funded till FY 1999-2000, eleven universities did not send review reports, whose list was given in Annexure 4.2. Acting Director informed that out of these 11, report from Guru Jambheshwar university has been received now only. Chairman wanted that INFLIBNET should provide him with details of letters / reminders sent to these universities for sending review reports. He further desired that a draft letter be prepared from him to Vice-Chancellors of these 10 universities asking for explanation for not sending review reports and the probable consequences for failing to do so.

Members took serious note of the fact that out of 36 university libraries invited to attend UGC Review at Pune, representatives from only 19 libraries attended the review. Chairman desired that INFLIBNET should ascertain from these 17 university librarians the reasons for their not attending this review and the same be communicated to UGC.

Regarding SOUL software, some members were of the view that it should be properly validated. Chairman ruled that the Director, INFLIBNET should set up a committee for proper validation of SOUL.

Regarding INFLIBNET's web site, Prof. Kak wanted to know with how many search engines was the INFLIBNET's web site registered. Dr. Kumbar replied that with major search engines like Yahoo, Google, Alta Vista etc. INFLIBNET's web site is registered. INFLIBNET will try to have this facility with more search engines and provide this list in the next meeting of GB. Prof. Kak asked whether INFLIBNET web site had hit counter. He was informed that such facility was not available presently. INFLIBNET will incorporate hit counter on its web site and report about it in next meeting of GB.

Chairman said that UGC has funded six university libraries to act as Document Delivery Centres and five university libraries under Retro-conversion project of INFLIBNET. No progress report has been received by the UGC from any one of them. He advised that INFLIBNET should ask them to submit progress report by a particular date and copies of these reports may be sent to UGC.

Chairman advised INFLIBNET to drop its proposal for engaging private agency to collect and convert abstracts of theses from university libraries into machine
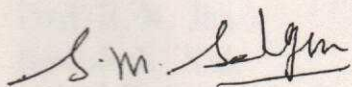
readable form. He wanted that abstracts should be provided by the universities to INFLIBNET, either in print medium or on floppies. INFLIBNET should prepare a draft letter from the Chairman to Vice-Chancellors of universities for this purpose. The letter should also include a format in which these details are required by INFLIBNET.

Chairman told that he was ready to consider giving approval for filling up Scientific / Technical vacancies due to retirement / resignation. He advised the Acting Director to send him a note for the same giving necessary details.

Due to lack of time, it was decided to take up Agenda items No. 5 onwards in the next meeting of the GB.
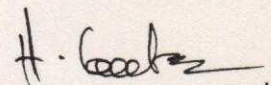
The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes prepared by

(S. M. Salgar)
Acting Director & Member
Secretary to GB

Minutes approved by

(Dr. Hari Gautam) 31/7.
President of the Council &
Chairman, UGC