INFLIBNET Centre
Ahmedabad

December 3, 2007

Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the Governing Board of INFLIBNET Centre Held on Monday, the 26th November, 2007 at UGC Headquarters, New Delhi

Members Present

Prof. S.K. Khanna,   Chairman, GB, INFLIBNET Centre

Members

Dr. T R Kem	Secretary, UGC
Dr. K Narayana Rao	Member Secretary, AICTE, New Delhi
Shri M Moni	Dy. Director General, NIC, New Delhi
Dr. Muttayya Koganuramath	TISS, Mumbai
Dr. Surender Singh	Dy. Secretary, UGC, New Delhi
Dr. Jagdish Arora	Director, INFLIBNET & Member Secretary, GB

Invitees

Dr. R Ramachandran	Director-Incharge, National Library, Kolkatta
Dr. P R Goswami	ICSSR, New Delhi
Shri D P Negi	AO (PA&F), INFLIBNET Centre
Shri Ashok P Achtani	Section Officer, INFLIBNET Centre

Dr. Moolchand Sharma, Vice-Chairman, UGC and Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Batra, JS, UGC, could not attend the meeting because of prior commitments.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of the 15th Governing Boby held on 28th June, 2007 at the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad

The Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the Governing Board held on 28th June, 2007 was confirmed as circulated, since no comments were received from the members.

2. Report on Action Taken and Progress Made since last Meeting of the Governing Board

Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director of the Centre presented a brief report of "Action Taken and Progress Made", since the last meeting of the Governing Board held on June 28, 2007. The Members noted that most of the items flagged for action are being put-up as a separate Agenda Item in the current meeting of the Board. The Members expressed their satisfaction on the action taken on various decision made in the last meeting.

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3. Appointment of Architect for Construction of Permanent Institutional Building at INFOCITY, Gandhinagar

The Members were informed that the Committee constituted for selection of Architect / Architectural firm had invited "Expression of Interest". In all 22 "Expression of Interest" were received in response to the advertisement in national dailies and on the Centre's Website. The Committee short-listed 5 architects / architectural firms for making a presentation to the Committee. Based on the presentations, the Committee empanelled the following four architects / architectural firms in order of merit:

i) M/s Vastu Shilpa
ii) M/s HCP Design and Project Management Pvt Ltd
iii) M/s L J Purani & Associates
iv) M/s Dutta & Dutta Associates

The Members noted that Ahmedabad has several world-renowned architects / architectural firms and the Centre has selected Dr. Balakrishna V Doshi of Vastu Shilpa Consultants, who is one of world-renowned Architects. The Members approved the panel of architects / architectural firms selected by its Committee and approved that the contract / agreement may be signed with the first architectural firm as per the prescribed norms.

4. Constitution of Building Committee for Construction of Permanent Institutional Building

The Governing Board approved constitution of Building Committee consisting of the following members under the Chairmanship of Prof. S K Khanna, Chairman, Governing Board, INFLIBNET Centre, who is a renowned Civil Engineer and is Consultant to M/s JAYPEE Group:

i) Prof. S K Khanna, Chairman, Governing Body, INFLIBNET Centre (Chairman)
ii) Dr. Parimal H Trivedi, VC,Gujarat University, Ahmedabad
iii) Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Batra, JS (IUC), UGC, New Delhi
iv) Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre
v) Dr. MN Patel, Principal L.D. Engineering. College, Ahmedabad
vi) Dr. R K Chadha, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha, New Delhi
vii) A Senior Civil Engineer, CPWD, Gandhinagar
viii) Shri D P Negi, Admn.Officer (PA&F),INFLIBNET Centre
ix) Dr. K Prakash, Scientis-B (LS), INFLIBNET Centre
x) Shri C K Shah, Admn.Officer (GS), INFLIBNET Centre, Convener

5. Proposal for Appointment of SOUL Coordinators and Technical Assistants for the Installation and Maintenance of SOUL Software

The Members considered the proposal made by the Committee constituted by it consisting of Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET and Dr. M Moni, Dy. Director

General, NIC for examining the problems regarding maintenance of SOUL Software and a viable solution to resolve these problems. The Committee recommended appointment of seven Co-ordinators in various regions of the country and a number of Technical Assistants associated with each Coordinator depending on number of installations in a given region. The Committee noted that the Centre generates sufficient funds by sale of SOUL Software to meet the cost of Rs. 23.76 lakhs which would be incurred on deployment of desired number of SOUL Coordinators and Technical Assistants.

The Governing Body approved the proposal and gave its go ahead for deployment of requisite numbers of SOUL Coordinators and Technical Assistants for this purpose. The Director, INFLIBNET Centre assured Dr. Surendra Singh, Dy. Secretary (UGC) that necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that the SOUL Coordinators and Technical Assistants would not claim to be permanent staff of the Centre. The cost incurred on deployment of SOUL Coordinators and Technical Assistants would be met from the income generated through the SOUL Software and there would not be any financial liability on the UGC / INFLIBNET Centre in this regard.

6. Status of UGC-Infonet Internet Connectivity and Digital Library Consortium

Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, made a presentation on the status of UGC-Infonet Internet Connectivity and Digital Library Consortium. He also demonstrated the new Website developed for the UGC-Infonet Digital library Consortium.

7. Filling-up of Vacant Scientific & Technical Positions: Current Status

The Members noted that the UGC has released four scientific and technical positions that fell vacant in past one year. These positions have been advertised and process of short-listing / recruitment has commenced. Meanwhile, UGC has sought explanation as to why positions that fell vacant have not been filled in time. It was clarified that the Centre has been sending requests for filling-in positions as soon as it fell vacant, but no communications have been received from the UGC. The Joint Secretary (IUC) assured that necessary action would be initiated for releasing the requisite positions.

8. INFLIBNET's Association with ADINET

The Members noted that the INFLIBNET Centre and ADINET have a symbiotic relationship. The ADINET tests the Beta version of SOUL Software before their release. The existing arrangements between the INFLIBNET Centre and ADINET was approved by the Members. The Governing Body noted that the Director of the Centre is Ex. Officio Member Secretary and Treasurer of the ADINET Society.

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9. Attachment Training Programme for Practicing Librarians of North Eastern Region

The members were informed that the Commission has allocated Rs. 3.5 crores to the Centre for automation of libraries in North-Eastern Region. The Centre has distributed SOUL Software to 48 libraries, free of cost so far. While this programme would continue, the Centre has proposed Attachment Training Programme for Practicing Library and Computer professionals at the INFLIBNET Centre. Under the programme, Working librarians and computer professionals from North-East would come to the Centre and spend 3 to 6 months working in the Centre's on-going projects with the INFLIBNET Staff. The candidates selected in the Attachment Programme would be paid Rs.500.00 per day for a period varying from 3 to 6 months depending upon the choice of the candidate. The INFLIBNET will meet travel expenses of the trainees. All expenses on the Attachment Programme would be met from the budget allocated for the automation in North-East region.

10. Appointment of Contractual Staff under the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

The Members noted that the funds allocated to the Centre for the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium provides for 1% of the total allocation that can be used for operational activities such as imparting training programme and appointment of manpower required for offering the training as well as for other activities. The proposal to appoint six personnel as per the details given below was approved by the Governing Body:

Description	No. of positions	Consolidated salary Per month
Project Officers	2	Rs.15,000.00
Project Associates	2	Rs.10,000.00
Project Assistants	2	Rs. 8,000.00

The contractual appointments would be made for a period of one year extendable to next five years depending on the continuation of the consortium activities. The total annual expenditure on contractual appointment would be Rs.3,96,000.00 (approximately). The contractual staff would be given annual raise of Rs.500.00 in the case of Project Officers and Rs.400.00 in the case of Project Associates and Project Assistants.

The board also approved annual increment of Rs.500.00 for the existing three Project Officers deployed against the vacant technical and scientific positions.

11. Purchase of a Vehicle for the Director

Considering the fact that the Centre has not purchased a vehicle since its inception, the proposal for purchase of a vehicle for the Director costing Rs.7.00 lakhs was approved. It
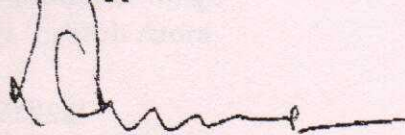
was noted that the Director of the Centre is equivalent to a Vice-Chancellor in a Central University and is entitled to purchase a vehicle as per the Government norms. Moreover, the members also noted that the expenses on hiring of vehicle for the Director are very high. The Centre would be able to recover the cost incurred within a period of 3 years. It was also resolved that the Centre would appoint a driver on contractual basis for the Director.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair as well as to the members for their proactive support and participation.

(Jagdish Arora)
Member-Secretary &
Director, INFLIBNET Centre

Minute approved

(Prof. S K Khanna)
Chairman, Governing Board, INFLIBNET Centre

15-12-2007