

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The second meeting of the Council of INFLIBNET Centre was held at the UGC, New Delhi on 11th December, 1997. The meeting started at 1400 hrs. and ended at 1515 hrs. Following were present :

In the Chair :

Dr. (Miss) A.S.Desai Chairperson, UGC

Members :

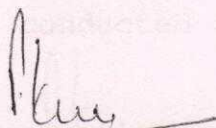
Prof. Yash Pal	National Research Professor
Dr. N.C.Mathur	Vice-Chairman, UGC
Dr. Vasant Gowarikar	Vice-Chancellor, Pune University
Prof. J.P.Gupta	Member Secretary, AICTE
Prof. B.G.Sangamesawara	Advisor, AICTE
(representing Prof.S.Rame Gowda, Chairman, AICTE)	
Prof. Harsha Parekh	Librarian, SNTD University
Shri Pramod Kumar	Director, INFLIBNET Centre & Member Secretary to the Council

Invitees :

Dr. Y.Narasimhulu	Dy. Secretary, UGC
Shri V.R.Dabral	Section Officer, UGC

Also Present :

Shri S.M. Salgar	Scientist "G", INFLIBNET
Shri C.K. Shah	Admn. Officer -III, INFLIBNET



Following members could not attend the meeting :

Dr.R.A. Mashelkar

Prof.D.M.Nanjundappa

Dr.Ramanuj Bhattacharjee

Prof.N.Balakrishnan

Dr.Jayant Narlikar

Prof. Govardhan Mehta

Prof.T.Viswanathan

Prof.A.K.Aggrawal

Shri P.P.Kale

Dr.G.D.Sharma

Prof.S.B.Vora

Deliberations of the Council meeting are summarised below.

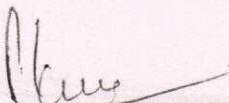
Agenda item No.1 : President's Remarks

Since there was an overlap of GB with the Council meeting, the President did not make any specific remarks and asked the agenda items to be taken up.

Prof. N.C.Mathur, Vice Chairman, UGC remarked that the agenda items should have included confirmation of minutes of the last Council meeting. Accordingly confirmation of the Minutes was taken up. Since no comments were received from members regarding minutes of the first meeting of the Council, the minutes of the same were confirmed.

Agenda item No.2 : Status Report By the Director

The Director, INFLIBNET Centre, presented the status report on the activities of the Centre. He informed the members that, till date, 69 universities were funded by the UGC under INFLIBNET Programme for modernisation of their libraries. Another 67 universities were provided a special grant for creating infrastructure in their libraries for information exchange. He briefed the members about various training courses conducted at the Centre for upskilling the



human resource for the university libraries in the field of computerisation and networking. He also briefed about the status of database development at the Centre. He also informed that development of WINDOW based library management software, which, in turn, is based on the experience of successful development of ILMS library management software package, has been started. Shri Salgar stated the difficulties faced in software development due to constant migration of computer professionals. Prof. Desai advised that personnel may be taken on contract for software development to overcome this problem or software can be given on contract for development.

The Director informed the members that a list of 20 universities was sent to the UGC, out of which, 15 universities are to be selected for funding under INFLIBNET Programme in 1997-1998. Prof. Desai wanted that more information should be provided regarding the reasons for the selection of a particular university from a state, the list of universities which have been included so far and those which are left out. Information has to be holistic if an informed decision has to be made.

On a query regarding the permanent location of INFLIBNET, Prof. Desai stated that it was desirable to shift INFLIBNET Centre to Delhi when the UGC Campus was established on its own land near the JNU Campus. She added that Ahmedabad was not the best place for interaction with universities. Vice-Chancellors often come to Delhi to the UGC and for other meetings and hence can visit the Centre also as they do with the various Bureaus of the UGC. The new campus would include the UGC offices, INFLIBNET Centre and Consortium for Education Communication (CEC). Many common facilities like auditorium, conference rooms, guest house,

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hostel, staff quarters, etc., can be shared by these institutions. Immediate steps are to be taken for completing architectural design for the proposed complex. It may take about 3 to 4 years for the complex to be ready. INFLIBNET Centre will be shifted only after construction of the buildings. Till that time, INFLIBNET will continue to operate from Ahmedabad. The President also wanted that inquiries be made with the Registrar of Societies regarding shifting of INFLIBNET Centre to Delhi and procedures, if any, which would be required to be followed.

Agenda item No.3 : Presentation of Audited Accounts

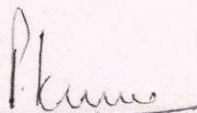
Audited accounts for 1996-97 were placed before the Council and were approved.

Agenda item No.4 : VSAT Network

Prof. Yash Pal spoke about the urgent need to have a VSAT based network for INFLIBNET. He emphasised that, in addition to technical advantages, in the light of the resource crunch, it was necessary to go in for a VSAT based network which will be less expensive as VSAT prices are coming down.

Prof. Desai indicated that about Rs.30 crores will be spent by the UGC in next five years for networking of universities. Provision has been made in the budget for the same.

Dr. Gowarikar was of the view that a team should work for establishing such a network dedicatedly. There should be long term commitment and support. Spending small sums of money will not lead anywhere.



Prof. Mathur briefed the members about the efforts made by IGNOU in initiating creation of a network for academic needs involving MHRD, UGC, AICTE and IGNOU. He spoke about the various meetings held at IGNOU under the Chairmanship of Prof. Takwale, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, in this respect. He stated that the UGC and IGNOU have agreed to put in money for establishment of such a network. INFLIBNET will represent UGC in establishing this network. Prof. Mathur also informed that Prof. Yash Pal and Mr. Pramod Kumar should attend a meeting to be held in IGNOU on 16th December, 1997, in this regard.

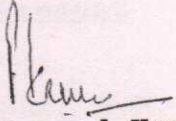
Council agreed that INFLIBNET should take into account all the requirements of UGC, CEC, and INFLIBNET and go ahead with establishing the network.

Agenda item No.5 : EU-India Project Proposal


Prof. Desai and Prof. Yash Pal felt that the proposed Project Proposal (EU-INDIA University Network) did not offer any substantial benefits to INFLIBNET in terms of financial support for creation of infrastructure and so need not be pursued further.

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

Minutes prepared by


(Pramod Kumar)
Member Secretary

Minutes approved by


(Prof. (Miss) A.S. Desai)
President