

**Minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Finance Committee of
Assam University held on 10th March 2022 at 3.00 PM
at DELNET Guest House, New Delhi in Blended Mode
(Physical and Video Conferencing)**

The following were present:

1. Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant - Chairman
Vice-Chancellor, Assam University
2. Mr. Subhash Chand Sharu, - Member
Director, (CU-I/II)
Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Education, New Delhi
[Nominee of Additional Secretary (CU),
Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]
3. Mr. Bishnu Chakraborty - Member
Guwahati, Assam (EC Nominee)
4. Prof. Madhumita Dhar Sarkar - Member
Dean, School of Legal Studies
Assam University, Silchar (EC Nominee)
5. Dr. P.K. Nath - Permanent Invitee
Registrar, Assam University
6. Dr. Subhadeep Dhar - Ex-officio Secretary
Finance Officer (i/c), Assam University

The following attended the meeting through Video Conferencing:

7. Mohammed Rizwan, - Member
Director, (IFD)
Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Education, New Delhi
[Nominee of Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser,
Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]
9. Prof. N.K. Shukla - Member
Registrar
University of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh (EC nominee)

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The Joint Secretary (CU), University Grants Commission (Visitor's Nominee) could not attend the meeting due to other engagements and was granted leave of absence.

The comments of Additional Secretary (CU), Ministry of Education, Dept. of Higher Education, GoI on the agenda items has been received through e-mail dated 7th March 2022 from the ASO, CU-I, Dept of Higher Education, Ministry of Education; the comments received from the Under Secretary to the Govt. of India, IFD, Dept. of Higher Education, Ministry of Education with the approval of JS & FA, Ministry of Education, GoI vide letter F. No. 9-9/2017-IFD.pt, dated 7th March 2022 and the comments of the Joint Secretary (CU), UGC received from the Under Secretary, UGC vide letter No. F. 18-6/2019 (CU)Vol.I, dated 7th March 2022 were presented by the Finance Officer (i/c) & Secretary, Finance Committee, Assam University before the Finance Committee and the members noted the comments & put on record.

The Vice-Chancellor, Assam University assured that the observations of the Ministry and UGC will be strictly followed by the University in true letter and spirit.

Item No. FC:63/01: Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Vice-Chancellor, Assam University.

Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant, Vice-Chancellor, Assam University and Chairman, Finance Committee welcomed Mr. Subhash Chand Sharu, Director, (CU-I/II), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, [Nominee of Additional Secretary (CU), Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)], Mohammed Rizwan, Director, (IFD), Ministry of Education, New Delhi, [Nominee of Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)] and all the members for attending the meeting.

The Chairman in his opening remarks sought guidance from all the members for all round development and growth of the University. He then requested the Secretary, Finance Committee to initiate the proceedings as per the agenda items.

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Item No. FC:63/02: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 62nd meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 11th January 2022.

The copy of the Minutes of the 62nd meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 11th January 2022 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item which was circulated to all the members vide letter No. AUF/686/FC-62/2021-22/1231, dtd. 17.01.2022.

University has not received any comments from any of the members. The Minutes may kindly be confirmed.

Resolution: Subject to strict compliance of the relevant Statutory provisions of the University and also strict compliance of the related Govt. of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, the Minutes of the 62nd meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 11th January 2022 were confirmed.

Item No. FC:63/03: Action Taken Report of the 62nd meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 11th January 2022.

Action Taken Report on the 62nd meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 11th January 2022 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for information and necessary review.

Resolution: The Action Taken Report of the 62nd meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 11th January 2022 were perused and noted by the members of the Finance Committee.

Further, the matter related to revision of wages of casual/contractual staff of Assam University (Agenda Item No. FC:62/03) has been discussed in the meeting and it was informed that the University has communicated the matter to UGC and the reply from UGC is awaited. It has been resolved in the meeting that the University should wait for further directions from UGC in the matter.

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Regarding physical verification of Fixed Assets and Inventories (Agenda Item No. FC:62/04), it was reported that necessary action has been initiated to complete the task by June 2022. The members after detailed discussion on the issue directed the University to complete the process before the stipulated time.

Action taken on outstanding Audit paras (Agenda Item No. FC:62/09) have been discussed in the meeting in detail and the members noted and suggested the University to take appropriate action to settle the paras.

The matter related to extension for utilization of unspent Salary & Recurring grants under EWS upto 31.03.2022 (Agenda Item No. FC:62/12), it has been informed in the meeting that the University has communicated the matter with UGC and the response from UGC is awaited. The members suggested the University to take up the matter with UGC.

Item No. FC:63/04: Proposal for purchase of one new Car for the official use of the Vice-Chancellor, Assam University in lieu of the existing Car to be auctioned/exchanged.

An Aria Pure 4x2 BS IV of TATA Motors was purchased from M/S. Johnson Automobiles, Silchar with a cost of Rs. 11,18,188.00 during the month of May 2013 and is being used for the official use of the Vice-Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar. The Car clocked 87940 KM till 24th February 2022 and total expenditure towards maintenance cost of the car is Rs. 3, 59,704.00 till date. The car is not in its top running condition now.

It is, therefore, proposed to purchase a new Car of TATA Safari model in exchange/auction of the old car from GeM/ authorized dealer at an estimated on-road price of Rs. 23,00,000.00. Details were placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item.

Proposal is placed before the Finance Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Executive Council for approval.

Resolution: The agenda item has been discussed in the meeting and after threadbare discussion it has been resolved that the proposal may be considered in the light of relevant provisions of GFRs 2017, DFPRs and strictly as per the instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance, Dept. of Expenditure vide O.M. No. 03(1)/E-IIA/2009, dtd. 06.08.2014.

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Further, it was also resolved in the meeting that a car may be hired, if required for the official use of the Vice-Chancellor, subject to following the relevant provisions of GFRs 2017.

Item No. FC:63/05: Status of filling up of backlog vacancies.

UGC in their letter vide No. F. 1-11/2021 (SCT), dated 10th February 2022 intimated to include an agenda item in every Finance Committee meeting of the University giving the status of filling up of backlog vacancies.

The statement giving the report about the action taken and progress made in this regard was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for necessary review.

Resolution: The members noted the Status of filling up of backlog vacancies and directed the University to take necessary steps to fill up the backlog vacancies at the earliest.

Item No. FC:63/06: Details of Public Grievances pending in the University.

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide letter F. No. 13-110/220-CU-Cdn, dated 22nd December 2020 communicated a Note dated 17.12.2020 of Secretary (Higher Education), Ministry of Education with a direction to include Public Grievances pending in the Institutes as Standing Agenda items in every meeting of the Finance Committee.

In this regard, this is for information of all members of the Finance Committee that there are NO Public Grievances pending in the University.

Resolution: The Finance Committee noted the same.

Item No. FC:63/07: Details of Parliamentary Assurances pending in the University.

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide letter F. No. 13-110/220-CU-Cdn, dated 22nd December 2020 communicated a Note dated 17.12.2020 of Secretary (Higher Education), Ministry of Education with a direction to include Parliamentary Assurances pending in the Institutes as Standing Agenda items in every meeting of the Finance Committee.

In this regard, this is for information of all members of the Finance Committee that there are NO Parliamentary Assurances pending in the University.

Resolution: The Finance Committee noted the same.

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Item No. FC:63/08: Utilization of Funds – An overview of the financial position of the University up to 31.01.2022 and unspent balance as on 01.02.2022.

The Utilization of Funds head-wise showing an overview of the financial position of the University up to 31.01.2022 and unspent balances as on 01.02.2022 were placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for perusal of the Committee.

Resolution: The Finance Committee perused & noted the Utilization of Funds head-wise showing an overview of the financial position of the University up to 31.01.2022 and unspent balance as on 01.02.2022 subject to strict compliance of the relevant statutory provisions of the University, relevant provisions of GFRs 2017 and also strict compliance of the related Govt. of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission.

Item No. FC:63/09: Review of details of the pending C&AG Transaction Audit Paras and the Action Taken to settle/liquidate the pending Paras.

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide letter F. No. 13-110/220-CU-Cdn, dated 22nd December 2020 communicated a Note dated 17.12.2020 of Secretary (Higher Education), Ministry of Education with a direction to include complete details and status of audit paras as Standing Agenda item in every meeting of the Finance Committee.

The pending Audit Paras upto 2019-20 are furnished for kind information of the members.

Financial Year	No. of Audit Paras year-wise	No. of Paras dropped/deleted/settled	No. Of Paras dropped/recommended for settlement by CAG Audit 2020-21 **	No. of O/S Paras as on 24.02.2022	Remarks
2012-13	01	00	00	01	The compliances to the outstanding Audit paras upto 24.02.2022 have been prepared on the basis of the resolutions taken in the meeting of the 19 th Standing Audit Committee of the University held on 04.02.2022.
2013-14	02	01	00	01	
2014-15	01	00	00	01	
2015-16	19	08	06	05	
2016-17	04	00	02	02	
2017-18	20	10	00	10	

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2018-19	14	01	01	12	**The minutes of the Exit meeting held on 21.01.2022 with the CAG Audit Team was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item).
2019-20	13	00	05	08	
2020-21	IR yet to be received. Audit completed on 21.01.2022				
Total	74	20	14	40	

The details of the Transaction Audit Paras up to the financial year 2019-20 with up-to-date Action Taken (with small description of the Audit Paras) to settle/liquidate the pending paras were placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for review by the members of the Finance Committee.

Resolution: The Finance Officer clarified the details of the each Transaction Audit Paras up to the financial year 2019-20 along with a Status Report showing the up-to-date Action Taken. The reason for non-settlement long pending audit paras have also been clarified by the Finance Officer and assured that the efforts are being made to settle the paras on priority basis and action in this regard has already been initiated.

The minutes of the Exit meeting held on 21.01.2022 with the CAG Audit Team regarding outstanding Audit Paras was discussed in the meeting in detail and it was informed in the meeting that the Audit Team has recommended for settlement of fourteen outstanding audit paras.

Further it was also resolved that:

- (i) The University should comply with the suggestions/instructions of the Audit and efforts should be made to settle/drop the Audit Paras on priority basis.
- (ii) The compliances to the Outstanding Audit Paras may be taken up with the C&AG for early settlement/liquidation of the same.
- (iii) The constituted Standing Audit Committee (SAC) should review all pending Audit Paras and settle the Audit Paras urgently in a time bound manner.

After threadbare discussion on the above mentioned audit paras, the Finance Committee instructed the University to take necessary steps to settle/liquidate the outstanding audit paras at the earliest.

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Item No. FC:63/10: Review of progress of the ongoing construction activities of the University.

UGC in the letter F. No. 1-1/2012 (CU), dated 25th August 2015 intimated that a separate agenda item on progress of Building Projects in the prescribed format of the UGC should be placed in the meeting of Finance Committee for necessary review of the overall progress of the developmental activities in the University.

The statement of progress of ongoing Building Projects was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for necessary review.

Resolution: Progress of the ongoing construction projects of the University has been reviewed by the members and noted the same. During the review, the members pointed out the status of progress of work related to construction of Pharmaceutical Science Building, A-Wing at Assam University, Silchar. It was informed by the University in the meeting that the construction agency, i.e. CPWD has assured that the construction work of the Pharmaceutical Science Building, A-Wing at Assam University, Silchar will be completed by 31.05.2022.

Regarding time extension sought by the University up to 31.05.2022 for utilization of funds beyond 30.09.2021, the Finance Committee directed the University to pursue the matter vigorously with the UGC/MoE.

Item No. FC:63/11: Progress of infrastructure project funded through HEFA.

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Department of Higher Education, CU Bureau vide letter F. No. 4-7/2020-CU.VII, dtd. 11.09.2020 forwarded a copy of the minutes of the meeting (through video conference) under the chairmanship of JS (CU & IISER) on 27.08.2020 to review the progress/issues of HEFA funded infrastructure project of 6 Central Universities (CUs) including Assam University.

In the said minutes, it has been directed by the Chairman that, Progress of infrastructure project funded through HEFA should be an Agenda point of every Finance Committee meeting.

In view of above, the Status of proposals funded through HEFA in respect of Assam University was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for perusal and necessary review.

Resolution: Progress of infrastructure project funded through HEFA was reviewed in the meeting and it was informed to the members that the University has selected fresh PSU HOUSEFED (A Government of Assam PSU) for the two projects at Assam University Diphu Campus following provisions of GFR. The members noted the same.

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Item No. FC:63/12: Progress of infrastructure project funded under 12th Plan period/Annual Plan (2017-18).

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Department of Higher Education, CU Bureau vide letter F. No. 4-12/2020-CU.VII, dtd. 31.08.2021 forwarded a copy of the minutes of the meeting (through video conference) held under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (CU) on 20.08.2021 to review the progress of infrastructure project of Central Universities (CUs) funded under 12th Plan period and Annual allocation 2017-18.

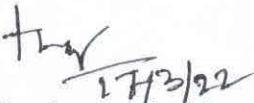
In the said minutes, it has been directed by the Chairman that, progress of infrastructure project funded under 12th Plan period/Annual Plan (2017-18), should be an Agenda point of every Finance Committee meeting till the completion of the Projects.

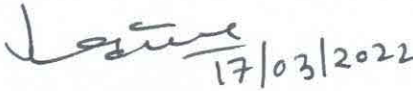
In view of above, the progress of infrastructure project funded under 12th plan period/Annual Plan (2017-18) in respect of Assam University was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for perusal and necessary review.

Resolution: Progress of infrastructure project funded under 12th Plan period/Annual Plan (2017-18) was reviewed in the meeting and the members noted the same. During the review, the members pointed out the status of progress of work related to construction of Pharmaceutical Science Building, A-Wing at Assam University, Silchar. It was informed by the University in the meeting that the construction agency, i.e. CPWD has assured that the construction work of the Pharmaceutical Science Building, A-Wing at Assam University, Silchar will be completed by 31.05.2022.

Regarding time extension sought by the University up to 31.05.2022 for utilization of funds beyond 30.09.2021 under Capital Assets (2017-18), the Finance Committee directed the University to pursue the matter vigorously with the UGC/MoE.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair.


(Dr. Subhadeep Dhar)
Finance Officer (i/c) &
Ex-Officio-Secretary
Finance Committee
Assam University, Silchar


(Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant)
Vice-Chancellor &
Chairman
Finance Committee
Assam University, Silchar