

Minutes of the 66th Meeting of the Finance Committee of Assam University held on 24th February 2023 at 11.30 AM at Assam University, Silchar through Blended Mode (Physical and Video Conferencing)

The following were present:

1. Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant - Chairman
Vice-Chancellor, Assam University
2. Dr. P.K. Nath - Permanent Invitee
Registrar, Assam University
3. Dr. Subhadeep Dhar - Ex-officio Secretary
Finance Officer (i/c), Assam University

The following were attended the meeting through Video Conferencing:

4. Prof. Sivasish Biswas - Member
Pro Vice-Chancellor (i/c), Assam University, Diphu Campus
5. 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)]
6. 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)]
7. Mr. M.S. Sarma - Member
Deputy Secretary, UGC, New Delhi
[Nominee of Joint Secretary (CU), UGC, (Visitor's Nominee)]
8. Prof. N.K. Shukla - Member
Registrar
University of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh (EC nominee)
9. Mr. Bishnu Chakraborty - Member
Guwahati, Assam (EC Nominee)
10. Prof. Asoke K Sen - Member
Professor, Department of Physics
Assam University, Silchar (EC Nominee)

J. M. Nath
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The comments of CU Bureau, Ministry of Education, Dept. of Higher Education, GoI on the agenda items have been received through e-mail dated 23rd February 2023; the comments received from the Under Secretary, Integrated Finance Division, Ministry of Education, Dept. of Higher Education with the approval of JS &FA, Ministry of Education, GoI vide letter F. No. 9-9/2017-IFD(Pt), dated 23rd February 2023 and the comments received from the Deputy Secretary, UGC vide letter No.F.18-6/2019(CU)Vol.I, dated 23rd February 2023 with the approval of Joint Secretary (CU), UGC were presented by the Finance Officer (i/c) & Secretary, Finance Committee, Assam University before the Finance Committee and the members noted the comments & which were 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:66/01: Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Vice-Chancellor, Assam University.

The Chairman 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)]; Mr. M.S. Sarma, Deputy Secretary, UGC, New Delhi [Nominee of Joint Secretary (CU), UGC (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 also expressed his gratitude to all the members for attending the meeting.

The Chairman then requested the Secretary, Finance Committee to initiate the proceedings as per the agenda items.

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Item No. FC: 66/02: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 65th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 22nd November 2022.

The copy of the Minutes of the 65th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 22nd November 2022 was placed in the meeting as an Annexure to the agenda item which was circulated to all the members through e-mail dated 29th November 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 65th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 22nd November 2022 were confirmed.

Item No. FC:66/03: Action Taken Report of the 65th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 22nd November 2022.

Action Taken Report on the 65th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 22nd November 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 65th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 22nd November 2022 were perused and noted by the members of the Finance Committee.

Item-wise agenda with resolutions of the 65th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 22nd November 2022 have been discussed in the meeting.


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Regarding Item No. FC: 65/05, the tentative Revised Budget Estimates (RBE) under Salary and Recurring for the financial year 2022-23 as communicated by UGC has been discussed in the meeting and it has been informed to the members that University has sent request for re-allocation within the budget head of Pension and Pensionary benefits and Non-Salary head of the allocated amount of Rs. 4705.58 lakhs of the approved RBE under Recurring head (OH-31) vide e-mail dated 13th February 2023 and again on 23rd February 2023. This is because the University requires additional fund for disbursing pension arrears of conversion cases from CPF to GPF which was sought earlier under RE vide e-mail dated 13th December 2023 to the Ministry of Education.

The UGC representative in the meeting informed that it has already been taken up with the Ministry of Education and on receipt of approval for conversion from CPF to GPF as per order of the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court, the re-allocation as proposed will be intimated for implementation by the University.

Regarding Item No. FC: 65/06, the members have been informed that initiatives have been taken to utilize the grants under Capital Assets fully within the current financial year i.e.2022-23.

Regarding Item No. FC:65/11, the members have been informed that a letter has been sent to the Ministry of Education for necessary direction to NERIST for grant of joining time pay to Prof. R.M. Pant.

Regarding Item No. FC:65/13, consideration for allowing Prof. Sumanash Dutta in GPF-cum-Pension Scheme, the item has been discussed in detail and the UGC representative has informed in the meeting that the matter has already been processed in UGC and the reply will be communicated at the earliest.

The Chairman requested the UGC representative to expedite the matter as the concerned faculty will be superannuating on 28.02.2023.

Regarding Item No. FC:65/15, revision of wages of Casual/Contractual employees of the University, it has been informed in the meeting that the item will be placed in the next regular Executive Council meeting of the University.

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Item No. FC:66/04: Utilization of Funds - An overview of the financial position of the University up to 31.01.2023 and unspent balance as on 01.02.2023.

The Utilization of Funds head-wise showing an overview of the financial position of the University up to 31.01.2023 and unspent balances as on 01.02.2023 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 up to 31.01.2023 and unspent balance as on 01.02.2023. The members directed the University to expedite the infrastructure projects of the University.

Item No. FC:66/05: 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 there was a threadbare discussion on appointments through Mission Mode mandated by the Ministry of Education. In light of same, representative from CU Bureau, Ministry of Education directed the University to expedite the appointments against vacant posts both for teaching and non-teaching cadre.

Item No. FC:66/06: 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.

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Item No. FC:66/07: 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.

Item No. FC:66/08: 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 items in every meeting of the Finance Committee.

The status of upto date pending Audit Paras are furnished for kind information of the members.

Financial Year	No. of Audit Paras year-wise	No. of Paras dropped/ deleted/settled	No. of O/S Paras as on 15.03.2023
2012-13	01	00	01
2013-14	02	01	01
2014-15	01	00	01
2015-16	19	16	03
2016-17	04	02	02

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2017-18	20	13	07
2018-19	14	03	11
2019-20	13	06	07
2020-21	14	09	05
2021-22	16	00	16
Total	104	50	54

The compliances to the Inspection Report on the accounts of the Assam University for the financial Year 2021-22 and reply to the outstanding audit paras along with relevant annexure has been sent to the office of the CAG vide letter No. AUF/716/2021-22/1362, dtd. 15.02.2023 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for kind perusal of the members.

Submitted for perusal and information of the members.

Resolution: The members discussed the compliances to the Inspection Report on the accounts of the Assam University for the financial Year 2021-22 and reply to the outstanding audit paras and directed the University to settle the long pending audit paras on priority basis.

Item No. FC:66/09: 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. The Chairman and other members expressed

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their deep concerns over the slow progress rate of construction works by HOUSEFED and CPWD reflected against various building projects. It was agreed that the matter should be taken up with the concerned authorities of HOUSEFED and CPWD for expediting the construction works.

Item No. FC:66/10: 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 in the light of relevant provisions of GFRs, 2017 and related Government of India instructions and the members noted the same.

Item No. FC:66/11: 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.

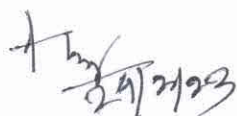
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In the said minutes, it has been directed by the Chairman that, progress of infrastructure project funded under 12th Plan period/Annual Plan (2017-18), should be an Agenda point of every Finance Committee meeting till the completion of the Projects.

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.

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