

8. Prof. E.D. Thomas  
Department of Economics  
North Eastern Hill University, Shillong
9. Prof. D.T. Khathing  
Registrar  
North Eastern Hill University  
Shillong

Sub : Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee

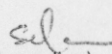
Sir,

I am to forward herewith the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2005, for favour of your kind perusal and comments, if any.

Thanking you,

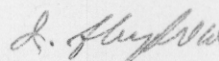
Yours faithfully,

Encl : a.a.

  
( J. Lungdim )  
Finance Officer

Copy to :

1. Shri. D. Sudhakaran, Deputy Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 001.
2. Shri P.S. Chakraborty, Under Secretary, (Higher Education), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 001.
3. P.S. to Vice Chancellor, NEHU, Shillong.
4. P.A. to the Finance Officer, NEHU, Shillong.
5. The Deputy Registrar (Conference), NEHU, Shillong, 30 (thirty) copies of the minutes are enclosed with a request to table the same before the Executive Council in the ensuing meeting.

  
Finance Officer

MINUTES OF THE 48<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2005, AT 9.00 A.M. AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE NORTH EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY, PERMANENT CAMPUS, SHILLONG.

Members present:

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Prof. Mrinal Miri, Vice Chancellor, NEHU               | Chairman              |
| 2. Shri Pawan Agarwal, Financial Adviser, UGC             | Member                |
| 3. Dr. T. R. Kem, Additional Secretary, UGC               | Special Invitee       |
| 4. Shri D. Sudhakaran, Deputy Secretary (Finance), MHRD   | Member representative |
| 5. Shri P.S. Chakraborty, Under Secretary, MHRD           | Member representative |
| 6. Prof. S.S. Khare, Pro Vice Chancellor, NEHU            | Member                |
| 7. Prof. R. Lalthantluanga, Deptt. of Bio-Chemistry, NEHU | Member                |
| 8. Prof. E.D. Thomas, Deptt. of Economics, NEHU           | Member                |
| 9. Prof. D. T. Khathing, Registrar, NEHU                  | Permanent Invitee     |
| 10. Shri J.Lhungdim, IDAS, Finance Officer, NEHU          | Ex-Officio Secretary  |

Shri U.N. Majhi, Financial Adviser, North Eastern Council, Government of India, Shillong, could not attend the meeting due to his pre-occupations.

The Chairman welcomed all the members to the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee of the University and expressed sincere gratitude for attending the meeting, with special mention of the outstation members.

Before initiating deliberations on the agenda items, the Chairman apprised the Committee of the development in the academic field over the past 6(six) months, i.e. between the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2004 and the present meeting of the Finance Committee. The Chairman informed that 3 (three) new academic departments have been set up in the University during the current academic session, viz. the Department of Law, Department of Bio-Technology & Bio-Informatics and the Department of Statistics (with the amalgamation of the Centre for Applied Statistics). The Faculty of Engineering which is re-designated as the School of Technology, having been approved by the Academic Council of the University is likely to be functional from the next academic session.

Further, the Chairman apprised the Committee that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has sanctioned a supplementary grant of Rs.800.00 lac during the X Plan period towards Campus Development and Networking, for which the University has already initiated ground level work for the construction of the Building. The Committee was also informed that the School of Management, a prestigious project/department is proposed to be set up at Tura Campus which is also likely to start from the next academic session. In this context, the Financial Adviser, UGC, observed that since the Tura Campus of the University is located in the outskirts and quite far from the Headquarter at Shillong, it was speculated that setting up of the School of Management & Technology at Tura Campus may deprive the aspirant students from other parts of the Country and also would hamper the course due to lack of adequate Industrial Establishments in the area. The Chairman clarified that although Tura Campus is far from the Headquarter, it is more closely connected by road link with Guwahati, (Assam) and Siliguri (West Bengal), where the infrastructural facilities required are available. The Chairman informed the Committee that the implementation process of the new School of Technology and the School of Management is at a slow pace owing to the fact that the project proposal submitted by Ed.CIL was found not to be in order and needed certain modifications.

Item No. 1 : Confirmation of the proceedings of the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2004.

The Committee RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2004, since no comments were received from the members.

Item No. 2 : Reporting Items (on the action taken)

1. Confirmation of the proceedings of the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2004.
- (a) Repatriated Employees – Creation of supernumerary posts :- The Committee noted the action taken by the University and RESOLVED to approve the same.
2. Purchase of land at Guwahati :- The Committee, after a thread-bare discussion noted the fact that the proposal of the University has been in incubation for a long time and noted that the facility would be for common use by all the Central Universities of the North Eastern Region. Having noted these points and the fact that it expresses the collective demand of all the Central Universities of the North Eastern Region as per endorsement of the Vice Chancellors' Conference held on 7.7.03 and with the anticipation that the same would generate some savings in the long run, the Committee advised the University to seek permission of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for purchase of land from its own resources and setting up of the Guest House at Guwahati, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions.
  - (a) The Guest House would be self sustaining
  - (b) The Guest House should bear minimum expenditure towards its maintenance and the same be met from the University's own resources
3. Replacement of Vehicles : The Committee discussed the proposal of the University for replacement of old vehicles at length and took the view keeping in mind the various constraints of the University in fulfilling its obligatory requirement for maintaining the vehicles to cater to the exclusive need of the students. Having noted the special circumstances leading to the proposal in the service sector, such as hill terrain, lack of communication facilities, increase in the intake number of students coupled with the fact that maintenance of old vehicles not being economically viable and also the risk factor in plying 18-20 years old buses, the Committee agreed that the proposition for replacement of vehicles is inevitable and justified. The Committee, therefore RESOLVED that the University may resort to replacement of vehicles in a phase-wise manner. It was further RESOLVED that the expenditure on replacement be met from the Internal Resources of the University.
4. Interest on GPF : The member representing the U.G.C. informed the Committee that the Commission is not in a position to accommodate additional requirement of the University. The Committee, therefore RESOLVED to advise the University to maintain status-quo till market rate of interest becomes stable and the present liability may suitably be met from the Internal Resources over a period of time.
5. Recoupment of fund under Investment : The Committee after discussing the issue at length RESOLVED to make the adjustment over a period of 3(three) years from the Internal Resources of the University in view of the following facts:-

- (a) The Committee noted the facts made available in the documents and in the first instance, it was convinced that there was no malafide intention on the part of the officials responsible for investment leading to pecuniary loss suffered by the University. The Committee felt that for good reason the proposal of the subordinate officer was overruled by the authority through an error of judgment and in the interest of the University;
  - (b) The Committee noted that all the present investment of the University is in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Government of India governing the pattern of Investment;
  - (c) The Committee further noted that the present investment followed by the University would now provide adequate safeguards to protect the Provident Fund money and interest thereof of the employees with the formation of the Investment Committee by the University which also comprises members from amongst the Teaching and Non Teaching employees.
6. VSAT Facility to Tura Campus : The Committee RESOLVED to advise the University to submit the proposal to the Chairman, UGC, with a copy to Dr.T.A.V. Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, UGC, Ahmedabad, for consideration of the matter. The Chairman apprised the Committee that in the meeting of the Vice Chancellors' of the Central Universities of North Eastern Region, it was ensured that all the Central Universities of North Eastern Region would be provided assistance to set up the VSAT Facilities and increase the bandwidth connectivity to 2 mbps.
7. Audited Annual Accounts for 2002-03 & un-audited Annual Accounts for 2003-04: The Committee noted the action taken by the University.
8. One Time Special Assistance during 2004-05
- (a) Civil Work : The Committee RESOLVED to advise the University to prioritize all the proposals under 2(two) broad categories; one for Maintenance/Repair/Renovation Works, etc. and the other for original nature of works. The Committee further RESOLVED to submit the proposals to the U.G.C. while finalizing the Budget Estimates for the year 2005-06.
  - (b) E-Governance NEHU Management system : The Committee RESOLVED that the University may submit the proposals while finalizing the Budget Estimates for 2005-06.
  - (c) Voice & Data Network: The Committee RESOLVED that the University may submit the proposals while finalizing the Budget Estimates for 2005-06.
  - (d) Online Public Access Catalogue: The Committee RESOLVED that the University may submit the proposals while finalizing the Budget Estimates for 2005-06.
  - (e) Condemnation of the Offset Printing Machine: The Committee RESOLVED that the University may submit the proposals while finalizing the Budget Estimates for 2005-06.
  - (f) Computer Revolving Fund: The Committee RESOLVED that the University may submit the proposals while finalizing the Budget Estimates for 2005-06.
  - (g) Library Furniture & Computerization: The Committee RESOLVED that the University may submit the proposals while finalizing the Budget Estimates for 2005-06.

Item No. 3 : To approve the audited Annual Accounts for the financial year 2003-04 and un-audited Annual Accounts for the financial year 2004-05.

The Committee noted that the University had submitted both the Hindi and English version of the audited Annual Account for the financial year 2003-04 to the Ministry. The Committee also noted that the University has not fully adopted the new format of accounting system prescribed by the Ministry. The Committee RESOLVED to explore possibility of deputing the concerned official for orientation courses for preparing the accounts in consonance with the new format. The Chairman informed the Committee that the process is on and the University has partly followed the new format of accounting and would be able to fully adopt the same by the next financial year. The member representative of MHRD informed the Committee that there is inordinate delay on the part of the University in submitting the copies of the audited Annual Accounts to the Ministry and as a result, laying the same before the floor of the Parliament is delayed. In this context, the Ex-Officio Secretary informed the Committee that primarily the delay is due to late conduct of audit by the Statutory Auditor, i.e., the Principal Accountant General (Audit), Shillong, and further the Audit Certificate is issued with the approval of the Comptroller & Auditor General, New Delhi. The Committee RESOLVED that the University should make efforts and exert pressure to expedite the audit processes in time so that the audited accounts could be laid down in the Parliament within the stipulated time frame.

The Committee RESOLVED to approve the audited Annual Accounts for the financial year 2003-04 and the un-audited Annual Accounts for the financial year for 2004-05.

Item No. 4: One Time Special Assistance during the year 2005-06 (Fresh proposals)

The Financial Adviser, UGC, informed the Committee the constraints in committing any grant at this stage as the Commission is not in a position to assess the quantum of additional fund that would be available from MHRD. The Committee, however RESOLVED that the University should phase-out the essential items on priority basis and submit the detailed proposals under 2(two) different categories while finalizing the Budget Estimates of the University for the year 2005-06. The Special Invitee from UGC informed the Committee that the UGC is not in a position to accommodate the proposals of One Time Special Assistance under Maintenance Grant since the salaries, etc. are increasing considerably, corresponding to that the support from the Ministry is nominal. The Committee also recommended that some of the works, such as developing of roads, etc. the University may explore all possible effort to meet the expenditure from the savings against the salaries under Plan posts, for which re-appropriation of fund is also allowed. The position with regard to on availability of fund would normally emerge only at the fag end of the financial year, hence any commitment at this stage is not possible.

The Committee, however felt happy that the fund released under One Time Special Assistance to the University has been made good use of.

Item No. 5: Any other item with the permission of the Chair

1. Plan (Building Grants) : The Chairman informed the Committee that an amount of Rs.800.00 lac was sanctioned as Supplementary allocation under Plan towards Building Projects. As per the requirement of the U.G.C contained in letter No.1-6/2004/FA dt.14.12.04, the estimates in the prescribed format are tabled before the Committee for approval. The Committee felt that the same is a part and parcel of the main agenda as a regular item. The Ex-Officio Secretary clarified to

the Committee that the Building Committee of the University has accorded its approval to the estimates on 6.7.05 after transmitting the main agenda items, hence could not have been incorporated therein. The Committee therefore RESOLVED to approve the estimates in principle and desired that the same be sent to the UGC along-with the minutes of the Finance Committee for comments from UGC, if any.

2. Filling up of vacant Non-Teaching posts : The Permanent Invitee sought for clarification from the Committee whether the Finance Committee is empowered to recommend filling up of the vacant Non Teaching posts in view of the existing ban imposed by the Government of India. The member from UGC, informed the Committee that the Government of India has agreed to examine the case so far as the Educational Institutions are concerned. The proposal for filling up of vacancies under essential services as well as isolated and single posts is also under the active consideration and the UGC is working on the content and finer details.

The Ex-Officio Secretary and the Finance Officer, with the permission from the Chair informed the Committee that this meeting is the last Finance-Committee of Prof. Mrinal Miri, in the capacity as Chairman since his tenure as Vice Chancellor is ending by 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2005. The Ex Officio Secretary further expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the members of the Finance Committee and further stated that he is indebted to his valuable guidance.

The Financial Adviser, UGC, while thanking the Chairman informed that much development has taken place under the leadership, team work and able guidance of Prof. Mrinal Miri, who has been able to translate the vision into reality and NEHU has truly emerged as one of the premier Central Universities in India.

The meeting ended with a compliment from the Chairman informing the Committee that he is honoured with the gesture and expressed gratitude to all the members especially the outstation members and hoped for more meaningful and fruitful meetings in the near future for the overall development of the University.

Sd/-  
Ex-Officio Secretary &  
Finance Officer  
NEHU : Shillong

Sd/-  
Chairman & Vice Chancellor  
NEHU : Shillong.