

Minutes of the 69th Meeting of the Finance Committee of Assam University held on 19th March 2024 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. Prof. Asoke K Sen - Member
Professor, Department of Physics
Assam University, Silchar (EC Nominee)
3. Dr. P.K. Nath - Permanent Invitee
Registrar, Assam University
4. Dr. Subhadeep Dhar - Ex-officio Secretary
Finance Officer (i/c), Assam University

The following were attended the meeting through Video Conferencing:

5. Prof. Sivasish Biswas - Member
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Assam University Diphu Campus
6. Prof. G.D. Sharma - Member
President, AIU & Vice-Chancellor, USTM
Meghalaya-793101. (EC nominee)
7. Shri Subhash Chand Sharu - Member
Director, (CU-I)
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education, New Delhi
[Nominee of Additional Secretary (CU),
Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]
8. Shri Mukesh Kumar - Member
Deputy Secretary (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. Shri Mriganka Sekhar Sarma - Member
Deputy Secretary (CU), UGC, New Delhi
(Visitor's Nominee)

Handwritten signature
19/3/24

10. Prof. N.K. Shukla -Member
Registrar, University of Allahabad,
Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh-211002. (EC nominee)

The comments of CU Bureau, Ministry of Education, Dept. of Higher Education, GoI on the agenda items have been received vide letter F. No. 9-1/2022-CU-I, dated 15th March 2024 with the approval of the competent authority; the comments received from the 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 15th March 2024 and the comments received from UGC vide letter No.F.18-6/2019(CU)Vol.I, dated 12th March 2024 with the approval of the competent authority 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:69/01: Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Vice-Chancellor, Assam University.

The Chairman welcomed Shri Subhash Chand Sharu, Director, (CU-I), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, [Nominee of Additional Secretary (CU), Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]; Shri Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Secretary (IFD), Ministry of Education, New Delhi, [Nominee of Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]; Shri Mriganka Sekhar Sarma, Deputy Secretary, UGC, New Delhi [Nominee of Joint Secretary (CU), UGC (Visitor's Nominee)]; Prof. G.D. Sharma, President, AIU and Vice-Chancellor, USTM, Meghalaya; Prof. N.K. Shukla, Registrar, University of Allahabad 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.

thw
19/3/24

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

Item No. FC:69/02: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 68th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 23rd November 2023.

The copy of the Minutes of the 68th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 23rd November 2023 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 2023.

University has not received any comments from 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 68th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 23rd November 2023 were confirmed.

Item No. FC:69/03: Action Taken Report of the 68th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 23rd November 2023.

Action Taken Report on the 68th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 23rd November 2023 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for information and necessary review.

Resolution: The Action Taken Report of the 68th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 23rd November 2023 were perused and noted by the members of the Finance Committee.

In addition to the above, the members discussed the Agenda Item No. FC:67/10: "Revision of wages of Casual/Contractual employees of Assam University" as suggested by the members of the 68th meeting of the Finance Committee of Assam University held on 23rd November 2023 that the University should seek the wage structure for casual employees in other North Eastern Central Universities and accordingly make a statement of wage structure for placing in

Handwritten signature and date:
19/3/24

the 69th Finance Committee meeting for implementation of the same in Assam University.

Accordingly, a Two Member Committee has been constituted with CMA Dr. B.B. Mishra, Finance Officer, Tezpur University as Chairman and Prof. Alok Sen, Dept. of Economics, Assam University, Silchar as Member to examine the wage structure of Casual employees of Assam University.

The constituted Committee has prepared and submitted its report and the same has been placed in the 69th Finance Committee meeting for perusal and consideration of the members. The Chairman of the Committee Dr. Mishra has attended the meeting in online mode and briefed about the recommendations contained in the report to the members of the Finance Committee.

After detailed discussion, the members noted the contents of the report and recommended the proposal of Dr. B.B. Mishra Committee to the Executive Council for approval. Broadly the recommendations are enumerated below as follows:

1. The minimum wages notified by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India in "C" Category areas for similar line of organizations which is as per order F.No.1/8(3)/2003-LS-II dated 2023. The existing wages for casual employees as per said order is given in the table below:

Area	Category	Rate
C	Unskilled	Rs 504/- per day
C	Semi-skilled	Rs 589/- per day
C	Skilled	Rs 709/- per day

2. The above rate shall be effective prospectively with effect from 01.04.2024 subject to approval of Executive Council considering present VDA equivalent to zero.
3. The rate shall vary with change in VDA as shall be declared from time to time by the concerned Ministry.

th
19/9/24

4. The monthly wages for Casual employees shall be for 26 days which is as per GoI guidelines.
5. The wages for contractual employees drawing fixed remuneration, if any shall be as per the contract from time to time by the University.
6. The additional annual financial implications for implementing the recommendations subject to approval of the Executive Council will be around Rs.65.00 lakhs (Assam university Head quarter at Silchar and Assam University Diphu Campus) which is to be borne from Recurring Head/IRG (OH-31) from financial year 2024-25.

Item No. FC:69/04: Recommendation for approval of the Minutes of the 108th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 2nd January 2024 and Minutes of the 109th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 7th March 2024.

The minutes of the 108th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 2nd January 2024 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item and the Minutes of the 109th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 7th March 2024 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for recommendation to the Executive Council of the University for approval.

Resolution: The minutes of the 108th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 2nd January 2024 and Minutes of the 109th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 7th March 2024 were discussed in the meeting and recommended to the Executive Council of the University for approval subject to strict compliance of the Govt. of India instructions and guidelines those issued by the CVC for undertaking the construction projects.

Moreover, discussion on the Agenda Item No. 1 (C) of the 109th meeting of the Building Committee held on 7th March 2024, the Registrar, Assam University has reported in the meeting that 05 Nos. of construction projects under EWS needs time extension without any additional cost and the members noted the same and suggested that the University may send this proposal to the Ministry of Education for consideration.

Handwritten signature and date: 19/3/24

Item No. FC:69/05: 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 on priority basis by following the instructions issued by the MoE/UGC from time to time.

Item No. FC:69/06: 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:69/07: 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

H
19/3/24

Item No. FC:69/08: Utilization of Funds – An overview of the financial position of the University up to 29th February 2024.

The Utilization of Funds head-wise showing an overview of the financial position of the University up to 29th February 2024 and unspent balance as on 1st March 2024 under Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31), Capital Assets (OH-35) 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 29th February 2024 and unspent balance as on 1st March 2024 under Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31), Capital Assets (OH-35) 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.

Further, the members also discussed about the minimal expenditure under the head OH-35. The Registrar, Assam University has clarified in this regard that efforts are on to make full utilization under the head OH-35 within 31st March 2024 following standard norms as laid down in GFR and CVC guidelines.

Item No. FC:69/09: Review of details of the pending C&AG Transaction Audit Paras and the Action Taken to settle/liquidate the pending Paras.

Inspection Report on the accounts of the Assam University for the periods from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023 vide Memo No. OAD/BO-GHY/UC-45/2022-23/25/313, dtd. 03.11.2023 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item.

The University has prepared the reply to the Inspection Report on the accounts of Assam University for the period from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023 with relevant annexure and submitted to the Indian Audit & Accounts Department vide letter No. AUF/889/SAC/2017-18/1179, dtd. 10.01.2024 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item.

19/3/24

Submitted for perusal and information of the members of the Finance Committee.

Further, 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 08.03.2024
2014-15	01	00	01
2015-16	19	16	03
2016-17	04	02	02
2017-18	20	14	06
2018-19	14	06	08
2019-20	13	07	06
2020-21	14	10	04
2021-22	16	07	09
2022-23	13	00	13
Total	114	62	52

The details of the Transaction Audit Paras up to the financial year 2022-23 with up-to-date Action Taken (with small description of the Audit Paras) to settle/liquidate the pending paras was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for review by the members of the Finance Committee.

Resolution: The members perused and discussed the Inspection Report and its reply on the accounts of the Assam University for the periods from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023.

The Finance Officer briefed the members about the status of outstanding Audit Paras and the action taken by the University in this regard. The Members noted the same.

Hy
19/3/24

Item No. FC:69/10: 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 with a suggestion that the University should expedite the projects for completion within the approved cost and time.

Item No. FC:69/11: 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 in the light of relevant provisions of GFRs, 2017 and related Government of India instructions and the members noted the same.

Item No. FC:69/12: Progress of infrastructure project funded under 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

Hy
19/3/24


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 Annual allocation 2017-18.

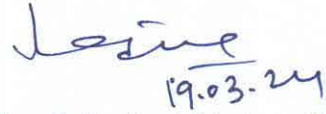
In the said minutes, it has been directed by the Chairman that, progress of infrastructure project funded under Annual Plan (2017-18), should be an Agenda point of every Finance Committee meeting till the completion of the Projects.

In view of above, the progress of infrastructure project funded under 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 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