

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF INFLIBNET CENTRE

The fourth meeting of the Finance Committee of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at the UGC, New Delhi on 24th December, 1998 at 1000 hrs. Following persons were present :

In the Chair :

Prof. Yash Pal , National Research Professor

Members :

Dr.G.D.Sharma	: Secretary, UGC
Dr. R.P.Gangurde	: Additional Secretary, UGC
Shri Pramod Kumar	: Director, INFLIBNET Centre
Shri S.M.Salgar	: Scientist "G", INFLIBNET Centre
Shri C.K.Shah	: Admn. Officer-III, INFLIBNET Centre and non-member Secretary to FC

Invitees :

Mrs. Niloufer A. Kazmi, Joint Secretary, UGC
Shri S.P.Sachdeva, Under Secretary, UGC
Shri V.R.Dabral, Section Officer, UGC

Following members could not attend the meeting :

Shri P.P.Kale
Shri O.P.Nigam, FA, UGC

The deliberations on various agenda items are summarised below :



Agenda item No.1 : Chairperson's Remarks

Chairperson welcomed the members to the meeting. He said that in view of the VSAT network being established in universities, it is essential that local area networks (LANs) be established in at least some universities at the earliest. He was of the view that libraries should become hub of LANs in universities as there is a marked change in the attitude of librarians in universities now a days. They are no longer traditional librarians. They are exposed to the IT culture and are quite knowledgeable about IT.

Secretary said that UGC may prepare and present status report regarding funds utilised by the universities. He advised UGC to ask universities to submit progress report and find out how the programme implementation is taking place in universities. Chairperson advised that the budgetary summary should also indicate the expenditure incurred in the preceding year. These reports should be received from the universities by October, every year.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

Since no comments were received on the minutes of the third meeting of the Finance Committee, the minutes were confirmed.

Dr. Gangurde said that action taken report on action items generated in the last meeting was not given in the agenda papers. Shri Shah pointed out that no action taken report was given, since no action items were generated as such in the last meeting, Dr. Gangurde also suggested that para wise replies to audit queries for the F.Y. 1996-97 should be included. Shri Shah agreed to take care of this suggestion in future.



Agenda item no. 3 : Approval of RE for 1998-99 and BE for 1999-2000

The budget projections were given in two parts. Part-I pertained to the budget to be provided by the UGC to the universities directly as Grant-in-aid. Part-II contained the budgetary requirements of INFLIBNET Centre for its activities.

There was discussion regarding the format of budget presentation. Dr. Sharma was of the view that Part-I should not be included in the Centre's budget document. INFLIBNET should project it separately to UGC and it need not come to FC. Prof. Yash Pal was in favour of retaining the present format of budget presentation and thought that there was nothing wrong in including Part-I in the budget document as it gives full programmatic projection of activities. He said that Part-I is coupled to Part-II and observed that Part-II exists only because Part-I is there. He, however, agreed that based on the financial position, UGC may decide the amount of budget to be allocated to the activities projected under Part-I for universities. He agreed that Part-I is meant for only the programmatic suggestions to UGC.

Dr. Gangurde was of the opinion that projections of INFLIBNET contained in Part-I should first be matched with money available with the UGC before placing it before FC as information and not part of budgetary requirement. Prof. Yash Pal reiterated that Part-I should go through FC.

The meeting was adjourned and was reconvened at 1400 hrs. In the reconvened meeting Dr. Sharma and Dr. Gangurde could not be present.

FC considered INFLIBNET's RE for FY 1998-99 and BE for 1999-2000.



Prof. Yash Pal said that UGC should prepare a list of 170 locations where VSATs are going to be installed. In New starts, Prof. Yash Pal advised that the heading of activity "VSAT network services for 140 universities" should be changed to "Servers for 140 universities". He wanted INFLIBNET Centre to prepare a write up on various aspects for configuring LANs in university campuses at affordable cost and their integration with VSATs and servers. Regarding INFLIBNET's request for LAN grants to 20 universities, Prof. Yash Pal felt that LANs should be set up not only in 20 universities, but in all universities if the VSAT network has to be properly utilised. He was of the view that these LANs should ideally be established before the VSAT network comes into existence. If UGC does not have sufficient resources for this purpose, it should request the National IT Task force for necessary grants. He wanted this matter to be further discussed in the GB and Council meetings.

Shri Dabral pointed out that certain items were not properly categorised under Plan and Non-Plan heads. He advised that the budget should be presented in new format recently suggested by the UGC. Shri Shah agreed to do the needful.

Regarding proposed Document Delivery Centres, Prof. Yash Pal enquired whether all the six universities have agreed to take on this responsibility. Shri Pramod Kumar replied in affirmative. Prof. Yash Pal said that IISc, Bangalore has already been funded by UGC for this purpose and wanted INFLIBNET to confirm if IISc is still required to be included for funding in the new proposal.

Prof. Yash Pal suggested that INFLIBNET should supply suitable LAN configuration to universities so that they do not spend unnecessarily extra money for it. He advised INFLIBNET Centre to take the responsibility of establishing LANs in one or two university campuses and demonstrate as to how these can be




established economically. After successful implementation, this configuration can be recommended to the rest of the universities.


The R.E. of Rs.210.87 lakhs for F.Y. 1998-99 and BE of Rs.295.78 for F.Y. 1999-2000 as projected in Part-II of the budget document of INFLIBNET Centre were recommended by the Finance Committee for submission to the GB for approval.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair at 1445 hrs.

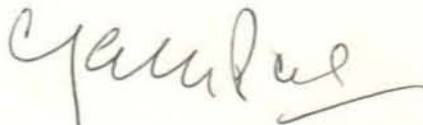


Minutes prepared by


(C.K. Shah)
Non-Member Secretary, FC

Minutes approved by


(Yash Pal)
Chairperson, FC

The following persons attended the fourth meeting of Finance Committee of INFLIBNET Centre held at 1000 hrs. on December 24, 1998 at UGC, New Delhi.

Name	Signature
Prof. Yash Patel	
Prof. C. J. Sharma	
Prof. Arun Kumar	
Dr. Pramod Kumar	
Shri S. M. Salgar	