



SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF 38th MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD AT INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY(INSA), NEW DELHI, 110002
ON 6TH MARCH 2024 FROM 11:30 A.M. ONWARDS

Members present:

1. Prof. Avinash Khare, Vice-Chancellor	Chairman
2. Prof. Pramod Tandon [EC'S Nominee]	Member (Present online)
3. CMA Dr. B. B. Mishra [EC'S Nominee]	Member
4. Prof. S S Mahapatra [EC Nominee]	Member
5. Shri Praveer K. Saxena, US (CU), MoE [Nominee of JS (CU), MoE, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]	Member
6. Shri Mukesh Kumar, Dy. Secretary (IFD), MoE [Nominee of JS&FA, MoE, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]	Member
7. Dr. Mriganka S. Sarma, Dy. Secretary (CU), UGC [Nominee of JS (CU), UGC (Visitor's Nominee)]	Member
8. Shri Pratap Keshari Dash [Finance Officer]	Secretary

Since all the members of the Finance Committee were present, it was hereby confirmed that a quorum, was present to conduct the meeting effectively.

The Chairman called the meeting to order by 11.30 AM as per schedule.

At the outset, the Chairman extends welcome message to all the members present in the 38th meeting of the Finance Committee organized at INSA, New Delhi. He thanked each member for their commitment and their dedication for financial well being of the University for a sustainable growth of the University. He also emphasized that decisions taken today will have a direct impact on the operation/growth/success of our University and urged all the members to actively participate with their perspectives.

Before the Agenda points were taken up, the Chairman accentuated briefly the most important activities like ongoing construction works at permanent campus after flashflood situation in Sikkim, developing basic infrastructure in the completed three buildings for further shifting of departments from May 2024 onwards and fund flows. He further enunciated strategies to overcome various obstacles due to various topographical disadvantages to maintain smooth progress in the development and function of the permanent campus. The gist of the opening remarks by the Chairman is mentioned below:

1. Lepcha, Limbu & Bhutia Departments have already been shifted to the permanent campus w.e.f 28.11.2022 and operating smoothly there.
2. Severe Flash flood occurred in the month of October 2023 which disrupted the entire transport system to the Permanent Campus
3. Only Rs.7 crores was released for the construction work till January 2024 during the FY 2023-24 resulting in difficulty to oblige the contractor's bills. However, Rs.60 crore more has been released in the month of February 2024 which has helped to finance the project for which the Chairman expressed thanks to the UGC & MoE for the release.



4. Considering the need of the University, additional Rs,2 crore has also been allocated under Capital Head for developing basic infrastructure like partitions, prefabricated bathrooms/toilets, Prefabricated roof tops, safety railings and temporary STP for shifting few more departments in the month of May 2024
5. The Chairman intimated to the Committee that University has now taken over three completed Buildings from the Contractor i.e Administrative Building, Library Building and Faculty Building
6. This has been officially notified to shift another four departments in the first week of May 2024. These departments are Nepali, International Relations, Political Science and Geography
7. These three taken over buildings (Administrative, Faculty & Library) and the Guest House available in the permanent Campus at Yangang will be used as follows to accommodate students, faculty & staff by providing basic infrastructures:
 - a. Faculty Building will be used as Girls' Hostel for accommodation of around 170 students by providing extra safety railings, temporary STP, Prefab bathroom/toilets, Kitchen & Dining space etc.
 - b. Library Building will be used as a Library itself along with 12 classrooms and rooms for faculty, staff etc. along with a Departmental store. Some more prefab toilets will also be added to the complex
 - c. Administrative Building Ground floor will be used for Administrative Office, Store Room and Health Center etc.
 - d. Guest house will be used for Boys Hostel with 50 seats by making prefabricated roof top and other necessary facilities
8. The University is also following up with the Govt. of Sikkim to allow Sikkim University to transport materials through the barrage adjacent to the collapsed bridge on flash flood. In the meanwhile, the contractor is transporting materials in a longer route the Permanent Campus
9. It was also informed the house that despite of all the challenges, it is his commitment to go on shifting the departments in a phased manner to the permanent campus by vacating the rented buildings occupied and will take all necessary efforts to ensure timely completion of the Package- II construction and make the Campus fully operational.

The members on record, expressed their sincere appreciation for the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for his leadership and commitment towards the completion of the permanent campus and guidance to the team headed by him for the endeavor made for gradual shifting of the Departments and continuation of the construction activities notwithstanding the obstacles like natural calamities like devastating flash flood, topographical & climatic disadvantages.

The members expressed their good wishes to the Chairman of the Finance Committee, for his dedication with advice that the same spirit to continue till full operationalization of the permanent campus within the stipulated period by maintaining cohesion in the team, all the departments and the whole University to make the permanent campus fully operational.

Then Chairman requested the Finance Officer & Secretary to present the Agenda Items of the Finance Committee. Then the agendas were taken up by the Secretary, along with the comments received from IFD, Central University Bureau & UGC regarding each agenda item.

SECTION – 1
CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES &
ACTION TAKEN REPORT

38.1.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 37th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23rd November, 2023:

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the 37th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23rd November, 2023, subject to strict compliance of 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.

38.1.2 Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 37th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23.11.2023:

The Secretary presented the Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 37th meetings of the Finance Committee held on 23rd November, 2023. The Committee noted the Action Taken Report, subject to strict compliance of 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.

SECTION – 2
REPORTING ITEMS

38.2.1 Submission of Audited Utilization Certificate under Salary, Recurring & Capital Assets for the F.Y. 2022-23:

The Committee noted the submission of Audited UCs under Salary, Recurring & Capital Assets for the FY 2022-23 in prescribed format (GFR 12A) submitted to the UGC vide letter no. SU/FIN 30/2022/05/UC 2022-23 dated 08.12.2023 after the adoption of Audited Accounts and SAR for the F.Y. 2022-23, subject to strict compliance of 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.

38.2.2 Remittance of interest earned against Grants for Salary (36), Recurring Head (31) and Capital Head (35) during 2022-23 to the UGC:

The Committee noted the interest refund of **Rs. 2,31,80,383/-** to the UGC vide University letter no. SU/FIN 30/2022/05/UC 2022-23 dated 08.12.2023, subject to strict compliance of 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.

38.2.3. Report on Utilization of Funds under Salary, Recurring & Capital Assets for the F.Y. 2023-24 till 31.01.2024:

The Committee noted the Utilization position for the Financial Year 2023-24 till 31.01.2024 as under:

HEAD	Unspent Balances of Previous Year	Allocation for the Year (BE)	RBE by UGC	Income from other source	Grants received during the year	Total Available Funds	Expenditure incurred	Closing Balance (5-6-7)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7=(2+5+6)	8	9=(7-8)





	(Rs. In Lakh)							
Salary	-725.20	4834.45	5004.00	0.00	4295.34	3570.14	3618.83	-48.69
Recurring	120.45	2562.01	3000.00	221.07	2473.66	2815.17	2336.05	479.12
Capital (other than building)	230.35	1300.00	600.00	0.00	373.37	603.37	135.59	467.78
Building Project	-197.25	-	6700.00	-	700.00	502.75	502.75	-

38.2.4 Physical & Financial Progress of Ongoing Construction work at the Permanent Campus, Yangang:

After detailed discussion, the Committee noted the Physical & Financial Progress of the Package-I & II of Phase-I construction as given below:

A. Physical Progress of Construction work of permanent campus at Yangang is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Brief write up on the Project/Initiative	Total Project Cost (INR)	Implementing Agency	Status - (Completed/Ongoing/ Proposed) & percentage of work completed	Date of Start/ Completion
1	Construction of Sikkim University Campus, Phase-I Package-I Structural work awarded for Administrative Building (1), Faculty Building (1) and Library building (1), Main Gate & Peripheral Road.	93.64 Crs	M/s NCC Ltd.	Status: Completed (Structural Work) Percentage of completion - 100% (Note: Finishing works included in ongoing Package II construction Work)	10-11-2016/ 30.06.2021
2	Construction of Sikkim University Campus, Phase-I Package-II Finishing works for three structures under Package-I, new Classroom building, hostels and residential quarters, Road Works and Allied Structures	PIB approval for Rs. 303.55 Crs for New Construction	Mentioned below:	Work Orders issued under EPC Mode of Contract as per details (a) & (b) below:	Work in Progress
a	EPC Contractor for Phase I, Package-II	292.36 Crs	M/s ITD Cementation India Ltd.	Status: Ongoing Percentage of completion - 40%	05-01-2022/ (December 2024)
b	Authority Engineer for Phase I, Package-II	9 Crs	M/s HSCL Ltd		18.01.2022/ (December 2024)
c	Furniture Fixture etc.	2.19 Crs	Sikkim University		May 2024

(Note: Rs.21.70 crore for construction of EWS Hostel is also awarded to the ITDC in addition to above against earlier sanction. MoE has sought a fresh DPR for 21.70 crore which should be submitted by the University at the earliest)

B. Financial Progress & Requirement of Fund for the Financial Year 2024-25:

Sanctioned Amount for the New Construction	Fund Already Released for new construction till 2023-24	Fund already Utilized till Feb, 2024 (Prov.)	Fund allotted 2023-24	Fund Requirement 2024-25
Rs.303.55 Cr.	80.09 Cr+67.00 Cr=147.09 Cr	82.06 Cr+34 Cr=116.06 Cr	67.00 Cr(Rs.7 Crore received in October 2023 & Rs.60 crore received in Feb'24)	156.46 Cr

The Committee further noted that due to recent flash flood situation in Sikkim on 03.10.2023, the transport facility to the Permanent campus has been disrupted. The Contractor has stopped the work initially till the transportation facility is restored.

However, due to persistence request by the Hon'ble VC to expedite the work in view of the shifting of Departments, the Contractor has agreed to transport construction materials through another longer route till arrangements are made with the State Government to allow vehicles of the Contractor in the adjacent barrage of the damaged bridge. The University is constantly following up with the State Government for permission to use the Barrage to carry construction materials for the Campus.

The Committee also noted the physical/financial status as enunciated by the Hon'ble VC in the opening remarks.

38.2.5 Pending issues of the University with the UGC/Ministry:

a) Request for release of Grant under EWS for payment to the Contractor for construction of Hostels at the permanent campus at Yangang.

The Committee noted the pending issues with the UGC/Ministry and advised to follow up the matter with the concerned.

For EWS Grant, it is advised to submit a fresh DPR for the total amount of Rs.21.70 crore.

SECTION – 3
RATIFICATION ITEMS

Nil

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SECTION – 4
MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

38.4.1 Proposal for development of Infrastructure in the Permanent Campus out of the approved cumulative unspent balance of Rs. 344.40 Lakhs under Capital (OH-35) till the F.Y. 2024-25:

The Finance Committee in its 37th meeting held on 23.11.2023 approved the extension for utilization of the cumulative unspent balance under Campus Development Grant for its utilization till the F.Y. 2024-25 with an advice to utilize the Grant under the same Head only.

Considering the fact that the University has strong requirement of fund for early shifting of Departments to the Permanent Campus at Yangang for development of infrastructure facilities for providing basic infrastructure to the Faculty, Staff & Students which are not covered under Package-I & II constructions, the Committee approved the utilization of unspent balance of the Grant for the following works as proposed by following due procurement procedures on receipt of approval from the Ministry:

Sl. No.	Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lacs)	Need Assessment	Justifications
1.	Razorblade Barbed Wire fencing on the existing compound wall (7 km)	200.00 lakh	To prevent damage of the property by the trespassers and wild animals from adjacent wildlife sanctuary	It is not covered under the scope of work of the Contractor
2.	Site development for play ground	144.40 lakh	University is in the process of shifting of its department to the permanent campus without any playground facility. Considering the hilly terrain, 10000 sft of land will be developed into a playground for the students	In order to provide minimum playground facilities to the students of those departments going to be shifted to the permanent campus.

38.4.2 Additional demand of Rs.400.00 lakh under Other Infrastructure -Capital Assets (OH-35) for the Financial Year 2023-24:

The Committee was apprised that an amount of Rs.200 lakhs have been sanctioned in this regard out of the total demand of Rs.400 lakh.

The Finance Committee approved utilisation of the fund by prioritizing the proposed requirements to the extent of fund sanctioned during the Financial Year as per details given below for facilitating shifting of more department to the permanent campus:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Proposed Amount	Amount awarded as per availability of fund
		(Rs. In lakh)	
01.	Additional steel railings for safety of students	30.00	25.00
02.	PVC Septic tank	30.00	30.00
03.	Lifts for Differently Abled Lift towers (3 nos.):	90.00	-

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Anand

04.	Furniture & Furnishing	75.00	25.00
05.	Common Dining Mess (Prefabricated)	40.00	30.00
06.	Partition works in Library Building	75.00	50.00
07.	Additional Electrical Works	30.00	7.00
08.	Additional Toilets/ Bathrooms/ any other necessary works	30.00	33.00
	TOTAL	400.00	200.00

38.4.3 Writing off of 120 books found missing during Physical Stock Verification during 2018-19 for Purchase price of Rs. 1,11,353/- having depreciated value cost of Rs. 6,245/-:

After due deliberations, the Finance Committee noted the recommendation of the Library Management Committee meeting held on 15.02.2024 and approved for writing off 120 number of books with its depreciated value of Rs. 6,245/- in compliance to the provision of Rule 215(II) of GFR 2017.

38.4.4 Permission to allow utilization of unspent balance under XII Plan Grant and savings from Package-I to meet the future escalations in the ongoing construction of permanent Campus at Yangang, Sikkim:

After due deliberations, the Finance Committee advised to review the proposal once again and place the matter in the subsequent FC with detailed justifications.

This was further advised that the relevant factors which may cause escalations to the cost of the Project should also be studied in line with the terms of the Contract and be proposed when the value reasonably/ actually could be ascertained.

SECTION – 5
ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR


As required by the Ministry of Education letter dated 22.10.2020, in every meeting of the Finance Committee (FC)/ Board of Governors (BoG) / Board of Management (BoM), a standing Agenda Item is required to be placed.

As informed, the Finance Committee noted the following:

1. Public Grievances pending in the University: Nil
2. Parliamentary Assurances pending in the University as issued by Ministry of Education dated 22.10.2020 should be reported to every Finance Committee: Nil

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the Chair.


(Pratap Keshari Dash)
Finance Officer & Secretary
Finance Committee


(Prof. Avinash Khare)
Vice-Chancellor & Chairman
Finance Committee

कुलपति
Vice - Chancellor
सिक्किम विश्वविद्यालय
Sikkim University