

Minutes of the Executive Board meeting of UMIKS, University of Kashmir held on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at 10.30 a.m. at Committee Room of Vice-Chancellor's secretariat, University of Kashmir, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir.

Members Present

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| (i)   | Prof. Talat Ahmad<br>Vice Chancellor,<br>University of Kashmir       | : Chairperson        |
| (ii)  | Prof. Gull Mohd Wani<br>Director, UMIKS                              | : Deputy Chairperson |
| (iii) | Prof. Veena Sikri<br>Vice Chairperson, SAF India                     | : Member             |
| (iv)  | Prof. A. M. Shah<br>Dean, Academic Affairs,<br>University of Kashmir | : Member             |
| (v)   | Prof. K.I. Andrabi<br>Dean, Research,<br>University of Kashmir       | : Member             |
| (vi)  | Prof. Aijaz Banday<br>Director, CCAS<br>University of Kashmir        | : Member             |

- (vii) Prof. M. A. Kaw : Member  
Professor, CCAS,  
University of Kashmir
- (viii) Prof. Zafar Ahmad : Member  
Registrar,  
University of Kashmir
- (ix) Mr. P. K. Prabhakaran : Member  
CEO SAF India Chapter
- (x) Dy. Registrar (Budget) : Member  
University of Kashmir
- (xi) Dr. Humaria Showkat : Member  
Research Fellow, UMIKS

At the outset, the Chairperson, Executive Board of UMIKS extended a warm welcome to all the members of the Board and expressed happiness at the progress of the institute. Ambassador Veena Sikri, Vice-chairperson, SAF-India, thanked Vice Chancellor Professor Talat Ahmad for convening this meeting of the UMIKS Executive Board, and pointed out that since this was the first meeting of the UMIKS Executive Board to be held after the UMIKS Governing Board meeting chaired by Governor NN Vohra on 1st June 2013, it would be useful to look at implementation of the decisions of the UMIKS Governing board meeting, while going through the Agenda of the Executive Board meeting. The Executive Board then took up the agenda for item-wise consideration.

Agenda Item no. 1 (2EB) : Action Taken Report on the Resolutions adopted by the UMIKS Executive Board meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013 (taking into account the decisions of the UMIKS Governing Board meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013)

- 1.1 (2EB). Vice Chairperson SAF-India began the discussions by pointing out that SAF-India had not yet received the Budget (actual expenditure) for 2013-14. This has created some difficulty in discussing some Agenda items. SAF-India needed the Actual expenditure figures for 2013-14 both for ensuring that expenditure was being undertaken within the 70:30 ratio, as specified in the MOU, and secondly, the next tranche of money to be remitted by SAF-India to University of Kashmir could be considered only after receiving the audited budget for 2013-14. Chairman, UMIKS Executive Board requested UMIKS to send the actual expenditure figures to SAF-India as soon as possible and assured that services of an officer having knowledge of financial matters can be extended by the university.
- 1.2 (2EB). The Executive Board noted that the Semester-wise Course for the MA Programme in Kashmir and South Asia Studies had been finalized, incorporating the Choice-based Credit System, including an Elective Course in the Fourth Semester on Religions of South Asia.
- 1.3 (2EB) UMIKS Governing Board had resolved that "UMIKS has to be developed as a centre of excellence, so that students from the neighbouring SAARC countries find it an attractive academic destination". For this, in addition to the course structure (already compiled), it is essential to ensure high quality teaching. Vice Chancellor confirmed that he would be placing 4 to 5 academic positions (sanctioned by UGC) with UMIKS in order to ensure quality of teaching by recruiting well-qualified faculty for UMIKS. Madanjeet Singh Foundation, through Madam France Marquet, and SAF-India have conveyed to UMIKS and University of Kashmir that teaching facilities at UMIKS should be fully integrated with the University. Senior faculty at the relevant departments with specialisation on Kashmir & South Asia should be requested to take on specific courses, with payment of honorarium as permissible under university norms. As far as teaching of core/foundational courses is concerned, UMIKS should follow the procedure in vogue in other departments of the university. Vice Chancellor and other members of the Executive Board agreed with this, and requested Director UMIKS to incorporate this procedure in consultation with other departments. SAF-India indicated that outside these two methodologies for teaching staff (UGC sanctioned posts and senior faculty of University of Kashmir) the UMIKS budget contributed by SAF-India cannot take on the costs of

faculty. This is already indicated in the MOU between SAF and University of Kashmir, which should be carefully followed by UMIKS. Similarly, for library facilities, it was essential to allow students the full use of the excellent University of Kashmir library. The seminar library needs to be developed as it caters to immediate and specific needs of students. Both SAF & University of Kashmir need to provide funds for its up gradation. Regarding the construction of class-rooms at UMIKS, SAF-India indicated that, as already discussed with Director UMIKS and Vice Chancellor, SAF-India would like the University facilities to be used for this purpose. Meanwhile two classrooms are being renovated after removing internal walls in one of the barracks at the institute. The cost of renovation and necessary seating arrangement for students will be taken up for discussion at the ensuing Governing Board meeting.

- 1.4 (2EB) Eminent experts are being invited to UMIKS, and this should continue in a planned way, keeping in mind budgetary resources and the relevance to the Course Syllabus, From this year onwards (2014-15), two among the Indian students should be selected in order of merit and based on gender equality, for the SAF scholarship. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that the number of foreign students joining in 2014-15 has gone up, with one student each from Afghanistan and Bhutan, 2 students from Nepal and five students from Bangladesh. (Nine in all).
- 1.5 (2EB) Vice Chancellor Talat Ahmad explained that, in follow-up to the MOU between University of Kashmir and SAF, the Governing Board decisions (1<sup>st</sup> June 2013) and the SAF Governing Council meeting in New Delhi in November 2013, University of Kashmir has started construction of the Foreign Students' Hostel at a well-located site on the main Campus. Vice Chairperson SAF India and CEO SAF-India visited this under-construction building on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> May, before the Executive Board meeting. They held detailed discussions with the University Engineer in-charge of the constructions. During these on-site discussions, the need for good-quality construction and facilities was emphasised. The original plan is for six double-rooms on each of the two floors (ground and first), thus providing accommodation for a total of 24 foreign students. However, only two rooms on each floor were well-ventilated and of reasonable size to accommodate two students per room. The remaining eight rooms were small (12 ft by 9.25 ft), which is not large enough for two single beds. Bunk-beds were not considered appropriate. Several of these rooms did not have windows. It was also emphasised to the Engineer that on each floor, there should be three toilet-cubicles, and three shower-cubicles, as well as a pantry on the first floor, and a proper kitchen on the ground-floor. The Engineer explained that the construction has been delayed in its time-schedule and in the

scope of the construction because of a shop adjoining the building under construction. This shop is being moved (by the University authorities) to another venue on the campus, and as soon as this is done, the construction can be expedited and completed. The Engineer has been requested to prepare the final plans, and to convey the likely date of completion of the construction.

### **Agenda Item no. 2 (2EB) : Consideration of Academic Matters**

- 2.1 (2EB): **Regarding Choice-based Credit System** : Resolved that Choice-Based Credit System be adopted at UMIKS on the pattern of other departments of the university.
- 2.2 (2EB): **Regarding the Creation of an Archival unit** : Resolved that the archival unit should be established. The efforts of Hon'ble Chancellor in this regard were appreciated by all including Prof Varun Sahni who was not present in the meeting. The matter related to its funding can be discussed in the ensuing Governing Board meeting.
- 2.3 (2EB): **Regarding obtaining Credits at Delhi University by SAF Students during winter** Resolved that UMIKS should enter in a MOU with the University of Delhi after identifying relevant departments where UMIKS students can obtain credits. It was also decided that UMIKS can have similar MOU with other institutions like Jamia Milia Islamia, especially if hostel facilities are available for SAF scholars and other scholars from J&K.
- 2.4 (2EB): **Regarding the Adjunct Faculty**: Resolved that, for adjunct faculty, UMIKS should take the benefit of UGC's Faculty Recharge Program (FRP). Director UMIKS needs to submit a proposal to UGC in this regard. At all times, well-qualified faculty is of paramount importance to ensure the success and attractiveness of the MA Program offered by UMIKS (please see 1.3 (2EB) above).
- 2.5 (2EB) : **Regarding Permanent Faculty** : The Vice Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmed informed the members of the board that university has already earmarked faculty positions for the UMIKS. For details, please see 1.3 (2EB) above.
- 2.6 (2EB): **Regarding Scholarship** : Resolved that the general policy of the University related to scholarships for MPhil & PhD students be made applicable to the institute as well.
- 2.7 (2EB): **Regarding Budgetary Constraints** : Resolved that annual budget (2014-2015) be submitted with actual breakup in a realistic framework. Further the actuals for the 2013-2014 may also be prepared and submitted to SAF-India, since this is long overdue. Both these budgets should be submitted by the first week of June 2014.

2.8 (2EB) : **Liabilities of UMIKS** : The efforts taken by University of Kashmir in this regard were appreciated by the members .

2.9 (2EB) : **Next meeting of the Governing Board of UMIKS** : Resolved that, through appropriate channels, the convenience of HE Governor NN Vohra, Chairman of the Governing Board of UMIKS, be sought for convening the second meeting of the Governing Board of UMIKS.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
Director

Vice Chancellor