

UNESCO MADANJEET SINGH INSTITUTE OF KASHMIR STUDIES (UMIKS)
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR, SRINAGAR

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting of UMIKS, University of Kashmir held on 1st June, 2013 at 11.00 a.m. at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar, under the Chairmanship of Shri N. N. Vohra, Chancellor of University of Kashmir (Hon'ble Governor, J&K State).

Members Present

- (i) Prof. Talat Ahmad : Deputy Chairperson
Vice Chancellor,
University of Kashmir
- (ii) Prof. Mushir-ul-Hassan : Member
Former Vice Chancellor,
Jamia Millia Islamia,
New Delhi
- (iii) Shri R. P. Aggarwal : Member
Former Union Secretary, MHRD
- (iv) Prof. Veena Sikri : Member
Representative, South Asia Foundation (SAF)
- (v) Mr. Prabhakaran : Member
Representative, South Asia Foundation (SAF)
- (vi) Prof. Mohd. Ashraf Wani : Member
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Kashmir

- (vii) Prof. Zafar Ahmad : Member
Registrar, University of Kashmir
- (viii) Prof. Satyabhama Razdan : Member
Department of Sanskrit,
University of Kashmir
- (ix) Prof. Ab. Rashid Malik : Member
Head, Department of Kashmiri,
University of Kashmir
- (x) Prof. Siddiq Wahid : Special Invitee
- (xi) Prof. Gull Mohd. Wani : Member Secretary
Director, UMIKS.

Shri Navin K. Choudhary, IAS, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Governor also attended the meeting.

1.1. At the outset, the Chairperson, Governing Board of UMIKS, welcomed the new members of the Board and emphasized the need for making UMIKS a centre of excellence for research and teaching on social, cultural, economic and governance issues through adoption of both the historical and contemporary approaches. Chairperson commented at length on the conceptual framework for the newly started Masters programme at the Institute of Kashmir Studies and stressed the need to ensure its operational viability by introducing such mid-courses changes/improvements as necessary. He sought the support, cooperation and active participation of all concerned in ensuing high success of the different programmes to be run at the Institute.

1.2 In response to Chairman's query, Prof. Veena Sikri, Vice Chairperson, SAF India, explained the genesis of the reformulated MOU between SAF, India and University of

Kashmir, which was concluded on 23rd August 2012. She stated that SAF Founder Trustee, the late Ambassador Madanjeet Singh, accorded the highest priority to UMIKS's success as a robust academic institution within the University of Kashmir, projecting, on the one hand, J&K's unique pluralist Sufi, Bhakti, Rishi and Buddhist cultures and, on the other hand, promoting regional cooperation among the countries of South Asia by inviting scholars to study J&K's geopolitically significant linkages with South Asia, Central Asia and even Southeast Asia. This MoU spells out the financial and other responsibilities of SAF and University of Kashmir towards UMIKS, including the expectation of UGC's support for UMIKS (through University of Kashmir) under the 12th Five Year Plan.

2. Thereafter, the Agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Item No.	Subject
(1) GB	<p data-bbox="331 1070 1460 1120">2.1 <u>Regarding Future Programs</u></p> <p data-bbox="331 1164 1460 1836">2.1.1 The Governing Board 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. The different courses at the institute need to be taught with a multi-disciplinary approach. The Board agreed that the courses to be offered at the Institute must have future relevance and also contribute to the employability of pass-outs. The Chair underscored the importance of the State Government's recognition of newly started Masters Programme in Kashmir Studies, from the employability objective. In this regard, he advised Vice Chancellor, KU, to urgently take up the issue with the State Government.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1971 1460 2083">2.1.2 Members emphasized the value of engaging eminent experts from South Asia to deliver lectures at the UMIKS as this would help in</p>

building collaborative networks and stimulate academic environment of the institute. The Board discussed several issues related to the release of SAF scholarships to the local students and decided that the University should constitute a Committee and critically examine the rationale and feasibility of such a scheme at the Institute. Prof. Veena Sikri, informed the Governing Board that this scheme of extended scholarships to Indian students at UMIKS would apply only for the current academic year, after which only two SAF scholarships would be awarded every year to Indian students, on the basis of merit and gender equality. She reiterated that SAF scholarships and funding could be used only for those studying in the Master level Programmes and not for M.Phil /Ph.D Programmes.

2.1.3 Regarding the accommodation problems of foreign students, it was agreed that the University will consider rented accommodation, preferably in the vicinity of the University, the funding for which will be considered in terms of the MoU. However, for the future, the University must plan for hostel facilities for foreign scholars/students.

2.1.4 Members stressed that the UMIKS must develop a well stocked seminar library and a one time special grant needs to be provided to the Institute so that standard course- relevant books are provided for use by the students. In this direction , suitable mechanisms need to be established so that books available at the South Asia University, SAARC Secretariat, and at the other regional academic institutions can be accessed by UMIKS students. In addition, class room facilities need to be created within the available spaces at the Institute with due financial support from SAF. The need of constructing a new building for the UMIKS was recognized and Prof. Sikri explained that, as specified in the MOU.

the late Ambassador Madanjeet Singh had assured support for infrastructure development from his personal funds, and the position in this regard shall be ascertained from the Madanjeet Singh Foundation.

2) GB

2.2 MA in Kashmir and South Asia Studies

2.2.1 Members discussed at length the course contents of the already announced MA Programme in Kashmir and South Asia Studies and decided that the syllabus should be re-examined and the scope of some of the papers expanded within the South Asian framework. In this context it was decided to constitute a committee of experts to suitably re-look at the contents of the syllabus, with due regard to the views expressed by the Members. It was further agreed that, while re-examining the syllabus, the views of the students of the course may also be obtained.

2.2.2 Chairman stressed on the Vice-Chancellor to ensure that the syllabus for MA Programme in Kashmir and South Asia Studies was reviewed and finalized by end July, 2013, particularly as the II Semester of the said programme will commence in August 2013.

2.2.3 It was agreed that a paper on South Asian Religions should be developed and incorporated in the course structure of the MA Programme in Kashmir and South Asia Studies.

(3) GB

2.3 Regarding Admissions

2.3.1 Members highlighted the issue of poor response of students from the SAARC countries for the MA Programme in Kashmir and South Asia Studies and resolved that all necessary steps should be taken

to attract more students from the SAARC countries.

2.3.2 It was agreed that University of Kashmir will henceforth initiate the admission process at least six months in advance of the next ensuing academic session (2014) to attract bright students from the SAARC countries. It was also resolved that the Ministries of Education of SAARC countries, SAF Chapter in each SAARC country and SAF India will be timely involved in the process so as to give the wider publicity to the Masters programme in *Kashmir and South Asia Studies* at the UMIKS as this would, in turn, help in attracting more and better students from the SAARC countries.

(4) GB

2.4 **Regarding Budget**

2.4.1 The Governing Board decided that UMIKS shall prepare its Budget which is founded on a clear understanding of SAF's financial contribution over a period of time. The Budget heads which are not to be supported by SAF would be placed before the Finance Committee of the University for timely decision.

2.4.2 It was also resolved that the Budget would also reflect the provision kept for the travel of SAARC students.

(5)GB

2.5 **Resignation**

2.5.1 The Board ratified the Vice Chancellor's decision to accept the resignation tendered by Prof. G M Khawaja, Professor Research. However, Prof. Khawaja may be invited, as necessary, for delivering Extension Lectures or other relevant involvements.

(6)GB

2.6 **Resignation**

2.6.1 It was resolved that the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in

accepting Prof. Siddiq Wahid's resignation as Director w.e.f. 31 May 2013 and appointing Prof. Gull Mohd Wani, of the Department of Political Science, as Director w.e.f. 1 June 2013, till further orders, be ratified. Prof. Wahid's service may be utilized, as and when required.

(7)GB

2.7 **Regarding membership of the Executive Board**

2.7.1 It was resolved that (i) Dean Academic Affairs; (ii) Dean Research; and (iii) Registrar, University of Kashmir, shall be members of the UMIKS Executive Board, to facilitate its smooth working.

3. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Director
UMIKS**