

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Board of UMIKS, University of Kashmir, held on 08th October, 2014 at 11:00 am 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

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| (i) | Prof. A. M. Shah
(Acting) Vice Chancellor,
University of Kashmir; | : Deputy Chairperson |
| (ii) | Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar
Chairman,
South Asia Foundation (SAF)-India; | : Member |
| (iii) | Prof. Veena Sikri
Vice Chairperson,
South Asia Foundation (SAF)-India; | : Member |
| (iv) | Mr. P.K.Prabhakaran
CEO,
South Asia Foundation (SAF)-India; | : Member |
| (v) | Prof. Naseem Ahmad Shah
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Kashmir; | : Member |
| (vi) | Prof. Zafar Ahmad
Registrar, University of Kashmir; | : Member |
| (vii) | Prof. Satyabhama Razdan
Department of Sanskrit,
University of Kashmir; | : Member |
| (viii) | Prof. Ab. Rashid Malik
Head, Department of Kashmiri,
University of Kashmir; | : Member |
| (ix) | Prof. Gull Mohd. Wani
Director, UMIKS. | : Member Secretary |

Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Governor also attended the meeting.

1.1. At the outset, Chairperson, Governing Board of UMIKS (hereinafter referred to as Chairman), extended a warm welcome to members of the Board and reiterated the importance of developing UMIKS as a Centre of Excellence for teaching and research. In this context, particularly keeping in view the present inadequacy of faculty, he stressed the high value of inviting known experts and eminent scholars as guest speakers to enrich the academic and research activities of the institute. Chairperson suggested that the lectures delivered and the papers presented by the outstanding experts who visited the Institute could be periodically published to maintain a valuable record, for the benefit of scholars and students. He also urged that the work being done at the Institute should be suitably highlighted, periodically, for the benefit of the academic community. It was decided that Director, UMIKS shall prepare a list of experts in the field of *Kashmir and South Asia Studies* at the beginning of each academic session and invite them as per the Academic Calendar of the Institute, which must be finalized very early.

1.2. In response to Chairman's opening remarks, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Chairman SAF- India, emphasized the significance of inviting known scholars in the field of South Asian Studies for course - specific lectures at the institute so as to improve the teaching facilities at UMIKS, and to augment and stimulate the academic environment of the Institution. He pointed out that the Institute would need to pay appropriate honoraria to the invited scholars who may stay at the Institute for a week or so and deliver lectures relating to the prescribed course. Shri Aiyar also suggested that a committee of known academics from the JNU and Delhi University could be constituted very early to relook the contents of the syllabus offered at the UMIKS. He noted that while the Madanjeet Singh Foundation does have financial constraints, it is committed to developing UMIKS as a Centre of Excellence. He requested the cooperation of UMIKS and University of Kashmir for the support staff, timely submission of accounts and advance planning, all of which is necessary to project UMIKS as an attractive academic destination for South Asian scholars interested in pursuing the Institute's Master's programme.

2. Thereafter, the Agenda items were taken up for discussion. It was also agreed that on every agenda item, the discussions would take into account the corresponding decisions of the UMIKS Executive Board meetings which were held in May and August 2014:

Done

Item No.	Subject
A).	<u>CONSIDERATION OF ACADEMIC MATTERS</u>
(1) 2GB	<p data-bbox="380 415 1437 499">2.1 <u>Considered the Annual Progress Report of UMIKS w.e.f 1st June, 2013</u></p> <p data-bbox="380 548 1437 982">2.1.1 The Governing Board discussed the Annual Progress Report of UMIKS w.e.f 1st June, 2013 and decided that it shall prepare a list of eminent experts drawn from different disciplines and, accordingly, prepare an annual plan of lectures to be delivered at the Institute. This will help in building a resource base to enrich the academic environment. Eminent scholars from SAARC countries could also be selectively invited to the Institute for delivering lectures. The list of experts who are to be invited shall be drawn up, in consultation with SAF, at the beginning of every academic session.</p> <p data-bbox="380 1031 1437 1514">2.1.2 It was also resolved that Dean Academic Affairs and Director UMIKS (henceforth referred to as Director) will, together, identify senior teachers of Social Sciences Faculty of the University for teaching given courses. It was decided that the paper on "<i>Religions of South Asia</i>" needs to be fine-tuned and advance copies thereof may be sent to relevant experts, for their opinion. Members emphasized that the Institute should offer courses on "Comparative Studies" which encompass all the South Asian countries and design courses in such a manner as would enable students at the Institute to undertake "Choice Based Credit Courses" in other Universities and Institutions of the country.</p> <p data-bbox="380 1562 1437 1898">2.1.3 Director was advised to see that the activities of the Institute are placed on its website, for wider dissemination. Chairman urged that the students, both from SAARC and local, should be counseled and guided adequately at the time of their admission to the Institute. The Governing Board also desired that the VC should take up with Secretary, Higher Education, the issue regarding employability of the students of M.A in Kashmir and South Asia Studies in various agencies of the State.</p>

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(2) 2GB	<p>2.2 <u>Considered the issue of creation of permanent faculty at UMIKS</u></p> <p>2.2.1 Resolved that out of 25 positions of Assistant Professors which have been approved, in principle, for Kashmir University under UGC XII Plan Grants, UMIKS will get four teaching positions, subject to the approval of State Government. In this context, it was agreed that Principal Secretary to Governor (Chancellor) will take up the issue with the Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Finance (Financial Advisor, Universities) for expediting the matter regarding the creation of 25 academic positions from the UGC grants for the University of Kashmir.</p>
(3) 2GB	<p>2.3 <u>Considered the matter of obtaining credits for course work carried out by SAF students at universities/institutions other than the University of Kashmir.</u></p> <p>2.3.1 Resolved that the matter of obtaining credits for course work carried out by SAF students at universities/institutions other than the University of Kashmir may be taken up, stepwise, with a view that the new policy does not dilute the academic autonomy of UMIKS. To begin with, limited courses can be taken up by the Institute's students. This scheme should be extended to both local as well as SAARC students.</p> <p>2.3.2 It was agreed that Prof. Veena Sikri will continue the discussions, already initiated, with University of Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia University for collaboration and for earning of credits by students of UMIKS. A final decision will be taken after the financial implications for SAF and for University of Delhi are known.</p>
(4) 2GB	<p>2.4 <u>Considered inviting experts from SAARC countries as Visiting Faculty at the UMIKS, as stipulated in the MOU.</u></p> <p>2.4.1 Resolved that ICCR be approached for inviting identified experts to undertake this initiative. In this context, Director should prepare a list of identified experts from South Asia, so that a sound proposal can be early sent to ICCR.</p>

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(5) 2GB	<p><u>2.5 Separate statutes for UMIKS</u></p> <p>2.5.1 The Governing Board stressed the need for UMIKS to frame its own Statutes. It was resolved that while framing separate Statutes, the role of the Executive and Governing Board of UMIKS should be duly taken into account. Also, the relationship of UMIKS with University of Kashmir should also be kept in mind.</p> <p>2.5.2 Chairman observed that separate Statutes should, ultimately, lead to effective functioning and smooth funding for the Institute, and maintenance of its autonomy. Director was advised to circulate the draft Statutes within the next three months, so that the same could be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting of UMIKS, before being placed before the Governing Board for its consideration.</p>
(6) 2GB	<p><u>2.6 Considered issues related to completion of Foreign Students Hostel and Class Rooms at the Institute</u></p> <p>2.6.1 Resolved that SAF be requested to release the funds, upto Rs 45 lakhs, for the Boy's Hostel and allied facilities, after University of Kashmir has sent to SAF full details of the work so far undertaken and completed, and suitable inspection of the same has been carried out. Chairman advised the Registrar, University of Kashmir to submit the requisite Certificate of Completion to SAF, along with an assessment of costs vetted by Executive Engineer, so that the funds could be released immediately.</p> <p>2.6.2 It was decided that the Hostel needs to be properly furnished and the furniture items of a known standard brand e.g. Godrej could be purchased. The Governing Board decided that separate accommodation should be provided for SAARC students in the newly constructed girls Hostel.</p>
(7) 2GB	<p><u>2.7 Visa Extension / Facilitation of SAF Students</u></p> <p>2.7.1 Issues relating to the periodic extension of Visas of SAF scholars were discussed. It was agreed Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Chairman, SAF – India, will suitably speak in the matter to Ministry of External Affairs and Chairman would speak to Union Home Secretary so that one year visas</p>

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	<p>are granted to SAF students without their facing harassment.</p> <p>2.7.2 It was decided that the Director will also take up the matter with Shri N Ram, Chairman, Madanjeet Singh Foundation, and Dr Karan Singh, Chairman, ICCR , and elicit their help in facilitating the extension of Visas for SAARC students.</p>
<p>B). <u>CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL MATTERS:</u></p>	
(8) 2GB	<p><u>2.8 Considered the revised statement of Accounts for 2013-2014 in accordance with SAF rules and regulations.</u></p> <p>2.8.1 Detailed discussions were held (including at the two Executive Board meetings preceding the Governing Board meeting) on the inadequate preparation of annual financial expenditure statements and projected budget statements by UMIKS.</p> <p>2.8.2 It was resolved that UMIKS needs to have trained Accounts Staff to maintain its accounts. The Chief Executive Officer, SAF informed that their Delhi office is busy in preparing software for the maintenance of accounts in all SAF institutions and UMIKS can take advantage of this arrangement.</p>
(9) 2GB	<p><u>2.9 Considered the provisions of the proposed SAF budget (2014-2015)</u></p> <p>2.9.1 Chairman advised the Director to prepare a well considered Budget for the Institute reflecting all relevant requirements with accuracy and greater clarity. It was suggested that the Budget, so prepared, must reflect the expenditure under different sub-heads so that work at the Institute does not suffer for lack of funds.</p> <p>2.9.2 Chairman suggested to Shri Aiyar to bring UMIKS on SAF's budgetary map, also involving the Kashmir University. He emphasized that the Budget must also suitably reflect the funds required for completion of dissertation work by students. It was decided that a revised Budget shall</p>

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	be placed before the next meeting of Executive Board.
(10) 2GB	<p>2.10 <u>Considered the budgetary proposals for UMIKS (for support by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir)</u></p> <p>2.10.1 Resolved that the Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, will take up the issue of financial support to UMIKS with the Principal Secretary, Finance, J&K Government, requesting him for release of sufficient funds in favour of UMIKS so that its day to day expenses could be met.</p> <p>2.10.2 It was decided that the University shall also submit a proposal to the UGC, requesting for release of funds to UMIKS.</p>
(11) 2GB	<p>2.11 <u>Considered the matter of taking over of liabilities of UMIKS</u></p> <p>2.11.1 Resolved that the University, as per the advice of Higher Education Department, shall project the requirements, on account of the taking over the Plan liability of 11 in-position posts (against the sanctioned strength of 15 posts for IKS) at the R.E 2014-15 stage, alongwith all relevant data.</p>
(12) 2GB	<p>2.12 <u>Considered the matter of scholarship for local research scholars at UMIKS</u></p> <p>2.12.1 The Governing Board discussed the matter regarding the award of scholarships to the local research scholars. It was decided that UMIKS should focus sharply on its ongoing programmes and secure their consolidation. It was noted that as Research Guides are not available in the Institute and the quality of research to be the pursued by the students would be adversely impacted. Director would keep this aspect in view and secure early resolution.</p>

Ammit

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

**Director
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