



**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20th April 2012
(Friday) at New Delhi**

The Meeting was convened at the USI complex, New Delhi on the scheduled date and time. Following members were present:

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| 1. | Prof Mahendra P Lama Vice Chancellor | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. | Shri Amit Khare (Visitor's nominee) | MEMBER |
| 3. | Dr. Renu Batra (Visitor's nominee) | MEMBER |
| 4. | Shri Naveen Soi (Visitor's nominee) | MEMBER |
| 5. | Shri Sonam Wangdi (EC nominee) | MEMBER |
| 6. | Shri Deepak Darnal
[Representing Shri K. N Bhutia, Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of Sikkim, Member] | |

Shri D Kanunjna, OSD (Finance), Sikkim University served as the Secretary of the Committee, Shri C Talukdar, Manager (Finance) Sikkim University and Dr Om P Gadde, Assistant Professor and Associate Fellow (Administration) assisted the Committee.

Shri Arjun Syangden, Member (EC's nominee) sought leave of absence due to urgent preoccupation.

GROUP I –ITEMS WHICH NEED ACCEPTANCE

FC:08:01	The Chairperson calls the house to order
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Minutes:

Quorum of the meeting having been attained, the Chairman called the meeting to order after a brief welcome address and asked the Secretary to proceed with the agenda items one by one.

FC:08:02	Obituary Reference
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The house was informed of the sad demise of following eminent personalities recently.

1. *Shri MK Gurung, Deputy Director, HRDD, Govt. of Sikkim*
2. *Shri Sukumar Azhikode, veteran Malayalam writer, orator, scholar, and Gandhian, who passed away on 24.01.2012*
3. *Veteran Actor Shri Dev Anand who passed away on 04.12.2011*
4. *Shri P.K. Roy, Indian journalist and newspaperman, Chairman of Press Trust of India who passed away on 24.03.2012]*

The House observed two minutes silence to condole their death.



FC:08:03

Observations of the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice Chancellor informed the house that as Founding Vice Chancellor, he had made it a practice to apprise the members of the various activities undertaken recently. This gives the members a clear picture of the movements in the University towards progress and in fulfilling the long term vision of the University.

In his 20 minute power-point presentation, the Founding Vice Chancellor touched upon wide range of issues, from students enrolment to award of degrees, curricular review to evaluation, recruitment of teaching and non-teaching positions, management of University administration under challenging circumstances, NET-SLET examinations, Oral History Project, Winter Sojourn programme, special lectures, to name a few. He stated that the University had three major task, in hand at the moment, which were

- (a) Drafting of regulations and ordinance as the Statues demand,
- (b) Design policies for academic advancement in line with the object and vision of the University and
- (c) Build and develop physical infrastructure.

He mentioned that while the first two tasks were being pursued in right earnest and with considerable amount of success, satisfactory progress is yet to come in the third task primarily because the protracted issue of transfer of land by the Government of Sikkim has not yet been materialized, even though the entire amount of compensation had been paid more than three years back.

The members expressed their satisfaction over the all-round progress of the University and congratulated the Vice Chancellor for bringing in best and innovative practices in the University system as a whole. Suggestions were made on increased use of key contents, new and well designed courses, e-networking, improved connectivity and research, with focuses on local flavor with global outlook. The endeavors of the University to consolidate its academic collaboration with neighboring and SAARC countries, in preference to institutions in USA, UK, West European Countries, Australia and New Zealand, which has been the destination of most Indian Universities, was highly welcomed and appreciated by members. On the present status of land transfer issue, the representative of the Government of Sikkim informed the house that though the matter was under active consideration of his Government and would expect that the issue would be finalized soon, no definite time-frame, as the house was eager to know, could be ascertained. The Founding Vice Chancellor assured the House in his reply that he would relentlessly pursue the matter and take all possible steps to address the concern of the members and thanked the House for its keen interest in the welfare of the University.



FC:08:04

Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance Committee held on 03.12.2011

The Secretary informed the house that the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated in time and that no comment from the members was received. The house thereupon accepted the minutes as confirmed.

FC:08:05

Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the last meeting of Finance Committee held on 03.12.2011

The parawise details of action taken by the University on the direction of Seventh Finance Committee were reported by the Secretary. The house noted the same with approval.

FC:08:06

Consideration of Annual Accounts 2011-12

The annual accounts of the University for 2011-12 were presented before the members, who noted the prompt action of the University in this matter with high appreciation. The Vice Chancellor informed the house that the University would endeavor to get the audit of these accounts done by 20th May, 2012, so that the audited accounts could be forwarded to MHRD before his tenure as the Vice Chancellor is over.

A power-point presentation highlighted the salient financial parameters influencing functional growth of the University over the years since inception was made by the Shri Talukdar, Manager (Finance). Members noted the progress and approved the Annual Accounts 2011-12 with direction to submit it before the next Executive Council meeting.

FC:08:07

Utilization of Grants

Statement of Utilization of grants received by the University during 2011-12 was presented before the house. The members noted and applauded that the University could, despite many constraints, utilize over 94% of grants.

The house was informed that unspent grants under the merged schemes would be substantially utilized during the extended period i.e. by September 2012.



The members once again expressed their concern over the difficulties faced by the University in operating from rented premises and setting up laboratories in private buildings. The house was assured that the equipments/instruments were being procured after detailed consultation with outside experts and upon their confirmation on the feasibility of relocation of these equipments.

FC:08:08

Proposal for grants under XII Five Year Plan

The requirement of Sikkim University during the XIIth plan, worked out in the format prescribed by the UGC was presented before the house. The members were informed by the Founding Vice Chancellor that even though the University completed 58 months of its journey, it was still not grown enough in terms of infrastructure as it should have as it could not start building the campus. Consequently the urgency of developing the campus at the earmarked site and to carry forward its academic and research programmes remained the prime focus of the XIIth Plan requirements.

Salient features of the draft XIIth Plan document was presented by Dr. Om P Gadde, Assistant Professor and Co-coordinator of the team responsible for preparation of XIIth plan documents. Members made several observations with regard to introduction of proposed programs, building of campus at the remote locality, teacher-students and teaching-non-teaching ratios, social and community outreach of the University. The Founding Vice Chancellor assured the members that the University made it a practice to pool best resources within the country and abroad in designing its highly innovative programmes, which contain global acceptance with local ethos. For campus building, the University has consultants who are highly eminent in their fields of expertise. The outreach programmes of the University are all oriented to build up community-University linkage to promote upliftment of the people of the State.

The members appreciated the projection made on the requirement of the XIIth plan and advised that it should be adequately fine-tuned and properly phased out before forwarding it to the UGC.

The house then took up items placed for information.



GROUP II - ITEMS WHICH ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

FC:08:09	Appointment of the Registrar
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Members noted the action taken by the University.

FC:08:10	University Library – Salient Performances
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The house noted the developments made in organizing library resources by the University with appreciation.

FC:08:11	Sikkim University Website Revamping – A Report
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Members appreciated the efforts of the University

FC:08:12	Holding of UGC Net Examination by Sikkim University
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The Vice Chancellor briefed the members of the perceptible change brought about with conduct of UGC Net examination by Sikkim University and hoped that there would be hundred of Net qualified teachers in Sikkim in the course of next five years. The house noted the development with appreciation.

FC:08:13	Status of Hiring of Buildings
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The members expressed concern over the considerable outgo of funds on rents of buildings on which University head little option. The house was informed that rents are fixed after conducting joint survey involving CPWD experts and that these are reasonable as compared to normal market rate.

FC:08:14	Position of Sanctioned Strength and Staff-in-Position
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The house noted the matter regarding man-power position of the University.



FC:08:15	Campus Land at Yangang
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Members once again expressed their agony out non-transfer of land and hoped that the issue would be settled soon in the academic interest of the State.

FC:08:16	Plan of Action for Admissions - 2012-13
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The house noted the action plan of Admission on 2012-13 with appreciation.

FC:08:17	PLANNER 2012
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The matter was noted with applause.

FC:08:18	Third Spring Lecture and Book Discussion Programme 2012
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The Vice Chancellor informed the background and efficiency of holding such programmes to which the members expressed satisfaction and requested for continued efforts in this direction.

FC:08:19	2nd Foreign Policy Lecture and Winter Sojourn Presentations
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The members noted the matter with deep appreciation.

FC:08:20	Any other item with the permission of the Chair
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The Secretary informed the house of the communication received from the Accountant General (Audit) Sikkim with regard to settlement of three outstanding audit paras. The members noted the progress.

There being no other item, the Chairman concluded the meeting after offering thanks to the esteemed members for their valuable suggestions and support to this fledgling University.

Sd/-
(D. Kanunjna)
Officer on Special Duty
[Finance & Management]