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दूरभाष PHONE: दफ्तर OFF: 23231814

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग  
बहादुर शाह ज़फर मार्ग,  
नई दिल्ली-110 002

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG,  
NEW DELHI-110 002

PHONE: 23230405  
FAX: 23219719

D.O.No.F.1-11/2002(NS)

Dear Prof. Sharma,

Registrar also to take action accordingly  
7.11.03  
Prof. T.C. Bhalla  
to take action accordingly

November, 2003

19 NOV 2003

This is regarding the recommendations of the Visiting Committee for the utilisation of the grant of Rs. 5.00 Crores that has been released under the scheme of 'Centre with Potential for Excellence' in Himalayan Studies.

The main recommendations of the Expert Committee are appended below for your information and taking necessary action.

**Observation of the Committee:**

**Thrust Area identified & recommended by the Committee:**

The Committee feels that the programmes visualized by the Institute are far too ambitious and cannot be accomplished keeping in view the time constraints and limited financial resources. The Committee is of the opinion that instead of spreading its activities over the entire Himalayan chain it would be more realistic to concentrate on the Himachal Himalaya. It accordingly suggests the following thrust areas for activities during the first phase corresponding to X Five Year Plan.

- (i) Natural environment and sustainable Development in the Himachal Himalaya
- (ii) Social, Cultural and Economic Dimensions in the Development of Himachal Himalaya

While concentrating on these two aspects the Institute should prepare a Status Report and identify the gaps in information. A GIS database should be generated that covers various dimensions of physical, biological, social, cultural and economic aspects of the Himachal Himalaya. It is suggested that younger faculty should be identified and sent for training in areas, like GIS, remote sensing, etc. so that the Institute can have its own expertise.

The Committee feels that in addition to the research work, the Institute should offer academic programmes leading, in the first instance, to certificate and diploma programmes.

**Coordinator identified & recommended now by the Expert Committee:-**

The committee noted that during the short period of one and half years the Institute had three directors. The committee feels that for continuity, the present director may be continued for at least 3 years, unless the University can identify a full-time senior faculty for this position. Accordingly, we suggest the following as coordinator/director.

Name:- Professor T.C. Bhalla  
Designation: Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology  
Area of specialization: Biotechnology  
Status of the Coordinator (senior most or not): No  
Whether he is the same Coordinator as was in the earlier/on-going phase or level: Presently the Director

**Committee Members recommended now by the Committee:**

	Specialisation	Address/FAX/TELEPHONE No./E-mail
i. B. Powar	Earth Science	B-166, Sector-36 Noida-201 301 Chairman
ii. Dr. M.S. Palani	Environment/ Biotechnology	Sr, Scientific Advisor (Biotechnology) Govt. Uttarakhand Dehradun .
iii. Prof. Harjeet Singh	Earth Science	J.N.U. New Delhi-110 067.

**2. Major Objectives set-forth for the phase now being reviewed:-**

- (i) To compile a Status Report of all information available on Himachal Himalaya and to identify the gaps.
- (ii) To build a GIS database and develop a bibliography of literature in relevant areas (the proposal for preparing an encyclopedia may be postponed to the next phase).
- (iii) To undertake research/survey in order to generate primary data
- (iv) To publish the results of research.
- (v) Undertake short-term courses.

**3. Impact of the programme on the following parameters:-**

- (i) Infrastructure developed.

A residential building has been renovated for Institute. Furniture for the building has been acquired and computers and related peripherals, audio-visual equipment purchased. A small library with about 800 books and 16 periodicals has been started.

- (ii) Major equipments / facilities created (provide list):

No equipment acquired. However, 20 computer, 2 servers, printer, LCD projector, and other audio-visual equipment purchased.

(L1B) ✓ (Go)

The academic activities of the Institute are being conducted largely with the help of existing faculty as an umbrella operation. A fairly large administrative setup has been created but there have been no appointments to academic positions. As such though the infra-structure has been built up meaningful academic activity is yet to begin.

The committee feels that considering the financial allotment already made, the administrative personnel should be reduced to just three and academic staff (research associates, JRF, SRF and research assistants) be appointed immediately.

Instead of appointing technical/research staff for just 3 months, as at present, the academic staff should be appointed for at least 3 years and should be encouraged to register for Ph.D. programmes, relevant to the objectives of the Institute. This would encourage their full participation.

It was noted that a large percentage of the expenditure (Rs.34.9 lakhs) has been incurred on salaries, while the expenditure on academic activities is very low (Rs.1,680). The administrative staff continues to be in position, even though incurring of expenditure was to be discontinued from Sept. 2002. As recommended above, most of the administrative staff needs to be repatriated back to the parent departments.

The infra-structure has been put in place, through renovation of the building and purchase of furniture and computers, etc.

The Committee feels that greater care needs to be taken in future regarding utilization of funds. It is recommended that if the services of a full-time director, at professor level, is not available the present Direcot may be continued on a part-time basis and given a suitable honorarium. Further, the two Jt. Directors, who are presently working full-time, and are also contributing to the activities of their parent departments, may be asked to resume their original positions. They may be given the additional responsibility of Joint Directors, and be given a suitable honorarium.

It is essential that academic activities be resumed at the earliest. For this purpose the academic staff (Research Associates - 3; JRF - 3; Research Assistants - 3) should be appointed immediately on a tenure of at least 3 years.

The financial inputs recommended by the committee are given below:

S.No.	Budget sub-head	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
1.	Research Activities	20.35 ✓	40.00 ✓	54.00	53.00	55.00	222.35
2.	Administrative support	28.15	40.00	44.00	46.00	48.00	206.15
3.	Equipment	41.29	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	46.29
4.	Furniture/Fixtures	19.15	2.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	24.65
	Total	108.94	84.50	100.00	101.00	105.00	499.44

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interest generated on the core grant of Rs.5.0 Crores should be utilized for expenditure on Advisory Committee Meeting and on additional research equipment as and when required.  
The Chairman, UGC has approved the recommendations of the Committee.

The Chairman, UGC has desired that the Centre may send information regarding the deliverables in terms of number of research work published in referred journals, patents, international collaboration, institution-industry collaboration, new programmes envisaged innovation etc. by 31<sup>st</sup> March of every year to the Commission. The University may now go ahead in implementing the programme of the Centre

The University may note that the above grant is coterminous with X Plan period, i.e. upto 31.3.07 only.

It may also be noted that the amount of Rs. 5.00 Crores sanctioned earlier for the above purpose is 'one time grant' only.

You are also requested to inform the interest earned on Rs. 5.00 crores already released, which may be used by the University as indicated by the Expert Committee.

If the University, so desire, it may apply under the scheme "University with Potential for Excellence" also as and when the Commission calls for the proposals, which will be notified through circulars / advertisement in due course.

The University may send the amount of expenditure & audited Utilization Certificate for every six months, as per the usual format prescribed.

Kindly keep the Commission informed about the action taken on the recommendation.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

  
(K. Gunasekaran)

Prof. S.D. Sharma  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Himachal Pradesh University,  
Summer Hills,  
Shimla-171 005.