

**Association of Indian Universities  
Research Division**

Minutes of the Research Committee Meeting held on **January 17, 2015** at 11.00 AM at AIU House, New Delhi

**Present:**

**Prof Ranbir Singh** **Chairman**  
Vice President, AIU &  
Vice Chancellor  
National Law University  
New Delhi-110078

**Dr Pawan Aggarwal** **Member**  
Joint Secretary, Government of India  
Ministry of Skill Development,  
Entrepreneurship Youth Affairs and Sports  
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi 110001

**Prof Harish Padh** **Member**  
Vice Chancellor  
Sardar Patel University, Vallabhydyanagar  
Distt: Anand - 388120

**Dr Raviprakash G Dani** **Member**  
Vice Chancellor  
Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth  
Akola - 444 104 (MS)

**Prof Vaid Rajesh Kotecha** **Member**  
Vice Chancellor  
Gujarat Ayurved University  
Jamnagar 361 008, GUJARAT

**Prof Furqan Qamar, Secretary General, AIU** **Member Secretary**

Dr. H M Desai, President, AIU could not attend the Meeting due to unavoidable circumstances. In his absence, the meeting of the Research Committee was chaired by Prof Ranbir Singh, Vice President, AIU – the next senior-most member

Prof Sudhanshu Bhushan and Prof M M Salunkhe could not attend the meeting owing to some prior commitment. Prof S Parasuraman expressed inability to attend the meeting due to ill health.

The meeting started with Prof Furqan Qamar, Secretary General, AIU and Member Secretary of the Research Committee welcoming and introducing the members which was followed by a power point presentation by Dr Amarendra Pani, Head, Research Division on the genesis of

Research Division, its mandates and the activities undertaken by the Division to accomplish those mandates. During the presentation a discussion on a project on Foreign Education Providers in India, which was completed earlier, was held among the members.

Prof Raviprakash G Dhani pointed out that the number of fake universities operating in India has been increasing day by day. There is a need to put a system in place to check the spurious growth of such universities. He also suggested that the data compiled by Research Division in the Project on Foreign Providers be updated with fresh information. Prof Harish Padh suggested that ranking of the Foreign Institution providing Education in India is called for in the similar line of NAAC.

Differing with suggested points, Prof Ranbir Singh, Vice President, AIU remarked that the Research priorities of AIU should be in tune with priorities of Ministry of HRD and University Grants Commission. Instead of focusing on Foreign Education Providers (FEPs) we should focus on Indian Higher Education Institutions. He also observed that it is the need of the hour to identify our core competence in Research focusing on the areas of productivity and national economic development which is also the priorities of the Government.

Thereafter, agenda items were taken up.

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Research Committee Meeting held on September 17, 2013

**Confirmed**

2. To consider the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the Research Committee Meeting September 17, 2013

**Noted**

3. To report the successful organization of National Conference of Vice Chancellors on Implementation of RUSA: Challenges and Opportunities for Higher Education Institutions' in collaboration with ASSOCHAM, New Delhi at Hotel Le- Meridian on December 18, 2013

**Noted**

4. To report the successful organization of National Seminar of Vice Chancellors on Autonomy of Universities and Relation with State at Bilaspur University, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

**Noted**

*[It was suggested that a brief report on actionable/ doable points emanating from the recommendations of these conference should be prepared and these should be submitted to the concerned agencies as input for policy planning.]*

5. To report the successful organization of National Conference of Vice Chancellors on Establishing Research Ecosystem in Universities- Breaking New Grounds

**Noted**

Prof Vaid Rajesh Kotecha and Prof Ravi Praksh G Dhani pointed out that the information of such programme does not reach at the universities in time. The committee suggested that it should be intimated at least one month in advance and preferably through e-mails. The Secretary General informed that the information regarding the events/programmes are disseminated through e-mail, followed by the letters in hard copies alongwith the brochures containing the details. But, in a large number of cases it has been observed that failures in delivery of mails have been witnessed. The e-mail IDs of the universities needs to be rectified.

*[It was resolved that the GC members and other committee members of AIU be involved in disseminating such information]*

6. To consider organizing the following National Workshops/Seminars in 2014-15

- i. National Workshop on Emerging Trends in Information Technology in University Management
- ii. National Workshop on Management of University Administration
- iii. National Workshop on Research Methodology in Social Sciences
- iv. National Workshop on Examination Reforms in Higher Education
- v. National Seminar on Women's Studies in India

**[Note: All the Five events are the regular activities of the Research Division. As per MHRD Guidelines, one event is to be held in one of the North Eastern States]**

**Approved**

The committee suggested that from the next session the themes of the workshops/seminar should be selected in accordance with the priority areas of higher education. The Secretary General informed that following the resolution of the Research Committee in 2013-14, proposals for hosting these programmes were invited through advertisements in the University News and AIU website. There are 16 proposals for Research Methodology, five for Examination Reform, four for Management of University Administration, three for Information Technology, three for Anveshan: Student Research Convention received from various universities/institutions.

*[The Committee authorized to the Secretary General to shortlist the proposals and select the institutions for collaboration of organizing these events in 2014-15.]*

7. To consider the proposal for conducting Eight Roundtable Conferences of Vice Chancellors of the following Category of Universities:

- i. Central Universities
- ii. State Universities
- iii. Deemed Universities
- iv. Private Universities

The committee suggested that for in-house projects there should be mentoring from outside since they have more exposure and expertise. Since there is paucity of time, the framework and report may be sent to the experts of concerned field for their final comment. Dr Rama Devi Pani suggested that due to time constraints, in this session the framework should be prepared and the project may be taken up in the next session. The Secretary General remarked that since we are likely to have bigger budget in the next session more projects can be taken up.

9. **To consider the proposal for collaborating two research studies of (Five Lakh each) with two member universities/institutions.**

It was informed that in response to the advertisement 13 proposals from various universities have been received and Five proposals were received in the last session.

*[The Committee authorized to the Secretary General to shortlist the proposals and select two proposals for collaboration]*

10. **To consider organizing Anveshan: Student Research Convention 2014-15**

Since only Pondicherry University has shown its interest to host National Student Research Anveshan, the committee resolved that the selection of Host University for the zonal level Anveshan will be done by contacting the universities of good repute from the concerned zone.

Prof Harish Padh, Vice Chancellor, Sardar Patel University expressed his interest for organizing the National Convention and also suggested that if no university comes forward to host West Zone Convention, than it may also take up the west zone convention. The committee resolved that Pondicherry University may be persuaded to host the South Zone Convention instead of National Convention.

11. **To consider the Proposal for organizing Capacity Building Programme on RUSA**

**Approved**

12. **To consider the proposal of reviving the preparation of Question Bank in Science, Social Science and Humanities**

**Approved**

13. **Any other Item with the permission of the Chair**

With the permission of the Chair, Dr Amarendra Pani, Head, Research informed the Committee that requests have been received from the participants of the Research Methodology Workshops for enhancing the duration for the benefit of the participants. He also suggested that AIU should start short duration courses on Research Methodology and issue certificates to the participants. The committee took note of the suggestion and the Secretary General remarked that since there are number of agencies having liberal funding mechanism of Research Methodology Programmes, it will be better to collaborate with these organizations i.e. ICSSR/ICSSR, etc for such endeavor.

It was suggested by the Committee that instead of conducting Research Methodology Workshops, Research Division may conduct evaluative studies to assess the outcomes/impact of such programmes/courses being offered by other institutions.

Prof Harish Padh, while taking note of MHRD's eagerness to give more funds to AIU for Research Purposes, suggested that AIU should give token funding to the Faculty member of State Universities for taking up research Projects. The Head, Research Division and the Secretary General informed that the Research Division can take up collaborative Research Projects with other institutions with financial allocation from the Plan Grants, but not authorized to sublet the fund provided to it by MHRD under Plan Grants.

Referring to the above discussion, Dr Pawan Agarwal mentioned that AIU should not expect to evolve itself as another funding agency like UGC or ICSSR. Instead, AIU should focus on conducting more in-house projects.

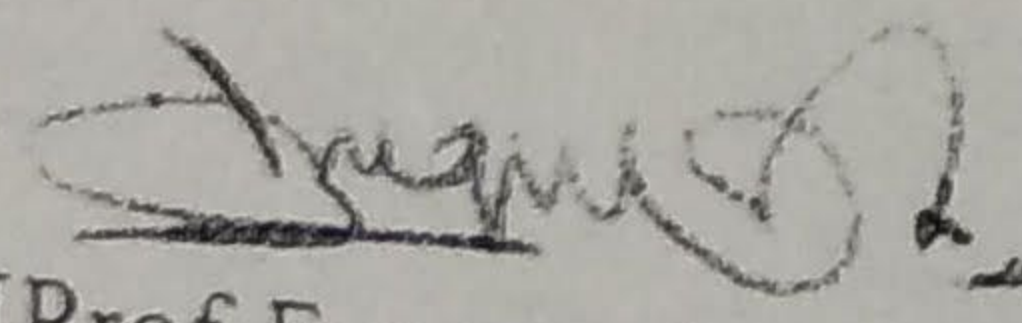
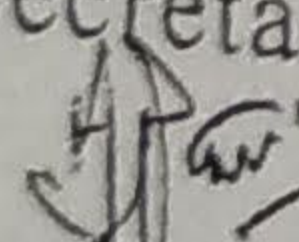
The issue of funding of Research in various academic disciplines also came up in the meeting. Hon'ble Secretary General suggested that AIU should come up with a document listing all the agencies/institutions which provide funding to different categories of institutions for research purposes so that this information can be passed on to AIU member institutions and facilitate the faculty members to take up the research projects.

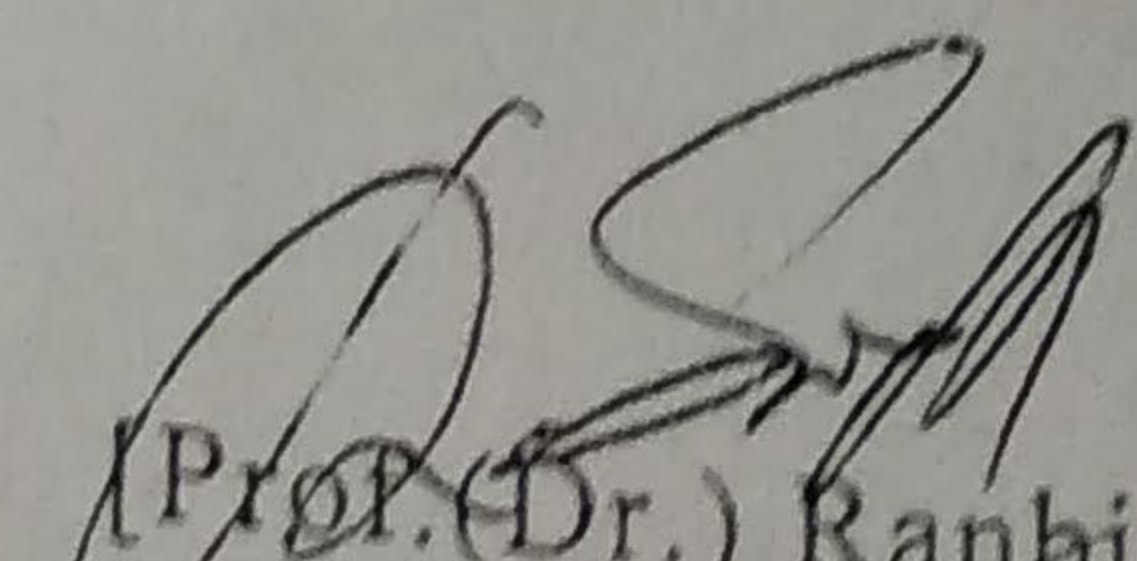
Dr Pawan Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, sports and Youth Affairs, Govt of India suggested the current issue in areas of Research is skill development since government is focusing on national development (driven around economic development), skill enhancement and skilling the youth, and optimal use infrastructure. He exhorted AIU to engage itself more rigorously in the above mentioned areas. He also mentioned that there is a lot of procedural hurdle to conduct research and suggested that government should prepare Research Agenda and give them to the concerned researcher without any procedural hurdle. He also highlighted that there are only few researcher in the country.

Prof Ranbir Singh suggested that the Research Committee Meeting should be convened at the start of the session from the next financial Year.

*[It was resolved to release advance amount to the tune of 90% to the host Universities after the programmes are finalized.]*

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair

  
[Prof. Furqan Qamar]  
Secretary General  
  
Head, Research

  
[Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh]  
Chairman