

**Minutes of the 70th Meeting of the Finance Committee of Assam University
held on 25th June 2024 at 2.00 PM at DELNET Guest House, New Delhi in
Blended Mode (Physical and Video Conferencing)**

The following were present:

1. Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant - Chairman
Vice-Chancellor, Assam University
2. Prof. Sivasish Biswas - Member
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Assam University Diphu Campus
3. Prof. G.D. Sharma - Member
President, AIU & Vice-Chancellor, USTM
Meghalaya-793101. (EC nominee)
4. Dr. Udaya Sankar Pant -Member
International Consultant,
PFM, Society and Governance
Gurgaon-122016 (EC Nominee)
5. Shri Subhash Chand Sharu - Member
Director, (CU-I)
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education, New Delhi
[Nominee of Additional Secretary (CU),
Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]
6. Shri Mukesh Kumar - Member
Deputy Secretary (IFD)
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education, New Delhi
[Nominee of Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser,
Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]
7. Shri Mriganka Sekhar Sarma - Member
Deputy Secretary (CU), UGC, New Delhi
(Visitor's Nominee)
8. Dr. P.K. Nath - Permanent Invitee
Registrar, Assam University
9. Dr. Subhadeep Dhar - Ex-officio Secretary
Finance Officer (i/c), Assam University

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The following member attended the meeting through Video Conferencing:

10. Prof. Asoke K Sen - Member

Professor, Department of Physics
Assam University, Silchar (EC Nominee)

The comments of CU Bureau, Ministry of Education, Dept. of Higher Education, GoI on the agenda items have been received vide letter F. No. 9-1/2022-CU-I, dtd. 18.06.2024 with the approval of the competent authority; were presented by the Finance Officer (i/c) & Secretary, Finance Committee, Assam University before the Finance Committee and the members noted the comments & which were put on record.

The Vice-Chancellor, Assam University assured that the observations of the Ministry and UGC will be strictly followed by the University in true letter and spirit.

Item No. FC:70/01: Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Vice-Chancellor, Assam University.

The Chairman welcomed and introduced the new member of the Finance Committee of Assam University, Dr. Udaya Sankar Pant, International Consultant, PFM, Society and Governance (Retd. ICAS Officer, 1982 Batch) as an Executive Council nominee to the Finance Committee of Assam University in place of Prof. N.K. Shukla, Registrar, University of Allahabad, who has completed his term as Executive Council nominee to the Finance Committee of the University.

The Chairman also welcomed Prof. G.D. Sharma, President, AIU and Vice-Chancellor, USTM, Meghalaya; Shri Subhash Chand Sharu, Director, (CU-I), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, [Nominee of Additional Secretary (CU), Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]; Shri Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Secretary (IFD), Ministry of Education, New Delhi, [Nominee of Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)]; Shri Mriganka Sekhar Sarma, Deputy Secretary (CU), UGC, New Delhi (Visitor's Nominee)] and all the members for attending the meeting.

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The Chairman in his opening remarks sought guidance from all the members for all round development and growth of the University. He also expressed his gratitude to all the members for attending the meeting.

The Chairman then requested the Secretary, Finance Committee to initiate the proceedings as per the agenda items.

Item No. FC:70/02: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 69th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 19th March 2024.

The copy of the Minutes of the 69th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 19th March 2024 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item which was circulated to all the members through e-mail dated 22nd March 2024.

University has not received any comments from the members. The Minutes may kindly be confirmed.

Resolution: Subject to strict compliance of the relevant Statutory provisions of the University and also strict compliance of the related Govt. of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, the Minutes of the 69th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 19th March 2024 were confirmed.

Item No. FC:70/03: Action Taken Report of the 69th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 19th March 2024.

Action Taken Report on the 69th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 19th March 2024 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for information and necessary review.

Resolution: The Action Taken Report of the 69th meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 19th March 2024 were perused and noted by the members of the Finance Committee.

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Item No. FC:70/04: Recommendation for approval and adoption of Annual Accounts of Assam University for the financial year 2023-24.

The Annual Accounts of the Assam University i.e. Receipt & Payment Account, Income & Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and relevant Schedules for the financial year 2023-24 in the Revised Format of Accounts communicated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India vide their letter no. 29-4/2012-IFD dated 17th April, 2015 with the approval by the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, vide their letter no. RC (AB)/ Misc./ Format of A/cs./ 04-31/2013 dated 10th April, 2015 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item in a separate folder.

The Finance Committee under Section 19 (7) of the Statutes of the University may recommend the Annual Accounts of Assam University for the financial year 2023-24 to the Executive Council of the University for adoption, approval and submission to the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for necessary certification.

Resolution: The agenda item has been discussed in detail and the Finance Committee under Section 19 (7) of the Statute of the University recommended the Annual Accounts of Assam University i.e. Receipt & Payment Account, Income & Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and relevant Schedules for the financial year 2023-24 prepared in the Revised Format of Accounts communicated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India vide their letter no. 29-4/2012-IFD dated 17th April, 2015 with the approval by the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, vide their letter no. RC (AB)/ Misc./ Format of A/cs./ 04-31/2013 dated 10th April, 2015 to the Executive Council of the University for adoption, approval and submission to the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for certification.

Further, creation of a Depreciation Reserve Fund against the depreciation provisions was discussed and members opined that the scope for the creation of such fund may be explored in consultation with other Central Universities as well as UGC.

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Item No. FC:70/05: Recommendation for approval of the Minutes of the 110th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 10th June 2024.

The minutes of the 110th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 10th June 2024 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for recommendation to the Executive Council of the University for approval.

Resolution: The minutes of the 110th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 10th June 2024 was discussed in the meeting and recommended to the Executive Council of the University for approval subject to strict compliance of the Govt. of India instructions and guidelines those issued by the CVC for undertaking the construction projects.

Moreover, members also discussed the need of urgent release of fund under EWS for early completion of the projects. The University was asked to take necessary action in this regard.

Item No. FC:70/06: Enhancement of maximum limit of Gratuity to employees for Assam University to Rs.25.00 lakhs on reaching the Dearness Allowance to 50%.

Department of Expenditure vide their OM No.1/1/2024-E-II(B) dated 12-03-2024 has issued instructions regarding enhancement of Dearness Allowance Rates from 46% to 50% of the Basic Pay with effect from 1st January, 2024 which was extended to all Central Universities vide UGC letter no F.No.67-3/2021(CU) dated 18th March, 2024.

Accordingly, as per the Government of India decision in implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh CPC, the maximum limit of Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 or the Central Civil Services (Payment of Gratuity under National Pension System) Rules, 2021, would be increased by 25% i.e. from Rs.20.00 lakh to Rs.25.00 lakh, with effect from 1st January, 2024 (copy of the OM vide No. 28/03/2024-P&PW(B)/Gratuity/9559, dtd. 30.05.2024 of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item).

The agenda item is placed for necessary direction of the Finance Committee for its applicability in Assam University.

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Resolution: The members from the MoE and UGC opined that the University should await further instructions from the MoE/UGC in this regard.

Item No. FC:70/07: Status of filling up of backlog vacancies.

UGC in their letter vide No. F. 1-11/2021 (SCT), dated 10th February 2022 intimated to include an agenda item in every Finance Committee meeting of the University giving the status of filling up of backlog vacancies.

The statement giving the report about the action taken and progress made in this regard was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for necessary review.

Resolution: The members noted the Status of filling up of backlog vacancies and directed the University to take necessary steps to fill up the backlog vacancies on priority basis by following the instructions issued by the MoE/UGC from time to time.

Item No. FC:70/08: Details of Public Grievances pending in the University.

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide letter F. No. 13-110/220-CU-Cdn, dated 22nd December 2020 communicated a Note dated 17.12.2020 of Secretary (Higher Education), Ministry of Education with a direction to include Public Grievances pending in the Institutes as Standing Agenda items in every meeting of the Finance Committee.

In this regard, this is for information of all members of the Finance Committee that there are NO Public Grievances pending in the University.

Resolution: The Finance Committee noted the same.

Item No. FC:70/09: Details of Parliamentary Assurances pending in the University.

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide letter F. No. 13-110/220-CU-Cdn, dated 22nd December 2020 communicated a Note dated 17.12.2020 of Secretary (Higher Education), Ministry of Education with a direction to include Parliamentary Assurances pending in the Institutes as Standing Agenda items in every meeting of the Finance Committee.

In this regard, this is for information of all members of the Finance Committee that there are NO Parliamentary Assurances pending in the University.

Resolution: The Finance Committee noted the same.



Item No. FC:70/10: Utilization of Funds - An overview of the financial position of the University up to 31st March 2024 and up to 31st May 2024.

The Utilization of Funds head-wise showing an overview of the financial position of the University up to 31st March 2024 and unspent balance as on 1st April 2024 under Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31) and Capital Assets (OH-35) were placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item and utilization of funds up to 31st May 2024 and unspent balance as on 1st June 2024 under Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31) and Capital Assets (OH-35) were placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for perusal of the Committee.

It is also reported that the Budget Estimates of Assam University for the financial year 2024-25 duly approved by the 68th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23.11.2023 was forwarded to UGC vide letter No. AUF/AC/918/2022-23, dtd. 28.03.2024. Accordingly the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2024-25 under the head Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31) and Capital Assets (OH-35) were approved and communicated by UGC vide letter F. No. 18-1/2024 (CU), dtd. 28.03.2024, F. No. 18-2/2024 (CU), dtd. 16.04.2024 and F. No. F.1-3/2024 (CU), dtd. 01.05.2024 were placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item.

Resolution: The Finance Committee perused & noted the Utilization of Funds head-wise showing an overview of the financial position of the University up to 31st March 2024 and unspent balance as on 1st April 2024 and up to 31st May 2024 and unspent balance as on 1st June 2024 under Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31) and Capital Assets (OH-35) subject to strict compliance of the relevant statutory provisions of the University, relevant provisions of GFRs 2017 and also strict compliance of the related Govt. of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission.

Further, the members noted the approved Budget Estimates of Assam University for the financial year 2024-25 under the head Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31) and Capital Assets (OH-35).

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Item No. FC:70/11: Review of details of the pending C&AG Transaction Audit Paras and the Action Taken to settle/liquidate the pending Paras.

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India vide letter F. No. 13-110/220-CU-Cdn, dated 22nd December 2020 communicated a Note dated 17.12.2020 of Secretary (Higher Education), Ministry of Education with a direction to include complete details and status of audit paras as Standing Agenda items in every meeting of the Finance Committee.

The status of upto date pending Audit Paras are furnished for kind information of the members.

Financial Year	No. of Audit Paras year-wise	No. of Paras dropped/deleted/settled	No. of O/S Paras as on 14.06.2024
2014-15	01	00	01
2015-16	19	16	03
2016-17	04	02	02
2017-18	20	14	06
2018-19	14	06	08
2019-20	13	07	06
2020-21	14	10	04
2021-22	16	07	09
2022-23	13	00	13
Total	114	62	52

The details of the Transaction Audit Paras up to the financial year 2022-23 with up-to-date Action Taken (with small description of the Audit Paras) to settle/liquidate the pending paras were placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for review by the members of the Finance Committee.

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Resolution: The Finance Officer briefed the members about the status of outstanding Audit Paras and the action taken by the University in this regard. The members noted the same and directed the University to take necessary action for liquidating the outstanding paras. The members also opined that the Internal Wing of the University should be made functional. In this regard the University was asked to explore the possibility of engaging C&AG empanelled Chartered Accountants on a contractual/outsourced basis.

Item No. FC:70/12: Review of progress of the ongoing construction activities of the University.

UGC in the letter F. No. 1-1/2012 (CU), dated 25th August 2015 intimated that a separate agenda item on progress of Building Projects in the prescribed format of the UGC should be placed in the meeting of Finance Committee for necessary review of the overall progress of the developmental activities in the University.

The statement of progress of ongoing Building Projects was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for necessary review.

Resolution: Progress of the ongoing construction projects of the University has been reviewed by the members and noted the same with a suggestion that the University should expedite the projects for completion within the approved cost and time.

Item No. FC:70/13: Progress of infrastructure project funded through HEFA.

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Department of Higher Education, CU Bureau vide letter F. No. 4-7/2020-CU.VII, dtd. 11.09.2020 forwarded a copy of the minutes of the meeting (through video conference) under the chairmanship of JS (CU & IISER) on 27.08.2020 to review the progress/issues of HEFA funded infrastructure project of 6 Central Universities (CUs) including Assam University.

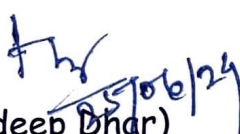
In the said minutes, it has been directed by the Chairman that, Progress of infrastructure project funded through HEFA should be an Agenda point of every Finance Committee meeting.


In view of above, the Status of proposals funded through HEFA in respect of Assam University was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for perusal and necessary review.

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Resolution: Progress of infrastructure project funded through HEFA was reviewed in the meeting in the light of relevant provisions of GFRs, 2017 and related Government of India instructions and the members noted the same.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair.


(Dr. Subhadeep Dhar)
Finance Officer (i/c) &
Ex-Officio-Secretary
Finance Committee
Assam University, Silchar


(Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant)
Vice-Chancellor &
Chairman
Finance Committee
Assam University, Silchar