

**Minutes of the 72nd Meeting of the Finance Committee of Assam University
held on 7th March 2025 at 10.30 AM at Assam University, Silchar through
Blended Mode (Physical and Video Conferencing)**

The following members were present:

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| 1. Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant
Vice-Chancellor, Assam University | - Chairman |
| 2. Prof. Sivasish Biswas
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Assam University Diphu Campus | - Member |
| 3. Shri Mriganka Sekhar Sarma
Deputy Secretary (CU), UGC, New Delhi
(Visitor's Nominee) | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Udaya Sankar Pant
International Consultant,
PFM, Society and Governance (EC Nominee) | - Member |
| 5. Prof. Asoke K Sen
Professor, Department of Physics
Assam University, Silchar (EC Nominee) | - Member |
| 6. Dr. P.K. Nath
Registrar, Assam University | - Permanent Invitee |
| 7. Dr. Subhadeep Dhar
Finance Officer (i/c), Assam University | - Ex-officio Secretary |

The following members attended the meeting through Video Conferencing:

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| 8. 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)] | - Member |
| 9. Shri Vivek Kumar
Under 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)] | - Member |
| 10. Prof. G.D. Sharma
Vice-Chancellor
University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (EC nominee) | - Member |

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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. 03.03.2025 with the approval of the competent authority; the comments received from the Integrated Finance Division, Ministry of Education, Dept. of Higher Education with the approval of JS & FA, Ministry of Education, GoI vide letter No. 9-9/2017-IFD.pt, dated 6th March 2025 and the comments received from University Grants Commission with the approval of the competent authority vide letter No. F.18-6/2019(CU)Vol.I/98977, dated 6th March 2025 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:72/01: Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Vice-Chancellor, Assam University.

The Chairman welcomed Shri Mriganka Sekhar Sarma, Deputy Secretary (CU), UGC, New Delhi (Visitor's Nominee) and Dr. Udaya Sankar Pant, International Consultant, PFM, Society and Governance (EC Nominee) for attending the meeting physically at Assam University, Silchar campus.

The Chairman also welcomed 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 Vivek Kumar, Under Secretary, (IFD), Ministry of Education, New Delhi, [Nominee of Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Education, GoI (Visitor's Nominee)], Prof. G.D. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, University of Science & Technology Meghalaya (EC Nominee) and all the members for attending the meeting.

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:72/02: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 71st meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 26th November 2024.

The copy of the Minutes of the 71st meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 26th November 2024 was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item which was circulated to all the members through e-mail dated 27th November 2024.

The following observations/suggestions on the minutes have been received from Dr. U.S. Pant, Member.

1. Creation of a Corpus Fund proposal to be sent to Ministry, that will include all IRG, donations, any grants support by other than Ministry and UGC, any non-lapsable surplus funds etc.
2. Internal Audit and IA system to be set-up by any relevant experienced CA firm in CAG panel for audit, as an option until we get officers from CAG on deputation. They may also give useful advice on accounting, compliance and funds set up to the University.

The above suggestions of the esteemed member have been noted by the University for discussion and compliance.

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

Resolution: The suggestions given by Dr. U.S. Pant, Member has been discussed in the meeting and it was resolved that a proposal for creation of a Corpus Fund including all IRG, donations, any grants-in-aid support from other than Ministry and UGC, any non-lapsable surplus funds etc. will be sent by the University to the Ministry of Education for necessary guidance.

Further, regarding Internal Audit and IA system to be set-up, the members have been informed that a CAG empanelled Chartered Accountant Firm of Silchar has been consulted to avail its services for making functional the Internal Audit Wing of the University.

The modalities for the same are being worked out for engagement of the firm from the Financial Year 2025-26 after due approval of the Executive Council.

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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 issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, the Minutes of the 71st meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 26th November 2024 were confirmed.

Item No. FC:72/03: Action Taken Report of the 71st meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 26th November 2024.

Action Taken Report on the 71st meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 26th November 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 71st meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 26th November 2024 were perused and noted by the members of the Finance Committee with the following observations.

- (i) Regarding Agenda Item No. FC:71/03 under Sl. No. (ii) the members opined that as the construction work has been completed within the extended period of 31.01.2025, the University may continue with the disbursement of fund up to 31.03.2025 under EWS with an intimation to the Ministry.
- (ii) Regarding Agenda Item No. FC:71/06 related to the Minutes of the 111th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 29th October 2024, Agenda No. 3 (Construction of Vertical Extension of VC's Secretariat for Dean's Office (2nd Floor & 3rd Floor (PPGI Roof) including Furniture at Assam University Silchar Campus and Agenda No. 4 (Construction of Pharmaceutical Science Building "B" wing including internal water supply, sanitary installation & electrification at Assam University, Silchar has been discussed and Finance Committee noted the action of the Vice-Chancellor as authorized by the 111th meeting of the Building Committee to approve the revised estimates of Rs. 4.45 crore for Agenda No. 3 (Construction of Vertical Extension of VC's Secretariat for Dean's Office (2nd Floor & 3rd Floor (PPGI Roof) including Furniture at Assam University Silchar Campus and Rs. 29.98 crore for Agenda No. 4 (Construction of Pharmaceutical Science Building "B" wing including internal water supply, sanitary installation & electrification at Assam University, Silchar. This has been discussed in the light of submission of Building projects in compliance with HEFA guidelines.

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The members noted the contents and recommended to the Executive Council for ratification.

Item No. FC:72/04: Recommendation for approval of the Minutes of the 112th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 14th February 2025.

The minutes of the 112th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 14th February 2025 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 112th meeting of the Building Committee of Assam University held on 14th February 2025 was discussed in the meeting and recommended to the Executive Council of the University for approval subject to strict compliance of GFRs, 2017 and related CVC guidelines.

Item No. FC:72/05: 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 after due observance of reservation act and strictly as per the approved recruitment rules.

Item No. FC:72/06: 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.

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Item No. FC:72/07: 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:72/08: Utilization of Funds - An overview of the financial position of the University up to 31st January 2025.

The Utilization of Funds head-wise showing an overview of the financial position of the University up to 31st January 2025 and unspent balance as on 1st February 2025 under Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31), Capital Assets (OH-35) were placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for perusal of the Committee.

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 January 2025 and unspent balance as on 1st February 2025 under Salary (OH-36), Recurring (OH-31), Capital Assets (OH-35).

Regarding slow utilization of funds under OH-35, the matter pertaining to procurement of e-journals was placed in the meeting by the Librarian i/c with the permission of the Chairman.

The Librarian i/c informed the members that as per practice procurement of e-journals are done on ESS rates communicated by INFLIBNET normally in the month of January. However since no rates have been communicated by INFLIBNET till date and there is pressing demand from both the Ministry and UGC for optimum utilization of funds, hence the Library Standing Committee in its meeting held on 28th February, 2025 decided to classify all e-journals under non-ESS category. Accordingly it was decided by the Library Standing Committee to procure the e-journals through rate negotiation by a Committee comprising of senior faculty members and officers of the University. The matter was placed before the Finance Committee for information and necessary direction.

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The Finance committee members deliberated on this issue and advised that since the negotiated price appears reasonable considering the devalued position of the Rupee against the US Dollar and the urgent need for expending the fund, the University may proceed with the procurement of e-journals as per the negotiated rate approved by the Library Standing Committee.

Item No. FC:72/09: Review of details of the pending C&AG Transaction Audit Paras and the Action Taken to settle/liquidate the pending Paras.

(a) An Audit Committee Meeting (ACM) for settlement of outstanding audit paras had been held on 22nd November 2024 during the period of Compliance Audit 2023-24 between the Audit Team headed by the Dy. Director of Audit, Branch Office: Guwahati and the officers of Assam University. During the meeting all the outstanding audit paras and the replies submitted by the University have been discussed in details.

The outcome of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 22nd November 2024 have been received from the Audit vide letter No. DGAC/OAD/BO-GHY/ACM/AUS/2024-25/289, dtd. 22.01.2025. Copy of the same was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for information of the members.

(b) Inspection Report on the accounts of the Assam University for the period from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024 vide Memo No. OAD/BO-GHY/UC-45/2024-25/111, dtd. 28.01.2025 received from Indian Audit & Accounts Department, Office of the Director General of Audit, (Central), Kolkata, Branch Office: Guwahati was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for information of the members of the Finance Committee.

It is for the information of the members that the Inspection Report of Assam University for the period 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024 indicates updation of 08 existing outstanding Audit paras and inclusion of 15 new audit paras.

The University has prepared the reply to the Inspection Report for the period from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024 and submitted to the Indian Audit & Accounts Department, Office of the Director General of Audit, (Central), Kolkata, Branch Office: Guwahati vide letter No. AUF/716/2023-24/1134, dtd. 14.02.2025 which was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for information of the members of the Finance Committee.

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The updated status of year wise pending Audit Paras are furnished below 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 21.02.2025
2014-15	01	1	0
2015-16	19	18	1
2016-17	04	3	1
2017-18	20	20	0
2018-19	14	12	2
2019-20	13	12	1
2020-21	14	14	0
2021-22	16	15	1
2022-23	13	11	2
2023-24	15	0	15
Total	129	106	23

Details of the 23(twenty Three) Audit Paras received in the Inspection Report for the financial year 2023-24 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.

Resolution: The Finance Officer briefed the members about the outcome of the Audit Committee Meeting (ACM) held on 22nd Nov 2024 as communicated by Audit wherein it has been informed that out of 51 outstanding audit paras 26 paras have been treated as settled. Another 02 nos of Audit Paras were settled based on the reply of the University by the DGAC office Kolkata. In total 28 nos of outstanding Audit paras out of 51 nos have been settled.

The Finance Officer also briefed the members about the Inspection Report of Assam University for the period 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024 wherein it is indicating updation of 08 existing outstanding Audit paras and inclusion of 15 new audit paras.

The members appreciated the efforts of the University to drop the long pending outstanding Audit paras. The Chairman assured the members that further efforts will be made to settle the balance outstanding paras at the earliest.

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Item No. FC:72/10: 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:72/11: 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.

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.

Item No. FC: 72/12: Progress of Construction work funded by Government of Assam.

The Government of Assam vide letter no. PC/HE/Misc/74/2022/Pt/I/89 dated 21st December 2022 has communicated the Administrative approval for Rs.1500.00 lakhs regarding Infrastructure Development of Assam University, Silchar.

On the basis of the approval received from Govt. of Assam, the construction of Indoor Stadium at Assam University, Silchar Campus was awarded to CPWD Silchar Division with a project cost of Rs.1100.00 lakhs.




Another project for construction of Cottage/Assam Type New Guest House at Assam University Campus, Silchar was awarded to MGCC Ltd. with a project cost of Rs. 400.00 lakhs.

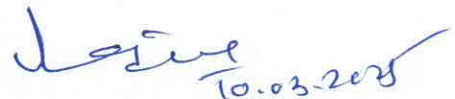
The present status of both the projects was placed in the meeting as an annexure to the agenda item for perusal and information of the members.

Resolution: Progress of Construction works funded by Government of Assam has been noted by the members.

There being no other agenda item, 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