MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF INFLIBNET CENTRE

Fifth Meeting of the Governing Board of INFLIBNET Centre was held at UGC, New Delhi on 6th July, 1998 at 1230 hrs. Following were present :

In the Chair :

Prof. Yash Pal, National Research Professor

Members :

Prof. Jayant Narlikar, Director, IUCAA

Prof. Vidyut Joshi, Vice Chancellor, Bhavnagar University

Prof. S.B. Vora, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University

Prof. T. Vishwanathan, Director, INSDOC

Prof. M.P. Kapoor, Director, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology

Dr. G.D. Sharma, Secretary, UGC

Prof. J.P. Gupta, Member Secretary, AICTE

Ms. Harsha Parekh, Librarian, SNDT Women's University

Invitees :

Prof. B.A. Dasannacharya, Director, IUC for DAE facilities

Ms. Niloufer A. Kazmi, Joint Secretary, UGC

Shri R.K. Sharma, Under Secretary, UGC

Shri V.R. Dabral, Section Officer, UGC

Also Present :

Shri S.M. Salgar, Scientist-G, INFLIBNET Centre

Shri C.K. Shah, Admn. Officer-III, INFLIBNET Centre

Following member could not attend the Meeting.
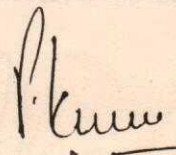
Shri P.P. Kale

The deliberations on various agenda items are summerised below.

Agenda Item No.1 : Chairperson's Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed the new members to the GB and briefly sketched the history of INFLIBNET Centre since 1988, when a project proposal was prepared by an Inter-Agency working group constituted by the UGC for starting INFLIBNET Programme. He requested UGC to provide copies of the 1988 Project Proposal to the two new GB members. He informed the members, that, the original Project Proposal of INFLIBNET had envisaged setting up of a Satellite based VSAT Network in the country inter connecting all universities, R&D institutions and PG colleges. Due to budget crunch such a network could not be established. Chairperson added that he was happy that UGC has now provided necessary grant for establishment of VSATs in all the universities. He said that there is already a revolution in the field of information technology and the exploitation of Internet is increasing. He felt sad that people using Internet in the country thought, that all the knowledge and wisdom is available in databases abroad. He advised that INFLIBNET should make efforts to get all the universities together to prepare our own databases and put them on the Internet. We should try to break the gap between the universities and the research laboratories. A movement is required to bring about this culture.

Agenda Item No.2 : Confirmation of Minutes of the last GB Meeting

Some of the members advised that a copy of the duly approved Minutes of the last Meeting of the GB should be enclosed in the agenda papers. Director, INFLIBNET Centre agreed to do so in future.

Minutes of the 4th Governing Board Meeting were circulated to the members by the Secretary vide his letter No. DIR/6.1(M)/98 dated March 10, 1998. Since no comments were received, the Minutes were confirmed.
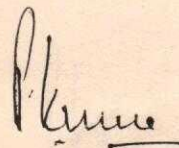
Agenda Item No.3 : **<u>Presentation of Status Report by the Director.</u>**

Due to paucity of time some members suggested that, since the agenda papers containing Status Report by the Director were circulated to the members well in advance, there was no need for a formal presentation by the Director. Members may put their querries to the Director regarding the status report.

Prof. Vidyut Joshi was of the view that, training must be made compulsory for all the university libraries getting grant under INFLIBNET Programme. Director informed him that, INFLIBNET Centre has conducted 16 Training Courses and persons from all the universities who have computers in their libraries, have been trained in Application of Computers to the Libraries.

Prof. Vishwanathan commended INFLIBNET's proposal to convert the existing records in it's union database into CD-ROM and it's distribution to universities. Some members felt that Theses database should contain abstracts and synopses in addition to bibliographic details. Prof. Vora was of the view that, UGC should make it compulsory for all the universities to send synopsis of theses prepared in their institutions to INFLIBNET Centre. Chairperson advised INFLIBNET Centre to request universities to send synopses to them.

Prof. Vishwanathan thought that the recommendations of CALIBER-98 look more like a wish list. He wanted to know what concrete steps INFLIBNET is taking to give effect to these recommendations. Director elaborated on the steps being taken by INFLIBNET Centre regarding these recommendations point by point. Prof. Vora wanted to know the steps being taken regarding the recommendation, that all routine functions in university libraries be automated

during the 9th five year plan. Prof. Vishwanathan suggested INFLIBNET to come out with a proposal to GB to make this happen.

Chairperson regretted that, UGC had shown it's inability to fund universities for establishing LANs in their campuses during the 9th five year plan. He felt that, VSATs by themselves will serve only limited purpose. Value addition to the VSAT Networks will come only by the LANs. GB strongly recommended that, UGC should find resources to provide LANs in at least 50 universities in the 9th plan itself. Secretary, UGC was requested to take necessary action.
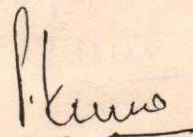
Agenda Item No.4 : Briefing on the Proceedings of 3rd Meeting of FC

Director briefed the members about the proceedings of the 3rd Meeting of the Finance Committee, which preceded the GB Meeting. GB approved creation of two new posts in the computer field and creation of four new posts in the field of library science as recommended by FC as detailed below.

(1.) Two posts in the computer field in the grade of Scientist-B (pre-revised pay scale of Rs.2200-4000).

(2.) Three posts in library and information science field in the grade of Scientist-B (pre-revised pay scale of Rs.2200-4000).

(3.) One post in library and information science field in the grade of Scientist-C (pre-revised pay scale of Rs.3000-4500).

Upgradation of Existing Posts :

Discussion took place regarding upgradation of some of the existing posts, which was discussed in the Finance Committee meeting in view of the revision of recruitment norms laid down in the bye-laws for INFLIBNET Centre approved by the UGC. Dr. Shama was of the view that upgradation of the existing employees is not possible under the Government rules. Many members felt that, a way out

should be found to remove anamolies where new recruits may become senior to existing employees with the same entry qualifications. Chairperson explained to the members the injustice which will be done to the existing employees if proposed upgradation is not carried out. Prof. Vidyut Joshi said, that, if the UGC had some administrative difficulty in upgrading the posts then the agenda item "Upgration of existing posts" may be phrased as "Removal of Anamolies in some of the existing posts." He added that, as per the Government norms a junior can not become senior. Keeping in view the sentiments and opinions expressed by the members, GB strongly recommended the upgradation of some the exisiting posts as per the agenda papers and requested UGC to do the needful in this matter.
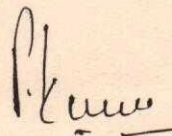
Agenda Item No.7 : VSAT Network

Director briefed the members about the progress being made on establishment of a VSAT Network and sought GB's advise regarding options for running the dedicated Hub as given in the agenda papers. GB recommended that operation and maintenance of the dedicated Hub be given on contract for an initial period of three years and then reviewed for further operation.

Agenda Item No. 8 : Presentation of New Proposals

Director briefly presented two new proposals for Document delivery service and Retrospective Conversion. GB strongly recommended both the proposals. After some discussion regarding selection of the universities under these proposals, it was agreed to go by the universities suggested in the proposals.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Reimbursement of Travelling/Moving expenses to two officers who joined INFLIBNET Centre

GB approved reimbursement of travelling/moving expenses to Dr. T.S. Kumbar and Shri S.K. Hasan, both Scientist-D who have joined INFLIBNET Centre from

IIT, Mumbai, and IIM, Lucknow respectively, to the extent admissible under Government of India Rules.

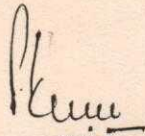**Agenda Item No.12 : <u>Amendment of Bye-laws</u>**

Amendment of Bye-laws 4.4(a) in respect of recruitment of library persons involved in development work in library/database related fields was considered and entry level in respect of fresh M.Lib./M.L.Isc. qualified persons in Scientist-B grade in the pay scales of 2200-4000 was approved.

Agenda Item No.5 : Presentation of Audited Accounts for F.Y. 1997-98., Agenda Item 6 : Briefing on replies furnished to Internal Audit wing of UGC, against the Audit queries relating to the period 1996-97, Agenda Item No. 9 : Justification for upgradation of some of the existing posts and Agenda Item No. 11 : Creation of Additional posts during F.Y. 1998-99 were covered under Item No.4.
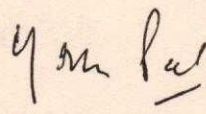
Chairperson desired that the next Meeting of the GB be held after three months.

The Meeting ended at 1400 hrs. with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes prepared by   Minutes approved by

(Pramod Kumar)   **(Yash Pal)**
Member Secretary, GB   Chairperson, GB