

**Minutes of the First Finance Committee of
the Central University of Tamil Nadu
held on 11th December 2010 at Madras School of Economics,
Kotturpuram, Chennai 600025**

The first meeting of the Finance Committee of the Central University of Tamil Nadu was held at 11.00AM in the Board Room of the Madras School of Economics, Chennai. Following Members were present at the meeting:

(1) Prof.B.P.Sanjay, Vice Chancellor, CUTN	Chairman
(2) Prof.J.A.K.Tareen	Member
(3) Dr.Parabramaiah	Member
(4) Shri S.B.Krishnan	Member
(5) Shri V.K.Sridhar	Member-Secretary (in place of Finance Officer)

Members granted leave of absence:

- (1) Shri J.R.Aggarwal
- (2) Shri V.Umashankar
- (3) Dr.Ms Nilafar Kazmi

Agenda Item 1 : Introductory remarks of the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all the Members of the Finance Committee for its first meeting. The Chairman placed on record that Dr.(Ms) Nilafar Kazmi, Secretary, UGC confirmed that she will attend the meeting but had to drop her plan at the last moment because of the forwarding committee meeting. The Chairman briefed the members about the developments in the University since its inception.

Being the first meeting of the Finance Committee, the Chairman traced the history of the University in brief. He mentioned that the Central University of Tamil Nadu was set up by an Act of Parliament with the issue of the Notification and subsequently the appointment of the Vice Chancellor. The VC assumed charge on 2nd March 2009. He thankfully recalled the strong commitment shown by both the Central and State Governments which was amply evident in the grand inaugural ceremony of the University on 30th September 2009. The State Government had been very pro active in honouring its commitment by providing a rent free accommodation of a ground plus 3 storied building admeasuring 56000 sq.ft. in an area of 5.6 acres. Government of Tamil Nadu also hastened the process of acquiring

about 520 acres of land in two revenue villages viz. Nagakudi and Neelakudi for establishment of the permanent campus of the University. The Chairman mentioned that the University started functioning from the temporary campus after adapting the building for academic purposes but without unduly affecting the structure that needs to be handed back to the State Government. The academic programmes were launched in the very first year itself and 8 students joined the M.A. in English studies. The University put in place attendant infrastructure like basic labs, class rooms, conference hall and library besides dormitory for Boys and Girls. A Canteen and branch of a nationalized bank also started functioning in the Campus.

The land given by the State Government is situated in two pieces separated by a river "Vettar". The academic activities of the campus will come up in the main campus in the Neelakudi village spread over 412 acres and residential campus will come up in the Nagakudi village spread over 98 acres. The process for construction began with the entrusting of project management consultancy work to the CPWD and subsequently the architectural work to M/s Space Matrix after a tendering process. A master plan which zones the land and marking of the different buildings and facilities for the University, was prepared. The University has adopted the GRIHA norms with respect to Green rating for the building and is aiming for four star rating.

In the first phase, the work on construction of compound wall has already commenced. Out of the total perimeter of nearly 8 kms, more than 80% work has been completed. Work is also under way for construction of Boys and Girls Hostel with mess block and residences for Asst. Professors. Chairman also mentioned about the review mechanism adopted by the University. He mentioned that there is a site inspection every month by himself and the Registrar followed by a meeting with the Executive Engineer (civil) and field staff. There is a bi-monthly meeting at Superintending Engineer (civil) level and a review meeting with all the stake holders once in a quarter with the Chief Engineer. He also briefed the members about the CUCET 2010 which was coordinated by him, which provided a platform for large number of candidates to compete for admission to 38 programmes across seven newly established Central Universities in the country. The Chairman also made a mention about the collaborative arrangements for launching programmes in Optometry, Integrated economics, cultural studies, S&T policies and Classical Tamil, Oil and Mineral/marine exploration studies. He acknowledged the active support received from the Members of the Executive Council and Academic Council. He further acknowledged and appreciated the continuous support extended by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and University Grants Commission (UGC), State Government and the District Administration. He also briefed the members about the financial position of the University.

The Committee noted the academic orientation of the University and the formative plan and perspective presented by the Vice Chancellor.

Agenda Item 2: Financial position of the University

Chairman informed the Members that consequent upon the establishment of the University by an Act of Parliament in 2009, initially a sum of Rs.1.50 crore was sanctioned as grant by the University Grants Commission. He further added that in 2009-10, a sum of Rs.30 crore was sanctioned as grant and in the year 2010-11 a sum of Rs.45 crore has been sanctioned as grant and a sum of Rs.15 crore has been released so far and he presented the details of grants, as has been described in the Agenda Item 2 of the meeting. Chairman also expressed satisfaction that the University could achieve utilization of all the grants close to 93% so far. Chairman mentioned to the Committee that the University had written a letter requesting UGC to release balance grant on the basis of its utilization.

The information was noted by the Committee

Agenda item 3: Perusal of the Audited Accounts for the year 2009-2010

The Committee perused the audited Accounts of the University for the year 2009-10. The Chairman explained that the University did not have a Finance Officer nor any staff in the Finance wing. However, utmost efforts were made to follow the basic and established principles while expending public money. The work of monthly monitoring of the Accounts as well as compilation was given to Institute of Public Auditor of India (IAP). These accounts were placed before the Executive Council in its second meeting held on 8th May 2010 and were duly approved.

The Finance Committee noted the information.

Agenda Item 4: Approval of the Finance Committee for the Major financial decisions for the current Financial Year 2010-11

The Chairman presented the financial figures of the University and the major heads under which expenses were incurred. The Committee noted that the major items of expenditure related to construction and it is by way of deposit with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) as deposit work. The Committee also noted the expenditure under other heads like Library Books, Laboratory equipments, furnitures, fixtures, purchase of computers etc.

The Finance Committee approved all the major expenses incurred by the University as appended to this minutes (Annexure-I). The Committee also approved taking up the following works by the CPWD, in addition to the ongoing works.

✓

- a) Construction of Library building- at an estimated cost of Rs.11, 64, 80, 000/- ✓
- b) Construction of 30 Numbers Professor's Quarters – at an estimated cost of Rs. 12,95,95,313/- ✓
- c) Construction of 30 Numbers Associate Professor's Quarters – at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,39,20,394/- ✓
- d) Construction of Married Research Scholar's Hostel and Non Married Research Scholar's Hostel ✓
- e) Construction of convention centre, convocation Hall and student facilities Hall. ✓
- f) Construction of Guest House: ✓
- g) Construction of residences for Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Finance Officer. ✓
- h) Construction of Academic Block / Schools.
- i) 4 lab based school blocks – one each for Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & Life Sciences. ✓
- ii) 2 non-lab based school blocks- one each for Humanities and Social Sciences. ✓
- iii) One additional Lecture Hall Complex. (C-1-2)
- i) Provision for Kendriya Vidhyalaya based on norms and subject to approval by the Ministry. ✓
- j) Construction of staff quarters ✓

Agenda Item 5: Budget estimates for the financial year 2011-12

The Chairman briefed the members about the budget estimates worked out by the University for the Financial Year 2011-12. He explained that the budget estimates provides, other than buildings as a major component, furniture and fixture and interiors for the newly constructed buildings, equipments for the proposed schools, salary for Faculty and Non-Faculty and provision for various establishment related expenses. The Committee wished to know about the faculty recruitment and noted that the statute amendment is pending clearance. **After detailed discussions, the Committee approved the budget estimates of Rs.176 crores as appended to this minutes (Annexure-II).**

Agenda Item 6: Approval for the Medical reimbursement scheme for the employees of the University.

The Chairman explained that the University does not have any provision/rule for medical reimbursement and that an ordinance shall be promulgated containing the Rules for Medical Reimbursement under Section 6(xxiii), 26(o) of the Central Universities' Act and statute 12(xx). The Committee noted that the provisions in the proposed scheme for medical reimbursement are generally the same as obtaining in other Central Universities. The Committee suggested that the University should recognize good hospitals in big towns/cities as done by other Universities/institutions. **The Finance Committee approved the proposal for medical reimbursement as appended to this minutes (Annexure-III).**

Agenda Item 7 : Approval for faculty linked measures

The Chairman explained that the University is "proactively" proposing some measures to attract faculty to a small town like Thiruvavur. He explained the system being followed in some of the Government funded institutions like IITs. The Committee discussed the item in detail. The Committee noted that it is essential to attract good faculty to the system, if the Central University has to establish well and flourish. Further, one of the measures suggested by the University is directly linked to research and should be seen as an investment and not as expenditure. **The Committee approved the following proposals**

(1) Payment of Relocation Allowance

	From abroad (Rs)	within India (Rs)
Professor	1, 00, 000/-	50,000/-
Associate Professor	75,000/-	40,000/-
Assistant Professor	60,000/-	30,000/-

(2) Payment of start up grant/seed money

Professor	:	Rs. 10 Lakhs
Associate Professor	:	Rs. 7.5 Lakhs
Assistant Professor	:	Rs. 5 Lakhs

Agenda Item 8: Perusal of the Audit Report of the Central University of Tamil Nadu for the period from 2nd March 2009 to 31st March 2010.

The Chairman explained that the matter regarding audit of the University was intensively followed up. As a result, the Principal Director of Audit, Chennai sent a team to audit the Accounts of the University in the second week of November, 2010. The Chairman explained that given the total lack of administrative support staff, the University has maintained whatever records it can and the deficiencies pointed will be overcome in due course. **The Finance Committee noted the audit observations and approved the replies given by the University.**

Agenda Item 9: Any other item with the permission of the Chair

9.1. The Chairman suggested a transit office in Chennai which will serve as a convenient hub for all the connected authorities of the University. Towards this end, he suggested either to rent out a good accommodation in a central place in Chennai or buying a place. The Committee, while discussing this item pointed the inherent issues involved like maintenance etc. **However, the Committee felt that it has to be set off against the need of the university and, therefore, approved, in principle to set up a transit office in Chennai.**

9.2. The Chairman tabled the draft minutes of the Building Committee held on 10th December 2010. He explained the salient features of the decisions recommended by the Committee. The Finance Committee, while perusing the minutes suggested that the CPWD may be required to explore the possibility of grouping 3-4 buildings while tendering, to attract large builders who will be a better position to mobilize men and material for early completion of the work. **The Finance Committee approved all the works as recommended by the Building Committee.**

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.