MINUTES OF THE 15th GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
OF INFLIBNET CENTRE

The 15th Meeting of the Governing Board of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at the Centre in Ahmedabad on 28th June 2007. The meeting commenced at 11.30AM.

The following members and invitees were present:

In the Chair

Prof. S K Khanna   Chairman, Governing Board

Members:

1. Dr. Parimal Trivedi   Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University.
2. Dr. Muttayya Koganuramath   University Librarian, TISS, Mumbai.
3. Dr. Naresh Dadhich   Director, IUCAA, Pune.
4. Dr. M. Moni   Dy. Director General, NIC, New Delhi.
5. Sh. Manoj Kumar K   Acting Director, INFLIBNET Centre and
                                  Member Secretary, Governing Board.

Invitees:

1. Dr. Jagdish Arora   Librarian, IIT Delhi
2. Dr. K. P. Singh   Joint Secretary(IUC), UGC, New Delhi
3. Sh. D P Negi   Admn.Officer (PA&F),INFLIBNET Centre

Prof. Moolchand Sharma, Vice Chairman, UGC, Dr. T R Kem, Secretary, UGC, Dr. K Narayana Rao, Nominee of AICTE(Member Secretary), Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, VC, Symbiosis, Pune, and Prof. Rajiv Sangal, IIIT Hyderbad could not attend the Meeting due to pre-occupations.

Welcome:

Prof. S K Khanna extended a warm welcome to all the distinguished Members. The new members were introduced by the Chairman. Sh. Manoj Kumar K also welcomed the members on behalf of the Centre.

01   Opening Remarks by the Chairman:

In his opening remarks, Prof. Khanna complimented INFLIBNET for its achievements during last one year. He stated that during his meeting with the Chairman, UGC, it was mentioned that there is a greater visibility and presence of INFLIBNET in the university sector and UGC is embarking upon supporting its activities for the wider coverage of the academic communities. He further mentioned that in spite of acute shortage of manpower and other constraints like; operational difficulties due to lack of infrastructural facilities, absence of regular Director etc. the Centre continued to march ahead and made a positive impact on the Indian academic system. The Board suggested to expand the scope of the activities and services beyond the current coverage of university sector so that it can reach **total academic system** including self financed universities and colleges in fulfilling the mandate of the UGC Act for maintenance of standards of higher education. It was noted that almost 85% of professional education in India is currently placed in private sector Universities / Deemed Universities and College Institutions. The Board   suggested that with a levy of some portion of cost towards fees, the Centre should be able to extend its network facilities to the private sector Institutions without delay.

The Chairman suggested that in view of massive agenda of work envisaged in expansion of activities of the Centre and to receive continuous focus, it may be ensured that hereafter, 2/3 GB meetings are convened annually. Dr. K P Singh suggested that the first meeting of GB and FC may be held in the month of April and another meeting of GB in December so that after ascertaining the additional requirements of Budget, the revised estimate may be considered in the second meeting.

The Chairman expressed his deep concern on the urgent need for resolving the most pressing issues faced by the Centre such as; filling-up of vacant positions, promotion scheme for Scientific & Technical staff, Pension scheme for the employees of the Centre etc.

02   **Confirmation of the minutes of the 14th GB meeting**

The approved minutes of the 14th GB meeting were circulated to the members. Since no comments were received, the Board confirmed the minutes of the same.

03   **Report on the action taken on the items generated in the last (14th) GB Meeting:**

The report submitted by the Centre on the Action items was discussed and the Members noted the same with satisfaction. However, the Board resolved to advise the Centre to again take up the issues relating to promotion scheme (flexible complementing promotion scheme) for its Scientific & Technical staff and also the GPF-cum-Pension Scheme for the employees with UGC on

priority basis, since attrition is very high. The Board expressed serious concern that in the absence of competitive service conditions and promotional avenues to the employees, it will be difficult to attract and retain the talented, trained and skilled technical personnel in the Centre.

Prof. S K Khanna informed that since his taking over as Chairman , GB, he has been regularly receiving from the Centre staff, either resignation letters or requests to forward their applications for higher positions elsewhere. In the absence of resolution of the issues, if this status continues further, the system will totally collapse, as currently against sanctioned 42 posts, there are hardly 20/25 % technical staff in position. He mentioned that UGC had set up a committee recently for resolving similar HR issues for CEC and EMMRCs and that the committee has already submitted its final Report. Accordingly, it was suggested that UGC should set up a Committee on similar lines for INFLIBNET Centre comprising of Experts with other functionaries and the UGC members etc. to expeditiously provide recommendations for implementation.
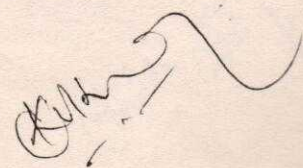
04   **Presentation of the Status Report made by the Acting Director on the activities of INFLIBNET and other issues**

A brief presentation was made on Scientific & Technical activities relating to Database Development, Overall status of all the Databases, Quantum jump in number of installations of SOUL in the country, Automation of Gujarat University Library, Status of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium by highlighting the number of downloads made during the last 3 years, noteworthy savings on the

E-Journal Consortium, efforts taken by INFLIBNET to provide uninterrupted connectivity through ERNET backbone, regular update and maintenance of Website, Software Development, INFLIBNET Repository using D-Space, Search Interface for Union Catalogue, Training programmes and National/International Conventions organized by INFLIBNET, massive Awareness Programmes conducted in different part of the country for College Principals and Librarians, Special Drive launched for Library Automation of the Libraries of Colleges in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East Region etc. He also apprised the change of leadership in the Centre and composition of NSC, CCMC set up by UGC and various important decisions taken in these meetings. The support provided by the Centre to National Knowledge Commission, SAKSHAT Portal of MHRD and other national consortia like; INDEST, CSIR and NAIP/ICAR and the academic and technical support provided to Gujarat University and IGNOU for conducting a part of their academic courses in Library and Information Science etc. was also apprised.

The Board felt that in order to maintain the tempo and momentum in furthering the activities of the Centre and provide high quality services to the academics, there is an urgent need of additional manpower and having its permanent institutional building besides providing other incentives to the staff members like; periodical promotional avenues, service benefits, advanced training within and abroad on the technology

Regarding UGC Infonet Digital library consortia, it was mentioned that the average cost per article downloaded at the Consortia price is less than 4 USD which is very low as compared to the average cost of articles (about 50 USD). It was suggested that the Centre being the UGC funded institution may apprise the Government of India about the huge savings brought by the Centre to the national exchequer by negotiating most economical model with the Publishers for providing access to E-Journals under UGC-Infonet Consortium.

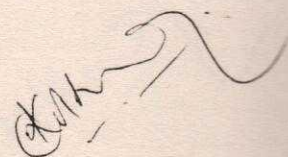**05   Briefing on Theme Paper prepared for XI Plan Projections submitted to UGC**

It was reported that the Budgetary projections to the tune of Rs.1252.57 Crores in respect of INFLIBNET has been incorporated in the Theme Paper with focus on expansion of the scope of existing activities/services and start of some new activities as shown in the agenda paper.

06   Continuance of Special Programme in the Colleges in North-East Region.

The Board accorded approval for continuation of the programme as suggested in the agenda in North-East Region with the special grant of Rs.3.05 Crores allocated by UGC.

07   Briefing of College Model (Connectivity & E-Resources) under Consortium:

The Board lauded the initiative of UGC to extend the facilities of Internet connectivity and E-Resources to the Colleges through INFLIBNET. It was decided that the Centre should prepare action plan to provide these facilities/services to the Colleges, as proposed.

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08   **Library Automation of remaining Universities under the purview of UGC:**

The Members noted that the databases of INFLIBNET have crossed 76,00,000 records and   appreciated the commendable work done by the Centre in implementing the Project of Automation of University Libraries covering 142 Universities in the first phase. The Board approved the proposal of the Centre for taking up the automation of the remaining universities including private sector academic Institutions and Universities.

09   **Briefing on acquisition of land at INFOCITY and Construction of Permanent Building for INFLIBNET**

The Members were apprised regarding the success achieved by the Centre in acquiring 10,000 sqm. (Equivalent to 2.5 Acres) of land from the State Government of Gujarat at INFOCITY, Gandhinagar without any cost for construction of the permanent institutional building of INFLIBNET. The possession of the land has been taken over on 31.05.2007. The sign boards for marking the presence of the Centre have been prominently displayed at the site. Further action for erection of barbed wire fencing around the boundary of the land to prevent encroachment is initiated.

The Board endorsed the initiative to commence the construction of the buildings on fast track in view of the condition laid down in the allotment letter to commence the construction work within *NINE* months and complete the same within a period of *TWO years* from the date of possession. Further, the Board

constituted the following Committee for selection of an Architect to prepare the project proposal including Cost estimation/Specifications/Plans/Drawings of main buildings and other facilities including Director's residence and staff quarters:

1. Dr. Parimal H Trivedi, VC, Gujarat University   Chairman
2. Dr. R N Vakil, Director, CEPT University   Member
3. Dr. Darlie O Koshy, Director, NID   Member
4. Shri D P Negi, AO (PA&F), INFLIBNET Centre   Convenor

The Committee has been authorized to co-opt other experts from within the INFLIBNET Centre and outside.

The Budgetary projection of Rs.15 Crores made by the Centre for the construction of permanent building was also approved by the Board.

10   **Filling up of vacant Scientific/Technical Posts and continuing Contractual appointments.**

a) In view of the critical requirement of skilled manpower, the Governing Board unanimously agreed to take up the matter with UGC for filling all the Scientific & Technical posts. Dr. K P Singh expressed that the ban imposed by UGC on 31st August 1999 needs to be examined for its applicability for the Technical posts and he assured that he would take up the matter with UGC on priority basis to fill up all the Technical positions. It was advised by the Board to submit a fresh proposal to UGC highlighting the position prior to issue of ban order with

regard to the duties and responsibilities performed by the incumbents who vacated these posts and the post-wise justifications for filling up the vacant posts.

b). The Board agreed in principle to allow the Centre to make contractual appointments against the *21 vacant posts* initially for a period of *1 year* extendable for further period depending upon the functional requirement etc. in order to cope-up with the increased agenda of workload arising out of newer responsibilities namely, UGC-Infonet Scheme, E-Journal Consortium, Massive awareness programmes, Special drive for Automation of Colleges in the North-East, Strengthening Web enabled services, College model, Associate Membership, Developmental work relating to launch of new version of SOUL, SOUL technical support, Construction of permanent Building of the Centre at INFOCITY, Gandhinagar etc.,

11 Associate Membership of INFLIBNET

Dr. Muttayya Koganuramath suggested that, if possible, all journals/databases may be made available to all the universities/institutions members uniformly, since many a time the faculty and research staff and the students need to access even Science journals from the Social Science Institute and vice-versa. The Board agreed to the proposal and suggested that all e-journals subscribed under Consortium may be made accessible to all University members depending upon the feasibility.

Further, the Board approved, in principle, the granting of Associate Membership of the Centre for availing centralized facilities (including E-Resources under E-Journal Consortium on annual membership fee and payment basis) and advised the Centre to work out appropriate modalities under the provisions of its MOA/Rules.

12   *Summary of the 12th Meeting of the Finance Committee with regard to approval of Audited Accounts of the Center for the F.Y. 2005-06 and F.Y. 2006-07, proposals for BE for F.Y. 2007-2008 and F.Y. 2008-2009 and other important matters:*

The members were briefed on the minutes of the 12th Finance Committee meeting held   preceding the meeting of the Governing Board. The Board approved the minutes of the Finance Committee and accorded approval for the following matters:

(a)   *Presentation of the audited accounts of the Centre for the F.Y. 2005-06 and 2006-07:*

The Board, after considering the audited accounts for the F.Y. 2005-06 and 2006-07 and obtaining some clarifications on the income and expenditure agreed with the audited accounts and advised the Centre to place the same before the Council for approval.

(b) Presentation of Budget Estimates for the F.Y. 2007-08 and 2008-09 and approval thereof:

The Board approved the budget estimates of the Centre as under :

Budget/Revised Estimates for the F.Y. 2007-08	Rs.in lakhs	Budget Estimates For the F.Y. 2008-09	Rs.in lakhs
Non-Plan	295.00	Non-Plan	370.00
Plan (This includes the provision of Rs.40.00 lakhs as Centre's Plan budget for capital expenditure, Rs.5900.00 lakhs for E-subscription Scheme/Digital repository of research, Rs.1925.00 lakhs for UGC Infonet/Internet connectivity and Rs.750.00 Lakhs for construction of permanent Institutional building.	8615.00	Plan (This includes the provision of Rs.150.00 lakhs as Centre's Plan budget for capital expenditure, Rs.7000.00 lakhs for E-subscripiton Scheme/Digital repository of research, Rs.2085.00 lakhs for UGC Infonet/Internet connectivity and Rs.750.00 for construction of permanent Institutional building.	9985.00
Grand Total (Non-Plan plus Plan)	8910.00		10355.00

(c) Grant of transfer TA etc. to Dr. T.A.V. Murthy, Ex-Director, INFLIBNET on his relinquishment of his charge and repatriation to his parent organization, CIEFL, Hyderabad after completing the tenure.
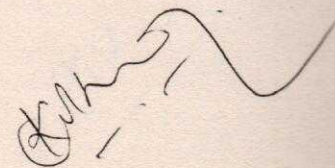
The Board approved grant of TA etc. to Dr. T.A.V. Murthy, Ex-Director, INFLIBNET as admissible under the Govt. of India's Rules on his relinquishment of charge.

(d) Appointment of more SOUL Coordinators in different parts of the country and other related issues such as enhancement of remuneration of the coordinators and their technical staff etc.

The Board requested Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director designate, INFLIBNET to review the working of SOUL software in the University library system and recommend to the Board regarding appointment of number of SOUL Coordinators, their remuneration and the competent authority for making such appointments as per MOA/Rules of the Centre.

(e) Promotion Scheme for Scientific & Technical Personnel

The Board agreed with the recommendations made by the Finance Committee regarding Promotion Scheme for Scientific & Technical Personnel.

(f)   Extension of GPF-cum-Pension Scheme to the employees of the Centre
in the context of the Pension Scheme approved for the employees of IUCAA,
Pune

The Board agreed with recommendations made by the Finance Committee and
requested the UGC through Dr. K.P. Singh, Joint Secretary, UGC to consider the
whole issue on top priority basis for extending the GPF-cum-Pension benefit to
the employees of INFLIBNET on the similar lines of IUCAA, Pune. The Board
noted with anxiety the growing dissatisfaction of the INFLIBNET employees, in
this regard.

(g)   Appointment of Auditors for the F.Y. 2007-08 and F.Y. 2008-09

The Board approved the appointment of Shri D.H. Ramani, FCA, Proprietor of
D.H. Ramani & Company, Ahmedabad as the statutory auditor for auditing the
accounts of the Centre for the F.Y. 2007-08 and F.Y. 2008-09 on
fee/remuneration of Rs.20,000/- per annum, as recommended by the Finance
Committee.

13   Visit of Estimate Committee, Lok Sabha to Centre

The Board was informed about the visit of Estimate Committee, Lok Sabha to
Centre.

14   Any other matter with the permission of the Chair:

a)   *Providing support for Sakshat Portal of MHRD*

The Board noted that INFLIBNET has been participating in the above initiative of MHRD.
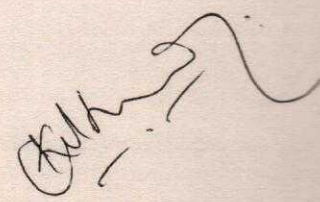
b)   *Briefing on NKC recommendations.*

The Board noted that INFLIBNET has been participating in the Working Group of NKC on Libraries to redefine the objective of country's Library and Information Sector with special emphasis on ICT.

c)   *Resignation of Dr. S R Ganpule, Coordinator (SOUL) for Maharashtra & Goa States :*

The Board considered the matter and accepted his resignation in view of his unwillingness to continue.

Further, the Board expressed its concern about the remuneration attached to the position keeping in view the technical qualification prescribed for the technical staff and desired that the whole issue be considered by Dr. Jadish Arora, the Director-designate and Dr. M Moni, Dy DG, NIC (Member GB), in totality, namely, increase in the number of Coordinators, enhancement of
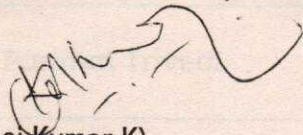
remuneration, guidelines for recruitment of Coordinators & Technical staff, bringing out new version of SOUL etc. and submit a report in this regard at the earliest for implementation.
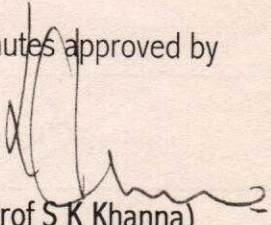
16   Vote of Thanks

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and also to the Members for their active participation, support and guidance.

Minutes prepared by

(Manoj Kumar K)
Member Secretary, GB
Acting Director, INFLIBNET Centre

Minutes approved by

(Prof S K Khanna)
Chairman, Governing Board
INFLIBNET Centre