

Minutes of the Apex Committee Meeting of SPARC

The Apex Committee meeting for the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) was held on 04.08.2022 under the chairmanship of Secretary (HE). The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

2. The committee expressed concern over the extremely slow implementation of the scheme, especially in implementation of PFMS module in which only 9 out of 88 partner institutions have onboarded. It was also noted that the partner institutions had not onboarded the earlier accounting model (EAT module) either. This has prevented disbursement of funds to the scheme.
3. Concern was also expressed on the slow evaluation of the Phase II proposals.
4. During the meeting, the following decisions were taken:
 - a) IIT Kharagpur will organize a workshop to get all institutions on board under CNA system in PFMS for revised procedure of fund flow under SPARC scheme. Officials from the Ministry and O/o CCA will also attend these workshops. Dates for this workshop will be intimated by IIT Kharagpur in advance to all concerned Institutions/Principal Investigators (PIs) of the projects.
 - b) The subsidiary agencies/institutes shall return the unutilized money to CNA (IIT Kharagpur) within the next 15 days to comply with the latest guidelines of the Ministry of Finance. Funds will be released to IIT Kharagpur on the basis of their PFMS balance and compliance of new guidelines for further release to participating institutions on Just in time basis. Parking of funds will not be allowed in any case.
 - c) IITKGP and the Principal Investigators (PIs) must complete the ongoing proposals under Phase I as soon as possible, and not later than 31st March 2023.
 - d) The researchers whose proposals have been evaluated and recommended by the evaluation committee under Phase II may be given an additional opportunity to review their proposals before the start of Phase II as it has more than three years and in some case they may need to update their proposal. IITKGP may ensure that the recommended proposals are still relevant and fulfill the eligibility criteria.
 - e) IITKGP to check the actual status of the 74 proposals with zero reported progress. If the progress is actually zero, IITKGP may terminate the projects.
 - f) The decision on changing domain experts may be taken by IITKGP at its own level under intimation to this Ministry. In this matter, it may take the help from IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair and participants.

Annexure – I

List of Participants

1. Mr K Sanjay Murthy, Secretary (HE), MoE, Chairman
2. Ms Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, ICC, MoE, Member Secretary
3. MsDarshana M Dabral, JS & FA, MoE, Member
4. Mr Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Scientist 'H', DST/DBT
5. Mr Rakesh Ranjan, AS (TE), MoE
6. Prof Rajnish Jain, Secretary, UGC, Member
7. Prof Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman AICTE, Member
8. Mr Md. Noor Rahman Sheikh, JS (ED), MEA, Member
9. Ms. Uma Nanduri, JS Akademi, Ministry of Culture, Member
10. Prof. V.K. Tewari, Director, Director, National Coordinating (NC) Institution, Member
11. Prof. Indranil Manna, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur (Reputed Academician from Public Sector)
12. Prof. Virander S. Chauhan, Former Chairman, Executive Committee, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (Reputed Academician from Public Sector)
13. Prof. AdrijitGoswami, Dean, Continuing Education, IIT Kharagpur (Special Invitee)
14. Mr S.K. Samanaray, DS ICC, MoE
15. Mr S.K. Chaubey, US ICC, MoE
16. MrAayushVerma, ASO ICC, MoE