

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY
RASHTRAPATI NIVAS, SHIMLA 171005

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NINETY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INSTITUTE HELD AT 10.00 AM ON THURSDAY, THE 12TH FEBRUARY 1998 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 3, INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, 40 MAX MUELLER MARG, NEW DELHI 110003.

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Members present

1. Professor J.S. Bajaj (in Chair)
2. Professor A.S. Desai
3. Professor S. Settar
4. Professor M.Y. Qadri
5. Professor D.C. Tiwari
6. Dr. Ranjit Singh (representative of the Chairman, ICSSR)
7. Shri Naved Masood (representative of the Secretary Education)
8. Shri B.S. Dhillon (representative of the Financial Adviser)
9. Professor Mrinal Miri

Professor V. Venkatachalam, Professor R.A. Mashelkar, Professor Pradeep Khandwalla and Professor R.P. Kaushik could not attend the meeting.

The Director informed that the Chairman, Professor S.Gopal, has conveyed his inability to attend the meeting. At the request of the Director and other members present, Professor J.S. Bajaj agreed to the chair the meeting.

A motion for adoption of the agenda was unanimously passed and thereafter the agenda was taken up.

Item No. 1 : To confirm the minutes of the 93rd meeting of the Governing Body held on 14 November 1997.

The minutes were confirmed.

Item No. 2 : To consider and note the action taken on the minutes of

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Item No. 2 : The action taken was noted. The members agreed with the observations of the Chairman that all decisions which deal with financial matters must be minuted in a manner that the recorded observations are self-explicit.

Against Item No. 14, on reconsideration, the Governing Body decided to drop the proposal.

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Against Item No. 15, the Governing Body desired to know more details about the action taken in the matter.

Under Item No. 18 regarding the Ninth Five Year Plan of the Institute, the Governing Body noted that a decision to this effect was taken almost one year back and although a document was tabled in the meeting of the Governing body held on 14th November, 1997, it was decided to circulate the said document to all members of the Governing Body. This has not happened and instead 'under action taken' it is mentioned that no comment from any member was received. The Director expressed regret for this lapse on the part of the administration. The Governing Body desired that although late, the copies of the Ninth Plan document should be sent to all the members of the Governing Body immediately and the item be placed in the next meeting of the Governing Body along with any comments received from the members.

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The Governing Body authorised the Director to take a decision on these four cases after obtaining the Chairman's orders. It was decided that in future, requests for extension should be made at least three months prior to the expiry of the term of Fellowship and that such requests should be placed before a duly constituted Selection Committee for its recommendations.

Item No. 4 : To consider the status note on the shifting of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.

The Governing Body expressed its grateful thanks to the Hon'ble President for his interest in the matter.

The Governing Body considered the legal advice given by the Institute's Legal Adviser in this connection, and expressed its disapproval of the Legal Adviser's remark that some members of the Governing Body, owing to their official status, might have interests which are in conflict with the interests of the Institute.

The Governing Body also expressed concern regarding the fact that no terms and conditions regarding payment of legal fee etc. were settled before engaging Shri. Vijay S.T. Shankardass. The Chairman read his own observations that he had communicated to the Director vide his letter of 24th January, 1998. In response to specific enquiry, it was mentioned that an advance of Rs.70,000/- had already been paid to Shri Shankardass along with an additional sum of Rs.80,000/- paid to Shri.Shankardass with respect of expenditure on his travel to and fro while attending the court cases at Shimla. As the full details of the expenditure incurred on travel, etc. were not readily available, it was decided that a statement of account of expenses already incurred including advance payment made on account of engagement of Shri.Shankardass should be placed before the next meeting of the Governing Body. While doing so, a statement showing the approved fee by the Law Ministry for engaging counsels for cases in high court along with the panel of advocates approved by the Law Ministry be also placed before the Governing Body.

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be placed before the next meeting

urgently needed repair was bound to result in further deterioration of the condition of the building and hence would be against the spirit of

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the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Rajiv Mankotia case.

Item No. 5 : To consider the proposal for holding a Seminar on the Birth Centenary of Kabir.

The item was deferred.

The Chairman sought the following clarifications with respect of specific items in the audited statement of accounts.

1. There is marked increase in office expenses (1996-97) in spite of the directions of the Governing Body last year to curtail unproductive expenditure. In spite of this clear direction, the office expenses have gone up from Rs. 7.52 lakhs to Rs. 17.40 lakhs ie. an increase of almost 250 per cent. In view of this major increase, it may be clarified as to the sub-items under which major increases occurred with respect of office expenses.
2. The variation in the opening balance of Cash Book from Rs. 37.973 to Rs. 3.31 crores is unusual and is not as per financial practice. A suitable clarification needs to be provided within the statement of accounts regarding this. Similarly, there is marked decrease in the Grants-in-aid from Rs. 5.44 crores to Rs. 1.8 crores, which requires suitable explanation.
3. The recovery of House Rent has decreased to Rs. 1.38 lakhs from Rs. 3.19 lakhs as compared to the previous year as well as miscellaneous receipts of the Institute have gone down to Rs. 1.06 lakhs from Rs. 4.23 lakhs, which also requires explanation.
4. The Chairman also mentioned that there seems to be a discrepancy between the figure 21,31,188.00 under the head 'Contingent & Other Expenditure' (sub-head 'Office Expenses') in the schedule entitled 'Details of Academic and Administrative Expenditure during the year : 1996-97', and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 1997, in which the 'office expenses' is shown as Rs. 17,40,781.00. This requires clarification.

The Director in consultation with the Secretary requested that the item be deferred as some of these clarifications were not readily available and the administration would need time to provide suitable replies. The members agreed to the request of the Director.

The Chairman also mentioned that there were some additional clarifications that he wished to seek. However, in view of the request of the Director to defer the item, he would make available detailed notes regarding these items at an early date.

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