1st PGSAC meeting

Amarjit P. Kene
Convener, PGSAC/In-Charge, PG Academics
Students' Senate - 2014-15

1. **Discussion regarding the Increment in Research Scholarship for PG Students**:
   This agenda item has been proposed by many students. As per the latest circular from MHRD, the stipend has been increased effective from 01-02-2015. The different views of students as communicated through email are as follows.

   (a) The delay in payments of increased stipends to PG students even after a circular from MHRD and UGC.

   (b) To make sure that we get increased stipend by the end of this month.

   The circular from MHRD has been given in **Annexure 1**.

2. **Increment in the stipend of the 3rd year onward Ph.D. students:**

   Presently, 3rd year onward Ph.D. students gets Rs.20000 per month and 1st & 2nd year students gets Rs.18000 per month. But in the circular from MHRD, the step increment is not specified for 3rd year onward Ph.D. students**.**

3. **Master's degree to students in direct PhD programme:**

   This agenda item has been raised by Mr. Kedar Kulkarni. He will be in the meeting to en-light the same. Students who join direct PhD programme after Bachelor's do not receive Master's Degree after the completion of the programme, unlike some other IITs where both Masters and PhD degrees are awarded. This deprives them of working as faculties in AICTE approved institutes as they don't meet the eligibility criteria. The more detailed document herewith are given in **Annexure 2**.

4. **DRA form:**

   Some departments follow the process of Ph.D. and M.Tech. students (those who get stipend) submitting DRA form every month; their stipend gets released only if they submit the DRA form. This process is very cumbersome

and lot of time of students, staff and faculty are wasted in this process. Mainly lot of time of students gets wasted in this process; even if any student is not able to get DRA form signed due to unavailability of TA faculty then student's stipend gets delayed for a month. The whole burden of proving that the student has performed his/her TA duties properly falls on student and he/she is supposed to prove it every month. The proposal is, the whole process of DRA forms needs to be discontinued and an alternative has to be implemented. An easy alternative which is possible is - unless until a faculty member complains that the TA assigned under him/her is not performing his/her TA duty satisfactorily, the student is assumed to be performing his/her TA duty properly i.e. a student is considered not performing the TA duty only if the concerned supervisor complains to the DPGC.

5. **HSS PhDs not having proper lab facilities:**

Usually in most of the departments in IITK one of the following 2 things happen:
(1) PhD students work in a lab for which their supervisor in in-charge,
(2) The department has a dedicated PhD lab in which all PhD students work. The lab allocated for HSS department PhD students is new core lab. In case of other labs, the lab keys are with the students and they can access the lab anytime according to their convenience but in case of new core lab, the lab is maintained by staff and the lab is open only from 8 am to 2 am; the lab is closed on some public holidays also. This creates a huge inconvenience to the students. The concerned department/institute has to be requested to do the necessary actions so that PhD students can access the lab facilities according to their convenience.

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education
Technical Section-I

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 18th February, 2015

To,

The Chairman, AICTE
The Directors, IITs (As per standard list)
The Directors, IIITs (as per standard list)
The Director, IISc, Bangalore
The Directors, IISERs (as per standard list)
The Directors, NITs (as per standard list)
The Director, NITIE, Mumbai
The Director, ISM, Dhanbad
The Director, NERIST, Nirjuli, Arunachal Pradesh
The Director, SLIET, Longowal
The Director, NIFFT, Ranchi
The Directors, NITTRs (as per standard list)
The Directors, SPAs (as per standard list)

Subject: Revision of rates of Ph.D. Scholarship in AICTE funded and Centrally Funded Technical Institutions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development
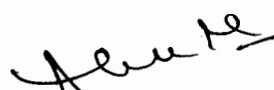
Sir/Madam,

With reference to the letter No.25-2/2010-TS.II dated 30.09.2010 on the subject cited above, it has been decided to revise the Scholarship/Fellowship/Assistantship in AICTE approved and Centrally Funded Technical Institutions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, as given below:-

2.   For Ph.D. Programmes (Junior Research Fellow (JRF)/Senior Research Fellow (SRF)

S.No.	Qualifying Degree	Existing Emoluments (per month)	Revised Emoluments (Per Month)
01.	Graduate Degree in Professional Courses (BE/B.Tech/M.Sc equivalent) with valid GATE Score above the prescribed cut off level/NET Qualification	16,000/- (For 1st & 2nd Year) 18,000/- (Upto 5th Year)	25,000/-
02.	Post Graduate Degree in Professional Courses (ME/ M.Tech. or equivalent) with two years of research experience	18,000/- (For 1st and 2nd Year) 20,000/- (For 3rd & 4th Year)	28,000/-

2.1   For M.E./M.Tech/MS/M.Des

S.No.	Qualifying Degree	Existing Emoluments (per month)	Revised Emoluments (Per Month)
01.	B.E./B.Tech/BS/B.Des and GATE/ GPAT qualified	8,000/- (Both 1st & 2nd Year) and 5th Year of Dual Degree Programmes)	12,400/- (Both 1st & 2nd Year) and 5th Year of Dual Degree Programmes)

2.3   The concerned Institution should review the performance of the Fellow after two years through an appropriate Review Committee constituted by the Head of the Institution. The fellowship in the slab after 2 years of research experience may be provided after successful assessment by the Review Committee.

2.3   Such revision in rates would also be applicable to other Government and Government Aided Institutions funded by AICTE and UGC. However, no salary grant or any other salary grant would be given to any of the Institutes for implementing the Scheme.

2.4   Sponsored and Self-Financed Category of students including those in receipt of any other similar assistantship/scholarship/fellowship would not be eligible for assistantship/scholarship/fellowship under the revised scheme.   Further, the assistantship/scholarship/fellowship would be provided to the scholars on the basis of GATE scores above the prescribed cut-off level. B.Tech. Graduates from the IITs getting a CGPA score of 8 or above (on scale of 10) would also be entitled to the assistantship without having to appear in GATE.

2.5   The stipend of research fellow/associate is exempted from the payment of income tax under Section 10(16) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

3.   **Service Conditions:**

3.1   **DA and CCA**: JRFs, SRFs and M.E./M.Tech/MS/M.Des will not be entitled to these allowances.

3.2 **House Rent Allowance (HRA):** All research fellows and M.E./M.Tech/MS/M.Des may be provided hostel accommodation wherever available and those residing in accommodation provided by the Institute will not be eligible for drawing HRA. Wherever provision of hostel accommodation is not possible, HRA may be allowed to JRF, SRF as per Central Government norms applicable in the city/location where they are working. The fellowship amount may be taken as basic for calculating the HRA.

3.3 **Leave and other entitlement benefits**: The JRFs, SRFs and M.E./M.Tech/MS/M.Des are eligible only for casual leave. Participation of any of these categories in any scientific event/workshop in India or abroad will be treated as 'Duty'. The travel entitlement for JRF/SRF/ M.E./M.Tech/MS/M.Des for participation in scientific events/workshops in India will continue to be same as earlier, i.e. 2nd AC by rail.   Maternity Leave as per Government of India instructions issued from time to time would be available to female candidates in all categories.

3.4 **Bonus and Leave Travel Concessions:** JRFs and SRFs and M.E./M.Tech/MS/M.Des will not be entitled to these allowances.

3.5 **Retirement Benefits:** JRFs, SRFs and M.E./M.Tech/MS/M.Des will not be entitled to these benefits.

4. **Publication/Patent:** The results of JRF/SRF/M.E./M.Tech/ MS/M.Des research work may be published in standard referred journals at the discretion of the Fellow or his Guide. It should be ensured by the Fellow that the assistance provided by the funding agency of Government of India is acknowledged in all such publications.

5. **Encouragement for pursuing higher degrees:** Students selected as JRF/SRF may be encouraged to register for higher degrees and the tuition fees to undertake these studies may be reimbursed to the students from the contingency grant sanctioned under the project grant, if required.
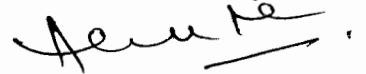
6. **Obligations of JRF/SRF:**

   (i) He/She shall be governed by the disciplinary regulations of the host Institute where he/she is working.

   (ii) The JRF/SRF/M.E./M.Tech/ MS/M.Des must send a detailed consolidated report of the research work done during the entire period of Fellowship on completion of the tenure/resignation of the Fellowship at the earliest.

7. **Date of Effect:** The revision in emoluments comes into effect from 01.02.2015 for all categories of JRF/SRF/M.E./M.Tech/ MS/M.Des.

8. The additional cost on account of this revision may be met by the individual Institutes from out of their existing budgetary grant without any additionality in the current financial year, 2014-15. During the next financial year, 2015-16, the expenditure on this account may be capped at the current year's level and also within the given allocation, without any additionality.

8. This issues with the concurrence of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide their ID Note No.33197/2015/E.III(A) dated 18.02.2015.

Yours faithfully,

(Alok Mishra)
Director
Tel:23381058

Copy to:

1. Department of Expenditure [(Shri Ashok Kumar, Under Secretary(E.III(A)] with reference to the ID Note No.33197/2015/E.III(A) dated 18.02.2015.
2. Department of Science & Technology (Dr. R. Brakaspathy, Scientist-G) in pursuance of the OM No.SR/S9/Z-09/2012 dated 21.10.2014.
3. PS to Hon'ble HRM/
4. PPS to Secretary (HE)/PPS to AS(TE)/PPS to JS&FA
5. Dir(TC)/Dir(Management)/Dir(TE)/Dir(NITs)
6. Webmaster, CMIS, MHRD for uploading the order on Ministry's website.

Annexure 2

Proposal :

Students who take admission in direct Ph.D. Programme after B.Tech/equivalent Bachelor's degree, should be given option to receive Master's degree after fulfillment of some criteria so that when they complete their programme, they get both Master's and Doctorate degrees.

Background -

- In IIT Kanpur, the students joining direct Ph.D. Programme receive only Ph.D. Degree on completion of the programme.
- When going for academic jobs in All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approved colleges (Colleges other than IITs, NITs, IISERs), these students face problem as they do not meet eligibility criteria for faculty position due to the lack of Master's degree. AICTE faculty norms mention the following -

  Assistant Professor -   BE/B.Tech & ME/ M.Tech in relevant branch with 1st class or e
                                          equivalent either in BE/B.Tech or ME/M.Tech.
  Associate Professor - Qualifications as above that is for the post of Assistant Professor, as
                                          applicable and PhD or equivalent, in appropriate discipline. Post PhD
                                          publications

- While AICTE can be blamed for not keeping their eligibility criteria up to date as more direct PhD programmes spring up in various institutes, until any such updation is done, direct PhD students will be deprived of opportunity to work in AICTE approved institutes.
- Some IITs including IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur award both Master's and Ph.D. Degree to the students in direct Ph.D. Programme on completion of the programme without the need of any extra qualification criteria.
- Several universities abroad provide option to students to get Masters-on-the-go while pursuing direct Ph.D. in which students fulfill given qualification criteria to get Masters midway through their PhD. Some other universities provide both degrees on completion of whole direct PhD programme.