



# GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY

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### Best Practices - I

#### **Title of the Practice:**

#### **SEED MONEY AND FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME (FRGS)**

#### **Objectives of the Practice:**

The scheme has been formulated to provide financial support to faculty members of University School of Studies to facilitate their research activities to augment the research output of the University. There are two schemes available for the purpose: Seed Money up to Rs.5.0 Lakh to all newly recruited faculty as one time grant to kick start their venture into research and develop the competencies to develop research proposals to secure grant from various research funding institutions and industry. The other scheme is available to the other faculty members to undertake minor research projects and also to tap the financial grants from industry, non-government and government sources. An amount of Rs. 200000/- (Two lakhs only) per year has been allocated for the faculty working in the University School of Information and Communication Technology, University School of Chemical Technology, University School of Biotechnology, University School of Environment Management, and University School of Basic and Applied Sciences. Further, a grant of Rs. 100000/- (one lakh only) per year is provided for faculty members working in the University School of Management Studies, University School of Architecture and Planning, University School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University School of Education, University of Law and Legal Studies, and University School of Mass Communication.

The objective of the scheme is to promote research culture by encouraging faculty members to realize their research potential while enabling research and developing capacities to do independent research on real life projects.

#### **The Context**

The permanent/regular faculty members working in the University Schools of Studies during their initial years face constraints in accessing grants from outside agencies which provide funding support based on competitive evaluation of the research proposals. It is obvious that most of the young faculty members do not possess research credentials comparable to those who are established as researchers. Lack of level playing field will dent their prospects of getting funds and they tend to get discouraged from doing research. Financial Grants to undertake research enables them to realize their research potential and helps them to build their research capacities and become more productive thus contributing to their own professional growth as

well as the growth of the University. It is in the context of above the Faculty Research Grants Scheme was mooted and introduced having regard to the need and its potential benefits.

### **Practice**

The proposals are invited from newly recruited faculty for undertaking the seed money grant. The research proposals are invited by the Director (Research & Consultancy) in the stipulated time window only once in a year in the given format . Any regular faculty member seeking the annual research grant is required to submit a research proposal indicating objectives of their research, methodology and tentative budget estimate and the same is duly forwarded by the Dean of the respective School of Studies. The research proposal is evaluated by a committee comprising of Director, Research & Consultancy, Dean of the School concerned and an external subject expert. The proposal selected based on the evaluation criteria are recommended by the committee and the O/o The Director (R&C) processes them for seeking approval of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. On approval, the faculty concerned will be intimated and the sanctioned grant is released for utilization adhering to the financial rules and regulations and codal formalities as per GFRs and the terms and conditions of the FRGS. The grant can be utilized for various research related activities like purchase of consumables, lab supplies and services, printer, printer cartridges, USB and external hard disk, pen drives, stationary items, purchase of books & reference materials, software, field work and other contingency expenses. The faculty will be allowed to utilize the allotted amount during a financial year. Faculty is required to do necessary procurements following the purchase procedures and maintain a stock register of the items purchased out of the grant. After the completion of project, faculty member submits a progress of the work and submit a statement of expenditure for financial settlement.

### **Evidence of Success**

Faculty members receiving the Faculty Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) on successful completion of the research project submit a report on work done. Research output is also published in academic and scientific journals with an acknowledgement of the financial support received under FRGS grant. Data during the past 5 years indicate that around 80 faculty members have availed the FRGS annually and 144 research papers have been published in journals included in Web of Science database. Aside this publication have also been made in other journals and conference proceedings.

An amount of Rs 6.5 Crores has been incurred under FRGS during the past five years and the assets purchased with the grants continue to contribute to improved access to various devices, licensed software, laboratory equipment and other consumables items such as chemicals etc. The financial support is perceived by many faculty members as an enabler in attaining the threshold levels of confidence by affording them an opportunity to demonstrate their research capabilities. It also encouraged them to write research proposals and apply for research grants from outside agencies like DBT,DST,ICSSR etc. This scheme has contributed towards improving the ease of doing research work and further enhanced research culture among the faculty and research scholars.

## **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

Major limitation of this scheme is the upper ceiling of Rs 200000/- (Two lakhs only) for individual proposal. This constraint is more often the concern of faculty members whose research is experimental and lab based. As such the scheme does not provide for joint research proposals or collaborative research between faculty members where grants can be pooled and more substantive/major research work requiring higher amount of funding can be taken up collectively. Allocations of the required budget as per the particular head requirement become a problem in some cases. Amount of 200000/- (Two lakhs only) is not adequate to undertake any major research work. Faculty has to rely on the outside agencies for projects requiring large research funds. Apart from this not many new faculties with no prior research experience has joined the university in the recent past, so the usage and the success cannot be truly assessed.

## Best Practices II

### **Title of the Practice:**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS, RESEARCH SCHOLARS AND FACULTY MEMBERS FOR PRESENTING THEIR RESEARCH WORK AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA.**

### **Objectives of the Practice:**

This practice is aimed at:

1. Encouraging students, scholars and faculty members to pursue outstanding research and showcase it at national and international levels.
2. Giving an opportunity to faculty, scholars and students for participating in national and international level academic conferences/ seminars/ symposiums and gain professional knowledge from such exposure.
3. Expanding their professional networks and explore the possibilities of collaborative research in emerging areas of research.

### **The Context:**

Expansion of higher education opportunities is imperative for India to emerge as an economic super power in the era dominated by knowledge driven economies. The education reforms, both nationally and internationally, have laid emphasis on quality education and world class research. Education policy of India, during recent times, has laid emphasis on expansion of higher education. In order to achieve sustained results, the higher education system must prepare itself for meeting the challenges of expansion and improving quality. This necessitates greater exposure of students and faculty to best research practices and closer interaction with renowned researchers. The best avenues to foster ties and maintain sustained interactions are available when they participate and engage with researchers and scientists working in their relevant fields. This scheme has been mooted in the context above.

### **Practice:**

Financial assistance is provided by the University to enable faculty members to present their research work in national and international conferences/seminars/symposia. This scheme is applicable to full time Academic Faculty seeking financial assistance from GGSIP University appointed on regular basis and have completed probation period. Faculty members on deputation to the University are also eligible in this scheme. An eligible faculty member as per the provisions of this scheme is provided financial assistance by the University for a maximum of two reputed conferences/seminars/symposia within India and one conference/seminar/symposium abroad. In case of a co-authored abstract involving multiple faculty members of the University, application from only one faculty member will be considered for financial assistance. The applicant will also have to provide a no-objection certificate(s) from the other author(s) of the abstract.

Applications from eligible faculty members seeking financial assistance for attending conference/seminar/symposium should be submitted in a prescribed format to the Dean of the concerned University School of Studies. The Dean shall forward it to the Personnel branch. The personnel branch shall put it up to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for approval. The financial assistance provided under this practice can be used for meeting the following expenses after prior approval of the Competent Authority: (i) Total air/train/road/ship fare including all taxes and duties. (ii) Visa fees and airport tax. (iii) Local travel between the place of residence and the airport, airport and place of stay in the city of the conference/seminar/symposium, as well as between place of stay in the city of the conference/seminar/symposium and venue of the conference. (iv) Registration fee for the conference. (v) Lodging. (vi) D.A./Per-diem as per the prevailing norms of G.G.S.I.P. University for the duration of the conference and upto four days i.e. one day prior to the conference and one day after the conference, excluding the travel period. (vii) Faculty members availing financial assistance under these regulations during vacations of this University may combine the conference travel duration specified at (vi) above with upto two weeks during winter vacations and four weeks during summer vacations, before or after the conference for other academic/professional purposes with the prior approval of the Competent Authority. However, the financial assistance from the University shall not be available for any expenditure during this extended/vacation period. The faculty member is required to submit the sanction order along with the claim bill in the Performa prescribed by the Finance and Accounts Branch, a certificate/proof of participation at the conference from the conference organizers and a report about the conference/seminar/symposium to the Finance and Accounts branch through their respective Dean/Director after returning from the conference/seminar/symposium. Faculty is required to submit the report of conference with copy of paper published.

### **Evidence of Success:**

During the past five years around 142 of faculty members have availed the benefit of the scheme. The travel grants were sanctioned in respect of 404 cases of paper presentation and expenditure incurred was approximately Rs 4.5 Crores. Faculty members have got opportunity to attend several international conferences and present their papers for scrutiny and feedback. Apart from being published in conference proceedings some of the papers have been improvised and are published in reputed journals which are indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. This practice has given benefit of exposure to scholars and students and an opportunity to present their work to national and international research community. University has benefited in terms of more number of good national and international publications. Overall research environment and visibility of the university in at national and international level academic platforms has improved due to the scheme.

Similar scheme for the students and research scholars of the University are is also available. Those students who attend international conference are eligible for reimbursement of full registration fee, 50% of the travel expenses and 33% of per diem allowance. Those who attend national level conferences are eligible for reimbursement of full registration fee, 100% travel expenses and accommodation and food charges at prescribed rates. During the past five years 65 and 77 students, respectively, have availed the benefit for attending national and international conferences. Approximately Rs 49 lakhs has been incurred on account of national and

international conference attended by the students during the past five years and there has been a steady increase in the number of the students getting the benefit.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

The scheme has a laudable objective of providing an opportunity to get exposure and build networks whose potential can be leveraged for undertaking collaborative projects with funding from foreign sources and collaboration/participation of researchers associated with world class universities abroad. It is envisaged that mutual learning and capacity building will be the outcome. Experience so far is only limited to the benefits associated with exposure of individual faculty members and to some extent the enhancement of visibility of the University in international academic forums. Bottlenecks in building lasting research collaborations and leveraging networks' potential are to be identified and addressed to take this practice to its next orbit where collaborative research involving best of the universities abroad can be materialized. This would require re-strategizing and developing a long term orientation with allocation of additional resources to make this practice result oriented and sustainable.