

COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(Abstract)

Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan 2.0 (RUSA 2.0) - Recommendation of the Governing Council - Implementation of Major Research Projects - Sanctioned - Orders issued.

Planning(UGC)

No.CUSAT/PL(UGC).A1/2314/2023

Dated,KOCHI-22,24.05.2023

Read:-1. Minutes of the meeting of the RUSA Governing Council held on 12.04.2023
2. Proceedings No. 37/2021/RUSA-SPD dated 27.04.2023 of the RUSA, Kerala State Project Coordinator

ORDER

Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan(RUSA), with the objective of development of higher education of the country was launched as Centrally Sponsored Scheme by Government of India, with Central and State funding in the ratio of 3:2. On completion of Phase-1 of RUSA ie. RUSA 1.0, an amount of ₹50.00 Crore was sanctioned to the University for RUSA 2.0, under Component-10: "Research, Innovation and Quality Improvement". Out of the ₹50.00 Crores, ₹15.00 Crore is set aside for Hub Activities under the scheme, carried out via M/s. CUSATECH Foundation. The balance amount of ₹35.00 Crore is earmarked for implementation of Major Research Projects envisaged under the scheme as per the DPR.

Vide paper read (1) above, various modalities were recommended by the RUSA Governing Council with regard to the implementation of Major Research Projects under the RUSA 2.0 scheme. The RUSA Governing Council also recommended to authorize the Coordinator, RUSA for the engagement of a Project Assistant on a consolidated pay of ₹30,000/- per month during the duration of RUSA 2.0 grants, subject to the availability of funds. The meeting also entitles the Coordinator for usage of a Contingency Grant of ₹1.00 Lakh for each phase of project.

The minutes of the meeting was approved and accordingly Finance Wing of the University created 40 budget heads, for each of the 40 active research projects. Separate budget heads were created for meeting the expenditure towards remuneration of Project Assistant and the Contingency fund of Coordinator, RUSA.

As per the guidelines of revised fund flow procedure, University has linked the zero balance subsidiary account [A/c. No. 110019572561, Canara Bank, Kalamassery Branch, IFSC: CNRB0014304] in the name of COORDINATOR RUSA CUSAT with the scheme "2817- Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan", in the PFMS portal. Vide paper read (2) above, RUSA-SPD has set an initial withdrawal limit of ₹17.50 Crore [ie. 50% of total allocated grant for Research Projects] for RUSA 2.0 of the University for the financial year 2023-24, to the account of University linked with RUSA scheme, in PFMS portal.

Considering the above, sanction is accorded by the Vice Chancellor for the implementation of Major Research Projects of RUSA 2.0, by meeting the expenditure from their respective budget heads newly created, in accordance with the recommendations of the minutes of the RUSA Governing Council. Sanction is also accorded to meet the expenditure towards the "Remuneration of RUSA Project Assistant" and "Contingencies of Coordinator RUSA" from the budget head "1-98-0-U-1-068" & "1-98-0-U-1-069" respectively, allocated in the name of the Coordinator, RUSA. The Project Investigators shall ensure to make all purchases in connection with their respective projects, strictly in accordance with provisions of the Kerala Store Purchase Manual and as per the prevailing government rules.

The minutes of the meeting of the RUSA Governing Council read at (1) above, and the detailed approved project proposal are given as Appendix.

Orders are therefore issued accordingly

Dr. Benjamin Varghese P *
REGISTRAR IN-CHARGE

To:

1. PI / Co - PI (s) of all Major Research Project shown in Appendix
2. The Head / Director of the Department/School/Centre of the faculties concerned - to communicate the U.O to the PI/Co-PI concerned
3. The Coordinator, RUSA, CUSAT
4. The Joint Director, Kerala State Audit Department
5. The joint Registrar(Academic/Finance) / The Deputy Registrar(Admn. III)
6. The Assistant Registrar (Cash /Audit/ Accounts/Finance)
7. Admn. D & F / Audit D / Accounts I/ IA&I / Finance/ PR&P/PL.B Sections
8. DEAS Cell / Statistical Officer/ CIRM.WEBMASTER / IQAC
9. PS to Vice-Chancellor / PS to Pro-Vice-Chancellor / PA to Registrar / PA to FO
10. Stock file/ File copy

* This is a computer generated document. Hence no signature is required.

Minutes of the meeting of RUSA Governing Council**Time: 10:30 AM Date : 12.04.2023****Venue: Vice Chancellor's Ante Room**

Members present:

1. Dr. K.N Madhusoodanan, Vice Chancellor
2. Dr. P G Sankaran, Pro Vice Chancellor
3. Dr. V Meera, Registrar
4. Sri. Sudheer M S, Finance Officer
5. Dr. Santhosh Kumar G, Professor & Member Syndicate
6. Dr. Sasi Gopalan, Professor & Member Syndicate
7. Dr. Sam Thomas, Professor, School of Management Studies
8. Dr. Judy M.V, Professor, Department of Computer Applications
9. Dr. K. Girish Kumar, Director, IQAC
10. Dr. Manoj.N, Coordinator, RUSA
11. Smt. Sabitha.P, Planning & Development Officer

The Vice Chancellor welcomed members to the meeting. The Coordinator gave a brief description about the activities going on under the RUSA2.0 programme, as new members to the Governing Council can have an overview about the programme.

I. **The Council recommended the following with regard to the implementation of the RUSA 2.0 Major Projects**

1. A Project Implementation Group (PIG) with Project Investigator (PI) as the Coordinator, be formed for each project comprising of PI & all Co-PI's and shall have a minimum of three members. In case where there is no Co-PI's, permanent faculty members who are experts in the domain shall be co-opted to the PIG.
2. For making entries in the PFMS portal, through which all transaction of funds under the RUSA2.0 is being made, every PI will be assigned as Data Operator, for making entries of their respective projects.

3. Primary Audit Criteria

The bills prepared in the DEAS and hard copy (in duplicate) signed by the PI has to be routed through Planning(UGC) section for countersignature.

At Planning Section: Bill/s will be accepted for payment, if none of the following issues arise:

- Mismatch in figures between PFMS & DEAS entries.
- Failed to upload concerned Proceedings in PFMS, for expenditure claimed
- Applicable Statutory Deductions shall be claimed with every expenditure in PFMS

- Bank account details of vendor/beneficiary shall be indicated clearly in the invoice & proceedings. In cases of reimbursement to concerned PI/Co – PI, bank details in official letter head should be enclosed with the Contingent Bill. In the event of absence/mismatch of bank details, payment shall be rejected.

At Audit Section: The countersigned bills be forwarded to Audit wing. The audit verifies the bill, checks for necessary certifications and ensures that bill is claimed as per the rules and guidelines. Purchases are to be made in compliance with KeralaStores Purchase Manual and the same will be verified by audit.

4. To reject the payments for the reasons mentioned at Para-3 above, a Data Approver has to be created for RUSA scheme [code : 2817] in PFMS. The custodian of this Data Approver will be Assistant Registrar (Planning). As earlier, approval / rejection of payment bills which are already countersigned by Planning Division shall be made by the Data Approver authority of Cash Section; ie Assistant Registrar (Cash)
5. General Guidelines:
 - a. Maintenance of separate Stock Register, Cash Register etc. for RUSA project, authenticated by the PI's concerned.
 - b. Creation of id in DEAS portal by each PI.
 - c. Preparation of Triplicate hard copy of CB/SR in DEAS and forward the original and a copy to Planning & Development Officer
 - d. Follow general guidelines issued by the University from time-to-time regarding implementation of externally funded scheme under project mode.
6. The details of project are given as Appendix.
7. PI changes in projects T1C and T4J.
 - a. **T1C** :Dr. Suja Haridas, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Chemistry, Co-PI in the project as Principal Investigator (PI) in lieu of Dr. Nybin Sebastian Remello who is on LWA
 - b. **T4J**: Dr. Tripti S. Warriar, Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics, Co-PI in the project as Principal Investigator (PI) in lieu of Dr. James Kurien who has retired from University Service
8. The request by Dr. P. G. Latha, PI, Project number T4N, for interchanging equipment proposed in Phase-I and Phase II. The PI made a request to allow purchase of Power Converter Systems at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,00,000/- in lieu of Vibration Analyser which may be purchased in Phase-II at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,00,000. /-

9. Expenditure under Hard Components, Computers, Software and Minor components shall follow general guidelines issued by the University from time-to-time regarding implementation of schemes under project mode. As far as possible to procure the equipment in INR.
10. Travelling abroad for conferences: The travel grant component may be utilised provided the PI or the Co-PI/PDF/SRF/JRF in the project have been selected for presenting a paper in the conference and have secured partial travel support from national/international/state agencies. Prior approval with valid documents to support the claim shall be submitted to the University for approval. Such claim shall be limited to the balance portion of the expenses incurred on air travel in the economy class. In such cases the grant allocation under "Contingency" may be utilised for the payment of the registration fee, visa fee and insurance expenses.
11. Coordinator RUSA may be authorised to appoint a Project Assistant on a consolidated pay of Rs. 30,000/- per month for the duration of RUSA 2.0 Major Projects grant, subject to availability of funds. The Coordinator, RUSA is also entitled to use a contingency grant of Rs. 1,00,000/- for each phase of the project. The expenses limited to Rs. 4,60,000/- each in Phase-I & Phase-II shall be met from the total allocation under 'Soft Component'. The allocation under the expenditure head: "Manpower" and "Contingencies" given for various projects shall be modified proportionately in the budget provisions, for meeting the above expenditure. The Data Operator rights of Coordinator, RUSA may be used by the Planning Section for managing such expenses in PFMS.
12. PI can pool grant allocated under budget heads contingencies, computers, software, books and journals to meet expenditure for common facilities such as purchase of UPS, smart boards, campus licence of software suits, server systems etc. PIs may submit a joint request to the university for such pooling of grant and the university may appropriately modify the budget allocation in respect of these projects within the limits of total allocation under respective project budget heads as per DPR. Honorary Director, CIRMA may be consulted for the purpose and PIs shall avoid duplication of expenditure.
13. PIs can propose to the Coordinator, the Journals/Books/Publications/ Database services etc. for campus wide access to be purchased and the University will take decisions on the purchase based on the recommendations of the Book Purchase Committee of the University. University Librarian be authorised to utilise the pooled grant allocated under the books and journals. The bills of such purchases shall be prepared in DEAS by the University librarian and may be submitted to Planning Section for further processing. Planning Section shall book the expenses in PFMS under this head using Data Operator rights of Coordinator, RUSA.

14. Training on PFMS with the help of expert(s) from SPD RUSA be arranged at the earliest.

15. Grant Utilisation target:

- a. Pls shall complete all formalities of purchase of Equipment, computers, software, minor components by the end of May and POs shall be send by 15th of June.
- b. Pls shall complete the purchase of Books and Journals by 30 June.
- c. Pls shall appoint project staff by 1 May 2023.
- d. Phase II grant can be claimed only after achieving 75% utilization by June 30 or such target date set by RUSA SPD. To ensure seamless continuation of the grant support Pls shall take all efforts to achieve the target.

16. Fixing of value of Fellowships under Manpower cost:

PDF

- a) Value of the Fellowship: Rs. 41,000/- + 18% HRA Eligibility: PhD degree in the discipline of the project

SRF

- a) Value of the Fellowship: Rs. 30,000/- + 18% HRA
- b) Eligibility: 2 Years of Research Experience with MA/MSc/MTech/MBA/MCA in the discipline of the project with NET/GATE or have cleared equivalent national level eligibility tests.
- c) Candidate without NET/GATE or equivalent national level eligibility tests may be appointed and in such cases the value of the fellowship will be same as the University SRF as per applicable rates.
- d) Appointment shall be given to such project staff for a duration of 1 year and may be renewed on satisfactory progress of the work, subject to the availability of the grant allocated in the project.

JRF

- a) Value of the Fellowship: Rs. 25,000/- + 18% HRA
- b) Eligibility: MA/MSc/MTech/MBA/MCA in the discipline of the project with NET/GATE or have cleared equivalent national level eligibility tests.
- c) Candidate without NET/GATE or equivalent national level eligibility tests but have cleared DAT may be appointed and in such cases the value of the fellowship will be same as the University JRF as per applicable rates.
- d) Appointment shall be given to such project staff for a duration of 1 year and may be renewed on satisfactory progress of the work, subject to the availability of the grant allocated in the project.

Project Assistant (Level 1): Rs. 20,000/- (Consolidated)

- a) Eligibility: Minimum qualification of 3 year Degree OR Diploma with 1 year experience in the discipline of the project
- b) Appointment shall be given to such project staff for a duration of 6 months and may be renewed on satisfactory progress of the work subject to the availability of the grant allocated in the project.

Project Assistant (Level 2): Rs. 28,000 (Consolidated)

- a) Eligibility: MA/MSc/MTech/MBA/MCA/BTech with 2 years of experience in the discipline of the project
- b) Appointment shall be given to such project staff for duration of 6 months and may be renewed on satisfactory progress of the work subject to the availability of the grant allocated in the project.

II. Technical Assistant at M/s. CUSATECH Foundation

The council considered and approved the request by Dr. Sam Thomas, Coordinator, CUSAT TBI for the creation of a post of Technical Assistant with a consolidated pay of Rs. 30,000/- by merging two internship positions in the RUSA 2.0 scheme implemented through CUSATECH Foundation

The meeting came to a close at 12.00 noon



CO-ORDINATOR
RUSA
Cochin University of
Science and Technology
Kochi - 682 022, Kerala

Approved

20/4/23

Vice-Chancellor

RUSA 2.0 - Major Projects

Theme 5 : Humanities and Social Science

Project Number & Project Title		T5E , Conservation and Mangement of Forest Resources and Welfare of Tribal Populations in State of Kerala	
Name & Designation of the Principal Investigator		Dr. Sreejith S, Assistant Professor, School of Legal Studies	
Name & Designation of the Co-Principal Investigator(s)		1. Dr. Harigovind P C, Assistant Professor, School of Legal Studies 2. Dr. Naveen S, Assistant Professor, School of Legal Studies 3. Dr. Nemat Shereen S, Assistant Professor, School of Legal Studies 4. Dr. Irshad M R, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics 5. Dr. Sivanandan Achari, Associate Professor, School of Environmental Studies 6. Dr. Junaid Bushiri, Professor, Department of Physics	
Head of Account		1-98-0-U-1-060	
Budget		(Amount in Rupees)	
Sl. No.	Item - Soft Components	Phase I	Phase II
1	Manpower (JRF/SRF/Project Assistant/Post Doc)	3,59,600	0
2	Consumables		
3	Contingency	25,000	25,000
4	Hiring of Technical Services, Analysis and Testing Charges, Data Collection expenses	0	0
5	Travel	2,00,000	0
6	Computers/Softwares/Minor Components	40,400	0
7	Seminars/Conferences	0	0
8	Workshops and Skill Training	1,00,000	0
9	Internships to PG and UG Students	0	0
10	Books and Journals	0	1,00,000
Total	8,50,000	7,25,000	1,25,000