

**Minutes of the 2021-4 Meeting of the Faculty Research Committee (FRC) held on
December 17, 2021 at 2.00 p.m. via Zoom**

Present

Prof. R. S. Rajakaruna - Chairperson/FRC
Prof. S. R. Kodituwakku – Dean/Faculty of Science
Prof. K. M. G. G. Jayasuriya – Head/Department of Botany
Prof. M. Y. U. Ganehenege – Head Department of Chemistry /Department of Chemistry
Dr. B. S. Dassanayake – Head/Department of Environment and Industrial Sciences
Prof. M. A. S. P. K. Malaviarachchi – Head/Department of Geology
Dr. T. H. K. R. de Silva – Head/Department of Mathematics
Prof. R. G. S. C. Rajapakse – Head/Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
Dr. V. Sivakumar – Head/Department of Physics
Dr. U. H. G. R. D. Nawarathna – Head/Department of Statistics and Computer Science
Prof. W. A. I. P. Karunaratne – Head/Department of Zoology
Dr. W. R. P. Wijesinghe - Department of Botany
Dr. H. A. I. R. Perera – Department of Chemistry
Prof. W. A. P. P. de Silva - Department of Zoology
Dr. T. M. W. J. Bandara - Department of Physics
Prof. U. L. B. Jayasinghe – National Institute of Fundamental Studies
Dr. S. Ranasinghe – Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya
Dr. P. G. R. S. Ranasinghe – Secretary/FRC

Absent

Prof. H. M. T. G. A. Pitawala – Director/PGIS

The Chairperson welcomed the members to the 2021-4th meeting of the FRC.

2021.4.1. Announcements

There were no special announcements.

2021.4.2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the FRC meeting held on August 30th, 2021, were confirmed without any corrections.

2021.4.3. Business arising from minutes

2021.3.6. The Chairperson reported that the item “**Science Faculty Alumni Research Grants 2021 (1976 Batch)**” is completed and can be removed from the minutes.

Prof. Malaviarachchi raised a concern that one of the academic staff members of the Department of Geology has made a complaint about his application for the aforementioned award being not forwarded and the member has requested to minute the item. As a response, the Chairperson admitted that it was an oversight from her side, and she has already apologized to the applicant and has notified the sponsors as well.

2021.3.7. The Chairperson inquired whether all the academic staff members have a Google Scholar account and emphasized the importance of filtering out one's own publications from someone else's that were listed under the profile.

2021.4.4. Updates of the Research Grants awarded in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021

I. Research Grants awarded in 2014

The Chairperson reported that only the grant of Prof. S. K. Yatigamma (RG/2014/42/S) remains, and the grantee has submitted the final report.

II. Research Grants awarded in 2016

The Chairperson mentioned that the spreadsheets with the URG information have been shared with the grantees to provide updates on the present status of the grants.

She reported that, during the pandemic lockdowns period from July 2021 to November 2021, the FRC has been forwarding electronic copies (e-copies) of the relevant documents as per the instruction of the Vice-Chancellor. However, as none of those were tabled at the Senate Research Committee (SRC) meetings, therefore the Chairperson had printed the e-copies and forwarded the duly signed hard copies to the SRC.

Upon an inquiry of the Chairperson, Dr R. D. Nawarathna (URG/2016/82/S) informed that, in the morning (17th December) he has submitted documents to the Assistant Bursar for the financial statement verification and commented that the final report will soon be submitted.

The Chairperson reported that Dr. R. J. K. U. Ranatunga (URG/2016/55/S) has informed that he has submitted a letter to the SRC regarding the status of the grant, yet it had not been recorded at the SRC. As a response, the Chairperson and the Dean both mentioned the importance of the regular follow-ups with the SRC and the latter commented that the grantees should at least keep a copy of the covering letters submitted to the SRC to avoid any mishaps.

III. Research Grants awarded in 2017

The Chairperson reported that only one grant is yet to be completed and the grantee Dr. A.C. A. Jayasundara (URG/2017/50/S) has submitted a softcopy of the revised final report after addressing the reviewers' comments. The FRC will soon forward the report to the SRC.

IV. Research Grants awarded in 2018

The Chairperson reported that few grants are yet to be completed.

- Dr. P.K. Perera (URG/2018/39/S) has completed the work but has requested an extension and a vote transfer.
- Dr. N.H. Koralegedara (URG/2018/42/S) is in the process of writing the final report.
- Dr. P.L. Dharmapriya (URG/2018/43/S) has yet to submit some progress reports; the ones that were submitted have already been forwarded to the SRC. The grantee has also requested for an extension.
- Dr. S.P. Abeysundara (URG/2018/44/S): The Dean requested to the Chairperson to ask the grantee to write an appeal to the SRC with proper justification for the delay of completion of the progress reports.

The Dean reiterated that the grantees who haven't submitted the progress reports on time, need to write an appeal with proper justification to the SRC to avoid cancellation of their grants.

V. Research Grants awarded in 2019

All the grants are active except the one of Mr. W. M. C. S. Wijesundara (URG/2019/26/S) which has been decline. The Chairperson stressed the importance of the submission of progress reports on time.

VI. Research Grants awarded in 2021

The Chairperson reported that all six grantees were requested to submit the first progress report by the 15th of January 2022.

2021.4.5. Faculty Award for the Excellence in Research

Dr. P.G.R.S. Ranasinghe shared a draft of the certificate designed for the Faculty Award for Excellence in Research. While agreeing with the design, the Chairperson commented that the possibility of obtaining the signature of the Vice-Chancellor needed be checked.

2021.4.6. R & D Applications for 2022

The Chairperson requested the Heads of the Departments to request the probationary lecturers who are pursuing postgraduate studies on paid-leave to submit the R&D applications by next week.

With reference to the "Higher Education Circular No.: 1" on *Payment of Research Allowance in terms of Budget Proposals, 2011*, the Chairperson queried whether it is permitted to produce a publication emerging from a URG as evidence for the R&D application. In response, the Dean and the members agreed that such an evidence can be produced under "**i. Research work already published**". Reaffirming the matter, the Chairperson further commented that activities carried out under a URG cannot be listed as evidence under "**ii. Ongoing research and/or a research funded by an international or local granting agency**".

2021.4.7. Any other Business

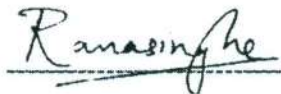
Dr. Sivakumar enquired about providing financial assistance for undergraduate research as traveling expenses, in purchasing consumables, in utilizing equipment etc. As a response, the Dean mentioned that such expenses can be listed in the respective department's "Annual Budget" under "Undergraduate Research Expenses". Also, the Dean stated that in case of traveling, the supervisor can request a vehicle from the Dean's office in advance.

In relation to the URG of 2021, the Chairperson queried about the utilization of the balance amount. She reported that the Vice-Chancellor has commented that 25% of the balance can be utilized for the Research activities of the Faculty. As a response, the Dean commented that if an applicant has declined the grant prior to the awarding, that amount will be distributed among the other grantees. Also, if a grantee has declined the grant after it's being awarded, the usual practice is that amount to be allocated to the next applicant in the waiting list and if there is no such applicant, the amount will be carried forward for the subsequent year's total budget. Furthermore, the Dean pointed out that the 25% should be allocated before the distribution of the balance among the other grantees.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 2.46 p.m.



Prof. R. S. Rajakaruna
Chairperson /FRC



Dr. P. G. R. S. Ranasinghe
Secretary/FRC