



Sher-e-Kashmir University of  
Agricultural Sciences & Technology  
Teaching Association Jammu  
**SKUAST-TAJ**  
REGD. No. 1720-S

President  
Dr. Vikas Sharma

No: AU/SKUAST/TAJ/GBM/17-18/1115-1151

Date: 27/09/2017

General Secretary  
Dr. Vivek Arya


Joint Secretary  
Dr. P. K. Rai

Publicity Secretary  
Dr. Devender Sharma

Treasurer  
Dr. Rajeev Bharat

## CIRCULAR

The minutes of the General Body Meeting (GBM) held on September 08, 2017 at 12.00 noon, in the Conference Hall of SKUAST-Jammu at Main Campus Chatha are enclosed herewith for the information of esteemed members of teaching association.

  
**Dr. Vikas Sharma** 27/09  
President Teaching Association  
**SKUAST-JAMMU**

Copy to:

1. All the office bearers / executives of TAJ
2. All the members of teaching association
3. Registrar Societies Jammu for information
4. Registrar SKUAST-Jammu for information
5. President, NTEA, SKUAST-J for information
6. SVC for information of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor

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"An Association for the Welfare of Teaching Fraternity"

**SKUAST-TEACHING ASSOCIATION JAMMU (SKUAST-TAJ)**  
**Office, Main Campus Chatha, Jammu-180009, J&K**



**Minutes of the General Body Meeting (GBM) held on September 08, 2017 at 12.00 noon in the Conference Hall, SKUAST of Jammu, Main Campus Chatha, Jammu**

The meeting of the General Body / House of SKUAST-TAJ was held on September 08, 2017 at the Conference Hall of SKUAST- Jammu, Main Campus Chatha, Jammu.

*One hundred seventy seven (177)* members of teaching fraternity were present from Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Basic Sciences, School of Biotechnology, Research Stations and KVKs. The session of the meeting was chaired by Dr. Vikas Sharma, President SKUAST-TAJ whereas Dr. Satish Kumar, Dr. Bupesh Sharma and Dr. Rakesh Sharma were the rapporteurs.

At the very outset, Dr. Vivek M. Arya, General Secretary of the Association, welcomed all the members of teaching association. He reminded the house about the sad demise of Dr. Daleep Kumar Koul (SMS, KVK-Jammu / member of teaching association) and two students of SKUAST-J and accordingly two minutes silence was observed to pay homage to the departed soul (s). He informed the house that the GBM was called to discuss some important issues pertaining to the welfare of the teaching fraternity and overall development of Varsity.

Further, Dr. Vikas Sharma, President of Teaching Association again welcomed the teachers / scientists in the GBM 2017 and informed the house that since its inception, association is working to watch professional interests and to secure satisfactory condition of work / service for the teaching community of University. Dr. Vikas Sharma proceeded with a power point presentation and highlighted the salient achievements of the association under the following headings:

- 1. INCENTIVES TO SCIENTISTS OF HIGHER QUALIFICATION**
- 2. MONETARY BENEFIT FOR SCIENTIFIC STAFF**
- 3. CAREER ADVANCEMENT CASES OF SCIENTIFIC STAFF**



4. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CAS
5. DONATION FOR SOCIAL CAUSE
6. GENUINE TRANSFER CASES
7. GRAND FAREWELL TO SCIENTISTS ON SUPERANNUATION
8. INSTITUTION OF DR. ARUN GUPTA MEMORIAL AWARD
9. FORMATION OF BLOOD DONATION UNIT
10. BABA JITTO UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM
11. ELECTION OF TEACHERS TO *Legislative Assembly / Council, Lok / Rajya Sabha.*
12. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF TAJ *etc.*

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE GENERAL BODY MEETING**

Following agenda items were taken up for discussion and resolved:

### **ITEM NO.1 IN THE AGENDA: New Career Advancement Scheme (New CAS)**

Dr. Manmohan Sharma, Associate Professor, School of Biotechnology inquired that those Scientists who have completed 12 years of service irrespective of length of service at any stage as Assistant Professor / Junior Scientist should be considered eligible for movement from AGP Rs 8000 (Stage 3) to Rs. 9000 (Stage 4) or pay band from 15600- 39100 to Rs 37400-67000.

In this regard, Dr Vikas Sharma - TAJ President, appraised the House about the guidelines of the UGC wherein it is mentioned that any teacher / scientist with a service length of 12 years shall be considered eligible to higher grade of Rs. 9000 (Stage 4) with pay band of Rs. 37400-67000. He informed that there is no clear cut reference of holding Ph.D degree by the scientist throughout his / her service length of 12 years (mentioned in the NEW CAS guidelines) and benefit of doubt shall be rendered to the scientists falling in this category. He assured that the matter shall be taken up with Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and an executive order on the matter will be issued. Dr. Jafrin, Assistant Professor, FVSc. inquired that whether the past service rendered as Lecturer can be included for promotion under CAS or not. Dr. Vikas Sharma, President TAJ



informed that contractual service on consolidated salary (with breaks) cannot be considered for promotion under CAS.

Dr. Rakesh Nanda, Professor, Division of Agricultural Extension Education pointed out that he strived a lot for CAS and due to delay in its implementation, the career of many scientists spoiled. He further remarked the CAS is the right of a scientist and one should not beg for it. Dr. Vikas Sharma, President TAJ agreed to the remarks of Dr. Nanda and promised to do the needful in future. Dr Vikas further informed the house that there is no need to attach any document with the CAS form. However, it is the right of every HOD to see the documentary evidences before forwarding the CAS application to the concerned quarter.

**Resolution:** Assistant Professors / Junior Scientists with Ph.D degree who have completed 12 years of service shall be eligible for movement from AGP Rs. 8000 to Rs. 9000. Contractual service (with breaks) cannot be considered for promotion under CAS.

**ITEM NO. 2 IN THE AGENDA: Group Mediclaim Insurance Policy of SKUAST-Employees**

Dr. Vikas Sharma, President TAJ informed the house that till date SKUAST-TAJ has not tie up with any insurance company, however, data of the interested employees is being generated. He added that after proper generation of data of SKUAST-J employees which will include non-teaching staff as well, TAJ will approach 3-4 leading General Insurance Companies and power point presentation of these companies shall be conducted before the House. The company who will provide better medical facilities / reputed hospitals with reasonable annual premium, shall be given the task, after taking due consent from the House. In his remarks, Dr. Rakesh Nanda, Professor, supported the views of the President and pointed out that there is no mediclaim insurance policy for retired officials / pensioners and that company should be approached which can include this section of the fraternity also.

Dr. A.K. Bhat, Professor, Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, FoA, informed the house about the New Mediclaim Insurance Policy of the State Government in which it has been decided that 50% of the premium shall be paid by the Government. Dr. Rajeev Bharat, Treasurer-TAJ appraised the House about the fate of past mediclaim insurance policies and was of the view that best option should be explored to cover not only higher age groups, but



also longer duration (5-10 years). Dr. Vikas Sharma while sharing his past experience informed the House that the matter shall be taken on top priority and if group mediclaim insurance policy of the State Government will not be implemented shortly, then a four member committee of senior persons shall be constituted to finalize the matter in a short span of time.

Dr. Rakesh Nanda raised his concern about the teachers' colony on the similar pattern of University of Jammu and suggested the body to contact Jammu Development Authority (JDA) for land related issue. The President TAJ, in its response, informed the house that teaching association is in regular touch with Dr. A.S. Jasrotia (Chairman Committee) of the Jammu University, who has agreed upon to render all kind of support, after their own matter is resolved.

**Resolution:** *After thorough discussion and suggestions it was resolved in general house for constitution of four member committee of senior persons to finalize the matter in a short span of time, if new mediclaim insurance policy of the State Government will not be implemented shortly.*

### **ITEM NO. 3 IN THE AGENDA: Nomenclature of Guest House Chatha**

Dr. Vikas Sharma, President TAJ put forward the agenda regarding nomenclature of Guest House (under-construction) at Chatha. He informed with proud that with the efforts of teaching association, Baba Jitto Auditorium will be inaugurated soon at Chatha and further desired that suitable name may kindly be suggested for the guest house also.

In this context, several names like *Surya Putri Guest House, Trikuta Guest House, Maharaja Hari Singh Guest House, Bagi Rathi Guest House, Prem Nath Dogra Guest House, Krishi Kunj Guest House, Dogra Guest House etc.* were proposed by various scientists including *Dr. B. S. Jamwal - Chief Scientist, Dr. Poonam Parihar - Assistant Professor, Dr. Sanjay Koushal - SMS, Dr. S.E.H Rizvi - Prof. & Head, Sh. P.D.K. Uppal - President Non-Teaching Employees Association* and many more. Finally, the house agreed to the name of the newly constructed guest house as ***"Trikuta Guest House"***

In addition to it, Dr. Rakesh Nanda, Professor, suggested and urged the house to name the Conference Hall of KVK R.S. Pura in the memory of ***Dr. S.K. Lahria - Scientist SKUAST-J,***

who lost his life while performing his duties in a tragic road accident near Udhampur, Jammu. The house welcomed the suggestion and gave its consent with the majority vote.

**Resolution:** *Competent Authority will be approached to name new guest house of Chatha as “Trikuta Guest House” and Conference Hall at KVK R.S. Pura in the memory of “Dr. S.K. Lahria”.*

**ITEM NO. 4 IN THE AGENDA: Representation from Stations / KVKs in the main body of TAJ**

Dr. Sanjay Khajuria (SMS Agro-forestry) KVK Samba pleaded the case and suggested that one post of Vice President be created in the main body of TAJ specifically for KVKs / Research Stations of SKUAST-J. Dr. Anu Radha Saha, Jr. Scientist, Agronomy proposed to add one member from AICRPs / Schemes in main body of TAJ and further requested that the salary of all the scientists should be released at one time. Dr. V. Koul (Prof. and Head – Entomology) did not agree with the proposal and stated that it was not feasible to create a specific post as executives of TAJ are already working and representing different Stations/KVKs.

Dr. Vishal Gupta, SMS Agro-forestry, KVK Kathua informed the house that scientists working in the KVK system are being discriminated and are facing identity problem. Dr. Ajay Gupta I/c Scientist and Head, KVK Poonch proposed for creation of separate post of accounts assistant in each outstation. Dr. Jai Kapoor, Jr. Scientist Agronomy, ACRA Dhiansar informed that salary / arrears is a big issue for scientists working in AICRPs/ KVKs/Outstations and requested to undertake measures for their timely settlement.

Dr. Puneet Choudhary, SMS Agro-forestry, KVK R.S.Pura suggested that “pay day” should be fixed and salary should be released on one single day for all the scientific staff, which was accepted in letter and spirit by the house. Dr. Vikas Sharma, President TAJ assured that SKUAST-TAJ will urge the authorities to fix one “Salary Day” for the entire teaching fraternity of SKUAST-J.

Dr. Vikas Abrol, Senior Scientist, Soil Science, ACRA Dhiansar requested for infrastructure improvement at outstations and further urged that scientists working in outstations shall be included in the planning part. Meanwhile, Dr. Deepak Kher, Director Planning, informed the house that the university has already submitted a proposal worth Rs. 17 crores to ICAR which can be utilized for the improvement of outstations.





Prof. Anil Sharma, Associate Director Research ACRA Dhiansar suggested that Research Stations and Centres for Excellence should be treated at par with the faculties and also requested Director Planning SKUAST-J for liberal funding for these units of varsity.

**Resolution:** *The Agenda was discussed in length and the house resolved that for better working / functioning of the TAJ, three advisors (one each from Faculty, KVKs, Research Stations) shall be nominated by the President Teaching for proper representation in the main body.*

**ITEM NO. 5 IN THE AGENDA: President Teaching and Office Bearers-Non Transferable during the entire term**

Dr. Vikas Sharma, President TAJ put forth the agenda that neither President of the Teaching Association nor other four office bearers including General Secretary, Joint Secretary, Publicity Secretary and Treasurer shall be transferred during their term in the office. He further added that the agenda was proposed by Senior Faculty Members with the justification that administration can disturb the functioning of a strong association by transferring the working office bearers in different constituent units of varsity located in far flung areas, as happened in the past. Dr. Rakesh Nanda, Professor, proposed that the President and office bearers of teaching association should be given immunity even for one more year after demitting the office. The Agenda was discussed thoroughly and the General House gave its consent in toto. In other words, the Agenda was agreed by the House with one voice.

**Resolution:** *President and Office Bearers of Teaching Association will be nontransferable during their tenure with immunity for one more year after demitting the office.*

In between, Dr. Rajinder Peshin, Associate Professor, Division of Agricultural Extension Education, enquired about the term of present teaching association. On this, Dr. Vikas Sharma replied that as per constitution General House is empowered to decide the term of teaching association. Dr. Narinder Panotra, Jr. Scientist, Directorate of Research, said that present body shall continue for five more years. He further added that if Hon'ble VC, Directors, Deans, HODs etc. of SKUAST-J are for five years, then why not Teaching President? Some members in the house (Dr. V. Kaul, Dr. Rakesh Nanda, Dr. Vikas Abrol, Dr. Muneeshwar etc.) proposed that three years are more than sufficient for a particular body to show performance. Finally, via voice vote the term of the present teaching association is extended for three years w.e.f. 08<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. Dr. Vikas Sharma, President Teaching announced that the term of teaching



association is fixed for three years. However, General House can dissolve any defunct body any time with 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority.

**ITEM NO. 6 IN THE AGENDA: Conversion of Research Stations / Veterinary Faculty of SKUAST-J into Horticulture / Veterinary University**

Dr. Vikas Sharma, President TAJ informed the house that State Government is planning to convert Research Stations / Veterinary Faculty of SKUAST-J into Horticulture / Veterinary University. He mentioned that two advance centres (ACHR, Udheywalla and ACRA, Dhiansar) including Veterinary Faculty, R.S. Pura can be detached from SKUAST-Jammu and become part of new upcoming universities in the State. He further pointed out that the new universities will be established by curtailing the budget of SKUAST-J by the State Government.

Dr. Deepak Khar, Director Planning informed the house that Hon'ble Vice Chancellor did not want to harm any unit of SKUAST-Jammu for the sake of separate Horticulture / Veterinary university. In this context, Sh. P.D.K. Uppal, President Non-Teaching Employees Association pointed out that we will strive hard to protect every inch of the university. He further informed that memorandum (s) will be submitted regarding the matter to the persons at the helm of affairs in State Government Administration.

**Resolution:** *After strong deliberations, the House agreed upon that SKUAST-TAJ and NTEA-J will fight tooth and nail to protect each and every constituent unit of this only farm and professional university of Jammu division.*

**ITEM NO. 7 IN THE AGENDA: Rechristening of SKUAST-J as Jammu Agricultural University (JAU)**

Dr. Vikas, President TAJ informed the house that the name of SKUAST-Jammu be rechristened to Jammu Agricultural University (JAU) and requested Dr. Vinod Gupta, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK Samba, who is spearheading the issue, to present his work / views. Dr. Vinod Gupta informed that a committee has already been constituted by President TAJ to take up the issue and signature campaign has been initiated which found large support from every section of the university. He added that the committee is now in touch with different social / political organizations which will support for re-naming of Sher-e Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) as Jammu Agricultural University (JAU).



**Resolution:** The Agenda was discussed and it was decided that after the completion of signature campaign, the memorandum (s) regarding the issue will be submitted to the concerned quarters for rechristening SKUAST-J as Jammu Agricultural University

In the last, President TAJ told the house that meeting of transfer committee which was scheduled to be held in June 2017, was not held due to the reasons best known to Registrar, SKUAST-J and assured that TAJ will leave no stone unturned to clear the pending transfer cases. While applauding the efforts of TAJ, Dr. Akhil Verma, Jr. Scientist, MBRSS, Udhampur raised the issue of its impartial implementation.

The meeting was concluded with the formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. P.K. Rai, Joint Secretary of the association.

No: AU/SKUAST/TAJ/GBM/17-18/1115-1151  
Date: 27/09/2017

  
**GEN. SECRETARY  
SKUAST-TAJ**