

Encashment and Pension Commutation Affectees Group - UAP (EPCAG-UAP)

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Minutes of 10th Meeting held on 18-5-2021

Tenth meeting of the employees of the University of Agriculture Peshawar (UAP), who retired during the recent past, was held at AUTA Center, University of Agriculture Peshawar, list of members annexed. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Mr Ahmad Nawaz who also introduced the agenda item, followed by general discussion.

The participants expressed their concern about the prolonged delay in payment of the commutation, exceeding two years in some cases. The University Administration "shall not cause unnecessary hurdles or delay in finalizing the payment of pensionary/retirement benefits cases; in future and violation of these directions shall amount to criminal negligence and dereliction of the duty assigned to them", as per Supreme Court of Pakistan Judgement in Civil Appeal No.48/2013, endorsed by Government of Pakistan, Finance Division F-(11)1-Reg-/2013 dated 3-5-2013 to all government departments and agencies. It was added that any delay in the finalization of such cases brought to the notice of the Supreme Court, the head of the concerned department shall be held liable for Contempt of Court. The University has failed to pay the Commutation and relevant benefits to the retired professors in spite of lapse of more than two years.

A Complaint was launched by EPCA on Prime Minister Citizen Portal twice but the case was filed with the remarks "partial relief has been provided to the complainants". UAP is required to settle the cases under the University Statutes 2016, within a two weeks period.

Most of the retired professors have initiated construction of houses which are still incomplete while occupied by their families, because of non-availability of alternate arrangements. The prolonged delay for more than one and a half years in most of the cases, in release of commutation of all the members, was condemned and declared unlawful.

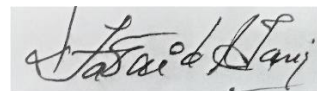
The University has been receiving pension grants along with regular budget, special grants from the Higher Education Commission Islamabad/Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and receipts under students' admissions. However, these funds could not be efficiently managed, leading to the present crisis.

In a meeting of KP Governor with the Vice Chancellors financial problems of the universities were discussed (Business Recorder, 17-5-2021). He said that as a chancellor he is committed to bring positive change in higher educational institutions (UAP and others) in providing quality standard education to our

young generation. He added that VC is a very responsible post and they should take the responsibility in a real sense. The KP government had approved Rs800 million for Peshawar University initially, and two installments worth Rs270 million have already been received, which helped in overcoming financial problems (The News, 21 May, 2021). The federal government is likely to release Rs1 billion to the university as supplementary grant, which would greatly help the institution repay the loans it has taken during the last several years for payment of staff salaries,” he added.

The participants agreed upon the following points:

1. The UAP Administration must pay the commutation and pension liabilities of the Group immediately. The Group reserves their right to go for any option including approach to the higher public offices, popular Media or filing Contempt of Court against UAP in light of judgement of Supreme Court of Pakistan No.48/2013, to get the due relief.
2. VC UAP is requested to take the issue of the retired professors seriously as per directive of the Governor and on the analogy of VC Peshawar University.
3. The retired employees may be allowed to retain the university accommodation on regular rent basis, till payment of the commutation and related benefits.
4. Support of President/Secretary AUTA was acknowledged for facilitating and hosting the Group activities at AUTA Center UAP. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Convener.



Prof (Rtd) Javaid Tariq
General Secretary

CC:

1. PSO to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
2. PSO to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
3. PSO to Chairman HEC Islamabad
4. PS to Minister Finance GoKP
5. Secretary Agriculture GoKP
6. Secretary HED GoKP
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