

Dear Friends,

We note with satisfaction that most of the States have now implemented the pay scales. However, we also note with concern that in a few States the struggles for implementation of the revised pay scales have now reached a crucial stage and the affiliates in these states are involved in different programs of agitation. The AIFUCTO leadership is in constant touch with them and renders guidance and help to them. The MHRD note on Madhya Pradesh, as published in Teachers' Movement (Dec- Feb numbers) may be of great help for all such states.

NEC meeting held in New Delhi on 31st of January, 2010.

The AIFUCTO National Executive Committee met in New Delhi on 31.01.2010. The well-attended meeting was presided over by Prof James Williams. The NEC mourned the demise of com. Jyoti Basu, former Chief Minister of West Bengal. Com. Basu was a true friend of the teaching community.

The General Secretary presented a detailed report on the latest development with respect to:

1. The implementation of pay scales in different states

The governments of Bihar & Jharkhand, Kerala, and all North-Eastern states, save Arunachal and Tripura are yet to issue necessary orders. Sinister moves are underway in some states like Orissa to give distorted pay scales and thus deprive the teachers of their legitimate and hard earned benefits. The judicial intervention in Madhya Pradesh is keenly watched and the AIFUCTO national and State leaderships are very optimistic that just relief to teachers would flow from Jabalpur higher judiciary.

(b) The announcement of UGC regulations

The General Secretary assisted by Secretariat members and office bearers has been in constant touch with The Regulation Committee, UGC and MHRD for ensuring the early release of equitable, inclusive and just regulations, possible only by incorporating the AIFUCTO representations. In a meeting with UGC Chairman, the General Secretary pointed out that the regulations must take into account the ground reality and should not be exclusive in nature. The UGC Chairman informed the General Secretary that the UGC always attaches highest importance to the AIFUCTO view point and changes have been made by the UGC in the draft circulated earlier. The General Secretary discussed the matter with MHRD officers and pointed out that the regulations must not hurt the interest of teachers.

The NEC members reviewed the recent developments concerning all issues including the anomalies of 1996 and 2006 pay scales, most important being denial of the benefits of Rs.14940,CAS from 1.1.1996 and the increments to PhD and M.Phil degrees obtained before 1.1.2006. The NEC decided to hold a Dharna at Jantar Muntar ,New Delhi to protest the inaction of the MHRD and demanding immediate action by the same. The Secretariat was empowered to decide an appropriate date for the rally.

The meeting was sponsored by our affiliates in Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, Congratulations to them.

Seminar on Higher Education in India

As per the decision taken earlier, the AIFUCTO organized a National Seminar on 'Higher Education in India: Issues and Challenges' on 1st of February, 2010 at Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi. Prof. T.Meinya ,Member of Parliament inaugurated the Seminar. He emphasized the urgent need to bring changes to serve the society better in the context of sea changes taking place in the realm of science ,technology and Knowledge explosion.Prof.Kamal Mitra Chenoy,Professor,JNU and Prof.Sudhansu Bhusan,Professor, NUEPA,discussed the recent proposals for changes and presented their views.Prof.K.K.Thekedath,Prof.James William,Prof.A.K.Barman and other leaders participated in the discussion.The seminar was sponsored by our affiliates of Punjab,Haryana,Uttar Pradesh,Uttarakhand Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.We sincerely thank the organizing committee comprising Prof.V.S.Nehera,Prof JagwantSingh,ProfD.Kumar,Prof.GhanashyamSingh,Prof.Ghanashyam Gupta,Prof.Sikarwar,. Prof.Kapoor Singh,Prof.Subhas Garg and Prof.R.K.Kayastha, A large number of activists and leaders worked hard to make the program a great success.

General Secretary's meeting with UGC and MHRD

General Secretary met UGC Chairman and Secretary on 5th February to discuss the pending demands and requested early solutions. He pointed out that the date of refresher courses have not yet been extended and the process of CAS could not make headway in many states as the teachers are not getting opportunities to attend refresher courses.

General Secretary also discussed with MHRD officers the issues relating to the payment of pension to teachers who retired before 1.1.2006 on the basis of pay band 4.He demanded that a letter should be written immediately to the state governments in this regard.

Upcoming Dharna program in New Delhi on 19th March,2010

In keeping with the decision of the NEC, the Secretariat gives a call to all affiliates to participate in very large numbers in the Dharna program in Jantar Muntar, New Delhi on 19th March,2010 at 11.A.M,demanding rectification of all anomalies in the pay scales of 1996 and 2006. The Dharna will also demand the immediate notification of UGC regulations incorporating AIFUCTO's suggestions, holding of discussions with the teachers organizations and other stake- holders including student movements on the proposed changes in higher education and implementation of pay scales in toto in all states .Please mobilize our members to participate in the Dharna program in huge number and send the message to the central and state governments that the lacs of teachers will neither tolerate the denial of the just benefits nor take kindly to highly whimsical decisions taken hurriedly and arbitrarily.

Draft NCHER Bill

The HRD Ministry made public the draft bill on creation of National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER). *NCHER Bill*, prepared by the Human Resource Development Ministry has been put on the ministry website for eliciting public opinion. Please discuss the draft and send your opinion to AIFUCTO, Also participate in all such meetings as arranged by the task force in different parts of the country. Visit MHRD website for the updates. The proposed bill for the creation of NCHER has created a serious apprehension among the stakeholders of Higher education that it would result in further liberalization, deregulation, privatization and commercialization and hurt the agenda of inclusive higher education. The AIFUCTO Secretariat demanded immediate discussion with MHRD on the Bill.

MHRD notification on Deemed universities

The AIFUCTO leadership welcomed the MHRD ban of 44 deemed universities. The president and General Secretary issued a press release welcoming the action taken. This has been a long standing demand of AIFUCTO.

News of affiliates

WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (WBGCTA)

The 38th Annual Conference of WBGCTA was held on 23 – 24 January 2010 in the Derozio Hall of Presidency College, Kolkata. On the first day a seminar on“ Inclusive Education : Challenges Ahead in Higher Education “ was organized jointly by Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata and WBGCTA. Dr Abid Hussain, Chancellor, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad presented the key note address. Professor Tapan Raychoudhuri, Professor Mrinmoy Bhattacharyya and Professor K. K. Theckedath spoke on the topic. Health-check-up camp, book exhibition and a cultural programme were held on this occasion.

On 24th January 2010 the conference was declared open by Professor Ujjwal Kumar Basu, a retired teacher of the Government College. The General Secretary of the WBGCTA presented his annual report before the house attended by around 1100 members. In his report he specially pointed out that the recent initiative taken by the Government of West Bengal to change the status of Presidency College, the oldest government college of the state, to a Unitary University is unilateral, unwanted and illogical. Such a move militates against the spirit of the constitution of WBGCTA, which calls for uniform and collateral development of all government colleges in the state. The chief guest Professor Sudarsan Raychaudhuri, Honourable Minister in Charge, Higher Education, West Bengal was present and spoke on the issues of Higher Education in the state vis-à-vis the country.

Professor Asok Barman, General Secretary, AIFUCTO attended the conference and spoke in detail on the latest developments regarding the progress of the pay revision process and the UGC regulations. Prof Barman also referred to the identical situation faced by the Tamil Nadu Government College Teachers' Association and the stand of AIFUCTO on the issue of granting unitary/deemed university status to any college.

In the business session the conference unanimously resolved to adhere to its earlier resolution of forming a State University comprising all the Government Colleges of the state and to build-up pressure on the Government of West Bengal to reject the ill-conceived Bill on Presidency University. The conference was presided over by Prof Harendranath Bhattacharya, the President of the Association.

NEWS FROM TAMILNADU

The Association of University Teachers (AUT), Tamilnadu held a Convention on 'the UGC Package : Status and Challenges' at the Centenary Building, University of Madras, Chennai on 03-01-2010. The objective was to enlighten the members on the outcome of the new revision, enlist feedback and facilitate interaction with the AIFUCTO leadership. Over three hundred member delegates drawn from the colleges affiliated to five Universities took part.

In his presidential address, Dr. P. Jayagandhi, President AUT and National Secretary - AIFUCTO dealt with the salient features of the new package and its implementation in the State and highlighted on the non-implementation of certain crucial provisions like retirement age as 65, full pension for 20 years of service, arrears from 01-01-2006 onwards and HRA and CCA on par with the Central Government employees. Dr. S. Pannirselvam, General Secretary, AUT presented the 'Theme Paper' of the convention.

Prof. A.K.Barman, General Secretary, AIFUCTO was the Chief Guest and he delivered the Special Address. He elaborately dealt with the process by which the present package took shape and the crucial interventional role played by the AIFUCTO at every stage. He also made it clear that through continued negotiations with movement backing, the unreasonable provisions and perceived hurdles to higher placement could be overcome in course of time. He traced the significant advancement in the revision to the impact of the historic nationwide movement launched for the 1996 revision, the vision and leadership of his predecessor office bearers of the AIFUCTO and above all the ever growing strength and solidarity of the teachers and their organizations in all the States and their unity under the label of the AIFUCTO. Prof. Barman, in this context, congratulated the

AUT for its contribution to the AIFUCTO in general and the pay revision process in particular.

The General Secretary of the AIFUCTO inaugurated the AUT's website www.aut.org.in and lauded the pioneering venture in the era of knowledge explosion and communication.

The key event of the convention was the interaction between the delegates and Prof. Barman. The delegates posed questions covering all aspects of the package.

At the close of the convention, the General Secretary of the AIFUCTO issued a press release urging the State Government to settle the legitimate grievances of the teachers at the earliest and drop forthwith the move to convert the colleges into unitary universities metamorphosing the existing aided and government colleges in the State.

Prof.U.Sundararajan, Vice President,AUT, earlier welcomed the gathering and at the Close, Prof.R.Sampath, Treasurer, AUT proposed the vote of thanks.

JAC STRUGGLE IN TAMILNADU

The Joint Action Council of college teachers of Tamilnadu, comprising of AUT, MUTA & TNGCTA, held a demonstration in Chennai on January 28th demanding a halt to the State's move for converting Aided and Government colleges into unitary universities. The State cannot be indifferent to reasonable fears that in the guise of elevating an aided college into university, the State will abandon its right, paving the way for private fleecing of the common people.

- **PARTICIPATE IN THE DHARNA PROGRAM AT JUNTAR MUNTAR, NEW DELHI ON 19TH MARCH,2010.TIME-11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**
- **SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STRUGGLE FUND AT THE EARLIEST**

Greetings



Asok Barman
General Secretary