Central University of Punjab
Bathinda

MINUTES

39th Meeting
of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE

9th April 2026

Minutes of the 39th Meeting of the Finance Committee

The 39th Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Central University of Punjab, was held on 09th April 2026 (11:00 a.m.) in hybrid Mode.

Venue: Conference Room, Aryabhata Academic Block, Adjacent Vice-Chancellor's Office.

The list of the members present during the meeting is annexed.

The Chairperson formally welcomed the members of the Finance Committee and thanked them for sparing their valuable time from their busy schedule to attend the 39th meeting of the Finance Committee for making it possible to attend this meeting in hybrid mode.

After detailed discussions on the agenda items listed for this meeting, the unanimous resolutions of the Finance Committee are as follows:

Item for Confirmation	
Item.No:FC:39:2026:1 **To confirm the minutes of 38th Meeting *(single agenda meeting)* of the Finance Committee held on 9th December, 2025.**	**AGENDA NOTE:** 38th Meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 9.12.2025 through online/physical mode. The draft minutes were circulated to the members for their comments, if any. The members have conveyed their approval of draft minutes through email. Subsequently, approved minutes were circulated. **The minutes of 38th Meeting of the Finance Committee is placed for confirmation.**
RESOLVE	**The Finance Committee, after discussions, unanimously resolved to confirm the minutes of the 38th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 9.12.2025.**
Item.No:FC:39:2026:2 **To note the Action Taken Report (ATR) on decisions of the 38th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 9th December 2025.**	**AGENDA NOTE:** The 38th meeting of Finance Committee was held on 9.12.2025. Subsequent to the circulation of approved minutes, the concerned departments/offices implemented the decision taken by the Finance Committee in its 38th meeting. The details of the action taken are placed at ***(Annexure-39.1).*** **The Finance Committee may kindly note the ATR on the resolutions of 38th Meeting.**

RESOLVE	**The Finance Committee, after taking perusal, unanimously resolved to take a note of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the resolutions of 38th meeting held on 9.12.2025 and expressed satisfaction on timely thereon.**
Items for Consideration	
Item.No:FC:39:2026:3 **To consider the appointment of Legal Counsel, approval of its professional fees, and issuance of a work order to M/s Engineers India Limited (EIL) for providing technical support in defending the arbitration matter between Central University of Punjab and KSMB & Sons, in relation to Phase 1A and 1B of the construction project executed by M/s Engineers India Limited (EIL) as the Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the construction of buildings at the Central University of Punjab.**	**AGENDA NOTE:** The detailed agenda item regarding Arbitration matter between the Central University of Punjab and KSMB & Sons was considered by the Finance Committee in its 37th meeting held on 16.06.2025 vide agenda item No. FC:37:2025:10 wherein the following was resolved ***(Annexure-39.2)***: 1. *"The Committee directed the Engineering Office to obtain the letter from EIL about their consent to defend the arbitration.* 2. *The Committee resolved to approve that as per conditions of Agreement University will reimburse the actual cost incurred on the Arbitration case.* 3. *The Committee approved the arbitration panel constituted by the University and recommended to appoint the sole arbitrator as selected by the contractor from the panel given by the University.* *The Committee directed the University that, as per the conditions of the contract, EIL should defend the Arbitration on behalf of the University".* In the matter of the Arbitration between CU Punjab (through EIL) and M/s KSMB, the University officials visited the office of M/s Engineers India Limited (EIL) at New Delhi on 22.12.2025. The meeting was held with the Mr. S. Balakumar, Director (Projects), Mr. D.S.N. Murthy, Executive Director and Senior Project Manager (Mr. D. Mitra) from M/s EIL. During the meeting, the modulus of defending the arbitration case was deliberated in detail with the EIL officials and it was decided that EIL will provide technical support and the Legal Support to defend the Arbitration. However, the expenses of Rs. 40,056 plus GST per man-day will be charged by the EIL and in addition to EIL fees, the legal fee will be additional and which will be based on the selection of legal counsel by the University i.e. Junior Advocate/ Advocate/Senior Advocate level.

	The University vide its letter No. CUPB/RO/2025-26/0093 dated 15.01.2026 ***(Annexure-39.3)*** communicated its consent to accept the terms of EIL and sought for the details of the legal fees and the tentative man-days to be deployed for defending the arbitration. In response to the University's letter dated 15.01.2026, EIL sent a letter dated 06.02.2026 ***(Annexure-39.4)*** wherein, EIL informed that they could not provide the technical services until University releases their complete pending payments and issue a separate Work Order for providing technical services for defending the arbitration. Further, in contradiction to the discussion of the meeting, EIL in its letter denied to provide legal services even after the University's consent to bear the Legal expenses As per the Procedural Orders, the reply to the claims of arbitration of Phase 1A & Phase 1B needs to be submitted to the Arbitrator on or before 02.05.2026 & 08.05.2026 respectively. In the absence of the Legal Counsel, the university will not be in position to finalize the reply of the claims of KSM Bashir Mohd. & Sons. In the view of the above circumstances, wherein EIL has denied to appoint the Legal Counsel therefore the legal Counsel may be appointed directly by the University, as the Legal expenses are to be borne by the University in either of the case. The approximation of the exact cost of legal services at this stage is not possible as the legal expenses will depend upon the number of hearings to be done by the Arbitrator separately in both the cases and also the level of Legal counsel to be appointed by the University. The payment of Arbitration including Arbitrator fees, EIL fees for technical support and legal fees may be allowed to be done from the HEFA Loan sanctioned for the project. **Therefore, it is proposed that;** a) A legal counsel having an experience of the arbitration cases may be appointed directly by the University. b) A separate work order for providing the technical support may be issued to EIL for Rs. 40,056/- plus GST per man-day. c) All the administrative, technical and legal expenses may be met from the HEFA loan sanction for the

	above projects. **The matter is placed before the Finance Committee for consideration.**
<u>RESOLVE</u>	**The Finance Committee, while considering the agenda item, noted the comments received from the Integrated Finance Division, Ministry of Education, with respect to agenda Item No. FC:39:2026:3, wherein it was stated that the HEFA loan has been sanctioned specifically for construction projects and should not be utilized for utilized for meeting administrative, technical, and legal expenses.** **However, after detailed deliberations, it was unanimously resolved by the committee to approve that, since the arbitration expenses are intrinsically related to the construction of projects under Phase 1A and Phase 1B, therefore all arbitration expenses including other expenses be met from the unspent amount of HEFA loan sanctioned for the construction of these buildings, and as such, the following proposal of University on the matter is approved:** **a) Appointment of legal counsel, having experience of the arbitration cases, directly by the University.** **b) Release of separate work order to EIL for providing the technical support for Rs. 40,056/- plus GST per man-day.** **c) All the administrative, technical and legal expenses w.r.t. this ongoing arbitration case be met from the HEFA loan sanctioned for the above projects.** **The Committee further resolved unanimously that a letter be written to the Ministry concerned with the Engineers India Limited (EIL), the Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the construction of said projects at the Central University of Punjab, to instruct the EIL to defend our ongoing arbitration case.**
<u>Item.No:FC:39:2026:4</u> **To consider the Budget Estimate for the Financial Year 2026-2027 against heads Recurring OH-31, Capital Assets OH-35 and Salary OH-36.**	**<u>AGENDA NOTE:</u>** The budget estimates for the University's expenditure for FY 2026–2027 under the heads Recurring (OH-31), Salary (OH-36), and Capital Assets (OH-35) have been prepared. The budget estimates have been prepared through discussions with various stakeholders, taking into account the requirements of different Departments, Branches, and Cells of the University, as well as the Kendriya Vidyalaya which is operating in project mode, while also analyzing previous expenditure patterns.

	The Budget Estimates prepared for Recurring OH-31, Capital Assets (Non-Recurring) OH - 35 and Salary OH-36 are placed at ***(Annexure-39.5 & 39.6).*** These gross Budget Estimates will be reported to UGC and thereafter UGC will allocate Budget Estimates to Central University of Punjab. Further, based on the internal revenue and grant allocation budget (out of the gross budget estimates) as per requirements and budget availability, budget(s) are to be allocated to various departments/towards different purposes of Expenditure. **The matter is placed before the Finance Committee for approval.**
RESOLVE	**The Finance Committee discussed the item in detail and unanimously resolved to approve the recommendations of the Committee for Budget allocations against heads Recurring (OH-31), Capital Assets (OH-35) Non-recurring and Salary (OH-36) for the FY 2026-27.**
Item.No:FC:39:2026:5 **To note the status of pending Audit Paras.**	**AGENDA NOTE:** A total of 55 Audit Paras were pending upto the Inspection Report for the FY 2022-23 of Central University of Punjab, audit conducted by CAG of India. In February 2025, an Audit Committee Meeting was scheduled in the office of Director General Audit (C) Chandigarh on the request of the University for the perusal of audit paras. In its report submitted by the concerned office, 13 paras have been settled and 42 paras were outstanding. CAG has also conducted Inspection of the CU-Punjab for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 and as per Inspection Report 11 paras have been raised. University has submitted reply to this Inspection Report. Accordingly, as on date, 53 Audit Paras are outstanding. It is submitted to the Finance Committee that recently; CAG has introduced a CAG Connect Portal for managing Audit Paras. Efforts are being made to settle the outstanding paras by replies through CAG Connect Portal, upon the visit of Audit Team (of concerned office of CAG of India) and conducting other Audit Committee Meetings. **The Finance Committee may like to note the status of the**

	pending Audit Paras.
RESOLVE	**The Finance Committee after detailed deliberations unanimously resolved to note the status of pending Audit Paras.** **The Committee advised the University to make consistent efforts to settle pending audit paras at the earliest.**
Item for Adoption	
Item.No:FC:39:2026:6 **To adopt the UGC OM No. 21-1/2015(FD-1/B)/70057 dated 1st November 2024 on prospective basis.**	**AGENDA NOTE:** It is submitted that the University Grants Commission (UGC) vide its Office Memorandum No. 21-1/2015(FD-1/B)/70057 dated 1st November 2024 has revised the rates of Sitting Fee to Rs. 5000/- per day for one session/meeting and Rs. 8,000/- per day for more than one session/meeting and Rs. 10,000/- per day for experts from abroad. The Central University of Punjab is currently disbursing the honorarium @ Rs. 3000/- per meeting and Rs. 5000/- (maximum ceiling) for more than one meeting(s) per day. Experts who visit the University or attend meeting(s) online have repeatedly requested payment of sitting fees/honorarium in accordance with the revised UGC rates, as mandated in OM No. 21-1/2015(FD-1/B)/70057 dated 01.11.2024 ***(Annexure-39.7).*** Therefore, the UGC notification dated 1.11.2024 may be adopted on prospective basis. The Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance (TA/DA) shall also be paid to experts as per UGC/University/Govt. of India rules. **The matter is placed before the Finance Committee for adoption of OM No. 21-1/2015(FD-1/B)/70057 dated 1st November 2024, by the University on prospective basis.**
RESOLVE	**The Finance Committee unanimously resolved to adopt the UGC OM No. 21-1/2015(FD-1/B)/70057 dated 1st November 2024, by the University on prospective basis.** **The Committee further resolved that, for experts visit other than those pertaining to meetings of the Statutory Bodies and Selection Committees, the University may determine the honorarium/sitting fee based on the nature and extent of the work involved.**
Item.No:FC:39:2026:7 **Any other business items with the permission of the Chair**	**No business items.**

<u>Item.No:FC:39:2026:8</u> **To fix the date of the next meeting of the Finance Committee.**	**The Finance Committee authorized the Vice-Chancellor to fix the next date of meeting of the Finance Committee.**

While discussing the agenda, the Comments received from IFD (MoE), CU Bureau of MoE and CU Bureau, UGC were considered by the Finance Committee.

The meeting of the Finance Committee concluded with vote of thanks from & to the Chair.

Sd/-
(Dr. Rajkumar Sharma)
Finance Officer &
Secretary, Finance Committee

Minutes Approved

Sd/-
(Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari)
Vice-Chancellor &
Chairman, Finance Committee