

Public univ teachers oppose UGC-run research fund system

Staff Correspondent  06 July, 2026, 00:45



Public university teachers have expressed dissatisfaction over the government's recent decision to change the system for allocating research funds at public universities.

Under the new decision, research grant funds will not be disbursed directly to public university authorities; instead, the funds will be managed by the commission.



Teachers alleged that the new system would curtail the autonomy of these universities, academic freedom of teachers and increase bureaucratic complexities.

Earlier on July 3, the commission issued a release saying that at a meeting held at the finance ministry on April 4, it was decided to allocate and spend research funds for universities through the UGC, and the allocation has been made accordingly.

Professor Md Faridul Islam, vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University, said that the government did not consult with them before making the decision.

A meeting with the UGC chairman is scheduled for July 9, where all public university vice-chancellors will be invited to discuss the issue, Faridul said.

‘At the meeting, we will try to bargain, as no teachers want any control over public universities,’ he said.

Under the new system, an initiative has also been taken to formulate an integrated funding framework.

To receive funding for the research sector, public university authorities have been requested to send detailed information on research activities for the past two financial years (2024–25 and 2025–26), along with actual expenditure against allocations, to the commission by July 15.

Dhaka University engineering and technology faculty dean Professor Upama Kabir said that while it might be easier for smaller universities to conduct their activities this way, it would not be the case for DU, which received a large research budget of about Tk 21 crore in the past financial year.

‘The issue is whether the commission itself is capable of managing these tasks,’ Upama said.

‘In my opinion, it requires more detailed discussion and could perhaps be implemented after one or two years of review to assess how necessary this management shift really is,’ she added.

Jahangirnagar University social sciences faculty dean Professor Khondaker Mohammod Shariful Huda said that it would be better if the practice remained within the university, otherwise it would increase bureaucratic complications.

‘If there are larger projects — say projects worth Tk 5 lakh or Tk 10 lakh — they [UGC] can provide those, and they already do,’ he said, adding that smaller research projects should remain under the universities.

‘As an autonomous institution, it is probably better to let us function in our own way,’ Huda added.

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