

GIST President Kichul Lim holds a hamburger meeting with a delegation of student researchers... Utilizing the integrated management system, promising stable payment of student labor costs next year

- Resolving concerns about lack of labor costs, including for student researchers, due to decrease in government R&D budget
- Turn crisis into opportunity through efficient and productive allocation of resources and fact-based research



▲ GIST President Kichul Lim (center) and other relevant officials are holding 'hamburger meeting' a meeting with a delegation of student researchers on the 11th (Wednesday) regarding support for student researchers' labor costs for next year.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST) announced that President Kichul Lim met with a delegation of 11 student researchers, consisting of graduate students from each school and department, on Wednesday (Nov. 11) to explain the university's response plan for student labor costs in 2024 and to listen to student researchers' opinions on supporting their research activities.

The meeting between President Lim and the delegation of student researchers on this day was designed to resolve some concerns that the 2024 national research and development (R&D) project budget will decrease compared to the previous year, which will affect the payment of labor costs to student researchers.

President Lim, who suggested communicating informally so that there would be no room for misunderstanding or suspicion, ate hamburgers with a delegation of student researchers in the conference room of Building C during lunch and talked for about an hour. Related officials, including Vice President for Academic Affairs Sang-Don Kim and Student Affairs and Admissions Dean Mi-Ryoung Song, also attended the event.

Vice President Kim said, "As a result of estimating the budget for next year's student labor costs, it is expected that if the available student labor cost resources accumulated through the 'Student Labor Cost Integrated Management System' are utilized, the shortfall will be sufficiently supplemented even if national R&D research grant income decreases."

The student labor cost integrated management system is a system that integrates and manages student labor costs for national R&D projects at the research institute and research director level. It was institutionalized in 2013 after a pilot operation to prevent misappropriation of research funds and ensure stable payment of labor costs to student researchers. Currently, 65 institutions, including the four major science and technology institutes including GIST, are designated as institutions operating the integrated student labor cost management system.

Vice President Kim also announced that he is actively considering supporting labor costs for new researchers other than student researchers such as postdocs through internal research project programs using the schools's own financial resources.

One student representative said, "In fact, I became worried after hearing some media reports that student labor costs would decrease. At today's meeting, I heard the president and vice president directly explain the situation to me, and I felt relieved after I learned that the school is preparing a practical response."

President Lim said, "Let us provide an opportunity to increase student labor costs in the long term by distributing and using the resources given to us more efficiently and productively by focusing more on fact-based research in areas where we have strengths. We will continue to strive to improve the overall research environment for student researchers, including stable payment of student labor costs."