

**Minutes of the 36th meeting of the
Board of Governors of IIT Hyderabad held on 16th April 2021**

The 36th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad was held on Friday the 16th of April 2021 through Video Conferencing.

The following were present:

Dr. B.V.R. Mohan Reddy	Chairman
Shri. Rakesh Ranjan, IAS	Additional Secretary, MoE, Member (Official comments received vide F.No.11-8/2018-T.S.-1 dated 15.04.2021).
Prof Vinod Krishnan	Member
Dr Prema Ramachandran	Member
Prof BS Murty	Director, IITH, Member
Prof Ch Subrahmanyam	Member
Prof C Krishna Mohan	Member
Comde Manohar Nambiar (Retd.)	Registrar, IITH, Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to Prof M Lakshmi Kantam and Smt Chitra Ramachandran, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Govt of Telangana.

Item No.1: To consider confirmation of minutes of the 35th meeting of the Board of Governors held on 7th December 2020.

The Director stated that the Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on 7th December 2020 and a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting has already been circulated to the Members.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered

The Minutes of Thirty Fifth meeting of Board of Governors was confirmed as circulated.

Item No.2: To consider the report on actions taken on the minutes of the 35th meeting of the Board of Governors held on 7th December 2020.

A report relating to the actions taken on the various minutes was presented by the Director for information and consideration of the Board. The Director stated that no actions are pending except in the case of Items 14 and 15, wherein a detailed report/proposal on the individual items has been forwarded to the MoE and decisions are awaited from the Ministry.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered

The Board noted the action taken on the items of the previous meeting.

Item No.3: Report relating to the actions taken by the Chairman, Board of Governors, from time to time since the last meeting.

The Director stated that the Chairman of the Board has approved various actions which were necessary for carrying out the day-to-day activities of the Institute and these were presented to the Board for approval. He highlighted the appointment of Prof. P.M. Ajayan, Rice University,

USA, an eminent professor and one of the pioneers in the field of nano materials as a Distinguished Professor of IITH. He also thanked the Chairman for the role he played in establishing the first Chair Professor position at IITH by Cyient (Cyient Chair in Future Communications) and thanked for the appointment of Prof. P. Rajalakshmi, IIT Hyderabad, as the Cyient Chair Professor.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: No Comments

The Board noted and ratified the actions taken by the Chairman.

Item No.4: Presentation by two faculty members on their innovative research.

Presentation by Dr. Jyotsnendu Giri on his research. Dr. Jyotsnendu Giri, Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, made a brief presentation on his current research in the area of Nanomedicine and regenerative medicine. He stated that one of his projects under IMPRINT II program is on Burn wound regeneration. He is developing a prototype of co-axial airbrushing device and materials kits specific to the degree of burn. With the help of this device and the associated kits, one can deposit nanofiber patches on the patient burn wound at the patient bedside as an effective and affordable burn wound regeneration and care therapy. Chairman, BOG queried about approximate time to bring this technology for patient care and congratulated Dr. Giri for developing such an important innovation in health care. Dr. Giri further stated that within the next two years, this device and the burn specific materials kit will be validated on large animals, followed by clinical trials.

In addition to the above-mentioned innovation, Dr. Giri also presented the innovative DuroKea Technology, the fast acting and long-lasting hygiene products, which was launched by Honourable Education Minister Sri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. Chairman, BOG and all other members congratulated Dr. Giri for this wonderful innovation and the launch of such useful products. BOG members also highlighted the importance of such long lasting hygiene products which is worth the investment in terms of time and money to develop such technology, especially in view of the ongoing pandemic.

Presentation by Prof. P Rajalakshmi on her research. Prof. P Rajalakshmi, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering made a brief presentation on her current research in Drone based Sensing, IoT/CPS, Autonomous Navigations for transportation, agriculture and environmental applications. She presented the drone-based sensing research, where drone mounted with different sensors like RGB, multi-spectral, hyper-spectral and LIDAR is used for high throughput Phenotyping in Agriculture, in collaboration with ICRISAT and PJTSAU, Hyderabad.

Dr. Raji, further presented about the recent project granted to IITH by DST under the NMICPS on Technology Innovation Hub for Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, RoVs) - TiHAN. She briefed the members about the development of Testbed/Living Labs on Autonomous Navigation Technology at IITH, which is first of its kind in the academic setup in the country. The testbed is envisaged to be a platform for collaborative research among academia, industry and R&D labs, both national and international, for the development of next generation navigation technology. Dr. Raji briefed about the IoT based power monitoring device, which is commercialised through a start-up - SkIoT founded by two PhD scholars from her lab. Recently, the product was deployed in 65 locations for MSME in AP. Also, initiatives

are being taken to include some of these products like IITH-micromote (802.15.4 compliant node) and power monitoring device through GEMS portal.

Chairman, BOG congratulated Dr. Raji on being offered the first Cyient Chair Professorship at IITH. Thereafter, the members discussed certain vital parameters of the Drone such as the Endurance, Area of coverage and Resolution of data acquired from drone. Director Prof. B S Murty, mentioned about the foundation stone laying ceremony for Autonomous Navigation Testbed at IITH, by Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Honourable Minister of Education, on 22 Dec 2020. Chairman, BOG suggested collaboration with ISB to evolve business models, to take the technology developed for Agriculture sector to the next level of commercialisation.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: No Comments

The Board appreciated the work of Prof Raji Pachamuthu & Dr Jyotsnendu Giri and their contribution in carrying out collaborative research of relevance to the community and bringing out useful products.

Item No.5: Academics at a glance at IITH.

The Director stated that in spite of the continuing threat of the pandemic, IITH has been doing well on the academic front and that online education continues to be the mode for the past three semesters now. A total of 3354 students are borne on the strength of the Institute, including 1352 students at the UG (BTech/BDes) level and over 1050 PhD students. He highlighted the various new academic initiatives in bringing the gap between IITH and industry including a semester long internship program for BTechs in their 6th semester, a mandatory "Industry Lectures" course for all MTech programs, enabling of industry defined problems as MTech projects, online M Tech Programs for industry personnel and the waiver the residential requirement for the PhD candidates from the Industry/R&D labs.

A center for inter-disciplinary programs (CIP) has been created for fostering interdisciplinary studies across various disciplines. One of these programs includes a MTech in Medical Device Innovation in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG). He further stated a new PhD program (Fellowship for International Research Scholars in Technology (FIRST)) has been initiated for international students and Joint Doctoral Programs (JDPs) have been initiated with Swinburne and Deakin Universities, Australia.

The Chairman queried about the entry level qualification of the MTech in Medical Device Innovation and the Director stated that the entry level qualification is spread across the various disciplines, i.e., BTech, BDes and MBBS. The Chairman further suggested the creation of a special cell consisting of a small group of faculty members for implementation of the increasing number of online courses envisaged by the Institute. The special cell could also look at the possibility of developing a platform for blended learning.

Prof C Krishna Mohan stated that we have certain MTech programs in AI/CSE, which are open for all branches of technology. In addition, the MTech in Entrepreneurship is also open to all BTech students of IITH.

With regard to the status of implementation of PMRF, the Director stated that we have been encouraging our students to apply for PMRF and presently, at IIT Hyderabad we have

8 PMRF scholars on-roll. Three students have been selected through lateral entry, while 5 have been taken through Direct mode.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: The Details of PMRF may also be included in the academic at a glance.

The Board appreciated the sustained efforts of the Institute in improving the quality of Academics notwithstanding the various constraints imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Item No.6: Report on Research and Development at IITH.

The Director stated that a sum of Rs. 425 Cr. has been received thus far by the Institute for sponsored/consultancy research, out of which a sum of Rs. 230 Cr. has been generated by the Faculty in the last 3 years at the rate of Rs. 40 lakhs per faculty per year. During the FY 20-21, a sum of Rs. 76 Cr. has been received for R&D. He further stated that a DRDO cell is operational at IITH and a total of 13 Projects amounting to Rs 19 Cr. have been sanctioned. Even on the publications front, IITH is doing well with a total of 5850 publications, which is the highest amongst the second generation IITs. He further updated the members on the present status of the Patents filed/granted stating that a total of 164 patents have been filed and 11 patents granted till date. The functioning of the I-TiC and TiHAN foundations at IITH was also elaborated upon for the information of the members.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered.

The Board appreciated the work being done by the Institute in Research & Development and the contribution of the researchers in bringing out products useful to the larger community.

Item No.7: Report on Campus Development Project of IITH.

The Director stated that as a part of the expansion program of IIT Hyderabad, the Board of Governors had approved the Campus Development Project divided in to two packages viz., 3A and 3B in its 29th and 31st meetings. This project is majorly funded by JICA loan and partly through HEFA. A brief report on Campus Development Project of the Institute, highlighting the scope of work under this agreement and the timelines was also presented.

He further stated that the pace of work had picked up post COVID-19 lockdown and adequate manpower had been available for carrying out the works by both the contractors L&T and SPCL. However, the progress in the last few months has been slow because of migrant labour returning home for voting during elections/Holi vacations. The second wave of COVID-19 has also added to the labour shortages and contractors are also facing material and liquidity issues. A delay of 9 to 12 months is anticipated, which can go on to as much as 15 months, if the second wave continues for a longer period.

With regard to the comments raised by MoE, the Director stated that the status of various activities and completion of projects were submitted to the MoE by email on 27 Jan 21. Further, MoE vide its email dated 05 April 21 had sought updated figures up to 31 Mar 21 and the updated figures have been forwarded to the MoE on 19 April 21.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: The Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) for establishment of 8 IITs including IIT-Hyderabad was approved on the year 2008, After the extension of timeline for completion of the projects without cost overrun came to an end on 31.03.2021. Ministry has asked the details about the status of various activities and completion of the projects as per the approved RCE vide No.34-1/2016-TS-1 dated the 18th January 2021, which is awaited. IIT Hyderabad should submit the details and seek for no extension of the projects, if it is not completed by the extended time, i.e., 31.03.2021.

The Board noted the report on campus development project of IITH.

Item No.8: Proposal for drawing Rs. 150 Cr. from approval loan of Rs. 510.55 Cr.

The Director stated that HEFA has approved a loan of Rs 510.55 Cr. and sanctioned a term loan of Rs 275 Cr. vide their sanction letter no. / 112/ 2018-19 dated 31.07.2018. The loan amount was restricted by HEFA to Rs 275 Cr. owing to the restriction of single party exposure limit to 25% of their owned funds.

During the current and next year, IITH requires another Rs 150 Cr. for the purpose of project construction. It is proposed to draw this loan from the already approved HEFA loan of Rs 510.55 Cr. With this the total HEFA loan will be Rs 425 Cr.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: Same as for Item No.7

The loan proposal submitted to HEFA was ratified by the BoG.

Item No.9: Proposal for HEFA fresh loan for new construction.

The Director stated that in view of expected increase in the student strength in upcoming years and to meet their academic & administrative needs, additional Faculty and Staff are required to be recruited. The following new construction proposals are being initiated to obtain HEFA Fresh Loan on accord of approval by Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India (GOI): -

- (a) Construction of three additional precast hostels for 336 Students (double occupancy)
- (b) Additional 360 Faculty and Staff housing

He further stated that both these proposals have been approved by the BWC in its 14th Committee meeting held on 26th Feb 2021. He added that it is proposed to seek the HEFA loan in two phases and presented the financial viability of the proposal.

The Director also stated that in view of the long lead time for construction projects and the acute shortage of housing for the Faculty and staff in the Campus as well as the increased requirement of Hostels for the new batch of students, it is imperative to obtain sanctions for new projects as soon as possible. The ongoing projects that have been delayed substantially because of COVID-19 do not have any residential/hostel accommodation and therefore it may not be prudent to link the present proposal for new construction with the completion of the ongoing projects.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be discussed whether new constructions beyond the projects approved under RCE may be undertaken after completion of ongoing projects.

The proposal for HEFA fresh loan for new construction buildings was ratified by the BoG.

Item No.10: To consider the Annual Accounts for the year 2019-20.

The Director stated that the Annual accounts have been audited by the CAG and the audited annual accounts have been forwarded to the MoE. The committee was apprised of the action taken on the observations and comments of CAG in its audit report. A tabulated report on the comments/action taken in response to the CAG observations is placed at Annexure 1.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: The committee may be apprised of the action taken on the observations and comments of CAG at para 1.4 of its Separate Audit Report and the compliance of the Management Letter issued by CAG for remedial/corrective action.

The Board ratified the Annual accounts for the Year 2019-20.

Item No.11: Report on Faculty Recruitment.

The Director stated that IITH currently has 238 Faculty members and 11 new faculty members will be joining in due course. He further stated that the latest round of Faculty recruitment has commenced on 12 April 20 and the tabulated details of the offers made, those who joined/regretted and those who accepted but are yet to join was presented to the members.

Prof C Krishna Mohan stated that we need to review the status of the candidates who have accepted but are yet to join. The Director stated that most of these candidates are presently abroad, particularly in the USA and are unable to join because of the current Pandemic situation.

The Chairman stated that there is a need to have induction programmes for the newly recruited Faculty. The Director stated that such a programme has been started for both the Faculty as well as staff members and is being conducted on a regular basis.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

The Board noted the report on Faculty recruitment.

Item No.12: Report on NF-8 Recruitment Notification.

The Director stated that the Institute has completed the selections against the vacancies notified under NF-8, along with one vacancy of NF-6. He further elaborated upon the specific details of the offers issued, joined/regretted and those yet to join. The specific details of all the 152 posts advertised as part of NF-8 and one post advertised as part of NF-6 were also shown to the members.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

The Board noted the report on NF-8 staff recruitment.

Item No.13: Approval for advertisement of Non-Teaching posts.

The Director stated that the selections against the NF-8 recruitment (2019-20) have been concluded recently. He further stated that a total of 45 vacancies exist at present against the

previously sanctioned posts including the NF-8 vacancies which were not filled up due to the non-availability of suitable candidates. After considering the staff position and requirement of essential staff in some of the departments/section, the Institute proposes to advertise the 34 of the 45 existing vacancies. The balance 10 vacancies are proposed to be advertised in subsequent recruitment cycles. Thereafter, the details of the posts and vacancies to be filled up were also shown to the members.

The Chairman stated that the recruitment should be based on the needs of the Institute and not merely by the ratio of 1:1.1. The Director stated that all proposals for fresh recruitment of staff are scrutinised based on the overall functional requirements of the Departments/sections.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered as per the MoE guidelines and on the basis of needs, and not just to meet the ratio of 1:1.1.

The board approved the proposal for advertisement of 30 posts as against 45 existing vacancies.

Item No.13.1: Proposal for conversion of one post of Sr. Psychological Counsellor to Psychological Counsellor.

The Director stated that the Institute has sanctioned posts of two Sr Psychological Counsellors (Level 10) and one post of Psychological Counsellor (Level 8). Consequent to the resignation of one Sr Psychological Counsellor, there is one vacancy in this post at Level 10. To maintain a hierarchical/pyramidal structure in the cadre, it is proposed to convert the existing vacancy from level 10 to Level 8. Thereafter, the cadre would have one Sr psychological Counsellor and two Psychological counsellors. The Director further stated that there is no additional financial implication to the Govt. and the conversion would only result in savings to the Govt.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered as per the Recruitments Rules and Statutes of the Institute.

The board approved the proposal for conversion of one post of Sr Psychological Counsellor.

Item No.13.2: Proposal for conversion of Two Jr Engineer (Civil) and Two Junior Engineer (Electrical) vacancies to four Executive Assistants posts.

The Director stated that the Institute has sanctioned vacancies of four Jr Engineer, Civil (Level 6) and four posts of Jr Engineer, Electrical (Level 6). It is proposed to two each of the Jr Engineer vacancies to four posts of Executive Assistants in the same Level 6. The Director further stated that there is no additional financial implication to the Govt because of the proposed conversion.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: Conversion of vacancy from engineering domain to Executive Assistant domain results in reduction of sanctioned strength of engineering department. Institute will have to create post for engineering department if need for the same arises in the future. Sanctioned posts in engineering domain & executive domain carry different responsibilities and cannot be converted, as the purpose for which they were created is different. The posts in technical cadre may be abolished against creation of posts in executive cadre with due justification for the need of additional posts in executive cadre.

The board did not approve the proposal for conversion of two posts each of Jr Engineer, Civil and Jr Engineer, Electrical to four posts of Executive Assistants.

Item No.14: Enhancement of superannuation age of Medical Officers.

The Director stated that the GoI vide MoE's letter F.No. 35-15/2016-TS. I dated 03.11.2017 has enhanced the age of superannuation of Doctors other than Central Health Service (CHS) doctors to 65 years. Accordingly, the Board was requested to permit the Institute to implement the decision of GoI w.r.t the Institute's Medical Doctors.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered as per GoI guidelines.

The board approved the proposal for enhancement of Superannuation age of Medical Officers to 65 years in accordance with GoI directives.

Item No.15: Change in the Accounting Policy of Depreciation and Tuition Fees.

The Director stated that the BoG in its 5th Meeting held on April 21, 2011 and 15th Meeting held on May 14, 2014 had approved certain depreciation rates to be followed. Subsequently, MoE has prescribed Format of Accounts for CEIs circulated vide MHRD's letter no. 29-4/2012- IFD dated 17.04.2015 and depreciation rates. However, IITH has continued to follow the rates approved by BoG. Since the depreciation calculation and depreciation rates adopted by IIT Hyderabad are different from the calculation and rates given in the format of Annual Accounts prescribed by the Ministry of Education in respect of certain class of fixed assets, it is proposed to adopt the rates as prescribed by MoE from FY 2020-21. The Depreciation rates for various types of assets presently being followed at IITH and the depreciation rates as prescribed by MoE were also presented.

The Director further stated that as per the formats prescribed by MoE, tuition fees collected separately for each semester has to be accounted for on accrual basis. IITH is accounting the same on cash basis from the inception and it is therefore proposed to follow the MoE prescribed accrual basis for accounting of Tuition fee from FY 2020-21.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered

The board approved the proposal for changes in the accounting policy of Depreciation and Tuition Fees in accordance with GoI directives.

Item No.16: Minutes of the 13th Meeting of Buildings & Works Committee.

The Director stated that the 13th meeting of Buildings and Works Committee was held on 25th July 2020 and the minutes were confirmed by the Committee in its 14th meeting held on 26th February 2021. With regard to the comments raised by MoE, the Director stated that the status of various activities and completion of projects were submitted to the MoE by email on 27 Jan 21. Further, MoE vide its email dated 05 April 21 had sought updated figures up to 31 Mar 21 and the updated figures have been forwarded to the MoE on 19 April 21.

The minutes of 13th BWC meeting were placed for kind ratification of the Board.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: The Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) for establishment of 8 IITs including IIT-Hyderabad was approved on the year 2008, After the extension of timeline for completion of the projects without cost overrun came to an end on 31.03.2021. Ministry has asked the details about the status of various activities and completion of the projects as per the approved RCE vide No.34-1/2016-TS-1 dated the 18th January 2021, which is awaited. IIT Hyderabad should submit the details and seek for no extension of the projects, if it is not completed by the extended time, i.e., 31.03.2021.

The board ratified the minutes of the 13th BWC meeting.

Item No.17: Any other item with the approval of the Chair.

The Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Annexure 1 to 36th FC Minutes dated 21 April 21
(Refers to Agenda Item No.10)

Replies to Audit Observations on Annual Accounts of 2019-20

Sl. No.	Audit Observation	Reply
1	Though pointed out in previous audits, provision towards Retirement Benefits was not made as per actuarial valuation and the Accounting Policy of the Institute in this regard (Sl.no.6, Schedule-23) was also not in consonance with the Accounting Standard-15	As funds are not being provided by MoE for retirement benefits, provision was not created. The same was disclosed in the notes to accounts.
2	Depreciation rates adopted by the institute (except Audio Visual Equipment) were different from the rates given in the format of account prescribed by the MoE	A proposal for change in accounting policy of Depreciation rates is put up for approval of BOG to prepare Annual Accounts as per MoE format with effect from the FY 2020-21
3	As per MoE format, depreciation is to be provided for the whole year on the additions during the year. IIT in their policy no. 3.5 stated that depreciation is to be provided on pro rata basis on the addition during the year. This is in contravention to the guidelines of MoE format.	A proposal for change in accounting policy of Depreciation is put up for approval of BOG to prepare Annual Accounts as per MoE format with effect from the FY 2020-21.
4	Accounting policy of the Institute regarding non-providing of depreciation on e- Journals is in contravention to MoE guidelines.	A proposal for change in accounting policy of Depreciation rates is put up for approval of BOG to prepare Annual Accounts as per MoE format with effect from the FY 2020-21.
5	Accounting policy of the Institute (Schedule-24, Page 57, Sl.no.2.1) in accounting of tuition fee on cash basis was in contravention of MoE format of accounts (Page 43, Sl.no.2.1), which stipulates the accounting of tuition fee on accrual basis. This needs to be reviewed.	A proposal for change in accounting policy regarding accounting of tuition fee on accrual basis is put up for approval of BOG to prepare Annual Accounts as per MoE format with effect from the FY 2020-21.
6	Fixed Asset register (assets purchased with the Institute's funds and sponsored funds) is maintained from 2011-12 onwards though the Institute started functioning from the year 2008 onwards. Fixed Asset register may be updated and tallied with the Fixed Assets shown in the Fixed Asset schedule of the annual accounts	Efforts are being put in place to update and tally the Fixed Asset Register with the fixed assets shown in the fixed assets schedule of the annual accounts.
7	The current liabilities and provisions included an amount of ₹1 .81 Cr. received during the year, which were of designated fund in nature, meant for specific purpose, but incorrectly treated as liabilities and accounted under other liabilities.	As per MHRD Format of Annual Accounts, Designated/Earmarked funds are the funds set aside by Institutions or provided by external agencies. But this amount is neither

<p>This resulted in overstatement of Current Liabilities and understatement of Designated/Earmarked Fund by ₹ 1.81 Cr. The accounting was not in consonance with stipulation in MoE format of accounts (Page 68), though pointed out in previous audit.</p>	<p>set aside by the Institute nor provided by external agencies. This is collected from students/staff for specific purpose and therefore, cannot be classified under Designated/Earmarked funds.</p>
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