



Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad

(An Institute of National Importance Established by the Act of the Parliament of India)

Minutes of the 21st Board of Governors (BoG) Special Meeting

Date: **2nd November 2022**

Time: **2:30 PM**

Venue: **Seminar Hall-1, India International Center, New Delhi/Online**

The 21st Meeting of the Board of Governors of IIIT Allahabad was held on 2nd November 2022. The meeting was hosted at Seminar Hall-1, India International Center, New Delhi. Five BoG members attended the meeting in person, and six BoG members participated in an online mode.

On Chairman's request, Prof Neetesh Purohit, Dean Academic Affairs participated in the meeting to answer queries from the members of the BOG for items related to the Flexible Academic Program. He joined the meeting online.

This meeting was held with shorter notice, considering the urgency of some of the matters discussed.

S.No.	Name	Mode	Role
1	Dr. Anand Deshpande Chairman, and MD Persistent Systems, Pune	Online	Chairman
2	Prof. R. S. Verma Director (Acting), IIIT Allahabad	Physical	Member
3	Sh. Rakesh Ranjan Additional Secretary, MoE New Delhi	Physical	Member
4	Prof. Archana Shukla Director, IIM Lucknow	Online	Member
5	Prof. Manindra Agrawal IIT Kanpur	Online	Member
6	Sh Rahul Singh Managing Director, GAPL	Physical	Member
7	Dr. Anand Bulusu IIT Roorkee	Online	Member
8	Prof. Arvind Choubey Director, IIIT Bhagalpur	Online	Member
9	Sh. Jitendra Singh Nominee of Additional Chief Secretary Dept of IT & Electronics, Govt of U.P. Lucknow	Online	Member
10	Prof. Shekhar Verma IIT Allahabad	Physical	Member
11	Prof. T. Lahiri	Physical	Member
12	Smt Manmohan Kaur	Physical	Special Invitee

Anand Deshpande

Singh

	Advisor, IITs & IIITs, MoE New Delhi		
13	Dr. Satish Kumar Singh Registrar (Actg), IIIT Allahabad	Physical	Secretary

Dr. Jaydeep Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary, and Group Coordinator MoE, and Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Director IIT Kanpur, could not attend the meeting due to prior commitments and were granted a leave of absence.

BoG meeting started with a formal welcome by the Secretary and brief opening remarks by the Hon'ble Chairman BoG.

The agenda for the meeting was circulated by the Seceretary of the BoG in advance and the following items were discussed.

AGENDA IETM 21.01

Ratification of Annual Report and Annual Accounts of 2020-21 of IIIT Allahabad -regn

MoE vide letter No. 45-12/2016-TS.I dated 30.09.2022 approved the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of IIIT Allahabad for FY 2020-21 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

The Annual Accounts and Annual Report FY 2020-21 was placed in this special BoG meeting for ratification.

Members of the committee had the following observations regarding the structure and presentation of the data in the Annual Report for FY 2020-21.

- (I) *A section describing the Institutite's vision and future directions may be included in the annual report.*
- (II) *Analytics about important data such as Publications, Patents, Projects, etc. must be presented. This can help the reader compare the performance of the Institute year over year and as compared to other benchmarks.*
- (III) *Information about all faculty members and data about their contribution should be presented consistently.*
- (IV) *Important financial data such as Internal Revenue Generation and other budget heads must be presented as part of the Annual Report.*
- (V) *Faculty and staff related data in terms of the existing and vacant positions must be included in the report.*
- (VI) *The Members of the Board were unhappy with the delay in placing the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of IIIT Allahabad for FY 2020-21 for ratification.*

The Annual Report and Annual Accounts of IIIT Allahabad for FY 2020-21 were ratified by the Board of Governors.

The Board recommended that the FY 2021-22 Annual Report and Annual Accounts of IIIT Allahabad be placed before BoG as soon as possible for approval and ratification. Future report should consider and incorporate the suggestions provided by members of the Board.

Anand Deshpande

S. Singh

The Chairman further stated that since the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of IIIT are public documents and are available on the website, the finance department must look at reports from other institutions and ensure that our report is comparable or better without disclosing competing or confidential information.

AGENDA ITEM 21.02

Discussion on the report by the fact-finding committee as constituted by Chairman BoG

As there were complaints received by the Ministry of Education about the process followed in the selection process for the post Registrar and functioning of the Professor In-Charge, Registrar of IIIT Allahabad, the Direction of Chairman BoG of IIIT Allahabad requested the Director to set up a fact-finding Committee vide letter dated 1st September 2022.

Accordingly, the Director, on 12th Sep 2022, appointed a two-member committee consisting of

- 1) Padmashree, Prof. Vinod Kumar Singh the Chair Professor, Department of Chemistry IIT Kharagpur and Ex Director IISER Bhopal and
- 2) Padmashree Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Professor Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kanpur

The Committee was requested to look into two specific matters as requested by MoE.

- a) the procedure followed for the selection of the Registrar, IIIT Allahabad, and
- b) allegations against the Professor-in-Charge, Registrar, IIIT Allahabad as received through the MoE.

The committee submitted two separate reports about the two above matters to the Director IIIT Allahabad on 1st October 2022 and 17th October 2022 respectively.

The proceeding(s) of the committee and report(s) in the subjects as mentioned above (a) & (b) were presented to the Board in the meeting.

Specifically, the Committee in its report observed that

1. The post of a registrar is a statutory position for a period of five years to be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes of the Institute. Therefore, the Statutory provisions laid down for this purpose are very sacrosanct and cannot be tweaked by individual officials or Board unless amended by the approved process.
2. As per the Statute No: 5. (ii) and (iv), the selection committee for the Registrar should consist of the Director (chairperson), two experts nominated by the Board, one expert nominated by the senate, one administrative expert nominated by the Board, and one SC/ST member nominated by the Board if none of the other members belongs in this category. A perusal of documents revealed that there were six members on the selection committee, of which two members; Prof DVLN Somayajulu and Shri S. Goverdhan Rao were without any approval of the Board. This deviation was made by the then Director in constituting a committee suo moto without obtaining the approval of two expert

nominees from the Board of Governors in derogation of the Statutes rendering the entire selection process null and void which is done without powers and usurping the powers of the Board.

3. The Council of IIITs categorically resolved that the candidates for Registrar with experience as Professor shall not be preferred. However, the advertisement did not carry any condition to that extent totally ignoring the guidelines of the Council of IIITs, which is the competent Authority.
4. Out of 66 received applications, 52 were found to be eligible. These eligible candidates were called for presentation before the selection committee on 10th and 11th November 2021. A total of 24 candidates appeared for the presentation.
5. It was noticed that a written test in the form of a case study was done just before the interview although there was no mention of this in the call letter dated 27th October 2021, sent to the candidates. The inclusion of the additional process without making explicit provisions for the written test in the call letter results in a premeditated unfair practice. Further, there are hardly any instances of conducting a written test for the selection of candidates at level 14 which would cast doubts in the minds of the candidates and could result in seeking judicial interventions, by the unsuccessful aspirants once the results are announced.
6. Based on the marks in the written test and presentation, 7 candidates were interviewed on 12th November 2021. Prof. Vijaishri Tewari, the Acting Registrar of IIIT Allahabad was recommended for the post. The committee also recommended her as an adjunct faculty in her academic department.
7. Prof. Vijayshri Tewari was appointed professor on 23rd March 2021. After a year of probation, she was confirmed on 23rd March 2022. She applied for the position of registrar on 29th September 2021. The documents indicated that the application was not made through a proper channel.

As Prof. Manindra Agrawal Ji, is member of the fact finding committee and is also a member of the BoG of IIIT Allahabad, and was present in the meeting, the Chairman requested Prof. Agrawal to summarize the findings.

The fact finding committee recommended that

"The findings of the inquiry render the entire selection process null and void. The committee recommends that the selection committee report should be quashed, and a new advertisement should be released for the selection of the Registrar of IIIT Allahabad following norms laid down by the Statutes and the Council."

As per the findings of the second report in above subject (b) Prof. Agrawal summarized that,

"While it is difficult to substantiate some allegations against PIC, Registrar, it is clear that she does not spend sufficient time towards discharging her responsibilities. As a result, she is unable to resolve issues proactively, causing resentment and disappointment in many in the Institute."

After the discussion led by Prof. Agrawal, the Board resolved to

- (I) *Accept the recommendations presented through the two reports submitted by the Fact Finding Committee,*
- (II) *Accept that the selection process for Registrar and Deputy Registrar IIIT Allahabad was flawed.*
- (III) *Further the members of the Board of Governors agreed that the Director shall start the process of setting up a new advertisement for the selection of the Registrar and Deputy Registrar of IIIT Allahabad following norms laid down by the IIITA Statutes and the IIIT Council.*
- (IV) *The institute should proactively try to resolve the issues and resentments among the stakeholders about the functioning of the Acting Registrar.*

AGENDA ITEM 21.03

Admissions under NEP 2020 inspired Flexible Academic Program Framework 'through circulation' from Hon'ble BoG.

Context:

FAP or the Flexible Academic Program is an ambitious program prepared by IIIT Allahabad inspired by NEP 2020. The program offers multi-exit, multi-entry, multi-institute, multidisciplinary flexibility.

Admissions to an additional group of 50 B.Tech. students was made under the Flexible Academic Program through JoSA during the admission process held this year.

The Ministry of Education vide letter No. F.N. 45-12/2016-TS.I dated 28/10/2022 conveyed the comments of Additional Secretary on this agenda item being a BoG member are cited below:-

"The Flexible Academic Program (FAP) is a novel initiative of IIIT Allahabad. Since the program has been envisaged in accordance with NEP-2020, it requires in depth discussion in the BoG meeting instead of circulating it among the members of BoG."

This item was put up during the 21st Special BoG meeting. Prof Neetesh Purohit, Dean Academic Affairs attended this part of the meeting online.

While the members agreed that FAP is a novel program and such initiatives must be encouraged. Members of the Board also expressed serious concerns and displeasure at several procedural lapses that were observed in getting the program started.

1. The program has been launched even before it was approved by the BoG.
2. The program needs the approval of the Finance Committee. The program has not been presented to the Finance Committee for approval.
3. Students were admitted through JoSA at national level under the FAP without the approval BoG.

Anand Deshpande

Singh

As part of the 567 page Annexure circulated with the agenda papers, it is observed that a Section 8 Company, IIITA Info Communication Incubation Centre (IIITA-ICIC), was incorporated on 11th Sep 2021.

Members of the Board expressed their dismay about the following:

1. A Section 8 Company was incorporated without prior discussion and approval from the BoG.
2. The scope, the formation and details about the operation and governance were not discussed or approved by the BoG.
3. The main objects of the Section 8 Company, as described in the Memorandum of Association are focused on creating an innovation ecosystem and about incubation of start-ups in the IIITA environment. There is no reference to FAP in the MoA. The members questioned as to why was the Section 8 Company involved in FAP admissions. Why would the Institute not handle the FAP program as an Institute program.
4. Since the members of the Board of IIITA-ICIC are authorities in IIITA, the framework for related party transactions - both financial and non-financial between the two organizations would need prior approval of the BoG. This was not sought.

The board resolves as follows,

1. *The Flexible Academic Program defines a good framework and is in line with NEP 2020. The 50 B.Tech. students admitted in their first year, may continue to be part of the program.*
2. *The Director shall constitute a committee that includes senior academicians from other institutions that would review gaps as observed in the implementation of FAP so that changes can be incorporated as the batches move through the program.*
3. *The implementation of the Flexible Academic Program is a IIIT Allahabad program and must be run by the Institute. The Section 8 Company IIITA-ICIC has no role to play in the implementation of the Flexible Academic Program.*
4. *There should be no financial transactions between the Institute and IITA-ICIC for the Flexible Academic Program without prior approval from the BOG.*
5. *The Director will review and ensure that the fees paid by the students admitted in the Flexibale Academic Program are deposited in the general fee account for the Institute.*
6. *The Director must review the reasons for procedural lapses of not getting BoG and Finance Committee approvals for*
 - a. the formation of Section 8 Company,*
 - b. framework for transactions between the Section 8 Company and the Insititute*
 - c. approvals for the Flexible Academic Program**and take suitable action against those responsible for the lapses.*

AGENDA ITEM 21.04

(A) The restructured MTech Programs (over existing seats) w.e.f. July-Dec 2022 batches.

(B) Admitting fresh batches in M Tech (ECE) with specialization in Communication Engineering program w.e.f. Jan 2023 (against seats which remain vacant after completion of CCMT),

(C) Creation of 14 seats for opening M Tech (AICC) program and allowing admissions w.e.f. Jan 2023.

Context:

IIIT Allahabad has the framework three kinds of M. Tech. programs:

1. Regular M. Tech. programs with admissions with GATE score, through CCMT with batches starting in August of the year. All GATE qualified students admitted through this route are eligible for M. Tech. Scholarships provided by the Government. These programs have been running at IIIT Allahabad for several years.
2. M. Tech. under the Self Financing Program. This program does not require a GATE score and admissions are on the basis of a test conducted by IIIT Allahabad. Batches start in January of the year. Fees are comparable to the regular M. Tech program and faculty teaching in the program get additional honorarium for teaching these courses.
3. The Flexible Academic Program also has a provision for offering M. Tech. courses but specific plans for implementing M. Tech. courses through FAP have not been formalized.

Many observations were made by the board members which are as follows,

- a) It makes sense to offer a Self-Financed M. Tech. program as part of continuous education program offered for industry professionals but it does not make sense to operate this program as an alternative to the regular M. Tech. program.
- b) The proposed M.Tech program(s) being self-sponsored in nature lacks in terms of motivation and purpose of starting the same.
- c) It seems that there is no significant difference in the fee structure of the regular and the proposed M.Tech students.
- d) The financial model of the proposed M.Tech programs not clear.
- e) What is gain to the institute in starting such programs in its current form is not convincing.

The board resolves as follows,

- (I) *There must be a thorough discussion on Self-Financed M. Tech. program in the next BoG Meeting.*
- (II) *Director IIIT Allahabad may form a committee including some external senior academicians to review the existing Self-Sponsored M.Tech programs and formulate the skeleton. The committee may look the similar programs run by IIT Roorkee and IIT Bombay.*
- (III) *The industry persons with some professional experience to be considered for admissions in such M.Tech programs.*
- (IV) *The tuition fee for students admitted in such self-sponsored M.Tech programs should be significantly higher than that of regular M.Tech students.*
- (V) *No stipend to be offered to the students admitted in self-sponsored M.Tech programs.*
- (VI) *The entire academic, financial, and operational model for such self-sponsored M.Tech programs to be approved by the senate, the finance committee, and the Board of Governors through discussions.*

Anand Deshpande

S. Singh

AGENDA ITEM 21.05

Date and venue of the next BoG Meeting

Hon'ble Chairman BoG kindly offered to host the next BoG meeting in the premises of Persistent Systems Noida/Gurugram in November/December 2022. The exact date and venue shall be shared soon.

AGENDA ITEM 21.06

Any other item with the permission of the chair.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Chairman BoG, the members were apprised of the recent Writ petition (WRIT-A No..-16967 of 2022) filed against the Union of India and two others by Prof. Vijayshri Tewari in the Hon'ble High Court Allahabad related to the selection of registrar at IIT Allahabad.

As Prof Tewari has filed the writ petition, the Director appointed Dr. Satish Kumar Singh as the Registrar (Acting) of IIT Allahabad.

The institute has employed the services of an external advocate to advise and pursue this matter. The Board will be updated as the Institute responds to the writ petition.

The proceedings of the meeting were summarized by Hon'ble Chairman BoG and recorded by secretary BoG. Hon'ble Chairman BoG thanked all the members present in the meeting.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


DR. SATISH KUMAR SINGH
Secretary, BoG IITA.


Prof. R.S. Verma
Director IITA

Anand Deshpande
DR. ANAND DESHPANDE
Chairman, BoG IITA.