

**MINUTES OF THE
TENTH (10th) MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD ON FRIDAY, 24th AUGUST 2007**

The tenth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on Friday, 24.08.2007 at 11.00 am in the Conference Room of COE, Pune and the following members were present.

1.	Dr. F. C. Kohli	Chairman
2.	Shri. Prataprao Pawar	Member
3.	Shri. Atul Kirloskar	Member
4.	Prof. B. S. Sonde	Member
5.	Commodore Anand Khandekar	Member
7.	Dr. G. B. Pant	Member
8.	Prof. N. B. Pasalkar	Member
9.	Mr. Kantilal Umap	Member
10.	Prof. A. D. Sahasrabudhe	Member - Secretary
11.	Prof. B. B. Ahuja	Invitee
12.	Prof. S. R. Kajale	Invitee
13.	Prof. S. R. Sathe	Invitee
14.	Prof. (Mrs.) P. P. Rege	Invitee

Dr. (Mrs.) Joyce Shankaran, Principal Secretary, Higher & Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra, Dr. S.G. Dhande and Prof. Uday Salunkhe could not attend the meeting owing to their prior commitments and were granted leave of absence.

Dr. F. C. Kohli, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Institute welcomed the members.

The Board decided to start with the presentation by Mr. Christopher Benninger, Architect, on the Master plan of the Institute before taking up other agenda items.

Presentation by Mr. Christopher Benninger

Mr. Khushroo Irani presented the 0-2 years development priorities as desired by the Board in the previous Board meeting with emphasis on campus enhancements and year-one and year-two plan. However, the Board was eager to understand how these developments will integrate the existing heritage buildings and their usage.

On being shown of the parking spaces so as to convert the institute into a walking plaza with underpass and overpass connecting the two sides of the campuses, the Board stressed the urgent need for classroom complex and other academic buildings rather than concentrating on parking space in the existing campus since the land was scarce.

On the phase-wise plan of 3-5 years, Mr. Benninger informed the Board that development could take place on the Boat Club side with academic block and library

centre coming up first and thereafter an auditorium. He further mentioned that based on the needs, other buildings, especially towers could also come-up alongside these new structures, overseeing the river. The Board expressed concern over the high-rise buildings and whether such buildings would gel with the existing architecture. Mr. Benninger informed that as land needs to be conserved, one of the options available was to go with vertical structures. He informed the Board that the Pune Municipal Corporation is likely to permit construction of 100 meters tall buildings within the city limits. He agreed to look into where and how these tall structures could be built so as to integrate with existing heritage structures.

On the hostel front, Mr. Benninger informed that few existing blocks will have to be demolished and new tall buildings would have to be constructed with a central spine arrangement, housing the mess, warden's quarters, student offices, student club house etc.

The Board after deliberations desired that classroom complex and a girls' hostel be taken up on top priority. The Board further decided that architectural work on these two projects be awarded to Mr. Benninger as he had already spent enough time in studying and presenting the master plan of the institute. The Board felt that Mr. Benninger make his presentation on the master plan and the two blocks to the BWC and the Board members in Pune as often as possible in order to initiate these works quickly. The architectural fees for taking up this additional work would be paid to the architect.

One of the concerns for these two priorities was the availability of funds. The Board reasoned that once the plans were prepared and exact requirements known, the budget estimates would be more realistic and source of funding decided. Prof. Sonde informed the Board that MHRD be approached for supporting the construction of a Girls hostel since such schemes are supported by MHRD. The Board also felt that proposals could also be simultaneously sent to UGC and AICTE for such support. The board also stressed the need to apply for inclusion of COEP under section 12 B of the UGC Act, so as to get benefits of the same. The Board was assured of the same.

Mr. Christopher Benninger and his team left thereafter.

Presentation by M/S. Architects United

The Board was informed that under 'any other item' Renovation of Hostel 'I - Block' at an estimated cost of Rs.117 lakhs was required to be undertaken and that M/s Architects United, Pune, who have been appointed as an outsourced agency to take care of all our maintenance related works have estimated the expenditure on the same as follows:

Toilet Renovation	-	Rs. 66.0 lakhs
Renovation of Windows	-	Rs. 15.0 lakhs
Waterproofing on Terrace	-	Rs. 4.0 lakhs
Painting on Ceiling	-	Rs. 6.0 lakhs
Tiling in Rooms/Passages/ Staircase	-	Rs. 24.0 lakhs
Aluminum Partitions	-	Rs. 2.0 lakhs
<hr/>		
Total -		Rs. 117.0 lakhs

The Board approved the proposal with expenditure being debited to ED-PLA Account Head.

The team from M/S. Architects United left thereafter.

The agenda items for the day were taken up as below:

Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute held on 10.01.2007

Mr. Umap pointed out a few minor corrections in the Minutes and also informed that Recruitment Rules and Service Conditions (item 2.4 of the Ninth meeting of BoG) were under the consideration of the Govt. of Maharashtra and all faculty appointments be made on contract basis till the rules were approved by the Government. The Board noted his observations and felt that since there is an acute shortage of faculty, it is desirable to appoint faculty on regular basis based on the Recruitment Rules and Service Conditions approved by the Board in order to attract and retain good faculty. After due deliberations, the Board decided that faculty be recruited on an initial probation of two years as per the Recruitment Rules and Service Conditions adopted by the Board and regularise them on satisfactory completion of probation.

The Board **CONSIDERED** the Minutes of the 9th meeting of the BOG held on 03.05.2007 with modifications as above.

R-10/1/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ninth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute held on 03.05.2007 with modifications as suggested be **CONFIRMED** as enclosed (**ANNEXURE – 1**).

Item No. 2: Actions taken on the decisions of the Ninth meeting of the Board of Governors held on 03.05.2007.

2.1 Faculty recruitment: The advertisement for faculty positions has been released both in the newspapers and on the website. Good response has been received. The interviews will commence soon after the short-listing of applications by the committees constituted for the purpose.

2.2 Presentation by Architect Mr. Christopher Benninger:

Presentation was appreciated by the Board.

2.3 Writing of Institute Accounts by outsourced accountancy firm: The Board noted that accounts for last four financial years have been prepared in double entry system in Tally and

approved the appointment of M/S Joshi & Pol Associates as Statutory Auditors for the institute to carry out audit for the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. The Board suggested that for double entry book keeping of accounts of institute, either regular employees be appointed or this work may be outsourced to an accounting agency.

2.4 Budget Estimates for 2007-08: Modified budget estimates for 2007-08 were tabled in the meeting. The Board while approving the budget discussed that with a budget of Rs. 14 crores excluding the TEQIP funding, it is imperative that expenditure per student per year works out to Rs. 65,000/-. The tuition fee may have to be raised during the next year in tune with this expenditure.

The Board further resolved that bills be sent to treasury to meet various expenses from the ED-PLA account since the entire amount from ED-PLA account is not yet transferred to the institute by the Government.

2.5 Merging of Departments of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics: The Board was informed about the counseling meetings undertaken by the Chairman with the faculty of Applied Mechanics Department who have agreed to the merger of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics departments. The Board also queried if the Computer engineering and IT Department could also be merged. The Board was informed that these two departments are already functioning with one Head of the Department.

2.6 Convocation of COEP: The Board noted that the University authorities are not permitting the institute to hold a separate convocation based on the present GR. The Board was informed that Shri Prataprao Pawar has taken up the matter with the Hon'ble Minister Shri Dilip Walse Patil and that the Minister had assured to look into the legality of the issue. The Board was also informed about the statutes and practices of holding separate convocation by autonomous institutes in the State of Karnataka.

The Board observed that since the institute was not a part of the overall examination system of the University of Pune and that institute is not seeking gold medals from the University of Pune for toppers of the institute and with a view to maintain an image and identity of the institute as an autonomous institute, the matter be taken up with the Govt. of Maharashtra to suitably amend the G.R. permitting the institute to conduct Graduation Ceremony to award Degrees to students of the College qualifying for the same, on behalf of University of Pune.

2.7 Establishment of Estate Office: The Board noted the appointment of M/S. Architects United, Pune, as an outsourced agency to take care of institutes' estate office requirements which would include a number of repairs like water leakage/seepage from the buildings, repair of all toilets, plumbing, flooring work, painting, partitioning, electrical rewiring, etc.

The fees payable to firm at 3% of the total cost of the works executed was also noted by the Board.

2.8 Contribution towards Corpus Fund: The Board noted the transfer of Rs. 50 lakhs from development fee account into corpus fund.

2.9 Institution of Chair Professors in different Departments of COEP: The Board noted that COEP Foundation has been informed about the Board's decision to initiate Chair Professors simultaneously in all departments with an endowment of at least US \$ 200,000 per chair.

R-10/2(a)/2007: The Board **NOTED** the actions taken on the decisions of the 9th meeting of the Board held on 03.05.2007 as stated above.

R-10/2(b)/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to fill the vacant faculty positions on regular basis rather than on contract with a view to attract talented good faculty.

R-10/2(c)/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to have M/S Joshi & Pol Associates as Statutory Auditors for the institute to carry out audit for the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

R-10/2(d)/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for the year 2007-08.

R-10/2(e)/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to merge the Applied Mechanics department with the Civil Engineering Department.

R-10/2(f)/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to write to the Government of Maharashtra to amend the G.R. suitably permitting the institute to grant degrees to its graduating students.

Item No. 3: Presentation of Initial Concept Master Plan by Architect Mr. Christopher Benninger

The item was taken up first, prior to the discussion of other agenda items.

R-10/3/2007: The Board appreciated Mr. Benninger's presentation and **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr. Christopher Benninger as an Architect to prepare building plans for class room complex and a girls hostel.

Item No. 4: Regulations for the award of B. Tech degree

The Board appreciated the efforts of all concerned in the preparation of Rules and Regulations for the award of B. Tech degree and approved implementation of the same with effect from the current academic term i.e. 2007-08.

R-10/4/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to implement Rules and Regulations for the award of B. Tech degree as recommended by the Senate with effect from current academic term i.e. 2007-08.

Item No. 5: Recommendations for the award of B. Tech and M. Tech degrees and medals

The Board while approving the list of first batch of B.Tech students and the 3rd Batch of M.Tech students under autonomous status, observed that topper in the Branch of Computer Engineering should be a single individual, as Gold medal cannot be shared amongst two students. The Board approved the award of gold medals to B.Tech toppers in all branches except in computer engineering discipline, where it felt that criteria/rules be further spelt out to award gold medal to only one individual.

R-10/5(a)/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to award the B. Tech and M. Tech. degrees to the list of students who have successfully completed the requirements for the award of B. Tech and M. Tech degrees and forward the same to the Controller of Examinations, University of Pune.

R-10/5(b)/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to approve the list of toppers at B.Tech for passing all the courses in the first attempt, scoring highest CGPA in the respective departments, except computer engineering, where the gold medal at B.Tech be awarded to a single recipient based on new rules to be evolved for the same.

Item No. 6: Items for reporting to the Board

a) Meeting with the Hon'ble Minister regarding pending issues:

The Board appreciated the efforts of the team and hoped that critical issues taken up with the Hon'ble Minister would receive prioritized attention and resolved soon. The Board members also opined that the Hon'ble Minister's desire to raise funds through the alumni would take some more time since the Board has initiated its dialogue with the alumni, only during last 2-3 years and the alumni have shown keen interest in supporting the college.

b) Visit of Director and Head of Computer/IT Department to USA from June 1st to June 18th 2007 on the invitation of COEP Foundation:

The report of the visit was already circulated to the members of the Board. There was an enthusiastic response from the alumni to support the institute. The proposal for creating an endowment fund of Rs. 20 crores to provide performance based incentives from the interest earned to attract and retain talented faculty was discussed with the alumni. Alumni Association in India has constituted a committee for formulating the scheme. The Board acknowledged the efforts of the Director and Head Computer/IT Department in initiating a dialogue with the alumni to support the institute.

c) Faculty deputed for training/participation in conferences abroad:

The Board members opined that whenever faculty members are deputed for presenting papers in International conferences abroad, they should extend their stay by a few more days, visit nearby Universities to learn about their best practices, develop contacts for furthering academic collaboration. The Board was assured of the same.

d) MoUs with Academia/Industry:

On being reckoned about status on the Senate's resolution to establish specialized inter-disciplinary research centers, the Board was informed that one such initiative by Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, an alumnus of COEP in concurrence with Shri Pratap Pawar has been initiated to get projects from DRDO and other Defence Departments of Govt. of India and that the institute will shortly enter into an MOU in this respect. The Board appreciated the same and suggested that more efforts be put in this direction.

The Board was informed that the signing of an MOU and setting up of an NVIDIA GPU lab was done with the assistance of Mrs. Jaya Panvalkar, an alumnus of COEP.

e) Reallocation of TEQIP Grant:

The Board noted the reduction in TEQIP grants by Rs. 8.0 million and also its final reallocation.

R-10/6/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** that the items reported on the agenda as stated above be **NOTED** as reported and **APPROVED**.

Item No. 7: Visit to Civil Engineering Department

The members of the Board visited the Department of Civil Engineering after the meeting. The Board suggested that many of the equipment in various laboratories needed proper maintenance, which should be attended to immediately. The Board also strongly felt that the laboratories need to be kept clean, neat and tidy.

Item No. 8: Any other item with the permission of the Chair

8.1 Items for Reporting to the Board

- a) Misbehavior of second year girl students in the Girls Hostel and the punishment awarded
- b) Opening of ATM counter of State Bank of India in the campus
- c) Receipt of full tuition fees from EBC, PTC/STC and Ex-Serviceman candidates
- d) Appointment of Dr. Bhalachandra Puranik and Mr. Narendra Kale as Adjunct faculty

R- 10/8(a)/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** that the items reported on the agenda as stated above be **NOTED** as reported.

Item No. 9: Pending issues and Resolutions

- 9.1 Resolution on operation of the Block Grant Scheme by the Govt. as per GR on autonomy
- 9.2. Resolution on Transfer of institute money from ED-PLA account to the institute and closing of ED-PLA account
- 9.3. Resolution on modifying the GR on autonomy enabling the college to hold separate convocation of COEP
- 9.4. Resolution on not transferring staff from other colleges to COEP and vice-versa without the Board's consent.

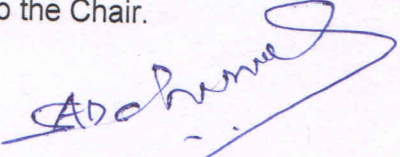
R-10/9/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** that institute follow up these issues with the Government for expeditious action.

Item No. 10. Permission to purchase micro machining tool, an equipment of proprietary nature on a single tender basis, under DST-FIST Project in Mechanical Engineering Department on the recommendation of Co-ordinator of the project Dr. S. R. Kajale and Dr. Joshi of IIT Bombay. IIT Bombay has purchased an identical equipment.

R-10/10/2007: The Board **RESOLVED** to authorise the Director to go ahead with the purchase and place the order.

Item No. 11 : The Board decided to have the 11th Meeting of the BOG as follows:
Date: October 11, 2007 (Thursday)
Time: 11:00 hrs.
Venue: Conference Room, COEP.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


(A. D. Sahasrabudhe)
Member- Secretary
Board of Governors, COEP