

**MINUTES OF THE
SIXTEENTH (16th) MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD ON THURSDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY 2010**

The Sixteenth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on Thursday, 04.02.2010 at 3.00 pm at TCS Office, Mumbai and the following members were present.

1.	Dr. F. C. Kohli	Chairman
2.	Mr. Prataprao Pawar	Member
3.	Prof. B. S. Sonde	Member
4.	Commodore Anand Khandekar	Member
5.	Mr. Harish Mehta	Member
6.	Dr. G.B. Pant	Member
7.	Prof. B.N. Chaudhari	Member
8.	Prof. A. D. Sahasrabudhe	Member – Secretary
9.	Mr. Maitreya Doshi	Invitee
10.	Prof. B. B. Ahuja	Invitee
11.	Prof. (Mrs.) M.A. Joshi	Invitee
12.	Prof. S.D. Agashe	Invitee
13.	Prof. S. T. Vagge	Invitee
14.	Prof. B.G. Birajdar	Invitee

Mr. J.S. Sahariya, Mr. Atul Kirloskar, Dr. S.G. Dhande, Dr. Uday Salunkhe, Dr. S.K. Mahajan and Mr. Kantilal Umap could not attend the meeting owing to their prior commitments and were granted leave of absence.

Dr. Kohli welcomed all the members.

Tenure of the Board

Before the agenda items could be taken up, Mr. Harish Mehta queried about the tenure of the Board, its status and legality. Dr. Kohli informed that this Board must legally continue till the next Board is formed and it being answerable to the stakeholders cannot create a vacuum for the institute and paralyze its functioning. The Director informed the Board that he was told by the authorities in the Mantralaya that this Board is likely to get one year extension and the extension file is pending clearance from the Chief Minister's office.

Before taking up other agenda items, the Board decided to have presentations by Mrs. Abha Lambah and Mr. Rahul Sathe from M/s. Christopher Benninger's office:

Mrs. Abha Lambah was requested to report on the proposed plan of restoration of the main heritage building of the institute.

Presentation by Mrs. Abha Lambah of Abha Narain Lambah Associates

Mrs. Abha Lambah, Conservation Architect and Historic Building consultant, introduced her organization and the works she had undertaken both nationally and internationally. Thereafter she went on to explain her observations on her study on the heritage building of COEP. She informed the Board that the main building of the institute was an instance of early Victorian style structure with basalt stone. However

she added that the present cement pointing had aggravated the maintenance issue otherwise the building poses a well built structure and is beautifully designed.

She mentioned that the institutes' building was similar in character to the Convocation Hall built at the University of Mumbai, which was also restored by her organisation. She added that COEP's main building was in bad shape with leaking roofs and plumbing being an area of concern. The interiors are in a veritable mess with ceramic tiles laid on wooden flooring she said. Mrs. Lambah was of the opinion that to restore the heritage building she would have to undo a lot many things including replacing the cement pointing with lime pointing.

On being queried about the philosophy of restoration, Mrs. Lambah informed that she would attempt to restore the building to its time, as far as possible true to its original material content including using basalt stone and substituting wood to wood repairs. She suggested minimal use of modern technology, only in such places where it is required for essential services.

The Board desired that the main heritage building being image of the country and the state, needs to be restored to its original glory. The Board also felt that to enhance the longevity of the building, usage of the building be confined to Director's/Deputy Director's/Deans and Registrar's offices only.

On being asked about the estimated expenditure, Mrs. Lambah informed the Board that on a moderate scale the structural and external repairs could be carried out at an estimated expense of Rs. 2 crores, while the interior repairs would cost about Rs. 3 crores, i.e. in all a total of Rs. 5 crores.

Dr. Kohli informed the Board that expenses for restoration of the main heritage building could be met from the PLA account of the institute lying with the Government.

The Board also felt that the main hall could be used for archives and that this hall could also be let out for occasions and generate revenue to sustain the maintenance of the building once it was restored.

The Board then requested Mrs. Lambah to present different alternatives for the consideration of Board within two weeks time. The Board also felt that these could then be circulated among the alumni to invite their suggestions/inputs and funding as well.

Mrs. Abha Lambah and her associate left thereafter.

The Board then decided to have the presentation by Mr. Rahul Sathe from M/s. Christopher Benninger's office. Mr. Rahul Sathe was requested to report on the progress of the academic complex and the girl's hostel building.

Presentation by Mr. Rahul Sathe

Mr. Rahul Sathe, Architect and associate of Mr. Christopher Benninger, first presented the progress of the academic building and mentioned that the construction of this G+ 4 storied structure of 25.075 meters height was underway and that there is delay of almost six months due to the swine-flu episode in Pune and also the

contractor took considerable amount of time in understanding embedding the murals in the concrete walls.

The Board on seeing the cement façade of the building was apprehensive of its look, especially the fins which would demand maintenance in future. Another concern of the Board was that this fin shaped façade should merge with the existing structures and should not be diversified. The Board certainly felt that the façade must be re-looked at.

Mr. Rahul Sathe thereafter presented the progress of the girl's hostel building which is G+11 structure. The Board raised concern over the protrusions of this structure over the 11 floor citing that it presents an uncompleted look to the structure. The Board also felt that the internal spaces be revisited to economise the laundry areas and provide more accommodation for girls.

The Director informed the Board that at present we have permission to build only G+9 storied structure owing to Pataleshwar caves (an archeological site) on Jangli Maharaj Road close to the institute and that we are following up the matter with the Archeological Department in New Delhi. The Board requested the Director to seek alumni help in this regard.

The Board also felt that we have solar water heating system, bio-gas for cooking and energy saving electric fittings to reduce the operating cost on the hostel.

The Board requested the Director to make a presentation of the structure to all faculty, students and seek their inputs.

The Board decided to request Mr. Pratap Pawar and the Director to look into these issues and resolve them.

Mr. Rahul Sathe left thereafter.

The agenda items for the day were taken up:

Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute held on 17.09.2009

The Director informed the Board that he had received inputs from Prof. Sonde and Mr. Harish Mehta on the minutes of the 15th Board meetings circulated earlier and that their observations were duly incorporated in the revised minutes which were presented to the Board. The Board **CONSIDERED** the Minutes of the 15th meeting of the BOG held on 17.09.2009.

R-16/1/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Fifteenth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute held on 17.09.2009 be **CONFIRMED** as enclosed (**ANNEXURE – 1**).

Item No. 2: Actions taken on the decisions of the fifteenth meeting of the Board of Governors held on 17.09.2009

2.1 Faculty Recruitment:

The Board noted the same.

2.2 Presentation on progress in the Accounts department:

The Board was happy to note that the institute has secured 80G exemption certificate from the Income Tax authorities. The Board requested the Director to inform alumni world over.

The Director informed the Board that the institute had also applied for exemption for foreign contributions under FCRA, which was awaited from the Central Government.

The Board expressed desire that the institute evolve a mechanism to accept contribution through the internet and create a web-portal on COEP website as "Friends of COEP" to attract contributions to COEP.

2.3 Progress on the construction of Girls Hostel and Academic Complex

This item was taken up prior to the discussion of the agenda items.

2.4 Presentation on the progress of the Institute by the Director in relation to functions and responsibilities of the Board as outlined in GR of 31/03/2004

The Board requested the Director to make a presentation based on clause-by-clause Action Taken Report on the functions and responsibilities of the BOG as outlined in the Govt. of Maharashtra GR of 31/03/2004.

The Board while noting the progress on various issues, stressed the need for looking at the curriculum in metallurgy and material science and felt due importance be also given to manufacturing as manufacturing sector was booming.

Dr. Kohli remarked that 25% of the curriculum should be changed every year as is being followed in MIT USA, so that at the end of 4 years a new curriculum could be in place.

The Board also stressed the need for more industry involvement in the curriculum design and highlighted the need for showcasing student projects through various fora to industry and other institutes alike. Mr. Pratap Pawar volunteered to get more industry participation as and when required by the institute.

The Board on noting that the institute has introduced biology subject in the first year felt that it may be renamed as Bio-engineering.

The Board also expressed need to provide exposure on IPR either through an Audit course or a short term course for all Ph.D registered students. Prof. Sonde expressed that the institute should have a 2 credit course on environment and constitution of India introduced in the curriculum.

On seeing the placement record of last five years, the Board emphasized that even backward category students should get jobs through the institutes' placement cell. The Board also felt

that the institute should seek review from the stakeholders on the acceptability of students by various industries through interaction on one-to-one basis.

The Board was appreciative of the progress made by the institute in comparison to the guidelines set out by the Government in its GR of 31/03/2004 and felt that the institute had now secured a place for itself where it could be considered for "Stand alone University" status.

The Board decided to inform the Govt. of Maharashtra on the institutes' progress post autonomy and requested the Director to send a report in this regard to the Government and as well as to former Minister for Higher and Technical Education Shri Dilip Walse Patil.

Presentation of the Director in relation to functions and responsibilities of the BOG as outlined in GR of 31/03/2004 is enclosed (**ANNEXURE – 2**).

2.5 Recommendations for the award of B. Tech degrees and Gold Medals to B.Tech Toppers:

The Board noted the same.

2.6 Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership:

The Board noted the same.

2.7 Pursue UGC for (i) Building grant for Girls' Hostel building; (ii) Annual grant for Academic autonomy (based on XI-Plan guidelines on Autonomy by UGC); (iii) Plan grant for Library acquisitions:

The Board noted the same.

2.8 Donation of Rs. 1.5 crores from Shri Lalchand Hirachand Premier Trust and Premier Ltd. for modernization of Production Engineering Workshop and labs:

The Board noted the same and approved the norms for naming of laboratories & infrastructure in COEP.

2.9 Honorarium to Deputy Director / Deans / Heads of Departments:

The Board noted and approved the same.

R-16/2(a)/2010: The Board **NOTED** the actions taken on the decisions of the 15th meeting of the Board held on 17.09.2009 as stated above.

R-16/2(b)/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** that the presentation made by the Director be sent to the Govt. of Maharashtra on behalf of the Board as well as to former Minister for Higher and Technical Education Shri Dilip Walse Patil.

R-16/2(c)/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** to approve the norms for naming of laboratories & infrastructure on the request of people / alumni / companies who may offer to contribute to COEP. .

R-16/2(d)/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** to ratify and approve the honorarium to Deputy Director, Deans and Heads of Departments.

Item No. 3: Faculty Recruitment:

Director informed the Board that normally approval of recommendations of expert committees are approved by the Chairman, appointment orders issued and then ratified by the Board. In view of a few news items about observations of Law Commission it was decided to first place the recommendations of the selection committees in BOG meeting for Board's consideration prior to issuing the appointment orders to concerned faculty.

The Chairman informed the Board that he had personally seen the profile of each of the recommended candidates who were screened and shortlisted by high caliber experts committee of respective disciplines. He further added that he was convinced that under the circumstances of faculty paucity across the country, the shortlisted candidates recommended are of reasonably good standard.

The Board while considering the recommendations of the selection committees on faculty appointments to various positions for the interviews held during December 2009, felt that the institute must maintain its standard of education and that the institute needs faculty to run the institute. As long as students are being admitted the faculty positions cannot be kept vacant. The Board approved the recommendations of the selection committees for the recruitment of 34 faculty members. List enclosed (**ANNEXURE – 3**).

R-16/3/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** to approve appointment of 34 faculty members recommended by the selection committees.

Item No. 4: Progress on the construction of Girls hostel and Academic complex building

This item was taken up prior to the discussion of the agenda items.

R-16/4(a)/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** to request Mr. Pratap Pawar and the Director to look into the façade issues of the buildings, economization of spaces in the girl's hostel to increase the capacity and resolve them.

R-16/4(b)/2010: The Board also **RESOLVED** to request Mrs. Lambah, Heritage restoration consultant architect to submit alternatives on the restoration plan in two weeks time to the Board.

Item No. 5: Modifications of Rules for undertaking Sponsored Research / Consultancy / Testing / Short term Courses / CEPs etc.

The Board after deliberations felt that though they would want to encourage the staff to undertake consultancy and sponsored research work, they would like to revisit the existing rules again and compare it with those of some of the IITs. The Board thus decided to defer the matter.

R-16/5/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** to study the subject matter in greater detail and deferred the matter to the next Board meeting.

Item No. 6: Training for Staff at IITs or other institutes of higher learning

The Board welcomed the idea and decided to depute staff to IITs for training during summer/winter vacations.

The Board discussed the representation of support staff about special remuneration and opined that special remuneration could be considered only for those who perform duties and tasks beyond the call of their normal duties and not across the board for all the staff members.

R-16/6/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** to approve training of support staff at IITs for skill up-gradation during summer/winter vacations.

Item No. 7: Presentation by Dr. F. C. Kohli, Chairman BOG

Dr. F. C. Kohli once again through his presentation appealed to the Board that Autonomy without Financial Autonomy is meaningless and that the issue of compensating faculty adequately and having state-of-the-art modernized labs still remain a concern.

He narrated how excellence in select institutes could be achieved by giving such institutes financial autonomy by transferring the 'Burden on the Beneficiary.'

In this model Dr. Kohli proposed that Rs. One lakh per student per annum be paid to institute directly by the banks which will be treated as loan against beneficiary student. In this loan scheme the student would undertake to repay to the bank, the loan amount along with interest within 3 to 5 years after graduation. The interest rate chargeable by banks would be simple interest at 8% p.a. The respective institutes would serve as guarantors in keeping track of the students.

This model according to Dr. Kohli would not only meet societal obligation but also help institutes produce quality undergraduates, post graduates and PhDs.

With about Rs. 20 crores per annum available to the institute directly from the bankers, Dr. Kohli said, he would be able to attract the best faculty world over including alumni who are from the teaching fraternity in the USA, in large numbers each year on sabbatical to COEP, to undertake newer technology courses.

Dr. Kohli sought Mr. Harish Mehta's help in creating a database of alumni in this regard.

Dr. F. C. Kohli sought the Board's advice and guidance in taking this scheme forward and making it a success story for COEP. The Board appreciated the scheme and the efforts undertaken by Dr. F. C. Kohli.

R-16/7/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** to create a database of alumni and Indian faculty in Universities abroad with the help of Mr. Harish Mehta.

Item No. 8: Items for reporting to the Board

a) Ph.D status of faculty recruited with conditional appointments:

The Board noted the same.

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

The Board noted the same.

c) MoUs with Academia/Industry:

The Board noted the same.

d) 36th National Conference on Fluid Mechanics and Fluid Power:

The Board noted the same.

e) 2nd Global alumni meet:

Global alumni meet was held on 19th December, 2009 where 330 alumni attended this meet. The Board noted the same.

f) UGC Committee visit for extension of Autonomous Status to COEP from academic year 2008-09 onwards:

The Board noted the same.

g) Appointment of Prof. B.B. Ahuja, Deputy Director, as Chairman, All India Board of Vocational Education by All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi, for a period of 3 years with effect from 17th December 2009.

The Board congratulated Prof. Ahuja and noted the same.

h) Dr. J. V. Aghav Lecturer in the Computer Engineering Department at Shri. Guru Gobind Singhji College of Engineering, Nanded was selected as Assistant Professor, Computer Engineering Department, College of Engineering, Pune during the recruitment process held in July 2009.

He has kept his lien for 2 years at Shri. Guru Gobind Singhji College of Engineering, Nanded and is relieved to join College of Engineering, Pune on 03/01/2010 on conditions which the Board noted and approved.

R-16/8/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** that the items reported on the agenda as stated above be **NOTED** as reported and **APPROVED**.

Item No. 9: Any other item with the permission of the Chair

9.1 Continuation of appointment of Brigadier K. S. Pathania, General Manager (Administration) for two years
The Board noted and approved the same.

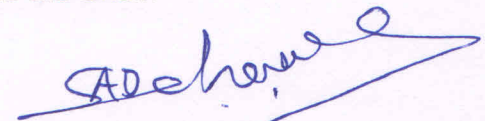
9.2 Position of Court case as on 1st February, 2010
The Board noted the same.

9.3 Status of Income and Expenditure during the year 2009 - 2010 up to 31st January, 2010
The Board noted and approved the same.

9.4 Implementation of Career Advancement Scheme
The institute has submitted Career Advancement Scheme cases of faculty members to the office of DTE which has been pending for two years. The Board requested the Director to pursue the same with the Govt. of Maharashtra.

R-16/9/2010: The Board **RESOLVED** that the items reported on the agenda as stated above be **NOTED** as reported and **APPROVED**.

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



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