

**MINUTES OF THE
FIFTIETH (50th) MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2021**

The Fiftieth (50th) meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on Thursday - 11th November 2021, at 4.00 pm at College of Engineering Pune and the following members were present.

1.	Shri. Pratap Pawar	Chairman
2.	Shri. Vikas Chandra Rastogi	Principal Secretary Dept. of H & TE, Govt. Representative (in VC mode)
3.	Shri. Sanjay Inamdar	Member (in VC mode)
4.	Prof. Sanjay Dhande	Member
5.	Dr. Pramod Chaudhari	Member (in VC mode)
6.	Dr. Anand Deshpande	Member
7.	Prof. Nitin Karmalkar	Member
8.	Prof. N.B. Pasalkar	Member
9.	Prof. S. T. Vagge	Member
10.	Prof. M.S. Sutaone	Invitee
11.	Prof. B. G. Birajdar	Invitee
12.	Prof. B. B. Ahuja	Member– Secretary

Owing to the Covid-19 situation, a few members, as mentioned against their names above, preferred to join the meeting in Video Conferencing (VC) mode and thus the Chairman confirmed from all such members whether the proceedings, being transacted, were audible and visible and that they were seated alone in the room, and after their confirmation the meeting was called to order. At the outset the Chairman warmly welcomed all the members.

Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 49th meeting of the BOG held on Monday, 9th August 2021.

The draft minutes of the 49th meeting of the Board of Governors held on 9th August 2021, as circulated to the members, were tabled during the meeting and after discussions the same were approved.

R-50/1/2021: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the 49th meeting of the Board held on **9th August 2021**.

Item 2: Action taken on the minutes of the 49th meeting of BOG held on 9th August 2021.

The Board noted the actions taken on various resolutions/decisions in the 49th Board meeting.

2.1 Recommendations for the award of B. Tech degrees, M. Tech degrees and Gold Medals to B.Tech. Toppers
The Board noted the same.

2.2 A Proposal for providing Technical Services to Yashada, Pune
The Board noted the same and approved the proposal, in principle, while offering the services to Yashada, in association with M/S CCBA.

2.3 Agreement and Rent for State Bank of India Branch Office at COEP

The Board noted the same, and authorized the Director to negotiate the monthly rent amount and deposits payable by the State bank of India and the tenure and terms of agreement.

2.4 Up-gradation of Metallurgy Workshop – Part II

The Board noted the same and approved the extended construction work in the ongoing up-gradation of Metallurgy workshop, at an additional cost of Rs. 3,75,72,243/- .

2.5 A Proposal on setting up a Center for “Advanced Manufacturing Technology” and Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory focused on “Robotics & Automation Applications” with the vehement support of WIPRO-PARI Ltd

The Board noted the same and appreciated Wipro-PARI Ltd. for their vehement support.

2.6 Charge of the Head of Mathematics Department delegated to Dr. (Mrs.) S. P. Kavishwar

The Board noted the same.

2.7 Restoration of Mechanical Engineering Drawing Hall

The Director also informed the Board that Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha(JBGVS), had sponsored the restoration of Mechanical Engineering Drawing Hall and that the company had placed order on M/s Harshal Buildcon LLP at a cost of Rs. 7.41 Crores (all inclusive) towards this restoration. However, owing to increase in cost of steel, additional quantity for existing items and few extra items; the cost of restoration had further gone up by Rs. 310.53 lakhs, for the civil works part of the project to be completed by M/s Harshal Buildcon LLP.

The Director further briefed that at the request of Mr. Pratap Pawar, Mr. Sanjiv Bajaj had agreed to bear this additional cost and would complete the civil works part of the project at a total cost of Rs. 10.52 Crores. The members thanked Mr. Pawar for his initiative and expressed their gratitude towards the Trust.

The Director also mentioned that for the Mechanical Engineering Drawing Hall, expenditure towards Electrical works, installation of HVAC system and Furniture and IT infrastructure would have to be borne by COEP at a cost of Rs. 425 lakhs, for which tenders would be floated separately.

R-50/2(a)/2021: The Board **NOTED and APPROVED** the actions taken on the decisions/resolutions of the 49th meeting of the Board held on **9th August 2021**, as apprised by the Director.

R-50/2(b)/2021: The Board **AUTHORIZED** the Director to negotiate the monthly rent amount and deposits payable by the State bank of India and the tenure and terms of agreement.

R-50/2(c)/2021: The Board **APPROVED** the extended construction work in the ongoing up-gradation of Metallurgy workshop, at an additional cost of Rs. 3,75,72,243/- .

R-50/2(d)/2021: The Board **APPROVED** the expenditure towards Electrical works, installation of HVAC system, Furniture and IT infrastructure for

Mechanical Engineering Drawing Hall, with a cost of Rs. 425 Lakhs.

Item 3:

Discussions on the articulated draft Act for conferment of State Unitary University status to College of Engineering, Pune

The Director informed the members that as per the mandate given to the empowered Committee chaired by Prof. Sanjay Dhande, with regards to Articulation of the draft Act for conferment of State Unitary Technical University status to COEP, additional experts as Prof. V. V. Khole –Former Vice Chancellor, Mumbai University and Prof. B. P. Sabale- Former Vice Chancellor- YCMOU, were invited to seek their advice for the draft. After rounds of meetings of these experts, in last 2-3 months, with Prof. Dhande, Prof. Pasalkar and Institute's in-house team, both in online and in-person mode, a unique draft has evolved for such conferment, based on IIT's organizational structure, but in a format of Maharashtra Public University Act-2016, he apprised.

The Director further presented salient features of the draft, with emphasis, in particular on the proposed novel organogram, powers & duties of the authorities and officers of the University, students' admission norms etc. The members while appreciating the draft and consistent efforts of the members, approved the same and instructed Institute functionaries to forward the draft the Department of H & TE, Government of Maharashtra, through proper channel for the necessary processing towards the enactment in the State Assembly.

R-50/3(a)/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the draft Act articulated by the Committee, chaired by Prof. Dhande, with the involvement and guidance of external experts, towards conferment of State Unitary Technical University status to COEP.

R-50/3(b)/2021: The Board further **RESOLVED to INSTRUCT** the Institute functionaries to forward the draft to the Department of H & TE, Government of Maharashtra, through proper channel for the necessary processing towards the enactment in the State Assembly.

Item 4:

Discussions on Letter received from the Directorate of Technical Education, M.S. regarding the revisions in the Recruitment Rules (RRs) for the post of Director of Autonomous COEP

The Chairman briefed the members on the issue of continuation of Prof. B. B. Ahuja, for his second term as the Director of the Institute. Upon conclusion of Prof. Ahuja's first term as Director of COEP, on 19th April 2021, the Chairman recalled that the Board had recommended him for his second term, vide the resolution in its 45th meeting, held on 29th October 2020, however, the proposal was denied from the Government's end, owing to the reason of non-grant of lien extension to Prof. Ahuja, he being the originally Government appointed Professor. The letter from the Government that declined the recommendation, suggested to initiate the selection process of new Director for the Institute, in which Prof. Ahuja may participate, he added.

The Chairman further apprised the members that the Board vide its discussions in its 48th meeting, held on 1st June 2021, and as suggested by the then Principal Secretary-H & TE department-Shri O.P. Gupta, recommended the revision in the Recruitment Rules for the post of Director of Autonomous COEP, with the proposal of change in the entry age of the aspirant as less than 60 years and the age of superannuation as 65 years, in adherence to the relevant clauses in

various Central/State Government's Gazette notifications.

The Chairman further informed the members that a letter dated 28th October 2021, has been received from the Directorate of Technical Education indicating to adhere to the recruitment rules published in the Gazette of 10th September 2012, that mandates the limit of entry age of 54 years for the post of Director.

Referring to the deliberations in this regard in previous Board meetings, the Chairman said that the Director/Principal of the Higher Learning Institutes in the country is eligible to continue for his/her SECOND term based on the clauses in the relevant regulations/notifications of the regulatory authorities viz. AICTE and UGC. Also Principals in the State can serve upto 65 years of age. The members decided to communicate once again to the Government requesting to reconsider Prof. Ahuja for his second term as Director of the Institute.

R-50/4/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to COMMUNICATE** once again with the Government, with a request to consider the grant of second term to Prof. B. B. Ahuja as Director of the Institute.

Item 5:

Approval for Disbursement of arrear amount due to implementation of 7th pay scales and 6th pay –CAS promotions/pay fixations to the Board appointed teachers.

The Director informed the members that, Post Autonomy, during 2007 to 2012, the empowered Board of Autonomous COEP made regular full time appointments of teachers on both the Government sanctioned and Institute created posts. Though the teachers on Government sanctioned posts were paid their salaries from the Govt. Treasury till May-2018, such disbursement has been stopped with the mention of the reason of improper head of salaries, thus necessitating the Institute to pay salaries to these teachers from Institute resources, he added.

The Director further updated that the pay scale revisions as per 7th pay scales (and prior to that the revision of pay scales as per 6th pay scale CAS) have been implemented year w.e.f. 1st October 2020 for both the types of above-mentioned teachers, as resolved in the 45th meeting of the Board held on 29th October 2020. The revised pay fixations as per long pending 6th pay scales implementation for 66 teachers mandate the disbursement of their Total arrears, whereas, the 106 teachers (including those 67) now need to be paid their due arrear amount due to implementation of 7th pay scales, he said.

The Director further updated that the Board's sub-committee comprising of Prof. Dhande and Prof. Pasalkar has reviewed the teacher-wise computations of the arrear amounts and in principle approved the disbursement, with financial liability due to 6th pay scale arrears for 66 teachers being Rs. 5.36 Crores and due to 7th pay scale arrears for 106 teachers being Rs. 6.57 Crores, as the cash installment, respectively.

With reference to the deliberations on the same agenda item, tabled in the 33rd Finance Committee meeting, held on the same day i.e. 11th November 2021, the Chairman expressed that the issue of reinstating the stopped salaries of the Board appointed teachers on Government sanctioned posts, is being rigorously followed up with the Finance department of the Government, with the due attention of the Hon. Finance Minister. With the optimism to receive positive

response from the Government authorities regarding release of committed Salary (Block) grant, the issue of arrears will also be taken care of, the Chairman added. Though, in principle, the Board should concur on the disbursement of arrears, it is advisable to wait for Government's positive decision, and then take a call on issue, the Chairman suggested. The members agreed to the Chairman's suggestion in this regard. However, Prof. Dhande reiterated his serious concerns on long pending issues related to faculty recruitments undertaken by the Board during 2007-2012, and appealed the Chairman to look into the same towards amicable solution at the earliest. Dr. Anand Deshpande also endorsed the expression of Prof. Dhande and said that a separate Board meeting may be held to deliberate on the faculty issues and sort them at earliest.

R-50/5/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to put on HOLD** the decision of disbursement of the arrear amount to the Board appointed regular faculty members, on both the Government sanctioned and the Institute created posts, on account of implementation of 6th pay CAS 7th pay scales, until the Government decides in this regard.

Item 6: **Approval for New Appointments of Full-time faculty recruited for MBA program on 'Adhoc' basis, in October 2021**

The Director informed the members about the faculty recruitment process conducted by the Institute on its own created positions, for selecting faculty on Contract/Adhoc basis, for the newly established MBA program, in the month of October 2021. He further added that, in all, 3 suitable candidates are selected, for which Hon. Chairman of the Board has already accorded the approval. Prof. Dhande strongly advised to recruit faculty on a FIVE years tenure basis and accordingly advertise in the next iteration. This would help in identifying quality human resource as faculty members at the Institute, he added.

The members decided to approve the list of selectees, which was tabled in **APPENDIX -2.**

R-50/6/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the list of selected faculty members (Appendix-2) for the newly established MBA program, through the recruitment process, conducted in the month of October 2021 and after one year of service, if their performance is satisfactory, they be continued on contract for 4 more years or until regular posts are advertised.

Item 7: **Approval on delegation of Charge of the Head of Physics Department to Dr. J. W. Dadge.**

The Director informed the members that the Government of Maharashtra, in the month of August 2021, transferred Dr. Ramesh Kamble, the Head of Physics department, to Government College of Engineering, Jalgaon, he being the Government (MPSC) appointed teacher. In view of his transfer, Dr. J. W. Dadge Associate Professor in Physics Department (Board appointed on Institute created post) has been requested to hold the charge of Department of Physics as its Head for the remaining period till 30.06.2022, he added. As per Institute policy, Dr. Dadge will be paid honorarium, as being paid to all other Heads of the Departments, he further informed. .

R-50/7/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the delegation of the charge of Head of the Physics department to Dr. J. W. Dadge with immediate effect till 30.06.2022, with a monthly honorarium as per Institute policies.

Item 8:

Application from Dr. V. K. Tripathi, Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering Department, for reversion to his original Government Position for the benefits of continuity of service and protection of other service benefits.

The Director informed that Dr. V. K. Tripathi, Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering and originally appointed by the MPSC and posted at Government Engineering College, Aurangabad, was selected by the empowered Board of COEP to the Government sanctioned higher post of Associate Professor, after his transfer to Autonomous COEP. Owing to his selection as Professor at NIT, Agartala, he has kept a lien on his post at COEP, for two years to join and work as a Professor at N.I.T. Agartala, the Director added.

As per letter received from Dr. Tripathi mentioning that he is facing problems like irregularity in depositing GPF, GIS contribution, Non-implementation of CAS for promotion as Professor, delay in getting 7th CPC arrears, etc., he has further submitted an application to revert him to his original Government position with continuity of service and service benefits, the Director informed. He has further requested to table his application for consideration of the Board of COEP, and then forward it to the Government with due recommendation of the Board.

Honoring his application, the Board decided to approve his reversion to his original MPSC appointed lower Government post of Associate professor in Mechanical Engineering and instructed Institute administration to communicate his proposal to the Government through proper channel.

R-50/8/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the proposal submitted by Dr. V. K. Tripathi for his voluntary reversion to his original MPSC appointed lower Government post of Associate professor in Mechanical Engineering, with retrospective effect and communicate the same to the Government through proper channel.

Item 9:

Permission for construction of second floor in upcoming E&TC extension building.

The Director updated that the Department of E & TC is planning to set up the research laboratories in the domain of 5G, IoT and Embedded systems, which require additional space of around 3000 sq ft. He further informed that the construction work of Centre for Advanced Electronic Manufacturing and Skill Development has already commenced, as an extension to old E&TC building and this work involves the construction of ground and first floor. The Department has proposed construction and development on the second floor in this extension building, which would create additional space for the planned research laboratories, the Director said and endorsed the proposal of the Department since the construction of the second floor along with the ongoing work would be economical with the existing rates of construction applicable to it. Prof. Pasalkar supported the proposal and enquired feasibility of such extension. Upon affirmation in this regard from Prof. Birajdar, the Chairman agreed to the additional construction on the second floor, at the cost of Rs. 55,94,055/-, with an appeal to the Department to hunt for Corporate/Industry/Alumni funding support towards raising the high-end research laboratories. Prof. Dhande advised to associate with M/S SCL, Chandigarh, for expanding the facilities in this Center such as Multi-layer PCBs.

R-50/9/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the construction of second floor in the upcoming E&TC extension building for creating additional space for the planned research laboratories in futuristic technology areas, at an additional cost of Rs. 55,94,055/- .

Item 10: **Ratification/Approvals on the Resolutions of the meetings of various statutory bodies of the Board and other assorted issues**

a) Ratification on Chairman's approval for continuation of financial support for establishing institute/students' chapters of reputed bodies/professional societies

The Director apprised the members that the Institute, under the TEQIP-III project encouraged its students and faculty to establish the institute/students' chapters of reputed bodies viz The IEEE/ IET/ IE/ IETE/CSI/Robotics/BAHA/SUPRA etc., with minimum 20-25 student members from the institute. He further proposed that the facilitation of establishment of the chapters should be continued as per Institute policies with the support to the students by reimbursing maximum 50% of the total annual membership fee or a maximum Rs. 500/- per student. The respective chapter is expected to conduct different activities quarterly and will be mandated to submit the activity and impact report to the Dean (Student Affairs)'s Office within a week of end of each quarter with copy to PRO of the Institute, the Director updated. With an a priori approval of the Chairman of the Board, for continuation of such support, the Director requested the Board's consent on the same. Also, the budgeted amount of Rs. 20 Lakhs per year was ratified by the Board, towards Institutional memberships of Professional societies, with a budgetary provision made from financial year 2021-22.

R-50/10(a)/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to RATIFY** the continuation of Institute's financial support to the students as per Institute policies, subject to a maximum of Rs. 500/- per student, towards establishment of the Students' Chapters of various professional society chapters, and a budgetary provision of Rs. 20 Lakhs from the financial year 2021-22, towards Institutional memberships of Professional societies.

b) Ratification on Chairman's Approval for hiring services of Mr. Dilip Jagtap as Consultant (Admin) on contract basis.

The Director updated the members that with the considerable increase in the number of teachers, support and office staff, post Autonomy, the volume and complexity of administrative work in the institute have grown multi-fold. Owing to the Board made appointments of teachers on Govt. sanctioned and institute created positions and those of support/office staff on institute created posts only, there have been different categories of the teacher/staff now prevailing on campus, with distinct set of service rules/conditions, both while in service and after retirement, he added.

The Director further informed that Mr. Dilip Jagtap is a retired administrative officer from Higher and Technical Education Department of Government of Maharashtra, with rich experience in HR related administration and varied work experience with the offices of Department of Technical Education, including regional office Pune, COEP etc. and when approached, Shri. Jagtap has consented to help the institute, by joining on contract basis for a period of 11 months, with a designation of "Consultant (Admin)". The proposed monthly honorarium to Shri Jagtap is Rs.50,000/- toward his services to the institute. Shri

Jagtap has joined the Institute on 1st September 2021 and is present on campus, all the days of work with regular timings, the Director added.

With the Chairman's approval for appointment of Mr. Dilip Jagtap as Consultant (Admin) on contract basis for 11 months with professional fees Rs. 50,000/- per month, the Director requested for Board's consent on the same.

R-50/10(b)/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to RATIFY** the appointment of Shri Dilip Jagtap as Consultant (Admin) on contract basis for 11 months with professional fees Rs. 50,000/- per month, with his presence on all the days of work, with regular timings.

c) Minutes of the 32nd Finance Committee meeting held on 27th September 2021

The Minutes of the 32nd Finance Committee meeting held on 27th September 2021 were tabled (as attached at **Appendix-3**) in the meeting. **The Board took note of the same and approved the minutes of 32nd Finance committee.**

R-50/10(c)/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to RATIFY** the Minutes of the 32nd Finance Committee meeting held on 27th September 2021.

Item 11: Items for REPORTING to the Board.

a) Permission/Approval on request by Mrs. Ketaki Ghodinde, Assistant Professor, Department of Instrumentation & Control Engineering, for Study Leave for the duration 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022:

The Director informed the members that Mr. Ketki Ghodinde, Assistant Professor, Department of Instrumentation & Control Engineering, since 2008 and she is pursuing PhD under the guidance of Dr.U. M. Chaskar, Dept. of Instrumentation & Control, with her PhD registration in March 2018. Mrs. Ghodinde has requested to grant the study leave one year study leave starting from January 1, 2022, so that she would be able to complete her research work successfully, he said and requested the Board to ratify the permission granted to her by the Director, to proceed on study leave from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, as per encouraging policies of the Institute.

R-50/11(a)/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to RATIFY** the permission to Mrs. Ketaki Ghodinde to proceed on study leave from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, to complete her work related to the PhD.

b) Approval for hiring services of Mrs. Vrushali Joshi as Consultant (Finance) on contract basis.

The Director pleaded that, Post Autonomy with the considerable increase in the number of teachers, support and office staff the volume and complexity of financial work in the institute has grown multi-fold. Also the financial matters such as purchase of research equipments, salaries of the employees, budget of the institute, investments, scholarships, students' fees etc. has increased comprehensively, he said. Reviewing the increasing volume of accounting and compliances of various Acts applicable to COEP, Institute needs services of an expert consultant in this field to oversee accounting of all financial matters and smooth financial functioning of the institute, he added.

Further, he put forth the profile of Mrs. Vrushali Joshi, who has over 28 years


experience in the field of Accounts, Finance, MIS & Budgeting, Banking & Fund Management, Audit, taxation, information technology and costing and when Mr. Madhav Pol, Institute's statutory auditor, approached Mrs. Joshi to work as finance consultant at COEP, she has consented to help the institute in all financial matters. The Director further requested to approve to appoint Mrs. Vrushali Joshi as Consultant (Finance) on contract basis for initially a period of 3 years from 15th November 2021 (renewable thereafter) with professional fees Rs. 80,000/- per month.

R-50/11(b)/2021: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the appointment of Mrs. Vrushali Joshi as Consultant (Finance) on contract basis for initially a period of 3 years from 15th November 2021 (renewable thereafter) with professional fees Rs. 80,000/- per month.

c) MoUs with Academia/Industry:

List of MoUs with Academia/Industry signed after the last meeting, as annexed at **APPENDIX –4** were considered and noted by the Board.

The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks to the Chair.


(B. B. Ahuja)
Member Secretary
