

Minutes of the FIRST (1st) MEETING of the BOARD OF GOVERNANCE of COEP TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, PUNE, held on FRIDAY, 29th JULY 2022, at Sir Visvesvaraya Conference Hall, Main Building, COEP Tech. University, Shivajinagar, Pune – 411 005

The FIRST (1ST) meeting of the Board of Governancc of the University was held on Friday -29th July2022, at 3.00 pm at Sir Visvesvaraya Conference Hall, Main Building, COEP Tech. University, Shivajinagar, Pune, and the following members were present.

PRESENT MEMBERS:

1.	Shri. Pratap Pawar	Chairman
2.	Dr. Abhay Wagh	Director- DTE, M.S (Through VC Mode)
3.	Prof. Sanjay Dhande	Member (Through VC Mode)
4.	Dr. Pramod Chaudhari	Member (Through VC Mode)
5.	Dr. Anand Deshpande	Member (Through VC Mode)
6.	Shri Sanjay Inamdar	Member
7.	Prof. N.B. Pasalkar	Member
8.	Prof. S. T. Vagge	Member
9.	Prof. M. J. Rahtod	Invitee
10.	Prof. B. G. Birajdar	Invitee
11.	Prof. S. D. Agashe	Invitee
12.	Prof. Ms. Jibi Abraham	Invitee
13.	Prof. M.S. Sutaone	Officiating Director (Member Secretary)

After Shri Pratap Pawar, Chairman of the Board of Governors, graced the chair for the meeting, each of the members present through video conferencing made the following affirmation(s):

- Full name
- Location
- That they had received the agenda and all the relevant material for the meeting.
- That no one other than the concerned member is attending or having access to the proceedings of the meeting at his/her respective location and that he/she could clearly see and communicate with other participants.

The Director-DTE, updated the members that it would not be possible for Shri Vikaschandra Rastogi- the Principal Secretary, Department of Higher & Technical Education (HTED) to participate in this meeting due to last minute emergent assignment at his office, and as per directives of Hon Principal Secretary, he (The Director-DTE) is attending the meeting on behalf of the Principal Secretary, HTED

After the formal welcome by the Chairman- Shri Pratap Pawar, the Officiating Director- Prof. Mukul Sutaone, with permission of the Chairman, presented all such salient features of the 'Maharashtra COEP Technological University Act-2022', relevant to the agenda of this meeting.



In his brief presentation, the Officiating Director informed that the Bill of 'Maharashtra COEP Technological Act-2022' was passed in both the Houses of Legislation of Government of Maharashtra, on 25th March 2022. The Act (Mah. Act No. XXXV of 2022) came into existence on 10th May 2022 and was published under the authority of Hon. Governor. The Act was further NOTIFIED by the Department of Higher and Technical Education, vide its notification dated 23rd June 2022, with University's appointment date as **21st June 2022 and hence this day be considered as the foundation day for the COEP Technological University.**

The Officiating Director further narrated on the genesis of the Act, the process from its conceptualization, through its rigorous articulation, and finally the journey from a draft to the Bill and Bill to the Act. With its self-decided mandate, that the Autonomous COEP should acquire the status of the University, the Board requested the then Hon. Minister of H & TE, to appoint a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dhande for the needful, way back in Feb. 2020. Under the un-paralleled and valuable guidance of Prof. B. P. Sabale- Ex-Vice-Chancellor, YCMOU and Prof. V. V. Khole-Ex-Vice-Chancellor, Mumbai University, the Institute functionaries prepared the draft of the Act. The various Acts such as Maharashtra Public University Act, IIT Act, Dr. BATU Act, DTU Act, were studied in depth and a unique 'COEP Technological University' Act evolved after an exercise of almost eight months, with blend of suitable features from all such references, however, keeping the philosophy, format and template of the Maharashtra Public University Act. The Chairman- Shri Pratap Pawar and Prof. Pasalkar always remained as the eternal force and source of motivation, he acknowledged.

The Officiating Director further informed that the Government constituted a Committee under the able Chairmanship of Dr. Abhay Wagh-the Director-DTE, and comprising of Shri Satish Tidke- the Deputy Secretary-Department of H & TE, Prof. S. V. Joshi- Retd. Professor-Govt. College of Engg. & Research, Awasari and a few experts from Administration and Law & Judiciary department/domain. The Committee meticulously worked further on the draft with critical review, to improvise its articulation, looked into the legal perspectives and made it comprehensive and perfect in all respects. The Committee, after its deliberative 17 meetings during two and half months, submitted the draft to the Government for further formal process of the Bill, the Act and the Notification.

The Officiating Director whole heartedly thanked Dr. Wagh for his leadership and his team from the Committee and his office, the Principal Secretary -Shri Rastogi for his considerate mentorship and his colleagues at Mantralaya, Mumbai for their relentless work for the noble cause and expressed his sincere gratitude for all the Government officials. The Chairman of the Board further acknowledged, with gratitude, the support of the Hon. Ministers in the Government, for their involvement and timely help for such elevation.

The Officiating Director then apprised the members on the 'Authorities' of the new University such as Board of Governance, Academic Council, School Council, Boards of 1. Examination & Evaluation 2. Students' Development 3. Research, Innovation, Incubation & Linkages 4. Knowledge Resource Center, Buildings & Works Committee, Internal Quality Assurance Committee and many others, along with their composition, powers and duties, tenure etc. He further synoptically presented the information on 'Officers' of the University, with Hon. Chancellor, Hon Chairman-Board of Governance as Honorary Officers, and the others: the Vice-Chancellor, the Directors of above-mentioned Boards, the Registrar and the Finance Officer, etc., along with the details on their eligibility for appointment, appointing authorities, their powers and duties, and tenure etc.



After this brief presentation, the meeting started with the formal agenda.

Item 1: Official announcement of formation of new 'Board of Governance' of COEP Technological University, Welcome to the Board Members, and Approving the 'Logo' of the University.

The Officiating Director cited that as per section-86 (1) and (2), of the said Act, *"the present Board managing the existing College shall continue to function as 'Board of Governance' of the University, for the period of One year or until the new Board of Governance is established under this Act, whichever is earlier and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as are conferred on it by or under this Act"*, so is the continuance of the present Chairman of Board of Governors.

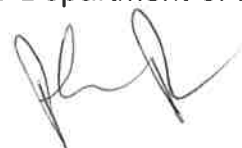
In accordance with such provision, he officially welcomed the continued members from the 'Board of Governors' of erstwhile COEP to this 'Board of Governance' of the COEP University and solicited the similar guidance and mentorship from them, when the Institute is under transformation from an 'Autonomous Institute' to a 'University'. He also added that the brand 'COEP' be identified in time to come as 'COEP Tech', colloquially, on the lines of 'Georgia-Tech, Cal-Tech, etc.

He further presented the envisaged design of the 'Logo' and 'Seal' of the new University and explained that the Logo and the Seal both proudly include the depiction of the eternal VALUES of erstwhile COEP since its inception in the year 1854, viz. *"Strength, Truth, Endurance, Ethics and Reverence- STEER"* that are lived and practiced by the Institute since 1854. The Chairman suggested that the letters/text 'COEP Tech' in the Logo, should appear horizontal below the picture section of the logo, with font size of these letters reduced. He also suggested thinking of possibility on having 'Logo' and 'Seal' to be the same, since they seem to contain the same information. Prof. Dhande responded that the two cannot be the same, since the 'Logo' is typically deployed for branding and promotion of the organization whereas the 'Seal' has a legal implication and application. The Director-DTE expressed his concern on whether we can have the explicit mention of year of establishment of the COEP University as 'Estd-1854' as it appears in the Seal (and also in Logo), since the year 1854 is actually the year of establishment of erstwhile COEP and not the University. Considering his concern, the Officiating Director ensured to come back to the members with the new designs of Logo and Seal with an alternative way to honor its legacy of 168 years. The Chairman suggested to share the new modified designs with members for further concurrence, by circulation.

After this deliberation, the Board resolved as follows:

R-1/01/2022: As provided in Section 86-(1) & (2) of the "said Act", the Board **NOTED** that the present Board managing the existing College shall continue to function as 'Board of Governance' of the University, for the period of One year or until the new Board of Governance is established under this Act, whichever is earlier and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as are conferred on it by or under the "said Act" and so is the continuance of the present Chairman of Board of Governors.

The Board **FURTHER NOTED** that the said Act was notified by the Department of Higher



and Technical Education, vide its notification dated 23rd June 2022, however, the notification clearly mentions the University's appointment date as **21st June 2022** and hence **21st June**, shall be the foundation day for COEP Technological University (COEP Tech).

The Board **FURTHER NOTED** and **RESOLVED** that the official Logo and Seal of the University be **APPROVED** by Circulation after implementation of appropriate modifications in their designs as suggested by the members.

Item 2: Guidance on Formation of various Authorities/Councils/Committees and nominations on these Authorities/Councils/Committees as per provisions in the Act

The Board noted that the following Committees/Councils need to be constituted for COEP Tech, as early as possible so that the University becomes functional in its format, as provided in the Act.

- a. The Academic Council
- b. The School Council
- c. The Students' Council
- d. Board of Examination and Evaluation
- e. Board of Research, Innovation, Incubation, and Linkages
- f. Board of students' development
- g. Finance and Accounts Committee
- h. Buildings and Works Committee
- i. Purchase and Sales Committee
- j. Fee Fixation Committee
- k. Internal Quality Assurance Committee
- l. Selection and Appointment Committee

The Officiating Director apprised that as provided in the said Act, though the 'Board of Governance' as the Principal Policy making and Executive authority of the University, has come into existence, the other important authorities such as 'Academic Council' (as the per their composition in the Act), should become functional as early as possible. He further said that the compositions of all such Authorities/Bodies are inter-dependent and thus be formed and start functioning simultaneously.

The Director-DTE mentioned the relevant provisions of the Act regarding formation of these Committees / Councils. He further guided that, once the Vice-Chancellor assumes the office, the formation of various other authorities and transitory appointments of various officers may be initiated so that the University starts functioning smoothly.

Upon queried by the Chairman, regarding the appointment of the (transitory) First Vice-Chancellor from the Government, the Director-DTE updated that the proposal has been expeditiously forwarded from his office and the Department of H & TE, to the higher authorities.

The Director-DTE further updated the members that as many number of domain specific experts can be invited on a particular Authority/Body, by the Chair of the respective Authority/Body, for a particular meeting but such invitees will not be permanent. The Chairman thanked the Director-DTE for his pro-active approach.

R-1/02/2022: The Board **RESOLVED** to await the appointment of FIRST Vice-Chancellor from the Government and then immediately proceed with the formation of various

Authorities/Bodies/Committees, as provided in the Act. The Board further **RESOLVED** to initiate the process of identifying various experts, both internal/external and ex-officio, to be nominated on various statutory Authorities/Bodies/Committees of the University, and seek approvals by making necessary applications to the Chancellor or the State Government, as provided in the Act.

Item 3. Formation of 'Statutes Committee' as per provisions of the Act

The Board noted that as per provisions of Section 44(1) of the Act, the Board of Governance shall form the 'Statutes Committee' to articulate the 'First Statutes and First Ordinances' for the new University. The composition of such committee is mentioned in the Section 44(2), and there is time-limit of One year for the formation and submission of the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations of the new University, for seeking approvals from appropriate authorities, the Officiating Director informed. The Director-DTE apprised the members that, as provided in Section 87 (8) of the Act, until the First statutes of COEP Tech. University are enforced, all statutes, ordinances and regulations of affiliating University shall be in force and applicable for the COEP Tech. University. When Prof. Vagge, enquired on whether any internal faculty can be a member of the Statutes Committee, the Director-DTE pin-pointed the committee composition, which has such provision of including the 'Professor' of the University. The Chairman further suggested that the inputs be sought and accommodated in the Statutes from groups of faculty/staff of the University before its final submission.

R-1/03/2022: The Board **NOTED** the composition of the 'Statutes Committee' as provided in Section 44 (2) of **the said Act**. The Board further **RESOLVED to adopt** all statutes, ordinances and regulations of S.P. Pune University towards its applicability to the COEP Tech. University, as provided in Section 87 (8) of the said Act, until such time the First statutes/ordinances/regulations of COEP Tech. University are enforced.

Item 4. Guidance on Formation of various Schools as per the Act.

The Board noted that the Act has provided for the new academic feature in the form of an empowered entity termed as 'School'. The School is perceived as an 'Umbrella' for the Academic Departments and Centers of the University and shall have a domain-specific character of the disciplines, it encompasses, the Officiating Director explained. He shared an example of 'School of Electrical & Communication Sciences' encompassing the present academic departments of Electrical Engg., Electronics & Telecommunication and Instrumentation & Control. The formation of various Schools is being contemplated by a team of senior Professors of the University, he further added. Director, Technical Education, suggested that, Once the Academic Council comes into existence, formation of various schools can be approved with further details.

The Board considered and noted that the concept of schools, as may be conceived once the Academic Council is formed.

R-1/02/2022: The Board **RESOLVED** to wait till the formation of Academic Council and then initiate the formation of various Schools and School Councils, as provided in the Act, for further approval.



Item 5. Transitory Appointments/Nominations of various Officers as per provisions in the Act.

The Board noted that the said Act has provided for appointment of following Officers/Functionaries for the University which are to be appointed/selected/nominated as per their qualifications, eligibility norms, etc. as mentioned in the Act.

- a. The Vice-Chancellor
- b. The Registrar
- c. The Finance & Accounts Officer
- d. The Deans of Schools
- e. Director- Board of Examinations and Evaluation
- f. Director- Board of Research, Innovation, Incubation, and Linkages
- g. Director-Students' Development
- h. Director- Knowledge Resource Centre

The Board further noted that until such time the process of recruitment/selection of 'Registrar', 'Finance & Accounts Officer', and 'Directors of various Boards', and the process of nominations of the 'Deans of Schools', is initiated, a transitory arrangement for appointing these officers needs to be undertaken.

The Director-DTE pointed out to the various relevant provisions in the Act regarding such appointments and suggested to take necessary steps within the purview of the Act.

R-1/05/2022:The Board **RESOLVED** to await the appointment of FIRST Vice-Chancellor from the Government and then immediately proceed with the transitory appointments of various Officers, as provided in the Act.

Item 6. Discussion on Admission Process for FY- B.Tech. FY-M.Tech., PhD and other academic Programs

The Officiating Director informed that Section-50 of the said Act empowers the New University to decide the eligibility for admissions to its various UG, PG, PhD and other academic programs and conduct the entire admission process on its own, provided that there is a overall alignment with the notifications, orders and rules made or issued by the State Government from time to time and subject to total compliance to all reservation policies of the State Government.

This year 25% additional seats have been made available to the University for Admission to all its UG degree programs as granted and approved by the AICTE in its Extension of Approval (EOA) for the AY 2022-23 in the name of COEP Technological University, the Officiating Director updated.

As guided by the Director-DTE in some earlier discussions with the University functionaries, in the immediate past, the Officiating Director tabled a proposal which spells as follows:



in its Section 87(1 through 10), in the Act, mentions various 'Savings' provisions when the organization transits to its University status. It was noted that the all the Property (movable and immovable), Powers & Privileges, Proceedings of Grievance Committees, Benefactions, Debts & Obligations, Gifts/bequests, Notices/Orders from the State Government, etc. of the erstwhile COEP shall be delegated to the University on as is where is basis.

The Chairman interpreted this Section in the said Act as 'Transfer of Assets and Liabilities' from COEP to its University reincarnation. The Director-DTE called the attention of the members to the Section 87 (10) of the Act regarding transfer of all suits and legal proceedings of the erstwhile college (COEP), in any court, to the successor University. The Board noted the same, in particular.

R-1/07/2022: The Board **NOTED** all the sections (1 through 10) of the Section 87 on 'Savings' that delegate all the assets and liabilities of the existing college (COEP) to the successor University i.e. COEP Tech. University.

Item 8. Resolving on the closure of College of Engineering Pune Society (earlier registered as with Charity Commissioner as Pune Institute of Engineering and Technology Society, Pune).

The Officiating Director informed that College of Engineering Pune was conferred with the Autonomous status by the Government of Maharashtra vide its GRs in year 2002 and 2004, in compliance with the requirements of and thereafter the concurrence of the UGC and affiliating University i.e. S.P. Pune University. Both these GRs mandated to constitute "the Registered Society" for the Autonomous Institute, (its registration with the Charity Commissioner Office) with the intent that such Society shall be responsible for smooth functioning of the Institute in respect of the Administrative, Academic, Financial and Managerial Activities by framing the Rules and Regulations of its own and to resolve the issues which may crop up in day-to-day functioning. Such Society for COEP as an Autonomous Institute came into existence w.e.f. 6th January 2004, he added.

In light of the newly conferred University status to the organization, the existence of such Society now being irrelevant, the Officiating Director sought opinion on whether the entity "College of Engineering Pune Society" needs to be CLOSED.

The Director-DTE pointed out that the erstwhile society was formed vide Government resolutions in 2002 and 2004 and read out relevant paragraphs in those GRs. He suggested that University should submit a proposal to State Government regarding closure of the society, after necessary BoG resolution in this regard. After issue of GR regarding closure of society, University should apply to the Hon. Charity Commissioner for closure of the society.

R-1/08/2022: The Board **NOTED** that in light of the newly conferred University status to the organization, **APPROVAL** be and is hereby given for the initiation of all the necessary formalities for closing the "College of Engineering Pune Society" in the records of office of Charity Commissioner, Pune.

The Board **FURTHER RESOLVED** to **AUTHORIZE** the Vice-Chancellor of the University or the Officiating Director of the erstwhile Institute or any other equivalent officer appointed by him to sign applications, letters, undertakings, declarations and any other document as may be required to be made in this regard.

- a) To allot 80% seats of its UG degree programs, as provided in the Extension of Approval –EoA (revised intake) of the AICTE for AY 2022-23, to the aspiring candidates, on the basis of their relative merit in the State CET scores and choice, from across the State of Maharashtra through the Central Admission Process (CAP) executed by the Admissions Regulatory Authority (ARA) of the State Government of Maharashtra.
- b) To allot the 20% of its seats, as per EoA of AY 2022-23 (revised intake), in these UG degree programs, to the aspiring candidates on the basis of their relative merit in the National level JEE Mains scores and choice, from across the Country, through the Central Admission Process (CAP) executed by the Admissions Regulatory Authority of the Government of Maharashtra.
- c) The eligibility to the admissions to the PG Programs for AY 2022-23 remains unchanged and shall be, in totality, as per the State Government norms. The University shall participate in the Central Admission Process (CAP) executed by the Admissions Regulatory Authority of the Government of Maharashtra for these admissions this year.

The Director-DTE expressed his concern on the allotment of 20% of the UG program seats to ALL INDIA candidates on the basis of their merit in the JEE –Mains examination. He pointed out that the increase in intake by 25% in the UG Programs was sanctioned to the erstwhile COEP as an Autonomous Institute and not to the COEP as University. Every seat in COEP, whether as Autonomous Institute or as an University is precious for the aspirants. It is possible that the beneficiaries (candidates and their parents/guardians) may perceive this as deprivation for a Maharashtra candidate.. Further, notifying such change at short duration may lead to litigations, he apprehended, in view of the State CET exams and CAP process being initiated shortly. He was of the opinion that the independent admission process with changes in the quota, for the State or All India, eligibility, entrance tests, etc., be undertaken under the University auspices from next academic year, so that the aspirants are well-informed on this change and thus get sufficient time. He further appealed the members to give a synthesized thought to this possibility and considering all these aspects, the members should take a cautious decision on the same. Accordingly, the University may submit the Admission proposal for Academic year 2022-23, to his office. Prof Dhande suggested that a pre-defined percentage of seats of admission may be filled in on All India basis with JEE (mains) as a qualifying exam in order to bring cultural and regional diversity on the lines of IITS and NITs. This will also bring a national character among the students' population on campus and shall reflect into enhancement of University's rank and brand.

R-1/06/2022: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Proposal tabled by the Officiating Director with regards to Admissions to its various UG and PG Programs w.e.f Academic Year 2022-23, as mentioned at (a), (b) and (c) above. The Board further **RESOLVED** to forward the proposal to the Directorate of Technical Education and other relevant authorities of the State Government for further needful in this regard.

Item 7. Appraisal on the Clauses related to 'Savings' as per Section-87 of the Act.

The Officiating Director apprised the members that the Chapter on 'Transitory Provisions'



Item 9. - Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

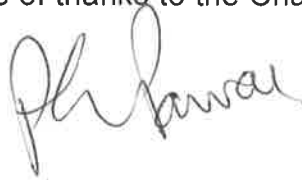
Upon the instruction of the Chairman, the Officiating Director presented this Item on '**Reporting on the present HR status of the COEP Technological University**', as an additional item and shared the data and information with regards as how many teachers and/or support staff opted out of existing College, in accordance with provisions of section 85 (2) and (3). In all, 110 employees opted out of COEP, of which 105 are support staff (Class-III and IV), 01 are Class-II and 04 is Class-I.

The Chairman expressed his concern on an acute scarcity, almost a void created on account of such options, and apprehended that this may impact the routine operation when the Institute transits to University. He further requested the Director-DTE to consider the situation and allow the new University to proceed with the recruitment process on the posts being vacated on account of such options.

The Director-DTE pointed to relevant provisions of the Act and suggested to take necessary action.

R-1/09/2022:The Board **RESOLVED to REQUEST** the Government to consider the void created by 'Opting Out' of 107 Government employees, and thus retain them on deputation in the University or gradually transfer them, to avoid damage to the routine work.

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





Officiating Director

