

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DURGAPUR-713209, WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Minutes of the 41st Board of Governors Meeting held on 23rd December, 2015 at 11:30 A.M. in the Seminar Room 2, United Service Institution of India, Rao Tula Ram Marg (Opposite Signals Enclave), Vasant Vihar, New Delhi – 110 057.

The following members attended the Meeting:

1. **Prof. A. B. Bhattacharyya,** Chairperson
Chairperson, Board of Governors,
National Institute of Technology,
Durgapur
2. **Prof. Asok De,** Member
Director, (Additional Charge),
National Institute of Technology,
Durgapur
3. **Mrs. Darshana M Dabral** Member
J S & F A (IFD)
MHRD, Govt. Of India
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
4. **Shri Sanjeev Kumar Sharma,** Member
Director (NITs),
Dept. of Higher Education,
MHRD, Govt. Of India
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
5. **Shri Sanjay Jhunjunwala,** Member
CEO, Mani Group
Mani Square Mall, 9th Floor
164/1 ManikTala Main Road, Kolkata-54
6. **Prof. Nirmal Kumar Roy,** Member
Professor,
Department of Electrical Engineering,
National Institute of Technology,
Durgapur.

7. **Shri Somnath Karmakar,**
Assistant Professor,
Department of Civil Engineering,
National Institute of Technology,
Durgapur.

Member

8. **Brig. A. S. Nijjar,**
Registrar,
National Institute of Technology,
Durgapur.

Secretary

The Chairperson, Board of Governors welcomed all members of the Board to the 41st meeting.

Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, West Bengal, Kolkata and Shri D.K. Majumdar, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical College of Pharmacy, University of Delhi, could not attend the meeting and were granted leave of absence by the Chairperson, Board of Governors. Since Shri D. K. Majumdar has not been attending any meetings the State Govt. of West Bengal has been approached for his replacement, however so far no response has been received.

Item #41.01: To confirm the Minutes of the 40th Meeting of Board of Governors held on 16th November, 2015.

Regarding confirmation of the minutes of the 40th meeting of the Board of Governors held on 16th November 2015, the Board was briefed on the comments received from the Chairman, BOG.

(a) While discussing the issue of replacement of Deans who had served beyond the laid down tenure, item 40.01. The Board was informed that due to the changed circumstances the Chairman had left it to the new Director to decide about the issue.

The Director informed that as per the provisions of the statutes, position of five deans was specified while the appointment of sixth dean was up to the Director. He sought clearance of the Board to designate the sixth dean as Dean Alumni, International Relations and outreach Activities related to interaction with institutions replacing the current position of Dean Administration.

The Chairman stated that since Prof. Asok De, the new Director had takenover under trying circumstances, he would like to give the Director a free hand.

Director announced that he would change the existing deans who had overshoot their tenures before the next board meeting.

Member from the MHRD informed that nomination of deans, was prerogative of the Director, he had to however inform the Chairman about the appointments made.

In the case of MR. P. K. Debroy, PS to Director, the Director informed that the issue of his appointment will be resolved as per laid down procedure. Member from MHRD stated that the Board was giving leeway to the Director to decide the issue in his own time.

It was further suggested that advertisement process for recruitment of director's PS should be started immediately.

During discussion on item#40.06 pertaining to Projects related to helium and earthquake precursor it was informed that certain manpower had been employed for the said projects and their salaries had been pending since 30th June 2015. The Chairman informed that he had sought and received a voluminous report on the said projects and had prepared detailed comments on the same. He was not convinced about the ownership of the assets involved in the project. The Board was also informed about large amount of funds being earmarked from the NIT for the said projects. The Board doubted the legality of involvement of NIT Durgapur in the said projects. The following were resolved.

- a) NIT Durgapur will not release any funds for the said projects.
- b) Registrar will take custody of all papers related to the projects.
- c) All papers related to the said projects will/ be sent to the MHRD for perusal and necessary advise / directions on the subject.

The Board approved and confirmed the minutes of the 40th Meeting of Board of Governors held on 16th November, 2015, incorporating the comments received from the Chairperson, BOG as under:-

Item No 40.1

It was also decided that four out of six deans needs to be replaced in view of their long period of continuation as dean.

The Chairman likes to comment that it is an untenable argument that post of a PA cannot be filled and take years. The service of Mr P. K. Debroy is to be terminated before the next board meeting.

Society related issues

Chairman pointed out that IIT Delhi has FITT which is like a Society that handles matters as envisaged for SIEN. IPR is only a small part of the multiple activities proposed for the Society.

The details of FITT may be obtained and its adoption at NIT Durgapur may be explored.

Item No 40.05

It was agreed that the visitor's nominee will be accessed by another external expert in the pre-screening process.

Regarding Annual Appraisal of Deans HODS, Wardens and Functional Heads, the board needs to be informed about the status of implementation of the Appraisal.

Item No 40.06

It was further suggested that the ERP cell be a part of the Computer Center which should have mandate of hardware and software maintenance.

The Chairman's report on the project suggested that the studies on helium and earthquake precursor can be continued after approval of a project steering committee to be created by the Chairman Only if the off-campus sites are under the administrative control and possession of NIT-Dgp which needs to be certified by the NITD administration. Chairman has also recommended that in view of legal issues involved in transfer of the assets and physical facilities from institutes under control of different agencies the matter may be referred to the MHRD for their perusal. Director informed that he has been told by the Prof Bikash Sinha that henceforth the projects will be implemented by the Bose Center of Kolkata. If so, let's us put up this to board. And the project activity on helium and earthquake precursor has to be discontinued. The Geo-thermal exploration activity has to be put on hold and the Board has to study the report of Chairman to decide on priority of allocation of fund.

The Chairman also has reported non compliance of various targets assured by the Institute during his visit to various departments. Report on the visit of the Chairman to various departments with specific recommendation on some basic facilities were not placed before the Board.

Item No 40.07

The query raised by the chairperson regarding non-compliance of the accreditation deadlines has not been submitted.

The Chairman has enquired specific information on original deadlines for the compliance for various Accreditation Agencies , Section and In-Charge responsible for implementation of the above, present status and present deadlines for compliance.

Item No 40.08

It was suggested by the panel of experts for faculty recruitment should have a national representation and should not be confined to a region. The final list be compiled combining the expert panel submitted by the Chairman in the board in various areas and that approved by the senate.

It was emphasised by the chairman that the issue of conflict of interest be kept in mind and attempt should be made to ensure that the thesis supervisors of faculty members called for interview should not be in the selection committee to the extent possible to avoid unnecessary embarrassment.

Item No 40.09

The matter was not discussed and therefore no decision has been taken by the board on issues raised on the report of Prof N Roy.

Item No 40.10

The item stands withdrawn by the Chairperson.

Item 40.17 (b):

The Board has not been informed about mishaps related to a student lying unconscious in the premises of hostel and reported missing which must be considered as a matter of concern.

Item 40.18 (a):

The Chairman proposed that the Visitor's nominee supported by one outside expert should be assigned the responsibility of screening.

Item 40.18 (b):

The Chairman informed the Board that he has already submitted a comprehensive report on the project where he recommends referring the matter related to off campus facilities and

assets from SINP and VEEC to MHRD. In the absence of confirmation from the Institute Administration that off campus sites related to geothermal projects are under exclusive control of NIT Durgapur, the project activity cannot be supported at those Sites. Therefore no further presentation on this matter is necessary.

Item 40.18 (e):

No presentation was made or any time table was submitted on the Status of Completion and takeover of different construction sites.

Item 40.18 (f):

The Chairman also observed that if there is Seed funding allotted by the Institute to demonstrate the commitment, the prospect of external funding enhances considerably.

Item #41.02: To note action taken on the Minutes of 40th Meeting of Board of Governors held on 16th November, 2015.

The Board noted the action taken on the Minutes of 40th Meeting of Board of Governors held on 16th November, 2015.

Item #41.03: To consider the Minutes of the 37th Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd December 2015.

The Board opined that the minutes of the just concluded FC meeting can only be confirmed after they are approved with comments of the members if any. The Board however approved the item no 37.04 pertaining to Repair and Maintenance of toilets of Students' Hostels being urgent.

Item #41.04: To approve the Minutes of 40th Senate Meeting held on 19th December, 2015.

The minutes were placed for the perusal of the Board.

Item #41.05: Review of sequence of events following the death of a student and Actions taken related to MHRD directive on Student Agitation.

The Board was briefed on events of 18th November, 2015 pertaining to death of a student and subsequent days.

The details of the events are given below.

18.11. 2015 The Chairman, Board of Governors was present in NIT Durgapur Campus on the day of incident.

19.11.2015 Students started agitation and boycott of all academic activities including boycott of examinations. Their demands included (i) resignation of Director

(ii) Suspension of Medical Officer and (iii) compensation of Rs. 15.0 lakhs to the family of the deceased student. Examinations for 19.11.2015 and 20.11.2015 were postponed by UGAC and PGAC.

When 400 to 500 Students entered the complex of the Director's Bungalow having forced an entry through the gate and were becoming violent the police was called in by the Security Officer /Director.

By about 03.30 am some of the Faculty and Officers had also arrived at the Director's Bungalow and persuaded the agitating students to calm down and return to the hostels.

The police who had been waiting outside the main gate of NIT Campus entered the Director's Bungalow around 4:15 am by which time agitating students had already dispersed.

A group of students wanted to meet the Chairman and he met them on 19th November in the evening in the presence of Dean (SW). The Chairman heard the grievances of the students. The Chairman had not been informed about the incident by anyone from the institute administration till then. He learned about the entry of the police only from the students. The students insisted that the Director be called in the meeting. Attempt to contact the Director however failed. The Chairman received a copy of the grievances submitted by the students to the institute earlier. He assured them that he will forward them to the MHRD for necessary action.

The students initially insisted on the Chairman to visit the hostels, however being late in the night they did not press with their request.

20&21.11.2015 The student agitation continued in a peaceful manner.

22.11.2015 A meeting was held in the afternoon of 22.11.2015 between former Director Prof. T. Kumar, Deans, HODs and the students to normalise the situation in the campus. The students were requested to resume normal academic activities. However, the students were firm on their demands and decided to continue their agitations till the demands were met.

23.11.2015. An enquiry committee was constituted with the approval of former Director Prof. T. Kumar to investigate the administrative issues related to the death of the student. The Committee included Three Professors(Prof. A. K. Saha as Chairman), three representatives of Student Gymkhana, one external member and one officer as Convener. ACMOH Durgapur was requested to form a committee of Medical Experts to investigate into medical negligence, if any. Two officers from MHRD, Mr. P. K. Saha,

Deputy Secretary and Mr. R.S. Solanki, Under Secretary arrived to investigate the issues related to the student unrest at NIT Durgapur following the death of the student.

24.11.2015 The officers from MHRD had prolonged discussions with the students, followed by investigation in the Medical Unit. They also met the Director, Deans and HODS.

25.11.2015 The Officers from MHRD visited the Halls of residence of the students and gave patient hearing to the students' problems. They again had discussions with Director and Deans about the students' demands and the situation in the NIT Durgapur before leaving.

26.11.2015 Students continued their agitation.

UGAC and PGAC once again met to discuss the situation and decided to postpone the remaining examinations till further orders. However, it was decided that the commencement of the examinations will be notified in the Institute Website at least ten days in advance.

28.11.2015 Letter from Mr. R.S. Solanki, Under Secretary to the Govt. of India reached the Chairperson, BOG, NIT Durgapur giving directives to ask Prof. T. Kumar, Director, to submit his resignation and to suspend the Medical Officer Dr. B. Sarkar. The letter was forwarded by Chairperson, BOG, NIT Durgapur to Prof. T. Kumar. It was also communicated that Director, NIT Patna will take over the charge of Director (additional charge).

29.11.2015 Prof. T. Kumar called a meeting of Deans, Associate Deans and representatives from Student Gymkhana and communicated his decision to submit his resignation next day i.e. 30th November as 29th was a Sunday.

30.11.2015 Prof. T. Kumar submitted his resignation and forwarded the same to Chairperson, BOG, NIT Durgapur, and to MHRD.

Students called off their agitation in writing.

01.12.2015 The Committee was modified after the names of External member and student representatives were available.

03.12.2015 Prof. Asok De, Director, NIT Patna took over the charge of Director, NIT Durgapur (additional charge) from Prof. T. Kumar. Office order, in this regard, was issued.

07.12.2015 Chairperson, BOG, NIT Durgapur arrived at the Institute and met Director and Deans.

08.12.2015 Chairperson, BOG, NIT Durgapur and Director had long discussions with Deans, HODs, Wardens of Halls of residence to take stock of the current situation.

09.12.2015 Chairperson, BOG, NIT Durgapur advised the Director to take necessary actions as per the directives of MHRD.

The order for suspension of Dr. B.K. Sarkar, Senior Medical Officer was issued to him on 09.12.2015.

10.12.2015 The enquiry committee was constituted to investigate the matter and the committee members were informed accordingly.

The Director briefed the Board on subsequent events and initiative taken by him after taking over. The Chairman put on record his appreciation for Prof. Asok De, the new Director, for having changed the complete environment of NIT Durgapur in a very short time.

The Board directed that the inquiry committee report be submitted by 15th January 2016.

In addition "Action Taken Report" on the directions given by the MHRD, pertaining to the incident also be forwarded to MHRD.

Item #41.06: To consider adoption of DoHE, Ministry of Human Resource Development OM No. 20-9/2015 – TS.III dated 26th November, 2015, Clarification regarding change of designation of Physical Directors recruited in the REC system at NIT – Warangal.

Adopted

Item #41.07: Chairman's overview and perceptions related to students' grievances on facilities.

The Chairman informed the Board that all directions of MHRD pertaining to death of a student on 18th November, 2015 and its after math, had been complied with. Listing the specifics he apprised the Board that :-

- a) The concerned Doctor has been suspended
- b) Inquiry committee has been constituted.
- c) Terms of reference of the committee have been defined as under:-

i) **Composition**

Dr. Brahm Prakash, Head Hospital Services, IIT Delhi.	Chairman
Dr. Charan Singh, Additional Director. Head of Public Health, DGHS, Delhi.	Member
Brig. A. S. Nijjar, Registrar, NIT Durgapur.	Secretary

ii) Terms of Reference

- a) Inquire into the circumstances leading to the death of the student on 18th November, 2015.
 - b) Ascertain, if there has been any negligence on part of the concerned doctor and/or hospital staff. If yes, pin point responsibility for the same.
 - c) Look into the role of Dr. B.K.Sarkar, SMO specific to the incident.
 - d) Investigate the alleged involvement of Dr. B.K. Sarkar in 'Private Practice' as pointed out in the MHRD letter referred at para 1 above.
 - e) Inquire into the general functioning of the hospital staff to include the following:-
 - i) Attendance & Punctuality
 - ii) Maintenance of records, particularly stocking and consumption records of medicines.
 - f) Recommend measures to obviate recurrence of such incidents.
- d) Notification for submitting any evidence/information pertaining to the incident is being placed on the Institute web site.

The chairman recommended "owners of the Hall" committee for each hostel to check activities like drinking, drugs and indiscipline.

Members from MHRD suggested an institute level grievance cell.

Director surmised, that such issues should be handled at Director's level.

Item #41.08: To consider the confirmation of the employees of the Institute.

The issue was discussed, however the board members were reluctant to approve the same owing to the time span of six to seven years that had lapsed. One member also raised the issue of the individual having been promoted as associate professor during the intervening period.

It was however resolved that the detailed case, along with the authority justifying the promotion of the individual be forwarded to MHRD.

Item #41.09: To discuss and consider the fate of staff of erstwhile NTMIS.

The issue was presented and deliberated, however the ministry had some reservations on the issue as it may create complications to resolve similar cases existing in other NITs. It was suggested to take legal advise on giving age relaxation for casual and daily workers who are working in the institute for long, in the light of verdict of Supreme Court in the Uma Devi case.

Institute should write to MHRD for future course of action regarding the concerned employees.

Item #41.10: Any other item with the permission of the chair.

- A) Regarding running of M.Tech programme on High Performance Computing by Computer Centre. Item No. 38.17 of 38th BOG and 38.13 of 38th Senate meeting.

Placed for information of the Board.

- B) Hiring of one additional AC Ambulance to meet the requirement of patients of NIT Durgapur.

Although there is a ban on purchase of new vehicles, however the ambulance can be purchased against the existing van which has been condemned and is lying as scrap.

- C) Appointment of Doctors and Staff Nurses on Contractual Basis for Medical Unit, NITD on an urgent basis.

Proposal was approved by the board and is to be reviewed after one year.

A comparison was also made with NIT Tricchy which has a much larger complement of medical staff including doctors and a student strength comparable to NIT Durgapur.

- D) Recommendation of the Selection Committee for the selection of PWD Candidates for Faculty Positions.

Approved by the Chairman.

- E) Status of GKCIET

The Board was informed about the current turbulent situation in GKCIET.

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



23/12/15

Brig. A. S. Nijjar

Registrar & Secretary,
Board of Governors,
National Institute of Technology,
Durgapur

Approved by the Chairman
on 23rd December 2015 at
the Conference Room of USI, NITD.

Prof. A.B. Bhattacharyya,

Chairperson, Board of Governors,
National Institute of Technology,
Durgapur

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Member Conf
A.B. Bhattacharyya