

National Institute of Technology Sikkim

Minutes of the Meeting of the 1st meeting of the Ad Hoc BOG held on 17th March at BARC, Mumbai in the Office of the Director, BARC

The following were present in the meeting:

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| 6. Dr R K Sinha
Director-BARC
Mumbai | Chairman |
| 7. Dr. A B Samaddar
Director, NIT Sikkim
Ravangla Campus, South Sikkim | Member |
| 8. Shri R D Sahay
Joint Secretary for NITs, MHRD
Govt. of India
ShastriBhawan, New Delhi | Member |
| 9. Dr N Ramamoorthy
Sr Advisor to Director-BARC
Mumbai | Special Invitee |

The following members were granted leave of absence:

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| 1. FA/Joint Secretary, MHRD
Govt. of India
ShastriBhawan, New Delhi | Member |
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2.3. To initiate the first meeting of the ad hoc BOG

The Chairman welcomed the Members and expressed happiness on the historic occasion of the first meeting of the BOG, NIT Sikkim. Director, NIT Sikkim and the Joint Secretary (NITs) endorsed the motion with similar warm sentiments.

The list of topics for consideration and discussion drawn by the Director was adopted as the Agenda (copy attached) for the Meeting, and all the items were covered.

Signature

2.4. To consider the report of the Director, NIT Sikkim and decisions

arising at

2.4.1. Background

Director-NIT (Sikkim) gave an account of the background and current status of the Institute. The Institute is presently functioning from its campus at Ravangla. The first batch of students (of 2010-11) have been studying at NIT Calicut (the Mentor Institute). The BTech programmes offered are Computer Science & Engineering; Electrical & Electronics Engineering and Electrical Engineering. The Mentor Institute, NIT Calicut is insisting that the students studying there be taken to NIT Sikkim from the ensuing academic year (i.e. July 2012). The students of the 2011-12 batch are studying in Ravangla campus (temporary campus; 16 buildings), where preliminary facilities have been set up on hired premises. Some of the main infrastructure issues are related to poor communication facilities, acute water shortage and power outages.

2.4.2. Land matter

The land for proposed campus has been identified at Khamdong (about 2 hours' drive from the present campus at Ravangla). The Sikkim Government has promised to allot 300 acres of land there, and MHRD has approved the same site. Some understandable practical issues and problems continue to come up and Director - NIT (S) is doing his best to address the matters. He is also keeping the society in the neighbourhood and local authorities engaged to mobilise their support to NIT (S). The facilities in nearby NHPC Colony would be an ideal option for accommodating the immediate future needs of the Director Residence-cum-office and a working office of the Institute for following up closely and for easier access to Gangtok and to the Airport, Railway station and Siliguri nearest city for procurement for Infrastructure development. Chairman, BOG had kindly agreed to write a letter to NHPC apex authority requesting for its help in the matter.

2.4.3. Preparation status for development

Some government construction agencies have been contacted and some of them visited Ravangla and Khamdong which is the proposed campus site for reconnaissance.

2.4.4. Academic status

Teaching is going on as scheduled at NIT Sikkim campus and at NIT Calicut. Make up classes are being conducted for the classes lost due the lack of faculty prior to joining of the Director and due to the Earthquake. It is expected that in two/three semesters the late running of semesters will get normal.



2.4.5. Faculty status

Two rounds of interviews have been conducted for recruitment of ad hoc faculty on obtaining approval from the Chairman BOG on consolidated salary for 6 months basis. Highly qualified faculty have been recruited, especially in the Science disciplines. It is strongly felt that we should arrange for recruitment to regular positions as soon as possible and PhD programme must be initiated so that they can be retained.

2.4.6. Staff status and outsourcing

It is difficult to get experienced/skilled staff. Attempt is being made to recruit staff through out-sourcing. Security and one office staff has been engaged ad hoc on master roll from local community.

2.4.7. Repairing and refurbishing at Ravangla campus.

As the land has not yet been acquired, as instructed by the MHRD, some work has been taken up at Ravangla so that immediate requirement for 2/3 years may be addressed.

2.4.8. ICT status

As such Telecommunication service is very bad in Sikkim, especially at Ravangla. BSNL has been contacted for Internet connection through the NMEICT scheme of the MHRD. Order has been placed for 1 GBPS connectivity and setting up LAN at both the campuses. It is expected that the high speed connectivity will be available within 6-8 months' time. In the mean time, Internet is being accessed through data cards given to the faculty members. Further, 80 PCs are shortly expected for students' use. Order has also been placed for seventeen notebook computers for faculty and Director's Office.

2.4.9. Mentorship - Status

The students studying at the Mentor Institute, NIT Calicut are not happy. They have been taught as a separate class by visiting faculty, not with Calicut students unlike in other mentor institutes such as NIT Warangal, NIT Surat etc. NIT Sikkim has to send faculty all the way from NIT Sikkim. Students are put up in a separate hostel. There has been general indifference towards the students of NIT Sikkim. It was agreed that payment at existing rate for visiting/guest faculty may be paid to them and to the officials. However, payment cannot be made for the period before the joining of the present director unless it is certified and amount clearly mentioned by the Authority of the NIT Calicut, if necessary in consultation with the then directors of the NIT Calicut. Although it is desirable that the students are brought back to NIT Sikkim, no laboratory facility or computer laboratory has been even initiated earlier. It will take about a year to establish the facilities. Hence, some infrastructure facility needs be established at Ravangla campus so that academics do not suffer.



2.5. Formation of working Finance Committee (FC)

It was decided that since the number of members in the BOG is very small, and required representatives are from the MHRD, the BOG itself may function as the FC also.

2.6. Formation of working Building and Works Committee (BWC)

It was decided that experts from government organizations, such as CPWD, NHPC, PWD etc. may be included in the team in the line of the Act. Chairman was very kind to nominate one civil expert in the Committee from BARC.

2.7. Recruitment of regular faculty

There has been good response to the recruitment of ad-hoc faculty for NIT (S), while it is now imperative to provide suitable facilities to cater to these Faculty's academic aspirations and social needs. Ability to perform and/or guide research is a major professional incentive in this context. The Director urged for strong support to start PhD programme. The process for filling up of sanctioned regular faculty positions should proceed following the specified procedures for NITs, such as wide-spread advertisement. (Action: Director – NIT (S))

2.8. Starting of PhD programmes

Considering the item 1.6, It was agreed in principle that PhD programme will be started. A suitable Academic Committee(AC) is required to be established, which will provide advice and allied inputs for PhD programmes and other academic matter as and when required. This Committee will thus strengthen the Director's hands and the functioning of NIT Sikkim. The Director will propose a panel of academic experts from distinguished institutes to the Chairman, BOG for his approval.

2.9. Formation of Senate

The matter of formation of a regular Senate for NIT Sikkim may be taken up in future after streamlining and strengthening operations. In the mean time, the Academic Committee proposed in item 1.6 may perform the essential function of the Senate for the examination results etc.

2.10. Tie up with some other IIT/NIT for initial development

Since the Mentor Institute is far away and the interface with the students studying there is not working well, the Director proposed that nearby NIT/IITs may be approached for help in this aspect. It was decided that same may be availed through some MoU.

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2.11. Vehicle Procurement

As the rental for vehicle is very high in Sikkim a tourist place whereas the vehicle, vehicle papers and service is not reliable, it is very important that the Institute has its own essential vehicles. JS (NITs) will help expedite the processing and approval of vehicles for NIT (S). In view of the terrain, two 4-wheel drive vehicles will be required, one each for Director and the Institute. In addition one bus for students is required. The total road distance within the current campus is nearly 7 km. JS (NITs) will also take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance to avail on rent the vacant housing facilities in NHPC premises (Action: JS (NITs)).

2.12. Medical benefits

The question of availability of and accessibility to adequate medical assistance facility, in the hour of need, including for the current faculty, staff and students, needs to be addressed. The existing systems in other NITs will be ascertained to plan and institute similar provisions in NIT (S). Suitable plans for establishing a full-fledged dispensary in main campus in Khamdong will be included in the master plan. In the mean time, the Director may address the immediate needs on case to case basis.

2.13. AOB with permission of the Chair

2.13.1. Action for land acquisition:

It is essential to acquire at the earliest the land proposed for the main campus and commence construction activities there. JS (NITs) will liaise with the State Govt administration and help expedite matters. Pre-fab construction of campus facilities in Ravangla is urgently needed, even as efforts to get possession of land for permanent campus are to be pursued. A master plan for the main campus could include relocation (in future) of some of the pre-fab facilities of Ravangla, if required.

2.13.2. Recruitment of supporting/auxiliary staff:

In addition to conducting interview for ad-hoc position, the Director – NIT(S) may recruit some essential office staff through advertisement. Employing locals will be followed wherever possible, as for example, for most of the auxiliary jobs and for some technical jobs, while it would be necessary to empower Director – NIT (S) to engage suitable qualified persons (not necessarily locals) for certain specific office functions and security-related needs. Attempts may also be made to outsource some work as much as possible. (Action: Director – NIT (S))

2.13.3. Research & Development and retention/attracting faculty

Director – NIT(S) may try to encourage the ad-hoc faculty in position to plan and propose suitable R&D projects that could be handled in present circumstances in Ravangla campus, perhaps also involving collaborations with some neighbouring



academic centres. Commencing PhD programme would be a strong attraction for new faculty including the current pool of ad-hoc faculty in place.


1.11.4. Intermediate construction till the time the proposed campus Highest priority will be given to establishing pre-fab construction facilities in Ravangla. BARC's expertise will be available for advice in planning further (contact: Shri K. Srinivas, Head, A&CED, BARC) and a visit of BARC expert(s) may be scheduled ASAP.

1.11.5. Planning for admissions in 2012 etc.
A calendar of events and planned time line may be drawn up to institute adequate attention to the three batches of students expected in the NIT (S) from January 2012 (including the new entrants of 2012-13 batch). In view of this, the 3-stream courses commenced in NIT (S) alone will only be offered for the 2012-13 batch. New/additional courses (including civil engg planned in 2012) may not be commenced in 2012 due to practical logistic difficulties and to ensure adequate attention and support to programmes already commenced. PhD programme may, however, be started to help attract and retain high caliber Faculty (Action: Director - NIT (S)).


(Director)

Approved


(Chairman)

These minutes are correct.

Chairman
Board of Governors
NIT Sikkim

