

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SIKKIM

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the BOG held on 14th April, 2015, in the Administrative Block, NIT Sikkim, Ravangla, Barfung Block, South Sikkim, Sikkim 737 139

The following members of the BOG were present:

- 1) Dr. R. K. Sinha : Chairman
Secretary, Dept of Atomic Energy
Govt. of India, New Delhi
- 2) Dr. A. B. Samaddar : Member
Director, NIT Sikkim,
Ravangla, South Sikkim
- 3) Shri Rajesh Singh : Representative of the Financial Adviser,
Director, IFD, MHRD, (Member) MHRD, Govt. of India
Government of India
New Delhi
- 4) Shri. Arun Kumar : Representative of the Additional Secretary
Director, MHRD (Member) MHRD, Govt. of India,
Government of India
New Delhi
- 5) Mr. Upadhaya : Member
Principal Secretary, HRDD
Government of Sikkim
- 6) Shri Ramesh Sharma : Member
New Delhi
- 7) Ms Swarupa Rani, : Member
Bangalore

First, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Board of Governors. The presence of the representatives of the Government of Sikkim was noted with appreciation. Leave of absence was granted to Prof. Mishra, IIT Guwahati. Further, the following official was requested to be present in the meeting:

1. Dr. N. Ramamoorthy, Sr. Technical Advisor, DAE, Govt. of India
2. Mr. Alam Ansari, Ad hoc Faculty, CSE and Asst, Dean (Admin. & Faculty Affairs)

This being the first Meeting of BOG at NIT Sikkim Campus, for the Chairman and the members, this was the maiden opportunity to get first-hand familiarisation of the region, terrain of the campus location and related matters. The BOG accordingly placed on record its appreciation for the Director and his staff, both faculty and administrative, for their fine efforts, understanding and patience in

going through the inevitable teething troubles, compounded by the accessibility and weather-related issues, as well as due to continuing uncertainty on the location of the permanent campus.

5.1. To confirm the minutes of the 4th meeting of the BoG held on 11.06.2014 in Delhi.

The BoG confirmed the Minutes of the 4th meeting of the BOG held on 11th June, 2014 in the Room No. 146, Department. of Atomic Energy, South Block, New Delhi 110001.

5.2. Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the 4nd meeting of the BoG held in Delhi on 11.06.2014 and other reports from the Director.

Action Taken Report (ATR) on the items/decisions taken in the 4th meeting of the BOG

Age nda item	Decision	Action
4.01	Confirmation of minutes of the 3 rd meeting of the BOG held on 19-12-13 at Dept. of Atomic Energy, South Block, New Delhi 110 001, in Room No. 146	No Action required
4.02	To report action taken on decisions taken in the meeting of the BoG held on 11-06-14 and reports from the Director	No Action required
4.03	Procurement of bus for the students	Request letter to the MHRD was sent for necessary approval vide ref no: NITS/Admn/Procurement of Veh./2013-14/770, Dated: 06.02.2015. In the meantime, order has been placed for hiring a bus
4.04	To Consider rule for the Faculty Recruitment	Proposal was approved in last BoG meeting, accordingly advertisements were floated vide Ref. no: NITS/Admn./Rectt./Reg./Faculty/14-15. Dated: 04.02.2015. Applications received are being processed.
4.05	To Consider rule for the Non-Faculty staff Recruitment	Last BoG meeting has adopted the recruitment rules as per the MHRD Letter No: F.33-2/2012-T-III, Dated: 05.02.2014. Considering the urgency regular faculty recruitment.
4.06	Non-availability of land and associated problems, some immediate action proposed	It was proposed that the Chairman, BoG may write a letter to the Government of Sikkim expressing its concern over the land issue & requesting for early handover of land at Khamdong. In the meantime, the state Govt. has projected the land at Pkayong vide D O. 545/ps/HRSS dated: 17/10/14. The Chairman has taken up the case at a different platform.
4.07	To consider the Budget for 2014-15	The Budget proposed for 2014-15 was approved. In this connection it was observed that the financial power of the Director, deans, HODs etc. may be found out from other NITs. Letter was sent to several NITs for the information. So far we have information from NIT Hamirpur and MNNIT Allahabad, which are placed.
4.08	AoB with the permission of the Chair	DST sponsored prestigious INSPIRE programme was conducted successfully during 23-27 th July 2014 with presentation/lectures by distinguished scientists from IISs, IITs etc.

Director's report

5.2.1 Academic Programmes:

The Director apprised the BoG that the semesters had been running and examinations were held according to two schedules till the last semester ending in December 2014.

5.2.2 Land Issue – a separate agenda item is taken up as item No. 5.3

5.2.4 Research & Development & 5.2.5 Infrastructure & Equipment

Considering the sponsored R&D projects and the High Performance Computer the Institute is working. A hostel has been constructed and another is in process. A multipurpose hall construction is also over. Other construction as planned on the present land location has been reported in details in the minutes of the last BWC meeting.

5.2.6 Training & Placement

Director informed that it is difficult to get the companies to the campus because of remoteness and the number of students is less. A separate item is placed as item 5.9.

5.2.7 Recent representation by students to the MHRD and MHRD's instruction therein.

The incident was narrated by the Director; given as **Enclosure I**

In this connection the suggestions made in the report from the MHRD Representative who visited the Institute and discussed with the Students, faculty and the Director, was taken up and some actions were decided to be taken as given as **Enclosure II**

In response to 5.2.4 and 5.2.5 above, It was suggested by some members that attempt may be made to attract industries to avail the research findings and the equipment whenever possible to be made spared.

In response to Item 5.2.7 above, BOG strongly encouraged strengthening the system of students' counsellor, while taking note of the existing arrangement. This practice, when well nurtured and followed, would help getting many issues locally addressed or better understood by both students and management.

5.3. Non-availability of land for permanent campus for a long time and associated problems – BOG to consider further action

The members noted with great concern that the land for main permanent campus for the Institute has not yet been made available. The Principal Secretary HRDD, Govt of Sikkim, explained the rather high cost of land to be procured at Khamdong and the inability of the State to meet such high expenditure (Rs 52 Cr). He also outlined the likely advantages in the new site of Thekabong near Pakyong proposed recently in the State's letter to MHRD. Following detailed discussions after hearing the observations of MHRD representative and NIT Members who had visited the site, the BOG encouraged hiring the services of professional experts for assessment of needs at the proposed site, both cost and time required.

The BOG also appreciated the strong intention and efforts of the State Government for resolution of land matter as conveyed by the Principal Secretary and suggested NIT to seize the opportunity with an open mind and availing professional expertise regarding the land area and terrain. The MHRD representative informed that there is a designated statutory Committee of the MHRD, Government of India for Site selection, which includes expert member from CPWD etc. to look into these aspects. Accordingly it was decided that the Committee would look into all the aspect for the suitability of the land. Further, the BOG expressed that further delay and longer time-taking process(es), should be avoided in land development and construction work, especially in the light of the few years already lost.

Chairman, BOG, explained his recent interaction with Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS in PMO, who is in Charge of DAE and also NE Regional Development. Chairman, BOG has hence written to him seeking his support and contact with the Govt. of Sikkim for early resolution of land allocation to NIT Sikkim, to be followed quickly by acquisition and handing over of land for commencement of construction.

5.4. To consider the honorarium for Adjunct Faculty position

The hiring of adjunct faculty at various levels was approved as follows depending on experience and credentials:

- a) Adjunct Professor 100,000-1,20,000 pm consolidated
- b) Adjunct Associate Professor 80,000-100,000 pm consolidated
- c) Adjunct Assistant Professor 50,000-80,000 pm consolidated

5.5. To consider the recommendation of the Building & Works Committee (BWC) and Finance Committee (FC) and the decisions taken in the Senate

5.5.1. Recommendation of the Building & Works Committee (BWC) – Annexure D (held on 13th April 2015 at NIT Sikkim

The recommendations of the BWC were approved.

5.5.2. Decision of the Finance Committee (FC) – Annexure E, held on 14th April 2015

The recommendations of the FC were approved.

5.5.3. Minutes of the Senate meeting - Annexure-F, Held on 29th December 2014 at the IIT Kgp Extension Centre, Kolkata.

The resolutions of the Senate were noted.

5.6. To consider amendments of First Statues of NITs for appointment of Dy. Director

The BOG approved the norms for the appointment of the Dy. Director as proposed.

5.7. To report the approval of the Chairman, BoG of Annual Report 2011-12 & 2012-13

The BOG ratified the Approval.

5.8. To consider procurement of a Scorpio/Innova in place of a Bolero/Sumo for multipurpose use

The BOG approved the procurement of an Innova vehicle. Further, the MHRD representative informed that the MHRD has already moved a note to the concerned Ministry for approval of a bus and an ambulance for NIT Sikkim. The move was highly appreciated.

5.9. To consider establishing Training & Placement Facilities at Siliguri

For attracting larger number of potential recruiters for campus placement scheme, favourable logistics of venue and facilities therein are required. It would be debatable whether Siliguri would be effective, though the BOG was informed that the students have proposed the venue. Guwahati may be a more central location, and for more than one NIT of NE Region to share and use, although for NIT Sikkim, Kolkata could be more suitable. However, if campussing could be arranged at Siliguri, then hotel etc. may be hired for those occasions.

The BOG strongly recommended establishing a formal mechanism, say a forum, for close and sustained interactions among the NIT Directors in NE Region. There are, and will arise, several common issues and matters of interest among these NITs. It would be worthwhile to review and benefit from sharing of good practices, lessons learnt, taking joint actions - e.g. for campus placement interactions of industries and other companies, harnessing synergies (competencies, facilities etc.), and the Director, NIT Sikkim may take a lead in this direction. The Director informed that he had arranged few such meetings in last two years, but it had not yet yielded much visible result. Each of these NITs are busy with their own unique problems and different ways of handling. The BOG however suggested that it may be pursued again with more impetus and efforts.

5.10. AoB with permission of the Chair

After experiencing the situation in situ and after deliberation, the BOG resolved the following. The site-specific issues of NIT Sikkim are manifold, and it requires all round efforts and support to be effectively addressed. Adequate number of vehicles are utmost necessity for day-to-day operations, and needs-based services to students in the difficult terrain often affected by heavy continuous rains. The NIT Management and the BOG have strongly felt the need for their due empowerment to directly take necessary actions (cf. referrals to other agencies of Govt. of India). The representatives of the Govt. of Sikkim emphasised this need taking into account the ground realities, and that its absence will badly impact on the functioning and growth of the new NIT. The BOG places this matter on record so that MHRD may take it up at appropriate forum, and also accorded approval for the current recommendations of the Finance Committee for the model of second vehicle and the bus.


The BoG appreciated the initiative of the NIT Sikkim management in INSPIRE programmes, technical seminar, community development and several other activities, and

advised to enhance its outreach efforts to engage the local community and also project these activities and allied efforts through website, local media, academic channels - e.g. NIT Sikkim Newsletter, etc. NIT Members explained the several events and actions being taken. Although, there have interferences and irrational pressure from some corners for local business interest, the Institute enjoys a good image in the education circle and for common people due its Community Development programmes at different levels. The Institute agreed to further extend its outreach with suitable brochures, press releases etc. as recommended.


Chairman, BOG, suggested adding a regular Agenda item on briefing BOG on highlights and achievements of NIT Sikkim; the first one may cover the past year while the second may cover progress since the previous BOG Meeting. It was also opined that some student representatives may be invited to join for some particular items, whenever the BOG Meeting is held in NIT Campus.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


Director


Chairman, BOG

The minutes are confirmed,


27-11-2014

**Chairman
Board of Governors
NIT Sikkim**

Report on some students boycotting classes and approaching MHRD

It was started on 8th Feb. evening from an incident of a person in Monk's Robe slapped few students outside the campus and then chased them inside the campus. He was handed over to the Police. Although the Police officials came and assured about the safety of the students and the person came and apologised, the students raised the issue of overall safety. Then they raised many other issues, some of which are misplaced or exaggerated. But they have points which although are not unusual in any of the N-E NITS, especially in the new ones whereas for NIT Sikkim limitations are more than any other due to non-availability of land for permanent campus, the Internet connection is poor, and it is operating from a very small campus abandoned by Tibetan refugees and badly damaged by the Earthquake in 2011 September, and then land transfer is still being procrastinated.

Faculty is not less except for Electrical Engg. Dept. in which two faculty left and one got seriously ill. There is little shortage for Civil Engg. as the first batch is only in second year. Anyway, next interview was due on 15th Feb. In the meantime, visiting faculty has been arranged including some from IITs. In quality and quantity, faculty situation are better than most other new N-E NITs.

No qualified doctor appeared in two interviews. The part-time Doctor had met with heart attack that disrupted service for a month. A new doctor was identified. In the meantime, we made arrangements with local Health Centre, military health Centre at Ravangla, and District Hospital in Namchi.

Reconstruction of the Earthquake damaged buildings has been completed. Whatever land could be made available was used for construction of new hostel and a small playground. As the land handover for permanent campus was committed in 2012, large investment could not be made. After 2013, construction became an imperative rather due to exasperation due procrastination. One hostel complex and a multipurpose hall were completed, and one more hostel is under construction.

To conclude, when they interacted on the Facebook, students from other new N-E NITs also shared the same unhappiness about their infrastructures although they have land for permanent campus.

Because of poor Internet, non-availability of land, recreation hall the frustration have been growing which is reflecting everywhere. At this late conjecture, allotment of land at remote Thekabong near Pakyong, East Sikkim may increase the frustration, and such problem will crop up for another 5-10 years, considering accessibility, the exorbitant cost and longtime require for construction.

I hope there is no remote chance that the students are imagining that such pressure might compel the Government to shift them to other NIT(s) as I heard.

If I look holistically, another thought comes in mind is that today the lifestyle is gradually getting unrestrainedly liberal even with the otherwise brilliant students in the institutes of higher learning. This is orchestrated by the glamour society and some media which inculcates such practices, and also supports/hails political parties those support/ accommodate such pseudo modern views, whereas real intellectual people even in the Western world are now adopting some of traditional Indian values and lifestyle practices. This issue may not be fully ignored please. Students should be also oriented in responsibilities and human values rather than their demands only. NIT Sikkim is an Institute of National Importance which is funded by public money.

Actions proposed in line of the suggestion given in the MHRD Report

1. Recruitment of Regular faculty should be completed by July/August 2015.
2. Non-faculty in regular position may be recruited immediately after faculty recruitment.
To expedite 1 & 2 above, it was decided, that the Director will put up a list of experts to the Chairman, BOG for his approval as BOG nominees, which will be reported to the BoG for ratification. Further, the recommendation of the selection committees would also be placed to the Chairman in the same manner.
3. Director in liaison with the Supdt. Engineer, CPWD and the BWC should meet 3 monthly.
4. Manning at the main gate 24 hours, which is reported already being done has to be ensured.
5. New B Tech programme may be started only after ensuring required infrastructure.
6. None of the hostel students should be allowed to cook inside hostel rooms and they should be advised strictly to take food in the mess/canteen.
7. Part-time Doctor to be engaged – which has been reported to be done already, only was not available for some times due to the Doctor's heart attack.
8. Maintenance Registrar are to be opened for Civil and Electrical complaints by faculty and students so that the contractors may carry out repair work accordingly and the students have to be made aware and actions be taken properly as earlier the arrangement did not work much.
9. The Finance Committee and the Board of Governors should ordinarily meet four times during a calendar year.
10. The State Government representatives may kindly look into the matter.
11. Washing machine which are in pipeline may be brought soon.
12. **The members strongly felt that the student-counsellors and other students' affair office-bearers should be more proactive with proper authentic information so that the students are well aware of the Institute's achievements and other relevant information.**