



**MINUTES OF THE 61st MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD ON 14th December 2020 AT 2:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1.	Shri. Bhaskar Bhat	Chairperson, BoG*
2.	Dr. (Mrs.) Mini Shaji Thomas, Director	Member
3.	Shri. Madan Mohan ADG, MoE	Member*
4.	Smt. Darshana M. Dabral Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, MoE	Member*
5.	Shri. P.R. Venketrama Raja	Member*
6.	Dr. S. Kumanan	Member*
7.	Dr. S. Jerome	Member*
8.	Dr. (Mrs) L. Cindrella, Registrar i/c	Secretary
* Through Video Conferencing		

Shri Karumuttu T. Kannan (Member) and Dr. Krishnan Balasubramanian (Member) expressed their inability to attend the meeting owing to other commitments and they were granted leave of absence.

GENERAL MATTERS

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Shri. Bhaskar Bhat, Chairperson, Board of Governors welcomed the members to the meeting. He informed about his visit to the Institute for the Convocation-2020 and mentioned the visits to various facilities on campus.

Thereafter, the Registrar (i/c) - Secretary initiated the deliberations on the Agenda Items.

ITEM NO. 1	CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 61st MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON 29th SEPTEMBER 2020	
	The Minutes of the 60 th Meeting of the BoG were circulated to the Members of the Board and one comment was received, which was not reflecting the decision of the Board of Governors. However, the concern raised by the member was well taken. The Board confirmed the Minutes.	
	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/1	RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the 60 th Meeting of the Board of Governors be confirmed.

ITEM NO. 2	ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE BOG	
	The Action Taken Report of the previous meetings of the Board of Governors were discussed and noted with the following observations. The search for a short term Financial Consultant should continue for preparing a 5-year perspective financial plan, to assist the committee formed by the Institute and to compute the cost of running each degree programme.	
	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/2	RESOLVED THAT the Action Taken on the decisions of the previous Meetings of the Board be noted.

ITEM NO. 3	DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS / DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE BOG.	
	The Director gave a presentation on the following major achievements and developments that took place in the Institute since the last Meeting of the Board of Governors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 16th Convocation of the Institute was conducted in a blended mode, due to the COVID imposed restrictions, where the 53rd Batch of students were graduated. Degrees were awarded to 1777 graduates, including 803 B Tech, 38 B. Arch, 489 M Tech, 17 M. Arch, 67 M. Sc., 85 MCA, 72 MBA, 33 	




	<p>MS and a record 173 PhDs. Mr. Azim Premji, Chairperson of Azim Premji Foundation and founder of Wipro was the Chief guest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online theory classes being handled through MS teams & Webex, completed UG teaching on 27th November & Examinations to finish by 18th December. Will be completing first year PG teaching on 15th Dec 2020. Next Semester will start on 18th January 2020. • First year B Tech/B Arch classes commenced on 3rd December, orientation programme was conducted during 3rd and 4th December 2020 through online mode. • Full time PhD scholars (Hostellers and days scholars) have been brought back to the Institute in a phased manner by following SOPs in 3 phases (around 150). • In spite of the Pandemic, research publications saw an improvement. As on date in Scopus, the publications stand at 1046 against 995 in 2019 and citations at 19887 against 16614. In WoS, publications were 724 and citations 13699, as on date. • 6 Faculty were recognized in World's Top 2% Scientists by Stanford University • 2 Ph. D Scholars received the Prime Ministers Research Fellowship establishing the Institute as part of the PMRF scheme. • Research and consultancy project earnings are much less than projected, as the results of project proposal submissions are yet to be announced by funding agencies, due to the COVID Pandemic. • Interaction sessions were conducted Cadre wise for Group B & C Non-Teaching staff (4 sessions) & for NMRs (2 sessions), to appraise about the progress Institute is making and to take feedback. Training of NMRs for Analytical ability, English etc. were conducted to help them in the forthcoming recruitment. • 'IGNITTE' the teaching Club of the Institute, trained rural Govt. school students for competitive examinations and two
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	<p>students got into B Tech program at NIT Trichy and 2 more in Govt. Medical colleges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director also presented the broad outline of the Institute's alignment to the National Education Policy 2020 and sought the directions from the Board regarding introduction of online degree programs. • Regarding the starting of online degree programmes, the Board suggested to have a purpose definition for this initiative by a suitable committee (Strategic Planning Group/ Academic Reforms Committee/PG Expert committee), so that the NIT Tiruchirappalli brand value is retained. As a pilot, a few PG courses can be considered for online degree programs. Inputs from Departments and Alumni can be obtained regarding the market and other details regarding such programmes. 		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/3</td> <td> <p>RESOLVED THAT the Director's report on the major achievements and developments be noted with appreciation.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, a purpose definition may be arrived at, for starting of online degree programs and as a pilot, a few PG courses may be considered.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/3	<p>RESOLVED THAT the Director's report on the major achievements and developments be noted with appreciation.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, a purpose definition may be arrived at, for starting of online degree programs and as a pilot, a few PG courses may be considered.</p>
RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/3	<p>RESOLVED THAT the Director's report on the major achievements and developments be noted with appreciation.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, a purpose definition may be arrived at, for starting of online degree programs and as a pilot, a few PG courses may be considered.</p>		

APPROVAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 4	AMENDMENTS IN FIRST STATUTES OF NITS – AGENDA BY CIRCULATION	
	The agenda was already adopted by circulation.	
	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/4	<p>RESOLVED THAT the amendments to be carried out in the Statutes of NITs and IEST as per para 3 of Ministry of Education communication vide F.No.35 – 5/2017 - TS.III dated, 27th October, 2020 be adopted.</p>




ITEM NO. 5	SANCTION OF ADDITIONAL TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF POSITIONS	
	<p>The Board discussed in detail the proposal and approved in principle that it is very essential to have increased number of faculty and staff to build the future of the Institute and to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>As per the current student strength of 6833, the requirement of teaching and non-teaching positions will be 569 and 626 respectively at a Faculty student ratio of 1: 12. (current sanction is 393 and 432, additional sanction of 176 Teaching and 194 Non-Teaching positions)</p> <p>The Institute was advised to prepare an elaborate proposal, justifying the positions to the Ministry, at the earliest.</p>	
	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/5	<p>RESOLVED THAT the proposal for additional sanction of 176 Teaching and 194 Non-Teaching positions be approved.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT an elaborate proposal be prepared, justifying the additional positions and be submitted to the Ministry, at the earliest.</p>

ITEM NO. 6	LIFE OF FILES	
	<p>The item is noted, taking into consideration that this is as per the Record Retention Schedules and as per the Ministry's directives.</p>	
	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/6	<p>RESOLVED THAT the obsolete documents be weeded out as per procedure laid down in the Record Retention Schedules, as presented.</p>

ITEM NO. 7	RECRUITMENT OF NON-TEACHING STAFF	
	<p>The Board approved the advertisement of 101 Group B&C positions for Non-Teaching staff, out of the 230 vacant positions in the B & C Non-Teaching staff.</p>	
	<p>The 3 stage procedure of selection as proposed, with the terms and</p>	




	<p>conditions prescribed were approved. The Institute will engage a professional agency to conduct stage I- Screening test and stage III- Final written test for the selection. The Stage II - skill test, which is qualifying in nature, will be conducted by the Institute.</p> <p>The regular staff of the Institute who are otherwise eligible, shall be allowed to participate in the selection process irrespective of age and percentage of marks. (Circular No. F.35-5/2018-TS.III dated 20th Feb 2019). Those employees who are working on ad-hoc/temporary/contractual/outsourced basis in REC/NITs may be given a one-time age relaxation (Up to 59 years as resolved earlier by BoG NIT Tiruchirappalli) to participate in the first regular recruitment process for the posts for which they fulfill all other conditions mentioned in the Recruitment rules 2019.</p> <p>The 97 Non Muster Roll (NMR) employees currently working in the Institute will be encouraged to apply for positions for which they have the qualifications. All the 97 NMRs currently working in the Institute, in case not selected in the regular recruitment, will be retained, as reiterated in the Board meeting. Even after the advertisement for 101 positions, there are still 129 vacancies in B & C Non-Teaching cadre at the Institute and 97 NMRs will be retained.</p>
	<p>RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/7</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT advertisement for recruitment of 101 Group B and C positions be released immediately.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT a professional agency be engaged for conduct of stage -I and III of the selection process. Stage-II skill test be conducted by the Institute.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the NMRs in the Institute be retained irrespective of their selection in this recruitment.</p>

ITEM NO. 8	BOARD NOMINEES FOR SELECTION COMMITTEES FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE, OTHER COMPARABLE POSTS AS PER CLAUSE 23, 5 (D) OF THE FIRST STATUTES OF NITS
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	The Board noted, the list of nominees tabled for Board nominees for Selection Committees for Senior Administrative and other comparable posts.		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 383 695 580">RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/8</td> <td data-bbox="695 383 1453 580">RESOLVED THAT the list of Board nominees for Selection Committees for Senior Administrative and other comparable posts be approved.</td> </tr> </table>	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/8	RESOLVED THAT the list of Board nominees for Selection Committees for Senior Administrative and other comparable posts be approved.
RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/8	RESOLVED THAT the list of Board nominees for Selection Committees for Senior Administrative and other comparable posts be approved.		

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

ITEM NO.10	PROPOSAL FOR 2 MW_p ROOFTOP SOLAR PV SYSTEM INSTALLATION FROM HOSTEL FUND	
	<p>The Board discussed the recommendations of the FC and the proposal in detail and looked at the merits in the installation of 2MW_p rooftop solar PV System at a cost of Rs. 8.5 Crores from the interest accrued on the hostel mess deposits and caution deposit. The energy generated from the solar source will be used in the academic zone and in the hostels zone. The Board noted the advice of FC to the Institute to follow the purchase procedure as per GFR and tender may be called for, through GeM / E-Tender and if required, to hire a Consultant for efficient execution of the project.</p> <p>The Board advised the Board to explore the possibility of having a separate residential connection from the Electricity Board for the residential houses.</p>	
	RESOLUTION 61/BOG/2020/10	RESOLVED THAT the proposal for installation of the 2MW _p rooftop solar PV system, at a cost of Rs. 8.5 Crores from the

		<p>interest accrued over the years from the hostel deposits, as recommended by the FC be approved.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the purchase procedure as per the GFR be followed. If required, a Consultant be hired for efficient execution of the project.</p> <p>RESOLVED FURTHER THAT a separate residential connection from the Electricity Board for the residential houses be explored.</p>
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ITEM NO.11	BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 2021-22	
	The Board discussed the Budget Estimates for Financial year 2021-2022 proposed by the Institute and recommended by the FC.	
	RESOLUTION 61/BOG/2020/11	RESOLVED THAT the Budget Estimates for the Financial year 2021-2022 as recommended by the FC be approved.

RATIFICATION ITEMS

ITEM NO.12	PAY PROTECTION OF OFFICERS	
	The Board observed that the pay fixation done by the Institute to two of the Group – A Officers viz., Shri Vigneshwara Raj A. G, Assistant Registrar and Shri K. Pradeep, Technical Officer are as per the DoPT norms and hence noted the item.	
	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/12	RESOLVED THAT the pay fixation done to the two officers be noted.

REPORTING ITEMS

ITEM NO.13	IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF NON-TEACHING STAFF GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES	
	In 2003, REC Tiruchirappalli was renamed as National Institute of	




Technology (NIT) and became the Institution of National Importance by the NIT Act 2007. The faculty and staff are governed by the recruitment rules issued by Ministry of Education (erstwhile MHRD), Government of India from time to time.

The model recruitment rule for NITs was released in 2012 and regarding restructuring of Non-Teaching staff positions at NIT Tiruchirappalli, as per Item No.3.2 of the 33rd Meeting of the BoG held on 29th March 2013, the promotions for non-teaching staff for the intermediate period between 2003 (transformation into NIT from REC) to 11.06.2012 (date of issue of model RR for Non-Teaching staff by MHRD) were initiated and Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) were conducted in April 2013 and eligible non-teaching staff members (39 persons) were promoted, as per the available vacancy, the requisite qualification and experience. DPC was again conducted in October 2014 and eligible non-teaching staffs were promoted (9 persons). Hence, appropriate action has been taken to map and promote the non-teaching staff of REC who were migrated to the NIT system.

MACP (Modified Assured Career Promotion Scheme) was given to eligible non-teaching staff in August 2016 (5 persons). Subsequently, DPC and MACP were conducted in March 2017 and eligible staff were promoted as per the Recruitment Rule 2014 (RR2014) of the Ministry (26 persons under DPC and 2 under MACP).

As per the request of the non-teaching staff to address the anomalies in the RR 2014 and as per the resolution in the 46th meeting of the Board of Governors, the Institute constituted a Grievance Redressal Committee(I) in July 2017. Later, MHRD had issued the revised Recruitment rules (RR2017) on 20th December 2017. In March 2018, as per RR2017, MACP was granted to eligible non-teaching staff (8 persons).

The Grievance Redressal Committee (I) which submitted its recommendations in March 2018 had suggested that



	<p>implementation of the RR 2017 would resolve most of the anomalies/grievances of the non-teaching staff of NIT Tiruchirappalli. Out of the 29 consolidated grievances submitted to the committee, 17 were not considered by the committee, 12 were recommended.</p> <p>Further, MHRD had issued new Recruitment Rules 2019 on 20th February 2019 with a clarification on 4th April 2019 (RR2019). The Institute after due approval of the new Recruitment Rules 2019 by the Board of Governors, did extensive mapping and through DPC and MACP, promoted the eligible non-teaching staff as per RR2019, in May 2019, including implementation of 7 recommendations by the Grievance Redressal committee (I) (61 persons under DPC and 13 under MACP). Five grievances, related to more promotional avenues for supporting staff and re-designation of positions are not feasible as per RR 2019.</p> <p>Since there were some representations from the non-teaching staff after the mapping and DPC in May 2019, another Grievance Redressal Committee (II) was constituted by the Institute which went through all the representations from the Technical and Ministerial staff, and submitted the report in February 2020. The recommendations of this Grievance Redressal Committee (II) has been taken care of and subsequently in September 2020, eligible staff members were promoted under DPC (18 persons).</p> <p>Hence the grievances of the Non-Teaching Staff have been adequately addressed by the Institute from time to time.</p>	
	<p>RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/13</p>	<p>RESOLVED THAT the implementation of recommendations of non-teaching staff grievance committees be noted.</p>

<p>ITEM NO.14</p>	<p>EXTENSION OF JOINING DATE FOR NEWLY RECRUITED FACULTY MEMBERS TILL 31.12.2020</p> <p>Requests were received from Dr. Bhaskar Sravan Vadlamani and Dr.Prince Gideon Kubendran Amos, both placed abroad, for</p>
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	<p>extending the joining date citing travel restrictions due to covid-19 pandemic and personal reasons.</p> <p>As per the First Statutes of NITs, clause 23(13), the request for extension of joining date was considered and granted. Dr. Prince Gideon Kubendran Amos has already joined the Institute.</p>
RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/14	RESOLVED THAT the extension of joining date of the two Faculty till 31.12.2020 be noted.

ITEM NO.15	LEGAL MATTERS SUBSEQUENT TO THE LAST BOARD MEETING.
	<p>Details of Court cases which were filed/came up for hearing subsequent to the 60th Meeting of the Board were furnished for the information and direction of the Board. The Board noted the cases.</p>
RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/15	RESOLVED THAT the court cases filed/heard subsequent to the last Board meeting be noted.

ITEM NO. 16	ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.
	<p>a. ISSUES RELATED TO CEI ACT 2019: The Director raised the issue of CEIs Act 2019, which imposes reservation at all levels of Faculty Cadres, restricting the recruitment of Faculty at higher grades, as NITs have been following flexible cadre with reservation at only entry level. This concern was already communicated to MoE. The Ministry officials assured that the Ministry will come out with a suitable solution soon.</p>
RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/16a	RESOLVED THAT the issues related to the recruitment of Faculty at higher cadres in the wake of the CEI Act 2019 be noted.
	<p>b. POLICE CASES FILED: Details of the 2 Police cases filed with regard to 1. The fake email id representing NIT Tiruchirappalli and promising job, 2. A website with the images of NIT Tiruchirappalli buildings and canvassing for</p>

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	sale of plots, were informed to the Board. The Board noted the cases filed and suggested to give a press note in local newspapers against such acts.	
	RESOLUTION 61/BoG/2020/16b	RESOLVED THAT the Police cases filed be noted. RESOLVED FURTHER THAT a press note in local newspapers against such acts be issued.

The Meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.


Secretary


Chairperson, BoG