Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad

Minutes of the 19th Meeting of Board of Governors

Minutes of the Nineteenth BoG meeting of the Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad held on 28th November 2023 at 11:30 AM at Nila Campus, IIT Palakkad is furnished below. The following members attended the meeting.

1.	Shri Ramesh Venkateswaran	Chairperson
2.	Prof. A Seshadri Sekhar	Director, Ex-officio Member
3.	Dr Sovan Lal Das	Member
4.	Dr Piyush P Kurur	Member
5.	Dr Subbiah Shanmugam	Member (through VC)
6.	Prof. L. S. Ganesh	Member (through VC)
7.	Dr. Ganesh Natarajan	Registrar (I/C), Secretary

Shri Raghu Verabelli, Smt. Saumya Gupta, Dr V Venu and Shri A Anbarasu could not attend the meeting due to prior commitments. No Comments on the agenda items were received from the Technical Division, MoE.

Procedural Matters

BoG 19.1	Welcome address by the Chairman.
	The Chairman welcomed the members to the 19th BoG Meeting of IIT Palakkad. He then requested the Member – Secretary to proceed with the agenda items.
BoG 19.2	Confirmation of the minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Board of Governors of IIT Palakkad held on 22nd July 2023 at 09.00 AM.
	(Annexure - 1)
	Decision (BoG 19.2): The minutes of the 18th meeting of the Board of Governors were confirmed. The Board noted that the clarification on "Unutilised Grants" raised during the 16th FC by the representative from the Finance Division, MoE was provided over e-mail but no further response was received in this matter. The Board was also informed that the proposal for payment of NPA to the Medical Officer was submitted to the MoE for the concurrence and is awaiting approval. However, the Institute has been paying the NPA to the Medical Officer as per the terms and conditions of the offer to the Medical Officer and the amount shall be recovered in the event the

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	proposal is not accepted by the MoE.
BoG 19.3	Presentation of the Director's overview report.
	The Director presented the overview report highlighting the activities of the institute from July 2023. The progress of overall construction of Phase 1A was presented and it was informed that although the progress was very slow, the additional blocks Classroom and Lab Complex C-06 and Research Complex D-03 were nearing completion and shall be handed over by the end of the year. The Director apprised the Board regarding the ongoing staff recruitments and impending faculty recruitments and some of the major achievements during the period were highlighted. The presence of five faculty members in the top 2% of Top Scientists (as published by Stanford Univ.) was particularly appreciated by the Board which also noted that there were a good number of research scholars being awarded PMRF for their doctoral studies. The Director also informed the Board that IIT Palakkad was among the 100 institutions to be awarded the 5G use case labs by the Hon'ble PM during the India Mobile Congress. The details of other activities including the fifth edition of the Industry Academia Conclave (IAC 5.0) and several outreach programs were also presented to the Board which appreciated the large spectrum of activities being undertaken by the institute community, both in research and outreach.

Items for consideration and approval

BoG 19.4	To consider and approve the Annual Report and Final Audited Annual Accounts of the institute for the Financial Year 2022-23. **(Annexure - 2)**
	Decision (BoG 19.4): *The Board approved the Annual Report and the Final audited Annual Accounts for the FY 22-23. The Board noted the auditor comments on the inadequacy of the internal audit system and the need for completion of physical verification of assets for 2022-23. The Board seconded the opinion of the Finance Committee that although a dedicated internal audit wing may not be immediately necessary, it would be advisable to engage the services of the Chartered Accountant to audit all transactions on a regular basis. The Board agreed with the Finance Committee's views to consider expanding the value range of transactions to be audited and not restrict only to high-value transactions as is currently done by the Chartered Accountant. In view of possible delays that might come due to movement of files for auditing, the Board advised that the Chartered Accountant be engaged for his services on-campus on a fortnightly or monthly basis in order to effectively audit the accounts without establishing a separate internal wing. The Board also remarked that an internal audit wing is indispensable as the institute*

	keeps growing and to plan towards creating one in two to three years time.
BoG 19.5	To consider the decision taken in the 26th Senate Meeting and approve the award of Degree to PhD scholar Mr Sreejith K P**.** **(Annexure - 3)**
	Decision (BoG 19.5): The Board considered the recommendation of the 26th Senate and approved the award of PhD degree to Mr Sreejith K P.
BoG 19.6	To consider and approve the proposals for setting up the Centre for Renewable Energy (CoRE), Centre for Robotics and Control, Global Sanitation Centre of Excellence (GSCoE), and C2 Center for Innovation as Centres of the institute (recommended by the Senate in the 26th Senate meeting). **(Annexure - 4)** **(Annexure - 5 (Page 16)**
	Decision (BoG 19.6): The Board was informed that the 26th Senate has recommended the formation of four centers - CoRE focussing on renewable energy technologies, Center for Robotics and Control, the Global Sanitation Center of Excellence (GSCoE) and the C2 Center for Innovation. It was clarified that GSCoE which was previously part of TECHIN was now being re-designated as a separate stand-alone centre since its mandated focus was largely on research and less on incubation. The Board approved the setting up of the four centers recommended by the Senate.
BoG 19.7	To consider and approve the proposal to add CCE and CET as centres of the institute (recommended by the Senate in the 26th Senate meeting). **(Annexure - 5 (Page 25)**
	Decision (BoG 19.7): The Board was informed that CET (Center for Educational Technology) and CCE (Center for Continuing Education) while already in place have not been formally considered as Centers, with CCE currently operating under the CET. Considering the recommendation of the 26th Senate, the Board approved CET and CCE as two separate centers of the institute.
BoG 19.8	To consider and approve the proposal for Special Leave up to a period of two months to work in industry to encourage externships for faculty. **(Annexure - 6 (Page 3)**
	Decision (BoG 19.8): The Board was presented with the proposal of a Special Leave of up to two months for faculty members willing to spend time in the industry. The industry externships are to encourage faculty to work on

	industry-relevant research problems and promote industry-academia collaboration. The Board noted that this would be different from sabbatical leave, which is largely meant for collaboration with academia, and approved the proposal.
BoG 19.9	To consider and approve the proposed amendments of RPN of IIT Palakkad. **(Annexure - 7)**
	Decision (BoG 19.9): *The Board considered the four proposals constituting the immediate amendments to the RPN of IIT Palakkad. The Board approved the removal of the existing clause of one-year probation after promotion within the same group to be consistent with DoPT guidelines. The Board appreciated the need for a gradual career progression and approved the proposal for introduction of Level 9 (100% promotion from Level 7) for Group B employees inline with DoPT norms, as a financial incentive and also in view of retaining experienced staff. The Board noted the concerns regarding attrition of staff members, both in technical and administrative cadres. In view of the need for experienced staff at feeder levels, the upper age limit for Group B positions was amended from 32 years to 35 years. Furthermore, taking into account the need to attract a large pool of skilled candidates in technical and administrative positions at this stage of the institute, the Board agreed that educational qualifications and experience for the posts of Junior Superintendent, Junior Technician and Senior Technical Officer (Systems) may be amended without significant dilution. The Board noted that while these amendments were driven by the requirements of the institute to recruit experienced and dynamic staff members, the modified norms were also quite similar to those in the RPN of sister IITs that were approved by the MoE in the recent past.*
BoG 19.10	To consider and approve the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee for the Promotion of Group A Officers. **(Annexure -8)**
	Decision (BoG 19.10): *The Board considered the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee for promotion of three Group A officers and approved the same.*
BoG 19.11	To consider and approve the recommendations of the Selection Committee for the Upgradation of faculty members from Assistant Professor Gr. II to Assistant Professor Gr. I **(Annexure - 9)**
	Decision (BoG 19.11): *The Board considered the recommendations of the various selection committees for upgradation of eligible faculty members from Gr. II to Gr. I, and approved the same. It also noted that there was a*

	discrepancy in the date of upgradation of a couple of faculty members and directed that the matter be resolved suitably.
BoG 19.12	To consider and approve the recommendation of the confirmation committee for the Confirmation of Probation for faculty members. **(Annexure -10)**
	Decision (BoG 19.12): The Board considered the recommendations of the various confirmation committees for the confirmation of probation of faculty members who had completed one year of regular service in their position and approved the same.

Items for Ratification

BoG 19.13	The approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for redesignating Deputy Registrar as Joint Registrar **(Annexure - 11)**
	Decision (BoG 19.13): The Board ratified the approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for re-designation of Deputy Registrar as Joint Registrar
BoG 19.14	The approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for the appointment of Associate Deans for Administration and IC&SR. **(Annexure - 12)**
	Decision (BoG 19.14): The Board ratified the approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for the appointment of Dr Deepak Rajendraprasad and Dr Arvind Ajoy as Associate Deans for Administration and IC&SR respectively
BoG 19.15	The approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for the appointment of Associate Dean (Academics, UG) **(Annexure - 13)**
	Decision (BoG 19.15): The Board ratified the approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for the appointment of Dr Athira P as Associate Dean (Academics, UG)
BoG 19.16	The approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for the extension of the tenure of Dean IC&SR. **(Annexure - 14)**
	Decision (BoG 19.16): The Board ratified the approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for the extension of the tenure of Prof Santhakumar Mohan as Dean (IC&SR).

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BoG 19.17	The approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for the selection committee report for the selection of Assistant Professor Gr.I/ Assistant Professor Gr.II vide Notification IITPKD/R/F/02/2023 dated 24 February 2023 Two candidates have been selected (one each in Computer Science & Engineering and Data Science). **(Annexure - 15)**
	Decision (BoG 19.17): The Board ratified the approval accorded by the Chairman, BoG for the selection committee report for faculty recruitment in the Departments of Computer Science and Engg. as well as Data Science.

Items for Noting/Reporting

BoG 19.18	The approval accorded by the BoG members for the amendment of upper age for the post of Registrar. **(Annexure -16)**
	Decision (BoG 19.18): The Board noted the approval accorded by the BoG through circular resolution for the amendment of the upper age of the Registrar from 50 to 57.
BoG 19.19	To note the recommendations of the Departmental Confirmation Committee for Confirmation of Probation for Administrative and Technical Staff. **(Annexure - 17)**
	Decision (BoG 19.19): The Board noted the recommendations of the Departmental Confirmation Committee confirming the probation for Administrative and Technical Staff who had completed the period of probation.
BoG 19.20	To note the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee for Promotion for Group B and C employees. **(Annexure - 18)**
	Decision (BoG 19.20): The Board noted the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee for Promotion for Group B and C employees. It also noted that this was the first instance of promotion at IIT Palakkad for Group B and Group C employees following the approval of the

	RPN and Promotion Policy by the MoE in September 2023.	
BoG 19.21	To note the resignation of five Administrative staff members (Group B & C) from service. **(Annexure - 19)**	
	Decision (BoG 19.21): *The Board noted the resignation of five administrative staff members (Group B and C) from service which followed their acceptance of offers mostly at higher posts in other organisations.*	
BoG 19.22	The approval accorded by the BoG members for the circular resolution for the proposal of Cost overrun for Phase-1A. **(Annexure - 20)**	
	Decision (BoG 19.22): *The Board noted the approval accorded by the BoG members for the circular resolution for the proposal of Cost overrun for Phase-1A which was duly submitted to MoE for their favourable consideration.*	
BoG 19.23	To note the summary of proceedings of the 25th and 26th Senate meeting held on 7th July and 13th October 2023 respectively. **(Annexure - 21)**	
	Decision (BoG 19.23): *The Board noted the summary of proceedings of the 25th and 26th Senate meetings.*	
BoG 19.24	To note the summary of the 53rd, 54th and 55th meetings of the Project Monitoring Committee for the permanent campus construction, held on 12.07.2023, 23.08.2023 and 20.09.2023 respectively. **(Annexure - 22)**	
	Decision (BoG 19.24): *The Board noted the summary of proceedings of the 53rd, 54th and 55th meetings of the Project Monitoring Committee*	
BoG 19.25	To note the summary of the 21st Building Works Committee (BWC) meeting held on 05.10.2023. **(Annexure - 23)**	
	Decision (BoG 19.25): *The Board noted the summary of proceedings of the 21st Building Works Committee (BWC) meeting.*	

Dr Ganesh Natarajan
Member Secretary

Prof. Sovan Lal Das
Member

Dr Piyush P Kurur
Member

Dr Subbiah Shanmugam
Member

Prof. L S Ganesh
Member

Prof. A Seshadri Sekhar
Director, Ex-officio Member

Prof. Ramesh Venkateswaran
Chairperson