

Minutes of the 21st Meeting of Board of Governors (BoG) of Ghani Khan Choudhury Institute of Engineering and Technology (GKCIET), Malda, West Bengal held on 31.03.2021 (Wednesday) at 11.45 AM in Ministry of Education, 'C'- Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Following members were present in the meeting.

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| 1. Shri Saumitra Sarkar
Malda, West Bengal | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Madhu Ranjan Kumar
Joint Secretary (A)
D/HE, Ministry of Education
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi | Member |
| 3. Shri Anil Kumar
Director,
Ministry of Education
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
<i>(Represented JS&FA)</i> | Member |
| 4. Shri Dipankar Chakraborty
Dept.of Tech. Ed., & Skill Development
Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata
<i>(Represented Principal Secretary, DTE, T&SD)</i> | Member |
| 5. Prof. S. S. Pattnaik
Director, NITTTR
Chandigarh | Special Invitee |
| 6. Prof. Ayon Bhattacharjee
NIT, Meghalaya, Shillong | Special Invitee |
| 7. Dr. Nilkanta Barman
Associate Professor, GKCIET | Member |
| 8. Prof. P. R. Alapati
Director, GKCIET, Malda | Member Secretary |

While Shri Saumitra Sarkar, Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Dipankar Chakraborty and Prof. Ayon Bhattacharjee have attended the meeting through virtual mode, all other members have attended the meeting physically from Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Chairman welcomed all the members and asked the member secretary to take up the agenda items, after ensuring that the quorum is present. Member secretary presented the agenda items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. BoG.21.01: To consider and confirm the minutes of the 20th BoG meeting (Virtual) held on 28.01.2021.

Resolution: Approved

Agenda Item No. BoG.21.02: To consider the action taken report on the minutes of the 20th meeting (Virtual) of BoG, GKCIET, Malda held on 28.01.2021.

Resolution: Approved

Agenda Item No. BoG.21.03: To consider the minutes of the 15th Finance Committee meeting held at 10.30 am on 31.03.2021

Resolution: Member Secretary appraised the BoG about the recommendations of the FC in its 15th Meeting. After this BoG Approved the recommendations made by the FC.

Agenda Item No. BoG.21.04: To consider DPR for Phase-III development works at GKCIET during 2022-23 and 2024-25.

Resolution: BoG considered and approved the following recommendation made by the Finance Committee in its 15th meeting.

After a threadbare discussion considering the original cabinet note approved at the time of establishment of the institute it has been observed that Cabinet approval (November, 2008) was available for the following:

- (i) *8 courses with an intake capacity of 30 in each course in a 6 - year modular pattern of E & T education. Therefore total student strength becomes 1440 when 1st batch reaches final year of degree module (8x30x6 = 1440).*
- (ii) *A teacher student ration of 1:12 has been approved in the same pattern as that of NITs. It was mentioned in the cabinet note that this institute will come up on the lines of an NIT.*
- (iii) *Total faculty positions of 120 and non-teaching positions of 132 were approved.*
- (iv) *An amount of Rs. 97 crore has been sanctioned with a grant of Rs. 58.42 crore for infrastructure development (Civil works only).*
- (v) *The approved grant was to cover hostel accommodation to only 750 students and 161 staff quarters; and did not include a boundary wall, main gate, campus roads, campus LAN etc., However, provision for a small guest house and gymkhana buildings was kept but could not be included in the contract given to NBCC.*

Considering all of these aspects and need for creating total infrastructure required to complete the establishment of this institute at par with any NIT, BoG approved the submission of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) including all of these required facilities along with fund requirement, as soon as possible, for further processing by the Ministry. It was submitted in the FC that tentative cost for

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construction of phase II will thus be about Rs. 103 cr. The Director was advised to get a detailed DPR, include the requirement of additional equipment and plant and also include the OH 31 and OH 36 requirement.

Agenda Item No. BoG 21.05: To consider the reports submitted by the Inquiry Officer (IO) and responses of the charged officers on findings of these reports on scholarship fraud on National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

Resolution: After a threadbare discussion on the findings of the inquiry officer, the responses given by the charged officers (Dr. Surajit Chattopadhyay and Mr. Bikarna Tarafdar) along with the summary/comments of the Director, BoG has come to a conclusion that both (Dr. Surajit Chattopadhyay and Mr. Bikarna Tarafdar) indulged in gross negligence while performing their duties and failed to exercise due diligence, sincerity and caution in discharging their duties leading to financial losses to the government. BoG has also noted the comments recorded by the inquiry officer that an independent enquiry/investigation by roping in a professional investigation agency, due to his following observations that: *“(i) during 2016-17: someone may have experimented during Dr. Surajit’s time at limited scale and implemented fraudulent practices on full-fledged manner under the new incumbent tenure and (ii) during 2017-18 & 2018-19: there must have been the involvement of others who worked in tandem with Mr. Bikarna”.*

Considering all of these aspects, BoG resolved to take the following actions against Mr. Bikarna Tarafdar and Dr. Surajit Chattopadhyay:

- (i) To recover financial losses incurred due to their gross negligence from both of them and move/shift back their basic pay by 2 cells (2 increments) in the pay matrix of their respective pay level in the 7th CPC pay matrix, with cumulative affect. Since the amount of recovery involved in case of Mr. Bikarna Tarafdar is large, he may be allowed to repay in several instalments. In case of instalment recovery from salary, the percentage of monthly recovery cannot exceed 50% of his gross salary (Basic+DA) so as to avoid undue hardship (in light of recent Supreme Court judgement) to him.
- (ii) Since the institute has lodged an FIR with local police station on 30.03.2019, it was decided to provide a copy of the enquiry report in respect of both charged officers to the local police station to look into the observations made by inquiry officer.

Agenda Item No. BoG 21.06: To consider the replies submitted by the two employees to show cause notice issued to them for gaining employment at GKCIET by submitting fake certificates

Resolution: After thorough discussion and considering that these two employees have not submitted any reply to the show-cause notice served to them and on probation as well as out of the three employees whose certificates were proved to be faked, one has already been dismissed from service; BoG

resolved to end the probationary employment of Mr. Kankan Mandal, MTS and Mr. Nirob Das, MTS from the date of issuing speaking removal orders.

Agenda Item No. BoG 21.07: To consider the case of deemed suspension of Dr. Tanmoy Sarkar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, GKCIET, Malda.

Resolution: After a thorough discussion on the rule position as per DoPT orders and the court order in respect of the writ petition of Dr. Tanmay Sarkar (W.P.A. 3619 of 2021), BoG resolved to continue the suspension of Mr. Tanmoy Sarkar and asked the institute to submit affidavit in opposition to Calcutta High Court.

Agenda Item No. BoG 21.08: To consider the expert lists for Recruitment of Assistant Professor

Resolution: The members physically present in the meeting have gone through the lists of experts and after a brief discussion BoG resolved that Director should prepare lists of experts containing professors from IITs/IISc only, excluding the experts who were already part of recruitment process during July, 2019 and get them signed by Chairman, BoG.

Agenda Item No. BoG 21.09: Reporting Items:

Resolution: (i) Noted and advised to follow all formats as per Ministry of Education, GoI as suggested in the audit report for 2019-20

(ii) Noted.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Pray
3/4/2021

JS
05/04/2021