

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON 07th MAY 2013**

The Twelfth Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of technology, Hyderabad was held at 11.00 hours on Tuesday the 07th May 2013, in the Conference Room of the Institute at its Temporary Campus in the Ordnance Factory Estate, Yeddumailaram. The following were present:

Shri BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman
Shri Suresh Rajpal
Shri TV Mohandas Pai
Ms Reema Gupta
Shri Ajay Mishra
Prof UB Desai, Director
Prof V Eswaran
Prof FA Khan
Shri N Jayaram, Registrar

Leave of absence was granted to Shri GV Prasad.

The Chairman welcomed the BoG members. He extended a warm welcome to Shri TV Mohandas Pai and made a special mention of the contributions of Shri Pai in building INFOSYS and in the field of education.

Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of the Board held on February 06, 2013.

The Board considered the Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of the Board that has already been circulated to the members and CONFIRMED the minutes as circulated.

Item No.2: To consider report of actions taken on the Minutes of the Seventh and the Eighth Meeting of the Board of Governors.

The Board noted the action taken report.

Prof Desai briefly stated the progress of construction of Permanent Campus with a particular emphasis on the monitoring mechanism and the safety measures put in place.

The following suggestions emerged during the course of discussions on action taken on the Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting:

1. Shri Mohandas Pai suggested that to inculcate belongingness, students visit to the construction site be arranged to understand the methods, take photographs, lay bricks, and make a presentation once a month.

2. The Chairman suggested that there is need for enhancing the visibility of IITH and with a view to accomplish this; the Institute may erect a sign board and build compound wall. Further, he suggested that the Members of the Board may pay a visit to the site during the next meeting.
3. The Chairman and Shri Mohandas Pai laid emphasis on having a vigorous and continuing faculty exchange program with institutions of repute abroad. Such a program is aimed at providing new outlook to the students. In order to attract foreign students, IITH may change the course contents.
4. Shri Mohandas Pai also suggested that IITH may develop a detailed plan, spread over a period of 20 years, to place itself among the top 10 institutions in any given area. The Chairman stated that the ranking mechanism provides for weightage to various factors like about 15% for foreign faculty, 10% for endowments received, and the like.
5. The Chairman stated that IITH, under the able leadership of Prof Desai, is scaling new heights in terms of very good Faculty strength, and very significant strength of Post Graduate and Ph D students. Prof Khan mentioned that the Department of Chemistry received about 800 applications for 8 seats in Ph D and about 3000 applications for 20 M Tech seats. The Board appreciated this matter and attributed it to the reputation built by the Institute. Shri Mohandas Pai suggested that B Tech students of IITs constitute a very good input to M Tech and therefore such students may be encouraged to join M Tech in IITs.
6. Prof Desai mentioned that the Institute is attempting a changed course structure that lays emphasis on several important and essential ingredients and the revised course structure will be presented soon. Shri Mohandas Pai added that bringing out humanness of the students is very important and in this direction the Institute may attempt teaching arts, fine arts, ethics, and the like. Prof Desai stated that the matter has been addressed by the Institute and several Fractional Credit Courses have been instituted. Shri Ajay Mishra suggested inclusion of Performing Arts. Shri Suresh Rajpal suggested that student volunteers may help reduction of school dropouts by teaching a few subjects in high schools. Prof Desai mentioned that under NSS program, the students have taught high school students and the Institute will try to enhance this activity.

Prof Desai welcomed the suggestions and stated that the Institute will take steps, as early as possible, to implement the suggestions.

Item No.3: Report relating to action taken by the Chairman from time to time.

The Board noted this item.

Item No.4: Faculty Exchange Programme from other IITs.

Prof Vinayak Eswaran explained the programme. Prof Desai made a brief mention that the upper limit of expense allowance has been increased from the very old figure of Rs.750 to Rs.5000 to keep pace with the current cost.

After discussions, the Board approved this item.

Item No.5: Proposal for providing incentives to Faculty for International Exposure for research and various academic developments.

Prof Desai explained that some of the Faculty [i.e. those who did B Tech, M. Tech, and Ph.D. in India] have inadequate exposure to international scenario. In order to provide an opportunity to such Faculty to get international exposure, the Institute proposes them for 2 months visit during summer vacations with expenses borne by the Institute.

After discussions, the Board approved that the Institute may make a financial provision of Rs.50 lakhs (Rupees fifty lakhs) per annum towards meeting this expenditure. The Board also approved that a detailed matrix of stay and living expenses may be prepared by the Institute and got approved from the Chairman.

Item No.6: Members of Selection Committee for the post of Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor.

Prof Desai explained that the Board, vide Agenda Item No.8 of the Second Meeting held on 27.04.2010 had approved a panel of Nominees of the Board on various faculty Selection Committees and also approval of the Chairman for fresh names. Owing to non-availability and several other factors, fresh names had to be included for holding selection.

The Board accorded post-facto approval for the fresh names.

Item No.7: Faculty and student strength.

The Board noted the strength and appreciated the efforts made by the Institute is having significant Faculty strength and also Post Graduate and Ph D strength.

The Board discussed the reasons for lesser strength of female and also socially backward persons and stated that the Institute may not lower the minimum standards. Shri Mohandas Pai suggested proper documentation of selection process so that the Institute will not be found to be deficient in steps taken.

The Board appreciated the efforts made by the Institute in the form of extra classes for socially backward students. The Board also noted that the Institute's role in the matter of admissions is limited to M Tech, M Phil and Ph D courses and the Institute is making all possible efforts to fill the seats and also help the students to successfully complete the course of study.

Shri Mohandas Pai suggested that JEE may like to have a provision of girl students having a choice of place where they would like to study. The choice will be in place of rank based allotment of Institutions. Prof Desai informed that this appears to be good idea and will communicate the suggestion to JEE Board. Shri Pai further suggested that IITH may like to start a program on diversity to sensitise all concerned about the need for increasing girl students and female Faculty.

The Chairman suggested that the Institute may present facts and figures of Indians who returned from abroad and joined IITH.

Item No.8: Presentation by Chemical Engineering Department on vision, future growth and innovations.

Dr Vinod Janarthanan of Chemical Engineering Department made a presentation.

The Board appreciated the measures taken by the Department. During the course of discussions on this item the following suggestions were made:

1. Shri Suresh Rajpal, Shri Mohandas Pai, and Miss Reema Gupta emphasised need for enhanced interaction with industry and suggested a crash course of about one month duration for persons from industry, an interaction for enhancing innovation activities, and having Departmental Advisory Committee with about 50% membership from industry. It was also suggested that industry persons may be invited by the Institute to obtain an industry perspective. The Chairman suggested that IITH may give adequate publicity to its expertise so that industry will get attracted to the Institute and also that the Institute may have its representatives present a paper in meets organised by CII, FICCI and the like.
2. Shri Mohandas Pai and Chairman suggested that the Department may set a benchmark with reference to a leading institution so that the Department may have a well laid out plan. He appreciated H index followed by the Institute for bench-marking publications.
3. The Chairman and Shri Mohandas Pai emphasised need for patenting. Prof Desai mentioned that the cost of obtaining and maintaining international patents is significant and the Institute will have to find sources. Shri Pai suggested that

the Institute may invite a reputed Patent Advocate and ascertain requisite details and may like to get some funding from Innovation Fund instituted by the Government.

4. In relation to backlog, Shri Mohandas Pai related his experience with an institution in Antigua and suggested that constitution of small groups to study problems and make presentation provides opportunity of mingling of minds and helps weak students interact with other students and get the difficulties addressed.
5. In the matter of placements, Prof Vinayak Eswaran mentioned difficulties faced by the Institute in a few areas. The Chairman suggested that increased industry interaction will be step towards mitigating placement problem.

Item No.9: Any other item with the approval of the Chair

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.