



COEP Technological University Pune
(A Unitary Public University of Govt. of Maharashtra)

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of Board of Governance

The First (1st) meeting of the Board of Governance (BOG) of COEP Technological University was held on **Friday, 18th August 2023** at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Conference Hall, Main Building, COEP Tech University Pune.

The following members participated in the meeting:

1.	Dr. Pramod Chaudhari	Founder and Executive Chairman, Praj Industries Ltd.	Chairman
2.	Prof. S. D. Agashe	Vice Chancellor, COEP Technological University	Member
3.	Prof. Milind Atrey	Dean (R and D) and Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Bombay	Member
4.	Shri. Satish Tidke	Deputy Secretary, Department of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Maharashtra	Member
5.	Dr. Vinod Mohitkar,	Director, Directorate of Technical Education, M.S. Mumbai	Member
6.	Prof. R. R. Joshi,	Dean and Professor of Civil Engineering, COEP Tech University	Member
7.	Prof. S. S. Mohite	Dean and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, COEP Tech University	Member
8.	Dr. (Mrs.) A. D. Thube,	Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, COEP Tech University	Member
9.	Shri. Amit Paranjape	Chief Operating Officer, PUNETECH Software Private Limited, Pune	Member
10.	Shri. Vinayak Pai	Managing Director & CEO, TATA Projects Limited, Mumbai	Member
11.	Dr. D. N. Sonawane	Registrar, COEP Tech University	Member - Secretary
12.	Dr. (Mrs.) Y. V. Haribhakta,	Director, Board of Examinations and Evaluations, COEP Tech University	Permanent Invitee
13.	Prof. M.J. Rathod	Finance and Accounts Officer, COEP Tech University	Permanent Invitee
14.	Dr. Ravindra Utgikar	Vice President - Corporate Strategy, Praj Industries Ltd.	Permanent Invitee

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The following members requested the leave of absence:

1	Dr. Ashish Lele	Director, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.	Member
2	Prof. Sunil Bhagwat	Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune.	Member

The meeting commenced with **COEP Geet** sung by the student, Ms. Radha Yelgaonkar followed by the formal welcome and felicitation of the members of the new Board at the hands of Dr. Pramod Chaudhari, Chairman, BOG. In his opening remarks, Dr. Chaudhari appealed to all the members to lend their expertise and contribute to heading the COEP Tech University, to further heights.

He added the university has gone through innumerable changes and therefore a methodological approach with following line of action will help us to define our Vision and attainment of Goals in the near future.

Stage 1:	Revamping the prevailing issues related to Administration, HR, Finance, Infrastructural development etc.
Stage 2:	Upgradation of the current functioning of the entire system
Stage 3:	Reformation of a new system/ Transformation

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 4th Transitory BOG meeting held on 3rd June 2023.

The minutes of the 4th Transitory BOG meeting held on 3rd June 2023 were circulated amongst all the Board members by email, along with the notice/ agenda of the 1st meeting of the BOG of the university. No comments were received on the same.

Board considered the minutes and passed the following resolution:

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVED** the minutes of the 4th Transitory BOG meeting held on 3rd June 2023.

Item 2: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the ASSORTED resolutions/decisions of the 4th Transitory BOG meeting held on 3rd June 2023.

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Items for reporting/information to the Board and for approval/ratification:

- i. **Nomination of Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri; Director & Professor of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay as one of the members of the panel of the Search-cum-Selection Committee of selection of the Vice Chancellor and communicating the same to the office of Hon. Governor of Maharashtra:**

Prof. Agashe informed the house that communication regarding the same has already been processed by COEP Tech University and the same is being communicated to the Hon. Governor's office.

Dr. Mohitkar suggested continuing follow-ups with the concerned authorities and expediting the selection process of a regular Vice Chancellor for COEP Tech University. He also nudged on preparing and finalizing the university **Statutes** on priority (as per the clause mentioned COEP Technological University's Act 2022) as the university has already been functional for more than a year.

- ii. **Delegation of Admission Process-AY:2023-24 to the COEP Tech for all its Masters' programs:**

Dr. Sonawane informed all the members that the Government has granted the permission to conduct the PG admissions at the University level vide its notification (Ref: क्र प्र नि धो -२०२३/ प्र क्र.५५ / ता शि -४, दि -०६, जुलै २०२३) accordingly the University has already initiated the process of F. Y. M Tech admissions at the University level.

- iii. **Progress Report on various Infrastructure development Projects at COEP Tech University campuses at Shivajinagar and Chikhali.**

Details of various state-of-the-art laboratories and infrastructural facilities inaugurated in recent times were presented to the Board members.

- iv. **The Proposal of Block Grant/Salary Grant for the COEP Tech University**

Dr. Sonawane informed to all the members that the Proposal for Block Grant/Salary Grant is prepared and submitted to RO office-DTE and further to the Govt. of Maharashtra for approval.

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** all the above points.

Item 3: Items for Discussion/Approval by the Board

3.1 Presentation by Vice Chancellor encompassing the following points:

- **Key highlights/achievements of COEP Technological University**

To give a brief introduction to the new board members about the 169 years old institution and the Technological University since June 2022, Prof. Agashe presented about COEP Tech University comprising of its history, evolution, functioning, leadership, achievements, best practices & policies etc.

- **Discussion on implementation of the “National Education Policy 2020” from AY: 2023-24.**

Prof. Agashe informed all the members that the University is one amongst the institutions who have initiated the implementation of the NEP 2020 in letter and spirit and will be offering an NEP compliant curriculum from AY 2023-24 for both UG and PG programs.

He also added that the university envisions to inculcate an approach of Research and Innovations amongst the students and faculty and has therefore undertaken a strenuous exercise on departmental, schools and university level for designing and developing a robust curriculum adhering to the NEP 2020 guidelines. The said curriculum was presented, deliberated, and approved by the respective School councils and subsequently the Academic Council held on Friday, July 21st, 2023. Further, while addressing the internship part, which will now be mandatory at all the level of an UG programme (as per NEP 2020 guidelines), Dr. Agashe accented on owning the assessment of the 12 credits allotted for the internship programme.

Taking up the point raised by Shri. Vinayak Pai regarding the monitoring of NEP 2020 implementation, Prof. Agashe responded that the respective School Councils predominantly will be monitoring the rightful implementation of NEP 2020 along with the special NEP implementation committee formulated by the University. Dr. Chaudhari and Mr. Pai concluded with the following suggestion.

Primary evaluation can be done by the Academic Council. However, policy/strategic decisions and progress regarding the NEP 2020 implementation monitoring mechanism should be reported to the Board regularly.

- **Status update on the development of “COEP Tech Industrial Research Park” at Chikhali.**

Prof. Agashe apprises the members of the 8 new Centres of Excellences (COE) upcoming at the COEP Tech Industrial Research Park, Chikhali. He further elaborated that these COEs will be self-sustainable centres under a committee comprising of senior Professors and industry experts from respective domains. Dr.

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Atrey raised concern regarding IPR issues which may occur once these COEs are fully operational and suggested to consciously think about how the University should address the same. He also added that these COEs should be detached from academics and totally connected with the industries. The industry problems raised here should be given to the students as research projects.

- **Laboratories and infrastructure facilities developed with industry collaboration.**

Prof. Agashe informed the Board members that the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Maharashtra State vide its Resolution (GR, Ref no- तंत्रा. 1423/प्र.क्र.83/23/तंत्रि-3) dated 7th July 2023 has sanctioned a Grant of Rs. 5 Crores towards establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Industrial Product Design. The said COE will be set up at the Dept. of Manufacturing Engineering & Industrial Management at COEP Tech main campus. He also informed the members about development of the state-of-the-art laboratories supported by the industries which were inaugurated recently.

Dr. Atrey suggested arranging a visit for the members after every Board meeting to a few labs/ Departments to get quintessence about the latest infrastructural development, equipment, ongoing research & innovations, interaction with few students /faculty etc.

- **Schemes for student support and various scholarships at COEP Tech.**

Prof. Agashe informed BOG that the Alumni Association of COEP Tech has proposed an idea of supporting One needy student by one Alumni, which is well taken by our alumni. He also thanked Mr. Vinayak Pai for his support and being instrumental in disseminating the idea in an appropriate way and helping in getting the idea realized and practically implemented.

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** all the above points.

3.2 Appointment of Directors on the Board of “Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership” (BHAU) and appointment of “Chairperson”

Mr. Mandar Joshi, CEO of BHAU, has given a brief presentation about COEP's Bhau Institute, a section 8 company which is also supported by DST. In the statistical analysis, Mr. Mandar Joshi presented the number of startups incubated/ supported in various domains, funds generated/ received, IPRs and future plans of the Bhau Institute.

Dr. Atrey suggested that Bhau must not distinct the startups based on sectors but should gape any technological startup which will be welcoming move for the budding

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entrepreneurs and will also improve the current statistics for Bahu. He also advised Mr. Mandar Joshi to visit SINE at IIT Bombay.

Dr. Chaudhari insisted on having a stronger connection between Bahu and COEP Tech students and faculty through the internships & startups at Bahu. He further added to check on how the performance of Bahu can be reflected in NIRF.

Referring to the leadership appointments for Bahu, Dr. Atrey suggested inducting Mr. Ajay Bhagwat as one of the Board members of Bahu Institute.

Composition of Board As per Bahu Institute's Governance Policy

Membership tenure is restricted to 2 tenures of 03 years each.

- One Board position is held by COEP BOG representative.
- One Board position (Ex-officio) be held by the Director/VC of COEP
- One Board position is held by a co-founder.
- One Board position is held by Industry Leader.
- One Board position is held by CEO of BHAU Institute
- One Board position is held by a financial institution/grant agency representative (DST, Bank, Etc.)
- One Board position is held by Venture capitalist or very successful entrepreneur from Pune or Mumbai

As per the composition of the Board of Bahu institute, COEP-BOG has recommended the following members on the Board of the Bahu institute for the tenure of 03 years from the immediate effect. Board has also suggested that the CEO of the Bahu institute will be the Member Secretary of the Board of Bahu Institute and he will coordinate with the Board hence after for the meetings, resolutions, policies, etc.

Sr. No.	Name of the Member	Designation
1	Dr. Rajendra Hiremath	Director, Synergy Valuers & Project Consultants Pvt Ltd.
2	Prof. Sudhir Agashe	Vice Chancellor, COEP Tech University
3	Mr. Sanjay Inamdar	Founder, Flucon Industries and Co-Founder BHAU Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership.
4	Mrs. Alka Karkare	Director, ENPRO Industries Private Limited, Pune.
5	Mr. Mandar Joshi	CEO, Bahu Institute, Member Secretary

6	Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe	Chairman, National Education Technology Forum, Govt. of India
7	Mr. Anand Kusare	Adjunct Professor, IIT Bombay
8	Dr. Ravindra Utgikar	Vice President - Corporate Strategy, PRAJ Industries Ltd
9	Mr. Ajay Bhagwat	Founder and Managing Director, Renu Electronics Private Limited, Pune.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** and **RECOMMENDED** the names as given in table.

3.3 Discussion on the MOU to be signed with the Higher and Technical Education Department of Govt. of Maharashtra for evaluating the performance of the University and to release of grants.

Prof. Agashe informed the house that COEP Tech University is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra for the year 2023-2024. In pursuance of the objectives of the university to collaborate with research industries and corporate industrial associates, to provide vertical mobility to the students undergoing technical education in high growth sectors and to prepare students towards gainful employment, to provide scientific and technology management and develop organization of teaching, learning, training, research, consultancy, testing and extension, to establish center of excellence to give effect to the objects envisaged in the new education policy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Prof. Agashe presented the statistical analysis for the last three Academic years, the proposed salary Grant for the COEP Tech University comprising of all the sanction Teaching and Non-Teaching posts as per the provisions given in Maharashtra COEP Technological University Act 2022, 75(3) and 85 (2). Prof. Agashe has also presented the targeted figures for the upcoming academic year furnished as part of the MOU. He also assured that the University will chalk out the strategies for timely attainment of the targets set by the university.

Talking about the objectives of having such MOU, Shri. Tidke said that the Government intends to seek commitments from the technical institutions/Universities for attaining quality and excellence.

Deliberating on the progress of R&D activities, the house stated their concerns regarding the grants bought in by the senior faculty for R&D projects. Dr. Mohitkar added that lack of homogeneity and ownership amongst the faculty is a matter of concern and one of the factors impacting the University's performances. He suggested that Dr. Chaudhari should address this unrest at the earliest and fuel the faculty with the required motivation. Dr. Atre suggested instituting a reward mechanism for

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motivating the faculty to bring in more grants and nurturing and Research and innovation culture at the university which will further aid in improvement in the national standing of COEP Tech University.

Dr. Atrey suggested adding Research funding for deserving faculty as one of the performance parameters. Mr. Pai profound the idea of communicating the departments the existing performance and the targets aimed at by the university.

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** and **APPROVED** the MOU for signing.

3.4 Search and selection of Finance & Accounts Officer, Law Officer, and Estates Manager as per the SPPU/UGC norms

Dr Sonawane has presented the need for the appointment of Finance and Accounts Officer, Law Officer, and Estates Manager for the University. Dr. Sonawane has also explained that the post of Finance and Accounts officer is a statutory post which is sanctioned by the Govt. along with other statutory posts as per the COEP Tech Act and subsequently the GR issued by Govt. of Maharashtra dated 15th Nov. 2022. Whereas the post of Law officer and Estates Manager are the Board created post. It is requested to the board approve the newly created posts and the appointments as per the provisions given in COEP Tech University Act.

Mr. Tidke suggested following the Statues of the COEP Tech University for the appointment rules, qualification norms, pay scale and service conditions. If the statutes of the University are not in place, then as mentioned in the COEP Tech Act follow the statutes of SPPU/BATU and guidelines of UGC for the appointment of the posts.

Dr. Mohitkar, reiterated on having the University Statutes in place on priority. The Statutes should clearly state that the appointments for the said posts are tenure based and the continuation will be on performance based.

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** that the appointment of the Finance and Accounts Officer and other two posts is necessary for the smooth functioning of the University. Board **APPROVED** the sanctioning of Law Officer and Estates Manager post. Members of the board have suggested that the advertisement should be given for the legitimate appointment of the suggested posts as per the prevailing norms of appointments.

3.5 Revised administrative approval for previously sanctioned budget for the Civil Infrastructural work at COEP main campus.

Prof. Birajdar while briefing about the ongoing infrastructural development at the University campus, he stated that the University is trying its best to cater to the growing needs of the number of students taking admissions to COEP Tech with the best infrastructure and state-of-the-art equipment. The state Government and industries

have been generous enough to extend the support for the infrastructural development & upgradation at COEP Tech in terms of finance and in-kind.

However, there still exist the crunch of funds to complete the ongoing projects. Obligating to certain essential modifications/ additions made in the due process (with the approval from the previous BOG) has incurred additional cost taking the project beyond the budget sanctioned by the previous BOG. As on date the university owes a liability of Rs.32 crores (including the liabilities of incomplete Library and Computer Engineering building) of which an outstanding of Rs.11 crore is to be honored on priority towards the payment of vendors those have already completed the refurbishment work of the Metallurgy, Electronics and Telecommunication and Mechanical Engineering new buildings. Prof. Birajdar suggested the members to review the work done and approve the request for revised administrative approval for the excess funds required.

Taking it as an alarming issue, BOG made the following suggestions.

- ✓ To complete the pending projects based on the priorities and not take any further infrastructural development till the existing pending projects are completed in all aspects.
- ✓ Revisit the modalities and check if there exists any scope for cost reduction.
- ✓ Revisit the financial approvals made before for these projects, and the possibilities to arrange the additional funds required to make the payments of the vendors those have already completed the work as per the financial situation of the University.
- ✓ The Board has also suggested making the necessary approvals for the revised additional fund request in the forthcoming Finance Committee meeting and reporting the same to the next BOG meeting.
- ✓ Dr. Chaudhari- Chairman has requested Mr. Vinay Pai - Board member, to investigate the infrastructural related issues/lapses if any by revisiting all financial, administrative and all other related approvals and suggest the ways to improve further.
- ✓ Maintain separate accounts for infrastructure development at Chikhali campus.

Dr. Atrey suggested that a separate meeting and visit to the Chikhali Research campus should be scheduled at the earliest. Also, a brief project report for the same should be submitted to BOG for understanding.

Accordingly, 24th November 2023 has been fixed unanimously by all members as the date for the visit to Chikhali campus (1st half of the day) and next BOG meeting (in the 2nd half of the day.)

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** and **APPROVED** the point.

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Item 4: Items for Information/Ratification by the Board

4.1 Minutes of 2nd Academic Council held on Friday, 21st July 2023 to roll out NEP Compliant Academic Structure from AY: 2023-24.

Dr. Sonawane presented the minutes of the 2nd Academic Council held on Friday, 21st July 2023 to roll out the NEP compliant Academic Structure for all the UG and PG programs from AY: 2023-24 to all the members.

4.2 Recommendations of fee fixation committee.

Dr. Sonawane notified BOG about the suggestion received from the fee fixation committee which have been inculcated and implemented from the current Academic Year.

4.3 Report and list of Adjunct faculties selected (Ad hoc basis for 11-months period on consolidated salary) for various University Departments through interview process for the AY: 2023-24.

Dr. Sonawane has briefed the Board about the recruitment of Adjunct Faculty for an 11-months period purely on consolidated salary. Dr Sonawane has also informed the Board about the department-wise Adjunct faculty selected by the University on an Ad hoc basis for the Academic Year 2023-24.

ADJUNCT FACULTY RECRUITMENT AY - 2023-24 Statistics of the Selection Process	Number of Candidates
Number of Applications received	324
Number of Eligible Applications	265
Number of Candidate appeared for Presentations	178
Number of Candidate present for the Interview	125
Number of Candidate Selected	48
Number of Candidate Waitlisted candidate	08
Male Candidate	24
Female Candidate	24
SC Category Candidates Selected	6
NT Category Candidate Selected	3
OBC Category Candidate Selected	11
Open Category Candidate Selected	28

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4.4 List of MOUs signed after the last BOG meeting.

Dr. Sonawane presented the list of MOUs signed post the last Board meeting.

Sr. No.	Name of Organization	Brief details of MOU	Date of signing of MOU
MOUs with Industries/ organization			
1.	Agiliad India Pvt. Ltd	Joint Research projects, faculty projects and students' internships and projects.	15 th July 2023
2.	Ammunition Factory, Khadki, Pune	Construction of Prefabricated structure for Munitions India Limited (MIL) Museum at Mayur Garden at Ammunition Factory, Khadki, Pune	25 th July 2023
3.	Mukul Madhav Foundation, Pune	Smt. Late Mohini Pralhad Chhabria Scholarship of M.Tech Students 2023-24 to 2024-25 for two years	11 th August 2023
MOUs with Academic Institutions/ Universities			
1.	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Pune	Construction of Phase-1 works of IIIT Pune SH: Third Party Inspection/Quality Audit Service	8 th June 2023
2.	Government College of Engineering Jalgaon (GCoEJ)	Credit transfer 6 disciplines (viz Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics & Telecommunication, Instrumentation and Computer Engineering, joint research, admission to M. Tech and Ph. D, collaborative efforts of CoEs, faculty and student exchange etc.	16 th June 2023
3	The University of Missouri-Kansas City	Joint research and educational activities for both bachelor and graduate level, exchange of students/faculty/staff/research to participate in lecture, conference symposia, research etc. Master's degree (M. S.) from Missouri-Kanans University of 01 years subject to 3.5 + 0.5 years of study at COEP and Kansas University respectively.	26 th June 2023

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** and **RATIFIED** the points.

Item 5: Concluding remarks by the Chairman BOG

- ✓ In his concluding remarks, Dr. Pramod Chaudhari reiterated to have a methodological approach to revamp, upgrade and transform COEP Tech as a world class Technological University.
- ✓ Dr. Chaudhari suggested for appointing the Academic Audit consulting firm M/S. KPMG a global network and audit professional firm to help COEP Tech University

for revamping the prevailing issues related to Administration, HR, Finance, Infrastructural development etc. by doing the SWOT analysis and transformation of COEP Tech from GOOD to BEST in all aspects of University functioning.

- ✓ Chairman also suggested that we shall attempt to get an additional land of 25 acres near the existing land at Chikhali campus to cater the total land requirement to convert the COEP Tech University as IIT in near future. The university should submit a request note to the State Government at the earliest to seek the additional land.
- ✓ Each of the new BOG members to contribute towards University's development without Conflict of Interest, in various areas viz administration, infrastructure development, HR revamping, Finance, Research, Academics etc. as per their own interest and expertise.
- ✓ Chairman has also suggested a brief progress report on the ongoing infrastructure development projects (both Shivajinagar and Chikhali campuses of the COEP Tech University) should be presented in the next Board meeting.
- ✓ Next BOG meeting and visit to Chikhali campus to be scheduled on 24th November 2023.

The meeting concluded with thanks to all the members and was followed with the Gold Medal Award Ceremony to the Toppers of all B. Tech programs graduating in 2023.

(Dr. D. N . Sonawane)
Registrar, Memembr-Secretary, BOG
COEP Tech University.

(Dr. Pramod Chaudhari)
Chairman, BOG
COEP Tech University

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