

**MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNANCE OF COEP TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, PUNE HELD ON FRIDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 AT SIR M. VISVESVARAYA CONFERENCE HALL, MAIN BUILDING, COEP TECH UNIVERSITY.**

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**The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) meeting of the Board of Governance of COEP Technological University was held on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Conference Hall, Main Building, COEP Tech University.**

**The following members were present in the meeting:**

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dr. Pramod Chaudhari               | Chairman          |
| 2. Prof. Sudhir Agashe                | Member            |
| 3. Prof. Milind Atrey                 | Member            |
| 4. Dr. Ashish Lele                    | Member            |
| 5. Mr. Bharat Gite                    | Member            |
| 6. Shri. Amit Paranjape               | Member            |
| 7. Shri. Vinayak Pai                  | Member            |
| 8. Dr. Ravindra Utgikar               | Permanent Invitee |
| 9. Prof. Suhas Mohite                 | Member            |
| 10. Dr. (Mrs.) Aruna Thube,           | Member            |
| 11. Dr. Dayaram Sonawane              | Member -Secretary |
| 12. Dr. (Mrs.) Yashodhara Haribhakta, | Permanent Invitee |
| 13. Prof. Manoj Rathod                | Permanent Invitee |

**Members who were absent owing to their prior commitments.**

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|-------------------------|--------|
| 1. Shri. Satish Tidke   | Member |
| 2. Dr. Vinod Mohitkar   | Member |
| 3. Prof. Sunil Bhagwat  | Member |
| 4. Prof. Rajendra Joshi | Member |

The meeting commenced with Prof. Sudhir Agashe, Vice Chancellor, COEP Technological University, welcoming all the Board members for the meeting.

**Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the of 1<sup>st</sup> BOG Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**

The minutes of the of 1<sup>st</sup> BOG Meeting held on August 18, 2023, were circulated to all the Board members, by email, along with the notice/agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the BOG. Comments received from the Board members were incorporated in the final minutes of the meeting.

Board considered the minutes and passed the following resolution:

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the of 1<sup>st</sup> BOG Meeting held on August 18, 2023.

**Item 2: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the ASSORTED resolutions/decisions. of 1<sup>st</sup> BOG Meeting held on August 18, 2023.**

The Action Taken Report (ATR) on the ASSORTED resolutions/decisions of 1<sup>st</sup> BOG Meeting held on August 18, 2023, was presented for the information of the Board.

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

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

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

The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** by passing the Resolution that Dr. Rajendra Hiremath, Director Synergy Valuers & Project Consultants Pvt Ltd. is appointed as Chairman on the Board of Directors of BHAU institute. The COEP-BOG has also recommended the other members on the Board of BHAU institute and Mr. Mandar Joshi, CEO of BHAU institute, as Member Secretary for the tenure of 03 years with immediate effect.

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

The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to sign the MoU with Higher and Technical Education Department, Govt of Maharashtra. Accordingly, the University has finalized the MoU. The copy of the MoU is submitted to DTE, Mumbai and subsequently to H and T Department of Govt. of Maharashtra.

iii. **Search and selection of Finance & Accounts Officer, Law/Legal Officer, and Facilities/Estates Manager as per the SPPU/UGC norms and COEP Tech Act 2022.**

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 RESOLVED to APPROVE the sanctioning of Law/Legal consultant, HR consultant and Facilities/Estates Manager post. Accordingly, the advertisement for Finance and Accounts officer is being published in the newspaper on 29/09/2023. A total of 13 applications were received, after scrutiny and short-listing of the applications, 08 eligible candidates were called for the personal interview.

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

The Board requested Mr. Vinayak Pai to help and guide the University in the said matter. Accordingly, Mr. Vinayak Pai has consented and assigned professional from Tata Projects to help the University team. In the meantime, the Building and Works committee (BWC) also met on Nov. 08, 2023, and finalized their report and recommendations. The point is also discussed in the finance committee meeting.

v. **Appointment of the Management consulting firm M/S. KPMG, specialized in Audit, task and advisory services across the globe to help COEP Tech University to devise a strategic plan for next phase of growth and execution assistance as may be necessary.**

Accordingly, COEP Tech University has appointed M/S. KPMG on a Pro bono basis as a consultant for phase I i.e. diagnostic study. In addition to reviewing all the data about COEP tech available in the public domain, KPMG officials visited the University on 9th and 10th October 2023 to interact with the COEP faculty, Deans, students, and authorities. Basis Primary and secondary research and its analysis, KPMG team would be presenting findings, high-level recommendations, and proposals for a timebound actionable plan. In Phase-II i.e. Execution of plan, KPMG will render active and/or active assistance as may be needed, at an appropriate consideration as negotiated between two parties.

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

**Item 3: Items for Discussion/Approval by the Board:**

**3.1 Presentation by Vice Chancellor encompassing the following points:**

● **Progress on implementation of the “National Education Policy 2020”.**

Prof. Agashe, Hon. VC said that the university has undertaken a strenuous exercise at department, schools, and university level for designing and developing a robust curriculum adhering to the NEP 2020 guidelines. The NEP

compliant curriculum is being implemented for the batch of students admitted in AY 2023-24 to the First Year Engineering and Planning Programs.

Further, while addressing the internship part, which will now be mandatory at all the level for a UG programme (as per NEP 2020 guidelines), Dr. Uttam Chaskar, who is heading the activity gave a brief presentation on the implementation and evaluation matrix of the Social Internship Programme for the First Year UG students. He added assessment of the 2 credits/ semester allotted for the internship programme will be done by the university in a manner as prescribed and approved by Academic Council.

The following suggestions were made by Dr. Chaudhari, Prof. Atrey and Mr. Gite respectively.

- ✓ To encourage students to undertake PSR (Personal Social Responsibility) internships.
- ✓ Consider inviting Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, who is a strong proponent of social innovations for addressing the students and motivating them.
- ✓ Permit the students to identify/ work in the areas closer to their homes as the internship is to be done during the vacation period when they usually go back to their hometowns.
- ✓ Industries should also be considered for carrying out the social internships apart from technical internships.

• **MOU's and Academic reforms planned by the University in near future and for the coming academic year.**

As regards to signing of MOU, Prof. Agashe mentioned that the COEP Tech University has signed the MoU with Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics to teach Economics related courses to COEP students and the Data Science and Machine Learning related courses to the students of Gokhale Institute from the coming academic year.

Prof. Agashe also informed the board that COEP Tech is also in discussion with potential collaboration with different institutes / Universities in Public Policy formulation, Medical Electronics and Instrumentation, Agriculture Technology etc. to build future-ready talent in these sunrise sectors.

**Resolution:** The Board **NOTED and Consented** to all the above points.

### 3.2. Short Presentations

- **Measures to improve the digital media presence of COEP Tech University.**

Prof. R. N. Ladhav, In-charge, T and P and Ms. Snehal Hirve, PRO highlighted upon various measures undertaken by the University for

rebranding of COEPTech and increasing its presence on the digital and print media; its efficacious outcome in the past 3 months and the future plan. Mr. Amit Paranjape emphasized getting active participation and contribution from Departments/ Clubs, Students, Faculty, Alumni and others expanding and developing vibrant Social Media Contents. Initiatives are also being taken up to revamp and upgrade COEP tech's digital platforms such as website etc.

- **Visit to IIT Madras Research Park and progress and readiness of “COEP Tech Industrial Research Park”, Chikahli.**

Prof. N. B. Dhoke, Director, RIIL presented the key observations and feedback from the visit of COEP tech's team to IIT Madras Research Park and the progress and readiness of “COEP Tech Industrial & Innovation Research Park”, at Chikahli.

- ✓ Regarding the Research & innovation Park at Chikhali, Dr. Chaudhari suggested preparing a white paper to attract more stakeholders and collaborations, and also circulate it to the Board members and other stakeholders of the institute.
- ✓ Prof. Atrey added that PG students should also be connected to the Research Park encouraging them to undertake more R&D activities. He also stressed the need to have formal MOUs between the University and different entities pursuing research in the said campus.
- ✓ Dr. Chaudhari suggested converting COEP Tech Industrial & Innovation Research Park, Chikhali as Section-8 company, and procedure should be initiated in that direction.

- **Updates and Progress of BHAU institute**

Mr. Mandar Joshi, CEO, BHAU Institute briefly updated on

- ✓ Upcoming initiatives of Bhau institute in terms of collaborations with industry and Government Organizations for getting funding/ monetary support/ mentorships for the startups incubating at Bhau institute.
- ✓ Visit to other Incubation Centers (SINE- IIT Bombay).
- ✓ Training Programs and Awareness drives conducted by Bhau Institute.
- ✓ Dashboard stating categorical rise in the number of startups, fundings, IPs generated, successfully graduated startups and other parameters.

Dr. Chaudhari and Dr. Atrey opined of charging equity from the companies who are successfully graduated from Bhau and are performing well. A final call on the same should be taken in the upcoming Board meeting of Bhau.

### 3.3. Updates on the diagnostic findings and high-level recommendations by KPMG (Academic Consultant appointed by COEP Tech University) on the Transformation of COEP Tech University.

A brief presentation on the diagnostic findings and observations was made by KPMG. Using NIRF as the lenses, KPMG performed an exhaustive SWOT analysis of COEP Tech on various academic and non-academic parameters and setting some of the technical institutions with higher NIRF ranking as the benchmark gave some high-level recommendations to COEP Tech.

Some of the major areas of concerns as identified by KPMG are as follows.

- ✓ Deficit efforts on the front of R&D initiatives and outcomes
- ✓ Unbefitting Peer Perception
- ✓ Less student diversity
- ✓ Shortfall in Faculty & Staff
- ✓ Infrastructural upgradation and maintenance etc.
- ✓ International student participation and collaboration
- ✓ Digital platform and courses

The following are some of the propositions of the Board members addressing the inadequacies.

Prof. Atrey Suggested

- High time to increase the intake of Ph. D candidates, as research is majorly done by them.
- Undertake measures and initiatives to attract more PG and Ph.D. candidates (eg. Sponsorships, stipends etc.)
- Faculty recruitment to be taken as a priority.
- Exiting faculty to be motivated to undertake more R&D activities through incentive schemes.

Dr. Lele Suggested

- Set up a core committee to implement the feedback given by KPMG team.
- Feedback to be shared with every faculty.

Mr. Pai Suggested

- Need transformation in the work culture, leadership to attain the goals.

Dr. Chaudhari added that a brief presentation should be given by KPMG team at the residential workshop arranged for the functionaries of COEP Tech on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The outcome of the workshop should be a specific transformation plan with clearly defined timelines and responsibilities.

Prof. Agashe concluded the point stating that since the University is adapting the major transformations from an autonomous institute to a university, help of an

external consultant/ agency will be sought. However, implementation of the curative measures will be taken by the internal stakeholders with the help of KPMG as needed. (Resolution)

### **3.4 Findings and suggestions on the ongoing infrastructural projects and measures to be taken to streamline the infrastructural related activities and revised administrative approval for previously sanctioned budget for the Civil Infrastructural and maintenance work.**

Considering the escalation of budget for some of the ongoing infrastructural projects and the paucity of the University's overall budget, it was suggested to hold on projects which are at primitive level. However, projects which are on the verge of completion but prolonged due to insufficient funds should be supported through the University's funds. Mr. Pai insisted on calling for a meeting with all the concerned members of the existing and previous BWC and the architects for in detailed discussions for understanding the budgetary requirement, at earliest. (Resolution)

### **3.5 Selection of Finance and Accounts Officer as per section 19(2) of COEP Technological University Act 2022.**

Prof. Sonawane informed the Board that the selection committee constituted as per the COEP Tech Act and has recommended the candidature of **Mr. Amit Bajaj** for the said post.

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** and **APPROVED** the appointment of Mr. Amit Bajaj for the Finance and Accounts Officer post.

### **3.6 Approval for the proposed performance appraisal form to review the annual performance of the University Teachers and Staff.**

Prof. Sonawane informed the Board that the University has constituted a committee to discuss, deliberate and suggest the revised guidelines and application format for the performance appraisal of the University teachers and staff to review the annual performance. Accordingly, the committee has recommended and devised the 'Faculty Performance Review and Development System (PRDS)' format. The committee has also suggested that the appraisal duration should be from 1st July to 30th June of the respective academic year.

Prof. Atre suggested having a relative grading to enable the faculty to get a fair picture of their performance.

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** and **APPROVED** the proposed Performance appraisal format and requested to circulate with immediate effect.

### **3.7 Five Year Lien to Prof. Sanjay Dambhare Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering, to join as Principal at Govt. College of Engineering, Chhatrapati Smabhajinagar (An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Maharashtra).**

Prof. Sonawane informed the Board that Prof. Sanjay Dambhare Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering, has been selected as Principal at Govt. College of Engineering, Chhatrapati Smabhajinagar and requested to sanction the FIVE years lien to Prof. Dambhare to join the said post of tenure basis.

**Resolution:** The Board congratulated Dr.Dambhare for achieving this feat and **APPROVED** the Five-yearlien.

### **3.8 One Year Lien to Prof. Vipin Kumar Tripathi, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering to join as Professor, Mechanical Engineering at NITTR Bhopal.**

Dr. Sonawane also informed the Board that Prof. Vipin Kumar Tripathi, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering is being selected as a Professor, Mechanical Engineering at NITTR Bhopal and requested board members to sanction ONE Year lien to Dr. Tripathi to join the said post.

**Resolution:** The Board **APPROVED** One year lien to Dr. Tripathi

### **Item 4.1: Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Prof. Rathod, Finance and Accounts Officer presented the Minutes of 1st Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th September 2023 for the information of the Board.

Prof. Agashe apprised the Board that since 2018 university is bearing the entire salary expense of the faculty appointed by BoG on the Government positions. Out of Rs. 90 crores expected under the salary grant the government is currently facilitating mere 30 crores and pretext it as one of the major reasons for the destitute budget. He further added that the university is chasing the government and is currently in discussion with the concern officers for at least provide the grant for those faculty members (appointed by BOG on the Government positions) whose appointments are not challenged in the court.

He also notified the Board that the university had fallen prey to a financial fraud of Rs. 51 lakhs in October 2018. Although the university, as a cyber victim, had lodged an official Cyber Crime complaint, the threat actors are still not identified. Since the deceit amount is still reflected as a debit in the balance sheet, he requested the board to permit the university to write off the said amount, and continue the inquiry which portions of the system failed to perform and how mitigate that risk in future.

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

### **Item 4.2: Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> BWC meeting held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2023**

Mr. Pai alluded to some of the points in the minutes of the BWC meeting which needs further elaborations. He therefore suggested to have a meeting with all the BWC members and the architect at the earliest to get an in depth understanding about the over running budget of the pending infrastructural projects at the university campus and estimates for the entire infrastructural work at the Chikhali



Campus. Accordingly, a meeting has been scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 to discuss the issues pertaining to the BWC.

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

**Item 4.3: Minutes of 2nd meeting of Board of RIIL held on 30th Oct. 2023**

Prof. N.B. Dhokey, Director (Research, innovation, Incubation and Linkages) presented the Minutes of 2nd meeting of Board of RIIL held on 30th Oct. 2023.

**Resolution:** The Board **NOTED and Ratified** the minutes of the 2nd meeting of Board of RIIL.

**Item 4.4: List of MOUs signed after the last BOG meeting.**

Prof. Sonawane presented the list of MOUs signed with various organizations post the 1st BoG meeting held on 18th August 2023. In context with the MOUs for student exchange programs (national & international level), the Board recommended to continue or sign new MOUs only if the expenses are borne by the Government of the respective countries in case of an international student exchange programme or by the respective institute in case the exchange programme is with any institute from India.

**Resolution:** The Board **NOTED and Ratified the list of MOU's**

**Item 5: Concluding remarks by the Chairman BOG**

While summing up for the meeting, Dr. Chaudhari opined that Alumni Association should shore up the university's development by bringing in active contribution and support from its alumni in terms of internships/ placements, funding, mentorship, branding etc. He appealed Mr. Bharat Gite to shoulder this responsibility in the capacity of President, Alumni Association, COEP Tech.

Also, the prevailing issues pertaining to the infrastructural development at both the university and Chikhali campus should be confronted and consciously addressed at the earliest. Next BOG meeting to be scheduled in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February 2023.

**Item 6: Any other Point by the Permission of Chair.**

Prof. Sonawane presented the following for the Boards approval.

- Prof. Manoj Rathod superannuating on Nov. 30, 2023. Approval is requested to appoint Prof. Rathod as **Facilities Manager** on a consolidated salary basis until an appointment of regular Facilities Manager by advertisement/nomination. Also, an additional charge of Finance and Accounts Officer to be given till the regular FAO joins the University.
- Approval is requested for the appointment of Mr. Shrikant Malegaonkar, Advocate, as a Legal Consultant of the University on an honorarium basis.
- Approval is also requested for the appointment of Mr. Sameer Kukade, as HR Consultant of the University on an honorarium basis.

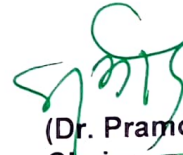
- Approval is also requested for the extension of the appointment of Mr. Pol as the GST and statutory auditor and Mr. Kulkarni as the internal auditor for the University.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED and APPROVED** the above appointments.

The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Prof. Sonawane followed by lunch and a visit to the Department of "Manufacturing Engineering & Industrial Management" and "Metallurgy and Material Science" post lunch.



(Dr. D. N . Sonawane)  
Registrar and Member Secretary, BOG



(Dr. Pramod Chaudhari)  
Chairman, BOG