

VEER SURENDRA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SIDDIHI VIHAR, BURLA

MINUTES OF 39th MEETING OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON 09.06.2021 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CHAMBER OF VICE-CHANCELLOR, VSSUT, BURLA BY ONLINE MODE (THROUGH WEB LINK)

The following members were present:

1. Prof. B.B. Pati, Vice-Chancellor, VSSUT, Burla : Chairman
2. Shri Hemant Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Odisha SD&TE Dept. : Member
3. The Director, Technical Education & Training Odisha, Cuttack : Member
4. Dr. A.K. Nayak, OAS (S) Joint Secretary to Govt. of Odisha SD&TE Dept. : Invited Member
5. Er. Bimal Krushna Mishra CEO, RSB Metal Tech. (P) Ltd, Bhubaneswar : Member
6. Er. Sashi Sekhar Mohanty, Vice-Chairman cum MD, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., Duburi : Member
7. The Vice-Chancellor, Biju Pattnaik University of Technology, Odisha, Rourkela-769004 : Member
8. Prof. Ratnam V. Raja Kumar, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar. : Member
9. Prof. Venkappayya R Desai Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering IIT, Kharagpur (AICTE Nominee) : Member
10. Shri Kishore Kumar Mohanty, Hon'ble MLA : Member
11. Shri Debesh Acharya, Hon'ble MLA : Member
12. Prof. A.N Nayak, Professor in Civil Engg. VSSUT, Burla : Member
13. Prof. P.C. Swain, Professor in Civil Engg. VSSUT, Burla : Member
14. Smt. Upama Kalo, OAS (SAG) Registrar, VSSUT, Burla : Member-Convenor

The leave of absence is granted to the following members who could not attend the meeting:

15. The Additional Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of Odisha : Member

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Shri N.P. Kujur OFS-I (SB), CoF, VSSUT, Burla attended the meeting as special invitee.

At the outset, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. B.B. Pati, Chairman, BOM welcomed the members present in the 39th meeting of the Board of Management with the new members Shri Hemant Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Odisha, SD&TE Dept. Odisha, and Shri Kishore Kumar Mohanty, Hon'ble MLA. The Chairman informed the purpose of calling the meeting and the Principal Secretary was requested to give the inaugural address.

The Agenda items were discussed and resolved as follows:

BOM : 39-01 : To confirm the Minutes of the 38th meeting of the Board of Management held on 09.03.2021 by online mode. **(Annexure-I)**

Resolution: Confirmed

BOM:39-02: Action taken report on the Minutes of the 36th BOM held on 25.09.2020 and 37th BOM held on 19.11.2020. **(Annexure-II).**

Resolution: Noted

BOM : 39-03 To accord administrative approval to engage M/s COEMPT EDUTECK Private Limited Hyderabad, Telangana, 500038, the existing service provider of BPUT, Odisha for conducting immediate End Semester as well as Mid Semester Examination on online mode. **(Annexure-III).**

Due to the escalation of second wave of COVID pandemic, Govt. of Odisha has instructed the Technical Universities of the state under administrative control of SDTE Department vide their letter no. SDTE-THE-II/1915 dtd. 12.04.2021 to conduct the forthcoming semester and Mid-semester examinations in online mode until the situation improves. In obedience to above, a committee comprising of all Heads of Departments, Deans, Controller of Examinations (CoE) and Registrar of the University also resolved to conduct the examinations online and recommended that the existing service provider for conduct of online examinations of the Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT), Odisha who has successfully conducted their examinations online and also for other Institutions be engaged for the purpose. The University has also moved the Administrative department of Government to grant permission to this effect vide letter no.VSSUT/Examn/719 dtd.16.4.2021 and subsequent reminder VSSUT/Examn/745 dtd.27.4.2021. In response to

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this, the Administrative department of Government vide their letter no. 2190 dtd.05.05.2021 has mentioned that "University does not require any permission from the Government to conduct the examinations". Meanwhile there was a meeting convened by BPUT wherein Joint Secretary to Government of Odisha, SDTE Department, Vice-Chancellor, Dean (Academic Affairs) and CoE have attended the meeting on review of online examination on 28.04.2021 at 12.30 PM along with Vice-Chancellor & Director Examinations of BPUT and the representative of M/s COEMPT EDUTECK Pvt. Ltd., Telengana, the existing Service Provider of BPUT. The procedures and various security features being followed in BPUT were deliberated and a few modifications were suggested. It has been resolved that the principle shall be followed both in BPUT and VSSUT with immediate effect for the on-line (MCQ) examination during this COVID-pandemic period (cf. BPUT/Exam/1798 dtd. 03.05.2021

It is also for information of the Board that most of the Odd semester November -2020 examinations and the even semester May 2021 (End semester as well as the Mid-Semester examinations) have not been conducted. The final year students need their results and certificates failing which many students may be deprived of their jobs or admission for higher studies. Further, the campus recruiting companies are pressing hard for examination schedule.

In this exigency, it is proposed to engage the existing Service Provider of the Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Odisha M/s COEMPT EDUTECK Pvt. Ltd.,Telengana for conduct of AI and Human Proctored online examinations on the same customized platform befitting to the requirements of a Technical University with the same terms and conditions and charges.

The expenditure towards the online examination will be met out of the examination fund collected from the students. A University Expert Committee constituted for the purpose has also laid down the modalities for conducting online examinations.

Approval be given for conducting the remaining examinations of November, 2020 and May, 2021.

Resolution: Approved the proposal to engage M/s. COEMPT EDUTECK Private Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana, 500038, the existing service provider of BPUT, Odisha for conducting immediate even Semester April 2021 as well as Mid Semester Examination of final years

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and the remaining examinations of November, 2020 on online mode.

Without delay, the COE may be intimated to go ahead engaging the above agency following due procedure for conducting online examinations as notified to students.

BOM : 39-04:

To consider and approve the recommendation of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for promotion to the post of Senior Assistant **(Annexure-IV)**.

Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) has examined and recommended the following incumbents for promotion to the vacant non-teaching posts according to merit cum seniority basis. The Vice-Chancellor has approved for promotion to the eligible candidates subject to the approval of the Board of Management, Hence, the DPC recommendation may please be approved by Board.

Sl No.	Name	Designation	Promoted to the promotional post
01	Sri Harendra Kumar Padhee	Junior Assistant	Senior Assistant
02	Sri Chitta Ranjan Biswal	Junior Assistant	Senior Assistant
03	Mrs. Rinki Bhoi	Junior Assistant	Senior Assistant

Resolution: The recommendation of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) held on 07.06.2021 is approved and with a note that the candidates be asked to submit an undertaking at the time of joining as his/ her Promotion is subject to the result of W.P.(C) No. 9851 of 2007.

BOM: 39-05:

Ratification of the action taken for extension of lien period, **(Annexure-V)**.

1. Prof. Pradip Kumar Das, Professor of Civil Engineering working as Registrar, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela upto 28.02.2022.
2. Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering working as Advisor, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bengaluru for another two years w.e.f. 30.12.2021 to 29.12.2023.
3. Sri Chakradhar Patra, Personal Assistant, VSSUT, Burla working as Private Secretary, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for another one year w.e.f.01.06.2021 to 31.05.2022.

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Resolution : Approved for Prof. Pradip Kumar Das, and Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath. For Sri Chakradhar Patra, it is resolved to allow lien to him as a special case only for this year.

BOM:39-06:

Revision of pension, gratuity and leave salary of retired employees of the University. **(Annexure-VI).**

In pursuance to the Hon'ble High Court Order dated 13.04.2021 in W.P.C. No.9279 of 2021 on revision of pension, Gratuity and Leave Salary of retired employees of VSSUT (formerly UCE) Burla, the retired employees association have submitted a representation to allow them the benefit. Govt. of Odisha has been requested to allow the same with financial provision.

Resolution : Reminder letter to SDTE Deptt. Govt. of Odisha be given at the earliest recommending to allow the revision with financial provision.

BOM:39-07:

To Consider and approve for appointment of Inquiry Officer. **(Annexure-VII):**

As per the decision of 32th Meeting of the Board of management held on 24.08.2019, separate enquiry officer may be appointed for separate DP case. Hence, the Vice-Chancellor has suggested to appoint Prof. R.P. Panda, Professor of Electronics as Inquiry Officer to enquire into cases of Dr. Rakesh Mohanty, Associate Professor of Computer Science & Engineering and Prof. Jayadev Rana, Professor of Mechanical Engineering as Inquiry Officer to enquire into cases of Dr. Sasmita Kumari Padhy, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Application. Further, Prof. U.R. Jena, Ex-Professor of Electronics & TC Engineering was appointed as Inquiry Officer to enquire into the cases of Dr. Santosh Kumar Majhi, Assistant Professor of Computer Science & Engineering. But Prof. U.R. Jena had retired from service on superannuation w.e.f.28.02.2021. Hence, Vice-Chancellor has suggested to appoint Prof. R.K. Sahu, Professor of EEE as Inquiry Officer in place of Prof. Jena. Hence, the suggestion may please be approved.

Resolution : Ratified the action of Vice-Chancellor.

BOM:39-08:

To consider and recommend the enhancement of lawyer fees towards defending various types of cases.**(Annexure-VIII).**

Board may consider the enhancement of lawyer fees from the existing Rs. 15,000/- +750 (for certified copy)

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Resolution : Deferred. The Registrar will bring a detailed proposal to this effect. Board decided to keep a lawyer on retainer for University, who will advise the University administration on legal matters, if required. The retainer fees is to be proposed by the Registrar in line with the norms followed in other reputed Universities/ institutions of the state.

BOM :39-09:

To consider and ratify the action Plan of TEQIP-III prepared and approved by the Vice-Chancellor. The details of the same are as follows: **(Annexure-IX)**.

The Ministry of Education, Govt. of India has considered the Incentivization of well performing project institutions by providing additional funds based on the expenditure and benchmarks as on or before December 21, 2020. Accordingly, based on the high performance of TEQIP-III of VSSUT, Burla, the Central Project Advisor, NPIU, Govt. of India has allocated additional fund of Rs. 1.0 Crore to the University in addition to the original fund of Rs. 15.00 Crores received earlier vide letter No. NPIU/TEQIP/2021 dated 11.03.2021 (enclosed herewith). The NPIU has earmarked to spend the additional fund on Procurement, Academics and IOC components in the ratio of 70:20:10.

Accordingly, the action plan for the total unspent fund (additional fund and balance fund of Rs. 15 crores) has been prepared for Procurement, Academics and IOC component in the meeting of the Heads of Departments and Nodal Officers of TEQIP under the chairmanship of TEQIP Coordinator. The same has been approved by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and thereafter by the SPA, SPIU, Odisha and CPA, NPIU, Govt. of India. The process has already been completed/initiated for Procurement, Academics and IOC expenditure. The action plan of the same is given below:

Action Plan				
Heads		Sub-Heads	(Amount in Rs.)	
			March, 2021	
			Activities	Expenditure
	1.1.1.1	Equipment	Interactive Panel with accessories and Wireless presentation System for Chemistry, Chemical and IT Department	11,07,363.00 (Procured and payment to be made)
	1.1.1.2	Learning resources	Procurement Online text based information of Elsevier journals of 4 subjects (Engineering, Materials Science, Computer Science and Chemistry - 647 titles	71,62,243.00 (Procured and payment has already been made)

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Academic Processes	1.1.2.1	Improve student learning	Induction Programme & GATE Registration fees	4,21,500.00 (Initiated and payment to be made)
	1.1.2.3	Graduates employability	Remedial Classes	1,60,300.00 (Completed Rs. 124110/-paid and Rs. 36190/- payment to be made)
	1.1.2.4	Faculty/Staff Development and motivation	Conducting Programmes by faculty members	4955.00 (Initiated and payment to be made)
	1.1.2.5	Research and development	Attending Conf./Seminars/Workshop for UG/PG/PhD students, Procurement of Spares and consumables for UG,PG,PhD students & Seed Grant to the faculty members	18,52,966.00 (Initiated and payment to be made)
	1.1.2.6	MOOCs and digital learning	MOOCS and Digital Learning	17,000.00 (Initiated and payment to be made)
	1.1.2.8	Reforms and Governance	NBA Accreditation fees of PG programme in Power Electronics and Drives	2,12,400.00 (Fees have been paid)
Operating Cost	1.1.3.2	Operation and maint. of equipments	Operation and maintenance of laboratory equipments of the Departments	33,97,339.00 (Rs. 18,09,778/- Initiated and payment to be made)
	1.1.3.3	Office expenses	TEQIP office expenses	50,000.00 (Rs.13346/- initiated and payment to be made)
TOTAL				1,43,86,066.00

Resolution: Approved

BOM : 39-10:

The Payment of Arrear dues of balance 10% default amount of Rs. 16,64,344.00 of Reliable Security & Intelligence Services Orissa (P) Ltd. from January 2019 to February 2020. **(Annexure-X)**.

Resolution : Deferred. The COF will put up the reason for payment of deducted amount.

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BOM : 39-11:

To consider the waiver of Hostel Corpus Fund of Boarders.
(Annexure-XI)

As per letter No. SDTE-PDE-II-Poly-0004/2021/859/SDTE, Bhubaneswar, Dated 17.02.2021, It is to inform that the University had taken corpus fund of Rs. 4000/- per semester for the period from Jan 2020 to July 2020 and January 2021 to July 2021 which need to be adjusted as students did not stay for the total period. Again it is worth mentioning that total amount yet to be spent. Hence to reduce the burden on the students in this Corona Pandemic Situation, the Corpus fund collection may be suspended for one year. Board may consider the waiver of such fees collected from students.

Resolution: Approved. The collection of corpus fund fees is suspended.

BOM : 39-12:

Approval may please be accorded for payment of retirement benefit to the pensioners on account of Voluntary Retirements & death case from the University Fund. The amount spent for this purpose will be adjusted from the subsequent budget for the year 2022-23.
(Annexure-XII).

Resolution: Approved the payment of retirement/pensionary dues .

Any other agenda with permission of Chair

Additional agenda points received on 8th June 2021 from Er. Bimal Krushna Mishra, Member and accepted by Chairman were discussed.

1. Government should be requested to release fund for construction of additional academic and administrative blocks. This has been discussed and resolved earlier in various BOM meetings. But I feel we should seek special attention of the Government on the issue as the existing infrastructure is badly inadequate to take the load of additional student strength being created as per the decision of the Government, Being one of the oldest Technical institution of the country and the oldest in Odisha, we are unable to compete with other private and government technical institutions on this account when being evaluated for NIFR raking.

Resolution: The University will move to administrative department (SDTE) of Government to expedite the matter.

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2. Promotion of faculty members under CAS are not being implemented for last 10 years. Where is the problem and in what way we can eliminate those.

Resolution: Reminder will be given to SDTE Deptt. to approve the recommendation already sent in December 2020 for CAS promotion. Further, the University will advertise again asking application from its faculty members for CAS promotion at the earliest. In future, the University should declare a date by which, every year the eligible candidates should apply for promotion under CAS without waiting for the formal advertisement to be released by the University.

3. Retirement age for our employees has not yet been revised from 58 to 60 years, though the same has been extended to employees of all other University in the state. We have been discussing and resolving on this issue in almost last 4-5 BOM meetings requesting Government to take appropriate decision. Unfortunately no conclusive decision has been taken so far. Our retired teaching and non-teaching staffs are deprived of corresponding part of their legitimate pensionary benefits. Some of them in their late eighties are my professors who taught me in this great institution. Being frustrated with our inaction to offer them any solution to their most legitimate right, they sought the justice from Hon'ble High Court who in turn has already granted them the rightful relief. Even Hon'ble Chancellor has also written asking to clear the dues immediately. Why can not we resolve to pay the same from our University fund immediately.

Resolution: The Board strongly recommends to Government to kindly allow the pension benefit to the VSSUT employees at the age of 60 years instead of 58 years like other Government Institution/Universities in Odisha. Accordingly the Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) Department of the Government of Odisha will be moved again requesting for implementation of the court order to avoid further such cases.

4. The arrear of the seventh pay revision benefits are still not paid to most of the teaching staff. Eagerly waiting for such most legitimate benefits, few of my senior Professor have left for their heavenly abode. Four in last one year itself, and God knows how many more will face the same fate if we do not act now. Can not we resolve to pay the same from the University fund if fund allocation by the Government is delayed.

Resolution: Arrear of the Seventh Pay Revision will be paid to regular and retired employees after receiving the fund allotment from Govt. of Odisha. The Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) Department of the Government of Odisha will be moved to expedite the matter.

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5. Few of our teaching staffs are under suspension since last two years in connection with their participation in the illegal strike in 2019. The enquiry instituted by the University is still not completed by any of the enquiry officers. Is it proper and ethical that our learned professors are put under suspension and forgotten. Even they are paid from the tax-payers' money but their services are not being utilised. Can not we fix up accountability on the enquiry officers for such lapses. Can they linger the enquiry indefinitely at their sweet will. I would suggest, that this BOM should resolve to reinstate the suspended faculties pending enquiry and accountability be fixed on the enquiry officers.

Resolution: Enquiry of all officers in connection with their participation in the illegal strike in 2019 will be completed within three months. The enquiry officers and the marshalling officer will be intimated accordingly failing which accountability will be fixed on concerned officers.

The Board also resolved to reinstate such suspended faculty members pending enquiry. However, clearance of Hon'ble Chancellor and Government will be taken in obedience to SDTE order No. SDTE-HTE-HTE-II-0028-2019/3837 dtd.09.08.2019 and in line with the court orders if any in this regard.

6. We have received appeals from few suspended employees stating that they have been deprived of their annual increments during the period of suspension. As I understand the Odisha Service Code 1962, the increments should not be affected for suspension. Hence let us resolve to immediately release all such increments kept in abeyance on the pretext of suspension.

Resolution: Increments will be considered after the enquiry process is completely over.

7. Salary of two faculty members who were suspended but were reinstated on the decision of the 38th BOM should be released immediately. Administration should ensure that such abnormal delays in payment of salaries be avoided as far as practicable.

Resolution: Salary of Dr. Pandab Patro, Asst. Professor in Mechanical Engineering and Dr. P.K. Das Asst. Professor in Information Technology during the period of their second suspension will be released.

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09.6.2021
(Smt. Upama Kalo)
Registrar
Convener-cum-Secretary

VC
09.06.2021
(Prof. B.B. Pati)
Vice-Chancellor
Chairman