



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AGARTALA
WEST TRIPURA, PIN: 799055

*Minutes of the 27th (Special) Meeting of the
Board of Governors
held on July 25, 2013*

At Conference Room of NIT Transit House, New Delhi

The 27th (Special) meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on July 25, 2013 (Thursday) at 3:30 pm in the Conference Room of NIT Transit House, New Delhi.

Prof. P. N. Singh, Chairman of the Board of Governors (BoG), NIT Agartala, presided over the meeting.

The following members were present in the meeting :

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| (1) Prof. P. N. Singh | : Chairman, BoG of NIT Agartala. |
| (2) Prof. P. K. Bose | : Member, Director of NIT, Agartala |
| (3) Shri Yogendra Tripathi | : Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor,
MHRD, Govt. of India, |
| (4) Shri K. Ambuly | : Invitee, Secretary to the Govt. of Tripura,
Dept. of Higher Education |
| (5) Shri Rajesh Singh | : Director, NITs, MHRD, Govt. of India |
| (6) Prof. Nitindra Nath Som | : Member, Former Professor of Jadavpur
University. |
| (7) Prof. Sekhar Datta | : Member, Principal, Tripura Institute of
Technology. |
| (8) Dr. R. P. Sharma | : Member, Professor, Civil Engineering
Dept., NIT Agartala. |
| (9) Shri. John Deb Barma | : Member, Assistant Professor, Mechanical
Engineering Dept., NIT Agartala. |
| (10) Shri Sumanta Chakrabarti | : Secretary, Registrar, NIT, Agartala |

Shri Tridip Chakraborty, Principal, Women's Polytechnic, Government of Tripura, could not attend the meeting.

The Chairman, Board of Governors of NIT Agartala and the Director, NIT Agartala, welcomed Shri Yogendra Tripathi, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor,

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Shri Rajesh Singh, Director, NITs and Shri Kishore Ambuly, Secretary, Higher Education, Govt. of Tripura and the other Members of the BoG.

The Chairman, Board of Governors then invited the Director, NIT Agartala and the Registrar (I/C) to initiate discussion on agenda items.

Item No. 27.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of 26th Board of Governors Meeting.

The minutes of the 26th Board of Governors meeting held on June 18, 2013 were circulated among the members for comments/ observations. No comments were received from the Board Members. The minutes of the 26th Board of Governors meeting was confirmed. The action taken report of the 26th Board of Governors meeting will be placed in the next BoG meeting.

Item No. 27.2: Issue relating to discontinuation of the services of (i) Dr. Bidyut Kumar Bhattacharyya, (ii) Dr. Harwant Singh Chhabra and (iii) Dr. S.K. Mukhopadhyay.

The Board of Governors of NIT Agartala was apprised about the discontinuation of services of (i) Dr. Bidyut Kumar Bhattacharyya, (ii) Dr. Harwant Singh Chhabra and (iii) Dr. S.K. Mukhopadhyay, issued by the Director, NIT Agartala vide Orders No.F.NITA.2.2(68-Estt)/Contd/2012/2871-76, dated 27.6.2013, (ii) No.F.NITA.2.2(71-Estt)/Contd/2012/2922-27, dated 28.6.2013 and (iii) No.F.NITA.2.2(67-Estt)/Contd/2012/2852-55, dated 26.6.2013 respectively. The BoG was also apprised of the circumstances in which the discontinuation orders were issued.

The BoG has also carefully perused the order dated 10.07.2013 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Tripura in CM Appl. 224 of 2013 arising out of WP (C) No.200 of 2013 filed by Dr. Bidyut Kumar Bhattacharyya, the orders dated 19.07.2013 passed in WP (C) No.206 of 2013 in the case of Dr. Harwant Singh Chhabra and in WP (C) No.207 of 2013 passed in the case of Dr. S.K. Mukhopadhyay.

In future to avoid recurrence of omission of credential of appointees, the BoG ordered the Director to do needful to verify all necessary original documents as regards to eligibility qualifications of candidates at the time of selection and before submitting joining report to NITA.

The BoG further resolved to fix up the responsibility of lapses on overlooking the essential qualifications and other credentials while selecting the candidates and before reporting for duty in the institute.

Pursuant to the said orders of the Hon'ble High Court, the BoG has discussed the issue of discontinuation of the incumbents named above and have arrived at the following conclusion and decision in the cases of said three incumbents individually in the following manner –

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- a) **Regarding Dr. Bidyut Kumar Bhattacharyya :** There is huge shortage of Professor and Senior Faculty in all Departments of NIT Agartala. Due to exigency and number of vacancies at the level of Professor as reported by the Chairman, Selection Committee, the Selection Committee members opined to take some faculty on contractual basis for managing the upcoming semester classes. Without scrutinizing the details relevant qualification of Dr. Bidyut Kumar Bhattacharyya, he was interviewed over phone from USA. The Selection Committee noticed that some of his publication in IEEE giving an impression that he might be suitable as Professor of Electrical Engineering without verifying the relevance of his essential degrees whether suitable for the that post or not, which is a lapse on the part of the Selection Committee. Dr. Bhattacharyya does not have any relevant qualification to act as a Professor of Electrical Engineering, his all essential degree e.g. B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D are in Physics and does not have 10 years of teaching experience which is an essential experience for the post of Professor. Dr. Bhattacharyya did not supervise any Ph.D. scholar in his service period which is also an essential requirement to become a Professor of the concerned Department.

The fact came under question when two applications under the RTI Act 2005 were received by NITA. The said information, therefore, was of great concern for the Director, NITA who is responsible to administer the affairs of the Institution including the academic interest of the students. So, when the interest of the students was of paramount consideration, no third issue can supersede the same. The BoG is also of the view that whenever such a lapse is detected, it is the responsibility of the concerned authority to rectify the same and thereby, the continuation of Dr. Bhattacharyya in the post of Professor of Electrical Engineering was rightly found of no use for the students of said branch.

As per the Statute of NIT under section 27 the services of the temporary employee shall be liable to termination at any time by notice of one month in writing given either by the employee to the appointing authority or by the appointing authority to the employee for all.

The BoG resolved to give Dr. Bhattacharyya one month notice for termination of his appointment and the order be issued by the Director immediately.

- (b) **Regarding Dr. Harwant Singh Chhabra :** The BoG has carefully gone through the order of the Hon'ble High Court dated 19-7-2013 and the other relevant records placed before the BoG by NITA and found that NITA has received a letter from MHRD vide No.7/7/2013 dated 10-6-2013 wherein it is noticed that Dr. Chhabra ex-faculty of RGIM, Shillong used to send frequent complaints against the Director I/C of the said Institution seeking her immediate removal and while making such complaints Dr. Chhabra used his designation as Dean Academic, Chairman, Placement

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and Professor of Marketing and Strategy, Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, actually when he was working in NITA.

In the said letter of MHRD, the NITA was requested to look into the matter and to take appropriate action as per rules.

It is further revealed from the note dated 28.6.2013 of the Dean (Academics) that Dr. Chhabra in the capacity of Head of the School of Management has avoided taking of classes in the class routine prepared by him which was totally undesirable from the Head of a Faculty, particularly when the said person is very much interested in pursuing for various facilities.

The BoG considers that the role of a teacher of a prestigious Institution like NITA should not be unbecoming of a teacher and one should not avoid his basic responsibility of taking classes as Head of a particular branch, brushing aside the interest of the students for whose interest he was engaged particularly when he is found serious for his personal benefits.

This gross negligence of duties and impersonating behavior of Prof. Chhabra alone should be enough to terminate his services without giving any notice. However, keeping in view the Section 27 of the NIT Statute, the BoG resolved to give Prof. Chhabra one month notice for termination of his appointment. The order of termination be issued by the Director immediately.

- (c) **Regarding Dr. S.K. Mukhopadhyay :** In the case of Dr. S.K. Mukhopadhyay it has been found that at the time of engagement he was 72 years when the age of re-employment even on contract basis can be made up to 70 years as per norms and that is found to be the reason behind the issuance of the order of discontinuation when the said fact came under question after an application under RTI Act, 2005 was filed by someone questioning his engagement on ground of age.

It is to be noted that Dr. Mukhopadhyay was appointed on contractual basis with a consolidated pay for a period of one year, i.e. up to November 2013. Due to shortage of faculty at senior level Dr. Mukhopadhyay was given appointment though he was overaged. As Dr. Mukhopadhyay is performing his duties and teaching assignments satisfactorily. BoG resolved to allow the continuation of service of Dr. Mukhopadhyay in the NITA till completion of his contractual tenure of one year on special consideration.

The BoG was informed that a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Nitindra Nath Som was constituted as per the decision of 25th BoG meeting held on November 18, 2012 under the agenda item no. 25.8.3 to prepare a check list and

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develop a mechanism to scrutinize the documents submitted by the candidates, on or before appearing for the interview and or before joining the duty on selection. The BoG resolved that this committee will lay down the norms for all appointments including contractual/ temporary/Visiting Professors at the earliest to prevent recurrence of lapses in terms of eligibility qualifications and age etc.

Item No. 27.3: T.A. and D.A. of Prof. (Dr) P.K. Bose, Director, NIT Agartala for attending Court Cases even after relinquishment of charges of Director, NIT Agartala.

BoG resolved to pay Prof. (Dr.) P.K. Bose TA/DA as and when his services are required to attend the court cases related to NIT Agartala in official capacity as former Director of NIT, Agartala.

Item No. 27.4: Allowing Prof. (Dr.) P. K. Bose, Director, NIT Agartala to attend 12th International Conference of Sustainable Energy Technologies (SET 2013) at Hong Kong, China under TEQIP-II fund.

The BoG resolved not to accept the proposal. However Prof. Bose in his personal capacity may approach NPIU for financial assistances.

Item No. 27.5: To consider the job assigned by the Director to different employees of NIT Agartala for ratification of the Board.

The BoG noted the item.


Item No. 27.6: Issue relating to engagement of Legal Adviser and Counselor for NIT Agartala.


The BoG suggested that the Institute should prepare a panel of legal advisors along with the resume of each name suggested. The list be placed before the next meeting of BoG for its approval.

Item No. 27.7: Any other item with permission of the Chair.

There was no item for discussion.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Sumanta Chakrabarti)
Secretary, Board of Governors
& Registrar (i/c), NIT Agartala


(Prof. P. N. Singh)
Chairman, Board of Governors
NIT Agartala