



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AGARTALA
WEST TRIPURA, PIN: 799016

*Minutes of the 28th (Special) Meeting of the
Board of Governors
held on December 10, 2013*

At Conference Room of NIT Agartala

The 28th (Special) meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on December 10, 2013 (Tuesday) at 10:00 am in the Conference Room of NIT Agartala.

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 :

- (1) Prof. P. N. Singh : Chairman, BOG of NIT Agartala.
- (2) Prof. S. C. Saha : Member, Director (i/c) of NIT, Agartala
- (3) Shri K. Ambuly : Member, Secretary to the Govt. of Tripura, Dept. of Higher Education.
- (4) Shri Rajesh Singh : Director (NITs), MHRD, Govt. of India (Representative of Joint Secretary (Technical Education), Dept. of Higher Education, MHRD).
- (5) Prof. Nilindra Nath Som : Member, Former Professor of Jadavpur University.
- (6) Prof. Sekhar Datta : Member, Principal, Tripura Institute of Technology.
- (7) Shri Satpal Sharma : Under Secretary, IFD, MHRD, Govt. of India, (Representative of Financial Advisor, Dept. of Higher Education, MHRD).
- (8) Dr. R. P. Sharma : Member, Professor, Civil Engineering Dept., NIT Agartala.
- (9) Shri. John Debbarma : Member, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering Dept., NIT Agartala.
- (10) Shri Sumanta Chakrabarti : Secretary, Registrar (i/c), NIT, Agartala

Prof. A. Srinivasan, Dean of Faculty Affairs, IIT, Guwahati and Prof. (Mrs) Uma Bhattacharya, Department of Computer Science and Technology, BESU, Shibpur could not attend the meeting.

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The Chairman, Board of Governors of NIT Agartala and the Director (i/c), NIT Agartala, welcomed the Members of the BOG in the 28th (Special) meeting of Board of Governors.

The BoG observed one minute silence in the memory of Late Rahul Kumar, a student of BE 3rd Semester, Electronics & Communication Engineering Dept.. It was resolved that a Condolence Message on behalf of the Board of the Governors, NITA, will be sent by Prof. S.C. Saha, Director (i/c), NITA, to the family of Late Rahul Kumar.

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

Item No.28.1: *Students unrest at NIT Agartala and subsequent development.*

At the outset the Board took the stalk of the incidents from the Director (i/c), NIT Agartala, that took place on 04, 05 & 06 December, 2013 at AGMC & GBP Hospital premises at Agartala and in the Institute campus because of the sad demise of Late Rahul Kumar. Shri Kishore Ambuly, Secretary to the Government of Tripura, Department of Higher Education, placed a report on the grievances submitted by the students of NIT Agartala to the Government of Tripura through the District Magistrate & Collector, West Tripura District.

The BoG, appreciated and thanked the State Government and particularly the District Administration and the Police for giving all-round support and help to NIT Agartala during the incident and to bring back the normalcy in the Institute.

After thread bare discussion, the following decisions were taken :

(1) While appreciating the personal and family commitment due to medical reasons of Prof. Gopal Mugeraya, Director, NIT Agartala, the BoG felt that in such a situation the physical presence of the Director in the institute is necessary and requested him to join the Institute at the earliest.

(2) The BoG appreciated the steps and initiatives taken up by the Director (i/c), Registrar (i/c), Deans, faculty members and staff and thanked them for the action already taken by them. BoG authorized the Director to take appropriate action to bring back the normalcy in the Institute.

(3) While appreciating the anguish of the students, the BoG strongly expressed its displeasure to the unruly behaviour of a section of students. The BoG requested both faculties and students to rise up to the occasion to face the challenges for a growing institute.

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(4) BoG resolved to constitute 2 (Two) Committees to look after the demands of the students and over all development of the Institute, namely - (1) Administrative Reforms & Campus Development Committee; and (2) Academic Development Committee.

(A) Administrative Reforms & Campus Development Committee :

This Committee is constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Kishore Ambuly, Secretary to the Government of Tripura, Higher Education Dept. & Member, BoG, and the Registrar (i/c), NITA will act as Convener of the Committee. The other Members of the Committee will be co-opted in consultation with Prof. S.C. Saha, Director (i/c).

The Terms of reference of the Committee :

- (i) Decentralization of power among the Director, Deans and HoDs;
- (ii) Transparency in the system;
- (iii) Simplified Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Faculty/Non-faculty and students benefit as a charter;
- (iv) Periodical health check-up/screening and maintaining of health data base of all students;
- (v) Full-fledged health care facilities for students, faculties and staff;
- (vi) Overview the planning, integrated development and landscape of the campus including medical facilities;
- (vii) Any other issue;

(B) Academic Development Committee :

This Committee is constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Nitindra Nath Som, Former Professor of Jadavpur University & Member, BoG, and the Dean (Academic), NITA will act as the Convener of the Committee. Other members of the Committee may be co-opted by the Director (i/c) in consultation with Prof. Nitindra Nath Som and the terms of reference of the Committee will be finalised by Prof. Som in consultation with Prof. S.C. Saha, Director (i/c), NIT Agartala.

(5) The BoG resolved that the grievances expressed by the students to the Government of Tripura and the District Magistrate & Collector, West Tripura Dist. would be addressed and necessary steps would be taken to solve the problems as early as possible. The BoG expressed serious concern on the grievances raised by the students and suggested on the following :

- a) Behaviours of the staff of Controller of Examination and Academic Section need review;
- b) The process for giving stipend needs to be simplified, the officials working in the Section should deal with the students with polite manner and more staff to be engaged;
- c) The frequency of buses presently operated by Tripura Urban Development Transport Company Ltd. should be increased and the

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Secretary to the Govt. of Tripura, Higher Education & Transport Departments be requested to take necessary measures.

- d) Dean (SW), Chief Warden, Wardens and Asst. Wardens are to visit all the hostels regularly. Wardens and Asst. Wardens of the respective hostels are to spend in the hostel at least 2-3 hours daily and give patient hearing to the problems of the students and necessary action should be taken up to solve the problems immediately. Strict vigilance and monitoring should be enforced by the Wardens, Asst. Wardens and Supervisors to maintain the quality of food in the mess and to see that vegetarian and non-vegetarian food is not mixed to each other.
- e) Adequate sports equipment are to be supplied to the students. Foot-ball and Sports facilities are to be constructed.
- f) Iron-removal plant in each hostel is to be installed for distribution of water.

(6) Necessary steps should be taken up for involving students actively in Mess and hostel management.

(7) One of the honorable members of the BoG informed that the State Government is having specific information that some faculty members and a few students provoked and instigated the students towards unruly behaviours. Such of the faculty members and students involved need to be identified and immediate action must be taken against them. The BoG asked the Director to constitute an Inquiry Committee to identify the faculty members who provoked and instigated the students. The Inquiry Committee should submit the report at the earliest to the Authority of NIT Agartala. The findings of the Inquiry Committee be placed in the next BoG meeting for needful action.

(8) BoG resolved to form a Fact Finding Committee on the incident of December 04, 2013 causing the sad demise of Late Rahul Kumar under the Chairmanship of Prof. Sekhar Dutta, Principal, Tripura Institute of Technology & Member, Board of Governors, NITA, and Shri John Debbarma, Asst. Professor, NIT Agartala & Member, BoG, as Convener of the Committee. Other members of the Committee and some student representatives may be co-opted by the Chairman and the Convener. The terms of reference of this Committee --

- i) Delayed response in terms of providing ambulance.
- ii) Reported negligence in duties by Medical Officer and other staff who were on duty in the Medical Unit.
- iii) Reasons for agitation, instigation and provocation, and
- iv) To suggest remedial measures.
- v) Any other issue.

(9) The BoG resolved to decentralize of powers among the Director, Deans and HoDs. In this regard the Delegation of Financial Rules from other Institutes may be obtained for preparing the Delegation of Financial Rules of NITA. However, the BoG resolved to delegate power of spending amount up to Rs.50,000.00/-

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(Rupees fifty lakhs) only to the Director for different works subject to the budget provision and following the normal procedure and Government of India norms.

(10) The BoG resolved that NITA should strive for filling up faculty and non-faculty positions maintaining 200 point reservation roster. The RRs approved by the NIT Council for the non-faculty positions is approved by the BoG. However, till the recruitment of all non-teaching staff, qualified personnel on contract basis may be engaged to fulfill the present requirement of NITA.

(11) Due to sad demise of Rahul Kumar, a 2nd year student of ECE Department who was residing in Gomati Hostel, a total student unrest took place at NIT Agartala campus from 4th December onwards, students gheraoed the administration and demanded immediate renovation of all three old hostels. District Administration also intervened in this regard and advised to accept one of the demands to renovate the Gomati, Dhalai and Howrah Hostels on war-footing basis within a month's time. The decision of renovation of all three old hostels was taken in presence of the District Magistrate & Collector, West Tripura District, Superintendent of Police, West Tripura and other State Government officials to control the agitation of the students. The Board resolves to approve all initiatives taken by the Director (i/c) to bring the situation under control.

The BoG considering the prevailing situation due to students' unrest, approved the proposal for immediate renovation of Gomati Hostel on war-footing basis by M/S NCCL who has been working in NITA as an exceptional and emergent case at a cost of Rs.49,45,585/- as recommended by the 30th BWC meeting held on 09.12.2013.

The repairing/renovation of other two old hostels namely, Dhalai and Howrah will be given to the Rural Development Department, Government of Tripura, as a deposit work. The Secretary to the Govt. of Tripura, Department of Higher Education, agreed to co-ordinate the matter so that the RD Department would take up the works on priority basis and complete the same at the earliest.

(12) The BoG resolved that Medical Unit of NITA should be strengthened and required Medical Officers and para-medical staff to be engaged and adequate infrastructural facilities should be given immediately to make it functional in a proper way.

(13). The Board resolved to create a post of Dean (Grievance Redressal & Counsellor). The Dean (Grievance Redressal & Counsellor) will address the issues of all grievances of the students, faculties, staff and report to the appropriate authority for taking up necessary action.

(14) The BoG resolved that to bring transparency in the system, Agenda Notes and Minutes of BoG, Finance Committee, Building & Works Committee, Senate,

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Notifications, Office Orders, Purchase Orders, Work Orders, etc. will be uploaded in the NITA Website.

(15) It was brought to the notice of the Board by a few honorable members that many courses have been started without having created the additional infrastructures to meet the need. Hence, there is a need to review the intake and suspension of admission to some of the courses for the time being until infrastructure is created. The Board noted the views expressed by the members and decided that the matters need the consideration of Senate, this be discussed and decision be taken by the Senate before bringing the matter before the Board.

(16) The BoG resolved that the temporary shops presently operating in the campus should be shifted in the market complex already constructed at an early date. The Secretary, Higher Education Dept., Government of Tripura, has been requested to take necessary steps to expedite the matter of shifting of the shops to the market complex and the matter related to construction of another floor in the market complex by the RD Department, Government of Tripura as a deposit work on turnkey basis.

(17) The BoG resolved that for landscaping work in the campus, Department of Horticulture, Government of Tripura may be approached and the Secretary, Government of Tripura, Higher Education Dept. may take up the matter with the Government of Tripura.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA
(On table discussion)

Addl. Item No.28.1: *Representation submitted by Dr. Sudhan Debnath in connection with the direction passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Tripura by Order dated October 09, 2013 in WP (C) 526 of 2012.*

The Board of Governors, NIT Agartala, carefully perused the Order passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Tripura dated October 09, 2013 in WP (C) 526 of 2012 and views of the Department of Chemistry, NIT Agartala.

At present 2 Associate Professors and 2 Assistant Professors are working in the Department of Chemistry out of which three(3) are having Specialization in Organic Chemistry and one(1) in In-organic Chemistry. There is no faculty member presently in the Department of Chemistry from the Physical Chemistry specialization. The department presently require faculty members from the Specialization in Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry. It was also suggested by the HoD, Chemistry Department that while recruiting faculties, the specialization in Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry may be given

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preference to meet the requirement of faculties in the Department and also run the classes of M.Sc. in the event of opening of M.Sc. courses in the Department of Chemistry.


At present only one post of Associate Professor is lying vacant in the Department of Chemistry and there is no chance of getting more post in the Department in near future. So, appointment of Dr. Sudhan Debnath having the Specialization in Organic Chemistry cannot be considered and the process for recruitment of faculties having Specialization in Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry should be initiated immediately considering the academic interest of the students of NIT Agartala.

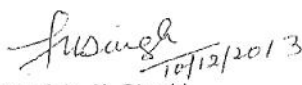
On perusal of the Order dated 09-10-2012 of the Hon'ble High Court of Tripura, the representation submitted by Dr. Sudhan Debnath and also the Note submitted by HoD, Chemistry Department, it has been decided by the Board of Governors that one post of Associate Professor which is lying vacant will be filled up by the person having Specialization in Physical Chemistry/Inorganic Chemistry and accordingly, representation submitted by Dr. Sudhan Debnath to appoint him as Associate Professor is rejected.

Addl. Item No. 28.2: *To consider the Audit Report on the accounts of the Institute for the year 2012-13.*

The BOG perused and noted the Audit Report on the accounts of the Institute for the year 2012-13 submitted by the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, Office of the Accountant General (Audit), Tripura.

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