

NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCED AND TECHNOLOGY
NIRJULI :: ITANAGAR :: ARUNACHAL PRADESH
(Deemed University)

MINUTES

OF
80TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 30.5.2014 AT 10.00 AM IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF IIT GUWAHATI

The following were present:

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| 1) Air Marshal (Retd.) Pranab Kumar Barbora | - | Chairman |
| 2) Prof.Dipankar Pal Director NERIST | - | Member |
| 3) Dr.Nobin Soi Nominee of JS(IFD),MHRD | - | Member |
| 4) Shri D.P.Singh, US(T) Nominee of JS(TEL),MHRD | - | Member |
| 5) Shri E.P.Kharbhih,Commissioner and Secretary,Higher Education , Govt. Of Meghalaya,Shillong | - | Member |
| 6) Er. Arjun Singh, Addl. Director, , Nominee of Commissioner, Education,Government of Nagaland,Kohima | - | Member |
| 7) Dr.L.Joyprakash Singh ,Associate Professor,NEHU,Shillong | - | Member |
| 8) Prof.R.M.Pant, Dean (Acad), NERIST | - | Member |
| 9) Prof.M.Muralidhar, Dean (P&D), NERIST | - | Member |
| 10) Prof.P.R.Alapati, Dean (SA), NERIST | - | Member |
| 11) Prof.P.K.Das, Department of Maths, NERIST | - | Member |
| 12) Dr.A.S.Rai, Associate Professor, Department of Maths., NERIST | - | Member |
| 13) Dr.B.K.Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Maths, NERIST | - | Member |
| 14) Dr.R.P.Bhattacharjee, Registrar, NERIST | - | -Non-Member Secretary. |

The following members could not attend the meeting and they were granted leave by the Chairman BoM. They are :-

- 1) The Commissioner/Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Mizoram.
- 2) The Commissioner/Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Sikkim.
- 3) The Commissioner/Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Manipur.
- 4) The Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Tripura.
- 5) The Commissioner/Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Assam.
- 6) The Commissioner/Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Govt.of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 7) Lt. Gen(Dr.) D. D. S. Sandhu, Vice Chancellor, Kurushetra University.

At the outset Air Marshal (Retd.) Pranab kumar Barbora Chairman Board of Management welcomed all the members. Before taking up the agenda items for discussion, the Chairman invited two organisations to make their video presentations before the members.

- M/s. Zeolite Fresh Pvt. Ltd had given its presentation on 'RO' water treatment plant. They highlighted the cost-effectiveness of the supply of pure drinking water in 20L plastic can to the students and residents living in the NERIST CAMPUS. Expressing the importance of supply of pure drinking water at affordable cost, the Chairman advised the organization to

submit complete details along with cost of installation, maintenance and operation. The Director, NERIST, assigned the job with the Dean (P&D) for collecting details, working out the administrative/ financial aspects and preparing an appropriate proposal jointly with this organization/ other similar organisations within in reasonable time.

- M/s.Jaro Education gave its presentation on a proposal of introducing distance-education MS programme in IT/CSE, to start with, in partnership with NERIST. The unique programme that targets the young pass-outs and middle level professionals for their 2nd / higher degree will facilitate training and placement. It was proposed that while the curricula, examination system, methodology of teaching-learning and laboratory practice would be vetted by NERIST, enrolment and conducting the programme would be the responsibility of M/s Jaro Education. The degree will be given by NERIST and the two organizations shall run the programme jointly on a revenue sharing basis. After the presentation, Chairman, BoM said that the programme is very exciting but modalities must be submitted with detailed proposal to the Director NERIST for examination. It was resolved that the Dean (Acad) shall act as the modal office to collaborate with M/s Jaro Education further to get workable details on a time bound basis.

After the above presentation, the agenda items were taken for discussion one by one and the following were resolved:

Item No.80.01: To confirm the Minutes of the 79th Meeting of the Board of Management held on 30.09.2013.

(Director NERIST said that the minutes of the 79th Board of Management held on 22.1.2014 were circulated to all members vide letter No.RR-19(79)BOM/2013 dated 11.02.2014 and no comments received from any member.)

Resolution: The minutes of the 79th Board of Management meeting was confirmed .

Item No.80.02: Action Taken Report of the 79th BoM.

[The action taken report of the 79th BOM meeting was placed for consideration]

- Members enquired about the old pension scheme for NERIST. Members from MHRD reiterated that Ministry of Finance categorically denied the old pension scheme earlier for the NERIST employees and MHRD is trying for alternative and this effort is in the progress. As a part of alternative source, MHRD has approached the DONER ministry for one time fund. Dr. N. Soi, from IFD further clarified on the provision of a separate allocation under pension scheme in a recent communication from MHRD that it was common format application for all institutions whether or not they re covered under old pension scheme. The allocation should therefore be treated as non-plan fund without any specific implication to the old pension scheme for NERIST.

Resolution: The Action Taken Report on the minutes of 79th Board of Management was noted.

Item No.80.03: To consider the minutes of the 40th FC meeting held on 29.05.2014.

(Chairman asked the members to go through the 40th FC meeting minutes held on 29.5.2014 which was circulated to all the members on the table of the house and sought their comments. After going through the 40th FC minutes by the members, no comment was made by any member in the house)

Resolution: The Minutes of the Meeting of 40th Finance Committee held on 29.5.2014 was approved by the Board of Management.

Item No.80.04: To consider the report of CAS Anomalies.

(Members acknowledged the report on CAS-anomalies by the external one-man committee of Prof Gautam Barua ,IIT Guwahti. The IFD from the administrative ministry expressed that the matter be discussed "in light of the report of the external experts'. Dr. P. R. Alapati, member, informed that he had given his comments on the said report to Chairman. However as the comments reached Director-Cell after both the Director and Chairman had left station (NERIST) on official tour, the same could not be distributed to the members for observations before the meeting.

It was also noticed that some potential beneficiaries, namely, Mr. Ranendra Prasad, Dr. Sukumar Baisya, Dr. S.K. Bhagat and Mr. S. Mahto have submitted a joint representation challenging that the said report and describing it as "flawed". Since their representation reached the Chairman minutes before the meeting started the Chairman decided that it needs more time so study and requested all members to go through it carefully so that it could be discussed in detail in the next meeting of the Board of Management. On this issue the Chairman further raised serious objection to such representations reaching him minutes before the meeting. It was also felt inappropriate as the representations from Mr. Ranendra Prasad and 3-others were selectively given to some members and did not reach all the members although it was marked to "members, NERIST BOM".

It was also noted that while Mr. Ranendra Prasad and 3-others have given representations, some of them have also gone to court technically thereby making the issue under sub-judice for a decision by the BOM).

Resolution: The Board of Management resolved that the report from the external-expert (Prof. Gautam Brua) and comments from members vis a vis the representation of Mr. Ranendra Prasad and 3-others (which shall be made available to all the members to whom it did not reach) be studied, examined and placed in the next meeting of the Board of Management for decision.

Item No.80.05: To consider MACP based on promotion – reg.

(Chairman, BoM asked the comments of MHRD representatives for their views.. The two MHRD representatives stressed that the rules regarding MACP do not allow promotional GP and that the comments received in writing from the MHRD in this regard should be taken into consideration. As per the clarification contained in DOPT O.M. No. 35034/3/2008-Estt (D) dated 9th September, 2010, the up-gradation under MACP is to be granted in the immediate next higher grade pay in the hierarchy of recommended revised pay band and grade pay as prescribed in the CGS (RP) Rules

2008. In other words when an employee is granted MACP he will be given the next higher pay scale as contained in the first schedule , part A , Section-I of CCS(RP) Rules-2008, and not the higher grade pay attached in the promotional post”.

Prof.P.K.Das, then Director Incharge, who was in the house as a member admitted that no approval was taken from BoM while granting promotional GP in some of the cases during his tenure. He however clarified that the MSACP was given in his tenure after getting approval from MACP Committee with an undertaking tht if any additional amount was paid, it should be recoverable from the employee. The MHRD representatives said that there was no problem to recover the additional amount since undertaking was taken from the employees.

The MHRD members further said that (i) payment at promotional GP should be stopped immediately (ii) corrective action should be taken for recovering the excess payment made to the employees and (iii) responsibility may be fixed for the grant of MACP at promotional GP as made earlier in violation of the rule. Further they also said that a committee may be constituted to work out the modality to rcover the excess payment paid to the employees so that it may not become a burdent them. Chairman and all members accepted the views of the MHRD.

Resolution : The Board of Management resolved to recover the excess payments made to the employees who were given promotional grade pay in the MACP instead of the prescribed next grade pay under the MACP in the 6th CPC. it also resolved to immediately stop payment being made at the rate of promotional GP to those employees. It was further decided to constitute a committee to work out the employee-wise excess payment made and to recover such sum from from employees in easy instalments so that the burden on the employees become marginal.

Item No.80.06: To consider conversion of workers engaged on Hand Receipt to Temporary Status.

(Chairman said that wages of these hand receipt employees were enhanced recently as per resolution in the last meeting of the Board of Management, taking into account of the present cost of living and again, now, they are seeking conversion from hand receipt to temporary status through their association. He once again asked for the comments of MHRD members on this.

Both the MHRD members said that the comments already sent by the Ministry in this regard should be taken into consideration. They added that the proposal for conversion of hand receipt employees (i.e., daily wagers) to temporary status employees may not be agreed to since it may result in complications in further as the temporary employees may demand permanency. As it is already there are huge number of excess non-faculty employees (i.e. over and above the prescribed ratio) in NERIST, Itanagar. All such cases have to be handled in accordance with the guidelines given by Supreme Court in the Uma Devi case)

Resolution: The Board of Management did not accept the proposal for conversion of Hand Receipt Employees to Temporary Status employees in consideration of the comments from Ministry. It was further decided that all such cases have to be handled in accordance with the guidelines given by Supreme Court in Uma Devi case.

Item No.80.07: To consider the permission to construct a Donyi-polo temporary Community Hall nearby Type – I area.

(On being asked by the Chairman, the Registrar said that a representation has been received from General Secretary, MAALC, NERIST to construct a Donyi-Polo Temporary Community Hall nearby Type-I area for festival of all Mishing Community. Both the Ministry members said that the comments already sent by the Ministry in this regard should be taken into consideration. The commented that construction of Community Hall for one particular community in the NERIST Campus should be discouraged as this may lead to similar demands from other communities and it may not be possible to accommodate all of them. The proposal may, therefore, not to be agreed in its present form. Members said that after construction of Utility Centre, The Community Hall proposed there-in may be given on rent for celebrating religious functions/festivals. . Till then no permission should be given this type of constructions in the NERIST campus.)

Resolution: - The Board of Management did not accept the proposal.

Item No.80.08: To consider the deputation of Dr.Binay Singh ,Professor, Department of Forestry.

(On the being asked by the Chairman, the Registrar informed that the request of the Prof. Binay Singh was turned down as Prof. Binay Singh had already availed more than eight years of deputation different spells. Even the MHRD had categorically instructed the Director NERIST to ask Dr. Singh for immediate repartition or start disciplinary proceedings in the event of the later failing to comply with it. Now Prof. Binay Singh is seeking again another term of deputation even after availing of eight years of deputation service to join NIRD, Guwahati as Director. As per CCS Rules, an employee can avail only seven years of service on deputation in his entire service span. Member from MHRD agreed that rules must be followed for everyone alike and if rule does not permit, the request may be denied. All members also agreed the views of the MHRD members.)

Resolution: The requests of the Prof.Binay Singh for yet another spell of deputation at NIRD, Guwahat as Director was regretted by the Board of Management.

Item No.80.09: To consider Narayana Super-speciality as a referred Hospital Guwahati.

(On being asked by the Chairman, the Registrar informed that employees of NERIST prefer a referral hospital at Guwahati and both the Downtown and Narayana Super Speciality hospital in Guwahati were approached . Since Downtown is asking one time deposit the Institute may prefer Narayan Hospital as referred Hospital for treatment. The matter is placed for consideration of BOM. Chairman asked the comment of the MHRD members on this issue. Both the MHRD members said that the comments sent by the Ministry in this regard should be taken into consideration. MHRD

members suggested that payment should be made to Hospitals as per CGHS / CSMA rates. All the members appreciated the proposal.

Further some internal members stressed that NERIST should have its own Medical Board for referring cases to outside hospitals instead of DHS, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh approval. They added that DHS people often say that there is no need of DHS approval for NERIST employees as NERIST is a Govt. of India Institute. Director requested for constitute a Medical Board at NERIST itself in order to send serious patients immediately after taking permission from the Medical Board to outside hospitals without delay.

Chairman said that this matter should be examined and be brought in the next Board of Management for consideration.)

Resolution: The Board of Management accepted the Narayana Super-speciality Hospital, Guwahati as a referral hospital.

Item No.80.10: To consider Amendment in PDA rules.

(Chairman asked the Director to explain the item. Director said that in one block year a faculty is eligible of Rs. 1.00 lakh for utilising under PDA. If not utilised, it will be carried forward to next year in a block of three years and the unspent balance will automatically be lapsed after three years. He added that here the request of the faculty is, if a faculty wants to go to international conference etc, and if the expenditure more than Rs. one lakh, the remaining amount may borrowed from the next year's PDA budget, for both 1st and 2nd year in block year period, for which minor modification is sought in the Section 'C' Clause 4. All Members agreed for modification of the Clause 4 in Section 'C'.)

Resolution: The Board of Management approved to amend the Section 'C' Clause 4 instead of "During the first year of any block period" to "During the first and second year of any block period".

Item No.80.11: Any other item with permission of the Chair. (Additional Agenda)

Item No.80.11.01: To report the status of NERIST TEQP – II MHRD World Bank Project.

(Prof. Muralidhar Coordinator (TEQIP) read out for consideration of the progress report of NERIST TEQIP II and also Plan expenditure as per IDP with quarterly break up (April – June July – Sept. And October – December 2014 and the Audit Report of April 2013 – March 2014. He also said that NERIST BoM Self assessment report as per NPIU proforma duly filled in and placed at Annexure IV for information and also updated performance assessment of NERIST is presented at Annexure V.)

Resolution: The members noted the status report of NERIST TEQIP II as reported by the Coordinator TEQIP.

Item No.80.11.02: To ratify the approval of fee reimbursement for M.Tech. students and to allow display of BoM minutes on NERIST web site.

(Prof. M. Muralidhar, Coordinator, TEQIP said that fee reimbursement for M.Tech. students, part-time Ph.D faculty, staff and conference expenses reimbursement for students was approved by the Chairman BoM. Now it is placed as a reporting item for approval of the BoM. Further, he also said that as per the NPIU guidelines, the decision of the BoM (Minutes) are to be displayed on the NERIST website, which was approved by the Director, NERIST and now placed as a reporting item for consideration.)

Resolution: The Board of Management noted and approved both the proposals.

Item No.80.11.03: To re-consider conversion of concerned employees from 1/30th to temporary status.

(On being asked by the Chairman, the Registrar said that some 1/30th status employees were converted from 1/30th status to temporary status during 75th BOM meeting but Shir Katinath Basumatory and 15 others knocked the door of the Hon'ble High Gauhati court for consideration of their promotion retrospectively. The Hon'ble Court directed that conversion of Temporary Status was a one time matter as on 01.09.1993 and hence the Hon'ble Court directed to dispose of the representation submitted by the appellant and others within 3 months. The Hon'ble Court mentioned that the scheme is not a ongoing process. Members opined to implement the court order)

Resolution: The Board of Management decided to comply with the Court Order only.

Item No.80.11.04: To consider the AICTE nominee on the BoG/BoM NERIST an amend to MoA – reg.

(Registrar said that recently a letter received from the AICTE vide No. AICTE/UB/36/NEQIP/Aru/Deg/NERIST wherein it was clearly mentioned provision given under Appendix 19 of approval process hand book all AICTE approved Institutions/School of Technical Education/Departments of Universities must have a nominee of AICTE Member on its BoG/BoM. In this connection an amendment is required in the Memorandum of Association of NERIST. The power to do amendment of Memorandum of Association is vested with MHRD. MHRD members said that a letter should be written by NERIST seeking amendment in the MoA of NERIST in this regard.)

Resolution: The Board of Management decided that a letter may be written by NERIST to MHRD seeking permission for amendment in the Memorandum of Association of NERIST for inclusion of a nominee in the NERIST Board of Management.

11.05: Deputation and delegations abroad.

(The Govt. of India Ministry of Finance OM No.F.19036/2/85-E.IV dated 16th May 1985 provides that proposals for deputation/delegation of officers of autonomous bodies, can be decided and approved

by the autonomous bodies concerned. NERIST, a deemed university, being an autonomous body, proposals for deputation/delegation of its officers and faculty can therefore be approved by NERIST itself.

Subsequently the Ministry of Finance vide OM No.F.19036/8/83-E.IV dated 6th July 1987 further liberalised the procedure for sanction of foreign deputations of officers of Science & Technology organisations. This was done on the basis of the approval accorded by the Cabinet on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet. According to the said OM dated 06th July 1987 subject to availability of approved budget the head of the organisation can sanction internal travel of officers below him and there is no need to obtain approval from the screening committee etc. In case of the head of the organisation, the OM provides that approval for foreign deputation shall be accorded by his higher authority.

Accordingly it is proposed that henceforth and with immediate effect permission for foreign travel of officers below the Director may be accorded by the Director while that for the Director may be accorded by the Chairman, BoM without having either case to be sent to the MHRD for approval. The details of such foreign deputations will however be placed for information of the BoM in due course.

The present practice followed by NERIST is that for Director the proposals for foreign visits are sent to MHRD routed through the Chairman, BoM, while for other officers they are accorded by the Director.

MHRD representatives said that this matter may be taken up to the MHRD for approval. Chairman and other members also agreed to the views of the MHRD representatives.)

Resolution: The Board of Management resolved to approve the proposal and sent the resolution to MHRD for concurrence.

Agenda Item No.80.11.6; Appointment of Mr.Swapan Kumar Chowdhury as Consultant Finance.

(After advertising the post of DR which is reserved for OBC, in national, regional and local dailies, it was observed that only one candidate fulfilled the minimum eligibility criteria. Although the concerned person in question was invited to appear before the selection committee, the person did not turn up leading to the whole exercise becoming futile and wasteful. As such while effort shall continue to advertise the post to fill the vacancy, it is proposed to appoint a post-retired person as Consultant (Finance) to handle the immediate void created in the Finance by the resignation of DR(F)

Recently while interviewing the candidates who were called for the position of Officer on Special Duty (OSD), it was unanimously decided by the selection committee that Mr.Swapan Kumar Chowdhury, a professionally qualified Cost Accountant has in-depth knowledge on finance, accounting and auditing and has long experience of having served organisations such as the Airport Authority of India (bio data of the concerned is attached). Hence the selection committee proposed his name for appointment to the position of Consultant (Finance).

Hence the Board may exercise its power extended by the appropriate clause of the MoA to consider immediate appointment of Mr.Swapan Kumar Chowdhury, who has given his consent before the members of the selection committee in presence of Chairman, BoM, to join if appointed. The appointment may be for a fixed tenure of 2 years, extendable by one more year on a consolidated pay not exceeding the pay drawn by him at the time of retirement minus the pension (if any, being drawn by him

MHRD representatives said that there is no problem to appoint in this type of posts on contract basis as NERIST was facing acute shortage of experienced officers in important departments like Finance and Administration. They said that they had also noted the candidate who called for the interview for the post of Deputy Registrar, did not turned up. Dr. N. Soi however proposed that the appointment should be made initially for one year, extendable by another two years on satisfactory performance.)

Resolution: The Board of Management approved the proposal and the appointment should be made initially for a period of one year which would be extended for a further period of two years subject to satisfactory performance.

- Director informed that for filling up of faculty-positions at senior levels (Professor/ Associate Professor) advertisement are unable to get adequate response. He proposed that without disturbing the promotional avenues for the existing faculties, the Institute may consider appointing persons through direct selection process of advertisement as Associate Professor (on mutual acceptance) such candidates who are not found suitable for full professorship, but are found suitable Associate Professorship against the vacancy of Professor, in order to meet the shortage of faculty in different departments. Similarly against the post of Associate Professorship if a candidate is not found suitable, s/he may be given Assistant Professorship against the post of Associate Professorship. The MHRD members welcomed this step as a measure to fill-up the vacant post of faculty. Chairman advised the Director to also seek the view of the internal members on this and place it before him with Director's own comments
- Director, NERIST gave a 10 minutes video presentation reporting on his recent foreign visit to US to set-up collaboration for faculty exchange and research promotion.
- The Chairman, BoM said that he has been receiving representations from associations, faculty and staff on reported anomalies just a day or two before a meeting. He said that no representation should entertained which given no time for members to go through before deliberating upon it. All representation should be given at least a month before the meeting for the Director and Registrar to examine and place in the BoM if needed. He further said that the agenda items should be sent well in time to all members.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

(Sd/- Dr.R.P.Bhattacharjee)

Dated 16/6/2014

Registrar & Non member secretary, BOM

