

18/14

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AN EMERGENCY ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24.8.2014 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE BOARD MEETING HALL OF ET CELL, NERIST.

The following members were present:

1) Prof.Dipankar Pal, Director, NERIST	-	Chairman
2) Prof.R.M.Pant, Dean (Acad), NERIST	-	Member
3) Prof.M.Muralidhar, Dean (P&D), NERIST	-	Member
4) Prof.P.R.Alapati, Dean (SA), NERIST	-	Member
5) Prof.H.S.Yadav, Dean (Admin), NERIST	-	Member
6) Prof.Mubarak Husain, Deptt. Of Chemistry, NERIST	-	Member
7) Prof.P.K.Das, Deptt. Of Maths, NERIST	-	Member
8) Prof.S.K.Pandey, HoD (Maths), NERIST	-	Member
9) Prof.M.F.Hussain, HoD (CH)	-	Member
10) Prof.C.L.Sharma, HoD (FO)	-	Member
11) Dr.M.Sengupta, HoD (PH)	-	Member
12) Prof.Saibal Chatterjee, HoD (EE)	-	Member
13) Dr.S.K.Sahu, HoD (CE)	-	Member
14) Shri Madhusudhan Mishra, HoD (ECE)	-	Member
15) Prof.K.N.Dewangan, HoD (AE)	-	Member
16) Dr.P.R.Parida, HOD (HSS) & CoE	-	Member
17) Prof.P.K.Tripathy, Deptt. Of Chemistry	-	Member
18) Prof.Binay Singh, Deptt. Of Forestry	-	Member
19) Prof.Md. Anwar Hussain, Deptt. Of ECE	-	Member
20) Shri Manjul Saikia, HoD i/c CSE	-	Member
21) Prof.B.D.Nayak, Deptt. Of HSS	-	Member
22) Prof.P.P.Dabral	-	Member
23) Prof.P.Rethy, Deptt. Of Forestry	-	Member
24) Dr.S.K.Shrivastava, HoC CATRD	-	Member
25) Ms.M.Kathing	-	Member
26) Dr.R.P.Bhattacharjee, Registrar	-	Non-Member Secretary

The members those absent were granted leave by the Chairman, AC.

The Chairman welcomed all the members and declared the emergency (18th) meeting in order.

Agenda: 18:01: The Chairman wanted to give 10 minutes to the members to read Agenda (the draft MoU). However the members expressed that they had read it and hence were ready for discussion. The Chairman then invited members to give their views.

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1. Dr. Mubarak Husain wanted to know what was the emergency that led to calling this meeting to discuss collaboration with Jaro Education Pvt. Ltd.
2. Dr. M. Muralidhar said that the question raised by the members may be minuted.
3. Dr. K. N. Devangan asked how much money has the Jaro Education Pvt. Ltd. Given to NERIST for this draft.
4. Mr. Manjul Saikia, representing the Head, CSE circulated a minutes of a departmental meeting
5. Dr. Anwar Hussain raised pointed to some conflicting statements included in the draft. He also said that Rs. 30,000.00 per enrolment has been done arbitrarily. He added that churning out 4-batches in a year is not a standard or accepted practice by a university. On issues of accreditation he added that control should be with NERIST and vetting of course structure/ question papers should be the prerogative of NERIST.
6. Both Dr. Mubarak Husain and Dr. M. F. Husain read out the relevant guide-lines from UGC and said a clearance from UGC may be needed.
7. Dr. P. Parida wanted to know if both M. Sc. And M.S. could be given by the same university.

In reply the Chairman first clarified that the proposal from Jaro Education Pvt. Ltd. was received in May 2014 and was discussed in the 80th meeting of the BoM where the representatives from the former upon being invited by the Chairman made its presentation. Propriety demanded that their proposal be discussed within reasonable time in the AC and a reply be given to the organisation stating the stand of NERIST. Unfortunately the Academic Section of NERIST could not convene a regular meeting of the AC even about 3-months down the line although usually 4/5 meeting a year is recommended. Hence, it was thought appropriate only, to convene an emergency meeting so that at least by next month a reply could be sent to the organisation in question.

The Chairman next categorically stated that for this draft no sum of money is known to have been paid to NERIST by any organisation.

The Chairman next said even he too has certain observations particularly on the IPR which he felt should be jointly claimed by the two institutions and also on the basis of arriving at the figure of Rs. 30,000.00 per enrolment. He said the legality of the draft needs to be checked by the Institute Advocate, the sanction of governing regulatory bodies such UGC needs to be discussed at BoM/ MHRD as applicable and the roll of NERIST as the affiliating institution must be spelt out categorically in the draft. He appreciated the issues raised by Dr. Anwar Hussain and said the vetting needs to be done on both course structure and the question papers by experts. In case NERIST does not have adequate experts, services of well-known institutions like IITs could be hired and the honorarium in that case for such vetting shall not be charged by

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NERIST He assured that the faculty load and other issues raised by the Department of CSE shall be taken care of. He further clarified that there is no problem with issuance of both M.S. and M. Sc. by the same institute and cited some examples.

He finally declared that both the Chairman (BoM) and he felt that such collaborations are principally welcome as long as interest of NERIST is kept. He said under no condition the quality shall be allowed to be compromised with and directives of the regulatory bodies be allowed to be violated. However he said that one should not be paranoid just because the institution in question is private – particularly against the backdrop where the PPP-model is used extensively in setting up centres of excellence at the behest of the central government. Dr. R. M. Pant, Dean (Academic) endorsed this view.

Resolution: The Institute shall get the proposal vetted by the legal expert and ask for the basis of revenue-sharing from the other party before vetting that too. For sanction of regulatory bodies, the matter shall be appropriately placed before the next BoM for further advice. The role of NERIST in vetting of course/ question paper (done either departmentally or through reputed outside experts) shall be final and binding.

Agenda: 18:02:01: Any Other Item (with the permission of the Chair):

Dr. P. R. Alapati sought approval for implementing the new syllabus of M. Sc. (Physics) w.e.f the current AY. He informed the house that the course content has been kept intact. Only the contents have been unitised (from 1 to 4/5 or 6 depending on the credit requirement), number of lectures have been spelt out against each unit and the references added in the end. The Chairman questioned the factual mapping of the actual number of lectures engaged vis a vis those spelt out on paper and the CoE proposed to offer a range with the lower figure per credit.

Resolution: After a threadbare discussion the syllabus was approved.

Agenda: 18:02:02: Issuance of rank certificate to students seeking job outside.

Dr. P. K. Tripathy, Dean (Academic) – Designate drew attention of the house to a case where a passed-out student badly needed a rank certificate to ensure that she could join the place of work where she had been offered a job. Dr. R. M. Pant, Dean (Academic) said that there are many such cases where students are suffering for want of a rank certificate. Since 17th meeting of the AC had resolved that rank should only be given to the gold medallist, he wanted to know from the house as to how such cases which are genuine and where students could not be made to suffer for a system, be handled.

R.M.P.

The Chairman said that the very purpose of the existence of the Institute shall be defeated if innocent students suffer due to a system.

Resolution: After a threadbare discussion it was resolved that rank certificate shall be given on demand with a rider that "this certificate is not for consideration for the Gold medal". It was further resolved that while giving such certificates only the CGPA shall be the criteria and no bearing shall be there of I-grade etc. It was also resolved that the certificate shall be issued to the student in the present endeavour immediately

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.