National Institute of Technology Silchar Minutes of the Fifty-first (51st) Meeting of the Senate held on 21 November 2017

The **Fifty First (51**st) meeting of the Senate was held on 21 Nov 2017 at 04:00 PM in the conference hall of the Institute. The following members were present:

- 1. Prof. Rajat Gupta, Director and Chairman, Senate.
- 2. Prof. F. A. Talukdar, Professor, ECE Dept.
- 3. Prof. K. M. Pandey, Professor, ME Dept.
- 4. Prof. A. K. Dey, Professor, CE Dept.
- 5. Prof. S. Baishya, Professor, ECE Dept.
- 6. Prof. R. D. Misra, Professor, ME Dept.
- 7. Prof. D. Chakraborty, Professor, CE Dept.
- 8. Prof. M. A. Ahmed, Professor, CE Dept
- 9. Prof. P. S. Choudhury, Professor, CE Dept.
- 10. Prof. N. Sinha, Professor, EE Dept.
- 11. Prof. S. Choudhury, Professor, CE Dept.
- 12. Prof. B. K. Roy, Professor, EE Dept.
- 13. Prof. N. C. Shivaprakash, IISc Bangalore
- 14. Prof. S.K. Deb, IIT Guwahati
- 15. Dr. Asim Roy, Dean (R&C) (Special invitee)
- 16. Dr. Santanu Roy, Head, Mathematics (Special invitee)
- 17. Dr. Rupak Dutta, Head, Physics (Special invitee)
- 18. Dr. Rajdeep Dasgupta, Head, EIE (Special invitee)
- 19. Dr. A. K. Das, Head, MS (Special invitee)
- 20. Dr. K. L. Baishnab, Head, ECE (Special invitee)
- 21. Dr. S. Choudhury, Head, EE (Special invitee)
- 22. Dr. B.H. Sambharkar, Head, Chemistry (Special invitee)
- 23. Dr. N.B. Singh, Head, HSS (Special invitee)
- 24. Mr. D. H. Das, Assoc. Dean (Acd.) (Special invitee)
- 25. Mr. Bijan Nath, Assoc. Dean (Exam) (Special invitee)
- 26. Prof. A. K. Barbhuiya, Registrar and Secretary Senate

At the outset, Prof. Rajat Gupta, the Director and Chairman, Senate welcomed all the members present. The Chairman also thanked Prof. N. C. Shivaprakash and Prof. S. K. Deb, and other members for attending the meeting. The Senate then initiated the discussions on the agenda items, and the following decisions were taken.

S-51/1: To consider confirmation of the minutes of the 50th meeting of the Senate held on24/05/2017

Minutes are confirmed with the following additions.

- Under item S-50/1: Action on routine matters be taken as per rules by the respective office of Deans and reported to the Senate for noting only.
- Under item S-50/5: The Senate decided to allow Dr. Tauhidur Rahman, Assoc. Professor in CE to get the credit for supervision of the M.Tech. students working under him until his suspension. Additional faculty member as notified by the Head, CE was to be inducted as Co-supervisor. The Head, CE was entrusted to sign on behalf of Dr. Rahman. Further, some members pointed out that the Registrar is the member of some of the oral exam boards (OEB) for Ph.D. viva-voce exam. The Registrar being a non-academic post, should not be a member of OEB. However, since BoG in its 50th meeting decided that "Prof. A.K. Barbhuiya will continue to (a) guide the scholars (M.Tech and PhD) under him and (b) apply/carry out sponsored research project/consultancy for the benefit of the Institute", thus it is only the BoG who can clarify the point.

S-51/2: To consider actions taken on the decisions adopted in the 50th meeting of the Senate held on 24 May 2017.

The Senate noted the action taken report of the 50th meeting.

S-51/3: To note the NIRF ranking and accreditation status

As presented, the Senate noted the following:

NIT Silchar is ranked 53rd as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2017 as improvement by 12 positions over the previous year.

Accreditation status of various Programmes (Engg.):

Accredited: 4 (PG) + 2 (UG)

Compliance Report Submitted: 3 (UG)

Waiting for Format for Compliance Report from NBA: 5 (PG)

Applied for Fresh Accreditation: 4 (PG)

S-51/4: To note the admission statistics in various UG/PG programs during the present academic year and to suggest a suitable policy to enhance the intake.

The Senate noted the following admission statistics 2017-18 academic year.

Programme	Intake	Admitted	Vacant	
B.Tech.	632	621	11	
M.Tech.	250	215	35	
M.Sc.	60	21	39	
M.B.A.	60	34	26	

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Furthermore, in view of a significant number of vacancies in the PG Programmes, the Senate decided to form a committee to review the present admission policy and submit its recommendation for improving the intake. The Chairman, Senate is authorized to constitute the said committee.

S-51/5: To note and ratify the approval of the Chairman, Senate for admission of foreign students under ICCR Scheme during 2017-18 in UG/PG Programmes

The members noted that out of 39 ICCR applicants, 19 and 1 were recommended for admissions into B.Tech. and M.Tech. Programmes, respectively. The recommendation, approved by the Chairman, Senate, was forwarded to ICCR. Out of the approved list, only 6 students took admission in the B.Tech. Programmes.

The approval of the Chairman, Senate was ratified. It was also suggested to entrust the committee formed under item 4 to recommend a suitable policy for admission under ICCR scheme:

S-51/6: To ratify the action of the Chairman, Senate in approving the list of Sponsored/project staff etc. candidates for admission into M.Tech. Programs

The following list of candidates were recommended by the central committee for admission into M. Tech. Programmes under sponsored/project staff etc. category, and approved by the Chairman, Senate.

Sl. no	Name	Dept.	Specialization
1	Partha Pratim Dey	EE	Power Energy System Engineering
2	Ammu Prameela	EIE	Instrumentation Engg.
	Nanda kumar		
3	Sourav Nath	ECE	Micro-Electronics and VLSI Design
4	Sourav Chanda	ECE	Micro-Electronics and VLSI Design
5	Abhijit Das	CSE	Computer Science & Engg.
6	Debalina Biswas	CSE	Computer Science & Engg.
7	Nabajyoti Nath	CSE	Computer Science & Engg.

The Senate may ratified the approval of the Chairman, Senate.

S-51/7: To ratify the approval of the Chairman, Senate for branch change by 3rd semester B.Tech. students

With approval of the Chairman, Senate, the following 3rd semester B.Tech. student was permitted to change branch as per the B.Tech. Regulations (clause 13.1 to 13.9).

Sl. Name of the student		Branch	
no.	Traine of the student	Previous	Present
1	Harshit Agarwala	ME	CSE

The Senate ratified the approval of the Chairman, Senate.

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S-51/8: To ratify the approval of Chairman, Senate in allowing to migrate ErmyasFekaduShiferaw, a B.Tech. ICCR student from CE to CSE

Ermyas Fekadu Shiferaw, a B.Tech. 3rd semester ICCR student was allowed to migrate from CE to CSE as per recommendation of the Senate Standing Committee and approval of the Chairman, Senate.

The Senate ratified the approval of the Chairman, Senate.

S-51/9: To consider and recommend the graduating students for B.Tech. and M.Tech. degrees who qualified after last Convocation

After the last convocation (15th convocation) held on 25/05/2017, 55 B.Tech. students and 1 M.Tech. students qualified for the award of the degree on appearing the re-exam and special exam. Their provisional certificates were issued after getting the approval of the Chairman, Senate.

The Senate ratified the action of the Chairman, Senate in approving the list of qualified students and issuance of their provisional certificates. Further, the list was recommended to the BOG for approval and award of respective degrees in the ensuing convocation.

S-51/10: To consider a prayer for special examinations

Considering all the aspects based on the prayer of the students, the Senate reviewed its decision (S-50/7) and decided to conduct one more special examination for all the B.Tech. students, except the 2017 entry batch. It will be conducted for all the subjects (first to eight semesters). However, a student shall be allowed to appear a maximum of six backlog subjects only. The duration (dates) and modalities shall be decided and notified by the Dean (Academic).

However, Prof. F. A. Talukdar and Prof. Dibakar Chakraborty expressed their dissent.

S-51/11: To consider income certificate (to claim tuition fee waiver) policy

The Senate advised to resolve the issue from administrative point of view as the matter is administrative in nature.

S-51/12: To consider remuneration for admission related works

The Senate advised to resolve the issue from administrative point of view as the matter is administrative in nature.

S-51/13: To consider Joint guidance of M.Tech. projects in collaboration with industries

The Senate discussed the issue at length. Considering the importance of industry-institute collaboration, it was decided to allow M.Tech. students of the Institute to carry out a part of their projects in well-known industries/R&D organizations for a period not more than six months. The patents/publications of such collaborative research shall have to be copyrighted jointly by the NIT Silchar and the concerned industry/R&D organization. If needed, a joint supervisor from the

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concerned R&D organization may also be appointed. The supervisor shall coordinate such collaborative work. The student can draw their TA after submitting monthly progress report though the supervisor. Furthermore, outside students may also be allowed to carry out such collaborative project work at NIT Silchar, with provision of suitable accommodation, if available.

Proposals for any of the above arrangements are to be forwarded to the Director, through Dean (A), for approval.

S-51/14: To consider the proposal for inclusion of one more elective paper for M.Tech./Ph.D. Programmes in Electrical Engineering Dept.

A new course (EE-541: Soft Computing Techniques and Applications), along with detailed syllabus, was recommended by the DPPC and DPMC of the EE Department as an elective subject for both the M.Tech.(Power and Energy System Engineering and Control & Industrial Automation) and Ph.D. Programmes of EE department.

The Senate approved the recommendation. The Senate, further, decided to authorise the Chairman, Senate to constitute a committee to review all the curriculums, including the syllabi, of the Institute in terms of overlap in the contents, course number, and course title. The committee is to submit a report for suitable amendments of curriculum/syllabi, if any.

S-51/15: To consider prayer of Nirupam Sharma, an M. Tech. student for conversion from full-time to part-time

The Senate approved the request of Nirupam Sharma, Regn. no. 1624107, an M.Tech. student in Microelectronics & VLSI Design under ECE department for conversion from full-time to part-time. He may register as a part-time student in his third semester during the next session to complete his research work.

S-51/16: To consider establishment of a digital institutional repositories (DIR)

As it is a mandate of the NIT council and MHRD, the Senate approved the proposal of establishing and hosting the following two depositories by the central library part of the NDL project:

- Electronic thesis of NIT Silchar. However, only the PG/Ph.D. theses shall be mandatory for the time being.
- Digital Institutional repositories for journal papers, conference proceedings, book chapters, technical papers, reports, photos, newspaper clippings, lecture notes/courseware, convocation address etc., and any other resources of NIT Silchar faculty, students, staff, and others associated with the Institute.

Accordingly, all the PG/Ph.D. students are required to submit the hard and soft copies of their final Thesis/Project Reports/dissertation to the Library so that DIR of NIT Silchar can be established and hosted. Before submission, the Project Reports/theses/dissertation are to be checked in Anti-Plagiarism software and the generated similarity index report duly signed by the student and countersigned by the concerned supervisor along with the Head of the Department also need to

be submitted. As a standard practice, more than 15% plagiarism (other than the reference sections and the similarity part of the published portion(s) of the thesis/project report/dissertation etc.) shall not be counted towards plagiarism. Thesis/project report/dissertation once submitted to the Library shall be made public in the digital repository. However, based on the recommendation of the supervisor, an embargo period of maximum one year may be allowed before making it public. The similarity index report is also to be submitted at the time of initial submission (submission for evaluation) as well. Furthermore, an institutional mechanism is to be framed for verification of the anti-plagiarism report.

S-51/17: To consider Yoga as a course in the curriculum

The Senate had gone through the letter from MHRD regarding inclusion of Yoga in the curriculum of Ph.D., PG. and UG Programmes. After a detailed discussion, the members decided to introduce a one-semester YOGA course in the curriculum of all the programmes (UG/PG/Ph.D.) as a non-credit compulsory course w.e.f. the 2018 entry batches. The other EAA courses (NCC/NSS/NSO) in the B.Tech. curriculum should also continue as non-credit compulsory course, while the course Physical Training is to be dropped. To qualify for a degree, a students has to register this course in any one of his/her semesters and earn a pass grade. The course content and evaluation procedure shall be decided by the concerned instructor in consultation with Dean (A). For this purpose, a qualified yoga trainer will be required to impart training on Yoga. In that case, sanction for a Yoga instructor is to be obtained from the competent authority. The administration should decide on the necessary minimum qualification, along with appointment, of the trainer.

- S-51/18: To consider shifting of Convocation time from summer to winter

 As desired by the Chairman, Senate, it was decided to defer this item as a new Director would be joining shortly.
- S-51/19: To note admission statistics in the Ph.D. Program during the current academic year

The senate noted the contents of the agenda item. Also members of the senate opined that the distribution of Ph.D. students admitted during July-Dec 2017 among the faculty members for each department may be placed in the next senate meeting.

- S-51/20: To ratify action of the Chairman, Senate in converting status of Ms Piya Biswas, a regular Ph.D. student of CE dept, from full time to part-time

 The Senate ratified the conversion of Piya Biswas, Regn. No.12-3-1-104, a Ph.D. student of CE dept from full-time to part-time.
- S-51/21: To consider prayer of Mr Ripon Patgiri, a part-time Ph.D. student of CSE dept of NIT Silchar, to induct his registration in NIT Silchar only instead of in IIT Guwahati under MoU.

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The members noted that Ripon Patgiri, a faculty member of the CSE dept, took admission in the Ph.D. programme in the CSE dept. under the MoU with IIT Guwahati. The Senate also noted the inability expressed by Prof.Gautam Barua (supervisor of Ripon Patgiri) to continue supervision of Patgiri. Accordingly, the Senate agreed to allow Ripon Patgiri to change his Ph.D. admission status from said scheme (MoU with IIT Guwahati) to normal registration to the Ph.D. program. However, this information should be conveyed to IIT Guwahati. Furthermore, as recommended by the DMPC of the CSE department, the appointment of Dr. Samir Kr.Borgohain, Asst. Prof. in CSE was approved as his new supervisor.

S-51/22: To consider incorporation of change in the syllabus of Ph.D. programme under Management Studies Dept.

As suggested in the 49th meeting of the Senate, the department of Management Studies submitted the modified syllabi of the Ph.D. programme. The modified syllabi were approved.

- S-51/23: Any other matter with the permission of Chair.
 - (A) To take a note on the report submitted by the Senate Standing Committee on faculty distribution

After receiving the sanction of 80 new faculty positions, it was necessary to distribute the same among the various departments. Accordingly, the Senate Standing Committee proposed a distribution of the overall sanction positions (282). The proposal was based on the load as well as a minimum critical mass for a program. The proposed distribution was as follows:

Department	Faculty positions
CE	48
ME	47
EE	40
ECE	38
CSE	30
EIE	17
Phy	10
Chem	10
Math	21
HSS	11
MBA	10
Total	282

The Senate noted that the proposed distribution was approved by the BOG.

(B) To consider issues related to AICTE mandate for TEQIP III Program

The following eight point mandates formulated by AICTE has been incorporated under TEQIP-III for the participating Institutes.

✓ Induction Program

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- ✓ Industry readiness
- ✓ Start-up/innovation
- ✓ Three internships for a duration of at least 4 weeks each
- ✓ Curriculum review
- ✓ Teachers training through SWAYAM platform (at least 50% faculty per year)
- ✓ Accreditation and
- Final exam to test concept and skill rather than subject knowledge

The Senate noted that as NIT Silchar is also one of the participating Institutes, we need to follow these mandates.

(C) To Consider MHRD Digital Initiatives 17-by-17 action plan on Higher Education

As per the MHRD letter (No.F.No. 8-6/2017-TEL dated 31/08/2017), all the Universities/Institutes of higher learning are to implement the following 17 action plans by 2017.

SWAYAM

- 1. Approve the Course on offer
- 2. Publicize the Courses
- 3. Prepare new courses
- 4. Retrain teachers
- 5. Monitoring Cell

SHAYAM PRABHA DTH Channels

- 6. Buy Free Dish for accessing SWAYAM Prabha Channels
- 7. Mandate other affiliated colleges
- 8. Orient the teachers

National Digital Library (NDL)

- 9. Join the NDL (National Digital Library)
- 10. Digitize your libraries

National Academic Depository (NAD)

11. Join the NAD (National Academic Depository)

Other digital initiatives

- 12. Digital Campus
- 13. Smart Campus
- 14. Clean Campus
- 15. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
- 16. Innovative drives.

Planning

17. Plan for future

The Chairman, Senate appraised the house that various committees in this regards were already constituted. The Senate decided that the Institute should implement these plans as desired by the Govt.

(D) To consider the report of the committee constituted by the Senate (S-49/17/3)

As per an MHRD notification (F. No. 35-1/2014-TS III dated 17th Feb, 2017), all the CFTIs participating joint counselling need to review the vacant seats for the last three years. After a proper review, the Institutes may revise the number of seats in each discipline. Moreover, some disciplines may be considered for closure/keep in abeyance for few years, if needed. New courses/areas/disciplines may only be introduced after carrying out market opportunity analysis based on employability, requirement of higher education/research/entrepreneurship. Additionally, participating institutes may reduce total number of seats as per availability of hostel facility, lab infrastructure, classroom, faculty etc. The Senate in it 49th meeting constituted a committee in this regard. The report of the committee was placed in this meeting.

The Senate decided to forward a copy of the report to all the Departments for their comments. The recommendation of the committee along with the comments from the department should be placed before the next meeting of the Senate.

(E) To consider the report on the proposal of enhancing intake of the two M.Tech. Programs offered by the ECE

The proposal for enhancement of the intake capacity of the two M.Tech. Programmes under the ECE Department was placed before the 49th meeting of the Senate. The matter was referred back to the department for proper review in the light of the MHRD letter (F. No. 35-1/2014-TS III dated 17th Feb, 2017). The department submitted the report in this regard.

After going through the report of the department, the Senate approved the following intake strength of the M.Tech. Programmes under ECE Department.

Programme	Regular intake	Sponsored intake	
Microelectronics and VLSI	20	5	
Design			
Communication and Signal	20	5	
Processing Engineering			

(F) To consider refund of the fee paid during counselling process

There are few students who were allotted seats at NIT Silchar by CCMT 2017 and CCMN 2017. As per the counselling authority rules, the counselling fees paid by them were transferred to NIT Silchar account. But, they finally did not take admission. Some of them applied for refund as they did not turn up for admission.

After a discussion on the matter, the Senate arrived at the decision that any fee refund before admission should be dealt with as per the guidelines of the counselling authorities (CSAB, CCMT, CCMN etc.).

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(G) To consider 2018 academic calendar

The Senate approved the presented Academic Calendar for 2018 with following amendment. Under Sl. 24, the activity be read as "Last date of submission of synopsis of project by students (UG & PG) to department".

(H) To consider modifications in issuing grade cards for M.Tech. Programmes.

As per present M.Tech. Regulations, we need to mention the number of attempts a student clears a course in his/her grade cards (clause 19(e) of the Regulations). However, this provision is not followed for issuing B.Tech. grade cards. Therefore, to maintain similarity, this provision should be withdrawn with retrospective effect.

The Senate recommended the same to the BoG for approval.

During the meeting it was informed that New Director will join on 1st Dec 2017. All the members present in the meeting expressed their gratitude to Prof. R. Gupta for his whole hearted involvement in the overall development of the Institute and particularly in academics during his Inchargeship as Director, NIT Silchar. This was also pointed out that the Institute improved its NIRF Ranking from 65 to 53 under his leadership.

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

(Prof. Sivaji Bandyopadhyay)
Director & Chairman, Senate

Conféremed in the Sevote mastèng held on 19.04.2018.