Minutes of the Fifty-third (53rd) Meeting of the Senate held on 19 April 2018

The Fifty-third (53rd) meeting of the Senate was held on 19 April 2018 at 4:00 PM in the conference hall of the Institute. The following members were present:

- 1. Prof. Sivaji Bandyopadhyay, Director and Chairman, Senate
- 2. Prof. F. A. Talukdar, Professor, ECE Dept.
- 3. Prof. K. M. Pandey, Professor, ME Dept.
- 4. Prof. S. Baishya, Professor, ECE Dept.
- 5. Prof. R. D. Misra, Professor, ME Dept.
- 6. Prof. Gurudas Das, Professor, HSS Dept.
- 7. Prof. D. Chakraborty, Professor, CE Dept.
- 8. Prof. A. I. Laskar, Professor, CE Dept.
- 9. Prof. M. A. Ahmed, Professor, CE Dept
- 10. Prof. P. S. Choudhury, Professor, CE Dept.
- 11. Prof. N. Sinha, Professor, EE Dept.
- 12. Prof. S. Choudhury, Professor, CE Dept.
- 13. Prof. B. K. Roy, Professor, EE Dept.
- 14. Dr. Asim Roy, Dean (R&C) (Special invitee)
- 15. Dr. Santanu Roy, Head, Mathematics (Special invitee)
- 16. Dr. Rupak Dutta, Head, Physics (Special invitee)
- 17. Dr. Rajdeep Dasgupta, Head, EIE (Special invitee)
- 18. Dr. S. Choudhury, Head, EE (Special invitee)
- 19. Dr. U. Kumar, Head, CE Dept. (Special invitee)
- 20. Dr. B. H. Sambharkar, Head, Chemistry (Special invitee)
- 21. Mr. D. H. Das, Assoc. Dean (Academic) (Special invitee)
- 22. Mr. Bijan Nath, Assoc. Dean (Acad. & Exam) (Special invitee)
- 23. Dr. Arup Kr. Goswami, Assoc. Dean (Academic) (Special invitee)
- 24. Dr. N. B. Dev Choudhury, Dean (AR) (Special invitee)
- 25. Prof. A. K. Barbhuiya, Registrar and Secretary, Senate

At the outset, the Senate members welcomed Prof. Sivaji Bandyopadhyay, Chairman, Senate and expressed confidence that the Institute will be immensely benefitted from his vision and guidance. The Director and Chairman, Senate welcomed all the members present. The Senate then initiated the discussions on the agenda items, and the following decisions were taken.

S-53/18/1: To consider confirmation of the minutes of the 51st meeting of the Senate held on 21 November 2017

Minutes were confirmed with the following additions in appropriate places:

Minutes of the Fifty-third (53rd) Meeting of the Senate held on 19 April 2018

- Under the preamble section: the line, "The Chairman also thanked Prof. N. C. Shivaprakash, Senate member for attending the meeting," is to be replaced by The Chairman also thanked Prof. N. C. Shivaprakash and Prof. S. K. Deb, and other members for attending the meeting.
- Under item S-51/16: along with the reference sections, the similarity part of the published portion(s) of the thesis/project report/dissertation etc. shall also not be counted towards plagiarism. 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-53/18/2: To consider actions taken on the decisions adopted in the 51st meeting of the Senate held on 21 November 2017.

The Senate noted the action taken report of the 51st meeting.

S-53/18/3: To note the increased female enrolment in B.Tech. Programs in NITs and IIEST, Shibpur

As per MHRD letter F. No. 35-8/2017-TS.III dated 30 October 2017, the number of female student enrolment in B.Tech. Programs is to be increased to 20% over a period of 2-4 years, by creating supernumerary seats.

The Senate noted the B.Tech. seat matrix (688 intake) for 2018-19 admission prepared accordingly.

S-53/18/4: To take a note of the constitution of committee to review B. Tech. curriculum

The current B.Tech. curriculum is based on revision in 2012, which is a long gap in this changing industrial requirement.

The Senate noted the constitution of the committee to review B.Tech. curriculum. Chairman, Senate reported that Student Toppers of B.Tech. 3rd year, 4th year and M.Tech., 2nd year, one distinguished alumni (in top position in Industry), and one Industry representative in top position (not alumni) have also been included in the B.Tech. Curriculum Review Committees in each department.

S-53/18/5: To note of the NIRF 2018 ranking of the Institute

As per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2018, NIT Silchar is ranked at 57th position, a decline by 4 positions compared to NIRF 2017 ranking.

The Senate expressed its concern that NIRF 2018 ranking of NIT Silchar has declined by 4 positions compared to NIRF 2017 ranking. Chairman, Senate expressed that faculty selection and placement of students are to be accorded maximum importance among several factors in order to improve the future NIRF ranking.

Chairman, Senate further reported that the following review committee had been formed to review the performance of NIT Silchar in NIRF 2017 vis-à-vis the performance of top 20 institutions in NIRF 2017: Dr. P. K. Patowari (Chairman), Dr. Arup Kumar Goswami, Dr. Samir Borgohain, Dr. Susmita Ghosh, Dr. Manas

Minutes of the Fifty-third (53rd) Meeting of the Senate held on 19 April 2018

Bera as members, and Dr. Kaushik Guha, member and convener. The above committee has already submitted the report to the Chairman, Senate.

Chairman, Senate proposed that the above committee be also entrusted the task to review the performance of NIT Silchar in NIRF 2018 vis-à-vis the performance of top 20 institutions in NIRF 2018. Both the reports will be placed in a subsequent meeting of the Senate.

S-53/18/6:

To note a deviation from normal practice in setting B.Tech. question papers during the last end semester exams, action taken, and suggest remedial measures thereof.

During the last end semester exams, a serious deviation from normal practice in setting the question papers for two B.Tech. subjects by the CE department were observed. In view of this, a committee was constituted to inquire into the matter. In line with the committee report, advisory notes were issued to the teachers involved and the concerned Head of the department.

The Senate noted the matter and expressed its concern. It was resolved to strengthen the moderation process of the question papers. Mid-semester question papers be moderated at the department level. However, moderation of the End Semester questions be done at the institute level with the HoD along with subject experts, Dean (Academic), and Director. Chairman, Senate is authorized to frame modalities for the same.

S-53/18/7:

To ratify the approval accorded by the Chairman, Senate in respect of joining "Study in India" Programme and note the same

To rapidly increase the number of inbound overseas students in the next five years, the MHRD has initiated a program called "Study in India". As per letter F. No. 13-5/2018-ICC received from MHRD, this program was approved on 15/03/2018. The program aims to increase the inflow of inbound international students by 3 times in partnership with 160 select Indian Institutes/Universities based on NIRF/NAC ranking. It will focus on 30 countries across south-east Asia, Middle-east, and Africa. To start with, the programme targets inbound students for a period of two years for the academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20. NIT Silchar has been selected as one of the participating Institutes and the Institute has joined the program for B.Tech. and M.Tech. with 50 total intake for 2018-19, with approval from Chairman, Senate.

The Senate ratified the approval of the Chairman, Senate in this regard and taken a note of the same.

S-53/18/8:

To ratify the approval accorded by the Chairman, Senate in respect of few more B.Tech. and M.Tech. students who have completed the requirements for the award of degrees after the last convocation (15th convocation) and recommend the graduating students to the BOG for the award of the degree.

After the last convocation (15th convocation), few more B.Tech. and M.Tech. students completed the requirements and qualified for their respective degrees. With approval of the Chairman, Senate their provisional certificates were issued.

Minutes of the Fifty-third (53rd) Meeting of the Senate held on 19 April 2018

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-53/18/9: To ratify the approval accorded by the Chairman, Senate in respect of modification in the qualifying degree for M.Tech. admission to the CSE department

As per M.Tech. Regulations, MCA was also one of the eligible degrees for admission to M.Tech. Programs of the CSE dept. However, the Chairman, Senate decided not to consider the same. Accordingly, the MCA eligibility was struck through from the Regulations and is no longer eligible for M.Tech. (CSE) admission.

The Senate ratified the action of the Chairman, Senate.

S-53/18/10: To ratify the approval accorded by the Chairman, Senate in respect of increased B. Tech. intake in the CSE department

Head, CSE department proposed to enhance the number of seats in B.Tech. Program from 92 to 120. With approval from the Chairman, Senate the said increase was communicated to CSAB 2018 to incorporate the same for next admission. As such, the intake for B.Tech. in CSE has also increased to 120.

Senate ratified the action of the Chairman, Senate and recommended to BOG for approval of the enhanced intake.

S-53/18/11: To consider extension of study period for Nagesh Kumar Gautam, a B.Tech. student of the ECE department

Nagesh Kumar Gautam, Regn no. 1114074, a B.Tech. student from ECE department was admitted in 2011; and thus, he has completed 6 years as permissible under B.Tech. Regulations. But till now, he has two backlogs in 5th semester

The Senate considered his application and permitted extension of his study period to December 2018.

S-53/18/12: To consider prayer of Debraj Basak, an M.Tech. student for conversion from full time to part time.

Debraj Basak, a regular M.Tech. student bearing Regn no. 1621512 of CE department has got a job offer under Govt. of West Bengal. He has submitted an NOC from his present employer. Furthermore, his prayer has been recommended by the Head, CE, his supervisor, and the DPPC.

The Senate considered his application and permitted the requested conversion.

S-53/18/13: To consider shifting of Convocation time from summer to winter

During last few years, convocation had been organised in the month of May/June, immediately after completion of regular exams. We have only one hall (the Auditorium of the sports complex) to organize the convocation during summer/rainy season. But, over the last few years it is being observed that during the summer it practically becomes very difficult to stay in this auditorium for more than 3 hours. At the same time, it becomes a strenuous exercise in the part of

Minutes of the Fifty-third (53rd) Meeting of the Senate held on 19 April 2018

academic section to declare the results in a limited time. In view of the above and some other factors, it was proposed that the convocation be held during the winter

The Senate considered the matter and after a detailed discussion resolved that the Chairman, Senate will take the final decision.

S-53/18/14: To consider recognition of American High School Diploma program offered by the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), USA as equivalent to 12th standard and eligible for admission to Undergraduate courses

The Institute has received a proposal from the Northwest Accreditation Commission, USA, regional office in India. They requested to consider the American High School diploma holders from schools in India, accredited by NWAC, USA as eligible for admission to our undergraduate programs. AIU (Association of Indian Universities) has recognized the same as eligible for admission to bachelor degree programmes in India. Further, it is also accepted by many Universities in India.

The Senate noted that the said diploma is recognized by the Association of Indian Universities as eligible for admission to bachelor degree programmes. As such, the Senate decided that the diploma awarded by Northwest Accreditation Commission, USA as eligible qualification for admission to the B.Tech. Programmes of the

S-53/18/15: To consider the report of the committee constituted by the Senate (S-49/17/3)

As per MHRD notification (F. No. 35-1/2014-TS III dated 17 February 2017, all the CFTIs participating joint counselling are supposed 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 its 49th meeting constituted a committee to look into it. As decided by the Senate, the report of the committee was sent to all the departments for comments. However, only the ME and EE departments submitted their comments.

The Senate resolved that a fresh request be made to the other departments (except ME and EE) for their comments on the recommendations of the Committee. The departments will have to send their comments within May 31, 2018. The Senate will consider the recommendations/comments in a subsequent meeting.

S-53/18/16: To consider modified M. Tech. Regulations

As per decision of the Senate (S-50/3), the Chairman, Senate constituted a committee to look into the ambiguities, if any, in the M.Tech. Regulations. The committee has submitted its report recommending some modifications of the same.

Minutes of the Fifty-third (53rd) Meeting of the Senate held on 19 April 2018

The matter was deferred.

S-53/18/17: To consider nomination of the Senate to BOG

As per clause 11(f) of the NIT Act, 2007, the Senate has to nominate two members to the BOG: one from the Professors and the other from the Assoc. Professors/Asst. Professors of the Institute. The tenure of the present members shall expire soon. Currently, the second member is represented by an Asst. Professor. As such, the incoming second member to be nominated this time shall be from the Assoc. Professors of the Institute.

During discussions on the above issue, the senate members opined that the existing procedure of nominations of Senate to the BOG needs to be reviewed. The Senate members reviewed the existing procedure and resolved that nominations of the Senate to BOG will be as follows.

Nominations from the Senate members will be invited in a Senate meeting by the Chairman, Senate. If the number of nominations received under each category (Professor and Associate Professor /Assistant Professor) is more than one, the ruling of the Chairman, Senate regarding nominations of the Senate to the BoG will be final.

S-53/18/18: To note admission statistics in the Ph.D. program during Jan-July 2018 session

The Senate noted the same.

S-53/18/19: To review the existing norms for disbursement of Honorarium/Remuneration for Consultancy and Testing charges

The existing norms for disbursement/remuneration for consultancy and testing charges have been in effect since 11th June 2013. Existing norms was placed before Senate for review which may create an environment to generate more revenue for the institute.

The Senate resolved to form the following committee to look into the matter and suggest norms for disbursement of Honorarium / Remuneration for consultancy and Testing charges:

Dean (R&C) - Chairman

Prof. S. Choudhury, Civil Engineering - Member

Prof. P. S. Choudhury, Civil Engineering - Member

Heads of the Departments of ME, EE, ECE, EI, and CSE or their representatives

The Committee will have to submit the report within 31st May, 2018.

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

(Prof. Sivaji Bandyopadhyay)
Director & Chairman, Senate