



AN INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE
(FORMERLY BENGAL ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY, SHIBPUR)

Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee of Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST), Shibpur, held VC/Hybrid mode on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

#### The following members were present:-

- 1. Dr. Tejaswini AnanthKumar, Chairperson, Finance Committee IIEST, Shibpur
- 2. Prof. V M S R Murthy, Director, IIEST, Shibpur Ex-Officio Member, Finance Committee, IIEST, Shibpur
- 3. Prof. Amit Roy Chowdhury, Professor, Dept. of Aerospace Engineering and Applied Mechanics, IIEST, Shibpur Member, Finance Committee, IIEST, Shibpur
- 4. Sri Narayan Singh Bisht, Deputy Secretary, (Scholarship & NITs), Dept. of Higher Education, MoE, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001 Ex-Officio Member, Finance Committee, IIEST, Shibpur
- 5. Ms. Garima Sharma, Dy. Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, MoE as Ex-Officio Member, Finance Committee, IIEST, Shibpur
- 6. Prof. Anirban Gupta, Registrar (Acting), IIEST, Shibpur and Ex-officio Member-Secretary, Finance Committee

At the outset, Dr. Tejaswini AnanthKumar, Chairperson, Finance Committee, welcomed the members present physically as well as those in the online mode. The Registrar was requested to present the agenda items of the meeting. Accordingly, the Registrar placed the agenda items.

Item No.20.01: Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 19th meeting of the Finance Committee held online on 27th August, 2024.

**Resolution 20.01** The Proceedings of the 19th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27th August 2024 were confirmed.

Item No. 20.02: Action taken report on the Proceedings adopted in the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.

**Resolution 20.02** The Finance Committee noted the actions taken on the proceedings of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 and advised to complete the pending actions at the earliest.

Item No. 20.03: To reconsider the payment of penalty of Rs. 1,00,000/- for wrong availment of exemption of excise duty.

**Resolution 20.03** The Assistant Commissioner of GST and Central Excise, Ministry of Finance, GoI (Division III) requested IIEST, Shibpur to deposit a penalty of Rs.1,00,000 for wrong availment of excise duty. The matter was discussed in the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FC and it was advised to send a request to waive the penalty. Accordingly, a letter was sent 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 with a request to waive the penalty. However, it has been communicated (letter dated 07/10/2024) by the Assistant Commissioner, GST and Central Excise that there is no legal provision for waiver of penalty.

The matter was discussed in details in FC. The Finance Committee recommended the same to be placed in the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BoG for its consideration and approval.

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Item No. 20.04: Master Plan and DPRs for new infrastructure exploring the various avenues of fund raising (HEFA, Alumni and CSR funding).

**Resolution 20.04** Proposed master plan along with existing campus layout were presented. DPRs for 5 new infrastructures (1000 seated girls' hostel, academic block, research and innovation park, auditorium and convention hall, guest house) were proposed for necessary fund raising (HEFA, Alumni and CSR funding). The preliminary drawings and preliminary costs have been submitted by the CPWD. The total estimated cost amounts to Rs. 787 crores.

The matter was discussed in details in FC. The Finance Committee recommended the same to be placed in the BWC meeting for consideration and be placed in subsequent FC meeting.

Item No. 20.05 Major repair and restoration of historical structures.

**Resolution 20.05** As a testimony to the long history of the institute, which dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several historic and iconic structures exist on the campus. As an integral part of Master Plan and campus development policy, the institute aims to conserve the heritage of the estate which plays a significant role in the nation's academic and cultural landscape. In this regard, CPWD has prepared a preliminary cost estimate of five such restoration projects, namely, of Downing Hall, Workshop Building, Madhusudan Bhavan, Hospital Building (Heaton Hall) and Slater Hall for a total amount of Rs. 24.8 crores. This proposal is being submitted against the unrealised one time grant that was approved by the Ministry at the time of conversion of BESU to IIEST, Shibpur.

The matter was discussed in details in FC. The Finance Committee recommended the same to be placed in the BWC meeting for consideration and be placed in subsequent FC meeting.

Item No. 20.06: To consider the delegation of financial powers to Deans for matters related to various functional activities for decentralisation to speed up the processes of institutional development and activity accomplishment.

**Resolution 20.06** Delegating limited financial powers to the Deans was proposed for efficient and quicker functions and delivery. A proposal for such financial powers has been prepared in line with some NITs (NIT Silchar, NIT Warangal).

The matter was discussed in details in FC. The Finance Committee recommended the same to be placed in the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BoG for its consideration and approval.

Item No. 20.07: Annual Report 2023-24.

**Resolution 20.07** The Annual Report (with SAR) was presented. It was prepared in both English and Hindi versions.

The Finance Committee recommended the same to be placed in the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BoG for its consideration and approval.

Item No. 20.08 Revised budget FY 2024-25 and Budget estimate for 2025-26.

**Resolution 20.08** The Ministry of Education, New Delhi (vide email dated 19.09.2024) requested to submit revised budget estimate for the year 2024-25 and budget estimate for the year 2025-26 by 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The budgets

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have been prepared in the prescribed format.

The Finance Committee recommended the revised budget of F.Y. 2024-25 and budget estimate for 2025-26 and the same to be placed in the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BoG for its consideration and approval.

Item No. 20.09 To consider the recommendation of the Committee constituted vide office order no. RDO/907/23 dated. 22.09.2023 regarding possible pay hike of the teaching contractual employees of the Institute.

#### Resolution 20.09

The recommendation of the committee constituted for pay (consolidated) hike of 3 contractual teaching faculty members is placed for consideration of FC. FC suggested for further detailed consideration mentioning rationale for the quantum of pay hike and comparing with other such pay for contractual teaching employees in other NITs, if any.

Item No. 20.10 To note the implementation of Office Memorandum No.F.No.15-1/204-TC dated 11.10.2024 regarding enhancement of Allowances due to increase of Dearness Allowance rates w.e.f. 1st January, 2024 issued by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India, New Delhi.

**Resolution 20.10** The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of India issued the above Office Memorandum regarding revision of Dearness Allowance linked allowances on account of revision of Dearness Allowance for employees of CFTIs. The Institute implemented the aforesaid O.M. with the approval of the competent authority in the month of November, 2024. It is reported to the FC and FC noted the same.

Agenda <u>20.11.M1</u>: To consider the issue regarding sanction of a bill for professional fee raised by Smt. Basabi Raichoudhury, Junior Advocate of Institute Counsel Sri Subrata Mukhopadhyay.

Resolution 29.24.M1: Sri Subrata Mukhopadhyay has been acting as Institute Counsel since 2006. Smt. Basabi Raichoudhury, Junior advocate to the Institute Counsel has also been assisting him in the court cases of the Institute. In 2015, a committee was constituted for determining the professional fees of the Institute lawyer and his junior wherein it was recommended that the senior advocate of the Institute can engage a junior for assisting him at 25% of fees of the senior advocate/appearance (Rs. 3600/-). The report was approved by the then Director, IIEST, Shibpur. Although the name of the junior advocate was not mentioned in that committee report, none other than Smt. Basabi Raichoudhury appears in all Institute cases as junior advocate with her senior counsel. Placed before FC for the approval of the Board for processing the bills of Smt. Basabi Raichoudhury.. FC recommended the same.

Agenda 20.11.M2: To consider the issue regarding sanction of a bill for professional fee raised by Additional Solicitor General, Calcutta High Court for providing a legal opinion in compliance of the instruction of the MoE:

Resolution 29.24.M2: In pursuance of the Reasoned order dated 02.05.2023 issued by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India in connection with the writ petition no. W.P.A. 6100 of 2016 (Sri Dipankar Chakrabarty Vs Union of India & Ors.), Institute sought legal opinion from Additional Solicitor General (ASG), Calcutta High Court regarding counting of Past Service of Sri Dipankar Chakrabarty vide letter no. RMS/483/23 dated 09.11.2023. In pursuance of the said letter, ASG forwarded the legal opinion and submitted a bill of professional fee for his legal opinion amounting to Rs. 44,000/- (Rs. 40,000/- for opinion + Rs. 4000/- for clerkage). The opinion was sought from ASG on

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being approved by the former Director but there was no indication regarding remuneration. Here it is relevant to note that as per Govt. of India memorandum numbered 26(1)/2014/Judl. Dated  $1^{\rm st}$  October, 2015 the rates for legal opinion are much lower than the Bill amount of ASG for the panel counsel of the High Court. It is also noted that no specific rates for legal opinion for ASG in the referred memorandum. Considering the above, bill raised by ASG could not be processed yet without the further instruction of the competent authority. The matter was placed before FC for consideration. FC recommended the same.

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

(Prof. Anirban Gupta)

Ex-Officio Member Secretary, Finance Committee & Registrar (Acting), IIEST, Shibpur

(Prof. V M S R Murthy)

Director, IIEST, Shibpur and

Ex-Officio Member, Finance Committee, IIEST, Shibpur

Approved

(Dr. Tejaswini AnanthKumar)

Chairman and Co-Founder, Adamya Chetana Foundation and

Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIEST, Shibpur