



**COEP Technological University, Pune**  
(A Unitary Public University of Govt. of Maharashtra)  
Wellesley Road, Shivajinagar, PUNE- 411 005

**Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> BOG Meeting**

The fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the Board of Governance of COEP Technological University was held on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 11.00 am at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Conference Hall, Main Building, COEP Tech University in hybrid mode. The following members were present in the meeting:

1.	Dr. Pramod Chaudhari	Chairman
2.	Prof. Sunil Bhirud	Member
3.	Mr. Bharat Gite	Member
4.	Prof. Milind Atrey	Member
5.	Dr. Vinod Mohitkar (Attended online)	Member
6.	Prof. Ashish Lele	Member
7.	Prof. Sunil Bhagwat	Member
8.	Shri. Vinayak Pai	Member
9.	Shri. Amit Paranjape	Member
10.	Prof. Suhas Mohite	Member
11.	Dr. Ravindra Utgikar	Permanent Invitee
12.	Dr. (Mrs.) Yashodhara Haribhakta,	Permanent Invitee
13.	Mr. Amit Bajaj	Permanent Invitee
14.	Dr. Dayaram Sonawane	Member -Secretary

**Members granted leave of absence:**

1.	Shri. Satish Tidke	Member
2.	Dr. (Mrs.) Aruna Thube,	Member

At the outset Dr. D. N. Sonawane, Registrar, COEP Technological University, welcomed all the members. Prof. Sunil Bhirud felicitated Hon'ble Dr. Pramod Chaudhari, on his successful completion of one-year term as Chairman of the Board of Governors of COEP Tech University. Dr Pramod Chaudhari congratulated and felicitated Prof. Milind Atrey for being appointed as the Deputy Director of IIT Bombay.

The BOG Chairman, Dr. Pramod Chaudhari, welcomed all the attendees to the meeting, both in person and virtually. He clarified that each member of the Board has made a personal contribution to the advancement of the university in every area of its operations. While updating the members, he said that the University has undertaken number of projects in the past year, adding that while the University Transformation and Alumni Participation have advanced successfully, more work needs to be done on the research park in Chikhali. Additionally, he commended the members and the government for their consistent support and timely completion of the majority of long-pending proposals.

**Item 5.1: Presentation by Vice Chancellor encompassing the following points: (For Information and Discussion)**

Prof. Sunil Bhirud made a comprehensive presentation on the following points for information and brief discussion.

**Key highlights/achievements of COEP Tech since last BOG meeting.**

- **Video Film on COEP Tech University**

Prof. Bhirud emphasized the need of having a professional video film for the University and that will highlight its unique selling points, state-of-the-art facilities, and infrastructure for the aspiring students as well as to connect and inform the Alumni about the Vision, Mission and Road Map of the University.

Prof. Bhirud informed the members that the new website is being developed and will be made available to all the Departments for uploading their respective information on the website. The website will be made available in public domain from 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 on occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day of the University.

Prof. Bhirud underlined the importance of the University producing a professional film that will showcase its infrastructure, cutting-edge facilities, and unique selling propositions to prospective students. It will also serve to connect with and inform alumni about the University's Vision, Mission, and future plans.

- **Camp for facilitating students to resolve queries related to MahaDBT Portal.**

Prof. Bhirud informed the members that a chairman-led committee specifically for scholarships has been established to provide guidance, answer questions, and handle concerns pertaining to all kinds of scholarships. This group hosted a four-day camp to address the concerns raised by over five hundred students over the MahaDBT portal and scholarships, the majority of which were government-funded.



He further informed that regular camps will be organized periodically from upcoming academic sessions to address the difficulties and issues students encounter when applying for online scholarships on MahaDBT and other portals.

- **Comprehensive Academic Calendar**

Prof. Bhirud presented the highlights of the Academic Calendar planned for the Academic Year 2024-2025.

- **Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (BBA-BFSI, BBA-Logistics)**

The Academic Council in its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 vide item no.4.5 has recommended starting the **Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (BBA-BFSI, BBA-Logistics)** and recommended for the admission process in accordance with government guidelines.

- **Inauguration of 5G Test Lab, Proposal for 6G Lab**

Prof. Bhirud informed that with the support of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India an 5G lab has been established in the Department of Electronics and Communication. He also apprises members that the Department expects to receive a grant from the Government for setting up a 6G lab. Additionally, he requested in-principal approval for constructing an additional floor in the E&TC department to accommodate the 5G and 6G lab.

- **Inauguration of the House of Clubs sponsored by Alumni of 1965 Batch.**

Prof. Bhirud informed that, the House of Clubs funded by graduates of 1969 Mechanical Engineering has been inaugurated at the hands of Dr. Pramod Chaudhary, Chairman BOG on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

- **Updates since the last Board Meeting.**

- Award of DRDO research Project- "Development of the Algorithm & Testing Tools for Directed Energy System on Long Range and Agile Targets" IISC Bangalore and COEP Tech (COEP Tech- Share Rs. 1.57 Cr) to Dr. D. N. Sonawane as PI
- Visit of COEP Faculty to Jio Research Lab, Sahyadri Farms Nashik, and TCS, Pune
- Training for Industry peoples: Anand Group (20 No.), Blue Star (30 No.)
- The members suggested posting the testimonials of the working professionals who are being trained by COEP faculty on different social media of COEP Tech.

- **Request for Direct Second Year Division for Working Professionals**

Prof. Bhirud informed to the Board that in response to the growing industry demand for employee upskilling, AICTE has introduced a scheme of creating a separate division specifically for working professionals holding a Diploma in Engineering to be admitted in second year B. Tech.

Accordingly, as per the request of the University, the AICTE has approved an additional intake of 30 (supernumerary seats) of Working Professionals to the Department of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering & Industrial Management vide an Extensional of Approval (EOA) given to the University for

the AY: 2024-25. These working professionals will be directly admitted to the second year of the B. Tech program through the CET Cell admission process and as per the guidelines of the State Government. However, their classes will be conducted in a hybrid mode with mutual convenience of the participating industries/employees and the University.

Parallely, M/s. Anand Group, which is a leading manufacturing industry having a group of 23 leading automotive industries including 14 joint ventures and 05 technical collaborators having around 20,000+ employees. Most of its groups of companies are located near Pune at Chakan location which is around 50 km from the University. They approached to the University and requested for starting of a separate division of Second Year Engineering from AY: 2024-25 for upskilling of their employees having Diploma qualification on similar ground of admissions of Working Professionals with following same qualification and experience criteria as mentioned by AICTE and State Government.

Since AICTE has given approval and permission for a separate division of Working Professionals of 30 intake each for 03 Engineering Departments of the University, it is therefore requested to the Board members to allow for admission of another 30 students (Working Professionals) to make a class of 60 students. An additional 30 students admitted under this category will be admitted with the same norms and procedures as laid down by AICTE and Govt. of Maharashtra. Therefore, instead of a division of 30 Working Professionals it will be a class of 60 students having the same norms and academic structure as other regular students admitted through CET cell.

The members discussed, deliberated and recommended of starting of a separate division of working Professionals of 60 intake each (30 as per AICTE approval and 30 additional as per industry demands) for the Department of Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering while ensuring to maintain the quality of the students being admitted, their merit, transparencies in the admission process, the consistency and quality of the academics.

- **Celebration of University Foundation Day: 21st June 2024**

Prof. Bhirud informed the Board that the University will be celebrating its 2<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024. The members suggested inviting eminent academicians, scientists, industrialists, alumni to deliver expert talks on the said occasion. Prof. Atrey suggested to constitute a committee which will gather suggestions and ideas from all the stakeholders regarding the programs that can be conducted on the foundation day.

- **Proposal to State Government for infrastructure development.**

Prof. Bhirud apprised the members that the University has submitted a proposal to the tune of Rs. 565 Cr. to the State Government for strengthening Digital and Physical Infrastructure.

- **Proposed University Administrative Structure.**

Prof. Bhirud informed to the Board that the current administrative framework of the University resembles of an Institute, the University has proposed a new administrative structure like other State Universities to facilitate the smooth functioning of its academic and administrative operations. The members opined that considering the number of





students enrolled and the quantum of administrative work being a Unitary University, the proposed administrative structure and the requirement of the Human Resources looks to be heavy and should be revisited and should be presented again.

Accordingly, the members recommended Prof. Sunil Bhagwat to overview the proposed structure and revise it appropriately with rationale.

Dr. Mohitkar suggested that making optimum use of technology viz ERP and other automation engines to reduce manpower requirements and design the administrative structure accordingly.

• **Progress on Chikhali Campus.**

- Prof. Bhirud informed the Board that the Government has sanctioned a budget of Rs. 59.34 Cr in phase-1 for construction, electrical, and allied activities at the Chikhali campus. However, through the audit of the ongoing work, it is noticed that an estimated budget of Rs. 64.71 Cr. is expected for the completion of the said activities, excluding expenditure on the IT infrastructure. Thus, an additional fund of Rs. 5.37 Cr is required for completion of Civil work and 8.18Cr. for IT infrastructure.
- The difference in the previously sanctioned budget and the escalation in the budget is mainly due to the difference in GST (12% to 18%).
- After an exhaustive study of the ongoing work, it is observed that considering the development of IT infrastructure and other allied services an approximate budget of 70.5Cr. will be required for completion of the entire work.
- Informing about the current progress of the project, he said that about 66% of the work has been completed (except for the IT infrastructure).
- Mr. Pai suggested having a clear road map on operational use of the space, accordingly, the IT infrastructure and procurement of equipment/ machinery can be planned.
- The members recommended appointing a dedicated Professor of Practice/CEO/OSD who will oversee this project at Chikhali Campus. Accordingly, COEP alumnus Rear Admiral Ashish Kulkarni's name was recommended to be the task master for the said project. The Board Members empowered the Vice chancellor to interact with Mr. Ashish Kulkarni and based on the interaction he may be appointed as Professor of Practice/OSD initially for 03 months and further extension may be given as per his performance and as per the University rules.
- Mr. Bharat Gite empathized that this is ambitious project of the University therefore one BOG meeting should be conducted at the Chikhali location to understand the exact progress and issues of the Chikhali project and decide the further course of action accordingly.
- Dr. Mohitkar instructed to make request along with the detailed proposal clearly indicating reasons for increase/escalation in the cost including the left-out items from the GR, if any, to the Government for additional funds.



- Dr. Mohitkar informed that the original proposal was prepared around 5-6 years back when the need of the industries was different, technology requirements was different, accordingly, the Govt has issued the GR in 2022. Looking at the space at which the technology and industry requirements are changing, he suggested that a committee may be constituted to relook, review and re-evaluate the original project proposal, the list of equipment and the areas in which the center of excellences were proposed. Based on the recommendations of the committee a revised proposal should be submitted to the Government for corrections and permissions to establish the CoE's.

- **Updates about the Vision and Mission of the University**

An extensive effort was made to gather feedback from all faculty members on the SWOT analysis of the University for creating the Vision and Mission of the University. Members suggested compiling the findings from both the TCS and KPMG exercises and presenting the comprehensive report in the next Board meeting.

- **Alumni initiative updates**

Prof. Bhirud informed that the alumni meet was organized at Nashik and Mumbai recently and the future meeting are planned at Delhi and Pune.

- **Updates on placement and Social Internship**

Prof. Bhirud raised the concerns about the current placement situation, informing the members that currently, 74.25% of the Final Year B. Tech students are placed, whereas only 40% of the M. Tech students have secured placements. The significant decline in placement rates for Civil Engineering and Planning is alarming. One of the primary factors contributing to this decline is the admission of lower-merit students for the Planning program.

The members suggested conducting an introspection into this significant concern and implementing the necessary measures to improve the situation.

**Resolution:** The Board **NOTED** all above points and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations.

**Item No. 5.2: Confirmation of Minutes and Action Taken Report (ATR) of the 4<sup>th</sup> BOG meeting held on Friday, March 22, 2024.**

Dr. Sonawane informed members that the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> BOG Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 were circulated to all the members for their kind perusal and suggestions. The minutes were finalized after incorporating all the suggestions received from the members.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Minutes of Meeting and Action Taken Report (ATR) of 4<sup>th</sup> BOG meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024





**Item 5.3: To approve COEP Tech Digital University initiative**

Prof. Bhirud informed Board members that many IIT's, NITs and IIMs are offering academic programs of industry demand in online mode to cater the masses of the society as well as to increase the enrollment of the students. Similarly, COEP Tech University would like to offer programs in online and blended mode. Accordingly, a proposal of Rs. 33.0 Crore has been submitted to the State Government for establishing the infrastructure required for content creation and delivery over digital media.

Members deliberated and appreciated the initiative. The board approved establishing facilities for Digital learning in the University. The Board approved starting online delivery for certificate courses and one year post graduate diploma programs and subsequently going for regular degree / PG programs subject to fulfilment of necessary compliances of various authorities.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the starting of the digital University initiative.

**Item 5.4: To approve the advertisement and further appointment of Tenure (Contractual basis) faculty at various Departments of the University as per UGC/AICTE norms.**

Dr. Sonawane briefed the members that COEP Tech University has 221 sanctioned posts of UG/PG teachers, which includes Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, and TPO. Currently, there are 139 faculty (Govt and BOG appointed) working at different Department of the University. As per the AICTE norms of minimum 1:20 Faculty Student Ratio and the number of students enrolled, there is a need for 223 faculty members.

However, as per the academic load requirements of different Departments and actual number of students enrolled, there is a need for a minimum of 260 faculty. Hence, there is a shortage of **121 faculty at different cadres**. Therefore, there is an urgent need to appoint faculty purely on a temporary basis for maximum of 11-months period or till the end of Academic Year 2024-25.

It is proposed to invite applications from the eligible candidates for the appointment of faculty purely on a temporary basis with designation and consolidated remuneration as per AY: 2023-24 for a maximum period of 11-months or till the end of academic session 2024-25.

- Adjunct faculty with only M Tech degree ---Rs. 60,000/-pm
- Adjunct Faculty with PhD degree, no experience- Rs. 70,000/-pm
- Adjunct Faculty with PhD degree with minimum after PhD 02 years of experience - Rs. 80,000/- pm.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to publish the advertisement and further appointment of contractual basis faculty at various Departments of the University as per UGC/AICTE norms and the provisions of COEP Tech University Act 2022.



**Item No 5.5:** To approve the creation of the posts for a specific duration for the Department of Management and approval for the appointment of Tenure (purely on a Contractual Basis) faculty for the Department of Management as per UGC/AICTE norms.

Department of Management of COEP Technological University started in the year 2019. The Department of Management offers 02 MBA programs, namely MBA-General Administration and MBA-Business Analytics, of 60 intake each, to date, 05 batches of students have rolled out. Since, this is a self-supporting program; the Government has not sanctioned any teaching post in the Department. The department is fulfilling its academic requirement by inviting visiting faculty and adjunct faculty appointed for a maximum of 11-months purely on a temporary basis from time to time.

To maintain academic quality, enhance industry interaction, improve the overall teaching-learning process and students' satisfaction level, it is necessary to appoint well-experienced regular faculty on a maximum 3-years contract basis till a decision regarding the appointment of faculty on a regular basis at the university level is decided by BOG.

Accordingly, it is proposed to create 01 position of Professor, 02 Position of Associate Professor and 04 positions of Assistant Professors in Department of Management for a duration of maximum 03 years. These posts created at the University level shall be seized as soon as the faculty appointed against these posts leaves the University or at the end of the specified duration (i.e. 03-years from the date of appointment).

It is proposed that these faculty members shall be paid the consolidated salary as mentioned below subject to revision from time to time:

- Professor (Tenure purely on a Contractual Basis) – Rs. 2.00 Lakh/pm
- Associate Professor (Tenure purely on a Contractual Basis) –Rs. 1.50 Lakh/pm
- Assistant Professor (Tenure purely on a Contractual Basis) – Rs. 1.00 Lakh/pm

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the creation of the dying posts as per the provisions of COEP Tech University Act 2022 for a maximum duration of 3-years in the Department of Management and appointment of Tenure (purely on a Contractual Basis) faculty against these dying positions. The qualification, experience and other conditions shall be as per the prevailing AICTE norms. [ATR-Establishment]

**Item 5.6:** To approve the appointment of Professor of Practice at various Departments as per the Guidelines and the norms of UGC/AICTE/Govt of Maharashtra by nominations.

UGC and AICTE has taken an initiative to bring the industry and other professional experts into the academia through the new category called as "Professor of Practice." AICTE/UGC has published the guidelines of engaging the "Professor of Practice" where the industry experts with exceptional work experience in emerging and multidisciplinary domains can join as "Professor of Practice" to the technical institutions/Universities. The initiative is to foster industrial research and to integrate industrial/corporate experience into academics and address the shortage of faculty.





The search committee of each Department will identify the industry experts as a Professor of Practice. They will also verify their credentials and suitability based on the academic and research requirements of the Departments and nominate their candidature to the University level selection committee.

- Dr. Mohitkar recommended having more Professor of Practice on campus to enhance academic excellence and limit the number of Adjunct Faculty. It is recommended to have a minimum of one or two Professors of Practice per Department.
- The members suggested identifying eminent academicians, industrialists, and alumni willing to contribute to academics and encourage their involvement with the University as Professors of Practice.
- It was discussed that the professor of Practice may be paid a salary in the range of Rs.1Lakh to Rs.1.5Lakh per month depending on the experience, expertise and number of days of engagement in a week on a pro-rata basis.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to initiate the Process of the appointment of “Professor of Practice” by nominations as per the guidelines of UGC/AICTE and Govt of Maharashtra published from time to time.

**Item 5.7: To approve the continuation of the incentivizing of the functionaries of the University.**

Prof. Bhirud informed that as a prevailing practice of Autonomous Institute the new functionaries nominated as per COEP Tech ACT were also getting incentives for the portfolios that they were holding. However, since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, the scheme of incentivizing the functionaries has been kept on hold by the University administration for no specific reason.

Faculty members holding different positions/port folios have now requested to continue the earlier provisions of incentivizing the faculty as per earlier provisions. The University has carried out an exercise and compared the same with other institutes like SGGS Institute of Technology Nanded and VJTI Mumbai to compare with COEP s existing scheme.

It is therefore requested to continue the practice of incentivizing the functionaries as per the prevailing practice.

- Mr. Bharat Gite suggested to rationalize the policy of incentivizing the functionaries with comparing the scheme of other institutions of Govt of Maharashtra and present the same in the next BOG meeting.
- Dr. Lele recommended creating a document outlining the rationale behind the abrupt withholding of the existing policy.

The members discussed and proposed revisiting the incentive structure and rationalize it with other institutions of Govt. of Maharashtra and present the proposal in the next BOG meeting.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **DEFFERE** the agenda for presenting the same in the next BOG meeting.

**Item No 5.8: To approve the amendments in the rules of RIIL regarding distribution of consultancy /third party audit/testing charges.**

Faculty members of COEP Technological University are involved in Testing, Consultancy and third-party audit work of various Government and private agencies. The Current guidelines provide a detailed framework for the distribution and retention of the Testing and Consultancy charges. These guidelines are implemented with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Faculty members raised certain issues and concerns about the assignment of work and distribution of the fee charged. Accordingly, a committee was constituted to study the existing guidelines and the similar provisions at VJTI, SGGSIT Nanded and other institutes and propose modifications in the existing work assignment and distribution of consultancy / testing / third-party audit charges.

As per the recommendations of the committee, it is proposed to amend the existing guidelines of RIIL for assignment of work and distribution charges of Testing, Consultancy and Third-Party audit.

Dr. Lele suggested renaming the term consultancy as "Advisory Consultancy" to ensure clear scope of the work assignment, he also mentioned to put a specific note mentioning on the report that the consultancy is the opinion/advised of individual and not the University.

**Resolution:** The Board received the committee report and **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the amendments in the existing rules of RIIL regarding distribution of consultancy/third party audit/testing charges as per the recommendations of the committee.

**Item No 5.9: To approve for making the University Video film as a part of brand building and its applicable charges**

Prof. Bhirud emphasized the need of a professional video film for the University, to be prepared by professional agency. The proposed video film will highlight the University giving 360-degree overview, state-of-the-art facilities, and infrastructure for the aspiring students as well as the to connect and inform the Alumni about the Vision, Mission and road map of the University.

Accordingly, it is proposed to prepare a video film. The charges for creating a video film will be approximately Rs. 6.0 Lakhs.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the making of professional video film for the University by professional agency following the standard procurement procedures of the University and approved Rs. 6.0 Lakhs expenses for the same.

**Item No 5.10: Approval for engagement of KPMG as a consultant for the transformation initiative of COEP Tech University.**

COEP Tech's Board vision is to transform this premier institute into a world class University. The objective can be achieved by expansion, internationalization and creating a state-of-the-art infrastructure for the research.





In view of this, the University has published an expression of Interest (EOI) on April 02, 2024, to invite all the empaneled consulting firms with Govt. of Maharashtra as per GR No. GAD-IT080/4/2014-O/O DIRECTORATE OF IT-DIT (MH) dated 5th Oct. 2023.

In reply to EOI, out of 05 empaneled consulting firms, 03 consulting firms namely M/s. Ernst & Young LLP (E&Y), M/s. KPMG Advisory Services Pvt Ltd (KMPG) and M/s Price Waterhouse Coopers Pvt Ltd (PWC) have participated in the technical and financial bidding process.

A committee was constituted to evaluate the technical and commercial proposal of the bidders. The committee recommended the solution provided by KPMG as the most appropriate amongst the three vendors.

Based on the recommendation of the committee the financial proposals were evaluated. It was observed that the price quoted by KPMG was Rs. 2.1694Cr, whereas the other two vendors namely M/s. E&Y and M/s. PwC were quoted Rs. 2.80Cr. and Rs. 1.91Cr. respectively, excluding the applicable taxes.

Though, the price quoted by KPMG was not lower but, based on the technical competency, their credentials and the score obtained, the committee unanimously recommends negotiating with KPMG for the cost without compromising on manpower deployment and finalizing the assignment with them.

Based on the committee recommendations, negotiations were done with KPMG on 14th May 2024 for final quotes. After negotiations, KPMG vide email dt 28th May 2024 submitted final quote offering a discount of 15% on the originally quoted value of Rs.2,16,94,000/- amounting to Rs.1,84,00,000/- which is lower than the lowest bidder (PwC).

In view of all the above, it is proposed to engage KPMG consulting firm for the project "COEP Transformation Initiatives" at the cost of Rs.1,84,00,000/- plus Taxes at actual and the terms and conditions of GR dt.5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023.

Mr. Vinay Pai and other Board members suggested that the University should ensure the deliverables by KMPG and its timely completion.

Dr. Mohitkar recommended appealing to the Alumni and exploring other external sources for funding the KPMG project to reduce the financial burden of the University as much as possible.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the engagement of KPMG as a consultant for the transformation initiative of COEP Tech University with an amount of Rs. 1,84,000,00/- (Rs. One Crore Eighty-Four Lakh) + Applicable Taxes and the terms and conditions of GR dt.5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 and approved signing the contract agreement with KPMG by mentioning the deliverables as listed in the project proposal by ensuring its timely completion and present the progress to the Board regularly.

**Item No 5.11:** To apprise on Fee reconciliation of all the students presently studying on the campus (AY 2023-24).

Prof. Bhirud informed the members that the students admitted in COEP Tech are eligible for scholarships/free ship and get the reimbursing of these fees from different Government departments as per their category and financial status. It has been observed that in the past few

years there were discrepancies in the fees charged/accepted from these students. In some of the cases the students have not filled/submitted or not bothered to correct their online applications for the reimbursement of the fees. To find out the extent of receivables against the non-receipt/not-reimbursed fees from the Government departments and the students Ms. Khare Deshmukh & Co was engaged to carry out the exercise of fee reconciliation for the students presently studying in the University during FY 2023-24.

As per the report submitted by Ms. Khare Deshmukh, the total Fees outstanding is Rs.17.99 Cr. from the students presently studying on campus during FY2023-24 whereas the fees receivable from the students not on the campus are Rs.15.62 Cr which is not impossible to recover from the passed-out students.

Also, the fees receivable from the students of the Final Year of UG/PG & MBA studying in the AY2023-24 and recently passed out is Rs.3.26 Cr which is also difficult to get as the students have already passed out.

Members noted the point and the fee reconciliation facts of Ms. Khare Deshmukh and suggested pursuing with the students those have recently passed out and writing to them regularly about non-payment of the fees.

The members recommended writing to the relevant Ministry informing that a substantial amount in the form of reimbursement of fees of the reserve category students is not received from the Government due to failure of the students to make appropriate applications and requesting for the permission to write off the pending amount up to the academic year 2023-24, as it is currently reflected as a negative balance and loss in the University's balance sheet.

The members also suggested obtaining legal advice and submitting a declaration stating that the current Board bears no responsibility for any past irregularities or discrepancies in the university's financial matters now under its jurisdiction.

The Board members are advised to take an appropriate measure to ensure such instances will not occur in future.

Prof. Bhirud appraised the Board members that, the University has constituted a dedicated Scholarship committee headed by a chairman for guiding and resolving the queries and addressing the issues related to all types of scholarships. A four-day camp was conducted by this committee and addressed the queries of more than five hundred students related to scholarships, mostly Govt scholarships and the issues faced in MahaDBT portal.

**Resolution:** The Board received the factual report of fees reconciliation submitted by M/s. Khare Deshmukh and **NOTED** the points regarding the financial loss of the University due to timely non-receipt of fees from the students. Members **RESOLVED** that writing off the pending amount of non-receipt of the fees up to the academic year 2023-24, as it is currently reflected as a negative balance. Also, obtain legal advice and submit a declaration stating that the current Board bears no responsibility for any past irregularities or discrepancies in the university's financial matters.





**Item No 5.12: To approve the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Fees Fixation Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

Dr. Sonawane presented the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Fees Fixation Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The Board members received the minutes and approved the recommendation of Fees Fixation Committee regarding changes in the proposed fees of UG/PG/MBA/PhD/PGD/Direct Second Year and students admitted through working professional category for the AY: 2024-25.

**a. Fee Fixation- Agenda item no 2.2 : Approval of the proposed fees structure of UG/PG programs for AY: 2024-25**

**Recommendation:**

- For UG students, the proposed rise in total fees for OPEN category students is 5.2% i.e. from Rs.1,35,200/- to Rs.1,42,240/-
- 5.17% (increase in fees from Rs. 1,55,200/- to 1,63,230/-) for students admitted under JEE and Gulf Quota category.
- Fees for NRI/OCI/FN students reinstated to AY 2022-23 to \$6250
- No change in the fees of PG programs in Engineering and Planning.
- M. Tech Automotive Systems program for working professionals and all other self-supporting programs, the fees proposed is Rs. 3,00,000/-
- Rise in fees of MBA programs from Rs. 2,08,000/- to 3,00,000/-
- Explicit mention of the examination fees of Rs. 2750/- in the proposed fee structure.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Fees recommended by the Fee fixation committee for the AY 2024-25.

**b. Fee Fixation- Agenda item No 2.3 - Approval of the proposed fees structure of S.Y.B. Tech direct second year admitted students and students admitted through Working Professional Category for AY: 2024-25.**

**Recommendation:**

- The fees for S.Y. B. Tech direct second year admitted students and students admitted through Working Professional Category are proposed as the same as applicable for candidates admitted under JEE Quota for AY:2024-25 with overall fees of Rs. 1,63,230/-

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Fees of S.Y. B. Tech direct second year students and students admitted through Working Professional Category for AY: 2024-25.

**c. Fee Fixation- Agenda item No 2.4 - Ratification and Approval of Proposed Fees Structure of PhD Program Effective from January 2024.**

**Recommendation:**

- The fees for full-time PhD students is proposed as Rs. 48,750/- per year while Rs.96,700/- per year for part-time PhD students Effective From January 2024.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Fees of Ph.D. students admitted through full-time and part-time category from January 2024.

*Gm*

- d. **Fee Fixation- Agenda item no 2.5 - Approval for the proposed fees structure of Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) programs for AY: 2024-25.**

**Recommendation:**

- As per the recommendations of Fees Fixation Committee, the respective HODs shall propose the changes in fees, if any, for the PGD program/s based on the recommendations of the department faculty and Department Board of Study and authorized VC to approve the same.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Fees of various PGD programs and authorized VC to approve the fees proposed by the respective Department's HOD to change the fees' structure from time to time.

**Item No 5.13:** To approve the Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Dr. Sonawane presented the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The Board members received the minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Academic Council and approved the recommendation as:

- a. **Academic Council Agenda Item no. 4.2- Approval for the proposed Academic Calendar for the AY: 2024-25**

Prof. Bhirud presented the Academic Calendar proposed for the AY: 2024-25 and the provisions made in the proposed Academic Calendar.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the proposed Academic Calendar for the AY: 2024-25.

- b. **Academic Council Agenda Item no. 4.3- Approval for the amendments in the PhD rules and formation of doctoral committee**

Prof. Bhirud presented the recommendations of Academic Council as the amendments in the PhD rules, formation of doctoral committee, minimum publication criterion for the award of PhD degree, recognition of PhD supervisors, PhD admission and selection process.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of Academic Council for the amendments in the PhD rules and the points mentioned above.

- c. **Academic Council Agenda Item no. 4.4- Approval of the proposed structure and syllabus of the PG courses for working professionals as: "M. Tech Automotive Systems" proposed by School of ECE-Department of Instrumentation and Control.**

In context to start the M. Tech program in Automotive Systems for working professionals, Dr. Sonawane presented the statistics of the manpower requirement in Electric Vehicle domain, industry demand, academic structure, proposed courses, collaboration with industry those will participate in the said course, etc. Dr. Sonawane also mentioned that the University will start this program on a self-supporting basis from AY: 2024-25.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of Academic Council to start the M. Tech program in Automotive Systems for working Professionals from AY: 2024-25 on a self-supporting basis.





- d. **Academic Council Agenda Item no. 4.5-** To approve "Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (AEDP) in Bachelor of Business Administration-Banking Financial Services and Insurance (BBA-BFSI) and Bachelor of Business Administration-Logistics (BBA-Logistics) under the National Initiative for Skill Integrated Higher Education (NISHE) in the Department of Management.

Prof. Bhirud explained the Board members that the Department of Higher and Technical Education (DHTE) & CRISP (Centre for Research in schemes & policies) has signed the MOU under the aegis of National Initiative for Skill Integrated Higher Education (NISHE), to offer UG degree programs: Bachelor of Business Administration-Banking Financial Services and Insurance (BBA-BFSI) and Bachelor of Business Administration-Logistics (BBA-Logistics) as Apprentice Embedded Degree Programs (AEDP) initiative.

The COEP Tech University is willing to start the BBA program from AY: 2024-25 with an intake of minimum 30 or more under this initiative of Department of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Maharashtra.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of Academic Council to start the Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (AEDP) in Bachelor of Business Administration under the National Initiative for Skill Integrated Higher Education (NISHE) in the Department of Management from AY: 2024-25 with an intake of minimum 30 or more under the initiative of Department of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Maharashtra.

- e. **Academic Council Agenda Item no. 4.6-** F.Y. B. Tech (NEP Compliant) result and proposing revised examination and evaluation scheme for approval.

The academic council recommended implementing the revised examination scheme from AY: 2024-25. i.e. Theory: Mid-Semester-Examination (30%), Teachers' Assessment (10%), End-Semester Examination (60%) and for Laboratory: Continuous-Internal-Evaluation (50%), and End-Semester-Examination (50%).

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of Academic Council to implement the revised examination scheme from AY: 2024-25.

- f. **Academic Council Agenda Item no. 4.7-** Approval for the NEP Complaint academic structure and syllabus of Second Year (SY) B. Tech. and First Year (FY) M. Tech. programs.

The Academic Council approved and recommended the NEP Complaint academic structure and syllabus of SY. B.Tech. for regular and lateral entry students and F.Y. MTech. programs presented by all the HODs.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of Academic Council of implementing the NEP complaint academic structure and syllabus of S.Y B. Tech and F. Y. M. Tech programs for AY: 2024-25.

- g. **Academic Council Agenda Item no. 4.8-** Minutes of RRC meeting of respective School.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of meetings of respective School.





**h. Academic Council Agenda Item no. 4.9 - Approval on Ph.D. supervisors of the respective schools**

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Ph.D. supervisors recommended by different schools of the University.

**Item No 5.14: To approve the Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> BWC Committee held on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

Prof. Bhirud presented the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BWC Committee held on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The Board members received the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> BWC committee and approved the recommendations of BWC as:

**a. BWC Agenda item no 2.2: Report on construction of Research and Innovation Centre at Chikhali.**

Prof. Bhirud presented the report on the construction of the Research and Innovation Centre at Chikhali and the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BWC committee.

As per approval of erstwhile BOG in its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022, M/s. Shubham EPC Pvt. Ltd. was appointed to carry out the construction work for Chikhali Campus. The contract value approved was Rs. 31,85,77,502/- + 12% GST = 35,68,06,802/-. However, on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Govt of India has issued a notification of revision in GST rates. As per notification, the GST rate was increased from 12% to 18% for the civil construction work. Therefore, the M/s. Shubham EPC Pvt. Ltd has requested to consider the increase in GST rate and revised the contract value without changing the basic tender value. Thus, the gross contract value is increased from Rs.35,68,06,802/- to 37,59,21,542/- i.e. there is increase of Rs. 1,91,14,650/- to the original contract value.

Also, M/s. Shubham EPC Pvt. Ltd. has requested to approve the amount increased due to the increase in GST rate, excess quantities and escalation happened time to time.

The BWC committee recommended the excess quantities, escalation and the increase in GST (from 12% to 18%) and resolved to make the payment to the contractor due against the pending bills and forthcoming bills shall be processed as per the norms.

It has been also resolved in the meeting that obtaining the necessary permissions from the regulatory authorities for the efficient use of the lower ground floor. It has been decided that the architect CCBA must get the necessary permissions from the PCMC. Further, MEP works (Electrical, HVAC, Lift, etc.) should be executed through proper tendering process and the work should be completed in the next six months.

The Board members discussed, deliberated and suggested that a detailed report indicating reasons for the increase in the cost, excess items, items not included in the GR to be submitted to the Government for requesting additional funds.

Dr. Mohitkar informed that the original proposal was prepared around 5-6 years back when the need of the industries was different, technology requirements was different, accordingly, the Govt has issued the GR in 2022. Looking at the space at which the technology and industry requirements are changing, he suggested that a committee may be constituted to relook, review and re-evaluate the original project proposal, the list of equipment and the areas in which the center of excellences were proposed. Based on the recommendations of the committee a revised





proposal is to be submitted to the Government for corrections and permissions to establish the CoE's.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of BWC on paying the excess amount due to increase in GST rates as well as increase in the cost due to excess qualities and escalations. The board suggested submitting a detailed report indicating reasons for the increase in the cost including left-out items, if any from the GR. It was also resolved to review the entire project based on the current research, Innovation and industry requirements and submit the revised proposal to the Government.

**b. BWC Agenda item no 2.3: Progress of Civil Drawing Hall Building**

The BWC committee resolved that the detailed estimate of MEP services for Civil Drawing Hall shall be worked out with the help of experts from Mechanical and Electrical and progress to be presented in the next BWC meeting.

**Resolution:** The Board **NOTED** the progress of Civil Drawing Hall Building and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of BWC and initiate the process subject to availability of funds.

**c. BWC Agenda item no 2.4: Progress on Library cum Computer-IT Building**

The work of Library cum Computer-IT building is standstill February 2024 due to non-availability of funds. In the month of March 2024, University has received Rs.12.84Cr. from the Government for construction of Library building. Also, Govt. of Maharashtra has approved the grant of Rs. 30.84Cr. and issued the administrative approval. The funds are likely to be received in the month of July/August 2024.,

The BWC committee resolved that the architect CCBA should prepare the detailed estimate after taking the requirement from the user Department. The single tender shall be floated for all the remaining work to complete the project.

The Board members discussed, deliberated and expressed the concern over the progress of Library cum Computer-IT Building as progress is not satisfactory. The Board acknowledged and conveyed its sincere gratitude to the State Government for sanctioning a grant of Rs. 12.84 Cr. to Library Building and receiving administrative approval of grant of Rs. 30.84Cr.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of BWC and suggested to initiate the tendering process and directed to execute the work on priority.

**d. BWC Agenda item no 2.5: Proposal for construction of new administrative block.**

Prof. Bhirud presented to the board that currently the administration, finance, examination and students' sections of the University are situated at different locations and do not have a separate building.

In view of this, it is proposed to build a separate administrative block for these functional Units of the University as a priority. The proposed Admin Block will be G+2 with built up area of 1252 sq.m. The estimated cost of the administrative building will be Rs. 8.82 Cr. (as per SSR 20023-24) it may vary depending on the situation and the kind of structure to be built. It is also proposed that the said building will be completed in 12 months' time from the start of the project.



The committee recommends the construction of a new administrative block near the main building the proposed building can be planned as a signature of modern architecture.

The Board members discussed, deliberated and recommended construction of a new administrative building; the Board also suggested building a new administrative block as a modern architecture subject to availability of funds with the University. The board also suggested exploring the funding options from alumni and support from the alumni working in construction areas.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the construction of new administrative block as modern architecture subject to availability of funds with the University and exploring the support of funds from alumni.

**e. BWC/Agenda item no 2.6: Proposal for the construction of 5G test laboratory, for Centre of Excellence in the E & Tc Department.**

Prof. Bhirud explained that Electronics and Telecommunication Department of the University has received a project grant of Rs. 71.25 Lakhs for conducting research in 5G and 6G areas. It has been proposed to build a 5G research Laboratory on the second floor of the Centre of Excellence building of the E &Tc Department with an estimated cost of Rs. 1.48 Cr.

The BWC committee recommends revisiting the estimate by considering the alternate construction material and recommending the proposal subject to availability of the funds and financial support.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the construction of 5G test laboratory on the second floor of the Centre of Excellence building of the E &Tc Department subject to availability of funds with the University.

**f. BWC/Agenda item no 2.7: Renovation and Structural strengthening of SC/ST Hostel Building near Metallurgy Department.**

Prof. Bhirud informed the Board members that, University has received Rs.1.0 Cr. from the AICTE for the construction of SC/ST hostel in the year 2018. It has been proposed to build and renovate the SC/ST hostel near Department of Metallurgy having floor space of 442.14 sq.m. The estimated cost of the renovation/construction of the SC/ST hostel will be Rs.1.12Cr.

The Board members discussed, deliberated and suggested writing to AICTE to seek the permission to use the money, after receiving the permission from AICTE, the construction of SC/ST hostel to be initiated.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **DIFFERED** the renovation and construction of SC/ST hostel building near Metallurgy Department. The board suggested writing to AICTE to seek the permission to use the money and after receiving permission from AICTE, the construction should be initiated.

**g. BWC/Agenda item no 2.8: Review of services and appointment of PMC agency.**

Prof. Bhirud informed Board members that the PMC services appointed for the Chikhali project and Library & Compute-IT building are not performing well and because of that projects are getting delayed.

Due to unsatisfactory performance of the PMC services, the BWC committee resolved and approved that the PMC services of M/s. Advent Projects appointed for Library & Computer-IT building and PMC services of M/s. Convurt Engineering appointed for the Chikhali project shall





be terminated. It is also recommended to obtain the Reference for Quotation (RFQ) for smooth transition. The new competent PMC agency shall be appointed immediately.

The Board members discussed, deliberated and suggested that it is not a good idea to remove the PMC services of M/s. Convurt Engineering appointed for the Chikhali project as project is in last phase of completions, by changing the PMC services may affect the project and may get delayed further. However, PMC services of M/s. Advent Projects appointed for Library & Computer-IT building should be terminated immediately and initiate the process of appointment of new PMC services for Library & Computer-IT building.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** that the PMC services of M/s. Convurt Engineering appointed for the Chikhali project be continued as majority of the civil construction work is over. The Board resolved to discontinue the PMC services of M/s. Advent Projects appointed for Library & Computer-IT building and initiate the process of appointment of new PMC services for Library & Computer-IT building.

**h. BWC/Agenda item no 2.9: Third party audit by PWD Maharashtra**

The interim report given by the Executive Engineer, Yashada, Pune was used to release 90% bills of the contractors. The remaining amount of the bills can be released once the final report is obtained from the authorities by the end of this month.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to pay the third-party audit fees of PWD Maharashtra after submission of final report and bills.

**i. BWC/Agenda item no 2.10: Empanelment of contractors for maintenance & repairs works**

Prof. Bhirud informed the Board member that, University has executed the process of empanelment of contractors for maintenance and repairs work by floating the tender and following the appropriate process. Five contractors have participated in the bid process, all the eligible five agencies listed below have agreed to quote 8.9% below the PWD rates after negotiation.

1. Vishwakarma Infra Pvt. Ltd
2. Design Era EPC Contractors Pvt. Ltd.
3. Metro Associates
4. Devidas Kale
5. Shri Vishwakarma Furniture and Interior

BWC members have recommended to issue the work order to all the eligible five agencies listed above once the code of conduct is over.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to issue the work order to all five eligible agencies to empaneled them for the Universities maintenance and repairs work

**j. BWC/Agenda item no 2.11: Maintenance and repairs work for approval**

Prof. Bhirud informed to the Board members that, there is an urgent need to undertake the pre-monsoon maintenance and repair work in the University and Hostel campus. The list of maintenance and repairs work is received from the respective Department Heads and Hostel administration.



**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to the maintenance and repairs work based on the need, urgency and availability of funds. However, a review of the works shall be carried out before awarding the contract.

- k. **BWC/Agenda item no 2.12:** Clarification about security deposit, performance guarantee, and cash retention in the contract document of Chikhali Project.

While issuing the Chikhali work order to Shubham EPC Pvt. Ltd, BOG in its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 resolved that the contract value should be negotiated with Shubham EPC Pvt. Ltd. before issue of the final work order. Shubham EPC agreed to give a discount provided that the COEP will reduce the Security Deposit (SD) and Performance Guarantee (PG) to 2.5% each instead of 5% as mentioned in the Tender document.

Accordingly, the Letter of Intent was issued to Shubham EPC Pvt. Ltd. with a negotiated value of Rs 31,85,77,502/- + 12% GST = Rs 35,68,06,802/- but inadvertently the reduced Security Deposit and Performance Guarantee was not mentioned explicitly in the work order.

While processing RA Bills 1 to 17 the Institute deducted the SD and PG for 5% each separately. However, while processing RA bill 18, Shubham EPC highlighted the point that retention amount of SD and PG should be 2.5% and not as 5%. as per the negotiated terms of the contract.

The matter was well discussed and deliberated in the BOG and the members suggested considering the revised rates of 2.5% each for Security Deposit and Performance Guarantee (retention amount) instead of 5%.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** considering the Security Deposit and Performance Guarantee as 2.5% instead of 5% as decided by the erstwhile BOG in its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and **APPROVED** to process the henceforth bills accordingly.

**Item No 5.15:** To approve the Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

Mr. Amit Bajaj, FAO presented the minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024. The board members received the minutes as:

**FC/Agenda item no 4.3:** To Approve extension of M/s. Joshi Borse and Pol as GST consultant and GST auditors for FY 24-25.

Mr. Amit Bajaj, FAO explained to Board members that M/s. Joshi Borse and Pol has been working as GST consultant and GST auditor in the University for the last 3-4 years, last financial year also, M/s. Joshi Borse and Pol were appointed as GST auditor and consultant.

Mr. Bajaj- FAO, requested the Board members to approve the extension of M/s. Joshi Borse and Pol to work as GST consultant and Auditor for the FY: 2024-25.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to give the extension and appointment to M/s. Joshi Borse and Pol as GST consultants and auditor for FY: 2024-25.





**FC/Agenda item no 4.5:** To Approve payment of interest on DCPS/GPF on Employee Contribution (BOG Appointed on Government Sanctioned Posts)

Mr. Amit Bajaj-FAO has informed to the Board members that there are 11 faculty members who are previously appointed by MPSC and further appointed by the BOG of College of Engineering Pune on Government sanctioned higher posts and 51 faculty members directly appointed by Board on Government Sanctioned posts.

The GPF and DCPS are being deducted from salary of these faculty members but not being deposited in treasury since June 2018. The contribution is deposited with HDFC bank in the form of fixed deposit since December 2022. These fixed deposits are earning interest at the rate of 7.6% per annum as yearly payout. This interest amount needs to be paid to retired and retiring faculty. Mr. Amit Apte suggested taking the opinion of statutory auditors on this matter.

**Resolution:** The Board discussed, deliberated and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** paying the interest received on the DCPS/GPF amount to the concerned faculty as per their request by ensuring all other legal formalities.

**FC/Agenda item no 4.6:** To Approve Payment of Gratuity to retired staff from the University funds.

Mr. Amit Bajaj informed the Board members that The COEP Technological University presently has gratuity scheme maintained with LIC for BOG appointed Staff. The Policy has a current corpus of Rs.1.13 crores. LIC Policy has lapsed in the year 2018. However, there are certain staff members who are appointed under university and not covered under this scheme.

Board members are requested to approve payment of Gratuity to retired staff those have not been covered under the existing Gratuity policy.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** paying the Gratuity amount as per the norms to retired employees from the University funds those have not covered under the existing Gratuity policy.

**FC/Agenda item no 4.10:** To apprise the members of Finance Committee regarding fees to be paid to auditors for representation of TDS prosecution matter related to FY 17-18.

Mr. Bajaj-FAO apprised to Board members that COEP Technological University has received Show Cause notice of prosecution from Commissioner of Income tax (TDS) for late payment of TDS for FY 2017-18 on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The Matter was referred to M/s. Joshi, Borse & Pol statutory auditors of COEP Technological University. The auditors presented the case to the Income tax department on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024. The Income tax passed the order as-

"After considering the submissions of the assessee-deductor, the CIT (TDS), Pune has not found fit the proposal for launching of prosecution proceedings in the case of College of Engineering, Pune (TAN: PNEC00375E) for FY 2017-18 (A.Y. 2018-19)."

M/s. Joshi Borse & Pol has charged Rs.1.0 Lakhs plus GST for presenting the case to Income Tax. The board is requested to approve the fees of Rs. 1.0 Lakh of Statutory auditor M/s. Joshi, Borse & Pol for representing the case to Income Tax Department.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the fees of Rs. 1.0 Lakh to be paid to statutory auditor M/s. Joshi, Borse & Pol for representing the case to Income Tax Department.





**FC/Agenda item no 4.12:** To apprise the Board members about receipt of Salary Grant of Rs. 11,70,43,046/- for the FY: 2023-24 from Govt. of Maharashtra.

Mr. Bajaj-FAO informed the Board members that the COEP Technological University has received the grants amounting to Rs.11,70,43,046/- from Government of Maharashtra as salary reimbursement of the FY: 2023-24 of Board appointed faculty. The salary grant is kept in the form of fixed deposit with SBI and will be utilized subject to the judgment of pending matter in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as per the GR issued from Govt. of Maharashtra.

**Resolution:** The Board **NOTED** the submission of Mr. Bajaj.

**FC/Agenda item no 4.13:** To apprise the members of FC regarding Exemption of FCRA to COEP Technological University through Central Government Notification.

Mr. Bajaj apprised the Board members that the COEP Technological University was formed under Maharashtra State legislation in the year 2022. The erstwhile College of Engineering was registered under FCRA act. After the formation of COEP Technological University, the College of Engineering ceased to exist. Accordingly, to confirm whether FCRA act will be applicable to the COEP Tech University an expert opinion was obtained from M/s. Surajit Roy and Associates and Mr. Sunil Nanal from Kanj & Associates and Statutory Auditor M/s. Joshi, Borse and Pol. It was opined that there is notification of Central Government which states that-

*"If an established is formed under State legislature and to whom CAG audit is applicable, that entity is exempt from provisions of FCRA act"*

Accordingly, it has been decided that the University will not apply for FCRA certification.

**Resolution:** The Board **NOTED** the point and suggested to double check with Government and write to the concern ministry and get the confirmation from them regarding the FCRA and its applicability to the University.

**FC/Agenda Item no 4.14:** To apprise regarding taking a turnkey project for construction of Museum of Ammunition Factory Khadki (AFK).

Mr. Amit Bajaj-FAO informed the Board that a turnkey project for the construction of a Museum of Ammunition Factory Khadki (AFK) is assigned to COEP Tech University as deposit work and Prof. Birajdar as PI. The work covers planning, design and execution including tendering process for the said work. The MOU in this regard is signed between University and AFK on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The total cost of the turnkey project is Rs. 449.124 Lacs including applicable taxes, University overheads and consultancy charges. COEP will receive 5% of the total cost as consultancy charges including Institute overheads. The client has already deposited the first installment of 10% amount i.e. Rs. 44.91 Lacs of total project cost to the University.

Mr. Bajaj apprised to Board members that; such type of assignment is first of its kind taken by the University. He requested to the Board members that, considering this as a special case an approval be granted to execute this project by the University.

The board deliberated, and advised not to take such type of assignments, as it is not primarily a technical project but rather a work of Project Management Consultancy. Mr. Vinayak Pai suggested, if possible, returning the funds received for this purpose else otherwise proceed with the project as per agreement with taking proper care of possible legal issues.





**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** and **DISCOURAGED** to take such type of projects as this is more of Project Management Consultancy type of assignment rather than technical assignment. The Board suggested and advised, if possible, returning the funds received till date else otherwise proceed to complete the project with taking proper care of possible legal issues and following the timelines.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No 5.16:** Permission to award the contract for electrical installation work for the Centre of Excellence Building at Chikhali Campus of COEP Technological University, Pune.

It is brought to the attention of the committee that, as per the GR of the Government of Maharashtra, the construction work of the Centre of Excellence building at the Chikhali campus is in progress. For the electrical installation work of Chikhali Campus, three tenders were called through the e-Tender portal of Government of Maharashtra.

The process of these tenders has been completed, and the financial bids have been opened for Internal & External LT work, External HT work, and Supply of DG set. After reviewing the bids and the comparative report, the lowest bidders are as below:

Tender	Description	Lowest Bidder	Bid Value Including GST (Rs.)
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of External HT Electrical Installation	Suvarna Electricals Pvt. Ltd., Pune	1,31,70,000/-
2.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Internal and External LT Work	Suvarna Electricals Pvt. Ltd., Pune	2,13,14,936/-
3.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DG Set with AMF Panel	United Gensets, Aurangabad	67,85,000/-

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** and **APPROVED** the processing of the tenders after negotiating the bidder as per standard process and issue the work orders to the lowest bidder with negotiated price mentioning the standard terms and conditions as per the University norms.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No 5.17:** To approve the revised administrative structure of the University and permit to re-appropriate the University sanctioned post of non-teaching employees.

Prof. Bhirud informed the Board that the current administrative framework of the University resembles of an Institute and does not suffice the requirements and function of the University. The University has proposed a new administrative structure like other State Universities to facilitate the smooth functioning of its academic and administrative operations. Prof. Bhirud also mentioned that currently there are 288 posts of non-teaching sanctioned to the COEP as Institute. With the proposed administrative structure, the number of sanctioned posts, their designation and pay scales may change by adopting University like administrative structure.

The members opined that considering the number of students enrolled and the quantum of administrative work being a Unitary University, the proposed administrative structure and the

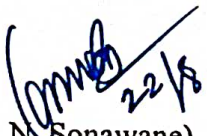


requirement of the Human Resources looks to be heavy and should be revisited and presented again.

Accordingly, the members recommended Prof. Sunil Bhagwat to help the University in reviewing the proposed administrative structure and revising it appropriately with rationale.

Dr. Mohitkar suggested that making optimum use of technology viz ERP and other automation engines to reduce manpower requirements and design the administrative structure accordingly.

**Resolution:** The Board **RESOLVED** to **REVISITING** the proposed administrative structure, rationalizing it considering a Unitary non-affiliating University, student teacher ratio, workload, and use of ERP & technology. The Board also suggested revising the administrative structure and presenting it again in the next board meeting for approval.

  
(Dr. D. N. Sonawane)  
Registrar, Member Secretary

(Dr. Pramod Chaudhari)  
BOG-Chairman