



COEP TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, PUNE

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

Minutes of 3rd BOG Meeting

The third (3rd) meeting of the Board of Governance of COEP Technological University was held on Saturday, 17th February 2024 at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Conference Hall, Main Building, COEP Tech University. The following members were present in the meeting:

1. Dr. Pramod Chaudhari	Chairman
2. Prof. Sunil Bhirud	Member
3. Prof. Milind Atrey	Member
4. Dr. Vinod Mohitkar	Member
5. Dr. Ashish Lele	Member
6. Prof. Sunil Bhagwat	Member
7. Shri. Vinayak Pai	Member
8. Shri. Amit Paranjape	Member
9. Prof. Rajendra Joshi	Member
10. Prof. Suhas Mohite	Member
11. Dr. (Mrs.) Aruna Thube,	Member
12. Dr. Ravindra Utgikar	Permanent Invitee
13. Dr. (Mrs.) Yashodhara Haribhakta,	Permanent Invitee
14. Mr. Amit Bajaj	Permanent Invitee
15. Dr. Dayaram Sonawane	Member -Secretary
16. Prof. Narendra Dhokey	Invitee
17. Mr. Mandar Joshi	Invitee

Members who have requested a leave of absence:

1. Shri. Satish Tidke	Member
2. Mr. Bharat Gite	Member

The meeting commenced with Dr. D. N. Sonawane, Registrar, COEP Technological University, welcomed all the members.

Item 3.1: Welcoming to Prof. Sunil Bhirud Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Mr. Amit Bajaj- Finance & Accounts Officer.

Dr. Sonawane informed the Board that the Hon'ble Chancellor, Govt. of Maharashtra appointed Prof. Sunil Gangadhar Bhirud, as Vice Chancellor of COEP Technological University Pune. Accordingly, Prof. Sunil Bhirud assumed the charge as the regular Vice Chancellor of COEP Technological University Pune on 25th January 2024. Dr. Chaudhari, Chairman-BOG COEP Tech University on behalf of the Board, welcomed Prof. Sunil Bhirud.

Dr. Sonawane further informed that the following the provisions given in COEP Tech Act, Board of Governance of COEP Technological University Pune has appointed Mr. Amit Bajaj as a Finance & Accounts Officer of COEP Technological University Pune, Mr. Amit Bajaj has resumed his duties from 1st February 2024. Mr. Bajaj gave a brief introduction of himself followed by a warm welcome of Mr. Bajaj by the Board members.

Resolution: The Board welcomed the new functionaries at the University and noted their resumption of charge.

Item 3.2: Confirmation of Minutes and Action Taken Report (ATR) on the 2nd BOG meeting held on Friday, November 24th, 2023.

The minutes of the 2nd BOG Meeting held on November 24th, 2023, were circulated to all the Board members by email. Comments received from the Board members were incorporated in the final minutes of the meeting. Dr. Sonawane also presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the minutes 2nd BOG meeting held on 24th November 2023 for the Board's consideration and approval.

The Board members deliberated and suggested modifications on certain points in the existing Minutes of the 2nd BOG Meeting and requested to recirculate the minutes after incorporating the suggestions given.

- It was suggested to include the names of all the Directors of "Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership" in the minutes along with the name of the Chairman.
- The Board also suggested correcting the appointment order of Prof. Manoj Rathod by amending the appointment clause of the term of service to an 11-months period instead of 3 years.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the of 2nd BOG Meeting and ATR held on November 24th, 2023, with the modifications as suggested.



Item 3.3: Brief presentation by the Vice Chancellor.

Prof. Sunil Bhirud, presented the latest updates about the University encompassing the following points:

1. Key highlights/achievements of COEP Tech University since last BOG
2. R & D updates
3. Progress on implementation of the "NEP 2020"
4. MOU's and Academic reforms planned by the University in the near future and for the coming academic year.

Board noted the progress of the University and given following suggestions:

- Members suggested a comparative analysis of the present status of the University and the next 10 years' goals set and timeline for achieving the same as mentioned in the MOU submitted to H & T Education Department of Govt. of Maharashtra should be prepared.
- BOG-Chairman suggested forming a subcommittee of the BOG to look into the HR and administrative related issues. It was also resolved that this committee will present their recommendations to the BOG for approvals. He further added that the said committee will be headed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Sunil Bhirud while Prof. Milind Atre and Prof. Sunil Bhagawat will be the mentors for this committee. BOG authorized Vice Chancellor to nominate members on this committee.
- The Vice Chancellor also presented the status of the MOU with Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. Chairman mentioned that the collaboration is bearing good fruits as the course on Economics offered by Gokhale institute is very well taken by the University students.
- Vice Chancellor informed that the University has a plan to start minor degrees in Economics, Public Policy, Agriculture Engineering and Medical Electronics from the forthcoming academic year 2024-25.
- Dr. Mohitkar, Director of Technical Education emphasized preparing the statues of the University on priority. Vice Chancellor assured that the first draft of the statues will be ready by 30th April 2024 and will be presented in the next Board meeting.
- Prof. Atre suggested that the new academic programs should be started based on the demand from the students along with the willingness of the respective department/school. A detailed analysis regarding probable students opting of the course, demand from industry, income-expenditure, academic structure should be prepared and presented to the Board.
- The proposal to start the MTech-Transportation Planning programme shall be placed for the Board's approval after obtaining the recommendation from School council and Academic Council.
- To improve and accelerate the ongoing R&D activities on the campus, Dr. Atre and Dr. Bhagwat suggested incentivizing the faculty to encourage and motivate them to write the research proposals. University should devise the

mechanism/scheme for the same which will in turn add up to the NIRF ranking of the University. They also suggested the creation of "Professional Development Fund" which can be used for research expenses, attending conferences, supporting student's stipend, etc.

- Taking serious note of the recovery of pending fees, the Board showed its concern about this and suggested reconciliation of pending fees by appointing an external agency. Members also suggested that the reconciliation of students who are on campus be taken as on priority.
- The Board suggested that all the necessary audits (as per the COEP Tech Act 2022) must be completed on regular basis as per the requirement of various agencies/Government. Financial issues need to be addressed by the Finance committee and should be put up for ratification and approval of the Board.
- After enactment of COEP Tech ACT 2022, the legal status of existing PIET trust needs to be verified and necessary action to be taken as a priority as per the provisions of law.
- A special Board Meeting to be scheduled in the 3rd week of March 2024, exclusively to discuss finance and budget for 2024-25.
- The Board members appreciated the efforts taken by Mr. Vinayak Pai, member BOG COEP Tech and his team to streamline the infrastructure development activities at the Chikhali campus and COEP Tech main campus.
- Dr. Atrey and Dr. Mohitkar entrusted to maintain consistency in the nomenclature of COEP Chikhali campus as per the Govt. GR and use the same nomenclature in all the correspondences and documents hereafter.
- The Board deliberated and suggested initiating the procedure to form a separate section 8 entity for COEP-Chikhali campus.

Resolution: The Board NOTED the updates presented by Vice Chancellor.

Item 3.4: Short Presentations by:

1. Progress on "COEP Tech Industrial Research Park", Chikahli - Prof. N. B. Dhoke, Director, RIIL
2. Updates of BHAU institute- Mr. Mandar Joshi, CEO, BHAU Institute
 - Prof. Atrey suggested forming a separate section 8 company for COEP - Chikhali campus, which will have a separate administrative setup. This will avoid administrative and procedural delays. The IPRs, start-ups, commercialized products can always be shown by COEP Tech for NIRF as shown in case of Bhau institute.
 - Mr. Pai suggested to associate member/s from BOG with the Board of Research, Innovation, Incubation and Linkages (RIIL) COEP Tech to streamline the formation of the new section 8 company of COEP-Chikhali campus and ensure clarity in context to the administrative and legal procedures. The Board requested Dr. Ashish Lele to get associated with

Board OF RIIL COEP Tech. Dr. Chaudhari also suggested to consult with Dr. Premnath, Head, NCL Innovations for further association with NCL.

Resolution: The Board **NOTED** all above points.

Item 3.5: Approval for on-boarding of KPMG as a consultant for the transformation of COEP Tech University as a Research and Entrepreneurial University.

- Dr. Ravindra Utgikar informed that KPMG has done a detailed diagnosis, benchmarking, and gap analysis of COEP Tech University based on various parameters given by NIRF and interactions with various stakeholders of the University and have made some remedial recommendation for transformation. The said exercise was carried out by KPMG on a pro-bono basis. KPMG will continue helping COEP Tech in its transformation and out of the 8 identified areas, KPMG will mentor the University to work on 6 areas. The other 2 areas are HR and Infrastructure on which the University will work and appoint internal team for the same. Since the exercise is taken very well on all the front the University wishes to continue its association with KPMG. However, a consultancy fee of approximately Rs. 2.16 Crore will be charged by KPMG.
- The Board members principally approved the proposal. Dr. Mohitkar, Dr. Atrey, Dr. Bhagwat, and Dr. Lele instructed to follow an appropriate process.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** and Principally **APPROVED** of on boarding of KPMG as a consultant by following an appropriate Government tendering procedures.

Item 3. 6: Approval for the appointment of Coordinator for: Implementation of KPMG initiatives and Strengthening the Alumni Participations and Relations.

Registrar informed that to have a fruitful association with KPMG for transformation of COEP Technological University there shall be a single point of contact from the University side who will coordinate with KPMG on behalf of the University. Chairman emphasized on strengthening the Alumni participation and building Public & Corporate Relations requested to nominate a faculty who will coordinate with KPMG, COEP Alumni, and the external stakeholders.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the nomination of Prof. Sudhir Agashe as a coordinator for KPMG initiatives and strengthening the Alumni participations and relationships.

Item 3.7: Approval for the submission of proposal to the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India for the "Institute of Eminence"

Registrar gave a brief background of the University and its transition from an Autonomous Engineering institution to a Unitary Technological University. He further highlighted Hon. Chairman's vision to transform the University to compete



with the best International Universities of the globe, attract top faculty and students, foster cutting-edge research, and contribute significantly to India's development as knowledge economy. To achieve this, University proposes applying for the "Institutions of Eminence" status to the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and seek the BOG approval for the same.

Dr. Mohitkar suggested ensuring statutory compliances and resolution of all the pending legal issues before applying for the "Institutions of Eminence."

Resolution: The Board NOTED the same and RESOLVED to APPROVE for the submission of the proposal to the Ministry of Education Govt. of India for the Institute of Eminence ensuring statutory compliances and resolution of all the pending legal cases.

Item 3.8: Approval for the appointment of Ombudsperson/Lokpal at the COEP Tech University as per the UGC Regulations and Notification (Redressal of Grievances of Students regulations 2023)

Registrar informed that UGC mandates the Universities to appoint Ombudsperson/ Lokpal as per the UGC (Redressal of Grievances of Students) regulations 2023. Looking to the mandatory requirement of UGC, it is necessary to appoint Ombudsperson/ Lokpal at the earliest at COEP Tech University as per the UGC guidelines and notifications.

The Board is requested to kindly approve and authorize the Vice Chancellor for nomination/appointment of Ombudsperson/Lokpal at the COEP Tech University.

Resolution: The Board RESOLVED to APPROVE to empower the Vice Chancellor for the appointment of Ombudsperson/Lokpal at the COEP Tech University

Item 3.9: Approval for Three Years Study Leave to Mr. Sidhharth Gaikwad, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Engineering for PhD study under QIP program admitted to Madhav Institute of Technology and Science Gwalior, M. P.

The Board deliberated and disapproved the study leave for Mr. Sidhharth Gaikwad as the institute where he is admitted is having NIRF ranking much lower than COEP Tech. The Board further directed to issue NOC's and approval to the faculty/staff to pursue Ph.D only if their admissions are in the institutions having NIRF rankings higher than COEP Tech. Board also suggested to revise a policy for admissions to PhD programs and other courses for the faculty and staff of the University.

Resolution: The Board RESOLVED to DISAPPROVE the grant of study leave to Mr. Sidharth Gaikwad for PhD study through QIP scheme.



Item 3.10: Approval for Six months study leave for Ms. Archana Patil, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Engineering for PhD study at COEP Tech University (as per the prevailing norms of the COEP)

Mr. Archana Patil is a regular faculty at COEP Tech University, she registered in the year 2019 for her PhD at COEP Tech. The board deliberated and denied six-month study leave for Ms. Archana Patil. Further, the Board also suggested making the necessary amendment to the prevailing norms, if required.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **DISAPPROVE** the grant of study leave for Mrs. Archana Patil.

Item 3.11: Approval for the appointment of Dr. Kedar Phadke and Mr. Kanad Deshmukh as an Adjunct Faculty to Department of Management on consolidated salary.

Registrar informed that, pertaining to the existing faculty crunch for the Department of Management, the Head of the Department of Management Studies and the Dean has identified and recommended Dr. Kedar Phadke and Mr. Kanad Deshmukh for the appointment of Adjunct faculty from Feb. 20th, 2023, for 11-months appointment with consolidated salary as per the University norms.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to make the appointments of Dr. Kedar Phadke and Mr. Kanad Deshmukh as an Adjunct faculty from 20th Feb. 2024 to July 31st, 2024.

Item 3.12: Approval for One Year Lien to Mr. Bhagawan Jadhav Assistant Mechanic, Department of Mechanical Engineering, COEP to join as Technician at Govt. ITI, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

The Board deliberated and decided not to recommend one year Lien to Mr. Bhagawan Jadhav. The Board instructed to verify the provisions of Lien to Class-III employees as per the Government rules and regulation.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **DISAPPROVE** the request of granting of one year Lien to Mr. Bhagawan Jadhav, Assistant Mechanic, Department of Mechanical Engineering, COEP to join as Technician at Govt. ITI, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar .

Item 3.13: Minutes of 3rd Meeting of Academic Council held on 20th December 2023.

Registrar presented the Minutes of 3rd Meeting of Academic Council held on 20th December 2023. Following points were discussed and recommended by Academic Council for the approval of BOG.

- The revised set of PhD rules & regulations applicable for the batch of the students admitted from January 2024 onwards.



Permissions for applying to AICTE for the following:

- Increase in the intake in following existing programs:
 - General Management Program from 30 to 60 from AY: 2024-25.
 - B. Tech Electronics and Telecommunication Program from 60 to 120.
 - PG in M-Planning Program from 31 to 36.
- Change in nomenclature of the existing programs.
 - Department of Computer Engineering to Computer Science and Engineering.
 - M Tech-Process Instrumentation to M Tech- Automation
 - M Tech-Embedded Systems & VLSI Design to M Tech-VLSI Design
 - M Tech- Digital Systems to MTech – Embedded Systems and Computing
 - M Tech- Thermal Engineering to Thermal Science and Engineering Systems.
- Department of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering & Industrial Management, the Academic Council recommended to apply to AICTE for direct second year admission for working Professionals with intake of 30 each.
- To communicate the request to the Principal Secretary, Dept. of Higher and Technical Education, Maharashtra State seeking permission to conduct an independent admission process at the COEP Tech University for MBA admissions from AY 2024-25 onwards.
- Vice Chancellor informed that the Department of Planning had submitted a proposal of Rs. 250 Cr. for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Urban Planning. However, as a prerequisite for having such COE, the University must have a PG programme on Transportation Planning. The Department of Planning therefore proposed to start the M. Tech Transportation Planning Program. The University propose to offer the M. Tech Transportation Planning programme on self-financed basis from the forthcoming Academic Year 2024-25 subject to the approval from the School Council and Academic Council.
- Similarly, from the demand and proposal from an automotive Industries, Hella Automotive Pvt. Ltd, Brose India, etc. Department of Instrumentation and Control wish to start an M. Tech in "Automotive Systems" from AY: 2024-25 for the working professional. The University proposes to start the programme on a self-financed basis from the forthcoming Academic Year 2024-25. Prof. Atre suggested presenting a detailed analysis of the said program including the need of the program, probable takers, industry demand, academic structure, prospects in the next Board meeting.

Resolution: The Board except starting of two new M Tech programs, **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of Academic Council. The Board suggested to make a detailed presentation on need, scope, and sustainability of those programs in next BOG meeting after obtaining a go ahead from respective School Council and further from Academic Council.

Item 3.14: Minutes of 2nd Finance Committee held on 12th February 2024

Mr. Amit Bajaj, Finance and Accounts Officer presented the Minutes of 2nd Finance Committee held on 12th February 2024. Finance Committee recommended the following points for the approval of the Board:

- Proposed for the appointment of statutory auditors for the financial year 2024-25 by following the procedure of appointment.
- Proposed the appointment of external agency for fees reconciliation with inviting quotations and following the standard procedure.
- Recommended to go for tendering process of the expenditure of COEP-Chikhli Project Electrical Work estimated at Rs. 5,74,70,910/- (~5.75 Cr.).
- Re-appropriation of budget heads for the financial year 2023-24
- Recommended to release the payment of Rs. 54.29 Lakh of Civil maintenance works subject to post facto approval and proper certification of BWC and end user. Also, recommended to approve the Civil maintenance work of Rs. 2.12 Cr. with post facto approvals.
- Recommended to pay the payment of income tax of demand notice of Rs. 15,82,830/- for financial year 2013-14. It was also discussed to check at Treasury level of payment challans, in case challans were not found at Treasury level, then initiate the payment through the University funds with protest.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of Finance Committee.

Item 3.15: Synopsis of status of existing MOU's and way forward.

Registrar, presented the list of MOUs signed by the COEP as autonomous College and COEP Tech University with various national and international organization to facilitate Faculty & Student Exchange, Internships, Joint Research Collaboration, Sponsored Construction, Scholarships, Industrial training for faculty/students etc. However, the validity of some of the MOU's is over and the University needs to take appropriate action on the same (either discontinue or to be revised). The Board is requested to permit the University to act appropriately on the same.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** of extending MOUs with Govt. organizations/Institutions and Institutions mostly having higher ranking than COEP Tech. approves the termination of the MOU's whose validity is expired. The Board suggested revising the expired MOU's if it is required or otherwise terminate them and inform the same to the concerned institute/organization.

Item 3.16: Approval for the release of advertisement for the appointments of the Professor of Practice at various Departments as per the Guidelines and the norms of UGC/AICTE/Govt of Maharashtra

To foster industrial research, to integrate industrial/corporate experience into academics and to address the shortage of faculty, Registrar emphasized the need

of the appointment of Professors of Practice at various Departments of the University in line with the AICTE/UGC guidelines of engaging the "Professor of Practice". The University wishes to onboard the industry experts through an appropriate recruitment process and seeks the approval of the Board for the same. The appointment of these industry experts will be tenure based and as per the Government of Maharashtra resolution of appointment of the Professor of Practice.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** for inviting applications or tenure-based Professor of Practice as per the permissions of the Government of Maharashtra.

Item 3.17: Approval for the appointment of secretariat staff & office staff through an approved agency as per the Govt of Maharashtra apprenticeship act.

The Registrar informed to the Board members that there are 288 sanction posts of non-teaching employees and currently 144 non-teaching employees both including on Govt sanctioned and University created positions are working in the University at different cadres (steno, clerk, Lab Assistant, Peon). There is an acute shortage of the non-teaching employees at different cadres, due to which the functioning of the University is decelerating. Therefore, there is an urgent need to appoint the non-teaching employees at different cadres.

The Board recommended making the necessary appointments through the external agency with the following conditions.

- External Agency who will provide the necessary human resources to be appointed through the appropriate process.
- The nomenclature of the post to be filled against these staff should not resemble the nomenclature of the posts prescribed by the Government even if the nature of the work is similar.
- Appointments to be made purely on a tenure basis for 11-months which should not be extended more than twice.
- Staff recruited under this exercise should not be assigned any critical work or crucial department/s.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the appointment of non-teaching employees through external approved agency as per the Govt of Maharashtra apprenticeship act.

Item 3.18: Approval for the appointment of retired persons as consultant/ advisors/ OSD for specific jobs as per their skills and expertise.

The Registrar alluded that there are specific jobs, portfolios and activities in the University that needs a special and skilled manpower. Currently due to shortage of faculty and non-teaching staff it is very difficult to cater to the needs of special activities and portfolios of the University.



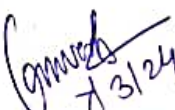
The retired Professors/officers/defense officers/Navy officers have excellent administrative and organizational skills. If we on board and recruit such officers and Professors, University will get an advantage of utilizing their expertise and experience to accelerate the functioning of the University at different levels.

Resolution: The Board **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the appointment of retired persons as consultant/ advisor/ OSD for specific jobs with following an appropriate procedure and ensuring the maximum emoluments not exceeding pay minus pension.

Item 3. 19: Concluding remarks by the Chairman BOG

Hon'ble Chairman thanked all the members and in his concluding remarks, Dr Chaudhari mentioned.

- Nominating a liasioning officer having sound knowledge of the subjects to follow-up with the State and Central Government to pursue the pending proposals at the Government level.
- Streamlining of working at COEP-Chikhali campus.
- Finalization of Statutes on Priority.
- Execution of the feedback and remedial measures suggested by KPMG.
- Online BOG meeting in the 3rd week of March 2024 to discuss the Finance and Budget of the year 2024-25.


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


(Dr. Pramod Chaudhari)
Chairman, BOG