

Pandit Deendayal Energy University

Minutes of 16th meeting of Standing Committee held on 28th October 2021 at
Corporate Office of the Torrent Group of Companies- Ahmedabad

Following were present:

1. Shri Sudhir Mehta, Chairman, Torrent Group
2. Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan, DG – PDEU
3. Shri Nitin Shukla, Ex-MD, Hazira LNG
4. Shri Palak Sheth, Director (P&D)-PDEU
5. Prof. Tarun Shah, Registrar - PDEU
6. Shri Abhinav Kapadia, CFO-PDEU

The Director General of the University welcomed the members and invitees.

The Director General placed on record, sincere thanks and deep appreciation to Shri D. Rajagopalan – IAS (Retd.) for his outstanding contribution as the Chairman – Standing Committee since 21/07/2016 to 30/06/2021 to the University.

Thereafter, the Agenda items were taken up for discussion in seriatim.

Agenda-1: Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee held on 5th March 2021.

The Committee approved the minutes of its previous meetings.

Agenda-2: Review report on the decisions taken at the previous meeting held on 5th March 2021.

The Committee noted the Review Report on the decisions taken at the previous meeting.

Agenda-3: Status on the Setting-up of Labs/Centre of Excellence at the PDEU Campus:

- Product Line Development by GEDA
- Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC)
- IT Infrastructure Proposed at TREC

While discussing on this agenda, the Director General apprised the Committee that AMTC has got shaped out through the involvement of faculty. Presently a 3-D Metal Printing Machine has been installed and commissioned at the Centre. It was apprised that the 3D Printing Machine has been procured from M/s. Intech Additive Mfg. Solution Pvt. Ltd. at a cost of Rs.1.6 crore against their actual price of around Rs.2.2 crore. M/s. Intech is the only indigenous manufacturer of 3D Printer in India and University has also

done MoU with it for consultancy assignments and skill development of students. This facility was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat. This facility shall also be useful for skill development and consultancy principally in the field of defence, aviation, automobile and medical.

The second initiative i. e. 50 MW Solar PV Panel Product Line development will cost Rs.8.75 crores (USD 10.75 Lakhs) through the financial assistance given by GEDA – Govt. of Gujarat of Rs.17.14 crores (inclusive of 50% amount as Endowment Fund). The University has invited open tenders to set up the Solar PV Panel Product Line facility on turn-key basis. M/s. Eco Pragati has been awarded the work being the lowest bidder. The facility shall be ready to use in the first quarter in the next financial year.

The Committee considered and approved the setting up of Solar PV Panel Product Line development and of Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center as a part of the setup of TREC (Translational Research Centre) – the foundation laying of this initiatives has been performed by the Prime Minister of India at the convocation program on 21/11/2020.

The Director General also apprised about the development of Redox Energy Storage Batteries - capacity of 500 KWH which can last for five hours.

The Committee also considered and approved the upgradation of the IT infrastructure at TREC - Translational Research Centre, through the procurement of Server / Client for VDI Base with VMware for up-gradation of ICT / CE Labs at the cost of Rs.2.27 crores. It will also include the procurement of Server HCI and VMware for PDEU.AC.IN Domain.

The Committee considered and approved also the procurement of HCI solution with VMware for 3 servers and allocate a budget of Rs. 69 lakhs (excluding taxes) for the same. This includes also the HCI solution and the 42U Smart Rack for storage of Hardware with an approx. costing of Rs. 11 lakhs (excluding taxes) and to issue issues limited tender to the OEMs.

Agenda-4: Reorganization of Academic departments w. r. t. PDEU name change.

The State Government has now renamed the University as Energy University, hence it becomes imperative for the University to restructure the academic units of the University, which can portray more properly the title of the University as "Energy University". This will make the efforts for academic and research energy focused more systematically in concerted way.



Now it is envisaged these four Schools and its academic programs to be restructured. A minimum repositioning of the 10 Engineering courses is to be initiated. As of now School of Petroleum Technology has only one program and the School of Technology has nine programs. It is proposed to coalesce our energy initiatives as follows:

- School of Energy Technology (SET): Chemical, Electrical Engineering, Petroleum and Petro-chemicals, Dept. of Nuclear Energy, Solar energy, Physics, Chemistry, and Solar Research Development Center (SRDC).
- School of Computing and Technology (SoCT): Computer Science, ICT, Civil, Automobile, Mechanical, Electronics & Communication Engineering, and also the Department of Mathematics.

While discussing on the proposed re-organization of academic Departments/Schools, the DG expressed that this re-organisation of the Departments and Schools will be supportive in attracting more opportunities of project and research funding from the Government agencies and also from the industries to an extent.

The Committee considered and recommended the proposed re-organisation of the academic Departments/Schools to be placed in BoG for approval.

Agenda-5: Introduction of new academic programs – CoE projection to GoG.

Starting Year	Academic programs
2022-23	i. M. Tech. (Machine Learning & Data Analytics) ii. B. A. (Hons.) (Digital Humanities) iii. B. A. (Hons.) (Indic Studies) iv. Integrated 5-year program - Petroleum Tech. & Management
2023-24	i. M. Sc. (Tech.) (Earth Sciences) ii. B. Tech. (Energy Engg.)
2024-25	M. Tech. (Advanced Mfg. Tech.)
2025-26	i. M. Tech. (Structural Engg.) ii. M. Tech. (Gas Engg.)

The Committee considered and approved to introduce the above academic programs in phase manner, with the following viewpoints:

During the discussion on the agenda, Shri Nitin Shukla appreciated the program of Liberal Arts providing for lateral thinking for leadership creation rather just developing managerial capability. He also suggested to explore starting one year PG Diploma /Certificate program in Liberal Arts in Ahmedabad. Dr. Palak Sheth suggested to include

the liberal studies into the curriculum of UG engineering program, which can provide for critical thinking and communication intricacies.

The Director General informed the Committee that in every semester of UG Engg. program, liberal studies subjects have been offered, totaling 21 credits of different liberal studies courses into UG engineering program. This has been complemented with offer of total 18 course credit of engineering courses to the UG curriculum of liberal studies.

Shri Sudhir Mehta referred the climate change – as a very crucial issue to be addressed in the current times.

Shri Palak Sheth advised that PG degrees should be offered with the broad subject/discipline/area, instead of micro level subject area as its degree nomenclature e. g. instead of offering a M. Tech. in Transportation Engg., we should offer it as M. Tech. (Civil Engg.) with major as Transportation Engg.. The degree should be offered under the title of General Discipline/Program rather with the standalone title of a specialised discipline. He also advised proper placement survey before launching any new academic program. Added to this, Shri Sudhir Mehta advised for identifying potential employees, involving the fields- professionals in curriculum development and analysing the market – all this especially when any new program is to be started.

The Committee also recommended to focus on demand driven academic programs.

Agenda-6: Hiring premises at GIFT City for PDEU, for Fintech Startups, International Relations, and PG programme in Finance.

The Committee deliberated and approved the proposal with the following viewpoints:

While discussing on the proposal for hiring premises at GIFT City, Shri Nitin Shukla recommended to include the Sun Set clause in the proposal along with the rigorous review of the proposal. The handholding will be done with HDFC Bank for Fintech Startups, with PDEU being the accelerator and availing the premises on rental basis at GIFT City.

Shri Sudhir Mehta advised to match the financial liabilities arising out of any new initiative with our capabilities, which calls for total budgeting of the initiative. He also advised to remain selective and focused in our activities, rather just increasing the number of activities. Shri Nitin Shukla also echoed the same and advised for opportunity assessment in terms of the fruition of the academic program initiatives.

The Director General apprised the Committee that it is envisaged to introduce Master Program in Finance in collaboration with George Mason University – USA with the involvement of some Fin-Tech. companies functioning on GIFT City.

Agenda-7: Increase in no. of Merit cum Means scholarships.

While discussing on students' scholarships, Shri Nitin Shukla advised to explore scholarship- offering for UG – SLS students also. The Committee also appreciated the increase in no. of Merit cum Means scholarships and also the revisions in the qualifying rank cut off for the B. Tech. merit scholarships.

During the meeting discussion, Dr. Palak Sheth suggested to review the present admission process for engineering admissions - which is based on just the merit of the public examinations - and to include the components like Interview and the Statement of Purpose besides ranking/scoring in public examinations in the admission process.

The Committee considered and approved that the total Annual Income (from all Sources) in all Merit-cum-Means Scholarship schemes to be enhanced to Rs. 10 lakhs, along with revision of rank eligibility.

Agenda-8: Recognitions.

The University has received 5-Star status by the GSIRF (Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework), Govt. of Gujarat. Overall 2nd position in University category & 1st in the private universities of the State.

NIRF India Rankings: 73rd in University, 68th In Engineering & 66th in Management category.

Centre of Excellence has been awarded in principle by the Govt. of Gujarat to the University. The final letter of the award is yet awaited from the Government.

The Committee noted the recognitions and congratulations all the stakeholders for their contribution.

Agenda-9: To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meetings of Academic Council and Finance Committee.

The Committee considered and approved the minutes of the following meetings:

<i>Meeting of</i>	<i>Held on</i>
<i>Academic Council</i>	<i>16th September 2021</i>
<i>Finance Committee</i>	<i>7th May 2021</i>

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Members.


Registrar