

Pandit Deendayal Energy University

**Minutes of 17th meeting of Standing Committee held on 10th May 2022
at 11.30 a.m. at PDEU – Gandhinagar.**

Following members were present in the meeting:

1. Dr. Hasmukh Adhia – IAS (Retd.), Chairman
2. Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan, Director General – PDEU
3. Dr. Parimal Nathwani, Director (Corporate Affairs) - RIL
4. Shri Jinal Mehta, Managing Director - Torrent Powers Ltd.
5. Dr. Palak Sheth, Director (P&D) - PDEU
6. Prof. Tarun Shah, Registrar – PDEU

Following were invited in the meeting:

1. Shri Abhinav Kapadia, Chief Finance Officer - PDEU
2. Shri Ankur Pandya, Chief HR Officer - PDEU
3. Shri Deven Prajapati, Chief Campus Manager - PDEU

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia – IAS (Retd.) welcomed the members. 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 28/10/2021.

No comment had been received for the minutes of the previous meeting circulated to the members. The Committee confirmed the minutes of its previous meeting held on 28/10/2021.

Agenda-2: Review report on the decisions taken at the previous meeting held on 28/10/2021.

While reviewing the report on the decisions taken at the previous meeting, the Director General of the University apprised that space of 1000 sq. ft may be hired at GIFT City for international activities of the University including international admissions, Fin-Tech startups. This may cost a rent of Rs.12 lacs per year. HDFC Bank has offered fund for Fin-Tech startups.



Dr. Palak Sheth at this juncture recalled the remarks of the Committee at its previous meeting that such initiative requires total budgeting, and matching of financial liabilities with our capabilities.

The Chairman directed to visit the proposed premises at GIFT City and also to see Shri Tapan Ray - IAS (Retd.), Managing Director & Group CEO- Gujarat International Finance Tec City Co. Ltd. (GIFT City) in the last week of the next month to explore the option of SEZ area/Maritime University/ Asian Development Bank collaboration. Dr. Palak Sheth informed about establishing the Jio Finance Gateway at GIFT City.

The Chairman also advised Fin-Tech startups to continue at PDEU itself. It was also directed to show HDFC Bank proposal on Fin-Tech startups to the Chairman.

Agenda-3: Brief on Major updates since the last meeting.

The Director General briefed to the Committee about major updates of the last six months. He informed the Committee about NBA Accreditation TIER-1 awarded to B. Tech. (Petroleum Engg.) & B. Tech. (Elect. Engg.) programs of the University for three years. B. Tech. (Mechanical Engg.) will now undergo 2nd cycle of NBA Accreditation.

While informing on Centre of Excellence (CoE) awarded by the State Govt., the Chairman apprised the background of the CoE scheme. He also shared that yet the Govt. notification is awaited for exemption from the Government regulation for Fee and Admission, as a part of the scheme of the CoE award. Dr. Parimal Nathwani expressed his willingness to resolve if there is any court case coming in the way of the enabling notification.

The Director General also briefed on the projects sponsored by M/s. Shell Energy India Pvt. Ltd., the funding of Rs.12 crores received to PDEU-IIC, the five year partnership with British Petroleum for Prime Minister Fellowships and skill Development Programs, the MoU with University of Oklahoma, the students' achievements like All India GATE – First Rank in GATE 2022, the faculty recognitions, the various international and national conferences/seminars/ workshops organized in the university and the visit of distinguished professionals on the Campus.

During the discussion, the CHRO apprised the Committee on faculty and staff recruitment. The Chairman directed to give update on faculty recruitment in different disciplines at every meeting of the Committee as a part of agenda.



Agenda-4: To discuss on the inputs of the Academic Council regarding the reorganization of Academic Departments/Schools w.r.t. name change of the University from Petroleum to Energy.

The Director General of the University briefed the Committee that the Academic Council in its meeting held on 29/04/2022 has considered the idea of reorganization of engineering Depts./ Schools as the right step to substantiate the name change of the University from Petroleum to Energy.

While explaining the perspective of the agenda, the Chairman mentioned that reorganization will also help in balancing the faculty, students and Departments across the engineering schools.

Dr. Parimal Nathwani desired that the faculty should be persuaded to follow the proposed reorganization of the Deptts./ Schools wholeheartedly, otherwise it may cause them demoralized. The Director General responded that in the meeting of the Council, all School Directors and HoDs were also present and explained them the concept of the said proposal.

After the discussion, the Committee decided to approve the reorganization of present Engg. School/Deptts with the revision that the name of one of the restructured Schools be the 'School of Technology' instead of the 'School of Computing and Technology'; as presently also the School of Technology includes the disciplines of Computer, ICT, Mech., Civil Engg. and alike.

It was also decided to rename the 'School of Petroleum Management' as 'School of Energy Management' as recommended by the Academic Council.

During the discussion, Dr. Parimal Nathwani desired to know about faculty recruitment process, which the CHRO explained. At his juncture, the Chairman referred the President's advice for getting international level star faculty and also to constitute the International Advisory Committee. He also called for short term assignment of global level senior faculty which also can make our students more visible with enhanced branding of the University.



Agenda-5: Proposal for new Centre of Excellence:

- i) Centre for CO₂ Sequestration (in partnership with M/s Susteon Inc./Trilok Corp./Arush Gas Tech./Balief Corp.)
- ii) Centre for Energy & Sustainable Development (in partnership with Larsen & Toubro Ltd.)
- iii) Centre for Green Hydrogen (Seed funding from Shell Energy India Pvt. Ltd.)

The Director General of the University apprised the scope of the above mentioned three new Centres of Excellence. Accordingly the Centre for CO₂ Sequestration would be funded by Grantham Foundation, US through M/s. Susteon Inc. with the total project cost of Rs. 3 crores. The project will be technically supplemented by two more agencies i.e. M/s. Baloeif Corporation and M/s. Trilok Corporation.

It was also informed that M/s. L & T Technologies Services has expressed keen interest in establishing the Centre of Excellence for Energy Mfg., the detail MoU would be finalized on 14/05/2022.

He also apprised that five different projects sponsored by M/s. Shell Energy (I) Pvt. Ltd. are assigned to the different faculty groups of the University. The first review is also carried out by the senior officials of M/s. Shell Energy and appreciated the faculty for the work progress.

The Chairman advised to spare initially smaller space for these projects and then depending on its success and the requirement, we may spare more space for it.

Shri Jinal Mehta at this juncture also referred the concept of Green Ammonia in industry. The Chairman also referred the blending of green hydrogen in PNG.

The Committee approved to establish the proposed Industry Sponsored CoEs.

Agenda-6: Investment policy for the University.

The objective of the Investment Policy is to formulate the procedures for investments of the University's funds as per the guidelines of MHRD and Income Tax Department.

The Registrar gave the background to develop an investment policy for the University as discussed at the last meeting of the Board of Governors. The Chief Finance Officer apprised the key elements of the proposed policy for investment, prepared after referring such policy prevailing at other leading academic institutions like IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore.

Shri Jinal Mehta advised for credit rating quality of Debt Mutual Fund as AAA rated or equivalent only, for the investment. The Committee directed to adhere to the same while implementing the policy.

Dr. Palak Sheth remarked that we may also add other funds /securities for the investment, e.g. donations from faculty, student, parent, Alumni, Corporate for short term, medium term and long term with the specific purpose of Scholarship, Research, Internationalization, Fellowship etc., while taking in to account also any specific condition communicated by the respective donor. It will be useful for more contributions from faculty, student, alumni and parents.

Shri Jinal Mehta recommended to avoid investment in commercial papers and certificate deposit in the light of other better avenues for the investment stated in the proposed policy.

Dr. Palak Sheth also touched upon investment practices prevailing in foreign universities e.g. investment in startups. At this juncture he also mentioned the need for restructuring PDEU-IIC Governance so as to raise its stature, in line with the University Board Governance; which will enhance the profile of the IIC and more prospects of funding from the Govt. and Industry to it.

The Committee approved the investment policy with inclusion of above mentioned relevant inputs provided by the members.

Agenda-7: Update on nurturing new Departments viz. Electronics & Communication Engg., Petrochemical Engg., and Automobile Engg..

The Registrar briefed the Committee on following new B. tech. programs started during the last two years:

| Sr. No. | B. Tech. Program in | Admission Intake | Starting Academic Year |
|---------|--|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Electronics & Communication Engg. (EC) | 60 | 2020-21 |
| 2 | Automobile Engg. | 60 | 2020-21 |
| 3 | Petrochemical Engg. | 60 | 2021-22 |



He stated the requirement of separate Department for each of these programs for proper handling of the programs and better appeal for the admissions; and also for new Laboratories, class rooms and faculty relevant to them. The Director General of the University mentioned the requirement of 10 different Laboratories for these programs, with the estimated cost of Rs. 3 crores.

The Chairman directed to present the Laboratory wise detail cost estimate in the next meeting.

Agenda-8: Status for development of the Sports Complex.

The Chairman apprised to the Committee that M/s. HCP DPM has worked out the cost estimate for general development of the Sports Complex and also Athletic Track and Hockey Ground, at estimated cost of Rs.15 Crores. He also directed to propose to the Sports Authority of Gujarat for more funding. Dr. Palak Sheth also suggested to explore funding from the Sports Authority of India.

The Committee approved for creating the above mentioned facilities within the limit of Rs.15 Crores with the direction of detail planning and tendering process for it. It was directed to ensure work completion for the approach road to the Sports Complex by the end of coming month of July.

At this juncture, the Chairman also directed to prepare the Delegation of Financial Powers for the Finance Committee, the Standing Committee and the Director General, and then to get it approved from the Board. He also reminded to ensure proper tendering process prior to giving a work order to the respective agency/vendor.

Agenda-9: Exploring Industry partnership for Scholarships.

While discussing on this agenda, the Chairman mentioned that private education institutions like ours have to charge higher fees from the students, which may not be affordable to the meritorious students belonged to middle class family, who won't prefer even to take bank loan for it. The higher ranking students of middle class families should not get deprived of admission in our University just for the reason of their inability to pay higher fees. *For such students, the scholarships should be offered in partnership with industry, 50% from the industry and 50% from the University. Such scholarship may be in the name of Industry and Institute jointly. Initially about 50 such scholarships may be worked out from about 5 to 10 different industries.*

The Director General sought that such scholarships should be offered to the students for their admission in the core branches of technology like Civil Engg., Mech. Engg., and Elect. Engg., to draw meritorious students into such branches which are presently less preferred branches for admission; over Computer Engg., IT, ICT and alike.

Dr. Palak Sheth suggested that after working out such industry scholarships, the respective industry should be called over the campus to hand over the scholarships to the students selected for it, also to apprise them the students' progress from time to time and also to involve them in students' mentoring.

Agenda-10: Next Convocation.

As apprised by the Director General of the University, the next Convocation should be held from July to December of the current year. Dr. Parimal Nathwani emphasized on distinguished professionals to be the Chief Guest at the convocation so as to inspire the graduating students for their life and career. He also recommended few names like Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, and Nandan Nilekani. He informed that he would talk to the President of the University to help out in this regard.

During the meeting, the Chairman also sought the committee to meet by every two months.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Members and invitees.


Chairman
Standing Committee

