

Pandit Deendayal Energy University

Minutes of 19th meeting of Standing Committee held on 3rd January 2023 at 11.00 a.m.

Following members were present in the meeting:

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

Following were invited in the meeting:

1. Dr. Nigam Dave, Director - SLS, PDEU
2. Dr. Anirbid Sircar, Director - SoET, PDEU
3. Dr. Dhaval Pujara, Director - SoT, PDEU
4. Dr. Shubhasheesh Bhattacharya, Director - SoM, PDEU
5. Shri Abhinav Kapadia, Chief Finance Officer - PDEU
6. Shri Ankur Pandya, Chief HR Officer - PDEU
7. Shri Deven Prajapati, Chief Campus Manager - PDEU

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia – IAS (Retd.), the Chairman of the Committee welcomed the members.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman expressed that in future meetings of the Committee, at least one agenda should be on a broad policy level matter may be related to Quality Improvement, Future Plan, and alike; and thereby to make meetings more meaningful. Also the meetings should take place at regular interval in every quarter during the year. Likewise next meeting should be arranged in forthcoming month of April.

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 01/09/2022.

The Committee reviewed the comment for the minutes received from the Chief HR Officer, the same was found not required to be the part of the MoM. The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 1/9/2022.

Agenda-2: Review report on the decisions taken at the previous meeting held on 01/09/2022.

While discussing on the Review Report of the previous meeting, the Committee directed to determine the faculty structure with clarity of the designations and to avoid usage of terms Adjunct faculty and Visiting faculty interchangeably. It was clarified that Adjunct faculty are appointed by the University at the Central level, and Visiting faculty at the School level. The Committee also sought to continue the School Directors be authorized for appointing Visiting faculty as per the requirement. It was also sought to re-check the eligibility norms of visiting faculty presented in the meeting.

It was apprised that an Adjunct faculty is appointed on contractual basis for a year and more, to undertake one or more courses fully. It was directed to identify the Adjunct faculty members who can be designated as Prof. of Practice to boost up the image of the University. The C.H.R.O. was directed to provide the present status of the Adjunct faculty, the Visiting faculty and the Professor of Practice to the Chairman.

The Director (Planning & Development) informed that the norms of Adjunct Faculty and of Professor of Practice are largely the same.

The Committee noted that the University has taken up infrastructure development works like multistorey Hostel block, additional floor on Block-E and Sports Complex. It was also directed for the Director General of the University to monitor regularly the infrastructure development works, and to present its status report to the Committee from time to time.

The Committee observed that all decisions made at its previous meeting were included in the Review Report and confirmed it.

Agenda-3: Major Updates

As a part of informing on the major updates during last four months since the previous meeting of the Committee, the Director General of the University briefed about salient MoUs viz. HPCL, eInfochips, Capgemini and alike, and also about important research projects granted by the Government. The Committee praised the remarkable achievements of the students in Sports and Academics, and. While taking positive note of several important seminars/workshops/conferences organized during the last four months across the University, it was directed to improve media publicity of such events to enhance visibility of the University, and thereby to sense good points of the University vigorously in the society. A broad plan of media publicity needs to be prepared and be presented to the Committee Chairman.

The Committee emphasized on improving the no. of students' placements and the placement packages, and directed to prepare the placement status in comparison with previous year scenario. The Committee also desired that the industry should provide feedback based on the interview of our students and the experience with our students after inducting them in the employment, so that the University can undertake corrective steps if any required.

Agenda-4: To consider and approve the Phase-II general development work of the SMRC project, and also the means of financials.

It was directed to utilize GEDA Endowment fund for funding of the SMRC for which the request letter to GEDA quoting the significant cost escalation occurred over all this years since the GEDA approval to this funding. Shri Jinalbhai advised to tie up with the OEM initially for three years and then to five years. It was also directed to sign a service agreement with the respective OEM selected on the basis of competitive bidding process. The OEM would have to bear all cost including electricity, raw material and manpower; and to commit a lump sum monetary charges monthly or quarterly to the University. After the plant is ready to be operational, the University should focus on training the manpower in the area of solar PV panel manufacturing process besides hiring the OEM. It is necessary to build up properly the pre-qualifying criteria so as finally to have a responsible of OEM to run the plant to benefit to the University in best possible way. For this GITCO may be asked to prepare the tender document for hiring OEM to run the plant on dry lease basis.

The Committee also approved Phase-2 development work at an estimated cost Rs.7.30 crores and also approved to meet the project financials to the extent possible from GEDA funding including its endowment component.

Agenda-5: To review the Notification from Education Dept. - GoG, w. r. t. to the CoE status.

The Committee reviewed the terms and conditions stated in the Govt. Notification for the institutions granted for the status of Centre of Excellence (CoE). Accordingly the fee structure is to be informed to the Govt. Appellate Committee, devoid of profiteering and charging of capitation fees. It was directed to recalculate the tuition fee for the next year considering the cost inflation and also to inform it to the Standing Committee before proposing to the Appellate Committee. With a view to continue the B. Tech. admissions through ACPC for 25% of admission intake, the Committee advised to mention clearly in the admission advertisement that the candidates should apply for admission in both ways – one directly to the University for JEE based seats, and other to the ACPC for GUJCET based seats.

It was also directed to review the admission intake particularly for less preferred branches of B. Tech. admissions, and thereby to re-appropriate the admission intake in the respective branches.

Agenda-6: To specify the designated authority for appointment to the post and also to determine the qualifications for appointment, and thereby to update the Regulations.

The Committee decided to designate

- i) *the Chairman- Standing Committee to approve the appointments based on the recommendations of the selection committee for it, and*
- ii) *the Standing Committee to determine the qualifications like age, education, such other qualifications for appointment to the posts in the University.*

Agenda-7 Update on Faculty recruitment.

The CHRO of the University explained the present status of faculty strength, mentioning 31 vacant position and 7 faculty yet to join. He apprised the Committee that all vacant positions of faculty will be filled up by the next July.

At this juncture the Committee also advised to maintain the intake as it is without any increase, even in the prospective branches – Computer and ICT which can support in maintaining quality admissions and quality placement. It was also directed to prepare the time chart of existing faculty members for their eligibility to get upgraded from Asst. Prof. to Asso. Prof. and Asso. Prof. to Professor cadre through the Open Selection Process.

Agenda-8 To review the representation for OBC/EBC reservation in admissions.

The Committee reviewed the representation for providing OBC/EBC reservation in admissions and also referred the purviews of the private universities about the reservation in admissions.

The Committee also noted the Govt. Notifications dated 04/01/2022 & 21/10/2022 declaring the University as CoE regarding the Autonomy in fees and the Merit in admissions.

It was decided not to agree to the representation for the reservation in admissions.

Agenda-9 To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee.

While discussing the MoM of Finance Committee, the CFO apprised the Committee about the process of appointment of Auditors and also on investment of the University funds. It was informed that M/s. Dhirubhai Shah & Co. LLP has been recommended as Statutory Auditors of the University for current F. Y. 2022-23 based on selection criteria, by the Finance Committee.

Shri Jinalbhai remarked that some critical and qualitative findings should come out from the internal auditors, so as to make our system more rigorous. It was also directed to prepare the compliance chart for different corrective remarks made by the internal auditors. The CFO apprised that the remarks of the internal auditors are presented in the Finance Committee from time to time and also being shared with the School Directors and HoDs for compliance.

The Committee considered and noted the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee of the University held on 30/11/2022.

Table Agenda

Regarding retirement age of Registrar position.

The Chairman briefed about the decision of the Board for the retirement age of the teachers of the University i.e. 62 years. It was also pointed out that it is desirable to recruit from among the teachers on Registrar position, as the teachers understand better the academic processes which plays major role in the University administration. Hence, the teachers of Higher Education Institutions should be made attracted for the Registrar position, which can happen most possibly if the retirement age for the Registrar is kept the same as the teacher's retirement age. So those teachers getting recruited on the Registrar position, the retirement age should be 62 years. The same is also prescribed by the Department of Higher Education - GoI vide its letter dated 02/11/2017 addressed to the Secretary – UGC.

In view of the above, the Committee decided the retirement age of 62 years for the teachers occupying the post of the Registrar; for which the post facto approval of the Board of Governors of the University is to be obtained.

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

Sd/-
Chairman – Standing Committee
PDEU

From: Dr Hasmukh Adhia [mailto:adhia03@hotmail.com]

Sent: 11 January 2023 02:00 PM

To: Registrar

Subject: Re: Draft MoM of the Standing Committee

It's perfectly fine with me now. Please circulate for comment by members.

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Hasmukh Adhia

Standing Committee: MoM 03/01/2023