

PANDIT DEENDAYAL ENERGY UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF 22ND MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH MAY 2024 AT 10.00 A.M.

The following members were present in the meeting:

1. Ms. Anita Karwal, IAS (Retd.) – Chairperson
2. Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan – Director General, PDEU
3. Dr. Palak Sheth – Director (P&D), PDEU
4. Col (Dr) Rakesh Kumar – Registrar, PDEU

Dr. Parimal Nathwani and Shri Jinal Mehta expressed their inability to attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances.

The following were invited to 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. AKS Suryavanshi – Director, SoM, PDEU
5. Shri Ankur Pandya – Chief HR Officer, PDEU
6. Shri Deven Prajapati – Chief Campus Manager, PDEU
7. Dr. T. P. Singh – CoE, PDEU
8. Dr. Bhawanisingh Desai – Dean, R&D, PDEU
9. Dr. Rajesh Patel – Dean, Admissions, PDEU
10. Dr. Ritu Sharma – Dean, SLS, PDEU
11. Dr. Praghmesh Bhatt – Dean, SoET, PDEU
12. Dr. Vishvesh Badheka – Dean, Academic Affairs, PDEU
13. Dr. S. S. Kachhwaha – Dean, SoT, PDEU
14. Dr. Tanushri Banerjee – Dean, SoM, PDEU
15. Dr. R. K. Vij – Dean, Placements, PDEU

The Registrar welcomed the members and invitees.

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

Agenda 1/22: Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee

No comments were received for the minutes of the previous meeting circulated to the Members. The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 29/08/2023.

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Agenda 2/22: Action Taken Report of the previous meeting of the Committee

1. The committee considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the previous standing committee meeting.
2. The Committee noted the action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting.
3. All the updates related to the Admissions and Academic activities were noted by the committee.
4. All the updates related to the ongoing projects and approval of the new projects were noted by the committee.
5. Indoor Badminton Court proposal is still pending to be implemented.
6. The updates on the Convocation was noted by the committee.
7. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee was considered by the committee.

Agenda 3/22: Major Updates

1. The Director General highlighted the following important institutional initiatives taken recently:

(a) Initiatives through Climate Change Department worth INR 1.25 Cr.

- (i) CO₂ Enhanced Oil Recovery in Depleted Oil Reservoir and its storage worth Rs.32 Lakhs.
- (ii) Energy Storage through Redox Flow Battery worth Rs.65 Lakhs.
- (iii) Development of low-cost system for Green Hydrogen generation worth Rs.32 Lakhs.
- (iv) Propose a new B.Tech. programme in Climate Change.
- (v) Propose the Gujarat Research Institute for Climate Change (GRIC).

(b) Semiconductor Packaging Skill Center (PDEU + Micron)

- (i) Micron donated 3 machines worth of Rs.12 Cr. for the Skill Development Centre at PDEU.
- (ii) It is also expected that 3 more machines will be allotted in future.
- (iii) Micron has already placed 20 students who will be the master trainer and will further train the other students at the Skill Development Centre.

(c) SOPAL

- (i) PDEU appointed a new OEM partner – M/s. Contendre Solar for running SOPAL.
- (ii) Nearly 3 MW worth panels assembled and dispatched.
- (iii) Presently it is working at 66% capacity in first two shifts. Reliance Industry has shown interest in manufacturing the panels in the third shift. Paper work for training of Reliance personnel in progress.

(d) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Facility funded by the DST-FIST, GoI. The facility was inaugurated by the Chairman – Standing Committee.

(e) **Installation of Floating Solar (PDEU + SSNL + GSECL)**

- (i) SSNL has agreed to allow PDEU to install floating solar at Kevadia Colony (Statue of Unity).
- (ii) The earmarked location was shown by the Director General with photograph.
- (iii) PDEU and GSECL will jointly take this forward.

(f) **Collaboration with the University of Houston (UoH):** The Director General gave a feedback that following issues were discussed at UoU:

- (i) Executive Mini-MBA is proposed to commence.
- (ii) Executive Certificate Course on “Integrated Energy Management System.
- (iii) New accredited BS + MS Programme (2 + 2 or 3 + 2).
- (iv) Establishment of joint campus with an approx Capex worth 30-40 million USD is needed for the same.

(g) **Core Repository – MoPNG (DGH, GoI) :** Rs. 100 Cr. proposal submitted to MoPNG to create a core repository of geological core samples obtained from various geological formation.

(h) **NREL (DoE, USA) – MoU:** MoU with NREL is in progress on five verticals. Director General presented the salient points of the visit (i) Smart Grid Integration (ii) Hybrid Renewable with BESS facility. (iii) Green Hydrogen combining solar and wind.

2. **Update on Accreditation and Ranking:** Dr. Poonam Mishra, Dean – IQAC briefed on the status of the Ranking and Accreditation of the University and also informed the committee that by the coming cycle PDEU is also participating in the QS Ranking (Asia Ranking).

3. **Update on Research and Development**

- (a) Dr. Bhawanisingh Desai, Dean – R&D described how PDEU has derived its own system of Academic Delivery mechanism to evaluate the outcome of academic and research activities.
- (b) He also showed the pictorial representation on how PDEU have moved forward in H-Index, no. of Publications in Q1/Q2 journals and increase in the no. of Citations.

(c) He then briefed on the externally funded projects, research projects, consultancy and patents.

4. The Chairperson of the Committee asked to implement the complete process related to setting up the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) beginning from the student registration to the upload of the Grade sheets on the NAD-Digilocker. It was informed to the Committee by the Registrar that 6600 students have registered for ABC. The Chairman – Standing Committee said to give a cut-off date to students for ABC Registration.

She also mentioned as per the NEP requirement, “Knowledge of India” shall be incorporated in all the courses, irrespective of streams and programmes. It should be integrated in all the curriculum and “Knowledge of India” shall also be part of the ADL.

5. Updates on Admissions

(a) Dr. Rajesh Patel, Dean – Admissions tabulated the status of the present admission cycle. He brought out very high numbers of paid applications for B. Tech. as well as SLS Admissions.

(b) He further updated the various initiatives taken by the admission cell – admission outreach, opening of an information centre at Kota, Rajasthan, visits by the School students, rigorous counselling and participation in the Education fairs.

6. Updates on Academics

(a) Dr. Dhaval Pujara, Director – SoT presented the introduction of new programs and updates on the existing programmes.

(b) Dr. Palak Sheth mentioned that where there are less takers in the branches of B.Tech. (Civil Engineering), B.Tech. (Electrical Engineering) and a few others, the University can explore to realign curriculum in collaboration with L & T and other infra industries on the same lines as B.Tech. (Computer Science & Business Systems) is offered in collaboration with TCS.

(c) He also stated that the branches like Computer / ICT / EC / Electrical etc. can be combined with Ph. D.

(d) In M. Tech., 2nd year can be fully aligned with the Industry to have a hands-on experience to the students.

7. Updates on Students' achievements

(a) Dr. Dhaval Pujara, Director – SoT presented the recent student achievements in various national-level examinations and sports.

(b) The Chairperson mentioned that the PDEU students are into the technical and professional programmes and there might be a lack of awareness about the Civil Services and SSB examinations. This area can be touched upon and students can be groomed. She mentioned that the students must be encouraged early to apply for competitive examinations like GATE, CAT, CDS, UPSC etc.

8. Updates on HR

(a) Mr. Ankur Pandya, CHRO mentioned that 21 eligible contractual employees were appointed on-scale.

(b) He also stated that the Cadre revision for the teaching positions were concluded and 9 Professors and 9 Associate Professors were appointed/promoted.

9. Financial Update: The Registrar briefed on the financials of the University. He also mentioned the financial assistance to the students and mentioned that scholarship distribution has doubled this academic year.

10. Update on Placements: Dr. R. K. Vij, Dean – Placements tabulated the placement scenario of the students of Engineering, Management and Liberal Studies. He mentioned that B. Tech. placements are higher than the country average and majority of the students of the Liberal studies either go for the higher studies or they join their family businesses and hence these students opt-out from the placements. As on date 82% placement in FoET with average salary of Rs.6.8 L, 100% in SoM with average salary of Rs.8.7 L was noted.

Agenda 4/22: Introduction of new Law Courses: Legal Education approval from Bar Council of India

1. Registrar briefed the committee about introducing the Law programmes in line with the vision of the MERU campus. Two courses – Five year Integrated BA LLB and 3 year LLB (For Graduate students) will be offered.

2. Processing fees of Rs.12.50 Lakhs is already paid to BCI. BCI had stopped inspection of institutes since last three months which has commenced now. The University may expect inspection by BCI in July 2024.



3. The score of CLAT will be considered for the admissions. There is a possibility of conducting own exams for Law admissions (For students not appeared CLAT) as per BCI for this year admissions.

4. The Director General stated that the courses are designed in consultation with the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) and National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)

5. Dr. Palak Sheth sought clarity on the alignment of Law courses with the Vision of the University aligned towards Energy. Law being a very regular course, the uniqueness will be missing and that may affect the admissions. Presently, the reputed Law schools offer highly advanced courses. To match, it is required to have highly advanced course content and also the professionals who will teach. PDEU is not having an expertise in Law and hence the placements and outcome of the programme is also to be looked upon. There are few specific areas of law like Financial, Digital, Energy, etc. where the stakeholders may look to have the specialization.

Director General said that as of now we are going for most preferred Law courses in order to achieve the MERU campus goals. Specialization will be considered in due course. This issue has been discussed over last two years and then we have come to this decision.

The Chairperson of the Committee also felt that there is a scarcity of the Environmental Law nationally and internationally. Such laws shall be incorporated in the course structure. For the placements, PDEU may take assistance of GNLU.

Agenda 5/22: To consider construction of Academic Block F-1 and proposal for Academic Block F-2; Central Library and dedicated facilities

1. The team of HCP was invited to present the design and outlook of the academic block F-1 and F-2, Central Library and other dedicated facilities.

2. The Chairperson mentioned that the University campus lacks green areas (trees) and gives the appearance of brick and mortar more than greenery. She said that the University needs to plant additional 1000 trees this monsoon season and increase the tree cover over a period of time.

3. Dr. Palak Sheth quoted the example of MIT where the buildings are interconnected and hence people can move from one to another without moving out. Regarding the new Sports Complex, he suggested that having FSI, a G+1 structure is under utilization of space and high rise structure should be considered. The swimming pool can also be covered so that utilization can also be done in

unfavourable climate. He also quoted that it can also have a membership kind of structure like "Eklayya" wherein other than PDEU students can avail the facilities.

4. He also emphasized that an additional demand for land can also be raised from the Government with reference to the Government projects undertaken at the University. He also said that in the last meeting, the proposal of 41 Crore of endowment fund and 41 crore of loan was sanctioned for the upcoming infrastructure. For the Block-E extension another Rs.19 crores of Endowment Fund has been sanctioned. F1 and F2 Blocks will require Endowment Fund of approx. Rs.80 Crores for which some amount as OD against FDs is being considered. He, therefore, recommended that the financial closure of the existing funds may be done prior to such usage of endowment funds.

Agenda 6/22: To consider the Minutes of the Finance Committee: The committee considered and approved the Minutes of the Finance Committee

Agenda 7/22: To consider the Minutes of the Academic Council: The committee considered and approved the Minutes of the Academic Council

Concluding Remarks: The Chairperson concluded the meeting with the following remarks / suggestions:

1. She appreciated the latest ranking and accreditation status of the University.
2. She told that the University should look forward to be recognized as the Institute of Excellence (IoE). This can be achieved through different ways which should be explored.
3. She also praised the initiative of starting Law courses at the University.
4. She recommended that all the course curriculum should be in line with the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) and aligned to NCeF.
5. Students should have exposure to the UPSC Exams (Civil Services). A one-day exposure program can be held in collaboration with SPIPA.
6. Students should have exposure to the defence and para-military examinations.
7. The Library is the back-bone of any University, the completion of the project of Central Library should be timed such that it is done by December 2025.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.



Chairman
Standing Committee

