

PANDIT DEENDAYAL ENERGY UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE **HELD ON 22ND NOVEMBER 2024 AT 11.00 A.M.**

The following members were present at the meeting:

1. Ms. Anita Karwal, IAS (Retd.) – Chairperson
2. Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan – Director General, PDEU
3. Shri Jinal Mehta, Vice Chairman and M.D. – Torrent Power Ltd.
4. Dr. Palak Sheth – Director (P&D), PDEU
5. Col (Dr) Rakesh Kumar – Registrar, PDEU

Dr. Parimal Nathwani expressed his inability to attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances.

The following were invited to the meeting:

1. Dr. Anirbid Sircar, Director - SoET, PDEU
2. Dr. Dhaval Pujara, Director - SoT, PDEU
3. Dr. AKS Suryavanshi, Director - SoM, PDEU
4. Shri Abhinav Kapadia, CFO - PDEU
5. Shri Ankur Pandya, Chief HR Officer, PDEU
6. Shri Deven Prajapati, Chief Campus Manager, PDEU
7. Dr. Bhawanisingh Desai, Dean - R&D, PDEU
8. Dr. Poonam Mishra, Dean - IQAC, PDEU

The Director General welcomed the members and invitees. Thereafter, the Agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Agenda 1/23: Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee

- 1.1. 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 29/05/2024.

Agenda 2/23: Action Taken Report of the previous meeting of the Committee

- 2.1 The committee considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the previous standing committee meeting.
- 2.2 The Committee noted the action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting and highlighted few issues:
 - (a) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) project is completed.
 - (b) QS Rating: Data will be submitted by December 2024.



- (c) Forest Dept. planted more than 1600 saplings which are taken care of by the in-house staff regularly and an additional 2500+ saplings are planted by PDEU. The Director General informed that the Municipal Corporation is also considering tree plantations around the PDEU campus.
- (d) Civil Services examinations and exposure to defence and para-military exams: Two students out of eight cleared SSB. Many other have applied for various competitive exams. PDEU plans to organize an Introduction Session in the near future with SPIPA.
- (e) All the courses have incorporated the concept of 'Knowledge of India' across the programmes at the University.

Agenda 3/23: Major Updates

3.1 Following important issues were highlighted:-

3.1 (a) **Award of Graded Autonomy (Category-I) by UGC to PDEU:-**

- (i) Only two Universities in Gujarat are awarded Graded Autonomy in Category - I by UGC, one of them being PDEU.
- (ii) University shall be automatically deemed to be under section 12-B.
- (iii) On the scope of off-campus Centres, it was decided to have detailed deliberations.
- (iv) Director General discussed that the University is open to hiring of foreign faculty.
- (v) Commencement of online programmes will also be explored.

3.1 (b) **Ranking and Accreditation:-**

- (i) By jumping into the top 50 range as per the latest NIRF rankings, the University has improved considerably in Innovation Ranking.
- (ii) In overall University category also there is considerable improvement. It was informed that improvement in the Faculty Student ratio and in some other minor aspects, the University can attain ranking in the top 100.

3.1 (c) **Admissions:-**

- (i) While discussing the excellent achievement of the University in attaining 100% admissions this time, it was also discussed that now the University will need to focus on improving faculty strength and infrastructure to meet the increasing higher demand for admissions.

- (ii) Dr. Palak Sheth brought out that as admissions are increasing in Computer Engineering branch, there would be more competition for placements when these students pass out after four years. Accordingly, the University must explore potential recruiters from now itself. Companies in GIFT City should be approached.

3.1 (d) **Research & Development update:-**

The house was very pleased to see the progress in Publications & Patents. H-Index and Citations are improving day-by-day and PDEU is performing better than some IITs & NITs in this regard.

3.1 (e) **Use of AI curriculum:-**

- (i) Chairperson, Standing Committee emphasized the crucial nature of AI and the need to integrate it in all courses in the University on an urgent basis.
- (ii) Director – SoET presented one model for integration of AI in course curriculum, which was appreciated by all.
- (iii) Chairperson, Standing Committee further added that AI must be integrated not only in the technical courses/programmes, but also in all the non-technical courses/programmes, such as SLS course curriculum also. AI aspects should be imparted as ‘Knowledge’ and also as ‘Hands on Experience’.
- (iv) Director – SoT brought out the initiatives being taken in AI learning at SoT and also integrated with other Schools. He also said that Industry Experts are called even on Saturday/Sundays to deliver lectures of AI and Machine Learning.
- (v) Chairperson, Standing Committee conveyed the emphasis of the Chairman, BoG, Shri Ambani to the members, regarding the need to take up lead on Deep-tech and Deep-learning. She exhorted that PDEU must become a leader in deep-tech and in AI Education. Best experts from India and abroad must be systematically identified and brought in to create a strong deep-tech and AI faculty and ecosystem. She explained the term ‘Multidisciplinary’ and its importance.
- (vi) Dr. Palak Sheth pointed out that in US Universities, AI, Mathematics, Critical Thinking, Writing and Financial Literacy have become essential part of curriculum and PDEU also must explore the integration of the same.



- (vii) Director General brought out that University is taking all steps to incorporate these and the Curriculum of 2024 which was approved in previous Academic Council Meeting integrates 21st century skills.

3.1 (f) **Semiconductor Packaging Skill Centre:-**

- (i) Director General gave an update on Semiconductor Packaging Skill Centre which is being established at PDEU with the help of Micron, DST, Govt. of Gujarat and NSDC.
- (ii) The facility is likely to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Gujarat very soon.

3.1 (g) **Project of Climate Change Department (CCD) Govt. of Gujarat:-**

- (i) CCD has already sanctioned Rs.1.25 cr. for climate change project. The project includes:-
- CO2 Enhanced Oil recovery in Depleted Oil Reservoirs and its storage (Carbon Capture) funding worth Rs.32 Lakhs.
 - A new generation Redox Flow battery for Energy Storage and Grid support worth Rs.65 Lakhs.
 - Development of low-cost system for Green Hydrogen worth Rs.32 Lakhs.

3.1 (h) **Scholarships and Financial Assistance to students:-**

- (i) Rs.707 Lakhs were distributed to students last year as scholarships, which was approx.100% jump from F.Y. 2022-23 where only Rs.371 Lakhs were distributed. This is an example of better management of the Scholarship system.
- (ii) In current Financial Year all data with respect to Scholarships have been worked out and University will distribute Rs.790 Lakhs worth of Scholarships.
- (iii) In addition, Student Welfare expenses were Rs.359 Lakhs, spending on TA-ship to M.Tech. & Ph.D. students was Rs.273 Lakhs, and Student Clubs and Student Events expenditure was Rs.122 Lakhs.
- (iv) Overall University distributed Scholarships & Financial Assistance support to students to the tune of Rs.1466 Lakhs in last financial year.

3.1 (i) **Financial and Infrastructure update:-**

- (i) The Financial and Infrastructure update was presented to the house.
- (ii) Extension of Block-E is likely to get completed by May 2025.
- (iii) With regards to F-1 Building work order is likely to be issued by 29 Nov. 2024.
- (iv) With regards to F-2 Building the Financial Bid is likely to be opened on 29 Nov. 2024.
- (v) With regards to High Rise Hostel, one Tower is likely to be completed by Feb. 2025 and the second Tower by March 2025.
- (vi) The University is planning its infra to take on 10,000 plus students and cater for all their needs.

3.2 **Additional points by Chairperson, Standing Committee and Members**

- (a) Chairperson, Standing Committee mentioned that the University must now consider acquiring of additional land. The University can also look at the feasibility of acquiring additional land and starting off shore campuses.
- (b) Chairperson – Standing Committee praised the University layout, construction and greenery and said that she believes PDEU is better than many western universities with regard to infrastructure.
- (c) Dr. Palak Sheth mentioned that University is spending around Rs.80 Crores in High Rise Hostels and approx. Rs.90 Crores in F-1 and F-2 building. The University must cater for additional grants and funds as students' strength will keep growing much faster than infrastructure.
- (d) Mr. Jinal Mehta suggested to explore the possibility of Executive Education programmes, Online Education programme and other such programmes to generate additional revenue.
- (e) The house discussed the feasibility of starting some academic programmes from GIFT City. An in-principle go-ahead was given to Director – SoM to plan further. Director – SoM said that, at GIFT City 1400 Sq. ft. area was available for Hire at a cost of Rs.1 Lakh per month which the University can explore.
- (f) Mr. Jinal Mehta mentioned that in one previous Standing Committee meeting, University's Strategic Plan was shared. If at some time, progress on that could be given to the house. Director General said that most of the aspects mentioned in



Strategic Plan 2020-2024 have been completed and the University is in the process of drafting next five year Strategic Plan. It was decided to have a relook at the plan.

Agenda 4/23: To discuss and decide the case of Mr. Pranav Sharma for award of degree.

- 4.1 Though details of the case were already circulated, the Registrar – PDEU explained the case to the house. It was discussed on the basis of the facts that if the degree is issued to Mr. Pranav Sharma in order to close the case, it will be in the interest of the University as well as the student.
- 4.2 It was decided to approve the awarding of the degree to Mr. Pranav Sharma on the condition that this case cannot be quoted as a precedent for future cases.

Agenda 5/23: Revision in Tuition fee, Hostel fee and Mess fee for Academic Year 2025-26.

- 5.1 A joint meeting of Deans, Directors of all schools, CFO, CHRO, Registrar and Director General was held on 5th November, 2024 to discuss and finalize tuition fee of all the programmes being offered at PDEU for admission 2025-26.
- 5.1 (a) The House agreed to fee revision and gave following directions:-
 - (i) B. Tech. programme fee to be raised as suggested to Rs.2.75 Lakhs per annum.
 - (ii) L.L.B. Programme can start with Rs.3 Lakhs per annum.
 - (iii) Hostel fee to be increased to Rs.1.10 Lakhs per annum.

Agenda 6/23: To consider Minutes of the Meeting of Finance Committee

The Minutes were read and the Committee considered and approved the Minutes of the Finance Committee.

Agenda 7/23: Next Convocation

- 7.1 The details of Graduating students were shown to the Committee. Dr. Palak Sheth said that the dates will be finalized soon and would be probably between 14 to 16 Dec. 2024. Registrar told the house that at least 15-20 days' notice period is required as the students and their parents have to get reservations done and also University has to follow a process for tenders/bidding.
- 7.2 Chairperson - Standing Committee said that University should develop its own unique traditions for its Convocation. The procedure can also be given a little re-think and made more interesting and efficient. Director General said that the University will have a proper meeting later to finalize this.

8. Additional Points by the Chairperson, Standing Committee & Members:-

(a) Chairperson – Standing Committee again pointed out that the quality of food in students' Cafeteria should improve. The problem is not with spices but with cooking. Food should always be hygienic, tasty and palatable. Student Committee must get involved in Menu preparation and supervision and ensure definite improvement. The contractor should also be warned and cautioned adequately.

(b) Sports:- Director General informed the house about sports infrastructure of the University and usage of the sports Grounds. Mr. Palak Sheth suggested to take help of Mr. Jalaj Dani for sports activity promotions. Chairperson, Standing Committee said that the University may consider giving credit for participation in sports as per NEP. She also suggested to hire good sports coaches for University. University should also take out a Sports Encouragement Policy.

(c) Chairperson directed that University should make all possible efforts to look into the important aspect of mental health and wellbeing along with physical health and wellbeing of students. She said, that group and individual counselling sessions should be arranged. Also, the toll-free helpline of Manodarpan and its website set up jointly by the NCERT and UGC, etc. must be disseminated widely amongst students.

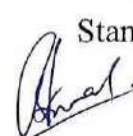
(d) The design of the Library coming up in the F-2 building was discussed. Various suggestions based on many foreign university libraries were discussed. House was of the view that PDEU should have state of an art library with all modern and trending facilities. Suggestions from a good Library planner and designer may be obtained.

(e) Chairperson, Standing Committee apprised the house about the idea of obtaining a Central University status for PDEU. She said that the idea was discussed with Chairman of BoG. A brief note on the justification, advantages and increase in scope may be prepared for submission to the Chairman BoG.

(f) Chairperson, Standing Committee laid emphasis on the need for skilling the students. She said that there are many new jobs and job roles on the horizon for which our students and education system are hardly prepared. PDEU must understand the requirements for future-readiness and take up skilling, reskilling and unskilling accordingly.

9. The meeting was ended with a vote of thanks.


Chairperson


Standing Committee