

Minutes of the 2021-2/16th Meeting of the Board of Governors of IISER Berhampur

The meeting of the Board of Governors (BOG) of IISER Berhampur (2021-2/16th) was held on *Google Meet* at 11:30 hr on Thursday, June 17, 2021. The following members were present during the meeting:

- Dr. M.S.N. Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director, MSN Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. Chairperson
- Professor K. V. R. Chary, Director, IISER Berhampur Member
- Sri Rakesh Ranjan, IAS, Additional Secretary (IISER), DHE, MoE
(represented Sri Amit Khare, IAS, Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, MoE) Member
- Sri M. A. S. Nair, Sr Private Secretary, RRCAT, Indore
(represented Dr. K. N. Vyas, Secretary, DAE & Chairman, AEC, Mumbai) Member
- Professor Govindan Rangarajan, Director, IISc Bangalore Member
- Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak, Joint Secretary, SDTE, Govt. Of Odisha
(represented Sri Suresh C Mahapatra, IAS, Chief Secretary to Govt. of Odisha) Member
- Professor Yogendra Sharma, Deputy Director & Dean of Faculty Affairs,
and Professor of Biological Sciences, IISER Berhampur Member
- Professor Surendra Nath Mishra, Dean of Academic Affairs and R&D,
and Professor of Physical Sciences, IISER Berhampur, Member
- Dr. Ruchi Badola, Senior Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun Member
- Ms. Darshana M. Dabral, IAS, JS and Financial Advisor MoE, Member
- Sri B. J. Acharyulu, Acting Registrar & Secretary, BoG of IISER Berhampur Non-Member

The following members could not attend the meeting due to their prior commitment and were granted leave of absence:

- Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST, New Delhi, Member
- Professor Raghavendra P. Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Member

BOG 16
Item No.

Agenda Items and Resolution

1. Opening remarks of the Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed the members present at the 16th Meeting of the BoG of IISER Berhampur. After a brief introduction by all members, the Chairperson requested the Director to initiate the proceedings of the meeting.

2. Overview report of the Director, IISER Berhampur on the activities of the Institute

An overview report was presented by the Director, IISER Berhampur. The BoG was briefed on the activities of IISER Berhampur in the recent past and the initiatives taken by the Institute in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The Director highlighted the co-operation and support from all members of the Institute in managing the academic activities. He announced that the Institute will organise its first-ever convocation in the month of August/September 2021. He also shared about some of the achievements of the BS-MS students for having been offered PhD programs in well-established Institutions world over. The progress of the construction of the permanent campus of IISER Berhampur was also explained to the BoG. A one and half-min video was played covering the progress of works as on June 16, 2021, related to the construction of the permanent campus. The BoG appreciated the initiatives taken by the Institute. The Director also presented the fund position of the Institute as on June 16, 2021. The aforesaid was taken on record.

The Director highlighted the issue of augmenting the teaching and non-teaching staff required for smooth functioning and running the academic programmes, and the budgetary requirement for construction of the permanent campus. The other issues as part of the overview report were discussed as separate agenda items.

Ms. Darshana M Dabral appreciated and complimented the Director for the progress of the Institution, the achievement of the final year BS-MS students securing PhD program offers from reputed Institutions around the world.

To a query of Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak regarding floor-wise handing over of Govt. ITI building for enabling the ITI for proposing an increase in intake of ITI students for the AY 2021-22, the Director clarified that although the Institute has planned to start the academic session in the partially built permanent campus, it may take one year to complete the shifting process.

The Director reminded Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak to pursue the case of waiving off the development fee in the processing of local body approval for the construction of the permanent campus. Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak assured that he would speak to the Collector, Ganjam regarding this.

In response to the queries from Sri Rakesh Ranjan, the Director clarified that all the research scholars and post-doctoral fellows were back on campus in October 2020, and since then, they are in the campus. With regard to the conduct of research projects and laboratory courses for BS-MS students, the Director shared that the 5th and 4th year students were called back to the campus for completing their research projects and laboratory courses, respectively. The 3rd and 2nd year students couldn't be invited to the laboratory courses because of the pandemic situation. However, these students were introduced to all the experiments online and the hands-on experience. These experiments will be conducted as special classes in their 4th and 3rd year of their course, respectively.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2021-1/15th Meeting of the BoG, IISER Berhampur, held on March 15, 2021

The BoG resolved to confirm the minutes of the 2021-1/15th meeting held on March 15, 2021, as circulated and proposed for confirmation, in the absence of any comments from any member.

4. To consider the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken in the 2021-1/15th Meeting of the BoG, IISER Berhampur, held on March 15, 2021

The Action Taken Report on the items requiring follow-up action on the decisions of the 2021-1/15th meeting of the BoG held on March 15, 2021, was taken on record with a note of appreciation.

For BoG-15-9:

The recruitment tests will be scheduled after the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic ends.

5. Ratification of the items approved by the Chairperson BoG, IISER Berhampur

The Board noted and ratified the following approvals of the Chairperson, BoG:

(a) Approval of the minutes of the Departmental Confirmation Committee for the assessment of the following Non-Teaching Staff (Group A) on probation held on Monday, March 22, 2021:

Employee Name	PF No.	Designation	Date of joining	Date of Confirmation
Sri Arun F Adrakatti	B0068	Assistant Librarian	29/01/2020	29/01/2021
Sri Swarup Narayan Behera	B0064	Assistant Registrar	24/12/2019	24/12/2020

(b) Approval of minutes of selection committees for the following faculty positions:

Designation	Selection Committee as per First Statues of IISERs	Selected Candidate	Remarks
Asst. Professor (Gr-II) (Physical Sciences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. KVR Chary, FTWAS, FNASc, FNA, Director, IISER Berhampur • Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty, FNA, FNASc, FASc, JC Bose fellow, School of Physical Sciences, NISER Bhubaneswar • Professor Yogendra Sharma, FNA, FNASc, FASc, JC Bose fellow, Dept. of Biological Sciences, IISER Berhampur • Prof. Surendra Nath Mishra, Professor & Dean of Academic Affairs, IISER Berhampur 	Dr. Rahul Sharma (Cat: OBC)	Offer letter issued

- (c) Approval of constitution of the selection committee and its minutes for the following Non-Teaching positions:

Designation	Selection Committee as per First Statutes of IISERs	Selected Candidate	Remarks
Scientific Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. KVR Chary, Director, IISER Berhampur Professor Yogendra Sharma, Deputy Director & Professor, IISER Berhampur Prof. Surendra Nath Mishra, Professor & Dean of Academic Affairs & HoD, Physical Sciences, IISER Berhampur 	Dr. Abhishek Rai (Cat: UR) Sri Shrikant Sharma (Cat: UR) (WL-01)	Offer letter issued to selected candidate

- (d) Approval to initiate major disciplinary action against Dr. Shashi Bhushan Singh, Assistant Professor, PF No. B0005, Department of Physical Sciences, as per the Statutes / CCS (Conduct) Rules and CCS (CCA) rules / Institute rules for an incident of plagiarism.

Many of the members felt that this is a very serious issue and should be dealt tough to safeguard the interests of the scientific community in general and the image of the young Institute like IISER, Berhampur in particular. Ms Darashana Dabhral, JS&FA, MoE wanted to see the charge sheet and the same was presented to all the members. JS&FA and ASTE, MoE have gone through the contents of the Charge Sheet critically and following which the BoG approved the same.

The services of the said faculty have been suspended w.e.f. June 01, 2021, pending inquiry. The draft charge sheet was presented to the Board during the meeting for vetting. The charge sheet duly vetted by the Board will be issued with the signature of the Chairperson, BoG.

6. Ratification of the items approved by the Director, IISER Berhampur

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Departmental Confirmation Committee for the assessment of the following Non-Teaching Staff (Group B & C) on probation held on March 22 & 24, 2021:

Employee Name	PF No.	Designation	Date of joining	Date of Confirmation
Sri. A Praveen Kumar	B0062	Assistant Engineer	30/10/2019	30/10/2020
Sri Satya Siva Sankar Rao K	B0063	ASO-cum-TM	11/12/2019	11/12/2020
Sri. Kalluri VVS Rajesh	B0066	Superintendent	27/01/2020	27/01/2021
Sri. Monojit Ghosh	B0067	Laboratory Technician	27/01/2020	27/01/2021

- (b) Appointment of Prof. T S Sridhar as Dean, Research and Development of the Institute for a period of three (03) years w.e.f. April 05, 2021.

7. To consider and approve the recommendations of the 2021-2/15th meeting of the FC of the Institute scheduled on June 17, 2021

As per the comments of the Ministry, the minutes of the Finance Committee can be confirmed only by the Finance Committee in its next meeting. The BoG has no locus standi on this and suggested that this agenda item may be withdrawn.

Sri B J Acharyulu, Acting Registrar clarified that as per the Statute-8(8) of the First Statutes of IISERs, the minutes of the FC have to be put up to the BoG for approval, and as per the Statute-5(3), the BoG can modify the ordinances on the recommendation of the FC.

Ms Darshana Dabral, JS&FA while agreeing to the procedure said that the minutes have to be first circulated to the members and after receiving their consent, the minutes should be put up to the FC for confirmation. After confirmation of the FC, they should be forwarded to the BoG for approval. It was assured to the Committee that the procedure suggested above will be followed in all future meetings.

Further, the Ministry suggested that any item of FC pertaining to expenditure and requiring specific approval of the BoG may be put up as a separate agenda item for discussion.

The Board noted the above deliberations and approved the above procedure. Accordingly, the minutes of the 15th FC will be put up to the BoG in its next meeting after confirmation of the FC. and any specific approval items will be separately brought out as separate agenda items.

8. **To report the list of faculty and non-faculty members who joined/confirmed/relieved in the recent past**

The BoG noted the list of following faculty and non-faculty members who have been confirmed in the recent past. There were no fresh joining/ relieving of any employee.

Faculty:

S. No.	Name	Department	Confirmation Date
1.	Dr. Bikashkali Midya, Assistant Professor	Physical Sciences	01/01/2021
2.	Dr. Amiya Kumar Mondal, Assistant Professor	Mathematical Sciences	17/02/2021

Non-Teaching Staff:

S. No.	Name	Name of the Position	Department	Confirmation Date
1.	Sri Swarup Narayan Behera	Assistant Registrar	Finance & Accounts	24/12/2020
2.	Sri Arun Adrakatti	Assistant Librarian	Library	29/01/2021
3.	Sri Ammanola Praveen Kumar	Assistant Engineer	Institute Works Department	30/10/2020
4.	Sri Satya Siva Sankar Rao K	ASO-cum-TM	Security Wing	11/12/2020
5.	Sri Kalluri VVS Rajesh	Superintendent	Academic Affairs	27/01/2021
6.	Sri Monojit Ghosh	Laboratory Technician	Physical Sciences	27/01/2021

9. **To report the status on recruitment of sanctioned non-teaching posts**

The Board noted the advertisement notice issued by the Institute for recruitment of the following six (06) non-teaching posts vide Advt. No. NT-01/21 dated May 23, 2021:

S. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Level	No. of Vacancy & reserved for as per roster	Mode of recruitment
1	Registrar	14	01 (Un-reserved)	Contract /On Deputation basis [®]
2	Librarian	14	01 (Un-reserved)	Direct Recruitment/Deputation [®]
3	Superintending Engineer	13	01 (Un-reserved)	Direct Recruitment/Deputation [®]
4	Deputy Registrar	12	01 (Un-reserved)	Direct Recruitment
5	Scientific Officer	10	01 (OBC)*	Direct Recruitment
6	Junior Superintendent	06	01 (PwD)*	Direct Recruitment

[®] Deputation basis as per DOPT orders in vogue and on the annual performance-based assessment process.

* Backlog vacancy

10. **To take on record the approval of Senate of IISER Berhampur regarding institution of memorial Gold medals for the final year BSMS students.**

The Board noted the approval of the Senate of IISER Berhampur for the institution of the following two memorial Gold medals to be given to the final year BSMS students on the Convocation Day.

- Sri Durgadas Mohanty Memorial Gold Medal:** Prof Bedangadas Mohanty, Member, Senate IISER Berhampur and his family have instituted a medal in the honour of his father Shri Durgadas Mohanty, who had always supported intellectual pursuit during his lifetime, to be given to the passing out BSMS student who secures the highest CPI in Physics major discipline at IISER Berhampur every year.
- Sri C Sudershan Memorial Gold Medal:** Prof. K V R Chary, Chairperson Senate IISER Berhampur and his family have instituted a medal in the honour of the founder principal of the New Science College, Hyderabad, Sri C. Sudarshan, who was a visionary educationalist and was committed to transforming society through education. He served as a member of the Syndicate, the Standing Committee, and the Executive Council of Osmania University for several years. As a premium member of the Executive Council of the Syndicate and member

of the Board of Studies of Osmania University, his valuable suggestions, reviews, and recommendations played a crucial role in designing innovative undergraduate science education programmes, in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh in the 1970s. Later, as a member of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC), he laid an incredible and effective two-way communication platform between the APPSC and academic institutions. This medal will be given to the passing out BSMS student, who secures the highest CPI in Chemistry major discipline at IISER Berhampur every year.

Further, the Board considered and approved the guidelines for the following Gold medals to be given to the final year BSMS students on the Convocation Day:

- (iii) **President's Gold Medal:** The President's Gold Medal is awarded for the best academic performance in the graduating class across all disciplines of the BS-MS (Dual Degree) programme. Students with a CPI ≥ 8 (excluding the project work credits) and no 'F' grade in any course during the entire programme can be shortlisted for this medal. Amongst the shortlisted students, the student with the highest CPI score on completion of the programme will be awarded a President's Gold Medal.
- (iv) **Director's Gold Medal:** The Director's Gold Medal is awarded for outstanding all-round achievement and leadership in the graduating class across all disciplines of the BS-MS (Dual Degree) programme. Students from all disciplines with CPI ≥ 8 and no 'F' grade in any course during the entire programme will be considered for the award of this medal. These students will be ranked based on their CPIs, beginning with the highest. The maximum number of shortlisted candidates, chosen by rank (beginning from the first), will be no more than 5% of the graduating class.
- (v) **Proficiency Medals:** These medals are awarded for the best academic performance in each discipline of the BS-MS (Dual Degree) programme. From each discipline, students with a CPI ≥ 8 and no 'F' grade in any course during the entire programme can be shortlisted for this medal. Amongst the shortlisted students, the student with the highest CPI in a given discipline on completion of the programme will be awarded a proficiency medal in that discipline.

11. To consider and nominate for the reconstitution of Building and Works Committee of IISER Berhampur

With the permission of the Chairperson, the proposed names for BoG nominated members to the B&WC Committee as a supplementary agenda item were discussed at length. After a few deliberations, as per the First Statutes of IISERs, the Board considered and nominated the following names to serve as members in the B&WC for two years:

S. No.	Proposed Names	Constitution as per the First Statutes of IISERs
1.	Professor RV Raja Kumar Director, IIT Bhubaneswar	One member from amongst the BoG
2.	Sri Ramakant Jha Advisor, Smart City, 407, Magnolia, Adhiraj Gardens, Sector-5, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai – 410210	A reputed Architect (other than the one hired by the institute for any ongoing work)
3.	Sri Ratan J Batliboi Ratan J Batliboi – Consultants Pvt Ltd	One Civil Engineer, not below the rank of Superintending Engineer, from a Government Department or Agency or Autonomous Body
4.	Sri A.K. Khatua Superintending Engineer, CPWD	One Electrical Engineer from a Government Department or Agency or Autonomous Body

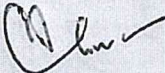
Prof. Govindan Rangarajan enquired regarding the Institute's stand on the "Tenure Track System" followed for faculty recruitment in some of the IISERs. The Director shared with the committee that the Institute initially adopted "Tenure Track System", in recruiting ten faculty members. However, according to the instructions of the Ministry, the "Tenure Track System" was withdrawn and the services of faculty recruited through initial contract of five years were regularized after one year of probation, on the pretext that there is no provision for Tenure Track Appointments in the First Statutes of IISERs. Prof. R V Raja Kumar extended his consent for the implementation of "Tenure Track System".

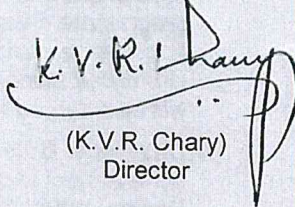
With regard to the issues pending with the Ministry, Ms. Darshana M Dabral informed the Board that the Ministry after examining the requirement and necessary cabinet approval, the case for the creation of posts for additional faculty positions in respect to all IISERs has been forwarded to the Finance Ministry. With regard to the budgetary requirements for construction of the permanent campus, she intimated that the Institute has sufficient an unspent balance in OH-35 and the Ministry will continue to provide sufficient funds in OH-35 as and when required.

To a query of Prof. R V Raja Kumar regarding the status of the academic year, the Director informed that the academic session for 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students has been completed; 5th year students are submitting their research projects by mid-June 2021. The first-year students will be completing their 2nd semester examinations on July 20, 2021.

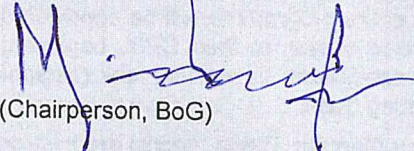
In the end, the Chairperson thanked all members for their active participation.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Sri B J Acharyulu)
Acting Registrar


(K.V.R. Chary)
Director

Minutes Approved


(Chairperson, BoG)