भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहमपुर
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Berhampur
Established by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

Minutes of the 2024-2/26th Meeting of the Finance Committee of IISER Berhampur

The 26th meeting of the Finance Committee (FC) of IISER Berhampur (2024-2/26th) was held in hybrid mode in the Boardroom, Transit Campus, IISER Berhampur at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, Jun 26, 2024. The following members/Chairperson were present during the meeting:

• Professor Ashok Kumar Ganguli, Director, IISER Berhampur	Chairperson
• Professor Ashok Kumar Ganguli, Director, IISER Berhampur	Member
• Professor Hirendra Nath Ghosh, Director, NISER Bhubaneswar	Member
• Shri Priyank Chaturvedi, Director (IISERs), DHE, MoE *{represented Ms. Saumya Gupta, IAS, Joint Secretary (TE)}*	Member
• Shri Pradeep Kumar Ray, Registrar and Secretary, FC of IISER Berhampur	Secretary

Professor Ashok Kumar Ganguli and Shri Pradeep Kumar Ray attended the meeting in person (physically) whereas all other above members joined the meeting through Video Conferencing.

Professor Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar and Shri Sanjog Kapoor, JS & FA, DHE, MoE couldn't attend the meeting due to preoccupation and leave of absence was granted. However, the comments of IFD on the agenda items were received earlier.

1. **Opening remarks of the Chairperson**

The Chairperson welcomed the members present at the 26th Meeting of the FC of IISER Berhampur. After a brief introduction of all members and his opening remarks, he requested the Secretary, FC to present the agenda items.

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

An overview report was presented by the Director. The FC was updated on the status of the construction of the permanent campus, the financial status, important activities of the Institute, and the status of the human resource (teaching and non-teaching). The overview report was earlier shared with the FC.

The Director mentioned about the difficulty and challenges being faced in the functioning of the Institute due to inadequate number of regular faculty and non-teaching staff and requested the MoE representatives to expedite the process for sanction of faculty and non-teaching positions for the Institute. Further, he requested to expedite the appointment of Chairperson, and some other members of BoG which are vacant.

Shri Priyank Chaturvedi informed the FC that the case for sanction of non-faculty positions has been forwarded by the MoE to the Ministry of Finance for consideration and the same for the faculty positions is in consideration at the IFD, MoE.

The Director's Overview Report is enclosed at **Annexure-A**.

3. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2024-1/25th meeting of the FC held on Feb 29, 2024**

The FC has confirmed the Minutes of their 2024-1/25th meeting held on Feb 29, 2024 as circulated and in view of the fact that no comments were offered by the members.

4. **To consider the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken in the 2024-1/25th meeting of the FC held on Jun 29, 2024**

The Action Taken Report on the items requiring follow-up action on the decisions of the 2024-1/25th of the FC held on Feb 29, 2024, was taken on record with a note of appreciation.

5. **To take on record the expenditure incurred towards the construction of the permanent campus and recommend its ratification by the BoG**

The FC noted the following expenditure incurred towards the construction of the permanent campus since the last FC Meeting held on Feb 29, 2024:

Date	Particulars	Amount (₹ in crore)
30.03.2024	To CPWD for construction works (RA-36)	0.77
30.04.2024	To CPWD for construction works (RA-37)	13.00

The detailed head-wise expenditure as on Jun 26, 2024 on Project as per the Sanction of MoE:

Amount (₹ in crore)

	Equipment Cost	Furnishing Cost	ICT Infra-structure Cost	Construction Cost	Cost of Escalation & Contingencies	Total (OH-35)	Recurring Expenditure	Total Cost
Sanction	243.53	108.36	34.34	773.76	69.33	1229.32	353.46	1582.78
Expenditure incurred till 24/06/2024	195.67	7.17	8.23	747.75*	0.00	958.82	106.46	1065.28
Available Balance	47.86	98.19	26.11	26.01	69.33	270.50	247.00	517.50

** Includes the expenditure on ICT which is a part of the same NIT for construction of the Permanent Campus. This amount is being calculated for separating it from the civil construction expenditure and subsequently the amount will be included under head of expenditure for ICT Infrastructure.*

***Comments of the MoE**: May be noted. The institute shall ensure that all expenditure is within the Cabinet approved category-wise/ head-wise limits also, besides being within the overall approved limit.*

The Secretary informed that as discussed in the previous FC meetings, the request for additional sanction due to deviation and increase in plinth area etc. along with the information in the format desired by the MoE has been forwarded to the MoE vide Institute letter No. IISERBPR/RO/MoE/2024/04 dated March 14, 2024.

6. **To consider and recommend to the BoG for approval of the Annual Accounts of the Institute for the Financial Year 2023-24**

The Annual Accounts for the FY 2023-24 was circulated to the FC on Jun 15, 2024 as part of agenda items for its 26th meeting. The Institute had received comments from the IFD (vide email dated Jun 25, 2024). The Institute examined the same and presented the reasons for the increase in expenses as under for the consideration of the FC:

IFD Comment	Institute Reply
Income from Academic Receipts for the FY 2023-24 is noticed to be less as compared with the previous FY.	The academic receipt for the FY 2022-23 was ₹7.14 Cr and for the FY 2021-22 was ₹4.43 Cr. The academic receipt for the FY 2023-24 is ₹6.97 Cr. This collection of fees during FY 2022-23 was more due to the collection of outstanding fees for the FY 2021-22.
Hike in expenditure in respect of Academic expenses (Schedule-16)	The academic expenses for the FY 2022-23 was ₹5.84 Cr and the academic expenses for the FY 2023-24 is ₹9.57 Cr. This is primarily due to increase in the faculty and student strength and hike in lab consumables, increase in student stipend and subscription of journals.
Hike in expenditure in respect of administrative and general expenses (Schedule-17)	The administrative and general expenses for the FY 2022-23 was ₹11.93 Cr and the same for the FY 2023-24 is ₹14.51 Cr. This is due to increase in Faculty as well as student strength. However, there is a hike of electricity bill, security, housekeeping and contractual employees' salary due to simultaneous operation of the Permanent Campus (partially) and Transit Campus.
Hike in expenditure in respect of Transportation expenses (Schedule-18)	The Transportation expenses for the FY 2022-23 was ₹1.69 Cr and the transportation expenses for the FY 2023-24 is ₹1.83 Cr which is very minimal (increased movement of personnel

	and students) as we are functioning in both transit as well as permanent campus.
Hike in expenditure in respect of Repair & Maintenance expenses (Schedule-19)	The repair & maintenance for the FY 2022-23 was ₹0.76 Cr and the same for the FY 2023-24 is ₹0.78 Cr which is very minimal as we are using high-end equipment for research purposes.

The FC accepted the above replies of the Institute and recommended the Annual Accounts for the FY 2023-24 to the BoG for approval.

7. **To take on record procurement of items exceeding ₹ 1.0 Cr**

The FC noted the procurement of following goods and services exceeding ₹ 1.0 Cr. following the guidelines of GFR-2017 and Manual of Procurement of Goods and Services:

S. No	Date of Approval/ Purchase	Description of Goods and Services	Amount (₹ in Cr.)
i.	Oct 09, 2023	Petrological polarizing microscope with transmitted and reflected light illumination with orthoscopic and conoscopy	1.01
ii.	Nov 29, 2023	Complete Rock and Mineralogical Thin Section Preparation System	1.00
iii.	Mar 06, 2024	Electron Probe Micro Analyzer	10.45
iv.	Mar 07, 2024	4 kW wave length Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Spectrometer with ED small spot mapping & its Indigenous item	1.22
v.	Mar 07, 2024	Indigenous item for 4 kW wave length Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF)	1.07
vi.	Mar 07, 2024	X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy	6.98
vii.	Mar 14, 2024	A system to measure physical properties of materials with a 7T & 14T superconducting magnet	11.07
viii.	Mar 19, 2024	High Resolution Field Emission Transmission Electron Microscopy	12.65
ix.	Mar 30, 2024	FE-SEM	7.83
x.	Mar 31, 2024	Helium Recovery and Liquefaction System	2.55
xi.	Mar 31, 2024	Performance workstation with accessories	1.43

8. **To consider and recommend to the BoG for Administrative Approval & Expenditure Sanction of Rs. 8,68,73,017/- for auxiliary 33KV power supply to the Permanent Campus**

***MoE Comment**: The institute has to ensure that all expenditure is within the Cabinet approved category-wise/ head-wise limits also, besides being within the overall approved limit. Any modification that needs to be done, has to be from within the same category/head. The institute may also consider using the contingency funds for this. Re-appropriation across different heads is not permissible.*

***IFD Comment**: Institute is in project mode. Cabinet had approved specific cost for specific works. All works envisaged in the approved DPRs are anyway are to be completed before the Institute declares 'project completion'. If Re-appropriation of expenditure from other works is done, how those works would be completed? One way out is Institute may meet additional expenditure form IRG for specific work and at the end of the project completion stage may reconcile and approach Ministry for Revised Cost with the approval of Competent Authority.*

The Secretary informed that the Institute has already forwarded the request for sanction of additional cost due to deviation and increase in plinth area to the Ministry. Further, he informed the Institute has very little IRG (for emergent purposes) being a young institute and hence, it may not be possible to meet this expenditure from the IRG. Shri Priyank Chaturvedi insisted to finish all the works that are envisaged in the approved DPR. The Director suggested to take up this agenda later.

The FC agreed and suggested the Institute to defer this item.

9. **To consider and recommend to the BoG for Administrative Approval & Expenditure Sanction of Rs. 8.5 Cr. plus GST for setting up of smart class room at Permanent Campus**

MoE Comment: *Any expenditure beyond that specified in the scope of work already issued or beyond the expenditure limits specified in the Ministry's approval cannot be approved. The institute can either undertake this from IRG or once the project closure has been approved. The institute has to ensure that all expenditure is within the Cabinet approved category-wise/ head-wise limits also, besides being within the overall approved limit.*

IFD Comment: *Institute is in project mode. Cabinet had approved specific cost for specific works. All works envisaged in the approved DPRs are anyway are to be completed before the Institute declares 'project completion'. If Re-appropriation of expenditure from other works is done, how those works would be completed? One way out is Institute may meet additional expenditure form IRG for specific work and at the end of the project completion stage may reconcile and approach Ministry for Revised Cost with the approval of Competent Authority.*

The FC discussed the agenda at length. The Institute proposed to incur this expenditure partly under equipment head and the rest under furnishing head. The MoE representative suggested the Institute to look for any duplication of items under various heads of expenditure (e.g. equipment, ICT, furnishing etc.) that might have occurred in the approved DPR vis-à-vis sanctioned funds by the Ministry for the project. Consequently, he suggested to take up an agenda item in the next meeting of the FC to adjust the extra funds (if any) arising out of the duplication of works.

The Institute presented that the Smart Classroom is an essential item and the classrooms will not be functional without this. It was also informed that the classroom works with the fixing of furniture are almost ready and smart classroom fittings are urgently needed to make it fully functional.

Accordingly, the FC recommended to book the expenditures temporarily under equipment head for processing the procurement and include as an expenditure under ICT head as additional fund requirement to be forwarded to the MoE for approval of the Competent Authority.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all the members of the FC.

2/7/24

(Pradeep Kumar Ray)
Registrar and Secretary, FC

(Ashok Kumar Ganguli)
Director

2/7/24

Minutes Approved

(Chairperson, FC)

3/7/24