



Minutes of Meeting

ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC) DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGG.

29th Dec 2023

Present Members:

Chair: Brig Abhay A Bhat, Director, AIT

Mr. Dinesh Joshi, Skoda, Industry Representative

Colonel Vaibhav Trivedi, Indian Army Research Wing, AIT Alumnus Representative

Dr. A.S. Sandeep Anasane, HOD Manufacturing, COEP, External Academic Expert

Mr. Sopan Pansare, Parent Representative

Dr. U.V. Awasarmol, Professor and Head, Dept of Mechanical Engg

Prof. V.R. Kulkarni Faculty Representative, Dept of Mechanical Engg

Prof. P.V Dorlikar Representative, Dept of Mechanical Engg

Prof. R.S Godse Faculty Representative, Dept of Mechanical Engg

Student Representatives

Harshdeep (BE Mech)

Rishabh Tiwari (BE Mech)

Kumari Sonali Singh (TE Mech)

Krishna Mohan Tripathi (TE Mech)

PROCEEDINGS

1. Welcome by HOD (Mech):

The meeting was called to order by HOD Prof (Dr) U.V. Awasarmol at 11:00 am with warm welcome to all members.

2. Confirmation of Last Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by Prof. Kulkarni and approved unanimously without objections.

3. Department Presentation by HOD (Mech):

A) Department Profile:

- 14 Faculty members and 9 supporting staff.
- Faculty qualifications and specializations discussed.



B) Achievements:

- Significant number of Ph.D. holders.
- Recognition for teaching excellence.
- 11 publications, 4 SCI
- Contribution to syllabus formation.
- NBA accreditation.

C) Research and Development:

Committee discussed about R&D activities of the department and the external expert members expressed satisfaction about quantity and quality of the publications. They expressed need to maintain the momentum.

D) Academic Results:

HOD presented an overview of the academic results for Third-Year (TE), Second-Year (SE), and Final-Year (BE) students. He highlighted notable achievements and areas for improvement at each academic level.

Brig Abhay A Bhat, the Director AIT, highlighted the need to include detailed statistics on the academic results of First-Year Engineering (FE) students together with SE, TE & BE students. He directed the Head of the Department (HOD) to provide specific information on FE pass percentages, distinctions, and any notable trends observed.

The Director acknowledged the crucial role of faculty in shaping students' academic journey. He encouraged faculty members to continue their efforts in mentoring and guiding students towards success. He emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring of students' academic progress across all levels and stressed upon an effective feedback system to facilitate timely interventions and support.

E) Facilities:

Prof. U.V. Awasarmol highlighted the existing facilities within the Mechanical Department, including a projector presentation facility and access to SolidWorks software. He shared details about key infrastructure, specialized laboratories, and technological resources available for academic and research purposes. He also shared plans for upcoming enhancements and additions to departmental facilities.

He opened the floor for feedback from faculty, students, and industry representatives on the usability and effectiveness of current facilities. He discussed the need for technological upgrades in laboratories and classrooms to align with industry standards.

F) Placements:

Prof. U.V. Awasarmol presented a detailed report on the placement statistics for the Mechanical Department including placement percentages, average salaries, and notable recruiting companies.

G) Internships and Industrial Visits:

HOD Shared current placement statistics, including placement percentages, average salaries, and notable recruiting companies.

The Committee overviewed and discussed on permission for internship duration.



H) Industry Interest:

HOD discussed the overall interest and engagement of industries in the Mechanical Department's academic and placement activities.

He shared insights into existing partnerships with industries and collaborative projects undertaken by the department.

He highlighted specific instances of successful collaboration with industry partners, showcasing mutual benefits and achievements. He emphasized the role of alumni in fostering industry connections and facilitating collaborations between the department and various sectors.

The presentation was appreciated by the chair and all the external committee Members.

4. Brainstorming/Structured Discussion:

The title wise feedback and suggestions from the committee are as follows:

A) New branch Robotics and Automation being introduced:

The introduction aims to set a positive and collaborative tone, emphasizing the alignment of Dr. Anasane's expertise with the goals and aspirations of the Sandwich Branch in the exciting realm of automation and robotics.

Brig Abhay A Bhat, the Director, highlighted the need to Marketing Strategy for the New Automation and Robotics Division: In developing a marketing strategy for the new Automation and Robotics Division, it is crucial to create awareness, showcase the value proposition, and position the division as a leader in cutting-edge technologies.

He expressed concerns with nomenclature of "Automation and Robotics Branch" During SSB Course Selection. He further directed HOD to look in to the matter from Indian Army perspective addressing concerns raised by Colonel Trivedi regarding the name "Automation and Robotics Branch" during SSB course selection.

The discussion aimed to address the concerns raised by Colonel Trivedi, explore potential solutions or alternative names, and develop a strategic plan for communication with SSB course selection panels.

B) Start-ups:

Director's Statement on Start-up: Elephant, alive or dead, Brig Abhay A Bhat, the Director, made a statement regarding a start-up, emphasizing the value proposition.

Interpretation:

The statement suggests a bold and unconventional perspective, possibly highlighting the idea that the start-up's concept and impact on society is so significant that it holds value regardless of the conventional scenario of success and profitability. The symbolic use of an elephant may represent challenges or uniqueness, and the stated amount of one lakh rupees could signify the substantial societal worth attached to the start-up.

The statement invited further discussion, exploration, and possibly challenges the conventional norms associated with assessing the value and potential success of a start-up. It may encourage stakeholders to look beyond traditional metrics and consider the start-up's essence, impact, and resilience.



C) Internship and Employment Betterment:

Colonel Vaibhav Trivedi (AIT Alumnus, Indian Army Research Wing) made highlights on the points:

- **Skills Development:** Highlighted the long-term value of acquiring skills and knowledge during internships that contribute to career growth.
- **Professional Network:** Emphasized the role of internships in building a professional network that can be beneficial throughout one's career.
- **Exploration:** Discussed the benefits of exploring different work environments to understand diverse industries, cultures, and career paths.
- **Adaptability:** Emphasized the importance of adaptability and the ability to learn quickly when transitioning between companies.
- **Self-Reflection:** Encouraged students to reflect on their career desires, interests, and long-term goals.
- **Alignment:** Discuss the significance of aligning career choices with personal passions and values for job satisfaction.
- **Research:** Encourage thorough research on industry standards and company practices to make informed decisions.
- **Current Trends:** Discuss the latest industry trends and in-demand skills, emphasizing the importance of staying updated.
- **Continuous Learning:** Encourage a mindset of continuous learning to adapt to evolving industry needs.

Mr. Dinesh Joshi (Representing Skoda) made emphasis on

- **Attitude Towards the Company and Problem-Solving:**
- **Positive Attitude:** Importance of a positive attitude towards colleagues, superiors, and the organization as a whole.
- **Problem-Solving Approach:** Significance of a proactive and solution-oriented approach when facing challenges in the workplace.
- **Summary of the discussion 4C :**
- Encourage students to approach their careers with a balance of exploration, self-reflection, and a commitment to continuous learning. A positive attitude, adaptability, and a focus on long-term value contribute significantly to a successful and satisfying career journey.
- Upon query from external committee members students shared insights about their internship experience.

D) Recent NBA visit:

- Prof Dr Anasane COEP extended congratulations to AIT for completing the fourth NBA evaluation cycle stating this means AIT does already have NBA acceptable practices but further emphasized to be always on toes.

E) Salary and Stipend during internship:

Current structures for student stipends were discussed and difference for mechanical students is due to prevailing Service and manufacturing sector salary structure.



Industry (Skoda) representative Mr Dinesh Joshi and Colonel emphasized on students taking real-world problem statements from external sources in their projects.

They further suggested coordinating with companies for authentic problem-solving experiences. Prof. P.V. Dorlikar highlighted the upcoming MTEX Faculty Visit Interaction and discussed Opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange during the interaction.

F) Brig Abhay Bhat's Announcement on Autonomy:

Brig Abhay Bhat announced AIT's imminent transition to autonomous institute soon and stated that under his leadership the institute is working hard to make it happen from next academic year.

He acknowledged the significance of the autonomy in development for the institution's future.

5) Proposed Solutions:

- Implementation of practical learning initiatives.
- Motivational lectures, incentives for placement-driven students.
- Highlighting AIT's unique selling proposition.
- Focus on core careers and expertise.
- Addressing student commitments to companies.
- Encouraging mind set shift and increased teacher-student interaction.
- Soft skill Development of students.

6) Closing:

Brig Abhay A Bhat expressed gratitude to all attendees for their active participation.

He emphasized the importance of implementing discussed action items and encouraged on-going collaboration.

7) Vote of thanks:

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Prof V R Kulkarni.

Prof V R Kulkarni

Workshop Superintendent

Dr U V Awasarmol

Professor and Head