

MINUTES OF AIT GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON 23 SEP 2022

1. Meeting of the Governing Body of AIT was held on Friday, 23 Sep 2022 at 1500 hrs under the Chairmanship of Lt Gen Arvind Walia, COS, HQ Southern Comd. The following attended the meeting :-

Ser No	Status	Name of Appointment	Attendance
(a)	Chairman, (Nominated by Trust/ Society)	Lt Gen Arvind Walia, COS, HQ Southern Comd (Patron AIT)	Yes
(b)	Vice Chairman	Maj Gen TS Bains, CSO, HQ Southern Comd (Chairman AIT)	Yes
(c)	Member (Society Nominee)	Maj Gen Vinayak Saini, SM Dy Comdt, CME Pune.	No
(d)	Member (Society Nominee)	Brig Vijay Pal Singh Malik, Dy JAG, HQ Southern Comd.	No
(e)	AICTE Nominee	Ex-Officio	No
(f)	DTE Nominee	Ex-Officio	No
(g)	Member (Society Nominee)	Col Anupam Mathur (Retd), Director AWES, HQ Southern Comd.	Yes
(h)	Eminent Academician	Prof Hemant Abhyankar, State Govt Nominee.	Yes, Online
(i)	Independent Member	Mr MS Unnikrishnan, CEO IIT B, Monash University and Ex CEO and MD Thermax India.	Yes
(j)	Independent Member	Mr Shrikant Badve, MD, Badve Industries.	No
(k)	Independent Member	Col Virender Kapoor (Retd), ex Director SITM	No
(l)	Independent Member	Shri PM Kurulkar, Director R&DE (Engrs), Dighi, Pune	No
(m)	Independent Member	Mr Dinanath Kholkar, VP Analytics, TCS.	No
(n)	Member	Dr BP Patil, Principal, AIT.	Yes
(o)	Faculty Member	Dr GR Patil, HoD (E&TC), AIT	Yes
(p)	Faculty Member	Mrs Vaishali Ingale, Asst Prof, IT Dept, AIT	Yes
(q)	Member Secretary	Brig Abhay A Bhat (Retd), Director AIT.	Yes

Welcome Address

2. The meeting started with a welcome address and introduction of all dignitaries by Director AIT. He mentioned that last GBM was held on 17 Jun 2021.

Discussion on Previous Agenda Pts

3. **Agenda Point 1 : Introduction of ME (Data Science) Course in Comp Engg.** The Director intimated that based on the decision taken during the last GB meet, the proposal was submitted to AWES, AICTE and SPPU. The proposal has been accepted by all concerned and very recently ie on 15 Sep 22, DTE, Maharashtra too has given the final approval. The course is being launched in AY 2022-23.

4. **Decision.** Decision of previous GBM was endorsed.

5. **Agenda Point 2 : Closure of ME (Engg Design) Course of Mech Engg.** While during the previous GBM it was decided that the course be continued for one more year (i.e AY 2021-22), and if a few army candidates take admission it may be continued. However, the Director intimated that post the GBM, efforts were made to admit more candidates. However only one civilian candidate was admitted for AY 2021-22 (and no army candidate). In view of the above AWES had also asked AIT to apply for closure. Accordingly, AIT had applied for closure of the course and closure has been approved by all concerned.

6. **Decision.** The decision for closure of the program was endorsed by the members.

7. **Agenda Point 3: Exploring Option to Convert one Division of E&TC (60 Students) to E&CE.** The Director mentioned that in the previous meet, most of the members were of the opinion that there was no need to change the nomenclature as there would be adequate demand for the core Electronics and Telecom program with implementation of 5G, Govt push for indigenous manufacturing of chips, ICs and high tech electronic devices. The GBM had resolved to maintain status Quo.

8. **Decision.** Status quo be maintained. Director AIT mentioned that the placements of E&TC are excellent and on the upswing, validating the decision.

Discussion on Agenda Points of This GBM

9. **Agenda Point 1 : Academic Growth Plan Submitted to AWES.** Director explained the background behind preparing the new "Academic Growth Plan". AWES now wants to expand the reach and double the capacity of each of its 12 HEIs under AWES umbrella. This new initiative is aimed at making these institutions more viable based on principle of "Economy of Scales", as also to meet inspirations of larger population of army wards. AIT being the most popular and successful HEI of AWES, is required to take a lead. AIT also has adequate space for additional infrastructure. The Director displayed the short term (upto AY 2024-25), Medium term (upto AY 26-27) academic growth plans. Out line of Long Term Plans was also briefly touched upon.

10. **Discussion on Various Aspects of Growth Plan.**

(a) **Skill Oriented Certificate Courses.** While appreciating the initiative, Mr Unnikrishnan intimated that there is a demand from industry for such skills. He was in agreement with all the proposed skill courses displayed. He recommended that trained trainers certified by Skill Development Council of the Govt should be employed for these courses. The Director informed that some of the faculty members of AIT have undergone such certification program for IoT certification. The Chairman suggested that a proper demand survey amongst the environment be carried out before launching such courses.

(b) **Integrated Courses.** Discussions also took place about the integrated (BE + ME, BE + MBA) courses and the members were of the opinion that such courses are likely to be more popular than regular ME courses. As such students don't have to appear for GATE entrance test and they save one year of PG.

(c) **R&D and Research Funding.** Mr Unnikrishnan drew attention to the fact that the R&D footprint of the institute needs to be enhanced substantially. He suggested that AIT should explore if it can apply for the Department of Science and Technology "FIST" (Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology) funds, where up to Rs 50 Lakh are provided to improve labs and research infrastructure. He further suggested that adequate incentive scheme including R&D performance based career progression be instituted for the faculty. Mr Unnikrishnan also mentioned that in all good institutions including IIT Bombay, VNIT etc, the Alumni contribute substantially in developing R&D labs, incubation centers etc. AIT alumni who have been successful also should donate for such development in their alma mater.

11. Mr Unnikrishnan also brought out the requirement of maintaining the requisite teacher-student ratios along with increasing student strength. The Director clarified that these norms will be strictly followed.

Decision. The proposal was endorsed by the members of GBM.

12. **Agenda Point 2 : Commencement of New Division BE(IT) wef AY 2023-24.** Referring to the earlier endorsed Academic Growth Plan the Director placed the proposal for increase of one division (60 students) under IT Branch. He intimated that two options viz increasing intake in existing programs of BE (IT) or starting a new program BE (AI & ML). Majority of the members opined that at UG level a broader based subject should be pursued as compared to a specialized subject. This gives more career options for the students. Students interested in AI & ML can undertake "honours course" or various certifications which are available. As such the IT curriculum has adequate coverage of AI & ML. The Chairman also mentioned that students taking up BE(AI & ML) as a degree course, aspiring to join defense forces as tech graduates may not be able to do so, as BE (AI & ML) has not been included by Army HQ as an eligible degree. In view of the above proposal to start a new division under BE (IT) program was considered best option.

Decision. The proposal to start a new Division under BE (IT) program was endorsed.

College Update

13. **College Update.** Director gave the college update of important events, achievements and progress of AIT over last one year. These included the following: -

- (a) **Selection of Joint Director.** Col MK Prasad (Retd) has been appointed as the new Joint Director on retirement of Col KE Vijayan. He Joined 02 Aug 2021
- (b) **AIT Student Startup "Xefficient".** This startup was launched by students of 2021 batch and incubated by AID. It was awarded Certificate of Recognition by Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Min of Commerce and Industry. This is based on the idea of an efficient "Verticle Axis Turbine".
- (c) **Dare to Dream 2.0 DRDO Pan India Innovation Contest.** Mr Pitambar Panda, BE Mech was awarded merit certificate for "EXNOS WIND TURBINE" in Defence Sector by Hon'ble Defence Minister in Jun 2021. This is the same product of "Xefficient".
- (d) **ELECTRUN (AIT Startup) Story in "ThestoryWatch".** The success story of AIT student startup "Electrun" figured in online magazine "ThestoryWatch". This is another student start up involved in converting old two wheelers to electric vehicles.
- (e) **Research Grant from NSCS.** A project proposed by AIT in collaboration with FT 42 Labs was awarded a research grant of Rs 7.46 Crores, by National Security Council Sectt in July 2021. The research project was titled "System for Secure Fine-Grained Access Control and Authorization of Digital Assets and Operations". The project is being implemented in three phases and is in Ph 2, wef Jul 22.
- (f) **IIC Annual Performance 2020-21.** AIT got 4 Star rating from MIC of Ministry of Education in AY 2020-21. Hoping to get 5 Star rating this year.
- (g) **Physical Opening of College.** Post relaxation of COVID restrictions, Physical working of college commenced fully, wef 07 Mar 2022.
- (h) **AICTE Approval For ME (Data Science).** AICTE, SPPU and DTE approval for starting ME (Data Science), 24 seats obtained. Concurrently approval to stop ME(Engg Design) was also obtained.
- (j) **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).** NAAC Peer Team visited AIT on 27 & 28 Apr 2022. However, AIT was downgraded to B+ from A. due to perceived incomplete documentation. AIT had appealed against the decision but was rejected. AIT will reapply for upgradation in 2023 and is confident to get at least A.
- (k) **National Board of Accreditation Assessment (NBA).** Compliance visit of Comp Engg Program carried out on 19 Jun 2022. Comp program has got the compliance certificate. Expert committee visit for review of E&TC, IT and Mech NBA certification was conducted from 16th to 18th Sep. The team was visibly impressed and they conveyed the same during their interaction. We expect good outcome.

14. **New Infrastructure Development Post Jul 2021.** Director also gave an overview of the new infrastructure development post Jul 2021 which includes the following: -

- (a) **Additional Pre-Fab Hostel Rooms.** Hostel accommodation for 110 students created. Additional accommodation for 33 (Capt Gurbir Singh Hostel) was also under construction.
- (b) **EV Lab.** New EV Lab has been constructed and kitted. Students have started doing some good projects. Financial aid of approx. Rs 10 Lakh was given by widow of Lt Col Suhas Gogate.
- (c) **Waiting Room for Students, Parents and Guests.** This has been created opposite Adm Office.
- (d) **Renovation of IT Dept Library.** Complete reconstruction of this library cum conf room has been carried out. Earlier structure had developed defects.
- (e) **Expansion of Open Air Dining Hall.** A new Open Dining hall for students in the boys mess complex created. Will have a capacity of over 250 students.
- (f) **Smart Classroom in Each Dept.** Total six classrooms, where hybrid teaching can be conducted were created to meet the requirements of COVID times. Will be useful in future in conduct of hybrid workshops, seminars and FDPs.
- (g) **Rain Water Harvesting.** This project which took over three years of work has been completed in Jul 2021.
- (h) **Renovation of Staff Quarters Under Progress.** This is an ongoing process as many old quarters require renovation and repairs.
- (j) **Renovation of Toilets.** All the toilets in the academic block need major renovation. Already 8 toilets have been renovated and two more are in progress.
- (k) **Obstacle Course and Gym.** A new SSB obstacle course for practice by students and renovation of both boys and girls gym has been carried out.

Remarks from Prof Hemant Abhyankar

15. Prof H Abhyankar, who attended the meeting online from Canada complimented AWES for choosing committed and right candidates as Directors of AIT over the years. He provided very important inputs related to way ahead, for AIT. As per him, AIT should accelerate its expansion plans, and look at taking it's intake from 360 to 1000 at a faster pace. He highlighted the need for developing research environment, and suggested that necessary help and collaboration of CME & DIAT be taken to foster the same. He further suggested that every teacher must show some research output and their career progressions must be linked with the same. Prof Abhyankar stressed on the need for having PhD centers in each branch/ Dept as there will automatically enhance the scale and quality of research. In case Masters Programs need to be started either in direct or integrated form, the same can be done, and to make them viable some seats be offered to civilians also. Prof Abhyankar highlighted that academic Autonomy is the base for any institution to grow and improve its research footprint. This has been proven globally. Prof Abhyankar also asked the management to pitch for various grants, as also seek support from DRDO organizations. With 3 such DRDO labs in Pune, AIT can always get few projects and/ or research grants from them. Prof Abhyankar wished all the Best to AIT for executing the proposals approved.

Closing Remarks by Patron, AIT

16. The Patron thanked all GBM members and especially Prof Abhyankar, who joined online all the way from Canada in the early hours of morning. The Governing Body is the critical body in preparing, monitoring and executing the road map for AIT. He reiterated the importance of Research and innovation which is essential not only for rankings but overall growth of AIT. AIT has already been included as technology hub by the Army technology node of Southern Comd. If new startups are of any help to defence ecosystem, the technology hub will be willing to fund. Building the infrastructure takes time and costs money. The Patron was sanguine that this academic growth plan and infrastructure will get approved and implemented. The Patron also suggested that AIT should start thinking of establishing a wing colocated with ALC Kanhe which is an ideal place for second campus. He thanked everyone for being present and contributing effectively in the discussion. On being suggested by the Director AIT that GB meetings should be held every six months, he mentioned that such meetings should have more agenda points, which will make it relevant to hold it every six months

Vote of Thanks

17. The Director thanked the Chairman and all other members for their valuable contributions.

Case File No: AIT/0044/GBM/Adm

Army Institute of Technology
Dighi Hills
Pune – 411015

Date : 21 Oct 2022


(Abhay A Bhat)
Brig (Retd)
Member Secretary

Distribution :-

1. Army Welfare Education Society (AWES)
Adjutant General's Branch
Integrated HQ of MoD (Army)
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Delhi Cantt – 110 010
2. HQ Southern Command (AWES)
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Pune – 411001
4. HQ Southern Command (DJAG)
Pune – 411001

Through emails

5. Maj Gen Vinayak Saini, SM, Dy Comdt, CME Pune.
6. Prof Hemant Abhyankar
7. Mr MS Unnikrishnan, CEO IIT B, Monash University Research Academy
8. Mr Shrikant Badve, MD, Badve Industries
9. Col Virender Kapoor (Retd),
10. Shri PM Kurulkar, Director, R&DE (Engrs), Dighi, Pune.
11. Mr Dinanath Kholkar, VP Analytics, TCS,
12. Jt Director AIT.
13. Dr BP Patil, Principal AIT, Pune
14. Dr GR Patil, HOD E & TC, AIT Pune.
15. HOD Comp, AIT Pune.
16. HOD Mech, AIT Pune.
17. HOD IT, AIT Pune.
18. HOD ASGE, AIT Pune.
19. Mrs Vaishali Ingale, Asst Prof, AIT Pune.
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