

Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Guwahati
Minutes of Departmental Faculty Meeting (No. 64/2021: January 6th, 2021)

Opening Remarks

Department faculty meeting headed by the Head of the Department (Prof S. Senthilvelan) was held in online mode on January 6th, 2020 at 5:00 PM. A total of 35 faculty members (Dr. S. Bag, Dr. A. Banerjee, Dr. S. Basireddy, Dr. D. N. Basu, Prof. P. Biswas, Prof. A. Dalal, Dr. M. Das, Dr. A. De, Prof. U. S. Dixit, Prof. S. K. Dwivedy, Dr. S. S. Gautum, Dr. Shrikrishna N. Joshi, Prof. K. Kalita, Prof. S. Kanagraj, Prof. S. K. Kakoty (on DD duty), Dr. P. Khanikar, Prof. V. Kulkarni, Dr. B. Kumar, Dr. P. Kumari, Dr. S. Mandal, Dr. T. K. Mankodi, Dr. P. Mondal, Prof. K. S. R. Krishna Murthy, Dr. N. Muthu, Prof. P. Muthukumar, Dr. A. Nandy, Prof. G. R. Narayan, Dr. G. Madhusudhana, Dr. S. Panda, Dr. B. Panda, Prof. M. Pandey, Prof. U. K. Saha, Prof. N. Sahoo, Prof. S. Senthilvelan, Dr. D. Sharma, Dr. A. Soti, Prof. R. Tiwari) were in attendance.

Approval of Faculty Meeting (No. 63/2020: December 5th, 2020)

Minutes of the previous faculty meeting dated December 5th, 2020 were approved by the quorum.

Agenda

1. Prof. S. Senthilvelan informed the quorum that a few hosteler research scholar were commuting from their home and working in the department. A meeting was convened with these students and they were suggested to come to hostels. In spite of this, research scholars were ignoring this guideline. Prof. S. Senthilvelan wrote a mail to the concerned student and to the mechanical Outlook group. It was clarified that day scholars were allowed to come and work in the campus. The mail was only for hostelers who were commuting. These research scholars and their supervisors have not raised any objection to this guideline.

Deputy director wrote to Prof. S. Senthilvelan conveying that day scholars are allowed to work in the department. Prof. S. Senthilvelan has replied that henceforth, such students need not ask for approval and further HoD or the nodal officer appointed by the HoD will not take any responsibility for Covid related issues.

2. Prof. Uday Dixit informed the quorum that several students from B.Tech 1997-2001 batches contributed a total amount of \$ 4000 towards the publication of Silver Jubilee celebration book of the department. The surplus fund will be added to the DPF.

3. Prof. S. Senthilvelan informed (referring to Department Faculty Meeting held on October 17th, 2020) that temporary space was allocated to Center of Energy.

4. Prof. S. Senthilvelan reported that proposal for the department lounges (Pl. refer to No. 63/2020 Department Faculty Meeting minutes Agenda 1) was approved by majority of the department faculties and the procurement is currently in progress. Further, the members of the quorum were requested to volunteer for managing the Faculty Lounge.

5. Prof. M. Pandey on behalf the three member committee (comprising Prof. Shyamanta Hazarika, Prof. Sukhomay Pal and Prof. Manmohan Pandey) reported that the policy of allocation of Ph.D. supervisors (Pl. refer to No. 63/2020 Department Faculty Meeting minutes

Agenda 3) was approved by majority of the department faculties.

6. Prof. Amaresh Dalal, Organizing Secretary, reported that the 8th International and 47th National Fluid Mechanics and Fluid Power conference (FMFP 2020) was conducted smoothly. A total of 240 technical papers were presented in the form of recorded videos, along with lectures by two plenary speakers and twelve keynote speakers from both India and abroad. On behalf of the organizing committee, Prof. A. Dalal thanked all the faculty colleagues, staff, student volunteers, and also the institute administration for their support.

7. Prof. Nelson Muthu proposed that faculty advisor assigned to UG second year students should continue till their completion of degree rather than changing the faculty advisor to BTP supervisor when students are promoted to third year as discussed in a previous department meeting. The intention behind this was to avoid lag in changing the faculty advisors on the intranet. The quorum was in agreement with the suggestion.

8. Prof. V. Kulkarni communicated that there was a deficit of approximately Rs. 1.2 cr for the purchase of 2D PIV system to be purchased from the FIST budget. This deficit was partly due to EURO appreciation between the time of intending and the present day, and also due to appropriation of the deficit in the purchase of earlier FIST equipment from the indented value of 2D-PIV system. Prof. Kanagraj informed that a part of deficit in the purchase of earlier FIST equipment was due to unexpected rise in the custom duty.

Prof. V. Kulkarni requested support from the department. Prof. N. Sahoo was of the view that procurement of the 2D-PIV should not deviate from the earlier stated technical conditions (atleast time-resolved high frequency PIV systems for wind tunnel experiments). Prof. S. K. Dwivedy informed that he had taken up this matter with the Director and Deputy Director and discussed that the TIH, institute and departmental funds can be allocated against the deficit. The quorum agreed to the proposition by Prof. S. Senthilvelan to utilize the consumable and AMC component of the department fund and workshop towards the purchase of the 2D-PIV.

9. Prof. S. Kanagraj reported that the proposal on “School of Innovations in Biomedical Devices and Systems and Interinstitutional Biodesign Center (SIBDS-IIBC)” submitted in response to the call for proposals on the establishment of **Inter-Institutional Biodesign Centre** was recommended by the DBT. Prof. S. Kanagraj informed that formal request to the institute was not made and further requested the department to allocate sitting space for about 10-12 fellows, fabrication lab and space for one heavy equipment (2.5mx2.5m) till the same is provided by the institute. Prof. S. Senthilvelan suggested to write to the institute and assured that department will accommodate if and when needed.

10. Prof. U. S. Dixit proposed that the department should award M.Tech+Ph.D. Dual degree to undergraduate students who directly join the Ph.D. programme and to continuing post-graduate students who convert to Ph.D. programme. This would benefit students when applying for certain government positions. Prof. Dixit further suggested necessary changes in credit requirement for direct Ph.D. students. Dual degree students who wish to discontinue after satisfying credit criteria and additional one year of research work could be allowed to exit with M.Tech degree. The quorum agreed with the the proposal in principle. Dr. A. De raised the point that this scheme could be misused by students who would normally not get

selected for the regular M.Tech programme but who could apply for dual degree and leave with M.Tech degree. Prof. K. S. R. Krishna Murthy also raised similar reservation and pointed that APS would require grading. To this, Prof. Manmohan Pandey suggested the following three points: a) direct Ph.D. students to be awarded M.S.+Ph.D. or M.Phil+Ph.D. dual degree, b) direct Ph.D. students who wish to discontinue to be awarded a diploma degree and c) IITG M.Tech students who convert to Ph.D. programme to be awarded M.Tech+Ph.D. dual degree. Prof. S. K. Dwivedy informed that Computer Science department has a similar arrangement. Prof. S. Senthilvelan requested faculties to volunteer for the committee to further discuss the modalities of the dual degree programme.

11. Dr. D. N. Basu raised that the procedure for selection of Best Thesis Awards for M.Tech and Ph.D. programmes should be discussed and clearly laid out to avoid bias and ambiguity. Prof. S. Senthilvelan requested the quorum to volunteer for the committee for the same.

12. Prof. U. S. Dixit, on behalf of three member committee (Prof. U. S. Dixit, Prof. R. Tiwari and Prof. N. Sahoo), reported the views of the Department of Mechanical Engineering on National Education Policy. Prof. S. Senthilvelan thanked the committee for the document and further reported that the Department of Mechanical Engineering was the only department to table such a detailed report to the institute and several points in the institute policy were taken from this report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm with vote of thanks.