Townhall Meeting-1

Minutes Of Meeting   **Date: 27/05/2021**

MESS RELATED ISSUES

1. **ISSUE:** High mess bills without any nutritious food.

   CONCLUSION: A meeting has already been conducted and the caterer is already being informed on adding more nutritious food. Final decision will be taken after coordinating with the mess secretary.

2. **ISSUE:** Closure of wet canteen services, bakery, amul parlour. Now the only one option is mess for students and the food is unacceptable.

   CONCLUSION: The business has come down after btech students left college and amul has had logistics issues. That's why they have closed.Night canteen to be tried and more items to be made available after conducting a survey.

3. **ISSUE:** Change in the breakfast menu with nutrition. If the mess authorities cannot reduce our mess bills, then we request you to change the mess food within the same limits instead of additional charges.

   CONCLUSION: This matter has already been looked into. Once the number of students increases next month, the mess bill charges will also come down.

ACADEMIC RELATED ISSUES

1. **ISSUE:** Increasing duration of semester to 6 months and providing proper Teaching Material along with Recorded Lecture Videos.

   CONCLUSION: The IIT system of education is based on a 4+4 academic semester system. This provides a dedicated window for faculties to concentrate on research and provides students with the opportunity to carry out research work at the institute or at other institutes or to work in the industry. Additionally , the 2nd semester for UG 2020 students was started late and further elongation would essentially mean that the subsequent semesters will also get affected which is not desirable at the moment.

2. **ISSUE:** Summer courses for outgoing batch : Make availability of summer courses or S grade for failed courses.

   CONCLUSION: S grades have been provided to the final year students for the final semester courses. In addition to this , the Dean and Director have been in continuous dialogue with the faculties in order to ensure all the students are able to pursue their courses . The students who faced connectivity issues have also been brought back to campus in order to facilitate their academics. For the courses which have not been offered for 2 continuous semesters , S grades are being provided in case of a backlog. The faculty are also undergoing a tough time given the pandemic and hence it is not feasible to conduct summer courses.

3. **ISSUE:** Allowing improvement for the courses that were covered in online mode.

   CONCLUSION: For the online courses , the faculty members have tried to ensure that the deserving students are given good grades using plagiarism checks etc. Improvements are not a viable option as the strength of some courses exceeds 500 and the institute cannot provide a huge number of TAs for such courses.

4. **ISSUE:** When we had started college, it was told you could improve the courses and midway into the second semester it was scrapped. We request to bring back the improvements for those courses at least(e.g. ITP).

   CONCLUSION: Same as point 3 in the ACADEMIC RELATED ISSUES.

5. **ISSUE:** Regarding a central instrumentation facility containing all the equipment available for all Ph.D. students, as of now students confining their research according to the facility they have in their respective PI's or department's lab which is not going to produce valid results. Another issue is a lab with a high number of students and with limited equipment. Asone has to wait until the other one completes their work, requesting to establish a central instrumentation facility available for all the research students with proper guidelines.

   CONCLUSION: A major part of the instruments present are department specific and hence a central instrumentation facility is not an apt solution. Moreover, the students can book their required lab equipment in the AIMS portal with the prior approval from the faculty. However, IITH is actively looking for ways to improve and expand its lab facilities.

6. **ISSUE:** A mandatory Hands-on training on at least 6 equipment with proper evaluation of the training to all Ph.D. students within the 1st year of their PhD. Hands-on training on equipment helps the scholar to design their research in a

proper manner and it will help them to expertise in those particular equipment helps them to get better placed in industry.

CONCLUSION: The student will be definitely given the hands-on experience as it is mandatory for a Ph.D. student. But if they really want to operate other instruments (apart from the research related equipment), they will be given the chance only when they are ready to train at least a few other students. In that case, training sessions can be provided to all the interested students.

7. **ISSUE:** Discipline/Specialization Matters in Ph.D. Degree certificates; For certain job applications, it is mandatory to submit an authentic document (Degree/ Provisional Degree certificate) bearing the official date of Ph.D. passing along with Disciple/Specialization. The degree certificates that we receive only have the "title" and not the "specialization" and date of passing. Some people have an interdisciplinary engineering background. And for us the discipline/ specialization matters a lot. If it is not mentioned it would affect us as most Govt. The research position considers only the specialization as an "essential qualification".

CONCLUSION: The Ph.D. certificates will be provided only with their title of the thesis. However the other details like specialization, department etc. will be provided in the Provisional degree certificate. In addition to this , the faculty advisor can provide a certificate, if necessary.

8. **ISSUE:** If a Ph.D. student fails to score 7 CGPA during coursework, then as per the latest senate meeting 39th there is no provision for alternative option. This issue has come up, when a student fails to score 7 CGPA. However, during the 38th senate meeting there used to be an alternative option: if a student fails to score 7 CGPA, he/she will be given another chance.

CONCLUSION: Comprehensive Viva has been introduced from the Aug 2020 batch and the   student needs to have a minimum CGPA of 7 in the course work in order to appear for the comprehensive viva. In case the student fails to clear the CGPA cutoff, there is no option except the program termination. However , if the student clears the CGPA cutoff but could not clear the comprehensive viva , the student can then avail various exit options available such as an M.S. (by research) degree.

9. **ISSUE:** The available academic rule book at IITH website is not updated. This creates confusion among students.

CONCLUSION: The academic handbook has not been updated from the 33 rd senate meeting minutes. Currently , the academic handbook is being updated

with all the senate meeting minutes (33 rd - 42nd) and will be available to all the students by June 15 subject to the required approvals.

REOPENING OF CAMPUS ISSUES

1. **ISSUE:** When can we expect to bring the M.Tech 2020 batch to the campus? Two semesters are already over but most of us didn't even set foot on campus. Can you give us an affirmative timeline? As the cases are currently declining, can we expect the administration to bring us back possibly by the last week of June or early weeks of July?

   CONCLUSION: As soon as the lockdown ends in Telangana, google forms will be circulated to call the M.Tech 2020 batch. If the number of students returning is high, then they will be called in two or three batches in the month of June subjecting to the COVID protocols. Next preference will be given to the Ph.D. 2020 batch.

   Regarding other students, the final decision will be taken after subsequent COVID task force meetings.

2. **ISSUE:** About campus return, commencement of practical labs and project work as early as possible. As our previous semester practicals are still pending we haven't done any practical in offline mode being a skill course, it is a demerit for us. Also for the next two sem we have to do our project work (by August). So it will be more of a burden for us.

   CONCLUSION: Once everyone (M.Tech 2020 batch) is on the campus and lab activities would begin accordingly after the quarantine period, a decision can be taken regarding this in the COVID task force meeting.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

1. **ISSUE:** Start official rotation batches for PhDs to visit their home as family also needs them. Nobody can be more productive if the mental state is not fine.

   CONCLUSION: Students are allowed to go home and come back provided they will have to get quarantined after returning to the campus to ensure safety. So far students have only been able to return in batches however a task force meeting will be conducted soon and rules will be declared for the students returning to campus alone.

2. **ISSUE:** Many times it has been seen that emergency first-aid like pain relief spray cans are empty in boxes located on the ground floor.

CONCLUSION: Staff will be checking the missing items and it will be replaced by the next evening.

GENERAL ISSUES

1. **ISSUE:** Cost and quality maintenance of fruits and veggies in Sampoorna.

   CONCLUSION: Cost cannot be controlled as it is a supermarket chain not a tender, however Quality will be looked into.

2. **ISSUE:** Reg. postal service: Due to Covid-19 protocols, students (Hostel residents) are not allowed to go out of campus for postal services (India post) to send out emergency couriers like job applications.

   CONCLUSION: A post office is going to be started soon inside the campus probably within the month of June.

3. **ISSUE:** Obtaining no dues (from both academic and admin) is very tedious.

   CONCLUSION: Acad section will send mail to students to introduce and educate them about the ticketing system. Also, the problem is currently being worked on and a solution will be provided very soon.

OTHER ENQUIRIES

1. **ISSUE:** Regarding Minors and Double Majors : When will the form be floated for the same for B.Tech 19 batch

   CONCLUSION: Double major registration which was supposed to be done in the 4th semester can be done in the 5th semester as well. Minors applications start in 5th semester and also this year double major applications for departments which haven't provided the forms will be asked to float the forms. Students can contact the DUGC of the department for which they are applying for a double major for further enquiries.

2. **ISSUE:** Plan for Convocation for outgoing batches.

   CONCLUSION: A committee has already been made to work on this. A combined online convocation is being planned for the 2020 and 2021 batches tenatatively towards the last weekend of July.