

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR

Minutes of the IAC Meeting held on
13th March 2015 at 1600 hrs. in FB212

Members Present:

Drs. Indranil Manna, Manindra Agrawal, Neeraj Misra, A. R. Harish, Onkar Dikshit, NN Kishore, Sanjay Mittal, S. Ganesh, V. Shankar, S. Verma, Rajesh Srivastava, Sumit Ganguly, S P Das, Rajiv Sinha, Surajit Sinha, Rahul Varman, Asima Pradhan, Anish Upadhyaya, P. M. Dixit (Acting Head, ME), Avinash Singh, Gouthama, Ajai Jain, Mr. Munish Malik, Mr. Goutam P. Singh (Nominee President, Students' Gymkhana).

The Chairman welcomed all the members present and called the meeting to order.

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of previous IAC Meeting

Prof. Anish Upadhyaya pointed out a typographical error in the dates mentioned as "mid-November 2015 to December 31 2015". This is changed to "mid-November 2014 to December 31, 2014". The minutes are ratified with this change.

Action point: Regarding institute branding, Prof. Satyaki Roy to circulate the selected designs for institute letterhead, envelopes, visiting cards, CD cover, seals, other stationary items, etc., for feedback from the departments.

Item 2: Safety Issues and Safety Drill

The Director noted that recently there was a fire in a lab in the AE department. It is estimated that the loss amounts to about Rs. 2 crore. Heads of academic departments, IDPs and Section heads must take measures for fire prevention in consultation with the Safety Officer. Director informed that Safety workshops were organized by the Safety Officer in several departments, CE, CHM, IWD Engineers, IWD, and others. About 200 people attended these workshops. The following measures are proposed for immediate consideration and implementation by the concerned Heads of Departments, IDPs and Sections (henceforth referred to as department).

- a. Safety drill to be conducted in each department. Periodic safety drills (quarterly/half-yearly) may be conducted for fire readiness. Safety drill procedure and Standard Operating Procedures' (SOPs) will be written by the safety officer. Inmates of buildings must be familiarized with the SOP and this may be followed during the drills and in case of eventuality.
- b. Implement safety audit report done previously for each building. A member commented that this would help in implementing many preventive measures.

Departments are requested to check devices/appliances like A/Cs, UPS, inverters, etc. whose malfunction has sometimes been the cause of fires.

- c. Experiment-heavy departments should sensitize students and staff towards fire safety. Director mentioned that in most laboratories and Universities abroad, safety videos are produced and employees and students are made to watch the videos as part of their job orientation. He suggested that such videos may be created.

Item 3: Convocation.

The Director informed that the 48th Convocation is tentatively being planned to be held on 7th June 2015. DOAA informed that Senate is to be requested to permit a date for Convocation between 1-10 June, 2015 (subject to Senate's approval). Approximately 1000 degrees are to be conferred in this convocation. It is planned to have PG convocation in the forenoon session and UG convocation in the afternoon session. In the PG convocation, all MTechs, dual-degree, MDes and MSc. Degrees will be conferred. Director explained that there were some unavoidable reasons to hold the forthcoming convocation approximately two weeks before the scheduled time.

Departments are requested to send nominations for Distinguished Alumnus Awards, Institute Fellow and Doctorate (Honoris Causa). Director suggested that this may be discussed in faculty meetings in the departments as soon as possible, and nominations may be sent latest by March 31, 2015 (to Convener, IAC). He noted that the procedure for obtaining approval for Honoris Causa is rather long and has to be started early.

Item 4: Techkriti 2015.

Student Member presented an overview of Techkriti 2015. Techkriti is scheduled to be held from March 19-22. March 20 will be a Gymkhana. On 22/3/15, there will be a professional show "Poets of the Fall" (a rock band). Many distinguished visitors, such as Kailash Satyarthi (Nobel Laureate, Peace), Dr. Radhakrishnan (Chairman ISRO), Dr. Anthony Legget (Nobel Laureate, Physics), Prof. Peter Schulz (Biochemistry), Prabhu Chawla (Media, Editor-in-chief New Indian Express), Meera Sanyal (Banker, Womens' Leader), Dilip Chhabria (Automobile Design, founder of DC Design), and many other distinguished visitors as well as foreign dignitaries are invited.


Techkriti is running the competition IMP: Innovation in Manufacturing Processes—a nationwide competition on manufacturing processes. An internal competition on manufacturing processes is being held in the afternoon.

Item No. 5: Any other items.

- a. The Director reminded the departments of the promotional scheme for inter-departmental projects that was floated earlier. Under this scheme, two faculty members from different departments/IDPs may jointly float a common thesis topic. The scheme is meant to promote inter-disciplinary work. Under this scheme, the projects are eligible for some awards (Rs.10K + 10K).

- b. The Director informed that the agitation by a section of the Mess workers' that has been going on for a while is now over. The institute had repeatedly requested the agitating workers to call off the strike. Due to the nature of the agitation (men sleeping on the main road at the entrance to IIT), there was serious concern about the personal safety due to the possibility of road accidents, snake bites, rains etc.. A few days back, the concerned people were evacuated in buses. The entire operation was videotaped and was done in the presence of a section of the media. The Director emphasized that the entire operation was done by IITK Security and guards, and there was no use of force or manhandling at any time. He also emphasized that the institute will not allow discipline to be compromised with.
- c. DOIP, Prof. Onkar Dikshit presented two forms DOIP-101 and 102 for requesting new works (civil/electrical) etc.. Form 102 includes request to Institute Space Committee. DOIP will circulate the forms to the department for feedback.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Sumit Ganguly)
Convener
20.3.15


(Indranil Manna)
Chairman
20.3.15