RCC Institute of Information Technology, Kolkata

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors of RCCIIT held on 29th May, 2020

Venue: Board Room, RCC Institute of Information Technology

The first full meeting of the newly reconstituted Board of Governors of RCC Institute of Information Technology (RCCIIT) was held on 29th May, 2020 from 02.00 P.M. onwards in the Board Room of Administrative building of RCCIIT. Pursuant to the notice issued on 15th May, 2020 (revised notice on 22.05.2020), the following members could make themselves available either physically or through digital mode inspite of their busy schedule:

	Name	Designation in BOG
1.	Shri Pranabesh Das, Director of Technical Education, Govt. of West Bengal	Chairman
2.	Shri Jiban Saha Director, Rachana Apparel Pvt. Ltd.	Vice-Chairman
3.	Smt. Sampa Guha, W.B.A & AS Deputy Financial Advisor, Govt. of West Bengal	Member
4.	Prof.(Dr.) Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, Pro-VC, Jadavpur University Prof.(Chemical Engg.), Jadavpur University	Member(Attended thru Digital mode)
5.	Dr. Dibyendu Kar, Registrar, WBJEEB	Member
6.	Prof.(Dr.)Krishnendu Chakraborty Principal, Govt. College of Engineering & Ceramic Technology	University nominee
7.	Sri Jayanta Dhali, Law Officer, Dept. of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal	Member
8.	Ms. Bidisha Mukherjee Joint Director of Technical Education, Govt. of W.B.	Member
9.	Dr.M.P.Ravindra, Former Sr. V.P. and Frm. V.C. of Manipal International University, Malaysia, Advisor, MaGE	Member (Attended thru Digital mode)
10.	Mr. Joydeep Banerjee, Lead Mainframe Service, Global AMS PM & T Development Lead, Lead Campus Hiring – East, IBM India Pvt. Limited	Member (Attended thru Digital mode)
11.	Prof.(Dr.) – Ing. Omkarnath Mohanty, FNASc., RSB Metaltech. RSB Groud	Member(Attended thru Digital mode)
12.	Prof.(Dr.) Samiran Chattopadhyay Professor-IT, J.U	Member(Attended thru Digital mode)

13. Prof.(Dr.) Ashoke Mondal, Professor, EE Dept.,   Member
    Faculty Representative

14. Mr. Soumen Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, IT Dept.   Member
    Faculty Representative

15. Prof.(Dr.)Arup Kumar Bhaumik, Principal-RCCIIT   Member Secretary

At the outset, Shri Pranabesh Das, Chairman-BOG welcomed all the members present either physically or through the digital mode and expressed his satisfaction on the number of members present. Since the attendance percentage was 90%, quorum was declared. Thereafter, Chairman-BOG requested Prof. (Dr.) Arup Kumar Bhaumik, Principal and Member Secretary, BOG to give his slide presentation.

Principal-RCCIIT gave a presentation regarding the major academic, research, training, placement and other activities carried out during the last academic year.

Thereafter, Chairman-BOG proceeded to discuss the agenda items as follows:

Agenda 0.0(b)/2020: On-site granting of presence of members physically and via video conferencing

Due to the ongoing lockdown situation as a result of the pandemic (COVID-19), it is pertinent that digital mode is also used and allowed for meetings and therefore the agenda item was approved by the Board.

Resolution: Resolved that the proposal is approved.

Agenda 0.01/2020: To note and approve proceedings of the last meeting

The resolutions of the last meeting (emergency meeting) held on 27/02/2020 was forwarded to all the members. As no adverse comment is received, therefore the proceeding of the last meeting was noted as approved.

Resolution: Resolved that the proceedings of the last meeting are approved.

Agenda 0.02/2020: To note and ratify Action Taken Report & follow-up pursuant to the proceedings of the last meeting.

The action taken on the resolutions of the last meeting was incorporated in the agenda explanatory notes and therefore resolved was noted by the members.

Resolution: Resolved that action taken report is noted.

Agenda 1.01: Discussion on Approval of introduction of Non-AICTE course (BCA with intake 60 nos.)

- Chairman-BOG stated that the above agenda was one of the issues in the emergency BOG held on 27/02/2020

- Chairman-BOG noted that this issue is of no concern of BOG and approval of BOM must be taken at first. Therefore, with the consent of the members, Chairman-BOG directed that the institute place the issue before the BOM and take approval..

Resolution: Resolved that the proposal needs approval of BoM.

Agenda 1.02: Discussion on service matter of Prof.(Dr.) Arup Kumar Bhaumik as Principal, RCCIIT (Discussed at the end and Dr. Bhaumik had been requested to leave the Room as it was regarding his service issue)

- Chairman-BOG informed the members that Prof.(Dr.)Arup Kumar Bhaumik joined as Principal (on Probation) of RCCIIT on 26/08/2015. His initial probationary period of service was about to expire on 25.08.2016. The college authority was not satisfied with his performance and as such by a letter dated 24.08.2016 issued to him by the Chairman-BOG, his probationary period of service in the college was extended by six months till 26/02/2017. This was accepted and acted upon by Prof. (Dr.)Arup Kumar Bhaumik.

- Subsequently the then BOG decided to terminate him from service and issued a termination order on 02/02/2017. However, Dr. Arup Kumar Bhaumik filed a writ petition before the Honourable High Court at Calcutta challenging his termination order. The writ petition was disposed of by an order dated 01/02/2019 and the BOG duly complied with the directions contained in the said order. However, Dr. Bhaumik preferred an appeal against the order dated 01/02/2019 disposing of the writ petition. By an order dated 01/11./2019 the Division Bench of Honourable High Court was pleased to set aside the termination order dated 02/02/2017 issued to Dr. Bhaumik. Thereafter, Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, the then Chairman-BOM reinstated Dr. Arup Kumar Bhaumik as Principal with a probationary period of 6 months and 23 days. Subsequently, Dr. Bhaumik joined as Principal (on Probation) on 11/11/2019. The Chairman-BOG informed that the probationary period of Dr. Arup Kumar Bhaumik as Principal shall be ending on 02/06/2020 and therefore a decision regarding the service prospects of Dr. Bhaumik in the college is necessary. The Chairman-BOG informed the members that there is no further scope of extension of the probationary period of service of Dr. Bhaumik in terms of the service rules. Therefore, Dr. Bhaumik has to be either confirmed in his post or he has to be released from service. The Chairman-BOG informed the

members that Dr. Bhaumik could not chalk out a definite roadmap for academic quality improvement of the college, NBA/NAAC accreditation and NIRF ranking, enforcing student and staff discipline and also could not create suitable training and placement opportunities of the students of the college. Other important activities like academic audit, IQAC, ISO certification, industry accreditation etc. have also not been initiated by Dr. Bhaumik.

- Mr. Joydeep Banerjee, member and industry representative from IBM India Pvt. Limited stated that Dr. Bhaumik had done lot of activities to build relationship with the industry and during his tenure RCCIIT received prizes from IBM but after his release in 2017, the interaction with IBM ceased completely. However, Chairman BOG and other members did not completely agree to this.

- The members of the BOG present in the meeting perused the reports prepared by the subordinate staff of the college but upon going through the same it appeared that such reports were not reliable since such reports were prepared at the instructions of Dr. Bhaumik. The members of the BOG wanted to form an independent opinion upon assessment of the performance Dr. Bhaumik by themselves.

- The members of the BOG took note of the video footage of student agitation in the college against the management which appeared to have been instigated by Dr. Bhaumik himself. The members of the BOG emphasized that a suitable atmosphere for education in the institution cannot be created if the Principal of the institution is at loggerheads with the BOG and the BOM and wrongfully use the students against management.

- After much deliberations and upon independent qualitative assessment of the previous and present track record of Dr. Bhaumik, and upon evaluating the suitability of Dr. Bhaumik in the post of Principal with the overall responsibility of the welfare of staff, students and other stakeholders as well as the aspect of development of college in future the members of the BOG expressed dissatisfaction and reservations regarding the suitability of performance of Dr. Bhaumik as the Principal of the college.

In conclusion, Chairman-BOG stated that board members were of the opinion that there is no other option but to release Dr.Arup Kumar Bhaumik from the afternoon of 02/06/2020 and therefore the following resolution was undertaken:

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Resolution:

Resolved that the BOG unanimously decides that Dr. Arup Kumar Bhaumik, the Principal of RCCIIT(on probation) may be released from his service w.e.f. 02/06/2020 afternoon since the BOG is not satisfied with the service of Dr. Bhaumik in regards to academic as well as administrative part of view.

It is made clear that the BOG does not put any adverse remark on his service. He is only released from his probation as per Service Rules of RCCIIT.

Agenda 1.03: Issue related to Implementation of 6th Pay Commission for faculty and staff.

- Dr. Ing. Omkarnath Mohanty enquired whether the Govt. of W.B has implemented the 6th pay. Apropos, Chairman-BOG informed that RCCIIT is a self-financed college dependent on student fees. Chairman-BOG also informed that the institute had approached the State Govt. for funds, which is yet to be finalized.

- Dr. M. P. Ravindra stated that the institute has to make an Action Plan to increase student admission. In this regard, Dr. Mohanty stated that the institute may think of executive professional courses.

- Smt. Sampa Guha, W.B.A & AS, DFA, Govt. of W.B stated that the institute has presented a financial projection from 2019 to 2025 and it would be better if the institute presents a financial projection for a shorter period with better clarity.

- Dr.Mohanty and Dr.Ravindra both were of the opinion that there is no clarity in the financial projection presented by Principal.

- Mr.Soumen Mukherjee, Assistant Professor and faculty representative stated that 6th pay has been implemented by the Government and Government-aided colleges and suggested that proposal of introduction of BCA course for fund generation may be considered for closing the gap. In this regard, Chairman-BOG stated that the proposal of introduction of BCA course cannot be used as a source of fund generation because it is a non-AICTE course and shall require separate infrastructure and manpower. He further stated that BCA fund cannot be transferred to other accounts and therefore cannot be considered a fund source.

- Overall the Board members were not satisfied with the documents presented by the Principal before the Board regarding 6th Pay Commission implementation. The Board members requested Chairman BOG to seek more clarification regarding sources of income to bear the additional expenditure for implementation 6th Pay Commission.

- In view of the above, the members suggested to present a revised financial projection in the next BOG meeting with single point agenda for implementation of 6th Pay Commission urgently. Therefore, the members agreed on the following resolution:

Resolution: Resolved that implementation cannot be done on the basis of present meeting and a 'single point agenda meeting' is required urgently. Further resolved that detailed discussion is required regarding source of fund. Principal has been requested for the same.

Agenda 1.04: Discussion on Budget for F.Y 2020-2021 and other financial matters.

The members observed that there is limited clarity in the budget presented by the institute for the F.Y 2020-2021 and lack of transparency in the projected data. Therefore, the members were of the opinion that the projected data needs further clarification before approval is granted and hence agreed on the following resolution:

Resolution: Resolved that the projected data needs further clarification.

Agenda1.05: Miscellaneous

M1. **Ongoing enquiry against Ms. Sukla Banerjee, Assistant Professor**

Principal-RCCIIT informed the members that there is an appeal pending by Ms.Sukla Banerjee, Assistant Professor for repeal of her suspension order and that enquiry proceeding is continuing against her. The members directed that the enquiry shall continue as before and therefore took the following resolution:

Resolution: Resolved that the enquiry shall continue as before.

M2. **Renewal of contractual appointment of Mr.Avik Sanyal**

There was no objection raised by any member regarding renewal of contractual appointment of Mr.Avik Sanyal and therefore unanimously approved.

Resolution: Resolved that renewal of contractual appointment is approved.

M3. **Release of EPF, Gratuity etc. of Dr.Siddhartha Bhattacharyya, Professor-RCCIIT**

- Principal-RCCIIT informed the members that Dr.Siddhartha Bhattacharyya resigned from his service before superannuation and requested direction of the Board in this regard.
- The members directed the Principal to take action as per Service Rule of RCCIIT.
- Chairman-BOG stated that the amount can be released only if all rules have been followed.
- In this context, Ms. Bidisha Mukherjee, Joint Director of Technical Education, Govt. of W.B. enquired who will take the final decision in this matter.
- Chairman-BOG directed formation of a Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall also give recommendation in this matter for approval of BOG and BOM.

Resolution: Resolved that the amount can be released if permissible by the service rules.

There being no other issues to be discussed, the meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.