



SARDAR VALLABHBHAI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SURAT

MINUTES

Minutes of the Sixty Thirty (63rd) meeting of the Board of Governors of the SVNIT, Surat held on Wednesday, the 18th January 2023 at 11:30 AM through Hybrid mode (Online and Offline) at SVNIT Surat. The following members were present:

1. **Prof. Anupam Shukla** : Chairman
Director, SVNIT, Surat
2. **Ms. Saumya Gupta, IAS** : Member (Online)
Joint Secretary (NITs)
Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Education, Room No. 203
C wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi 110115
3. **Shri Anil Kumar,** : Member (online)
Director (IFD), Ministry of Education,
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi 110115
4. **Shri Rajiv Gandhi** : Member (online)
CEO & Managing Director,
Hester Biosciences Ltd., Ahmedabad
5. **Shri Manharbhai Sanspara** : Member
Chairman,
Euro India Fresh Foods Ltd., Surat
6. **Prof. Harit K. Raval** : Member
Professor (HAG), Deptt. of Mechanical
Engineering, SVNIT, Surat.
7. **Dr. Namrata D. Jariwala** : Member
Assistant Professor, Department of Civil
Engineering, SVNIT, Surat
8. **Dr. Pramod Mathur** : Secretary
Registrar, SVNIT, Surat

Professor Amit Prashant, IIT Gandhinagar could not attend the meeting due to pre-occupation. At the outset Prof. Anupam Shukla, Director and Chairman BoG warmly welcomed all the members present and thanked them for sparing their valuable time for the meeting. He informed the members that for the 19th Convocation of SVNIT Surat, Padmashri Dr. Aluru Seelin Kiran Kumar, Former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization has accepted our invitation to be Chief Guest on the occasion. He requested all the members to present and grace the function. The Convocation is scheduled on 21st Feb 2023. Thereafter, following agenda items were deliberated:

Anupam Shukla

Shri Anil Kumar

Item 63.01: To confirm the minutes of the 62nd meeting of the Board of Governors held on 21.12.2022.

Reso.63.01: The Board took note for inclusion of name of Mrs. Veena Dunga, Dy. Secretary (NITs), in the minutes of 62nd Board Meeting. After deliberations,

“Resolved to confirm the minutes of the 62nd meeting of the Board of Governors held on 21.12.2022.”

Item 63.02: To note and approve the action taken on the resolutions adopted by the Board of Governors in its 62nd meeting held on 21.12.2022.

Reso.63.02: *“Resolved to note the action taken on the resolutions adopted by the Board of Governors in its 62nd meeting held on 21.12.2022.”*

Item 63.03: To consider the representation/ reply submitted by Dr. L. K. Saini Assistant Professor, Department of Physics to take appropriate action.

Reso.63.03: (i) The Board was informed that the Board of Governors in its 49th Meeting held on 15/06/2019 resolved to initiate Regular Departmental Action (RDA) as per the CCS (CCA) Rules 1965 against Dr L K Saini, Assistant Professor and authorized the Director to issue the charge sheet. Dr. L. K. Saini was suspended vide Order No.E/LKS/636 dated 08/07/2019 and a formal inquiry under the Rules was initiated on 26th September, 2019. In the meanwhile, his case was referred to the Central Vigilance Commission for their 1st stage advice. However, the Chief Vigilance Commission advised to submit the case through the CVO, Ministry of Education (Earlier MHRD) Accordingly, the Institute sent a letter to CVO, MHRD for first stage advice on 06/09/2019, who vide their letter dated 05/12/2019 suggested to seek the 2nd stage advice in the matter.

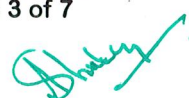
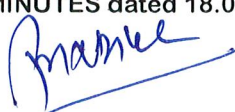
(ii) The charge-sheet was issued vide Memorandum dated 26th September 2019 to Dr. L. K. Saini who morally accepted all the Articles of the Charges vide his letter dated 03/10/2019. The Institute appointed the Inquiry Officer (I.O.) and Presenting Officer (P.O.) and the preliminary hearing was held on 18/10/2019 and on the same day the Charged Officer accepted all the Articles of Charges against him and the inquiry was concluded and the suspension of Dr. Saini was revoked on 15/11/2019.

(iii) The Report of Inquiry Officer was placed before Board of Governors in its 53rd Meeting held on 14/03/2020 and it was resolved to forward the same to Chief Vigilance Commission, New Delhi for 2nd stage advice. The matter was accordingly sent to the CVO of the Ministry of Education who in turn advised the Institute to furnish tentative views of the Disciplinary Authority and CVO of the Institute. The matter was, therefore, placed before the 57th Meeting of Board of Governors held on 26/03/2021 and its tentative views on the matter which was forwarded to the CVO, Ministry of Education on 16/4/2021. Following the response of the MoE, vide its letter dated 25/10/2021, copy of the Inquiry Report, tentative views of the Board of Governors along with the advice of CVC was forwarded to Dr. L. K. Saini on 22/11/2021 and who submitted his response on 20/12/2021. The matter was

circulated to the Members of the Board in its 61st meeting held on 27.09.2022 and was again placed in 62nd Meeting of the Board held on 21/12/2022.

(iv) After careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case and the records of the Inquiry and the submission made by Dr. Saini on 20.12.2021, the Board has decided to accept the findings of the Inquiry Officer wherein all the five Articles of Charges are proved. It has taken note of the fact that Dr. L. K. Saini, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics made pecuniary gains through multiple claims in violation of purchase rules, forged bills, misappropriation of the grant received and other various acts of omission and commission. The Board was of the view that the overall conduct of Dr. Saini was unbecoming of an employee of the Institute, and was of unanimous view that the ends of justice would be met with if a major penalty under Rule 11 (v) of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 is imposed upon him. Accordingly, the Board decided that the following penalties may be imposed on Dr. L. K. Saini, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics:

- I. *“Resolved to impose the penalty of reduction to a lower stage in the existing timescale of pay by two stages for a period of two years on Dr. L. K. Saini, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, SVNIT Surat with effect from the date of issue of order. He would not earn annual increment(s) during the currency of the penalty. The penalty has cumulative effect of postponing his future increment(s) of pay to that extent.”*
- II. *“Resolved further to recover a sum of Rs.1,04,194/- towards items not available for physical verification at the time of stock verification and Rs.11,11,192/- plus penal interest towards the pecuniary gains made by Dr. Saini through multiple claims in violation of purchase rules, forged bills, misappropriation of the grant received and other various acts of omission and commission, totaling a sum of Rs. 12,15,386/- plus penal interest on Rs. 11,11,192/-. The penal interest shall be levied @ 2% over and above the prevailing GPF interest rate from the date of payment to the date of issue of these orders. Further, all the pending bills admissible for settlement against the advances drawn shall be settled at the earliest.”*
- III. *The Board further decided that:*
 - a. Dr. L. K. Saini shall not be assigned any administrative responsibilities during the currency of the penalty.
 - b. Dr. L. K. Saini shall not be considered for appointment to higher position at SVNIT, Surat till the completion of the period of the penalty.



- c. Till the completion of the period of penalty, Dr. L. K. Saini shall not be considered for confirmation in the present scale/post at SVNIT, Surat.
- d. The Pending bills of Dr. L K Saini against the advances since drawn be settled/ adjusted as admissible.
- e. The period of Suspension shall not be treated as the period spent on duty and hence no pay and allowances, other than the subsistence allowance already paid to him, shall be payable for the said period.
- f. The Director of the Institute is authorized to issue necessary Orders on this issue.

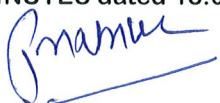
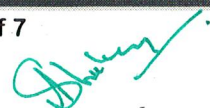
IV. *"The Board further resolved to confirm above resolution during the meeting itself and authorized the Director of the Institute to issue necessary orders."*

tem 63.04: To note and approve the vacancies for faculty cadre (including backlog vacancies) alongwith the reservation roster register for faculty cadre and to initiate the recruitment drive for all cadre of faculty.

Reso.63.04 It was informed to the Board that, as per the discussion held in 61st meeting of BoG held on 27.09.2022, the ACoFAR has been constituted to assist the Director of the Institute to examine, short listing and other recruitment process as per guidelines of faculty recruitment rules in NITs vide order F. No. 33-9/2011-TS.III dated 30.11.2017. The updated Reservation Roster Register for Faculty Cadre at SVNIT, Surat (merging the Assistant Professor Cadre of AGP 6000, 7000 & 8000 as one unit) alongwith recommendations of the ACoFAR was placed before the in 62nd BoG meeting held on 21.12.2022. As per decision taken in the 62nd BoG meeting, the Institute was advised to review the backlog position afresh at the level of Assistant Professor Grade I & II and accordingly, revised vacancies were placed before the Board.

During deliberations, the members were of the view that the recruitment process should be carried out mainly based on the vacancies as per the reservation roster register and will be advertised for open to all. However, for the departments which are not having any vacancy movement in higher academic grade pay or cadre shall be carried out as per Schedule E of Statute 23 (5) (a) Note 1 (5) as specified in the selection process but it will be restricted to only for serving faculty members of respective department. After deliberations,

"Resolved to note the status of vacancies of Teaching position at the institute as per the roster register as of 31.12.2022. The institute should advertise the post of Assistant Professor (Level 10,11 & 12), Associate Professor (Level 13A) and Professor (Level 14A) as under:

Faculty Cadre	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	Total
Assistant Professor (Grade-I & II)	25	8*	10*	05*	02	50
Associate Professor	09	03	01	05	01	19
Professor	01	00	00	00	00	01
Total	35	11	11	10	03	70

* Including Backlog vacancy

“Further resolved to initiate the recruitment process for all cadre of faculty including possible recruitment for movement to higher academic grade for serving faculty member of the institute as per provision of Schedule-E, Note-1 (5) of amendments of First Statutes of NITs vide Notification no S.O. 947 (E) dated 21.07.2017.”

“Further resolved to authorize Director of the Institute to approve allocation of faculty to different department(s), specialization etc. for the faculty recruitment and to approve final advertisement.”

“Further resolved to confirm above resolution during the meeting itself to enable the Director to finalise the advertisement and to initiate recruitment process on priority.”

Item 63.05: Adoption of Office Memorandum/ Gazette Notification issued by the Ministry of Education/ Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Govt. of India

- (i) Office Memorandum No.F.No.15-2/2022-TC dated 16.12.2022 issued by MoE, Govt. of India regarding applicability of Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 to educational Institutions under the Ministry of Education.
- (ii) Gazette Notification dated 20.12.2021 issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare regarding Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021.

Reso 63.05 *“Resolved to adopt Office memorandum and Gazette Notification issued vide Office Memorandum No.F.No.15-2/2022-TC dated 16.12.2022 issued by MoE, Govt. of India regarding applicability of Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 to educational Institutions under the Ministry of Education and Gazette Notification dated 20.12.2021 issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare regarding Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021.”*




Item 63.06: To note and approve the recommendations of the 45th meeting of the Finance Committee to be held on 18.01.2023.

Reso 63.06 The recommendations made by the 45th Finance Committee Meeting held on 18.01.2023 mentioned in below table were noted and approved. Action may be initiated for the works/ procurement of items as recommended by the Finance Committee as per provisions of GFR 2017.

Reso. No.	Item
45.03	To consider and recommend to the Board of Governors to grant administrative approval for initiating the tendering process through GeM/ CPPP for availing Manpower Outsourcing Service Work at SVNIT, Surat (129 Nos.) at the estimated cost of Rs.4,99,74,340/- (Rupees Four Crore Ninety Nine Lacs Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty Only) including Taxes under the head of "M&R Building & Maintenance (1/92)".
45.04	To consider and recommend to the Board of Governors to approve the payment of Rs.13,52,192/- towards overtime and payment of differential wages in accordance with Rule 25 of minimum wages Act, 1948 to 12 workmen as per orders of the Controlling Authority under Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 and Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Vadodara
45.05	To consider and recommend to the Board of Governors to approve the reimbursement for payment of air ticket booking made by Institute Faculty(s) through website of Airlines instead of authorized Travel Agent approved by Ministry of Finance, of Govt. of India.

FC Item No. 45.03:

"Resolved to approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee to initiate the tendering process through GeM/ CPPP for availing Manpower Outsourcing Service Work at SVNIT, Surat as per provisions of GFR 2017."

"Further resolved, that Director of the Institute was authorized to approve/ sanction the amount and to issue work order to the lowest bidder through GeM/ CPPP."



FC Item No. 45.04:

“Resolved that legal opinion be obtained for orders passed against claim Application No. 20/2013, 21/2013 and 22/2013 by RLC (C), Vadodara and Authority Under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 from the empaneled Advocate of the institute before compliance of the orders. On receipt of the legal opinion, the matter be placed again for final decision in the matter.”

FC Item No. 45.05:

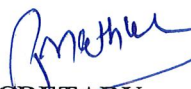
“Resolved, that the matter related to air ticket booking made by Institute Faculty(s) through website of Airlines instead of authorized Travel Agent approved by Ministry of Finance, of Govt. of India be referred to IFD of Ministry of Education Government of India for necessary permission indicating justification for the same.”

Item 63.07: Reporting Item for the Board of Governors

Reso.63.07 The Board took note of the following;


- (a) Noted the employees permitted to visit abroad for attending international conference, workshop, visiting abroad during the period.*
- (b) Noted acceptance of Resignation of Dr. Ankesh Kumar, Assistant Professor Grade-II, Department of Civil Engineering w.e.f. 26.12.2022 (a.n.) to join as Assistant Professor, Grade-I at IIT Palakkad.*
- (c) Nomination of Professor M. A. Zaveri, Department of Computer Science & Engineering as Dean (Academic) for a period of two years.*

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


SECRETARY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SVNIT, SURAT


CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SVNIT, SURAT

की पुष्टि
CONFIRMED


अध्यक्ष / CHAIRMAN
नियामक मंडल
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
स. व. रा. प्रौ. सं. सुरत.
SVNIT, SURAT