

Minutes of 21st Governing Body Meeting held on 3rd March 2022 at the Apex Block Board Room.

Members Present:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. M. R. Jayaram Hon'ble Chairman, GEF	Chairperson
2.	Sri. M. R. Seetharam Hon'ble Vice Chairman, GEF	Member
3.	Sri. M. R. Ramaiah Hon'ble Secretary, GEF	Member
4.	Sri. M R Sampangi Ramaiah Hon'ble Trustee, GEF	Member
5.	Sri. M. R. Kodandaram Hon'ble Trustee, GEF	Member
6.	Sri. B. S. Ramaprasad Chief Executive, GEF	Member
7.	Dr. V. K. Aatre Management Representative	Member
8.	Dr. H P Khincha Management Representative	Member
9.	Prof. Satish C Sharma UGC Nominee	Member
10.	Dr. H C Nagaraj VTU Nominee	Member
11.	Sri. G. Ramachandra, Chief Finance Officer, GEF	Member
12.	Dr. Anita Kanavalli HoD, AI&DS, RIT	Member
13.	Dr. Archana Registrar (Academic), RIT	Member
14.	Dr. N V R Naidu Principal, RIT	Ex – Officio, Member Secretary

Agenda Item 1

Principal welcomed Hon'ble Chairman & all the members to the Governing Body Meeting. Dr. K G Chandrashekar, State Govt. Nominee and Dr. Vinod Kumar Nowal, Deputy Managing Director, JSW could not attend the meeting due to their preoccupied schedules. Principal requested Hon'ble Chairman to preside over the meeting and solicited his permission to proceed with the discussions on 'Agenda items' with his valuable opening remarks.

Agenda Item 2 Introducing New Governing Body Members

Principal introduced Dr. H P Khincha Former Vice Chancellor, Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belgaum, Karnataka and Dr. Anita Kanavalli, Professor & Head, Department of Artificial Intelligence & Data Science as the newly inducted members to the Governing Body.

Agenda Item 3 Approval of minutes of 20th Governing Body meeting

The Governing Body approved the minutes of 20th Governing Body meeting held on 8th July 2021.

Agenda Item 4 Action taken/Action Plan Report on minutes of 20th Governing Body meeting held on 8th July 2021

- The Governing Body members discussed the agenda items suggested by the Hon'ble members during the 20th meeting. Principal, Dr. N V R Naidu presented the action taken report on the suggestions provided by the Hon'ble members in the last meeting.
- Principal briefed the Hon'ble members that the faculty who took up the tenure based HoD positions submitted their action plan and they were reviewed. The observations summary made by the review committee was presented.
- Principal briefed to the Hon'ble members about the involvement of research scholars, UG/PG students' in the Centre of Excellences. Hon'ble Chairman requested to utilize the services of visiting professors for the benefit of students and in training faculty.
- The Hon'ble trustee Sri. M R Kodandaram appreciated the work carried out in collaboration with the GKVK. He suggested that, agriculture sector is using drones in a very big way and the institute should take up interest in these kind of projects.
- Dr. Aatre suggested that some faculty and students can try building drones and utilize them for different applications.
- Dr. Aatre informed that a workshop was conducted by Dr. Mahesh in GKVK and the detailed report is available with Prof. Y Narahari. He suggested to collect the report and advised to pick up relevant projects for collaboration with GKVK.
- Dr. Khincha highlighted the use of ICT in Agriculture and said 15 projects were sanctioned by Government in last year. He suggested that projects on Artificial Intelligence in social systems with end-to-end safety aspect can be submitted for funding by faculty.

- Dr. Aatre suggested work can be done on sensors. Moving away from classical Computer Science & Engineering and orienting to research with Agriculture Engineering, Department of GKVK is needed.
- Dr. Sharma suggested to align with National Policy for funding's – Clean Water, Clean Energy & Sustainable Developments.
- The curriculum structure of 160 credits from the academic year 2021-22 was presented. Principal highlighted about the inclusion of Ability Enhancement Courses in the curriculum.
- The Hon'ble Chairman posed a question to all the members that, how to develop skills that suit the manufacturing industries such that the employability of students of non-circuit branches improve? Dr. Aatre suggested that the students need to be trained to know the practical skills relevant to their branch. Dr. Khincha suggested to balance knowledge & skills. Each course in the curriculum to be designed by integrating skill with knowledge. He also suggested that project based learning to be practiced across disciplines.
- Dr. Khincha suggested to clearly specify about the mandatory courses that students have to study in their curriculum. He also suggested to specify the credits allocated to projects and seminars with more clarity.
- Dr. Khincha suggested that the policy of selection of Open Elective to be drafted with care, specifying the pre-requisites and the list of electives which have never been taken by students (negative list).
- Dr. Khincha enquired how many credits were being delivered online in 160 credits. He suggested elective courses can be taken up on NPTEL/SWAYAM portal.
- Principal presented the initiatives planned for future improvement in NAAC accreditation grades in detail.
- All the members discussed about the possibility of the institute applying for the NAAC revisit to improve the grade. It was concluded by Hon'ble Vice Chairman that the institute will focus on the initiatives planned for improvement and work towards the next visit.
- Dr. Khincha suggested that the institute can plan to apply for other institute rankings.
- The h-index for 20 faculty having Google scholar h-index more than 10 were presented to all the members.

- The publication details were also presented by the Principal to all the members. Dr. Aatre appreciated the fair progression of the institute in publications and research.
- Dr. Sharma suggested that complete citation to be provided for all the publications. He insisted that the faculty should try to publish in ASME journals. Two SCI indexed publications & 1 conference can be targeted by all faculty.
- Dr. Khincha suggested to prepare the list of research publications which were rejected by the reviewers. A committee can analyze and provide inputs to faculty/students to improve the quality for getting accepted for publication.

Agenda Item 5 Approval of Minutes of 18th Special Academic Council Meeting held on 28th September 2021 (Conducted online/offline)

Principal briefed the members about the salient points discussed during the 18th Academic Council meeting held on 28th September 2021. The Hon'ble members approved the Minutes of 18th Academic Council Meeting.

Agenda Item 6 A Brief Report on AICTE/VTU Approval

Principal updated the Hon'ble members about the introduction of four new UG programmes from the academic year 2021-22

- Artificial intelligence and Machine learning
- Artificial intelligence and Data Science
- Computer Science and Engineering (AI&ML)
- Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)

The Governing Body members ratified the new programmes and the changes in intake for selected UG programmes.

Agenda Item 7 Report on NBA Accreditation

The Principal presented the brief report on the accreditation status of various UG & PG programmes. The Self-Assessment Report (SAR) is submitted for 8 UG programmes and 2 PG programmes on 22.2.2022 for accreditation and the committee is expected to visit in the month of May/June 2022. Dr. Khincha suggested that all the departments should prepare and plan their strategies such that, in their forth coming NBA they are granted accreditation for 6 years duration.

Agenda Item 8 Report on NIRF Ranking

Principal presented the details to all the Hon'ble members about the NIRF rank obtained by RIT for the year 2021. Principal informed all, that there is a considerable improvement in all the criteria and the institute is expecting a better rank for the year 2022. Hon'ble Vice Chairman informed that universities and private institutions were consider for ranking under the same category. This increases the number of participating institutions and poses more challenge.

Dr. Aatre and Dr. Khincha concurred that, the number of institutions participating for NIRF ranking across the country were enormous. RIT should try sustaining the rank. Dr. Aatre suggested to set targets which are achievable.

Agenda Item 9 Report on UG & PG Admissions for the year 2021-22

Principal informed Hon'ble members about the UG and PG admissions for the academic year 2021-22. Hon'ble members appreciated for having good admissions for UG programmes.

- The Hon'ble Vice Chairman expressed his concern over the admissions in Civil Engineering & Mechanical Engineering programs. He asked for suggestion from the members for improving the admission for branches like Civil Engineering, Medical Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering.
- Dr. Khincha suggested that a metamorphic change is required in their curriculum. Offer minor degree for these branches to make them attractive.
- Dr. Kincha also suggested to embed Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning into the curriculum of Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Chemical Engineering. He emphasized on analyzing the job market and then planning the curriculum.
- All the members suggested that skill based training to be included in the curriculum to attract students.

Agenda Item 10 A brief report on Inauguration of First Semester Classes for the academic year 2021-22

Principal briefed all members about the commencement of first year BE/B.Arch classes for the academic year 2021-22. The classes started from 31st December 2021 in offline mode.

Agenda Item 11 A brief report on UG/PG Graduation Day -2021

Principal informed all members that the Graduation Day for the 2017-2021 batch students, 2016-21 batch of Architecture, 2019-21 batch of M,Tech, MBA and 2018-21 batch of MCA was held on 5th January 2022. The programme was conducted in blended mode at 9 different venues to maintain the Covid-19 guidelines. The Hon'ble members congratulated the students on successful completion of their degrees.

Agenda Item 12 Approval for Fulltime Ph.D Admissions for the year 2021-22 at RIT

Principal briefed the members that total 21 applications were received out of which 3 candidates did not satisfy the eligibility criteria. 19 candidates were called for the personal interview on 10th January 2022. The list of 13 candidates selected and admitted for the year 2021-22, was presented to the members for approval.

Agenda Item 13 Comparison of Academic performance for 3 years- Result Analysis

Hon'ble Members were briefed about the academic performance for the previous three academic years for both UG & PG in terms of pass percentage. The results were appreciated by all the Hon'ble members.

Agenda Item 14 Report on Campus Placement for the Academic Year 2021-22

A report on campus placement and comparison report for the previous three academic years was presented and noted. All the students placed were congratulated by the Hon'ble members. The members also appreciated the placements during the pandemic period.

Dr. Khincha suggested to provide the higher education data and entrepreneur data along with placements branch-wise. Dr. Aatre suggested to collect information on Alumni from 2018 onwards and use that data to analyze and improve the placements.

Agenda Item 15 Faculty and Student Achievements

Principal presented the faculty and students achievements to the Hon'ble members. They congratulated all the faculty & students for their achievements.

Agenda Item 16 Research Accomplishments

a. List of Publications

Details on the research publications of faculty during the period January 2021-December 2021 was presented and noted. Hon'ble members appreciated the effort of faculty and expressed to enhance the research publications further.

b. List of RIT Faculty/Research Scholars who obtained Ph.D

The Faculty members and external candidates who obtained Ph.D. degree were congratulated by the Hon'ble members. The list was noted and recorded.

Dr. Aatre suggested that faculty should register for PhD with VTU or any premier institution like IISc, IIT and NIT.

c. List of Ongoing Sponsored Research Projects

Sponsored funded projects ongoing at the institute across various departments was presented and recorded. The governing body members appreciated the improvement in the number of funded projects and emphasized to improve on funding amount as the number of faculty with Ph.D is considerably high at the institute.

d. List of Ongoing Consultancy Projects

List of ongoing consultancy projects at the institute across various departments was presented and recorded.

e. Report on Research and Development Cell

Principal presented the activities of the R&D Cell at RIT. He also informed the members that 15 patents have been filed by the R & D cell in last 1 year.

Agenda Item 17 List of FDP/SDP/Workshops/Webinars organized

Hon'ble Members appreciated the events organized during the year 2021 across all departments at RIT.

Agenda Item 18 List of faculty provided with incentive for publication

Hon'ble members applauded the incentives provided for the faculty to enhance the publications. Dr. Satish Sharma suggested that the mechanical faculty should focus on publishing in ASME journals and circuit branches in IEEE journals.

Agenda Item 19 List of faculty provided with seed money for Research

Hon'ble members appreciated the RIT initiative for providing the seed fund for research to faculty. Members requested the R&D Cell to regularly review the outcomes of the projects funded by RIT.

Dr. Khincha suggested to analyze the budget utilization for seed funding and improve the quality of proposals so that rejections are less. He also suggested that institute must have a yearly budget for seed money funding. The utilization for allocated amount to be analyzed each year.

Agenda Item 20 Approval for Faculty appointed in 2021

Principal briefed the Hon'ble members about that 32 new faculty appointed across the institute in different departments. The members approved the same.

Agenda Item 21 Budget utilization approval for the financial year 2021-22

Principal presented the budget utilization for the year 2021-22 for all the departments/ sections.

Suggestions by Hon'ble Members:

1. Dr. Aatre informed that a workshop was conducted by Dr. Mahesh in GKVK and the detailed report is available with Prof. Y Narahari. He suggested to collect the report and advised to pick up relevant projects for collaboration with GKVK.
2. Dr. Aatre suggested that some faculty and students can try building drones and utilize them for different applications.
3. Dr. Khincha suggested that projects on Artificial Intelligence in social systems with end-to-end safety aspect can be submitted for funding by faculty.
4. Dr. Aatre suggested work can be done on sensors. Moving away from classical Computer Science & Engineering and orienting to research with Agriculture Engineering, Department of GKVK is needed.

5. Dr. Sharma suggested to align with National Policy for funding's – Clean Water, Clean Energy & Sustainable Developments.
6. Dr. Aatre suggested that the students need to be trained to know the practical skills relevant to their branch.
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11. Dr. Khincha suggested to prepare the list of research publications which were rejected by the reviewers. A committee can analyze and provide inputs to faculty/students to improve the quality for getting accepted for publication.

Principal

