

**Minutes of the XVIth Meeting of the
Board of Directors of Alumni Association, IIT Kanpur**

Date of the Meeting: 29Jun 2008
Venue: IIT Kanpur (through conference)
Meeting commenced at 7:30 A.M. Indian Standard Time

Minutes

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Abhay Bhushan (President), Dr. Sameer Khandekar (Treasurer and acting secretary in absence of Dr. B. Rath), Mr. Pawan Kumar, Prof. Sanjeev Aggarwal, Mr. Sanjeev Sinha, Mr. Rakesh Sharma & Dr. Bhanu Kapoor, Mr. Rahul Mehrotra, Prof. Umesh Mishra, Arvind Kothari&Rahul Sharma(student nominees of President student Gymkhana)

Members absent: Mr. Rakesh Pandey, Prof. V. Eswaran, Mr. Manish Thakur.

Prof. B. Rath and Mr Rahul Shukla intimated that they could not dial in.

Agenda Item II: Confirmation of minutes of the last BOD Meeting.

The minutes of the last board meeting held on 1Jun08 were confirmed unanimously.

Agenda Item III: Action Taken Report

- a) Updation of Alumni Database: Addition of about 500 alumni to the database was noted positively by the Board and it was suggested that multiple approach be adopted for contacting the alumni viz orkut like dynamic facilities be incorporated in AA website for use by alumni. Dr Khandekar intimated that he will consult other members of the website management committee and examine incorporation of user friendly features at the earliest. Mr Arvind Kothari volunteered student participation for same.
- b) IITKAA contribution to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Celebration: Talks are on with the institute on this issue. President, IITKAA will progress the points during his visit to IITK in Jul08.
- c) 80G exemption and FCRA: Dr Khandekar, the Treasurer informed that application for 80G tax exemption has already been submitted to the relevant authority and is presently under process by Income Tax Commissioner, Kanpur. FCRA will be taken up after 80G clearance.
- d) Review of Rules for IITK faculties for Life Membership of AA: It was unanimously agreed that AA membership for the regular/visiting faculty, who have served one year at IITK, shall be free for life. Rules shall be amended accordingly. Action item is closed.
- e) Action by Subcommittees of AA: Action to be intimated by respective convener of subcommittees, who have not given progress, at the earliest.
- f) Kelkar Alumni Lecture: A committee has been formed by the institute to decide the speaker. A list of 3 to 5 speakers, who are proposed to be invited for Kelkar lecture, are to be decided by the Committee, in order of preference. Accordingly they will be approached by AA. Last year the dates of Kelkar lecture were fixed as per mutual convenience of speaker and the institute.

- g) Duties of Secretary, AA: The President, IITKAA will discuss this issue with all concerned and come up with a plausible solution which will be proposed to the board.
- h) DAA Event timing: DAA Event timing to be reviewed as students want to interact more with the DAA awardees. Reunions may not be appropriate for holding this event as student availability is less and majority want to spend more time with their batch mates. Mr Arvind Kothari suggested that event could be organized after their technical festival in February. President IITKAA ruled that the event be held in consultation with the institute administration and president student gymkhana.
- i) Donations from alumni for medical support to alumni/staff/students. Donation by all should be to IITK Foundation/institute only and there should be a contingency fund created for this purpose and a uniform policy made by the Institute for medical support, including consultation with the Institute DRPG office, IITK Foundation and IITKAA president/board. Action item is closed.
- j) Japanese interest to promote vocational training programs in India.

Mr Sanjeev Sinha highlighted Japanese interest in supporting technical collaboration and academic institutions in India and suggested IITK should examine areas of mutual interest. He informed the BOD that couple of years back Prime Ministers Koizumi and Manmohan Singh signed a 8 point protocol, one of which is high technology academic collaboration between India and Japan. Prof. Dhande has been leading that initiative from India side and since then a lot of unprecedented development has taken place. IIT Alumni association in Japan has been a very close facilitators in the whole range of initiatives.

Few specific area are:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, is leading a project for collaboration on a new IIT in India. Under Prof. Dhande's leadership the road map is well planned and there is a consortium of 9 top Japanese universities and a group of Japanese companies like Sony, Suzuki, Mizuho and others have come on board. A great emphasis is on industrial research where Japan has a great strength. 4 specific areas identified for collaboration are:

- Design and Manufacturing.
- Nano science and technology.
- Environment and Energy.
- Digital Communication.

There is a high probability of the final choice of Hyderabad as the location for the same.

2. IIT Japan Conference on India Japan partnership (www.iitjapan.org/index.php) in November 2007 discussed the collaboration between India and Japan, supported closely by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI) in Japan.

3. Major Japanese universities like Tokyo Uni and Keio have signed various bilateral MOUs with various IITs. IIT Kanpur remains very much at the center of it.

4. Various industries from Japan are seeking research collaboration with IITs. Ishikawajima Heavy Industries has recently signed a project with IITK. Many other are in pipeline.

5. Japanese media has developed lots of contents on IITs recently. IIT Alumni Japan has been closely helping them. A major documentary on NHK in Jan 2007 made a huge change in the awareness of IITs overnight. Some references can be found on www.sanjeevsinha.com/media

6. There is also a great interest from Japan in vocational and next tier engineering colleges in India. METI is specially running a project on these seeking introductions to relevant institutions in India for long term plans.

7. As Prof. Agarwal mentioned, Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing and Shinsei Bank are also specific examples of collaboration between Japan and IITK.

8. As Japanese side is so keen to connect, any ideas, leads or introductions from Indian side will be very helpful. Such can be referred to Sanjeev Sinha at sanjeev.sinha@iitjapan.org.

Agenda Item IV: Passing the AA Balance sheet 2007-2008

Dr Khandekar informed the BOD that web poll was conducted from 4Jun08 to 25Jun08 to pass the AA balance sheet for the financial year 2007-2008 as per the rules (234 votes had been casted, 227 in favour and 7 against) and that since the quorum requirement of minimum 100 alumni passing the balance sheet has been met as per AA constitution, the AA balance sheet 2007-08 stands approved.

The process of signing the balance sheet by all concerned will be now initiated and the AA return filed with income tax authorities by 31Jul 08, as per the law governing associations. Action item is closed.

Agenda Item V: Action by Subcommittees.

Progress/discussion of following 2 sub committees:

- a) **Alumni Faculties Academics Network Committee:** Prof Umesh Mishra intimated that he has had brainstorming discussions with Prof Rajendra Bordia and others on the work this committee proposed to do and these are as under:
 - i) To provide mentorship for junior faculty at IITK.
 - ii) Introduce faculty to industrial partners in US.
 - iii) Sabbaticals -availability to faculties.
 - iv) Extend facilities for examiners, consultation on PHD programs, clearing house for internships.
 - v) Contribute to research experiences.
 - vi) Institution of Awards.

The committee is at a nascent stage & some more members may be co-opted as per requirement, while others may drop out of it. He expects Prof Bordia to take a lead role in this committee.

It was suggested by BOD members to co-opt a faculty from IITK, such as Prof Jhunjunwala, and from any other IIT.

Prof Bordia has intimated AA that he is looking at additional members for the Executive

Committee and any suggestions from the Board are welcome. The areas in which the current executive committee is lacking are:

1. Faculty members from outside US (including India).
2. Researchers/managers at national labs and industries (both within India and abroad).

b) **Student Alumni Liaison & Lectures committee:**

Mr Arvind Kothari suggested Alumni funding research projects of students, pertaining to industry defined problems, at IITK/abroad, duly processed/recommended by Dean R & D, IITK, could be examined by the committee.

The Convener, Mr Rakesh Pandey has informed AA that he is forwarding an update for the Alumni-Student Liaison Committee by July 15th.

Agenda Item VI: Any other matter.

Alumni Guidance for campus recruitment through SPO: Mr Arvind Kothari brought out that while placement has seen an upward trend as far as the number of student recruited is concerned, there has been some concern about the quality of placement and the general preparedness of IITK students towards corporate sector/industry. The feedback from some recruiters has also led to introspection within the student team at SPO. Thereafter, Mr. Rahul Sharma (BT-MT, CE), who is the overall Placement Coordinator of the SPO, made presentation for Alumni Guidance for Campus Recruitment through SPO, which is attached. Comments of BOD members were as under:

- a) It was unanimously felt by all BOD members that Institute should take up these issues in right earnest as part of its functions, as sustainability of procedures could be ensured only by the institute.
- b) Mr Rahul Mehrotra volunteered to target pilot base and take up lead initially with any 5 industry, which is selected by students, for intake of IITK graduates for appropriate technical/research oriented/other jobs.
- c) Mr Rakesh Sharma strongly advocated the need for IITK to employ dedicated professionals, like in some US universities, for career counseling, internships and placement of students, as the IITK faculty made in charge of such duties are not appropriately trained/well informed in this field.

The President thanked the Board Members and closed the meeting at about 8:45 AM IST.

Sameer Khandekar (Treasurer)

Acting Secretary

Abhay Bhushan

President, IITKAA