

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मण्डी
कमांद - 175075, हिमाचल प्रदेश

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI

KAMAND – 175075, HIMACHAL PRADESH



वित्त समिति की 36^{वीं} बैठक का कार्यवृत्त

MINUTES OF THE 36th MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

जून 05, 2024

June 05, 2024

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI
KAMAND, HIMACHAL PRADESH



36th MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 05, 2024

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI

Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Finance Committee of IIT Mandi held on June 05, 2024, from 09:30 hrs in the Board Room, North Campus, IIT Mandi.

The following were present:

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 1. | Lt. Gen. Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon (Retd.)
Chairperson, BoG IIT Mandi | Chairperson |
| 2. | Prof. Laxmidhar Behera
Director, IIT Mandi | Member |
| 3. | Prof. B. V. Phani
Dept. of Industrial & Management Engineering
IIT Kanpur | Member |
| 4. | Prof. B. K. Mishra
Dept. of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
IIT Roorkee | Member |
| 5. | Dr. Viswanath Balakrishnan
Dean (F&A), IIT Mandi | Special Invitee |
| 6. | Dr. Kumar Sambhav Pandey
Registrar, IIT Mandi | Secretary |
| 7. | Dr. Deepak Swami
Dean (I&S), IIT Mandi | Special Invitee for Agenda FC-36.1.2, FC-36.2.1, FC-36.4.2 and FC-36.4.5 |
| 8. | Prof. Rahul Vaish
Dean (Faculty), IIT Mandi | Special Invitee for Agenda FC-36.2.2 and FC-36.4.4 |
| 9. | Dr. Atul Dhar
Associate Professor, SMME, IIT Mandi | Special Invitee for Agenda FC-36.3.1 and FC-36.4.3 |
| 10. | Dr. Satvasheel Powar
Associate Professor, SMME, IIT Mandi | Special Invitee for Agenda FC-36.4.1 |
| 11. | Dr. Aditi Halder
Associate Professor, SCS, IIT Mandi | Special Invitee for Agenda FC-36.4.6 |
| 12. | Prof. Manoj Thakur
Professor, SMSS, IIT Mandi | Special Invitee for Agenda FC-36.4.7 and FC-36.4.8 |

The Comments of the Finance Division, MoE were received on the items vide letter No. 16-9/2018-TS-I dated May 31, 2024, through email.

The Chairperson, FC welcomed all present at the meeting including special invitees.

The Director also welcomed all the members present at the meeting including special invitees.

Thereafter, the agenda item was taken up as follows:

FC-36.1.0 PROCEDURAL**FC-36.1.1 To confirm minutes of the 35th meeting of the Finance Committee held on January 05, 2024.**

It was noted that the minutes were duly circulated and no comments have been received. Therefore, minutes of the 35th Finance Committee meeting held on January 05, 2024, were confirmed as circulated.

FC-36.1.2 To note the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the minutes of previous meetings of the Finance Committee (FC) for infrastructure-related matters.

Dr. Deepak Swami, the Officiating Dean (Infrastructure & Services) presented the ATR on the ongoing works along with the likely completion dates.

The Committee noted the ATR with advice that for any construction, appropriate plantation should be carried out in consultation with an expert. This will help in environmental protection, soil erosion reduction, and the conservation of green areas.

Dr. Deepak Swami informed that a week-long plantation drive would take place at IIT Mandi during the 1st week of July 2024.

FC-36.2.0 ROUTINE MATTERS**FC-36.2.1 To report/intimate the developments at the Institute.****(i) To consider the proposal for selecting a transaction advisor for infrastructure to be developed at IIT Mandi under PPP mode.**

Dr. Deepak Swami, the Officiating Dean (Infrastructure & Services) presented the proposal for the selection of a transaction advisor for infrastructure to be developed at IIT Mandi under PPP mode. He told the Members that the charter of the transaction advisor is to develop infrastructure for guest houses, hostels, etc. in PPP mode. He also informed that the MoE, Gol is promoting the concept, and the B&WC in its 42nd meeting, has also recommended it for consideration by the FC / BoG.

The Director also clarified that the transaction advisor shall be engaged only with strict compliance with GFR and the infrastructure developed in such a mode shall be transferred to the Institute after 20 years. He also informed about a meeting held with the Ministry wherein, this was recommended.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, Gol for this proposal is "May be noted".

The Chairperson, FC felt concerned that IIT Mandi is a Government Institute situated on government land, and this public-private partnership, something like toll plazas, has its own merits and demerits. Further, Mandi is a tourist place and there is a scope of misuse of property created in such a mode. Hence, the Institute should restrict itself to the fund allocation and development of infrastructure within government-allotted funds.

After detailed discussions, the Committee did not approve the agenda. with advice that any kind of infrastructure development should be carried out purely with grants, loans, or internal revenue.

FC-36.2.2 To report the status of filling up of backlog vacancies in the teaching cadre.

The Registrar presented the agenda to the Finance Committee.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, Gol for this proposal is "May be noted".

The Committee noted the development and appreciated the efforts being taken for the implementation of the reservation policy at the Institute.

FC-36.3.0 STANDING AGENDA**FC-36.3.1 To consider the revised proposal for Group Health Insurance.**

Dr. Atul Dhar, Chair, of the Employee Welfare Committee presented the revised agenda to the Committee. He informed the Members that all the modifications suggested in the 35th FC and the 40th BoG meetings have been incorporated into the revised policy. He further asked for some more inclusions in the policy like extending the benefits to retired employees and covering dependents in the Institute buffer etc.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, Gol for this proposal is "May be considered".

After detailed deliberations, the Committee advised to restrict the policy to employees only.

The revised proposal is enclosed as **Annexure – 1; Pages No.9 to 16** .

With the modifications, the Committee recommended the proposal to the Board of Governors for approval.

FC-36.4.0 REGULAR AGENDA**FC-36.4.1 To consider the proposal for the construction of the research park at IIT Mandi.**

Dr. Satvasheel Powar, Associate Professor, SMME, presented the proposal for the construction of the research part at IIT Mandi to the Committee.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, Gol for this proposal is "May be considered".

The Chairperson, FC was inquisitive about the demand for such an infrastructure. He asked for the number of companies who have approached the Institute to set up offices in the Institute.

The Director informed the Members that several companies like TCS, Brainwave Science, etc. have shown interest.

Prof. Phani strongly advocated that the proposed Research Park is a good idea and should be supported.

The Chairperson, FC stated that in the absence of sufficient demand and loan revenue generation possibilities, the Institute should not commit itself to a sum of ₹ 100 Crore for the research park, he suggested starting the research park with a budget of ₹ 10 Crore and scaling up later based on demand.

Prof. Mishra stated that such a phased manner is not a practical idea.

Prof. Phani and Prof. Mishra advocated to pursue the research park with the designated funds of ₹ 100 Crore. The Director informed that the MoE, Gol has desired

that IIT Mandi should establish a research park with a cost of ₹ 100 Crore. Due diligence and consultation before getting it approved by the B&WC.

Finally, the Committee advised conducting the SWOT analysis and revising the proposal considering the requirements, sustainability, maintenance, and repayment and deferred the proposal for subsequent meetings.

FC-36.4.2 To consider a modification in clause No. 21.3 of the MoU signed between IIT Mandi and CPWD.

Dr. Deepak Swami, Officiating Dean (Infrastructure & Services) presented the agenda for the modification in clause No. 21.3 of the MoU signed between IIT Mandi and CPWD to the Committee.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, GoI for this proposal is "This may be discussed in the FC / BoG meeting and a decision as per rules and in the interest of the Institute may be taken".

After detailed deliberations and weighing the pros and cons of spending out of the capital head and revenue head and getting assured of the availability of funds in the revenue head, the Committee approved the recommendations of the B&W Committee and further recommended the modification to the Board of Governors for approval.

FC-36.4.3 To consider the proposal of Permission to apply for House Building Advance (HBA).

Dr. Atul Dhar, Chair, of the Employee Welfare Committee, presented the proposal for the ratification of the House Building Advance (HBA) policy to the Committee.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, GoI for this proposal is "May be considered".

Prof. Phani stated that if the Institute is planning to give a small amount of loan to its employees so that they become eligible for a bigger loan from a Bank then it may be considered. Instead, the Institute should explore the possibilities of onboarding some banks for the purpose.

After detailed discussions, the Committee members unanimously advised that IRG should not be utilized for House Building Advance (HBA).

FC-36.4.4 To consider the proposal for sanctioning the Research Executive Officer (REO) Position (on contract) under the 'Academic Staff' Cadre.

Prof. Rahul Vaish, Officiating Dean (Faculty), presented the proposal to create a position (*on contract*) of Research Executive Officer under the 'Academic Staff' Cadre to the Committee.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, GoI for this proposal is "May be considered".

The Chairperson, FC stated that he believes that no new position should be created without proper spade work regarding reservation, etc. He also added that the Institute should strive to maintain the high standards of an IIT.

Prof. Phani stated that this position is there in many IITs that are utilized for jobs in which we need somebody with a knowledge base in terms of the technical part of a particular subject domain and they are of help to the faculty to write project proposals and in running big research projects.

The Director also emphasized that the services of faculty cannot be utilized for running labs and grand projects, for example, a lab on quantum science and technology is a highly technology-intensive lab. Such labs cannot be set up by technicians. We need quality people and it is requested that this may be considered in that perspective. There is a strong necessity for this.

Prof. Mishra also clarified that these positions are purely temporary and on fixed salary and not on pay scales.

However, the Committee did not approve the creation of an REO position as this would dilute the standards of IIT Mandi.

FC-36.4.5 To consider the proposal for the construction of the third floor at the undergraduate (UG) hostel at the South Campus of IIT Mandi.

Dr. Deepak Swami, Officiating Dean (Infrastructure & Services) presented the proposal for the construction of the third floor at the undergraduate (UG) hostel at the South Campus to the Committee.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, GoI for this proposal is "May be considered".

After detailed deliberations, the Chairperson, FC requested the Dean (I&S) to confirm that:

1. The ongoing construction as well as the proposed expansion both are being undertaken by IRG.
2. The structure is designed strong enough to bear the load of the additional floor.
3. The additional floor is within the permissible limit of the Local bylaws.
4. The institute has funds (₹ 3.73 Core) to meet this requirement under IRG.

The above points were confirmed from the IIT side by the SE, Dean (I&S) and Dean (F&A).

Based on the above confirmation the Committee recommended the proposed expansion to the Board of Governors for approval.

FC-36.4.6 To consider the proposal of new equipment in AMRC.

Dr. Aditi Halder, AMRC Coordinator, presented the proposal to the Committee for the purchase of new equipment in AMRC.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, GoI for this proposal is "May be considered".

After detailed deliberations, the Chairperson, FC asked the coordinator to provide the data concerning revenue generation and expenses done on maintenance and AMC, etc. during the last ten years, sustainable financial model, and details on the grants issued to different schools within the institute.

The Director objected to this and stated that the research should not be linked with revenue on a short-term basis.

The Committee wanted a revision in terms of impact and revenue generation.

Thus, the proposal after incorporating the suggested amendments, was recommended to the BoG for consideration.

FC-36.4.7 To consider the proposal to start a new Degree Programme 'Bachelor of Vocation' (B. Voc.).

Prof. Manoj Thakur, Head-in-charge of CCE presented the proposal to start a new Degree Programme 'Bachelor of Vocation' (B. Voc.) to the Committee.

The opinion of the IFD, MoE, GoI for this proposal is "May be considered".

The Director informed that the proposal has been approved by the Senate in its 43rd meeting dated May 16, 2024. He further added that the share of students belonging to Himachal Pradesh is minuscule and the proposed programme is an outreach effort towards enhancing their representation. The Institute is making efforts to get the needed infrastructure from the Government of HP.

After detailed deliberations, the Finance Committee resolved that the program could be started only if the Government of Himachal Pradesh provided the necessary infrastructure. Additionally, the awarded degree should be authorized and accepted by other institutes across the globe for admission to the PG programs and there should be sufficient job opportunities / employment.

The Chairperson, FC asked for the minutes of the Senate and wanted to know the demand. The Chairperson, FC drew attention to the fact that there is a shortage of all kinds of resources and it may not be advisable.

With these suggestions, the agenda was deferred.

After this, the Director stated that, in academic matters, the Senate is the supreme authority. Since the proposal is passed by the Senate, the mandate of the Finance Committee is only to look at the fee structure.

FC-36.4.8 To consider the proposal to create a Dean (Continuing Education) (DCE) position.

As this was a related item to FC-36.4.7, the proposal was withdrawn.

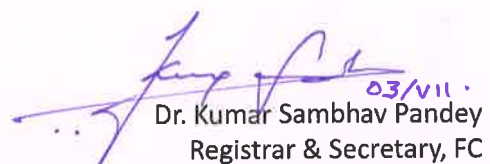
FC-36.5.0 TABLE AGENDA

FC-36.5.1 Additional agenda placed on the table with the permission of the Chairperson, FC if any.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Prof. Laxmidhar Behera
Director, IIT Mandi



03/VII
Dr. Kumar Sambhav Pandey
Registrar & Secretary, FC



Chairperson, Finance Committee 16 Jul '24