

Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Council held on 2nd July 2018 at the Committee Room, Dr. Mahalingam Vigyan Bhavan, Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore – 641 049.

Members Present :

1. Dr. B.K. Krishnaraj Vanavarayar, B.Com, B.L.,
Chairman, KCT
2. Dr.M. Manickam, M.Sc., M.B.A.,
Vice Chairman, KCT
3. Sri.M.Balasubramaniam, M.Com, M.B.A.,
Correspondent, KCT
4. Sri. M. Srinivaasan, B.E., M.B.A.,
Treasurer, KCT
5. Mr. Shankar Vanavarayar, MBA., PGD.,
Joint Correspondent, KCT
6. Prof. V.Raju, Ph.D.,
President, KCT
7. Prof. B. R. Chahar, Ph.D.,
Professor, IIT, New Delhi
UGC Nominee
8. Prof. A.Rajadurai, Ph.D.,
Professor, MIT, Chennai
Anna University Nominee
9. Prof .Prema.M, MCA,
Vice Principal, KCT
10. Prof. Senthil.J, Ph.D.,
Principal
Member Secretary
11. Mr.G. Muniyasamy, B Tech, MBA,
Executive Officer
Special Invitee

The members from AICTE and Govt of TN could not be present due to unavoidable reasons

Proceedings

1. President Prof. Raju welcomed the members for the Governing Council meeting which is the first combined meeting of the earlier Governing Council and Governing Body.

Prof Raju also introduced the UGC and Anna Univ nominees – Prof B R Chahar and Prof A Rajadurai to the management.

2. Prof. Senthil, Principal had a presentation on the following heads :
 - a) A brief on KCT covering Academics, Research, Co and Extra-curricular activities
 - b) A brief profile of the management and also the profile of the UGC & Anna Univ members.
 - c) Vision and Mission of the Institute.
3. The main presentation was under three heads
 - a) Institution
 - b) Faculty and Staff
 - c) Students

a) Institution:

The presentation on the institution covered the following:

- a) Admission Data for the past 3 years
- b) Academic Budget & utilization for the past 2 years and budget for 2018-19.
- c) Quality and Ranking Analysis – NIRF, NAAC, NBA, etc.
- d) R & D, Publications, Patents and Consultancy Activities
- e) CSR Initiatives
- f) Outcome of the Academic Council, Board of Studies and Finance Committee meetings during 2017-18.
- g) KC.IRI, CEAD, FORGE, MoU and outcomes
- h) Infra Development

b) Faculty and Staff:

Presentation on faculty and staff covering the

- a) HR amendments and approvals
- b) Recruitment and Separations
- c) Staff Welfare plans

c) Students:

The presentation on students covering the

- i) Result Analysis
- ii) Training and Placement activities
- iii) Alumni Association Activities
- iv) Student Scholarships
- v) Student Research Projects
- vi) Value Added Courses – GATE, CAT, UPSC, Language, etc.
- vii) Club, Physical Education, NCC, NSS etc.
- viii) Students Feedback

d) The last part of the presentation had the plan & outlook for the coming year.

Major Noting:

- e) The major changes approved by the Academic Council are:
- 1) Introducing Engineering Clinic.
 - 2) Reduction of overall credits from 180 + to 150+.
 - 3) FORGE (Cibi) has been selected by MHRD as one of the 10 innovation centres and also FORGE has conducted the Hardware Edition of Smart India Hackathon during the 3rd week of June 2018.
 - 4) Mahatma Gandhi Central Library has been renovated and inaugurated by Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu in March, 2018.
 - 5) It is noted that 2014-18 is the first batch under OBE. It was observed that this batch had difficulties in the initial Semesters which were reflected in the pass out %. However, the students had picked up in the subsequent Semesters and the pass out % has improved to 94% in the 8th Semester.
 - 6) The placement statistics have been reviewed and it was noted that there is a reduction in placement ratio. One of the reasons attributed to this is in slowdown in recruitment by the IT & ITeS industries, who otherwise are the major recruiters.
 - 7) The members noted and appreciated that the team from Biotechnology has won the 1st prize in the World Food Hackathon meet in November 2017 and the award was received from the Honourable President of India.

Observations from the members :

PG Admission

- 1) Prof. Chahar noted that the admission in the PG (Engg) programs have come down. He has emphasized that to improve research activities; there is a need to increase the admissions in PG courses.

Principal Prof. Senthil has clarified that one of the reason for reduction in PG admissions is that the consolidation of engineering education in the state leading to closer of institutions and also there is not many new institutions being setup resulting in lesser demand for the faculty positions.

Also, clarified that the management has put in a scholarship schemes to attract more students into PG courses. Salient features of the scheme are

- i. Complete Fee waiver for students with GATE score.
- ii. In addition, Management stipends for students with GATE score.
- iii. 50% fee waiver for KCT alumni and students with industry exposure.

Prof. Rajadurai pointed out that in the days to come, there will be a need for Accreditation of the PG courses to ensure the students with GATE getting stipend from Govt. of India / AICTE.

New UG Program (BE – ISE)

- 2) Prof. Rajadurai sought to know, why there is new BE program in ISE, when there is a B.Tech program in IT already.

Principal Prof. Senthil clarified that KCT tried for B.E programme in Data Science but the nomenclature was not available with AICTE. Hence, the B.E (ISE) has been proposed. This course is different from B.Tech IT to the extent that this will focus more on Data Science, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence and the latest happening in the IT industry.

NIRF Rankings

- 3) Prof. Chahar noted that KCT's standing in the NIRF ranking is good so far. However, KCT should improve the score under peer perception. This would require more efforts on outreach programs.

Coffee Table Book on Distinguished Alumni

- 4) Prof. Rajadurai appreciated the effort in bringing out the 'Coffee Table Book' on the distinguished alumni. He suggested that the names of few distinguished alumni and their achievements be put on the website and also should have mentioned in the presentation by the Principal.

Prof. Chahar also appreciated this book on the distinguished alumni.

Budget for Academic Infra

- 5) Prof. Chahar appreciated the management in providing considerable funding for Academic Infra, but opined that the departments should have used this fully.

Principal Prof. Senthil clarified that the management has approved the budget in the initial months. However, later, few departments have decided to go for an industry sponsored lab and the discussions are going on for a formal tie-up with the perspective sponsoring industries and hence the utilization of few departments has been low. The unspent amount has been provided in the proposed budget and we would ensure that the departments utilize the budget fully in 2018-19.

Students Performance in GATE

- 6) Prof. Chahar also noted that the number of students qualified in GATE is low and there is a need to emphasis that GATE is not only for higher studies but it is also the gateway for recruitments by many public sector undertakings.

Joint Correspondent has clarified that KCT has taken serious efforts in the past two years towards GATE preparations and emphasis would be given to ensure more students are getting trained for GATE and qualified.

Weightage for End Semester Exam

- 7) Prof. Rajadurai observed that reducing the weightage for end Semester exam may not be taken well by the industry. The perception at present is that any practical course is not really vigorous.

It is suggested to preserve higher weightage for theory part and enquired whether there is any minimum passing requirement in the end Semester exams. Prof. Senthil clarified that there is a weightage for end Semester exams, which is at 50%.

Self Study Process

- 8) Vice Chairman had a point that the universities in US emphasis more on self-study and the same approach can be tried at KCT.

Prof. Chahar also emphasized importance of self-study.

Chairman asked Prof. Chahar about the practice and process at IITs.

Prof. Chahar clarified that IITs follow lot of self-study process.

Prof. Rajadurai opined that self-study process is efficient in the case of small classes but will be difficult if the class strength is 60 plus.

Faculty Cadre Ratio:

- 9) Prof. Rajadurai suggested that the presentation can have the faculty strength with cadre ratio split up.

The Correspondent clarified that this aspect is being reviewed by the management often in the internal management committee meetings.

Principal Prof. Senthil clarified that the Cadre ratio is as per AICTE norms and noted that this data would be provided in the future presentations.

Faculty Development

- 10) Prof. Chahar suggested that the faculty need to be motivated to focus on research and also suggested financial assistance for Ph.D scholars.

Prof. Rajadurai suggested that the faculty should be encouraged to travel overseas for paper presentation, conference participation, etc.

Prof. Chahar also suggested that the faculty to be encouraged to visit abroad to overseas universities to understand the happenings and broaden their approach.

Prof. Raju clarified that we had put in a policy on faculty development which covers the financial support for the overseas travels of the faculty.

Whether KCT can become University

11) At this stage, Chairman asked the external members whether KCT can become a University.

Prof. Chahar opined that the existing infrastructure is good; far better than many institutions but the following areas - faculty quality, research and consultancy activities are to be strengthened before becoming University.

Prof. Rajadurai also suggested evaluating the inner potential of the faculty and other aspects before converting into university. He has opined that the sustainability would be a critical factor to be studied before converting into university.

Prof. Rajadurai emphasized that to be successful a university need to be more plural in terms of more students from outside state and also abroad. Similarly, more faculty should be recruited from outside the home state.

State University

12) Prof. Chahar observed that many of the States have policies to establish state universities and KCT can think in those terms.

Chairman has clarified that Tamil Nadu is yet to legislate the policy on the state university. Once the policy is in place, KCT will look into.

Kumaraguru Institutions

13) Chairman observed that under the Kumaraguru banner, we have two more institutions.

- a. Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture, affiliated to TNAU
- b. Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, affiliated to Bharathiar University.

Research & Publications

14) Prof. Chahar emphasized that the future focus should be more on research. Research should bring out concrete outcome, which will automatically lead to funding.

Prof. Raju clarified that during the past 3 months, we had made an attempt to trigger the faculty towards the publications of their research projects. Within a short span of three months the faculty has come out with 600 plus papers and the same were published in an international conference held at KCT during June 2018. He has further observed that there is a potential to make this four folds in the coming years.

Prof. Rajadurai observed that in addition to the publication, KCT should look for inner strength of the faculty.

Faculty Retention

15) It was noted that the faculty retention is at 78% during 2017-18.

Prof. Chahar emphasized the importance of retaining good quality faculty.

Prof Rajadurai observed that the faculty should also be empowered and encouraged to teach new methodology.

Focus Areas

16) Chairman suggested that the management team should identify 10 major areas where we need to concentrate before we move towards becoming university.

Prof. Rajadurai suggested that the management should meet the HODs ask them to come out with their ideas or the areas for the improvement. The HODs and faculty need to be emphasized in taking up ownership.

Summary

17) Prof. Raju summarized that overall; we are satisfactory with faculty strength but teaching methodologies and the research need to be trigger further.

Partnership & Outreach

18) Partnership with industry and international universities need to be strengthened.

Action Taken Report

In the Governing Council meeting held on 2nd July, 2018, the following areas were identified for improvement.

1. To improve PG admissions, the following measures were taken :
 - a) Fee waiver for GATE qualified students
 - b) Fee concession for alumni students
 - c) Fee concession for industry experienced students

This has improved the PG admissions to 132 in 2018-19 against 80 last year.

2. Academic budget is being utilized to the maximum extent. The budget and the usage for the past 3 years are below :

Year	Budget (Rs. in Lakhs)	Usage (Rs. in Lakhs)	% of Usage
2016-17	1202	941	78%
2017-18	1297	962	74%
2018-19	1260	1185	94%

3. Awareness programmes on the importance of GATE qualification is conducted. Also coaching for GATE has been arranged through external vendors. In the last GATE examination (2019), 116 of our students have qualified.
4. To improve the research publication, two International Conferences have been organized in June, 2018 and February, 2019 wherein 965 research papers have been presented. The selected papers are published in reputed journals.
5. To enhance Industry Institution partnership, lot of efforts have been taken. During the current year, 23 new MoUs have been signed (July 2018 to June, 2019) with industries against 19 in 2017-18.