Minutes of the 57th Meeting of the Senate of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli held on 4th March 2022 at 3.00 PM at EEE Auditorium, NIT Tiruchirappalli

The following members were present in the meeting:

1. Dr. G.Aghila, Director
2. Dr. Ramakalyan Ayyagari, Dean (Academic)
3. Dr. Haripriya Gundimeda
4. Dr. A. Chandra Bose
5. Dr. A. K. Bakthavatsalam
6. Dr. AR. Veerappan
7. Dr. B. Ravisankar
8. Dr. B. Senthil Arasu
9. Dr. B. Vasuki
10. Dr. C. Mala
11. Dr. C. Nagamani
12. Dr. D. Sastikumar
13. Dr. D. Sriram Kumar
14. Dr. G. Arthanareeswaran
15. Dr. G. Lakshminarayanan
16. Dr. G. Subbaiyan
17. Dr. G. Swaminathan
18. Dr. G. Uma
19. Dr. J. Hemalatha
20. Dr. J. Sarat Chandra Babu
21. Dr. K. Baskar
22. Dr. K. Dhanalakshmi
23. Dr. K. M. Meera S. Begum
24. Dr. K. Murugesan
25. Dr. K. Muthukkumaran
26. Dr. K. Muthukumar
27. Dr. L. Cindrella
28. Dr. M. Ashok
29. Dr. M. Bhaskar
30. Dr. M. Duraiselvam
31. Dr. M. Jaya Bharatha Reddy
32. Dr. M. Premalatha
33. Dr. M. Punamiyoorthy
34. Dr. M. Umapathy
35. Dr. Mary Saira Bhanu
36. Dr. Michael Arock
37. Dr. N. Baskaran
38. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan
39. Dr. N. Ramasubramanian
40. Dr. N. Sivakumaran
41. Dr. N. Thamaraiselvan
42. Dr. P. Asokan
43. Dr. P.J.A. Alphonse
44. Dr. P. Kalaichelvi
45. Dr. P. Muthuchidambaramanathan
46. Dr. P. Palanisamy
47. Dr. P. Saikrishnan
48. Dr. P. Sathiya
49. Dr. P. Sivashanmugam
50. Dr. R.B. Anand
51. Dr. R. Jeyapaul
52. Dr. R. Karvembu
53. Dr. R. Leela Velusamy
54. Dr. R. Murugesan
55. Dr. S. Anandan
56. Dr. S. Arul Daniel
57. Dr. S. Jayalekshmi
58. Dr. S. Kumanan
59. Dr. S. Kumaran
60. Dr. S. Moses Santhakumar
61. Dr. S. Muthukumaran
62. Dr. S. Nickolas
63. Dr. S. Sudha
64. Dr. S.P. Kumaresh Babu
65. Dr. S.P. Sivapirakasam
66. Dr. S.R. Balasundaram
67. Dr. S. Raman Sankaranarayanan
68. Dr. S. Shanmugam
69. Dr. S. T. Ramesh
70. Dr. S. Velmathi
71. Dr. S. Venkatachalapathy
72. Dr. T.K. Radhakrishnan
73. Dr. T.N. Janakiraman
74. Dr. T. Srinivas
75. Dr. T. Srinivasa Rao
76. Dr. V. Kumaran
77. Dr. V. Ravichandran
78. Dr. V. Sankaranarayanan
79. Dr. V. Vinod Balakrishnan
80. Dr. M. Arivazhagan
81. Dr. G. Lakshmana Gomathi Nayagam

Minutes of 57th Meeting of the Senate held on 4th March 2022
82. Dr. G. Muruganantham
83. Dr. K. Thirumaran
84. Dr. S. Mekala
85. Dr. T. Sivasankar
86. Dr. V. Mariappan
87. Dr. P. Srinivasa Rao Nayak
88. Dr. P. Senthil
89. Dr. R. Raghavan
90. Dr. K. Sundareswaran
91. Dr. N. Kumaresan
92. Dr. R. Ponalagusamy
93. Dr. G. K. Ananthasuresh
94. Dr. M. Thamban Nair
95. Dr. M. Udayakumar
96. Dr. R. Joseph Ponniah
97. Dr. V.J. Sivakumar

The following members expressed their inability to attend the meeting:
90. Dr. K. Sundareswaran
91. Dr. N. Kumaresan
92. Dr. R. Ponalagusamy

The following member did not attend the meeting:
93. Dr. G. K. Ananthasuresh
94. Dr. M. Thamban Nair
95. Dr. M. Udayakumar
96. Dr. R. Joseph Ponniah
97. Dr. V.J. Sivakumar

The Chairperson of the Senate welcomed the external members and other members to the 57th Meeting of the Senate and having ensured a quorum, continued with the proceedings of the Senate.

The Chairperson expressed her happiness on taking charge as the Director of NIT Tiruchirappalli during early February, and mentioned that it was her privilege to take part in the process of attaining higher standards and goals. With reference to the vision of the institute, she has placed on record the efforts of the faculty and appreciated them for being resilient even during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby sustaining the Integrity, Excellence, Unity and Inclusivity (IEUI), the core values of our Institute. The Chairperson has also emphasized that this 57th Senate meeting would proceed with the primary goal of implementing NEP 2020 from the academic year 2022-23. She requested to all the members of the faculty, through the members of the Senate and the HODs, to evolve best teaching evaluation methodologies suitable for both online and offline mode, with the experience gained during the pandemic period.

Next, the Chairperson made a mention of the new national programme, called as “Mission Karmayogi”, introduced by the Government of India, which aims to enhance governance through capacity building.

The Chairperson thanked Dr.S. Kumanan (Professor (HAG), Department of Production Engineering, NITT) and Dr. S. Jerome (Assistant Professor, Department of Metallurgical and
Materials Engineering, NITT), the outgoing member of the Board of Governors, for their contributions. Lastly, she announced the newly elected Senate nominees for the Board of Governors – Dr.S. Kumanan, Professor (HAG), Department of Production Engineering, NITT and Dr.G. Saravana Ilango, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, NITT – to the Senate.

Following the welcome address, the Registrar (i/c) opened the deliberations on the agenda items.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of 56th Meeting of the Senate held on 17th November 2021**

The Senate had a discussion on the resolutions “56/SENATE/2021/5a, and 56/SENATE/2021/5b”. More specifically, there were questions raised on the fellowship to be provided to those candidates admitted into full-time without a valid GATE score.

The Dean (Academic) responded to this stating the following: (1) The advertisement was given in leading Newspapers and the portal was opened on November 1, 2021, and the 56th Senate meeting took place on 17th November, about 15 days ahead of the closing date of the applications; the discussion during the 56th Senate meeting was to primarily address the concern that PhD seats are not getting filled in some departments. Moreover, during July 2021 admissions there were many drop-outs resulting in 74 vacancies for the January 2022 session. Hence, to increase the number of admissions during January 2022 session, it was resolved in the 56th Senate (56/SENATE/2021/5a) that while giving higher priority to GATE/National Level examination score holders, candidates without a valid GATE/National Level examination score may also be offered admissions, and that these students are encouraged to get qualified in GATE/National Level examination at the earliest. The same was advertised on the admissions portal of the institute. It was observed that, thereafter, there were more applications received, resulting in 19 admissions without GATE score in addition to 27 admissions with GATE score holders. (2) Further, the interviews have been conducted by the departments during January, and subsequently the MS & PhD admissions committee met the then Director in-charge on January 19, 2022 for the approval of the admissions for January 2022 session. The minutes of this meeting have also been brought to the 57th Senate for ratification (Item No. 9, page 7 & 39). Pertaining to the discussion on fellowships, it was clearly stated in the minutes (citing the OM, F. No. 15-2/2019-TC, dt 16th July 2019, from MoE) that a valid
GATE/National level examination score is required to get the HTRA fellowship; nevertheless, scholars not having valid GATE/National level qualifying examination score are encouraged to get themselves qualified at the earliest so that they will become eligible to receive the HTRA fellowship from the date of qualification. The Dean (Academic) emphasized that these amendments have been made for increasing the number of admissions during January 2022 session, and any other major changes that might be necessary for admissions during the next academic year would be worked out based on the suggestions made by the Senate, and brought for approval during the next Senate meeting.

With reference to the email query on the resolution 56/SENATE/2021/5b, the Dean (Academic) referred to a recent case of a student of CA department, to whom results of the National Level examination he appeared earlier were not available at the time of interview in January 2022, but was announced qualified by the time of admission and has been considered for HTRA; this is in line with the resolution passed in 56th Senate.

*The Senate members resolved to confirm the minutes of the 56th Meeting of the Senate with the above observations.*

**RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of 56th Meeting of Senate held on 17th November 2021 be confirmed with the observations made.

**APPROVAL ITEMS**

2. Modified curriculum and syllabi for M.Sc. (Chemistry), B.Tech. (EEE) and B.Tech. (Civil Engineering) programme

The HOD’s of respective departments presented the modified curricula and syllabi along with the recommendations of their Boards of Studies (BoS).

**RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED THAT the modified curriculum and syllabus as recommended by respective Boards of Studies for M.Sc. (Chemistry), B.Tech. (EEE) and B.Tech. (Civil Engineering) programmes be approved.

3. Requests from students:
   a. Rejoining of B.Tech. Course

The Dean (Academic) briefed the request from the B.Tech. student – Aftab Seyed, Roll No. 107119008, B.Tech. (EEE) – requesting re-joining of the course. The student
although joined the programme in 2019 couldn’t attend classes regularly being in the institute from first semester to sixth semester onwards citing health issues. The student couldn’t attend any of the examination. The Senate after reviewing the condition of the student (based on the request letter), accepted to permit the student to re-join the course along with the 2022-2023 B.Tech. batch students with a condition that the student completes the degree in four years, i.e., in the Academic Year 2025-26.

RESOLUTION 57/SENATE/2022/3a
RESOLVED THAT the B.Tech. re-joining request of Afthab Seyed (Roll No. 107119008) be approved. Also, it is resolved that the student is permitted to join the course with 2022-2023 1st year B.Tech. batch students with the condition that the student completes the degree in the following four years, i.e., by the end of the Academic Year 2025-26.

b. Extension of Ph.D.
The Dean (Academic) briefed the request from the Ph.D. scholars for extension of their registration beyond the prescribed period of completion. The students have cited Covid, health and family issues for their inability to complete the course. The Senate after reviewing the requests, accepted to extend their registration until the time period as recommended by their Doctoral Committees. Further, referring to certain cases where the required extension has not been explicitly mentioned, the Senate insisted that the minutes of the DC meetings may be modified to include time period and re-submit the requests.

RESOLUTION 57/SENATE/2022/3b
RESOLVED THAT the registration extension for all the full-time and part-time Ph.D. scholars, who have crossed the prescribed years of registration, as per their requests be approved. Further, it was resolved that the requested time period must be explicitly recommended and mentioned by the Doctoral Committee

4. Honours Degree in Post Graduate Programmes (M.A., M.Sc., M.Tech., & MBA)
The Dean (Academic) presented the basic norms arrived by the Academic Reforms Committee (ARC) for Honours Degree in Post Graduate Programmes (M.A., M.Sc., M.Tech., & MBA) based on the Senate advice as per the resolution 56/SENATE/2021/3. The Senate discussed the case in detail, and observed that with
the same norms the PG students are awarded the degrees with Distinction. The Senate has also expressed its opinion that Honours degree is not required for M.Tech. programmes, as it is not given in other INIs till date. The HoDs of HSS, DoMS, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry were suggested to arrive at justification for the Honours degree and present the same during the next Senate meeting.

RESOLUTION 57/SENATE/2022/4a

RESOLVED THAT the Honours degree for Engineering PG programmes is not required as the current regulations of PG Programmes the degree is awarded with Distinction based on same norms.

RESOLUTION 57/SENATE/2022/4b

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT for the M.A., M.Sc. and MBA programmes the respective HoDs would discuss and present justification for the need of Honours degree during the next Senate Meeting.

5. Leave rules for Postgraduate & Ph.D. students receiving GoI fellowships

The Dean (Academic) briefed the requirement of arriving at a detailed classification of the leave rules (as an amendment) for Postgraduate and Ph.D. students receiving GoI fellowships, citing several requests received from students with different cases recently. The Senate discussed the case and concluded that it would be better to continue with the existing document on leave rules as prescribed by the Government of India.

RESOLUTION 57/SENATE/2022/5

RESOLVED THAT the existing document on leave rules prescribed by the Government of India would continue to be applied to Postgraduate and Ph.D. students receiving GoI fellowships.

6. Recommendations of the NEP 2020 committee

A brief presentation was made by Dr. A.K. Bakthavatsalam (Chair, NEP Implementation Committee of the Institute) to the Senate about the NEP 2020 policy. He also presented five academic proposals in accordance with the NEP 2020 themes which could possibly be implemented for the academic year 2022-23. The five proposals – (i) Enabling Entrepreneurial Venture, (ii) Flexible UG Project Timeline and Project Team, (iii) Teaching assignment for PhD Scholars, (iv) Offering online courses, and (v) Multiple entry-exit option – were briefed with the guidelines. Followed by his presentation, Dr. P.J.A. Alphonse, HoD/CA, presented the framework of the proposed online M.Tech. course on “Artificial Intelligence and Data
Science” jointly by the Department of Computer Applications, Computer Science and Engineering, and Management Studies. He thanked the HoDs of the other two departments for their interest in the course and the cooperation rendered in bringing out the proposal of this course. He highlighted the salient features of the course such as Industry Oriented Curriculum, Blended Learning, Multiple Entry and Exit, and Credit Based Fee Structure to the Senate. The Dean (Academic) informed to the Senate regarding the review meeting held with advisory committee and three sub-committee focusing on developing MOOCs courses and online certificate/ diploma/ degree programmes in line with the NEP 2020 implementation. He indicated that the proposed online course requires more elaborate guidelines which would be presented to the Senate after some more reviews by the concerned committees. He further added that, proposals for online courses, following the above model, by other departments would also be invited and reviewed by the advisory committee for consideration. The Senate appreciated the presentations and suggested that the advisory committee to arrive at the complete set of guidelines such as eligibility criteria, qualifying examination(s), curriculum for multiple exit and entry, number of students, course fees, details of IT infrastructure (dedicated servers and security aspects), etc.

RESOLUTION 57/SENATE/2022/6

RESOLVED THAT the proposals addressing the NEP 2020 themes could be implemented from the Academic Year 2022-23. Further, the proposal of online M.Tech. course on “Artificial Intelligence and Data Science” be approved, and the complete set of guidelines for the course be arrived and presented during the next Senate meeting

7. MoE Sponsored Ph.D. Research Scholars for DRDO

The Dean (Academic) briefed the “MoE sponsored Research Scholars Scheme” (Ref. No.DHRD/77014/MHRD Fellowship//M/01/2020 dt. 23rd March 2021), MoE would be sponsoring Ph.D. students to work under DRDO projects in collaboration with Higher Educational Institutions. The Senate recommended that the O/o the Dean (R & C) may be consulted to check with any existing OM/MoU ((1) MHRD No. 8-17/2019-TEL dated 19.03.2020, and (2) No. CAIR/HRT/80435/034 dated 16.03.2020 from CAIR
Bengaluru), since there are already 5 students from NITT working in CAIR (DRDO), Bangalore. If found different the proposed scheme may be deferred to the next Senate.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED THAT the proposed scheme be deferred with the above observation.

8. Proposal of online Post Diploma Certificate Course in “Steel Technology” from the MME Department

Dr. S. Raman Sankaranarayanan of the Department of MME had presented to the Senate on the proposal of online Post Diploma Certificate Course in “Steel Technology” and the probable guidelines for the course. The course is to be co-ordinated jointly by Dr. S. Raman Sankaranarayanan, Dr. S. P. Kumaresh Babu and Dr. S. Jerome of the MME Department. The Senate had accepted to proceed with the proposed course, and directed the co-ordinators to frame the structure of the course and other required guidelines as per institute rules and regulations.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED THAT the proposed online Post Diploma Certificate Course in “Steel Technology” be approved. Further, the Senate directed that the proposed course should undergo the required guidelines of the Institute rules and regulations before it is introduced.

RATIFICATION ITEMS

9. Minutes of the MS (by research) and Ph.D. admission committee towards January 2022 session admission

The Dean (Academic) briefed the minutes of the meeting of the MS (by research) and Ph.D. admission committee with the Director (in-charge) and Registrar (in-charge), for the January 2022 session admission. The Senate ratified the minutes as approved by the then Director-in-charge.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting of MS (by research) and Ph.D. admission committee regarding the admissions in January 2022 admission as approved by the then Director-in-charge be ratified.
10. Results of UG (except 1st Semester B.Tech./B.Arch.) and PG course for the July session 2021-22

The Associate Deans presented to the Senate the results of UG (except 1st Semester B.Tech./B.Arch.) and PG courses for the July session 2021-22 as approved by the respective Performance Analysis Committees (PACs).

RESOLUTION 57/SENATE/2022/10

RESOLVED THAT the results of UG (except 1st Semester B.Tech./B.Arch.) and PG course for the July session 2021-22 as approved by the respective PACs be ratified.

11. Award of provisional degree to M.S. (by Research) and Ph. D. scholars who have successfully completed the requirements for the award of the degree

The Dean (Academic) presented to the Senate the list of 23 Ph.D. scholars and 7 M.S. (by Research) scholars, to whom provisional degrees may be issued.

RESOLUTION 57/SENATE/2022/11

RESOLVED THAT the list of provisional degrees to be awarded to 23 Ph.D. scholars and 7 M.S. (by Research) be ratified.

12. Any other item with permission of the Chairperson, Senate

The meeting was closed with thanks from the Chairperson.

Secretary, Senate

Chairperson, Senate