

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110 070

Minutes of the 140th Executive Committee meeting held on February 15, 2021 at 02.30 pm in the Board Room, Second Floor, Wing 1, at AICTE Headquarters, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi:

Following Members were present in the meeting:

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| 1. | Prof. A.D. Sahasrabudhe Chairman, AICTE | Chairman |
| 2. | Prof. M.P. Poonia Vice Chairman, AICTE | Member |
| 3. | Dr. Renuka Mishra, Director (TE), Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, New Delhi (Connected through Video Conferencing) | Nominee, Secretary, MoE, GOI, New Delhi |
| 4. | Prof. Uday Kumar, (Chairman, NWRC-AICTE) Director, MNIT, Jaipur, Rajasthan (Connected through Video Conferencing) | Member |
| 5. | Shri Uday Kiran K.V. Under Secretary IFD, Ministry of Education, Govt of India, New Delhi (Connected through Video Conferencing) | Nominee, Jt. Sec. & FA, MoE, GOI, New Delhi |
| 6. | Prof. Anil Mathur, Dean (FA), Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, Rajasthan (Connected through Video Conferencing) | Member |
| 7. | Dr. G.P. Vadodaria, Principal, Govt. College of Engineering, Bhavnagar (Connected through Video Conferencing) | Member |
| 8. | Dr. Avichal Kapur Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission (Connected through Video Conferencing) | Nominee, Chairman, UGC |
| 9. | Prof. K. K. Aggarwal Chairman, NBA | Special Invitee |
| 10. | Prof. Rajive Kumar, Member Secretary, AICTE | Member Secretary |

Chairman, SWRC-AICTE; Chairman AIB-ITE, AICTE; Chairman, AIB-TCP, AICTE; Chairman, AIB-PE, AICTE; Secretary (TE/HE), Govt. of Tripura; Secretary (TE/HE), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh; Secretary (TE), Govt. of Uttarakhand; Secretary (HE/TE), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh; Prof. H.C. Verma, IIT-Kanpur; Prof Arvind Choubey, Director, IIT Bhagalpur; Director General, IAMR; Director General, ICAR; could not attend the meeting due to their prior engagements.

At the outset, Prof. A.D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE welcomed all the members to the 140th meeting of the Executive Committee. The Chairman briefed the members about the recent activities/achievements of AICTE since last reported in the 139th Executive Committee meeting held on 25th January, 2020, in the form of ppt presentation (Annexed) which included:

- Republic Day celebrations at AICTE Hqs. & ROs and launch of a video on AICTE achievements during COVID-2019 pandemic, on January 26, 2021;
- ASEAN-India Hackathon held during February 1 to February 4, 2021;
- National Initiative for Technical Teachers Training(NITTT);
- Webinars/Workshops held towards Implementation of 360 Degree Feedback;
- Faculty Development Programmes(FDPs) on Universal Human Values (UHV) in Technical Education;
- 904 ATAL FDPs conducted and more than 1 Lakh participants benefitted till 14th Feb., 2021;
- Technical Book Writing & Translation in Regional Languages, Conduct of Training programs for teachers/ Non-teaching staff and internship opportunities through NEAT;
- Conducting Examination Reforms Workshops;
- Webinars held for AQIS Financially Funded Schemes;
- Conduct of J&K Internships and MoU under Jammu Kashmir Employability Enhancement Training & Program (JEET);
- Internship Opportunities for Engineering Students under NEAT;
- Status of applications received for Clean & Smart Campus Award and Chattra Vishwakarma Award 2020;
- Announcement of Wheebox-New Code of Education 2021 Awards;
- Activities related to National Employability Enhancement Mission (NEEM) and reviewing guidelines of Skill Knowledge Provider (SKP);
- Providing Free Digital Content to the Students during COVID under NEAT;
- Development of AICTE Translation Automation Tool by NEAT Cell;
- Conduct of AICTE & EPSI Interactive Session at AICTE Auditorium held on AICTE Initiatives, Approval Process Handbook 2021-22 & Smooth implementation of NEP 2020;

Upcoming Activities:

- FDP-SI Programs- Online workshop on Universal Human Values;
- Results of Toyathon 2021 to be announced soon;
- Launch of NEAT 2.0 on February 16, 2021 by Hon'ble Minister of Education.

The Executive Committee members appreciated the efforts made by team AICTE under the visionary leadership of Prof. A.D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE for the outstanding achievements.

The Chairman, apprised the members about comments on the Agenda items received from IFD, MoE, which were taken into cognizance during deliberations and decisions taken accordingly.



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The following Agenda Items were taken up for consideration, deliberations and decisions taken as under:

Item No. 140.01.01 : To confirm the minutes of the 139th meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 25, 2021.

The Executive Committee confirmed the minutes of the 139th meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 25, 2020.

Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, Chairman NBA joined the 139th meeting of the Executive Committee in person. The mention in the minutes as he joined through Video Conferencing be omitted.

Item No. 140.02.01 : To receive a note on action taken on the decisions taken and recommendations made in the 139th meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 25, 2021.

The Executive Committee received the action taken on the decisions taken and recommendations made in the 139th meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 25, 2021.

In time action taken by AICTE was appreciated by the Executive Committee members.

Item No. 140.03.01 : To consider and approve a proposal for making modifications in Scheme Document for revision in permissible limits of expenditure in respect of operating Major or Minor QIP Centres and reimbursement of expenditure for conducting STCs under QIP Scheme of AICTE.
FDC

The Executive Committee discussed the modifications proposed under the QIP-Scheme and expenditure for conducting Short Term Courses (STCs) under QIP Centres.

The Executive Committee considered the proposal and noted that honorarium proposed for the Coordinator and miscellaneous expenditure has been clubbed under Major as well as Minor QIP Centres. The Executive Committee opined that honorarium of Coordinator and maximum miscellaneous expenditure be separately earmarked in the Scheme document. It has been decided that honorarium to the Coordinator shall be limited to 80% of the total amount mentioned at S.No.3. for Major as well as Minor QIP Centres. Rest 20% of the total amount mentioned at S.No.3, shall be spent on miscellaneous expenditure.

The EC decided that to rationalize the QIP Centre's and STCs' expenses, approved the maximum ceiling of expenditure to the QIP Major and Minor centers as follows:

| Sr. No. | Status of the QIP Centre | Maximum permissible expenditure under QIP Center Expenses |
|---------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. | Minor QIP Centers | Max. upto Rs.1.50 Lakhs subject to following max. limits: |

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Honorarium to Clerk / DEO from within the existing staff @ Rs. 8000.00 p.m.2. Office stationery etc. @ 10,000.00 p.a.3. Honorarium of Rs. 35,200.00 p.a. to coordinator & misc. Expenditure of Rs. 8,800.00 p.a. i.e. a total of Rs. 44,000.00 p.a. |
| 2. | Major QIP Centers | <p>Max. upto Rs.3.00 Lakhs Subject to following max. limits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Honorarium to Clerk / DEO from within the existing staff @ Rs.15000.00 p.m.2. Office stationery etc. @ Rs. 20,000.00 p.a.3. Honorarium of Rs. 80,000.00 p.a. to coordinator & misc. Expenditure of Rs. 20,000.00 p.a. i.e. a total of Rs. 100,000.00 p.a. |

Further, the Executive Committee approved the proposal for revision of rates for One Week STC program under physical/offline mode from Rs.4.50 lakh to Rs.3.00 lakh, which is aligned with other/similar STCs.

The Executive Committee also opined that for providing services at Major / Minor QIP centres, the already existing employees of that Institute alone should be used. No separate hiring/recruitment be done exclusively for any QIP Centre. The remuneration of such persons for providing services to QIP Centres be in the form of honorarium only. Information shall be obtained and compiled from all the major and minor QIP Centres. If there are any persons who were appointed on the basis of previous norms of MHRD at the QIP Centres and are still continuing, then they may be continued till they attain superannuation and no fresh hiring be done in his/her place. The same may be communicated to all QIP centres.

Item No. 140.03.02
E-Governance

To consider and approve the Budget Estimate for AICTE-SLA Project for a period of five years.

The Executive Committee was informed that AICTE submitted a budget for a period of five years to NPIU and MoE to carry forward the AICTE-Student Learning Assessment (SLA) Survey in all AICTE approved institutions in line with the MoU dated 24th February 2020, signed between AICTE-NPIU. On this, IFD, MoE raised queries on this budget estimate and informed that TEQIP under which SLA Project was being funded, is the World Bank assisted project and the funds are reimbursable for the services rendered till 31st March 2021 only as the TEQIP scheme would end by March 2021. As such, AICTE was informed by NPIU that MoE may not be in a position to fund the project beyond 31st March 2021 for another 4 years. However, NPIU will provide a funding of Rs.4.31 crore for SLA project which has to be spent before 31st March, 2021.

Accordingly, AICTE decided that the funds available for the Project till March 31st 2021 under TEQIP Scheme, may be approved and released by MoE and the expenditure involved

beyond 31st March 2021 would be incurred by AICTE from its own resources. The e-Governance Cell of AICTE shall immediately initiate the process of creating a testing portal through I&T Informatics and prepare question bank from experts.

Consequent to further discussions it was proposed that modifications in the budget Estimate prepared by AICTE-SLA Unit may be done. The Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 4th and 5th February 2021, recommended activity wise revised budget of Rs.20,01,07,105/- (Rupees Twenty crore one lakh seven thousand one hundred five only) for next 5 years.

The Executive Committee considered and approved the proposed revised budget of Rs.20,01,07,105/- (Rupees Twenty crore one lakh seven thousand one hundred five only) for next 5 years for AICTE-SLA project from AICTE own funds. The EC approved the budget and opined that IFD, MoE may be apprised about the revised budget with activity-wise and year-wise provisions made therein.

Item No. 140.03.03
Approval Bureau

: To consider and approve Draft-AICTE Guidelines (Open & Distance Learning Education and Online Education) for Institutions including Universities), 2021.

The Executive committee was informed that the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has emphasised on the growing need of online education in India. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is designed to maximise the benefits of digital and online education in India while mitigating the downsides. Also, the NEP-2020 proposes to encourage online learning by providing a proper digital infrastructure and bridging the extant digital gap. AICTE has earlier notified Guidelines (Open and Distance Learning) Guidelines in Oct, 2019 for standalone institutions and Institutions-Deemed to be Universities and amended these guidelines in 2020 to bring these guidelines in conformity with UGC Regulations, 2017 and 2018.

Keeping in view the importance accorded to online education and blended mode of education, a comprehensive Draft- AICTE Guidelines (Open & Distance Learning Education and Online Education) for Institutions- viz; Standalone Institutions, Institutions-Deemed to be Universities & Universities), 2021 to offer courses in Management, Computer Applications, Travel & Tourism have been prepared in conformity with UGC Regulations, 2020.

UGC representative clarified that UGC's ODL/online regulations of 2020 permit only Universities to run programmes in these modes.

The Executive Committee deliberated on various issues in the proposed Draft- AICTE Guidelines for conducting courses through Online & ODL mode. Inputs from the representative of UGC was also deliberated upon on the UGC Regulation on online/distance education in universities/ affiliated colleges.

The EC opined that since courses in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and logistics do not involve practical/ laboratory component, the same may also be permitted to be conducted through online/distance mode of education. As per suggestion of MoE, GoI and compliance of NEP 2020 to enhance GER in higher education, AICTE may also cover all similar courses under Engineering & Technology and logistics in emerging/thrust areas where practical/laboratory component is not there and may permit conducting such programmes through online/ distance learning mode. This permission will not deviate from the existing policy of AICTE that courses in Engineering and Technology where practical component is there cannot be permitted under online/distance mode of education.

The Executive Committee considered and approved the proposed Draft-AICTE Guidelines (Open & Distance Learning Education and Online Education) for Institutions including Universities), 2021 with above modifications suggested by MoE.

Item No. 140.03.04
Approval Bureau

: To consider and approve the changes made in the Approval Process Handbook for AY 2021-22.

The Executive Committee was informed that majority of the changes proposed in the forthcoming Approval Process Handbook (APH) 2021-22 are in light of new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. AICTE invited suggestions and improvement measures from the State & UT Governments/ Affiliating Universities-State Private/deemed to be universities/ Directors of State DTEs/ Directors/Principals of AICTE approved institutions and its stakeholders for bringing out a comprehensive transparent & accountable online Approval Process Policy with necessary information on the processes involved under the aegis of AICTE in the form of Approval Process Handbook 2021-22 dated 29.10.2020. Suggestions received were deliberated in depth during various meetings held at AICTE. Also, number of recommendations made by different Boards of UG, PG, Technician, Management Studies etc. have been incorporated in the draft APH 2021-22.

Based on the inputs received from the above meetings, a ppt presentation was made by Prof. Rajendra Kakade, Adviser and Dr. N.H. S. Swamy, Director depicting the proposed changes in APH 2021-22. The EC was informed that legal vetting of the APH has been done.

Item No. 140.03.05
Approval Bureau

The Executive Committee after deliberations approved the Approval Process Handbook (APH) 2021-22 with minor modifications.

: To consider and approve the draft AICTE Amendment Regulations, 2021 prepared in view of the changes incorporated in the Approval Process Handbook 2021-22.

The Executive Committee noted that AICTE Regulations, 2020 were notified on 04.02.2020 with few changes incorporated in the APH 2020-21.

The EC also noted that the legal vetting of Amendment Regulation 2021 has been done. The Executive Committee considered and approved the draft AICTE Amendment Regulations, 2021, with minor modifications, which have been amended after incorporation of changes proposed in the AICTE Amendment Regulations, 2020.

Item No. 140.03.06
Approval Bureau

To consider and approve the list of Expert Members to be used in online Scrutiny Committee/ Experts Visit Committee/Standing Hearing Committee and Standing Appellate Committee meetings.

The Executive Committee was informed that the VCs /Directors/ Principals of Government /Government aided institutes were contacted to give list of persons with clean record, who can be considered as Experts of AICTE in various Committees.

Further, with the addition of Justice (retired high Court judges), the consent of the retired justice was taken and training given for online SHC/SAC. Similarly, the list of Architects from government institutions was taken from the Council of Architecture and included in the list and training imparted.

The Executive Committee considered and approved the proposed list of Expert Members to be used in online Scrutiny Committee/ Experts Visit Committee/Standing Hearing Committee and Standing Appellate Committee meetings.

Item No. 140.03.07
StDC

: To consider and approve the recommendation of the Committee for extension of Fellowship period under National Doctoral Fellowship (NDF)/AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF) scheme.

The Executive Committee was informed that under the Scheme guidelines of NDF/ADF the duration of the fellowship shall be for a period of 3 years. Further, one-year extension in fellowship duration in two slots of the 6 months each may be given by AICTE. However, ADF/NDF scheme guidelines are silent about the *modus operandi* for approving such extension by AICTE.

The NDF scheme was started from academic year 2018-19 and 2020-21 shall be the 3rd year for those scholars admitted during

2018-19. In order to address the issue of methodology to be adopted for recommending extension by AICTE, a committee was constituted. The Committee after holding two online meetings recommended the assessment criterion for extension of tenure of the fellowship to the enrolled research scholars under NDF/ADF scheme from 3 to 4 years.

The Executive Committee deliberated and approved the recommendations made by the Committee for extension of fellowship of research scholars under NDF/ADF scheme for one more year after completion of 3 years of fellowship, where following conditions must be fulfilled by a candidate:

- (i) The candidate must score a minimum overall score of 10 marks under different parameters as proposed;
- (ii) Must have published at least one paper in SCI/SCI-E/Scopus journal or presented a paper in a Conference;

The assessment of above conditions shall be carried out by the concerned University/Institutions for final recommendation for extension of fellowship of research scholars under NDF/ADF scheme for one more year after completion of 3 years of fellowship. On the basis of recommendation by the concerned University/Institute, AICTE will process further for release of fellowship for the extended period.

Item No. 140.03.08
IPC

To consider and approve the proposal for an Annual Award with the title "The Rishi Raj Gaur Excellence Award" to be awarded to three deserving Institutions which have made excellent contribution towards Universal Human Values for Holistic Development and Excellence.

The Executive Committee was informed that Prof R.R. Gaur, Former Professor IIT Delhi, has made excellent efforts throughout his life for incorporating holistic development of Universal Human Values into higher education and has written many books in context to Holistic Development of Universal Human Values and always guided AICTE for incorporation of Universal Human Values in technical institutions. On the demise of Prof. Gaur in the year 2020, to pay tribute to his inspirational work, AICTE has proposed an Annual Award in his name titled as "The Rishi Raj Gaur Excellence Award" to be awarded to three institutions making excellent efforts in imparting/inculcating Universal Human Values amongst its students, faculty and other staff members.

The Executive Committee appreciating the proposal of AICTE approved Annual Award, titled as "The Rishi Raj Gaur Excellence Award" to be awarded to three institutions w.e.f. 2021-22. The Executive Committee also approved the following procedure for grant of award:



1. The eligibility criteria/parameters as proposed in the Agenda, covering various activities and outcomes;
2. Chairman, NCC-IP & Chairman, NC-UHV to design an application format including the proposed criteria / parameters; and
3. Chairman, NCC-IP & Chairman, NC-UHV to constitute a combined committee, with the approval of the Chairman, AICTE, for shortlisting/selection of institutes for the award.

The Executive Committee also approved that the awardee institutions be allotted the Student's club scheme of AICTE i.e. SPICES (*Scheme for Promoting Interests, Creativity and Ethics among Students*) for one year.

Item No. 140.04.01
Approval Bureau

: To ratify the recommendations of Standing Hearing Committees/ Standing Appellate Committee held in the cases of Institutions for various reasons such as evaluation of compliance submitted, against whom complaints received and Show Cause Notices issued, EVCs conducted, Court order etc.

The Executive Committee ratified the matter.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Prof. Rajive Kumar)
Member Secretary



(Prof. A.D. Sahasrabudhe)
Chairman