



SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Accredited "A" Grade by NAAC | 12B Status by UGC | Approved by AICTE

www.sathyabama.ac.in

MINUTES OF THE 60th BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON 19.09.2021, THROUGH ZOOM (VIRTUAL MEETING) at 2pm

The Board of Management meeting was convened on 19th September, 2021 (Sunday) by the Registrar Dr. S.S.Rao. The meeting took place virtually in Zoom platform (ZOOM MEETING ID CREDENTIALS: LOGIN **820 2417 8706** & PASSWORD: **711342**) at 2pm. The members present were,

1. Dr. T. Sasipraba	Vice Chancellor - Chairman
2. Dr. Wilson Aruni	Member
3. Dr. E. Logashanmugam	Member
4. Dr. Marie Johnson	Member
5. Dr. Mariazeena Johnson	Member
6. Dr. Shyam Sundar Pattnaik	Member
7. Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh	Member
8. Dr. Paul Christdas Salins	Member
9. Dr. S. Prakash	Member
10. Dr. G. Sundari	Member
11. Dr. N.M. Nandhitha	Member
12. Dr. B. Sheela Rani	Member
13. Mr. M. Saravanan	Member
14. Dr. Igni Sabasti Prabu	Special Invitee
15. Dr. S.S. Rao, Registrar	Member & Convener

ITEM NO: 60.0 **WELCOMING THE MEMBERS OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

The Registrar with privilege and honour welcomed the Board members to the virtual meeting and introduced the Board to the Vice President's Mr. Arul Selvan and Ms. Maria Bernedette Tamilarasi. The Vice Chancellor after formally welcoming the members, thanked them for their continuous inputs and wished the young minds of the Vice President's to handle future challenges effectively and to take the institution to greater heights. The Registrar requested the Chairperson to proceed with the agenda of the 60th Board of Management meeting.

ITEM NO: 60.1 PREVIOUS MEETING

ITEM NUMBER: 60.1.1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 59th MEETING OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board approved the minutes of the previous board of management meeting.

ITEM NUMBER: 60.1.2: SUBMISSION AND DISCUSSION ON ACTION TAKEN REPORT

The Action taken Report was submitted by the Registrar to the Chairman and the same was shared to the members. The members were informed with the follow up activity and the necessary actions taken up based on the resolutions and suggestions of the previous meeting, members expressed their satisfaction and agreement with the follow up activity.

ITEM NO: 60.2 ITEMS FOR REPORTING BY THE REGISTRAR

The following agenda points were reported to the board by the Registrar;

1. The board was informed that according to the government guidelines, all the teaching and non-teaching staff members were administered with two doses of vaccine for COVID-19.
2. In addition to the Rs.1,00,00,000 that was given to the Chief Minister;s relief fund in 2020 it was noted that another Rs.50,00,000/= was donated by the Chancellor and President along with the both the Vice President's.
3. As part of social consciousness, the St.Antony Illam and Sathyabama General Hospital were allocated to Chennai Corporation to quarantine COVID patients during the second wave (April – June 2021).
4. It was to be noted by the board that the reward for faculty members contribution to impactful publications was Rs.75,00,000/=.
5. The board was presented with the information that at a rate of 100 Scopus publications and 96 WoS publications a month, the total publications of the institution stand at 10291 Scopus publications with H-index of 73 and 4816 WoS publications with a H-index of 63.
6. The information on the commencement of 2021-2022 academic year classes through virtual mode from 5th July 2021 was tabled along with the commencement of physical mode of classes for BDS students following the government standard operating protocol.
7. It was brought to the notice of the board that the partial payment of fees option was well received by a majority of the students which was in accordance with the approval of the board of management and following the government decision.
8. The magnanimity of the management was also brought to the notice of the board in that faculty members were given full salary and other emoluments even during the lockdown during the second wave.
9. The board was notified that the SAEET 2021 was conducted as per schedule on 26th and 27th June 2021 through virtual mode and a total of 34752 prospective

students attended the exam. Following the same more than 9000 shortlisted students attended the counseling from 5th July to 9th July 2021 and the online classes were to start on 20th September, 2021.

10. The board was also appraised of the commencement of physical mode of classes for MDS, BDS, Nursing and Pharmacy programmes from 23rd August 2021 as per the government guidelines with hostel facility also being provided for the inmates.
11. The construction and inauguration of the open air theatre with a seating capacity of 1000 on 8th April, 2021 was intimated to the board members.
12. The approval from AICTE for the following new courses was informed to the board;
 - B.E.- Computer Science and Engineering with specialization in Cyber Security
 - B.E. – computer Science and Engineering with specialization in Block Chain Technology
 - B.E.- Computer Science and Engineering with specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
 - B.E.- Computer Science and Engineering with specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

Also the board was appraised of the extension of approval by the Council of Architecture for Architecture courses and Pharmacy Council of India for Pharmacy courses for 2021-2022 academic year with an increased intake from 60 to 100.

The Extension of approval obtained from the Bar council of India for LLB, B.A.LLB, B.Com.LLB and BBA.LLB programmes was tabled by the Registrar.

ITEM NO: 60.2 ITEMS FOR REPORTING BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

The following agenda points were reported to the board by the Vice Chancellor

1. The Vice Chancellor was happy to place on record the prestigious rankings the institution had got as follows;
 - a. Times Higher Institution World Rankings 2021 – 1201+ band
 - b. Times Higher Institution Asian Rankings 2021 – 401+ band
 - c. Ranked amongst the top 450 young universities – Times Rankings
 - d. Ranked amongst the top 800 impactful universities – Times Rankings
 - e. Sustainable Development Goals – Out of 17 the institution had applied for 4 categories;
 - Ranked 201-300 in SDG17 (Partnership for goals)
 - Ranked 201-300 in SDG13 (Climate action)
 - Ranked 201-300 in SDG10 (Reduced inequalities)
 - Ranked 301-400 in SDG01 (No Poverty)
- d. NIRF Rankings
 - Amongst the top 50 rankings for the sixth consecutive year
 - 40th rank amongst universities

- 55th rank amongst Engineering colleges
- Ranked 61 overall
- Amongst the top 15 in the private Engineering institutions category

e. Times of India Rankings

- 3rd position in Top Private Engineering Institutions in India
- 3rd position in Top Private Engineering institutions in South India
- 5th position in Placement
- 8th position in Engineering institution in India
- 11th position in Top Research institutions
- 4th position in Best private universities in Tamil Nadu
- 22nd position in Best Private universities in India.

2. It was noted that three programmes were accredited by NBA viz.,

- B.E. Aeronautical Engineering
- B.E. Electronics and Communication Engineering
- B.E. Mechanical Engineering

Taking the total number of programmes accredited by NBA to six alongwith

- B.E. Computer Science and Engineering
- B.E. Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- B.Tech. Biotechnology

It was also noted that in the month of August another 5 programmes underwent the NBA process and the results were awaited viz.

- B.E. Civil Engineering
- B.Tech. Information Technology
- B.Tech. Chemical Engineering
- B.Tech. Biomedical Engineering
- Master of Business Administration

3. The Vice Chancellor proclaimed that Sathyabama was the third school in Asia to obtain CDIO membership. As part of this, Design thinking course was to be introduced in all the programmes. This would enhance creativity and promote innovation in graduates. With 75 faculty members already trained in this area, other faculty members were to follow suit.

4. The board was notified about the MDS first batch theory examinations and subsequently the practical examinations that was conducted successfully with the experts nominated by the Dental council of India. The board was also informed about the BDS (Surprise) inspection that was conducted by the Dental Council of India on 22nd and 23rd April 2021.

5. The Vice Chancellor informed the members on the virtual mobility programmes both inbound and outbound activities of the institution.

Inbound students

- 28 students from Ethiopia
- 2 students from Daffodil university, Bangladesh
- 9 students from Indonesia
- 8 students from Indonesia

Outbound students

- 42 MBA students pursuing semester abroad programme in University of Brazil
- 29 B.Sc. Mathematics students are in Malaysia

Outbound Faculty

- 3 Faculty members have been to Indonesia.
- 6 of our faculty members have been invited as speakers for International conferences organized by our International partnering institutions.

6. The board was informed of the Memorandum of Understanding that were signed with various International universities for academic and research collaboration and with 8 industries.

7. The institution has signed an agreement for Erasmus Plus programmes and because of the pandemic the mobility was restricted. However the board was informed that Asian universities have mobilized 3 students for our institution who are expected by the start of the next calendar year.

8. In line with the API score devised by UGC, Sathyabama has come up with Sscore which comprises of the faculty contribution towards academics, research and other activities. The Vice Chancellor informed the board that based on this score the faculty and scientists would be awarded during the Teacher's Day.

9. The process of implementation of ODL classes (5 programs) for 2021-2022 academic year was elaborated by the Vice Chancellor to the board.

10. Highlighting the research activities, the Vice Chancellor made a noteworthy mention of the research project worth Rupees forty lakhs from TIFAC towards Academic Partnership program on Aquaculture sector. Also 6 more projects were sanctioned by DST, ICMR and ISRO, and the same was presented to the board members.

ITEM NO: 60.3**ITEMS FOR REPORTING BY THE DIRECTOR RESEARCH**

Following this, the Vice Chancellor requested the Director Research, Dr.Sheela Rani to put forth her agenda before the board.

1. Dr.Sheela Rani, tabled the special request from the parent of a Ph.D. candidate Mr.Gopalakrishnan (Reg.No.2013799301) who had expired after submission of the thesis. The board was also informed that the supervisor was ready to defend the thesis on his behalf so that the degree could be awarded posthumously. The recommendation from the Board of Research was also tabled for the reference of the board members.

While the board members expressed their sympathy towards the family members, Dr.Pattnaik insisted that the thesis be sent to the evaluator again explaining the scenario and requesting the thesis to be evaluated and recommended if eligible for the award of the degree without defense. Adding to the same, Dr.Deshmukh stated that the academic regulations be amended to accommodate such cases and thereafter if the recommendation body (Board of Research) accepts the case, the Board of Management will certainly approve of the same.

2. A request was made by Dr.Sheela Rani to categorize the Ph.D. degree in the Faculty of Science and Humanities separately as Faculty of Science and Faculty of Humanities, especially for English candidates. The board welcomed the move and approved the same to be applied for the benefit of the candidates.

ITEM NO: 60.4**ITEMS FOR REPORTING BY THE DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION**

The Chairperson called on Dr.Sundari, Director Administration to present the placement details to the board. The placement record was presented to the board as 1396 students out of 1544 eligible students were placed in the 236 companies that had visited the campus with Rs.27 lakhs per annum being the highest package. Also the board was appraised that 151 students were to pursue higher studies and 72 students had registered to become entrepreneurs. Debating on this Dr.Pattnaik appreciated that over 90% of the students were placed, however he also mentioned this as success rate and wanted to know on the percentage of students placed of the total students. The Chair clarified that the data presented was of students who were interested in placement and the others were not interested. It was resolved that the same may be documented for official purpose.

ITEM NO: 60.5**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL**

1. The Vice chancellor placed before the board the minutes of the Academic council for approval. It was highlighted that Universal human values and Design thinking courses were incorporated as per the norms of AICTE.
 2. The Registrar informed the board of the minutes of the Finance committee, underlining the fact that Rs.20 crores was allocated for research and a tentative budget for the next academic year pegged at Rs.214 crores was proposed with a surplus of Rs.15 crores.
 3. The Vice Chancellor requested the approval for the staff recruitments that were carried out in the various departments to fulfil the required faculty ratio and vacancies.
 4. Having acquired A grade in the 2017 NAAC accreditation, the Vice Chancellor appraised the board that all the AQAR reports required for the next assessment (III cycle) were submitted except for the 2020-21 AQAR report which would be submitted in due course.
 5. The Vice Chancellor was happy to inform the board of the 30th convocation which was to be held on 25th September 2021 with 3311 graduands (2783 UG, 386 PG and 142 Ph.D.) and also the informed that the following delegates would be awarded doctorate degree Honoris Causa;
 - Thiru.A.Rajaraman – Director, Sathish Dhawan Space centre, SHAR
 - Thiru G.Ramaguru – Outstanding Scientist, Programme Director, Agni
 - Thiru.S.Xavier Britto – Chairman, Kerry Indev Logistics
 - Dr.M.Jayaraja - Senior Consultant Cardiologist, Surya Hospitals.
 - Thiru.Imman - Music composer and Director
- The Vice Chancellor sought the approval of the board on the above points.

Recommendations of the board:

- Regarding the NIRF rankings, while Dr.Pattnaik appreciated the effort of the institution in working towards upliftment of the rankings, a minor dip in the overall rankings was mentioned and requested the Vice Chancellor to give fullest attention to the same.
- Also Dr.Pattnaik wanted the faculty members to be part of the Vidwan network to get better attention nationwide while Sscore was taking care of the faculty appraisal internally.
- The need for vernacular language degrees to be awarded and promoted was emphasized by Dr.Pattnaik and he requested the Vice Chancellor to form a task force for the same mentioning that the government was keen on funding such initiatives.
- The efforts of the institution in coming up with new programmes which were needed at this hour was appreciated by Dr.Pattnaik and it was also recommended that micro-degrees be initiated for mid career age group of people who lose jobs due to competition. Also he insisted that the ABC of the NEP would enhance this passage.
- With a h-index of 73, Dr.Pattnaik felt that Sathyabama should aim for more international collaboration as this index is more than many of the top institutions index.
- With a magnanimous amount spent by the management towards research, Dr.Pattnaik wanted post doctoral fellowships to be promoted in the institution and also expected Sathyabama to participate in many of the women empowerment schemes of the government.
- The different levels of programmes available in NSQF was tabled by Dr.Pattnaik, replying to which the Chair person mentioned the various programmes that were run by Sathyabama.
- The different strategic PG programmes on data science and other areas was suggested to be initiated by Dr.Pattnaik with the support of core faculty and industrial experts.
- Finally Dr.Pattnaik congratulated the institution and wanted the Vice Chancellor to set benchmarks on h-index yearly. Also Dr.Pattnaik mentioned that the Chancellor and

President were very big hearted in awarding the faculty with cash awards for their research contributions. Also Dr.Pattnaik insisted on initiating many verticals and monitoring them continuously. The Vice President was welcomed by Dr.Pattnaik and requested them to contribute in terms of international contributions.

- Congratulating the entire team on all the accomplishments, Dr.Deshmukh was very much appreciative on the performance of the institution. Also he personally was moved by the contributions made by the management to the government for managing the pandemic situation which proved the societal responsibility of the management.
- Based on the observations of the board, Dr.Deshmukh was happy to categorize Sathyabama as a research intensive institution. Highlighting the presence of the Vice Presidents with international exposure, Dr.Deshmukh envisaged Sathyabama to have joint degrees with foreign institutions in the various programmes.
- Adding to the international collaborations, Dr.Deshmukh wanted Sathyabama to have international supervisors for Ph.D. programme.
- The need for education equitable with inclusive growth was insisted by Dr.Deshmukh and also appreciated the management for the enormous amount of research fund that was allocated. He also indicated the need for industrial collaboration in curriculum. A portal for students of other institutions to opt for the different courses was suggested. The Vice Chancellor indicated that the ODL programmes of the institution attracted foreign students without much advertisement. It was noted by Dr.Deshmukh that the new perspectives required for the growth of the institution would be provided by the young generation Vice Presidents and he also expressed his eagerness to be associated with them in future.
- In the recommendations of Dr.Paul, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and the team were commended for their efforts during these pandemic times. The Vice Presidents were welcomed to the board by Dr.Paul who expected the young minds to bring disruptive ideas to bring about rapid change. Hailing from the healthcare background, Dr.Paul appreciated the initiation of new courses as they were gaining prominence.
- The Rs.20 crore allocation of the management towards research was deeply appreciated and applauded by Dr.Paul, and he expected a zeal to bring about a leap in growth of the institution.
- The ODL programme reach was appreciated by Dr.Pattnaik and he also wanted the twinning programme initiative of AICTE to be implemented by Sathyabama. Also the need for a 5 year road map was insisted. A NAAC score of above 3.26 was to be set as a benchmark by Dr.Pattnaik, as he envisages Sathyabama to be a mentor institution.
- A talk by an industry expert or international faculty was also insisted by Dr.Pattnaik.
- Highlighting the DST fellowship through which two of the faculty members were going abroad, the Vice Chancellor was proud to announce the board that Sathyabama was the only private university to have such honours. The other fellowships awarded to Sathyabama was also brought to the notice of the board by the Vice Chancellor.

The Vice Presidents thanked the board and expected their co-operation in due course. With no other items for discussion, the meeting concluded with the vote of thanks given by the convener, Registrar Dr. S .S. Rao. The Registrar thanked the Board of management members on attending the meeting and providing their valuable time and inputs.