Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Minutes of the IAC meeting held on 4th January, 2011
Time & Venue: 05.00 PM; FB-212

Following members were present:

Prof. S G Dhande, Prof. Sanjay Mittal, Prof. Partha Chakraborty, Prof. S. K. Agarwal, Mr. S S Kashalkar, Prof. Sudhir Kamle, Prof. R Sankaramakrishnan, Prof. Goutam Deo, Prof. R N Mukherjee, Prof. Onkar Dikshit, Prof. M Agarwal, Prof. A Joshi, Prof. L Krishnana, Prof. Dipak Mazumdar, Prof. P K Panigrahi, Prof. P S Ghoshdastidar, Prof. Shanmugraj, Prof. B Bhattacharya, Prof. V Ravishankar, Prof. KS Venkatesh, Mr. Vivek Agarwal, Prof. Zakir Hossain, Dr. B Eshpuniyani

At the outset, the IAC Chairman welcomed all the members. IAC members were informed that the Kakodkar Committee will submit its report by the end of January. It is expected that the Committee is expected to recommend changes in the IIT-Act and is also expected to recommend IITs to focus more on research. It is also likely to propose an extremely powerful BoG comprising members from Industry, academics, senate nominees, alumni and MHRD representative.

Chairman, IAC also made the following announcements. IIT Council meeting and BoG meeting will be held respectively on 21st Jan. 2011 and 5th March 2011. IIT-K Annual Science & Cultural festival will be held during the third week of Feb. IITK Convocation will be held on 28th of May.

The Fact Finding Committee investigating the recent suicide of an IITK student has submitted the report. More detailed discussion of the Committee's report will be held later. Among the recommendations, the Committee suggested that the institute and the halls of residence must take steps to sensitize the students about the complexities of personal relationships. A vibrant canteen with large open space in GH, upgraded common room facility where the students can interact and work on their assignments/projects, appointing residential counselors in halls of residence and counseling at department level are some of suggestions. Any unusual behavior/actions of students must be reported to wardens and counseling service by student body/faculty/instructors/tutors. It was also mentioned the CSE and MSE departments have taken some action at their department level.

DOAA updated the IAC members about the December admission. Among the 87 students offered, 76 joined in the Ph. D. programme. This is 20% increase compared to last year. The total student strength is ~4900. DOSA gave a report of students' accommodation in halls. Increasing space in GH1 was discussed. It is

expected that we may have to accommodate two students in a room in the coming July session. After the completion of Hall-10, the situation is expected to ease. In this connection, all HoDs are requested to make sure that the M.Tech students graduate in time.

DOSA gave a summary of Students Placement Data. Out of 929 students registered in SPO, 70 to 80 students deregistered. It is expected that 50 more companies will come to campus to recruit the students. We do not have the data regarding the percentage of students going for higher studies. All HoDs have been requested to ask their respective placement representatives to collect this data and give this information in June/July. For those students who have secured CPI < 6, the placement coordinators have been asked to come up with suggestions. Soft skill development and communication skills are some of the areas where the students needs to improve themselves. The poor placement of M. Tech students was of particular concern.

All members were thanked for smoothly concluding the selection process related to faculty recruitment and promotion. There has been some concern regarding the frequency of selection committee meeting for the promotion to Professor position. Members were asked to discuss with the faculty members of the respective departments regarding the time for the next Selection Committee meeting for Professor promotion. It was pointed out the IITK faculty strength is ~350 which is the lowest among all IITs. As there are many vacancies, the importance of increasing the faculty strength was stressed. AE, BSBE, CHE and MME departments were encouraged to recruit 4 to 5 new faculty members in the next year, while this figure for other departments is 2 to 3.

Student Gymkhana President explained the proposal to improve the ambiance of academic area. Construction of lounge for students at strategic locations that cover the entire academic area is part of the proposal. Such a facility will encourage interactions between the students and also between the students and faculty. Although several members welcomed this as a good proposal, serious concerns were expressed by some members regarding the possible misuse of wi-fi facility in these lounges. It was also mentioned that the Institute Space Committee will have to decide the space and locations of these lounges. Some of the existing locations were also discussed as possible locations and they include "Reserve Collection" floor in the library and the old SAC library. Redefining the existing canteens was also considered. In principle, the proposal is endorsed by the library.

Students Gymkhana President also briefed the proposal on Campus Ambassadors. This group of student volunteers will be visible at Campus events and also will serve as liaisons between IIT-K students and alumni/institute

visitors. Such an opportunity will help the students to get some exposure. In view of increased number of foreign visitors and exchange students, it was suggested that the Campus must have a Visitor Centre and one or two will manage this office. This proposal was welcomed by the IAC members.

Head, AE explained the ongoing interactions between the Aerospace Engineering department and Texas A&M Univ., USA. This collaborative frame work is in the form of mutually supported internship program, short and long visits of faculty members and joint student guidance. For this purpose, AE wants resources allocated to initiate and sustain such an in initiative. It was felt that any such support by the institute cannot be a single department-specific support and it should be available to every department. The policy that should be followed by every department must be evolved. It was strongly desired that the department must share some expenses. It was also pointed out that under SURGE program, up to three students are supported by the institute as summer interns to work in foreign universities. To begin with, maximum of two students per department can be supported under this initiative. The institute support for a student must be matched by the respective department. Such support should be in the interest of that department. Students within India will be 100% supported. HoDs of the departments were requested to visit other Indian institutions to attract bright students to IIT-K.

A request to provide financial support to participate in student competitions was discussed at length. Members in general welcomed this idea and opined that it will give a broader exposure to the participating students. However, certain members expressed concern that such participation will be shown as one of the reasons for poor academic performance. Mechanism to regulate the student's participation in such competitive events should be evolved at each department. The number of such events and the guideline to support the students to participate in such competitions should be determined in future.

It was brought to the notice of IAC that certain students talk to or communicate by e-mails to the instructors/tutors around examination time in such a way that is likely to influence their eventual grades. It was pointed out by DOAA and others that such students are a very small fraction of total number of students. DOAA cited some examples that some students indulge in such activities because they are really scared. In that context, the importance of tutors attending the lectures was stressed. It was finally decided that there should be "Honor Code" for both the students and the faculty members.

Chairman, IAC informed the members that the "Department Advisory Committee" discussed in the last IAC meeting will be renamed as "Department Networking Committee". He again emphasized that constituting such committee is likely to help in students placement, industry interaction and getting large projects.

(Prof. R. Sankararamakrishnan)
Convener, IAC

(Prof. S. G. Dhande)
Chairman, IAC