

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 (WEDNESDAY) AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, LODI ROAD, NEW DELHI**

**Members Present:**

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| 1. Ms. Kiran Dhingra, IAS (Retd.)                              | In Chair |
| 2. Mr. Sunil Sethi, President, Fashion Design Council of India | Member   |
| 3. Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Poppys Knitwear Pvt. Ltd.       | Member   |
| 4. Ms. Namita Chowdhary  | Member   |
| 5. Mr. P.K. Gera, DG-NIFT                                      | Member   |

**Members Absent:**

The following members were granted Leave of Absence.

1. Mr. N.K. Singh, Hon'ble M.P. Rajya Sabha
2. Ms. Priya Dutt, Hon'ble M.P. Lok Sabha
3. Ms. Darshana Jardosh, Hon'ble MP Lok Sabha
4. Ms. Sunaina Tomar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles
5. Mr. Pradyumna Vyas, Director, National Institute of Design
6. Ms. Anita Agnihotri, SS & FA, Ministry of Textiles
7. Ms. Veena Ish, Joint Secretary (Admn.), Ministry of HRD
8. Ms. Kavita Bhartia, M/s Ogaan
9. Mr. Sabyasachi Mukerjee, Fashion Designer, Sabyasachi Couture.
10. Mr. William Bissell, Managing Director, Fabindia Overseas Pvt. Ltd

**AGENDA ITEM NO.2401**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 23<sup>RD</sup> BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG) MEETING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 (FRIDAY) AT 11.00 A.M. AT INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, NEW DELHI.**

The Board Secretary informed the member of the Board that the minutes of previous meeting had been circulated among them for their comments. Since no comments had been received, the Board approved the Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of BOG.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.2402**

**Action Taken Report on 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BOG held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2013**

The Board took note of the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Board of Governors.

## **AGENDA NO 2403**

### **ENHANCEMENT OF SEATS FOR RESIDENTS OF J&K FROM 35% TO 50% IN ALL COURSES OF NIFT, SRINAGAR.**

DG-NIFT briefed the members of the Board on the background of the Agenda note. He also informed that NIFT had obtained a legal opinion that confirmed that the enhanced reservation to domiciled applicants of J&K was horizontal reservation that would not violate the reservation policy of the Central Government. He recounted that in consideration of the special conditions prevalent in J&K, the PMO had asked the Ministry of Textiles to fund 50% of the cost of setting up of campus, while Government of J&K would provide the remaining fund. In view of these special considerations, the Board had earlier agreed to make an exception from its policy of seat allocations and accommodated the request of Government of J&K to enhance reservation of domiciled applicants to 35% of seats as against 20% given to other states. J&K State had now, even though no admissions had yet been made, asked for an increase of the reserved seats for state domiciled students from 35% to 50%.

The Board took note of the fact that this request had been considered at length in an earlier meeting, and it had been decided to request the state Government to begin with 35% and seek reconsideration if the response of state domiciled students was positive enough to fill the 35% quota and still leave a banked demand. After detailed deliberations, the Board felt that it had no new reasons to change its decision. In order that the quotas did not erode the availability of seats for the all India general candidates, NIFT had accommodated the state demand for domiciled seats by increasing class size. A 35% quota already strained the student: teacher norms to the edge of efficiency. An increase to 50% would almost certainly effect the quality of teaching, dilute the standards of NIFT education and lead to loss of brand equity, or require a second grouping of students, with enormous repercussions on faculty costs as well as infrastructure requirements. The demand of the state government also carried the possibility of financial losses in case the reserved seats remained vacant, which, by current data availability of the number of J&K students appearing for the entrance test, seemed highly likely. It noted, moreover, that in case the demand of J&K for enhancement of reservation was agreed to, the other states, which were providing 100% funding, would almost certainly start demanding enhanced reservation.

The Board further took note of the DG's statement that NIFT would be in a position by summer 2014 to implement the new policy decision of the Board in regard to the starting of temporary campuses only with short term, certificate and diploma courses, holding back on the regular degree courses till the permanent campus and full infrastructure was made available. The temporary campus of J&K was expected to start in 2014, and would run only such short term, certificate and 2 year diploma courses. The Board noted that the industry in J&K looked forward to such short term courses, and gave consideration to the point that such courses were likely to prove more attractive to state candidates from being shorter, cheaper and suitable to in-industry candidates. The Board therefore, recommended that while in the regular degree courses it would reiterate its earlier decision of a 35% quota, it would agree to a 50% quota for state domiciled candidates in short term, certificate and diploma courses, provided that J&K government agreed to bear the financial loss of the institute for such reserved as remained vacant.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.2404**

### **SECOND STATUTES OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY**

The Board Secretary and the Registrar informed that as desired by the Board in the last meeting, a comparative statement in the tabular format showing existing and revised statutes has been forwarded to all member for perusal. The agenda note circulated an improved version of the Statutes tabulated after receiving specific directions of the legislative committee of the Rajya Sabha. These were not available when the previous version was circulated to all members after the last meeting. The members felt that it is a voluminous document that needed clause-by-clause approval. The Chairperson suggested to the Board to form an empowered Committee of the Board to study the entire document and give approval on behalf of the Board. This Committee of the Board may comprise of the following members :

- a) Ms. Kiran Dhingra, Chairperson, BOG
- b) Ms. Sunaina Tomar, Joint Secretary, MOT Member of BOG
- c) Ms. Namita Chowdhary, Member, BOG
- d) Dr. A. Sakthivel, Member, BOG
- e) Mr. P.K. Gera, DG NIFT Member, BOG
- f) Registrar & Board Secretary,

The Registrar & Board Secretary would be the coordinator of the meetings of the Committee. With concurrence of the members, the Chairperson decided to hold the first meeting of the Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Goa.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2305**

### **REVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES (CEP) POLICY 2013 OF NIFT**

Prof. Shalini Sud, Head (CEP) informed the Board that subsequent to the discussion that took place during last meeting, the concerns expressed had been incorporated to ensure the quality of the programme. There would be a ceiling of 03 hrs/week for the faculty taking classes in CEP which were organised during the day. This would ensure availability of faculty for teaching in the regular programmes. This would ensure that the quality of deliverance was maintained in the regular as well as in the CEP. She also placed before Board, a two way monitoring system for the programme that would be supervised by the Program Evaluation Committee (PEC) at the Campus and HO level. All CE proposals would be routed through PEC (Programme Evaluation Committee) which is headed by the Campus Director and senior members of faculty/ industry/ Chairperson of the Academic department who would monitor and review the CEP. At Head Office level, the Standing Internal Advisory Committee (SIAC) for CEP headed by Dean (A) would evaluate and monitor the programmes offered by various campuses. The Head (CEP) further explained that the word 'Chapter' had been replaced by Ordinance (O) and all points rephrased suitably. This would facilitate incorporating it in the Ordinance which were under preparation. The Board accepted the revised CE policy with a condition that this should be brought before the Board for a review after a year of its implementation.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2306**

##### **DIPLOMA PROGRAMME POLICY (DPP) OF NIFT**

Prof. Shalini Sud, Head (DPP), briefly described the objective/purposes of introducing the diploma programs. This included making available NIFT education to students who saw their future in fashion technology but could not meet the rigors of the NIFT entrance exam for degree courses, or were keen to study in a course/campus of their choice, but were edged out by the stiff competition of the degree courses. This also included improving the financial viability of the institutes by optimum utilization of the available infrastructure, faculty and other resources, without diluting the brand equity of the NIFT degree programs. The Board of Governors had approved in its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 18-03-2011, 18-diploma programs, which were circulated to the Campuses. Some Campus Director had expressed interest to launch the programs. They could not do so due to lack of a framework policy to make it operational. Announcement for admission in the diploma programs could begin in 2014, around the time the admission process for degree courses was over.

The Board approved the policy with a condition that the ceiling prescribed in terms of teaching hours as provided in CE policy in agenda item no. 2306 would apply in Diploma programs as well. The Board expressed its desired to review the policy after a year of its operation.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2307**

##### **NIFT LATERAL ENTRY ADMISSION (NLEA) POLICY FOR ADMISSION**

Prof. Suhail Anwar, Head (Academic Affairs) briefly explained the policy and need for proposed amendments. The Board accepted and approved the proposed amendments to NIFT Lateral Entry Admission (NLEA) policy for Admission from 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester of Regular UG programmes of NIFT.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2308**

##### **MODIFICATION IN MODERATION POLCY IN NIFT EXAM**

Prof. Suhail Anwar, Head (Academic Affairs) briefly explained the moderation policy in NIFT exam and submitted two options for consideration of the Board.

The Board after due deliberation approved the proposal at "b" in the Agenda.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2309**

##### **RECONSTITUTION OF STATE LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SLAC) FOR NIFT PATNA**

The Board approved the proposal for reconstitution of the SLAC of NIFT Patna Campus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2310****ENGAGEMENT OF NIFT FACULTY ON CONTRACT BASIS BEYOND THEIR RETIREMENT**

The Board approved the proposal for engagement of Shri Alokesh Ray, Assistant Professor, NIFT Kolkata and Ms. Rebecca Philip, Professor with NIFT Mumbai for a period of three years from the date of their attaining the age of superannuation on the existing terms and conditions. In view of the acute shortage of experienced faculty, the Board suggested that NIFT may consider seeking extension of retirement age from 60 to 65 for faculty. While putting up a proposal, it may take note of the prevailing government guidelines on this subject.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2311****REIMBURSEMENT OF OPD EXPENSES ABOVE OPD CEILING IN R/O SHRI RAJ SINGH, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ADMISSIONS), NIFT HEAD OFFICE**

The Board approved the recommendations of F&AC for reimbursement of OPD expenses to Shri Raj Singh on and above the prescribed ceiling. The Board also agreed to consider a proposal for delegation of reimbursement powers to the DG.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2312****APPROVAL OF CREATION OF ADDITIONAL POSTS FOR NIFT KANNUR AND PATNA**

The Chairperson of the Board felt that the information given in the Agenda was inadequate to considered it for approval. She suggested that all such proposals may be placed before the Standing Committee of the Board on Establishment matters, before seeking approval of the Board.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2313****STATUS REPORT ON ADMISSIONS – 2013**

The Board noted the Status of Admission 2013 and appreciated that there is an increase of seats by 16.50%.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2314****ANNUAL WORK PLAN (AWP) OF SH. PREM KUMAR GERA, DG-NIFT**

The Board noted the annual work plan of DG-NIFT. It noted also as anomalous that it had no role in the appraisal of the DG's performance in respect of this annual plan, or otherwise, if the Ministry of Textiles had decided that the Performance appraisal of the DG and review of the performance of all those whose performance appraisal was recorded by the DG was to be done by the Textiles Secretary.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2315**

**RESULT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT (RFD) OF THE NIFT FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014**

The Board noted without offering any comments.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2316**

**IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEMS REGARDING STUDENT AFFAIRS AS PLACED BEFORE THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2013**

The Board noted the decisions of AAC without offering any comments.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2317**

**PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF NIFT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

Mr. Sanjay Jain, PE (Building) apprised the members about the progress of the ongoing construction projects at various campuses of NIFT. The Board directed that the progress report may be submitted in the tabular format.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2318**

**TAKING NOTE OF THE MINUTES ON 23<sup>RD</sup> AND 24<sup>TH</sup> FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE NIFT HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2013 AND 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2013 RESPECTIVELY.**

The Minutes of three meetings of F & AC Committee were placed before the board for ratification. The Chairperson of the Board said that the F&AC, AAC and Establishment Committee were the sub-committees of the Board and the agenda with decisions/recommendations of the subcommittees need to be placed before the Board for consideration/ approval.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2319**

**TAKING NOTE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SENATE OF THE NIFT HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013.**

The Board noted without offering any comments.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2320**

**TAKING NOTE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE NIFT HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2013 & 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2013 RESPECTIVELY.**

The Board referred to its decision put up for ratification in Agenda item 2318. The item was treated as withdrawn.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2321**

**TAKING NOTE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE NIFT HELD ON 02<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

The Board referred its decision put up for ratification in Agenda Item No. 2318. The item was treated as withdrawn.

**TABLE AGENDAS**

1. **TAKING NOTE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE NIFT HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013.**
1. **PROPOSAL FOR 15% NRI SEATS AS SUPERNUMERARY SEATS TO PARTIALLY STATE FUNDED NIFT CAMPUS APPROVAL FOR CIRCULATION.**
2. **CREATION OF ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS AT NIFT KANGRA.**

The above tabled Agenda could not be discussed due to paucity of time.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.