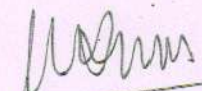


February

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
(BOG) HELD AT 12.30 PM ON ~~SEPTEMBER~~ 24, 2004 IN THE
CONFERENCE HALL OF HOTEL SHIVALIK VIEW, SECTOR 17-E,
CHANDIGARH

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Sh.Y.S.Rajan
Vice Chancellor & Chairman, BOG
Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar | Chairman |
| Sh.B.R.Bajaj
Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab
Department of Finance
Civil Secretariat
Chandigarh | Member |
| Sh.J.B. Goel
Secretary to Govt. of Punjab
Deptt. of Technical Education
Mini Secretariat
Chandigarh | Member |
| Sh.S.K. Bijlani
Representative of President, CII
Northern Region
Chandigarh | Member |
| Sh.Chandra Mohan
Chairman
Twenty First Century Battery Limited
C-183, Industrial Focal Point, Phase-VIII B
Mohali | Member |
| Dr.R.S.Khandpur
Director General
Pushpa Gujral Science City
SCO 60-61, 3 rd Floor, Sector 34-A
Chandigarh | Member |
| Dr.M.S. Grewal, Registrar, PTU | Member-Secretary |
| Special Invitee: | |
| Sh.Anupam Gupta, Advocate
Standing Counsel, PTU
House No.68
Sector 8-A
Chandigarh | |


25/2/04



Prof. Prem Vrat
Director
Indian Institute of Technology
Roorkee

Gave written input

Sh.Lakshminarayana
Regional Officer
North-West Committee
All India Council for Technical Education
(Representative of AICTE)

Gave written input

Agenda-1 Introductory Remarks:

Sh.Y.S.Rajan, Chairman, BOG and Vice Chancellor, PTU welcomed the members to the 12th Meeting and thanked them for attending the meeting at a short notice. He regretted the short notice and inconvenience and thanked the members present and also those who had sent in their written comments, as they could not attend.

Chairman introduced Dr. M.S.Grewal, Registrar, PTU who had joined recently. The Chairman also introduced Sh. Anupam Gupta, Standing Counsel of the PTU, who had been specially invited to provide legal opinion on any matter on which the BOG may like to have clarifications.

The Chairman briefly introduced the emergency situation which had led him to call the meeting, including the communication from Principal Secretary, Technical Education conveying the decision of Council of Ministers and related correspondence included in the Agenda. He mentioned that issues would be covered by the Registrar/Member-Secretary in his presentation comprehensively.

Agenda-2 Confirmation of the minutes of the 11th Meeting of the BOG. Since there are no comments received, BOG confirmed the minutes of 11th Meeting.

Agenda-3 Repeat chances for B.Tech 2001 Batch students.
Registrar's Presentation traced.

3.1 Background of representations from B.Tech students of 2001 batch of the University (Feb 2004) & Hon'ble Technical Education Minister leading to communication dated 5.2.2004 from Department of Technical Education regarding implementation of the 24-Credit rule for this batch and immediate compliance by PTU, and Chairman BOG & VC's response to Principal Secretary, Tech. Education, Punjab dated 7.2.2004. (These letters and communications also



formed a part of the Agenda) & further followed by another communication from D.T.E dated 13.2.2004 its reply dated 16.2.2004 and VC's letter dated 16.2.2004 to the BOG Members

3.2 He then moved on to inform of the agitation by students of B.Tech (2001 batch) which began on 17.2.2004 caused damage to PTU property went on hunger strike, etc,etc.

3.3 He explained 24-Credit rule and 1 to 5, 2 to 6 rule referring to the relevant documents (copies of these details were also available to the BOG Members as a part of the Agenda papers).

3.4 Demands for which the students were agitating were then covered (copies of the appeals from the students were also available to the BOG Members as a part of the Agenda papers). The salient ones are as follows:

3.4.1 Even though they had failed to qualify as per the Rules applicable to B.Tech 2001 Batch (1st & 2nd Semesters in the 4 attempts), they should be permitted to continue their studies in their 6th and subsequent Semesters, based on their having earned 24 Credits for the first 2 Semesters even with additional repeat attempts. Promotion of these students should not be stopped.

3.4.2 There should be no detention for reasons of shortage in attendance.


3.4.3 Mercy chance be given to those students who had failed to earn 24 Credits.

3.5 He explained about 24-Credit Rule.

1. It was applicable only to the earlier B.Tech Batches (before 2001 Batch)

2. Also the 24 Credits had to be earned within the first year itself without which they will not be allowed to pursue the 3rd Semester.

3.6 He further explained that even though the Academic regulations were well structured, clear and communicated to colleges, their application was lax. Tightening up process only began from the Dec. 2002 as a follow up of the 11th Meeting of Academic Council. BOG also desired that

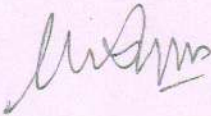


the Academic Rules should be strictly enforced as an important step for ensuring quality education.

3.7 In September, 2003 B.Tech students of 2001 Batch were given a one time relaxation on recommendation of the Saxena Committee in that those students who had not cleared the 1st Semester were allowed to register for the 5th Semester provided they had earned 24 Credits till then. This was a one time measure without being quoted as a precedent. The Academic Council in its 12th Meeting discussed the matter in detail and was of the firm view that academic system should not be impaired and reiterated its earlier decision not to give any relaxation in the academic regulations in the interest of academic standard. The Council fully supported the efforts being made by the Vice Chancellor in adhering to the academic regulations and desired that we should continue these efforts and no further relaxation should be made in 2 to 6 rules for B.Tech for 2001 Batch. It was also made very clear that those who do not pass 2nd Semester will not be allowed to go into the 6th Semester.

3.8 Students who had failed to pass their 2nd Semester had again come for a relaxation and wanted implementation of the 24-Credit Rule (with an interpretation that it will encompass all attempts done by them so far for the first 2 Semesters) rather than the Rule applicable to them. The statistics showed that even after 4 attempts the failure rate among these repeaters was approx. 55%. Details of the data regarding the students and their performance in the 1st, 3rd and 4th Semesters have been included in the Agenda. It was noted that most of those who have failed in the 4th attempt of the 2nd Semester have also failed in 1st, 3rd and 4th Semesters as well. The Registrar also presented an analysis of performance of the students. Of the total students ineligible to continue their studies in the 6th Semester as per the current Rule, approximately 90% had failed to clear their 3rd Semester. The failure rate in the 4th Semester exam was also 90%. Further, out of these very students (ineligible to register for 6th Semester) about 53% had their first Semester pending to be cleared.

3.9 He mentioned a similar analogy from the non-B.Tech stream, in case of students who wanted to avail of mercy chances even after the University had closed the mercy chance regime after a one time relaxation given in early 2003 with no precedence. These students undergoing course wanted to appear in December, 2003 examinations as a mercy chance as given earlier. Since the University made it very clear that there would be no more mercy chances for

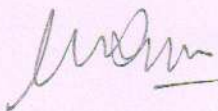


anybody for such course beyond one given in mid-2003, the University had rejected their mercy appeal. These students had gone to court against the University for rejecting their appeal. He informed that the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court had finally dismissed the writ petitions and in fact asked the University to file an affidavit on the reasons why even such one-time deviation was permitted (copies of the judgment of the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court and the affidavit filed by the University were tabled as a part of Agenda papers to the BOG).

He mentioned that this spirit and approach of the law must also be kept in mind while considering similar issues relating to the B.Tech 2001 Batch.

3.10 Speaking on behalf of CII & the Industry Mr.S.K. Bijlani moved beyond the mere issue of legalities etc, and raised the dominant importance of the quality of Education.

A. He said that that this was an issue for which industry is concerned. Professional quality in manpower can come only from high quality technical education. In his opinion implementation of 24-Credit rule would be a retrograde step, adversely affecting quality of education and in turn employability of graduate engineers. He emphasized that industry was a stakeholder in technical education and had an important role to play in bringing about awareness and commitment for quality assurance in technical education. HRD was and is one of strong areas of India but quality technical professional manpower and its deteriorating quality is the real concern for Indian Industry. The industry was observing, with concern, general manifestation of degradation of quality and very strongly felt that if it continued unchecked would have irrecoverable effects in today's globally competitive environment. He urged immediate action by Punjab in this direction, if it did not want to be left behind. Since within the country itself, Punjab was low in the reckoning and it has to look up fast. He emphasized the need for urgent, positive and visible response by the Education System by keeping up quality standards. The quality of education, especially technical education and skills of the workforce defines the cutting edge of a Country's competitive advantage. To survive in a competitive environment, Indian Industry will have to maintain very high standards of quality, cost, reliability and service. In this effort, Industry will need creative and competent people, to



provide critical intellectual input. All stakeholders in technical education have an important role to play in bringing about awareness and commitment for quality assurance in technical education. In this context, any relaxation of rules will be a totally retrograde step. The quality of education would be adversely affected and this in turn would effect the employability of the students.

- B. In order to achieve the above there are two steps that we must take:
- a. Degree-level technical education is the responsibility of PTU and must be free from interference, of any type, by Centre/State Governments.
 - b. PTU must strive to bring in quality.
 - c. Our students must be put to rigorous training and testing so that they graduate as higher quality professionals.
 - d. We should not relax on the rules of PTU, rather we must restructure even stricter rules and implement these.
 - e. The decision on formulation and implementation of rules should be left to the academic judgment of the BOG rather than any other body.

3.11. As a known major user of technically qualified professionals in the Region, Mr. Chandra Mohan mentioned about the quality of the professionals being churned out by Punjab Institutions. He emphasized that not only must there be no relaxation, but qualifying rules must be tightened year after year as was being done across the globalized world for survival. Punjab's basic raw material is food, now what is missing is the Quality of Education.

3.12 The University's Standing Counsel, Sh. Anupam Gupta, who had been requested to attend the Meeting as a Special Invitee in view of the legal implications of the matter under consideration, took the BOG through the relevant provisions of the PTU Act. He also apprised the Board of the outcome of the various writ petitions filed in the High Court for a "mercy chance", especially the judgment dated Feb 9, 2004 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in CWP No.17596 of 2003, **Gurpreet Kaur & others versus PTU & others**, wherein the



jurisdiction and powers of various University authorities under the PTU Act have also been examined.

Sh.Gupta did not, however, participate in the decision(s) taken.

3.13 Dr.R.S.Khandpur enquired as to what would happen to these 700 odd students who had failed to clear their 2nd Semester. The Registrar informed the Board that as per the existing Rules, they may continue attempts to pass their lower Semesters (1st to 5th) without any restriction. The earliest they could join 6th Semester was only in August next year. However, they would have to complete their studies of B.Tech in a total, maximum span of six years from the date of admission to the course.

3.14 The Board noted that about 3100 students of 2001 Batch were pursuing their studies of B.Tech course without any problem. They had cleared all their first year subjects within the available number of repeat chances. Through diligent work and concerted effort. They were aspiring to become high quality professionals. The Board also noted that the number of students who had failed to earn eligibility to their 6th Semester was around 700 and almost all of them had shown rather poor performance in their studies in the last two year. The Board noted that failure meant inability to clear one or more subjects of a particular Semester. The Board was deeply concerned about the poor performance in lower Semesters and expressed doubts over the competence of the failed students to understand rather complex subjects of higher Semesters. The Board took cognizance of letters received from Prof. Prem Vrat, Director, IIT, Roorkee (Member) and Sh.S.Lakshminarayana, Regional Officer NWRO, AICTE, Chandigarh (Member). The BOG noted with concern the damage done to PTU property by the students and also the attempts at disrupting the colleges from their normal working.

3.15 After receiving clarifications from Mr.Anupam Gupta on his exposition of the legal position, the members were unanimous on the following;

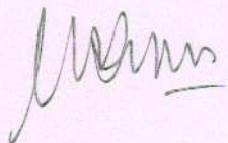
- (a) It was abundantly clear that BOG was the agency for all decisions relating to PTU & there was no provision which makes it mandatory for PTU to accept any directions of the Govt. or any other Body. Punjab Govt. does not have jurisdiction in directing PTU to adopt certain rules.



- (b) There is an imperative need for PTU to urgently raise the Academic Standards of Punjab students to global levels so that Punjab can maintain the leadership position which it has occupied in the country for the last 4 decades and truly let its globally-renowned entrepreneurial capability flow into modern knowledge activities of research & development, industry, business and other technical and economic activities.
- (c) Going by its own resolve not to have any further relaxations than those which were allowed as one time measure during the year 2003, also noting the issues relating to perceptions and requirement of industry as spelt out earlier and also keeping in view the observations and decisions of the Court in mind (referred to above), it was obligatory for PTU not to allow any relaxation or deviation in any of the academic rules any more.

3.16 Hence the Board unanimously arrived at the following conclusions:

- a) Permitting the students, who had failed to clear their 2nd Semester, to continue with their studies was not in the interest of quality technical education PTU was striving for.
- b) It was also not in the interest of the affected students is their backlog as already heavy and they should endeavour to clear their backlog first and then only proceed further.
- c) The Board would permit the students to take reappears as per the applicable academic regulations.
- d) The students must clear their 2nd Semester before they are permitted to register for the 6th Semester whenever it is offered next on a regular basis.
- e) Having considered decisions of various Academic Council meetings, correspondence made by the University, correspondence made by the Directorate of Technical Education, Punjab and students' representations, the Board is of the view that the 24-Credit rule was neither applicable nor could be applied to the B.Tech students of 2001 Batch. The 1 to 5, 2 to 6 rules have been adequately notified by the University well in time for the 2001 B.Tech Batch at all levels and had been reiterated several times in clear terms.



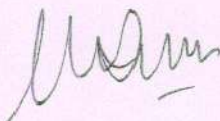
- f) The Board, expressed concern over the State Govt. taking a decision (to implement the 24-Credit rule) which it had no statutory power to take. The Board was absolutely clear that the supreme authority of the University was the BOG of the University and the competence to take decisions on the matters of the University was with the BOG alone. Such instructions were in clear transgression of the provisions of the PTU Act and the regulations of the University.
- g) Having reviewed the need of the day in terms of Human Resource Development it was decided further that PTU must tighten its rules and regulations further so that the Quality of the Professionals turned out by it can rapidly move to global standard. The tightening process must begin from the admissions for 2004 Batch onwards for making the rules and regulations even stricter such as reducing the number of attempts/reappears, etc. Input standards would also need upgradation and these should be done at the earliest.
- h) The Board directed the officers of the University to take appropriate administrative action to safeguard PTU property and personnel.

Agenda-4 **Any other matter with the permission of the Chair**

4.1 The Registrar made a presentation on two cases where the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court had adjourned the case asking the University to consider the representation of the petitioners in two separate petitions and take appropriate decision keeping in view the case of Mr.Kuljit Singh. Copies of the High Court orders were tabled during the meeting.

4.2 Case of Mr.Kuljit Singh

Mr.Kuljit Singh had himself suffered from brain tumour close his 4th Semester exams. By then, within 2 years of study, he had cleared all his 1st year subjects, failed to clear 3 subjects of 3rd Semester and could not take exams of 4th Semester. His performance deteriorated suddenly and he had to be operated upon. The recovery did take time. Suffering from such a dreaded disease at so young an age Mr.Kuljit Singh fought well. He was handicapped and hospitalized for a long time. Because his brain was affected



and partly removed, his studies could not be recommenced immediately.

His case was considered sympathetically by the then Vice Chancellor and he was permitted two years extension of time limit only on grounds of grave illness.

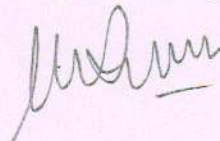
4.3 Case of Mr.Gurpreet Singh

The petitioner took admission in Mechanical Engineering at Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of Engineering, Ferozepur in 1997. His course studies (4 years) were completed in June, 2001. He had one subject viz. Maths III of the 3rd Semester still pending. He completed his total time limit of 6 years, available as per the regulations for B.Tech, in June, 2003. On 30 Sept. 2003, Mr.Gurpreet Singh had submitted an application that due to regular illness of his mother he could not prepare properly for the last chance.

His mother, Paramjit Kaur, was operated for cancer of right breast on 06 March, 2003 and discharged from the hospital on 09 March, 2003. She had to undergo radio therapy from 17 June, 2003 to 02 August, 2003. It was brought to the notice of the Board that over by the time the therapy of Mrs.Paramjit Kaur started, the exam for the 3rd Semester was over. The Board took notice of the fact that the documentary evidence showed that the individual may be preoccupied but was not handicapped.

4.4 Case of Mr.Gagandeep Singh

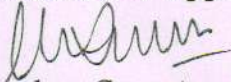
Mr.Gagandeep Singh was admitted to Electronics & Communication Engineering in August 1997 at Baba Bhandu Singh College of Engineering & Technology, Fatehgarh Sahib. He suffered from jaundice in September 1997 and was advised bed rest from 22 Sept. 1997 to 06 Oct 1997. He had been treated at PGI, for this ailment during the above period. The petitioner has not submitted proof of any other sickness. He completed his total time limit of 6 years, available as per the regulations for B.Tech, in June, 2003. However, on 02 Aug., 2003 he procured a certificate to claim as having suffered from lower back pain and stiffness of lower dorsal spine. This medical certificate has been given by Dr.Harbans Lal Bansal of Patiala. The doctor was telephonically contacted by the Registrar and has confirmed that the illness of back is not related to any jaundice attack he might have had. The student has suffered from the back pain only towards the last 3 months of the total period of 6 years. The Board took cognizance of




the fact that Mr.Gagandeep Singh was using this as a pretext to cover his inability to clear pending reappear.

- 4.5 It could be seen that both these cases were quite different from that of Mr Kuljit Singh and would have to be considered independently on their merit. The registrar brought to the notice of the board that while the petitioners had referred to cases permitted to avail of one-time mercy chance in May/June 2003, such a chance was not given to any of the engineering students. He further brought to the notice of the Board of Governors that the Academic Council in its 11th Meeting while giving mercy chance to the students of the Management Courses had reiterated that there would be no relaxation in the maximum period already fixed for completing the study programme either in Management Courses or in Engineering Courses (in which no mercy chance was given).
- 4.6 The Board members deliberated on the issue of giving additional time in two cases and it was decided that permitting these students to continue their studies beyond the maximum time limit set under the regulations would be as good as a mercy chance and would undermine the efforts made by the Academic Council and the BOG in the direction of implementation of the regulations. It would invite ill-conceived sympathy masquerades degenerating the system and would be apt to private benevolence. Any relaxation in these two cases would tend to invite several other cases citing these as a precedent.
- 4.7 The Board, therefore, regretted its inability to accept the representations made by the writ petitioners.

Submitted for approval



(Member-Secretary)
25.02.2004



(Chairman)
Board of Governors

5/2/04