

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SILCHAR

SIXTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The 66th meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 12th July, 2023 at 1600 hours in NIT Transit House, New Delhi via hybrid mode. The following members were present in the meeting:

1. Sri Gautam N Mehra, Ex – officio Chairman
2. Prof. Dillip Kumar Baidya, Director & Ex – Officio Member
3. Ms. Veena Dunga, Under Secretary (NIT), Ministry of Education
4. Sri Anil Kumar, Director (IFD), Ministry of Education
5. Prof. S. K. Kakoty, Professor, IIT Guwahati
6. Prof. P. K. Patowari, NIT Silchar
7. Prof. Krishna Lal Baishnab, Registrar (i/c) & Member Secretary, FC

Sri Gautam N Mehra presided the meeting of the Finance Committee as Ex – Officio Chairman, Finance Committee in accordance with Statute 10 of First Statute of NITs.

At the outset, Prof. K. L. Baishnab welcomed the Ex – Officio Chairman, Finance Committee and other members who attended the meeting.

The FC then initiated the discussion on the Agenda Items one by one: -

FC-66/23/01 **To confirm the minutes of the 63rd Meeting of Finance Committee.**
Sixty third meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 7th October, 2022 via video conferencing. The minutes of the meeting is circulated to all members of the Finance Committee and is placed at **Annexure - I**.

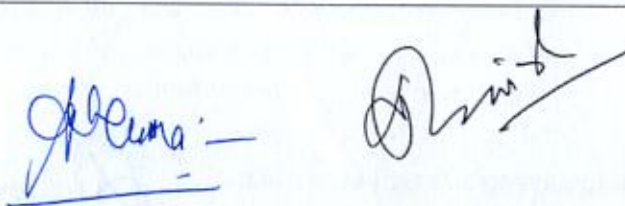
Comments, if any received will be placed before the Committee on the day of the meeting

The Committee is requested to confirm the minutes of 63rd meeting of the Finance Committee.

DECISION

One of the Honourable Members of the Committee has raised his / her concern for not confirming the minutes of the 63rd meeting of the Finance Committee in the subsequent 64th and 65th Finance Committee held on 31st January 2023 and 29th March 2023 respectively, despite minutes of 64th Finance Committee confirmed on 65th Finance Committee. It was brought to the notice of the Committee that the then Director & Ex – officio Member of the Finance Committee was in charge Director of the Institute and he was not willing to confirm the minutes.

The Committee after discussion confirmed the minutes of 63rd meeting of the Finance Committee and instructed the institute to refrain from such misappropriations.



FC-66/23/02 **To confirm the minutes of the 65th meeting of Finance Committee**
Sixty Fifth meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 29th March, 2023 at New Delhi on hybrid mode. The Minutes of the 65th meeting of the Finance Committee was circulated to all the members of the Committee (**Annexure – II**). No comments were received from any members of the Committee.

The Committee is requested to confirm the minutes of 65th meeting of the FC.

DECISION

The Committee confirmed the minutes of 65th meeting of the Finance Committee.

FC-66/23/03 **To discuss on the Action Taken Report on decision of the 63rd Meeting of Finance Committee.**

The action taken report on the minutes of 63rd meeting of FC is placed at **Annexure – III**. The Committee is requested to take note of the same.

DECISION

The Committee noted the Action Taken Report on decision of the 63rd meeting of Finance Committee.

FC-66/23/04 **To discuss on the Action Taken Report on decision of the 65th Meeting of Finance Committee.**

The action taken report on the minutes of 64th meeting of FC is placed at **Annexure – IV**. The Committee is requested to take note of the same.

DECISION

The Committee noted the Action Taken Report on decision of the 65th meeting of Finance Committee.

FC-66/23/05 **Annual Allocation of National Institute of Technology Silchar for the Financial Year 2023 - 24.**

The Ministry of Education vide letter F. No. 36-1/2023-TS.III dated 03.05.2023 (**Annexure – V**) has forwarded the tentative annual allocation of fund of NIT Silchar and instructed to place it before the FC / BoG.

The Committee is requested to note the same.

DECISION

The Committee noted Annual Allocation of National Institute of Technology Silchar for the Financial Year 2023 - 24.

FC-66/23/06 **Regarding the release of payment to the firm for the procurement of 182 laptops**

The matter was placed before the FC in its 60th meeting and while confirming the minutes of 60th meeting the FC in its 62nd meeting scheduled on 11.08.2022 resolved the following:

It was explained before the Committee that in the tender documents it was mentioned that the firms with MII and MSE certificate will only be given preference. Only two firms participated in the tender process and both the firm does not have valid MII or MSE certificate.

Out of the two firms the work was awarded to M/s Real Soft Corporation India as the said firm was L1. Further the L1 firm does not have MII certificate and the MSE certificate submitted by the firm was not valid.

In view of above, the Committee opined to release 50% of payment to the awarded firm and refer the matter to Ministry of Education for their observation and comments for next course of action

Again, in the 63rd meeting of FC scheduled on 07.10.2022 while confirming the minutes of 62nd meeting of FC the committee resolved the following:

Regarding agenda item No. FC-60/22/04 i.e. "Release of payment to the firm for procurement of 182 Laptops", the members of the Finance Committee decided that the institute should frame a Committee of Senior Professors who will investigate the matter and submit their report on the same. Decision will be taken based on the report of the Committee. The Director is authorised to frame the Committee

Accordingly, the Director has constituted a committee, the report of the Committee will be placed on the table on the day of the meeting.

The Committee is requested to peruse the report and give decision.

DECISION

The Committee resolved that the responsibility for the irregularity is to be identified and to be reported in the ensuing meeting of the Finance Committee. Since the awarded Firm is technically qualified and the laptop supplied by the firm is in use, the committee recommends to release necessary payment to the firm.

FC-66/23/07

Procurement of Active items (Access switches) through GeM by relaxing the Make in India (MII) clause

As per recommendation of FC-58/21/04 and approval of BoG-87/22/10, Rs. 164 lakhs was allotted to Central Computer Center (CCC), NIT Silchar for completing the LAN connectivity at various locations of the institute. Of the ₹ 164 lakhs, ₹ 61 lakhs approx. was allotted for procurement of active items (access switches), ₹ 39 lakhs approx. for the procurement of passive items (cables, fibers, patch cords) and ₹ 64 lakhs approx. for the procurement of service and installation of passive items. At present, the status is as follows:

S.No	Items	Budget Allocated (₹)	Procurement Status	Remarks
1	Active Items (16 port access switches, 24 port access switches and 48 port access switches)	61 lakhs approx.	Tendering was done through GeM keeping the MII clause (Bidders were not technically complied and	The institute is unable to procure active items due to MII clause as the MII compliant switches have compatibility and synchronization issues with the

			hence bid had to be cancelled).	existing network protocols.
2	Passive Items (UTP cables, fiber cables, UTP patch cords, racks, UTP Patch panels, LIU etc.)	39 lakhs approx.	Procured and delivered through GeM.	MII compliant clause followed.
3	Service and installation of passive items	64 lakhs approx.	Tendering done through GeM is in process (Technical bid evaluation completed, financial evaluation bid left).	MII compliant clause followed.

The procurement of active items has become a bottleneck because unless the active items are procured and configured at the respective locations, LAN connectivity will not be enabled even though the passive items are procured and installed at the locations. Thus, procured and installed passive items will also remain unused effectively.

At present the institute has active items from leading OEM's namely CISCO, Allied Telesis, Extreme, Netgear, Juniper etc. which are not MII compliant. If the active items from MII compliant OEM's are procured, there will be compatibility and synchronization issues with the existing network protocols.

In view of the above problems, it is requested to kindly accord the approval for procurement of active networking items (access switches) through GeM without any MII purchase preference. Some copies of active networking items with MII relaxation is attached in **Annexure-VII**.

The Committee is requested to peruse the matter and give decision.

DECISION

The Committee resolved that the items to be rebid with generic specifications.

FC-66/23/08A Hiring / Procurement of vehicles.

The vehicle assigned to Director and two buses of the Institute are absolute and are not running properly.

It is to be noted that the Department of Expenditure vide OM F. No. 7(1)/E.Coord/2019 dated 17.09.2019 has lifted ban on purchase of new vehicles.

In view of above, institute may be allowed to procure a new vehicle for Director and hire requisite vehicles for transportation of students and staff of the institute.

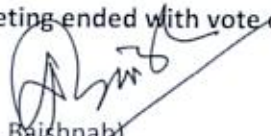
The Board is requested to approve the same.


DECISION

The Committee recommended to procure vehicle for the Director of the institute following the guidelines of Government of India.

Further, for procurement / hiring of other institute vehicles and buses, the Committee resolved that the condemnation certificate of the vehicles is to be placed before the ensuing meeting of the Finance Committee.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Dr. K. L. Baishnab)
Registrar (i/c) & Secretary


(Sri Gautam N Mehra)
Ex – Officio Chairman, FC