

AHMEDABAD UNIVERSITY

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting held on March 25, 2023 at 11 am at the Conference Room, Bungalow 1, University Office

Members Present:

Mr Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman
Professor Pankaj Chandra
Dr Naushad Forbes (*through zoom*)
Mr Punit Lalbhai
Mr Naishadh Parikh
Mr Pankaj Patel
Mr Bhupendra Shah
Mr Saurabh Soparkar
Professor Devanath Tirupati

Leave of Absence:

Mr Praful Anubhai
Mr SJ Haider
Mr Sudhir Mehta

Invitee

Mr Mihir Jhaveri

Mr Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting of the Board of Governors of the University.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the joint Meeting of the Board of Governors and Board of Management held on December 3, 2022 were unanimously approved by the members.

Action Taken Report is attached as an addendum to the minutes at the end.

2. Update on the University

Professor Pankaj Chandra presented an update on the University. The presentation is attached.

Introduction of New Faculty: Professor Chandra gave a brief introduction of two new faculty who joined the University after the last meeting held in December 2022. A brief introduction was also given for 10 faculty members including the Inaugural Dean for the upcoming School of Public Health, who would be joining the University in the coming months.

Professor Chandra also gave an update on total faculty who joined the University in the current Academic Year of 2022-23 and those left plus those who did not accept our offer.

An update was also shared on the status of the hiring of the Registrar and the inauguration of the School of Public Health scheduled for April 18, 2023. The School of Public Health will have an immediate focus on Environmental Health and Data Science in Public Health.

The Board also discussed the need to have guidelines for raising funds through our advancement initiatives. Professor Pankaj Chandra updated that a Giving Tree is being prepared and would be shared with the members soon.

3. Centre of Excellence (COE) Notification:

The Board was provided an update on the COE notification for BTech and MBA that was received for two years i.e., 2023-24 and 2024-25, and not three years as expected. This notification has presented a challenge as it outlines the guidelines for admissions, such as 33% government seats and other criteria for admissions. The University will now design the admission process based on these requirements.

4. Update on Admission 2023

Professor Devanath Tirupati gave an overview of undergraduate and graduate admissions.

The early round of undergraduate admission has shown an encouraging response, with the number of applications received nearly six times higher than last year. There has been a significant increase in out-of-station applications also. However, the actual picture will become available only in July because students are largely shopping at this juncture.

5. Budget for Financial Year 2023-24

Mr Mihir Jhaveri presented the budget for the financial year 2023-24. Proposed fees for undergraduate and graduate programmes were presented. The presentation is attached.

The Board was of the opinion that initiatives must be taken to get more faculty grants and donations, and endowment funding through advancement activities to reduce the deficit to some extent.

Professor Chandra gave an overview of major areas where expenditures have gone up. Financial aid has gone up significantly as we are funding more students (over 20 percent). University resources related to faculty, labs, and the library have increased in the last few years. While these have helped us become competitive, they also come with increased costs and the University has a need for more resources.

Mr Pankaj Patel and the Chairperson, Mr Sanjay Lalbhai insisted on developing a sustainable financial model to avoid too much pressure on resources. They suggested that the deficit be reduced.

6. Key issues for next 2-3 years

Professor Chandra gave an overview of the shortage of physical space for Management and Engineering schools and the Biological Research Lab which requires re-construction. He requested to set aside Rs 100 crore of the endowment for investment in big equipment, PhDs and Post-docs. These were critical to do serious research that would have an impact. Today, the University did not have resources to push the research agenda significantly.

Professor Chandra gave an update about the six-year tenure process and also about the retreats with faculty at each school to establish the expectations on publications and impact.

Suggestions were sought for creating opportunities for conducting Executive Education Programmes. Chairperson, Mr Sanjay Lalbhai suggested looking at the kind of programmes that corporates like to send their senior executives to.

With this, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Signature of the Chairperson, Board of Governors

Ahmedabad University

53rd Meeting of the Board of Governors held on March 25, 2023

Action Taken Report

Sr No.	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action	Status
1	December 3, 2022 (Joint meeting of 52 nd meeting of Board of Governors and 46 th meeting of Board of Management)	Proposal – Masters Programme by Amrut Mody School of Management	Master of Science in Quantitative Finance (MSQF) will be introduced from 2023	Closed