

# Ahmedabad University

## Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Board of Management held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Conference Room, University Office

- Members Present:
1. Professor Pankaj Chandra, Chairperson
  2. Colonel Sanjay Gokhale (Retd)
  3. Professor Kaumudi Joshipura
  4. Professor Sunil Kale
  5. Mr Kiran Karnik (*through zoom*)
  6. Professor Darshini Mahadevia
  7. Mr Naishadh Parikh
  8. Professor Raghavan Rangarajan
  9. Dr Balaji Srinivasan (*through Zoom*)
  10. Professor Devanath Tirupati

Professor Pankaj Chandra welcomed the members to the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board of Management of the University.

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Board of Management held on February 9, 2024 were approved. Action Taken Report is attached as an addendum to the minutes in the end.

### 2. University Update

Professor Pankaj Chandra was happy to update that the University achieved breakeven on the budget, enabling us to create a surplus and invest back where required. Professor Chandra also updated the members on the major donation received from Mr Subroto and Mrs Susmita Bagchi for the School of Public Health which will now be called the Bagchi School of Public Health.

#### Faculty Hiring:

Professor Chandra gave a brief introduction of 16 new faculty member who would be joining in the coming months, including the Dean of Amrut Mody School of Management and 1 faculty who joined the University after the last meeting. Out of the 16 faculty, five would be affiliated with the Amrut Mody School of Management, four with the School of Engineering and Applied Science, six with the School of Arts and Sciences, and one with the School of Public Health.

Professor Chandra was happy to update that the Dean of Students would also be joining us soon.

#### Activities at the University:

- Professor Chandra presented a brief on 3 new programmes approved by the Council and the Climate Institute which has been approved by the Board of Governors. The members were also updated about the discussion that is going on with UCSD on AI Institute.
- Some of our students got admissions in some very reputed global institutions for Masters, like Chicago, Duke, Yale, Purdue, Babson, NYU, Toronto, LSE, Cambridge, King's college,

IE Business School, ESADE School of Business, Edinburgh, Trinity, Lee Kuan Yew School etc.

- Professor Chandra gave an update on how we have progressed in our Placements over the years, especially for School of Art and Sciences and is expected to improve further with our BxMx programme.

### **3. Update on Admissions**

Professor Devanath Tirupati presented an update on admissions as we are almost halfway through the admissions cycle. More than 50% of the targeted undergraduate admissions is already achieved even when the bar of minimum qualifying marks in 12<sup>th</sup> standard has also been raised to ensure the quality of students. The numbers are particularly better for the School of Arts and Sciences.

Graduate admissions numbers are better than last year, though we will have 33% seats for the ACPC. The admissions are all provisional, to be confirmed subject to applicants satisfying admissions criteria in undergraduate exams.

The presentation is attached.

### **4. Project update**

Colonel Sanjay Gokhale presented the project update on the student village. Unfortunately, the student village doesn't seem to get ready for this session by mid-July.

Regarding the underpass, the design is being revised since there are underground utility lines. The new proposal with the revised design will be submitted to the AMC soon.

The presentation is attached.

### **5. New Courses by the School of Engineering and Applied Science**

Professor Sunil Kale presented a new programme of MTech in Composites which is in partnership with ATIRA and being introduced from 2024. This is a 2-year programme that will focus on industry experience.

Professor Kale also presented the BTech Electrical and Electronic Engineering which will have a broad base of electrical engineering and will cover communication, control and computer engineering and also devices & semiconductors, electric machines etc.

### **6. Learning Factory**

The members were updated about the Learning Factory and how the idea came into shape following a request from BCG Consulting 4-5 years back.

The Learning Factory will look, feel and work as a professional high-caliber factory and will cater to students and industry requests for training working engineers. Professor Kale also briefed the members about the Learning Factory's plan, layout, infrastructure, and facilities.

Professor Kale also updated about the Tinkering Laboratory which will be a space open 24x7 for all students of the university. It will also be operated and managed by students with the support of our full-time staff. This initiative will be funded by Maker Bhavan Foundation, Palo Alto, California, 30 lakh capex and 10 lakh consumables for 2 years. Space for the Tinkering Laboratory has been identified in GICT building.

## **7. Initiatives by the School of Public Health**

Professor Kaumudi Joshipura updated the members about Sahyog Centre for Promoting Health, in partnership with SEWA, aiming to improve health and wellness, equity and environmental sustainability through its interdisciplinary approach. Professor Joshipura also briefed the board about research goals of the Centre and School of Public Health at large and also gave an update on the Academic Education Goals of the School.

Members were also given an update on the PhD programme of the School of Public Health and distinguishing features of the programme. Eligibility criteria for admission to this programme and Coursework, both were discussed.

With this, the members thanked the Chairperson and the meeting was concluded.

Signature of the Chairman

*Pankaj Chaudhary*

## Ahmedabad University

52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Board of Management held on May 10, 2024

### Action Taken Report

Sr No.	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action	Status
1	February 9, 2024 (51 <sup>st</sup> meeting of Board of Management)	Proposal for establishing a Climate/ Sustainability Institute at the University	Establishing a Climate Institute was confirmed in the coming months and will be inaugurated by December 2024	Closed
2	February 9, 2024 (51 <sup>st</sup> meeting of Board of Management)	Recommendation of High-Performance Cluster at the University	Follow-up initiatives to explore funding opportunities from government agencies for pursuing HPC.  Budget allocation for procuring a HPC done and RFP prepared.	Closed

Pankaj Chandra