

Minutes of the Senate - Special/1 meeting held on 2/5/2012 in the Seminar Hall

Present :

The names of the members who attended the meeting are given at Appendix A.

The Chairman, Senate welcomed all the senate members, special invitees and faculty members to the special meeting of the Senate.

Item No. 1 : To consider and discuss the new Education System for the Engineering Institutions including IITs

The Chairman, Senate gave brief background for convening the special meeting of the Senate. He informed that a meeting of All IITs Faculty Federation with Hon'ble HRM was held on 11th April, 2012 at Vigyan Bhawan where it was decided to refer the matter related to proposed reforms in the admission system to IITs to the Senates of all IITs. It was also decided that the views of the Senates will be considered by IIT Council (scheduled to meet on 12th May, 2012).

The meeting started with a detailed presentations on the issue by Prof. Sanjeev Sanghi representing Faculty Forum and Prof. M. Balakrishnan on behalf of a committee constituted earlier by the Director on the issue.

After detailed deliberations, there was a unanimous agreement on the following :

- a) The proposed reforms suggested by Ramasami Committee may not serve the purpose of achieving the stated objective of these reforms i.e. alleviation of multiple entrance exams related stress on students, restoration of the

foundation of school education system and reducing the influence of the coaching institutions.

- b) Students writing class XII exam in 2012 are not aware of the likely policy changes in the admission system to CFTIs and many of them will take entrance exam for IITs in 2013. As such any significant change in the existing advance system for IITs, including giving weightage in percentile form to class XII marks, would be unfair to them. Further the policy changes should be implemented only after a thorough analysis of related information like statistics from various State boards etc. **As such any changes in admission system to CFTIs including IITs should be implemented only from 2014.**
- c) Class XII marks should be considered only as a **qualifying criteria** (in percentile form). Even now these marks are used as a qualifying requirement for admission to IITs i.e. 60%. The bar can be considered to be raised suitably. These should not be given any weightage while preparing the merit list of students for admission to IITs.
- d) There should be a two tier process for entrance to IITs. The **main examination** (in the proposed reforms) will be the first tier which will serve the purpose of both a qualifying and a screening examination for the second tier i.e. **advanced examination** (as per proposed reforms).

The main examination will be based on Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Aptitude, and will be in MCQ format.

- e) The main examination can be held more than once in a year and its score will be valid for two years. A candidate can appear for the main examination multiple times and the best of the candidate's performance will be considered.
- f) Top few percentile students (such that the number of qualified candidates be 5-10 times the number of seats in all IITs) in the merit list of main examination will be eligible to appear in a subjective type (non MCQ type) advanced examination in the subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. The responsibility of conducting this examination will rest solely with IITs like the present IIT JEE. Admission to IITs shall be based on the merit list prepared solely on the basis of the advance examination.

The advance examination will be conducted only once a year and a candidate will be permitted to take the advance examination maximum 2 times.

The Chairman, Senate was authorized to convey the views of the Senate to the IIT Council.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.