



**DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, LONERE**

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**MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 06-11-2020 AT 10.30AM VIA ZOOM ONLINE**

The following members were present:

1.	Dr. Vedala Rama Sastry, Vice-Chancellor	Chairman
2.	Dr. B. N Jagatap	Member
3.	Dr. Vivek Vadke	Member
4.	Dr. K. S. Jain	Member
5.	Dr. Ulhas Shinde	Member
6.	Dr. Mrs. Geeta Latkar	Member
7.	Dr. J. B. Patil	Member
8.	Dr. J. B. Dafedar	Member
9.	Dr. L. P. Dhamande	Member
10.	Dr. H. A. Mujawar	Member
11.	Prof. S. V. Khobragade	Member
12.	Dr. B. F. Jogi, Registrar (I/c)	Secretary

The following members could not attend the meeting and Leave of Absence was granted to them:

1. Director of Technical Education, Maharashtra
2. Shri Milind Kamble
3. Dr. G. D. Yadav
4. Dr. Anand Kusre
5. Dr. M. S. Tandale
6. Dr. D. N. Mudgal

**AGENDA:**

**1. Academic Reforms in alignment with NEP 2020:**

The importance of the National Education Policy – 2020 in framing the course of DBATU was discussed. The 2 Days Workshop conducted by DBATU on “NEP 2020: ROAD AHEAD FOR DBATU” for all the Principals, Faculty, students and all other stake holders of the University through Online mode held during Sept 18-19, 2020, was appreciated by the EC. As a follow up,

all the Affiliated colleges are encouraged to conduct similar workshops at their level to create awareness about NEP-2020 among their stakeholders. Members expressed various views about implementation of NEP-2020 for DBATU University Departments and Affiliated Institutions. Several suggestions came up, like starting of new undergraduate courses in emerging technologies and in new areas like Food Engineering, Fisheries Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering and starting new Extension Centres for the DBATU at different locations in the state of Maharashtra.

In general, emphasis is given to the development of DBATU to become MERU and Affiliated Institutions to become Autonomous with multi-disciplinary approach.

***Resolution: It is resolved to have a One Day Brain Storming Session exclusively by EC with the participation of AC members to Draft the Road Map for DBATU in a holistic manner. Prof. B.N. Jagtap, EC member will coordinate the event.***

## **2. Report of Terminal Examinations conducted during Oct. 2020:**

EC was apprised about the successful conduct and results declaration of Terminal Examinations of the University – both Regular and Backlogs, during October 2020.

***Resolution: The Executive Council noted the matter and recorded its appreciation for the efforts put up by the University Administration.***

## **3. Extension of Period for Roofing Work in University:**

The progress of ongoing roofing work in various buildings of the University was presented to the EC (as proposed by the University Engineer along with photographs of various structures). The EC found it to be satisfactory. However, it was noted that due to prevailing COVID situation in the state, the work slowed down from April 2020 onwards. Therefore, reviewing the progress of work till now and looking into the practical issues related, there was a proposal from University Engineer for the extension of the Contract till March 31, 2021. The matter is put up to the EC for consideration (Annexure - 1).

***Resolution: The Executive Council after due discussion resolved to permit the extension of Roofing Work Contract till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021.***

## **4. Establishment of Extension Centers / Model Schools (Colleges) of the University:**

It is proposed to expand the activities of the University in various locations of the State of Maharashtra for commencing new UG, PG and Research Programs, PG Diploma Programs and Certificate Courses, New Server Facilities, Administrative Infrastructure etc., keeping in tune

with the implementation of NEP-2020, and for better liasoning with Industry, other Government and Private Organizations like Software Companies, Research Laboratories etc.

- The EC discussed in detail the proposal about the establishment of Extension Office of the Vice-Chancellor along with residential and transit Guest House Facility at Pune, for enhancing the opportunities for the University, which otherwise is very difficult coordinate from Lonere campus. It is also felt that due to continuous inclement weather conditions at Lonere, it is becoming extremely difficult for coordinating Examination related activities catering to the entire State. There are also plans of having a Central Server Facility to cater to the requirements of University Examinations, LMS System, Data Centre etc. It is proposed to have a new infrastructure set up developed at Pune for enhancing the activities of University in different domains.
- The EC discussed the point of establishing an Extension Centre of the University at Solapur, especially for promoting PG and Research initiatives in the fields of Agriculture Technology Interventions, Technologies for Rural Water, Rural Power Development and Startups. The vital points about new initiatives for developing new rural based technologies directly useful to small farmers like in-field testing kits also came up for discussion.
- The point for setting up an Extension Centre of the University at Aurangabad was discussed at length, keeping in view the vast scope for development of research initiatives in Automobile and Pharmaceutical sectors. The points about effective interaction with industries in Aurangabad zone especially IGTR were discussed at length.
- The new point came up for discussion about helping the development of Konkan Region by starting New UG/PG and Research Programs in specific areas– Food Engineering and Fisheries Technology etc., was deliberated at length.
- The point about initiating a new Extension Center of the University at new locations like Akola in Vidarbha region came up for discussion to start new initiatives in the underdeveloped areas in the domains of rural infrastructure.
- The importance of starting new courses in University Campus at Lonere, related to Ayurveda and related Technologies, Cost Effective Construction Technologies, Organic Farming etc. was also discussed in detail.

***Resolutions: The Executive Council after long deliberations resolved that there is a need to start new Extension Centers at various places in the State of Maharashtra to initiate and encourage research and development activities including Start-up activities.***

***The following Extension Centers with appropriate infrastructure like Space, Building, Furniture, Computer Facilities, Servers, etc. are Approved by the EC:***

- a. **Solapur:** *University Extension Centre for Research in Agriculture Technology Interventions, Technologies for Rural Water and Rural Power Systems.*
- b. **Pune:** *University Extension Centre with Transit Office of the Vice-Chancellor along with Residential and Guest House Facility, University Examinations Facility, LMS System, Data Centre etc.*
- c. **Aurangabad:** *University Extension Centre for development of PG/Research initiatives in Automobile (Automation and Robotics) and Pharmaceutical sectors.*
- d. **Ratnagiri:** *University Extension Centre for helping the development of Konkan Region by starting New B.Tech / Research Programs in specific areas of – Food Engineering, Fisheries Technology, Ayurveda and related Technologies, Cost Effective Construction Technologies, Organic Farming etc.*
- e. **Akola:** *University Extension Centre for helping the development of Vidarbha Region for initiating the Research initiatives, Innovation and startup activities related to Rural Technologies like, agriculture, water conservation and harvesting, food processing, etc.*

## **5. Delegation of Powers:**

University has 67 Engineering, 123 Pharmacy, 8 Architecture, 2 HMCT and 7 B. VoC Institutions affiliated to the University during last AY 2019-2020. For smooth functioning of the routine work of DBATU Campus, and to cater to the requirements as a Technological University representing the entire State of Maharashtra, and for reducing the routine burden on the Vice-Chancellor, the following delegation of powers to various Authorities of the University are proposed as given below:

- a. Bank account(s) to be operated jointly by Registrar and Finance Officer only.
- b. Vice-Chancellor to be involved at the initiation of Procurement/Construction/Maintenance activities at the stage of *Avedan Patra* – giving Administrative & Financial approvals. All subsequent matters to terminate at Registrar Level only.
- c. All routine Administrative matters including leaves should be terminating at Registrar level.
- d. The Confidential Reports should be maintained at Registrar office.
- e. An Internal Audit Cell to be introduced in the University, which will go through all documents properly before placing the Work Orders for Procurement/Construction/Maintenance activities – headed by a Chartered Accountant/Cost Accountant, assisted by a couple of CA/ICWA Interns or M.Com Graduates.
- f. Board of Administration, with Registrar as Member Secretary.

***Resolutions: The Executive Council after long deliberations approved the delegation of powers as proposed above for smooth functioning of the University and to reduce the routine and redundant work load of the Vice-Chancellor. It is also resolved that the process should be***

*initiated for the appointment of the additional authority of Pro Vice- Chancellor, similar to other Universities, by approaching the Office of the Honorable Governor and the Government of Maharashtra.*

#### **6. Approval for Disbursement of Arrears of Salary Difference to the Faculty Members:**

The arrears of the salary difference due to the promotions under CAS worth a total of about Rs. 50.91 lakhs are due since long (since 2015). It is proposed that salary difference of 30 faculty members, each of about 1.5 lakhs, may be released at DBATU level and follow up should be done with Government of Maharashtra to reimburse to DBATU. (Annexure – 2)

*Resolutions: After extensive discussion, it is resolved that the Arrears be released, with an undertaking from each faculty member on Rs 100/- stamp paper clearly mentioning that if any ambiguity arises in future regarding salary difference, the amount due should be deducted from the salary of faculty member. At the same time, follow up should be carried out for getting the reimbursement of the amount due from the Government towards the arrears of the salary difference.*

#### **TABLE AGENDA:**

##### **A. Various Complaints against the Finance Officer, Shri Shrirang Bhutada:**

The EC was presented with various complaints against the functioning of the Finance Officer of University, Shri Shrirang Bhutada. Some are as follows:

##### **1. No follow up for the Salary Grant from the Government:**

It is observed that the salary grant for the salaries of the University faculty and staff is not received from the Government for the last 6 months. As the Finance Officer, this is the responsibility of Shri Shrirang Bhutada to have constant follow up with the Government authorities/RO, Mumbai. This is causing financial imbalances and burden on the university and also causing financial loss to the University. (Annexure – 3)

##### **2. Breach of the Protocols:**

Recently, Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the Finance Officer, has sent an email to Honorable Vice Chancellor about few financial aspects of the University. This was the first communication with the Vice-chancellor on this matter during last about 1.5 years of his tenure. However, he has also marked the carbon copy of the mail to various Government authorities like Principal Secretary, DTE, etc. This is a clear violation of the protocol by the officers of the University. Especially this is not expected from a responsible and statutory officer like Finance Officer of the University. Surprisingly, many of the points raised by him are already been taken up by the University authorities long before the said email communication. This email communication indicates the ill intention of damaging the image of the University. (Annexure – 4)

### **3. Long Leave during Crucial period of Financial Year Ending (March 2020):**

Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the Finance Officer, had applied for a long leave (of about 25 days, March 11 – April 07, 2020) during the crucial time of financial year ending, by giving the reason as need for serving a relative suffering from cancer. However, it was observed that he was residing at the University quarters at Lonere, but still did not resume his duties. During this period there were many files pending for clearance. This also indicates avoiding the discharge of the duties during crucial times. (Annexure – 5)

### **4. Remains Absent continuously for the Tendering Meetings:**

Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the Finance Officer, being one of the crucial members in the procurement process and the tendering committee of the University, is deliberately avoiding the tender related meetings, though he is present in his office. Further, he is also not signing on the comparative statements, which is another important step in the procurement process. This is causing inconvenience in the processing of the files. (Annexure – 6)

### **5. Undue delay in Processing of the files:**

It is observed that Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the Finance Officer, is creating undue delays in the processing of files, which is causing serious dent on the image of the University. For example,

- a. Examinations remuneration for the faculty and staff of affiliated collages worth about Rs. 42 Lakhs is not disbursed till date (pending for several months) even after clearances from the other authorities. (Annexure – 7)
- b. Roofing work intermittent bill took almost more than one moth for clearance with multiple objections / clarifications. (Annexure – 8)

**6. Instructed TM Network Employees to hold the Link for Fees Payment by Students–** He tried to cause undue delay in the work proposed by University authorities to facilitate the direct payment of fees by the students into the University account, bypassing the Vendor “We Shine, Pune”. (Annexure – 9)

### **7. Misbehavior with the Faculty and Staff of the University:**

There are regular complaints (oral) from the faculty and the staff members of the University against Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the Finance Officer, about the ill treatment and misbehavior. He shouts on the senior faculty members and does not attend the meetings of various committees where he is a member and where his role is crucial, even being available in the office. He expects the senior faculty members and other officers to carry the files personally to him.

The university, unfortunately, had to constitute two committees to enquire about his misbehavior with:(Annexure – 10)

- Shri Sunil Salunke, the Driver of University vehicle (belonging to reserved category), based on the complaint lodged about ill treatment meted out to a person belonging to SC community.
- Shri G. H. Kalsekar, Stores Verification Officer, for calling him as “Chaparasi” in front of subordinates in the office of the Registrar.

### **8. University Vehicle Maintenance:**

Due to the adamant behavior of Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the Finance Officer, it is getting difficult to get the routine maintenance of the University Vehicles. For Example, because of his stand of not paying the advance amount to the driver (as per practice) for the regular servicing of the vehicle of Honorable Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar, the vehicles could not be sent for servicing on time to authorized service center at Panvel, causing risk of life to the occupants including the highest authorities of the University. The Registrar had to intervene and issued an office order for the same, as the advance was not issued even after 42 days of request. (Annexure – 11)

Unfortunately, as a result of his attitude, the University drivers threatened in writing (through letter dated 19/10/2020) not to bring the vehicles on road from 21/10/2020 till the necessary servicing is done. (Annexure – 12)

With great difficulty, the VC vehicle was sent to Toyota Authorized Service Center at Panvel through the driver along with Asst. Vehicle in-charge on 21-10-2020. The voucher was raised for the service done by the authorized service center – Panvel, at about 1.00 pm, and all necessary formalities at the University were completed including the approval by the Registrar by about 1.30 pm. But, the bill amount was released by the Finance Officer after the closure of the service center.

This had dented not only the image of the University but resulted in great inconvenience to the driver and the Asst. Vehicle in-charge and the vehicle had to remain with the service center. Such acts bring down the morale of the employees. As a result, the honorable Vice-Chancellor had to travel for his prescheduled visit for about 300 km in the vehicle meant for the Registrar, which was also overdue for servicing with about +17000 km milage (for about 8 months) and had a risk of breakdown.

### **9. Irresponsible Comments on the files:**

Shri Shrirang Bhutada, is found writing irresponsible comments on files. For example, he has written a comment about the drivers of the University, stating them as non-trustworthy, without having any proper proof/justifications, though he is not the authority to certify or judge the character of any employee of the University. This is causing unrest among the non-teaching staff of the university and polluting the work environment severely. (Annexure – 13)

## **10. Irresponsible in deducting TDS of Employees:**

Too much amount, even more than a Lakh extra, is deducted from salaries of employees towards Income Tax, without any proper prediction and calculations, which clearly indicates irresponsibility on the part of Finance Officer.

This behavior of Shri Shrirang Bhutada, as the Finance Officer, is causing lot of inconvenience to the University administration. Attempts were made many times to counsel him through various officials of the University. However, there is no improvement found in his attitude towards the work and the colleagues and his functioning has not at all improved.

Overall, the attitude of Shri Shrirang Bhutada, as the Finance Officer, is seriously impacting the administration of the University. The file disposal process is getting un-duly delayed. His functioning style is causing lot of damage to the work environment. Large number of files are getting piled up. This situation may lead to demoralizing of the employees of the University at various levels, which may result in collapse of the system. He even started disobeying the orders of the authorities also.

The case is put up to the Executive Council to:

- **Institute an Inquiry Committee to go through various complaints leading to the appropriate action.**
- **Permit University Administration to replace Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the present Finance Officer with an appropriate officer of the University as Officer on Special Duty-Finance, with all the powers of Finance Officer of the University as defined by the DBATU Act 2014, immediately, for the smooth functioning of the University.**
- **Approach the Government of Maharashtra with a request to transfer him from DBATU, immediately.**

***Resolutions: The case of Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the University Finance Officer, with various complaints and documents was assessed by the Executive Council and following resolutions are made:***

- a. To Institute an Inquiry Committee to go through various complaints leading to appropriate action. The Committee will consist of -***
- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b><i>Prof. B.N. Jagtap (EC Member)</i></b>   | <b><i>: Chairperson</i></b>      |
| <b><i>Prof. J.B. Patil (EC Member)</i></b>    | <b><i>: Member</i></b>           |
| <b><i>Prof. Ulhas Shinde (EC Member)</i></b>  | <b><i>: Member</i></b>           |
| <b><i>Prof. L.P. Dhamande (EC Member)</i></b> | <b><i>: Member</i></b>           |
| <b><i>Lawyer / Advocate</i></b>               | <b><i>: Member</i></b>           |
| <b><i>Registrar</i></b>                       | <b><i>: Member Secretary</i></b> |



- b. To permit University Administration to replace Shri Shrirang Bhutada, the present Finance Officer with an appropriate officer of the University (Prof. V.S. Sathe, Professor of Chemical Engineering) as Officer on Special Duty-Finance, with all the powers of Finance Officer of the University as defined by the DBATU Act 2014, immediately, for the smooth functioning of the University.*
- c. To approach the Government of Maharashtra with a request to transfer him from DBATU, immediately.*

**B. Review of Ph.D Guide Recognition by University:**

The university has received some objections regarding the approval given to some of the Research Supervisors. The University is in the process of admitting PhD research scholars for Academic Year 2020-21. It is therefore necessary to review the recent approvals given to Research Supervisors to ensure that the UGC norms are followed and also for maintaining the quality standards of the University.

***Resolution: The matter regarding the recent approvals for the recognition as Research Supervisors was discussed at length and the following resolutions are made:***

- a. A committee be formed to review the recent approvals of the Research Supervisors and verify whether the UGC/AICTE norms are complied with or not in according the approvals.*
- b. The recognition/approval of the Research Supervisors not fulfilling the norms of the UGC/AICTE to be put on hold till they fulfill the criteria. The same be communicated to them.*

**C. Information about Court Case of Security Agency / Security Guards in Labor Court – Mahad**

The University has started a process for appointment of new security agency at the main campus, Lonere, as the previous contract period was over. The Present security agency (Raigad Security Services, Panvel) and security guards working with the security agency have filed separate court cases at Thane and Mahad. The EC was informed regarding the developments about the court cases. It was informed that the case from Thane was withdrawn by the security agency and from Mahad court it was resolved in favour of the University.

***The Executive Council noted the developments.***

**D. Recruitment Rules of Administrative posts:**

The University is in the process of the appointment for the Regular Administrative positions like Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Controller of the Examinations, Dean (Academics), Dean (R&D), Director (ICT), Administrative Officer, Asst. Registrar (Sr. Grade), etc.

The recruitment rules for the above positions are put up for the EC for assessment and approval.

***Resolution: Due to the paucity of time, it was resolved to circulate the draft Recruitment Rules to all the members and seek their comments/corrections for finalizing the same in a fixed time.***

The meeting ended with the thanks to the chair.