

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
HELD ON 24.11.2010**

Members present:

Prof.Dr.S.Sivasubramanian	Chairman
Dr.N.Chandrashekhar	Member
Mr.M.S.Faizil Khan	Member
Dr.R.Balu	Member
Dr.M.K.Ramachandran Nair	Member
Dr.M.Sankaranarayana Pillai	Member
Dr.K.A.Salim	Member
Dr.B.Krishnan	Member
Mr.C.K.King Selvan	Member
Dr.S.Manickam	Secretary

The Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Management welcomed the members and briefed them about the important developments that had taken place since the last meeting. The text of his **Introductory Remarks** is appended below:

“Honourable Members of the Board of Management, I am extremely delighted to welcome every one of you to this 5th Meeting of the Board of Management. I would also like to inform you the important developments that had taken place since the last meeting of the BOM.

In the academic front, with regard to the implementation of effective ICT enabled Teaching-Learning Process, I am happy to state that a “Server” has started functioning and is ready for use by the faculty to enable them to have access to the NPTEL Lecture Series. The video content of expert lectures by the IIT and IISc faculty have been loaded and made accessible. Regarding the short-term, value-added certificate courses of three months duration, the necessary initiatives to introduce the same have been taken

by the Director, Academic Affairs and the heads of various Departments (such as framing the curricula, readiness of the course materials etc). I suggest that the Board of Management may compliment the Director, Academic Affairs and the heads of various departments and the faculties concerned for this initiation. It is also observed that the HRM may take the necessary initiative in collaboration with the Director – Academic Affairs to conduct a workshop to motivate the teachers for the effective use of the NPTEL, MIT E-Content and other e-resources.

The Digital Library has started functioning with the installation of the high-end server in the Internet Lab that could be accessed by everyone in the campus through intranet. A Smart Class Room has already been set up in the Department of Marine Engineering and two more Smart Class Rooms are to be made available before the end of this financial year. Again to enhance the ICT enabled teaching-learning process, the chairman has come forward to give away Laptops to the students of NICHE (IInd year) at a throw away prize of Rs.15,000/- which is sold in the market @ Rs.38,000/-. Around 500 students have been benefited under this scheme. The faculty are given the laptops at a subsidized price of Rs.25,000. Even though the majority of these items are reported to the Board of Management as agenda items for ratification, I thought it fit to record in the report as these are all significant developments in the ICT enabled teaching-learning process, which is the hall mark of today's teaching-learning process and that the Board of Management may record its indebtedness to the Chancellor for his benevolence and support and Prof. Amar Prathap Singh, Director, Computer Centre for implementing this with utmost care and perfection.

As per the decision of the last meeting of the Board of Management, the University Level Personality Development Courses of one credit each such as NSS, YRC, ECC, FAC, RRC, S & G, LAS, MMC etc. have all started functioning. To motivate the first year B.E./ B.Tech. students, the Chancellor of the University has come forward to give away prizes (Wrist Watches, each worth about Rs.500/-). The Prizes were distributed to the first ten rank holders numbering 18 of the first serial tests on 21st October 2010 and to the first 25 rank holders numbering 35 in the second serial tests on 23-11-2010.

In the Research front, 43 new research scholars (5- full-time, 20 –Internal faculty and 18–part-time scholars from other institutions) have joined the University in July 2010 Batch to pursue their Doctoral Programme. It is heartening note that several faculty members have started publishing in refereed impact factor journals and the number of Publications have also increased significantly (Pl. see the NICHE NEWS).

The Research Abstracts, containing the Abstracts of the ongoing Doctoral Programmes and the Publications during the academic year 2009-10, brought out by the BRDC, has already been sent to the various Apex bodies, funding agencies, Universities, etc. The Revised Research Regulations have been framed as per the directions of the Academic Council and has been adopted for implementation. The Director, BRDC, deserves our appreciation for the same.

For the first time, with the aim to promote the scholarly writings by the students, an In-house research journal by the Departments of Mechanical, Automobile, Marine, Nanotechnology and Civil has already been brought out in the month of October. The Board of management may complement the Editorial Board for the same.

A major project proposal under the Solar Energy Research Initiative has been submitted to the Department of Science and Technology by Dr. Venugopalan and Prof. Murthy S. Chavali of the Department of Nano Technology for Rs.2.12 crores. A proposal under Young Scientist Programme has been submitted by Dr. Joseph of the Department of Nanotechnology to the Department of Science and Technology for a grant of 17 lakhs. Another research proposal for Rs.18,50,000/- has been submitted to DST under the Cognitive Science Research Initiative by Dr.J. Joseph and Dr.K.M. Ponvel of the Department of Chemistry. Two Project Proposals to the Department of Bio-technology, Govt. of India – one by Dr.P.K.Praseetha of the Department of Nanotechnology to the tune of Rs.20,00,000/- and another by Dr.Joseph and Dr.M.Sankaranarayana Pillai of the Department of Chemistry under RGYI Scheme to the tune of Rs.25,00,000/-, have been submitted during the month October.

The Director, HRM organized a three day workshop on “Research Methodology and Statistical Packages” for the Research Scholars of NICHE from 16th September to 18th September 2010. Dr. R. Ramanan, Professor of Statistics, Presidency College, Chennai was the resource person. A new Research Lab has been set up in the Department of Chemistry to facilitate research work. Efforts are being taken to set up a Research Lab in the Department of Physics. It has been planned to establish a Computational Fluid Dynamics and Propulsion Lab for the benefit of the students of Aeronautical and Aerospace engineering.

Students of almost all the Departments have organized National Level Technical Symposia in their respective disciplines (except Aero, Marine, EIE), which have been a gala affair showcasing the innate abilities of the students not only in the presentation of their papers, but also in organizing the symposia. The students’ efforts in this regard may be applauded by the BOM.

Apart from this, the Department of EEE organized two workshops, one on “FPGA implementation & Motor Controller” on 24th September 2010 and another one of “Automation Tools” on 20th October 2010. The Department of Computer Applications organized a seminar on “Placement Training and Interview Skills” for the final year students on 21st October 2010. A workshop on “Recent Trends in Telecommunication” in collaboration with ZTE Telecom India was organized by the Department of ECE on 22nd October 2010. A value added training programme on Distributed Control Systems was organized by the Department of EIE for the benefit of the final year students of EIE, EEE and ECE totaling 87 for a period of five days from 28th Oct. to 1st Nov.2010. The trainers were from M/s.Yagagowa Ltd., Bangalore, which is an MNC and is a front runner in DCS Manufacture. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering organized a one day technical seminar on “Emerging Trends in Image Processing” on 16th November 2010. The Department of Chemistry organized a National Seminar on Nano-medicine on 20th November 2010.

On the Human Resource front, the scale of pay of the teachers as per the UGC norms, as approved by the Finance Committee and BOM, has been implemented. The Department of HRM organized a two days faculty development programme for the newly appointed faculty members during 26th & 27th August 2010. A two days Computer Training Programme was organized for the administrative staff of the University during 26th & 27th August 2010. 67 Administrative Staff attended this training Programme.

The Department of HRM coordinated the ICT Academy of Tamilnadu (ICTACT) sponsored Training Programme in DOT- NET Certification for the benefit of college teachers of the southern Districts during 4th October to 11th October 2010. Five teachers of our University participated in the same. The ICTACT certified Training on JAWA Programming was imparted to the students of NICHE by the Students Training and Development Cell during the month of September. The Department of HRM in collaboration with the State Information Commission, Govt. of Tamilnadu organized a one day seminar on “Right to Information Act” on 9th October 2010.

The first News Letter “NICHE NEWS” was published by the Chancellor on 22nd September 2010. The Editorial Board may be complemented by the BOM.

The HRM has taken the initiative to get ISO 9001-2008 Certification. The surveillance audit is already over and the process is likely to be completed by January 2011.

On the Industry-Institution Interaction front, a “Earn While You Learn Programme” has been proposed by HCL. This is to be started with the utilization of the services of 20 students on part-time basis for Advanced Data Entry Operation for an USA customer utilizing the Computer Lab of the I.T. Department. Preliminary Discussions are over and the HCL has shown interest in this partnership. Another “Learn While You Earn Programme” has been proposed by the HCL for their employees working in Chennai / Noida. The employees of HCL are to get their BBA/BCA Degrees from NICHE through off-campus, week-end courses. In collaboration with IBM, DB2 Certificate Course has been conducted for the CSE, I.T, MCA and M.Sc. students. A one day workshop on enhancing the employability skills was conducted by an official of TCS for the final year students on 13th September 2010. To prepare the students for facing Aptitude Tests, training has been imparted by the Student Training and Development Wing of HRM during October/November 2010. The students are also being motivated to obtain Professional Certification from IEEE-CSDA/CSDB. The BOM may compliment the HRM and its allied wings and the Director, Industry – Institution Interaction for all the above initiatives.

The Chancellor’s vision to make all the students employable was emphasized through a seminar addressed by the VC, the Pro V.C., the Director of Academic Affairs and the Director of Industry- Institute Interaction. Towards this aim the University has made arrangements for the students to have exposure in foreign languages such as German, French and Japanese. The HOD of English Mr. Khaleel Rahuman may be complimented for his efforts in coordinating the implementation of the various language programmes.

The submission of SSR along with the CDs has been acknowledged by the NAAC Office and in response to their letter we have remitted a sum of Rs.2.8 lakhs towards accreditation fee. The NAAC Peer Team visit is awaited.

The Chancellor is generous enough to distribute one set of uniform (Coat, Tie and Pant) to all the Ist & 2nd year students of NICHE free of cost”.

After the above Introductory Remarks of the Vice-Chancellor, the Meeting proceeded with the Agenda Items.

Item No.5.1

**Considered confirmation of the Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the
Board of Management held on 19.08.2010**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Fourth meeting of the Board of Management held on 19.08.2010 be confirmed.

Item No.5.2

**Considered the action taken report on the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the
Board of Management held on 19.08.2010**

Resolved that the action taken report on the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Board of Management held on 19.08.2010 be recorded.

Item No.5.3

Considered the proposal for collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University, UK

Resolved that the proposal to offer Post Graduate Twinning Programmes in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University be approved subject to due approval of the Regulatory Bodies, viz., AICTE /UG.

Item No.5.4

Considered the proposal to introduce new programmes from the Academic Year 2011-12

Resolved that the introduction of new programmes suggested by the Director of Academic Affairs and the Heads of the Departments, be approved in principle. The Director Academic Affairs and the Heads of the Departments concerned shall be requested to submit feasibility reports in respect of each of these courses to the Vice Chancellor. Based on the feasibility reports and fresh proposals submitted, if any, the Vice-Chancellor is authorized to take appropriate action and finalize the list of new courses to be introduced from the academic year 2011-12.

Item No.5.5

Considered ratification of action taken to set up a smart classroom in the Department of Marine Engineering and the proposal to set up two more such smart classrooms

Resolved that the action taken to set up a smart classroom in the Department of Marine Engineering, be ratified and the proposal to set up two more such classrooms before the end of the current academic year 2010-11 be approved.

Item No.5.6

Considered ratification of action taken to obtain National Knowledge Network (NKN) connectivity (IGBPS) under National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology (NME-ICT)

Resolved that the action taken to remit Rs.49,63,500/- to BSNL to obtain NKN connectivity for a period of ten years under NME-ICT be ratified.

Item No.5.7

Considered ratification of action taken to provide Laptops to the students and faculty members of NICHE at subsidized rates

Resolved that the action taken to make available Lenovo Thinkpad L410 costing of Rs.28,000/- each to NICHE, at the subsidized rate of Rs.15,000/- to Second Year B.E./B.Tech students and @ Rs.25,000/- to the faculty members and other students of NICHE, be approved.

Item No.5.8

Considered the proposal to provide WiFi Networking facility for the entire campus including hostels

Resolved that the proposal to install WiFi Networking facility covering the entire campus including hostels be approved.

Item No.5.9

Considered ratification of the action taken to become a Member of the ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu (ICTACT)

Resolved that the action taken –

- i) to become an institutional member of ICTACT by signing an MOU and paying the prescribed annual subscription of Rs.50,000/- and
- ii) to host the 8 day Certificate Programme in “Dot Net” from 4th to 11th Oct.2010, sponsored by ICTACT in association with Microsoft

be ratified.

Item No.5.10

Considered the proposal for establishing a Data Centre

Resolved that the proposal to establish a Data Centre at an initial cost of around Rs.6 lakhs with built in provision for enhancing the capacity as and when required, be approved.

Item No.5.11

Considered ratification of the action taken to conduct foreign language classes for the students from the current academic year 2010-11

Resolved that the action taken to offer Japanese language course at a cost of Rs.20,000/- per student to NICHE for 100 students under the MOU signed with NIHONGO SOCHI and French language course by engaging part-time teachers, free of cost to the students be ratified.

Resolved further that the proposal to offer German language course free of cost to the students from January 2011, be approved.

Item No. 5.12 TABLE AGENDA

Considered the proposal to modify Vision, Mission, and Quality Policy of NICHE

Resolved that the following modified Vision, Mission and Quality Policy statements be approved.

OUR VISION

To be recognized by the Government and Society at large as an Institution able to deliver excellence with relevance in the field of higher education and Research focusing on the needs of the nation in tune with the technological revolution to cope up with knowledge explosion and global competence.

OUR MISSION

To develop the Institution as a Centre of Excellence, keeping pace with the advances in the field, so as to provide quality higher education to the students and instill in them high standards of discipline and ethics so that they become enlightened individuals in the Service of Humanity and to carry out focused Research in frontier areas of Science and Technology.

OUR QUALITY POLICY

We offer value added Professional Education and promote intensive and innovative Research with emphasis on a continual measurable improvement in the quality of all our services.

Item No. 5.13 TABLE AGENDA

Considered proposed amendments to the MOA and Rules of the University in accordance with the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010

Resolved that the amendments proposed to the existing MOA and Rules of the University in order to make them to be in accordance with the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010, be approved.

Resolved further that the Vice-Chancellor be authorized to arrange to register the proposed amendments to the MOA and Rules of the University with the Registrar concerned under the Societies Registration Act.

Item No. 5.14 TABLE AGENDA

Considered reconstitution of the Board of Management, Finance Committee and Planning & Monitoring Board in accordance with UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010

Resolved that the Vice-Chancellor be authorized to place the matter before the Chancellor and finalize the reconstitution of the Board of Management and the Planning & Monitoring Board in accordance with UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010.

Resolved further that the following two shall be the nominees of the Board of Management to the Finance Committee of NICHE with effect from 1st December 2010;

1. Dr.B.Krishnan, Professor of English, NICHE.
2. Dr.V.Umayorubhagan, Principal, Noorul Islam College of Arts & Science,
Kumaracoil

Registrar

Vice-Chancellor