



Minutes of Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

December 15, 2020

- Meeting took place online using MS-Teams platform from 02:30 pm to 5:15 pm. Following members attended the AAC Meet on December 15, 2020.

Dr B P Patil	Principal, AIT
Dr Sanjiv M Sansgiri	Prof and Head of Department
Mr Abhijeet Mahajani	Industry Expert
Dr M R Dhanvijay	COEP, External Faculty
Col R K Pathak	Parent Representative
Mr Vishwajeet	Alumnus and Industry Expert
Prof V R Kulkarni	Faculty Representative
Aanchal Singh (SE)	Student Representative
Harshavardhan (TE)	Student Representative
Sahil Uttekar (BE)	Student Representative
Manoj Awaghade (ME)	Student Representative
Piyush Sharma (ME)	Student Representative

- Following members conveyed regrets and could not attend the meet:

Mr Ravi Kumar	COO, Udchalo, Alumnus, AIT
Col Bhandale	Parent Representative
Mr Nitish Rai	Alumnus, AIT



- The Schedule of the Meeting was as follows:

1. Welcome 02:30 pm
2. Presentation by HOD (Mech) 02:40 pm
3. Brief by Principal 03:00 pm
4. AAC Discussion/Brainstorming 03:15 pm

(Earlier meeting points, Scope, skills, employability, Internships/placements, Going forward in new normal)

Minutes:

1. Prof VR Kulkarni opened the forum and welcomed everyone. Dr Sanjiv M Sansgiri was invited to start the proceedings.
2. Dr Sanjiv M Sansgiri, HOD (Mech) welcomed all the committee members. With the consent of all individuals present, Dr Sansgiri began with the power point presentation about the department.
3. He presented the Vision, Mission, PEOs and PSOs, which had been modified to align them with the institute Vision and Mission, and make them concise and in tune with current technological scenario.
4. HOD (Mech) appraised the committee about faculty and facilities in Mechanical Engineering.
5. HOD (Mech) covered Results, Placements, Student/Faculty R&D activities, KPIT-Sparkle, etc
6. Mention of his thoughts: With the amount of hardware and software aligning with Industry 4.0 directions, in particular, Modeling, Analysis, Synthesis and Simulation, the department can be seen as a mini Design House.
7. Principal AIT informed the committee members about recently coined Vision and Mission statements of the institute and the process of aligning departmental Vision and Mission statement with the institute ones.
8. HOD (Mech) said that this process of alignment as well as approval from majority of stake members was taken in coining departmental Vision and Mission statement. In particular, these were shared and buy-in taken at the last AAC.



9. Further in his presentation, he displayed the slides on PEOs and PSOs and explained to the committee about the attainment of these objectives.
10. Dr M R Dhanvijay the external academic expert representative, inquired about the number of workshops/FDPs organized at the department. He further stated that autonomy can be the solution for flexibility in academic activities and is the key factor for institutes like AIT.
11. Principal, AIT apprised the committee that the autonomy proposal is already submitted to our apex organization, Army Welfare Education Society (AWES) and is being thought over.
12. Mr Abhijeet Mahajani, Industry expert also seconded the need of autonomy for optimizing performance of able AITian students.
13. While talking about the guest lectures arranged by the department to widen horizon of knowledge as well as employability Mr Abhijeet Mahajani appreciated the frequency and interdisciplinary nature of these lectures.
14. Everyone liked that interdisciplinary skilling was promoted in the department; example of this was the Arduino workshop organized for the SE class, which had 100% interest.
15. Principal AIT opened the discussion on declining interest of the students in choosing and pursuing career in Mechanical Engineering. He emphasized the need for budding Mechanical Engineers to have knowledge in software and programming.
16. Mr Mahajani added to this point that the career path, speed of elevation in core mechanical companies cannot be compared initially with newly emerged IT companies but in long run all these parameters are definitely comparable.
17. The thought that Mechanical Engineering students have to be patient and should not keep expectations similar to the Computer/IT students was echoed by all.
18. Mechanical engineers should aim for longer tenure in jobs and not quick spurts was discussed.
19. Principal AIT suggested that the faculty can play important mentoring role in keeping the Mechanical students from comparing with other branches and to modify their attitude towards shop floor working. He further emphasized the importance of internships in getting good placements.



20. Limitation on duration of internships in present scenario at AIT was brought to the notice by Dr Sansgiri.
21. While addressing the number of core/production/manufacturing Mechanical Engineering companies visiting AIT, Dr Sansgiri apprised the committee that many of them had stopped coming to AIT because the AITian students do not continue with the company for a long run. Parameters such as lower salary and hands-on (getting hands dirty) working culture is not too conducive with AIT students. This may be perhaps because they have better skillsets than their counterparts from other colleges, as well as they are in a hurry to catch next better opportunity.
22. Neither the companies nor the institutes can change the prevailing pay structure or can accelerate the speed of elevation in the career.
23. Speaking about working with hands on shop floor Mr Mahajani and Dr Sansgiri shared that not only the Mechanical Engineers but entire new generation does not like it.
24. Mr Mahajani said whether they like it or not, Mechanical Engineering do not have any alternative to it. They must change their attitude.
25. Mr Vishwajeet asked query about efforts from department/institute (in addition to training and placement cell) to bring more Mechanical core companies, Mechanical companies requiring programming skills which give better salary and also the value additions in skill sets driven by the department.
26. In response to Vishwajeet, Dr Sansgiri apprised the committee about the introduction of outside noteworthy training organizations such as CADCAMGURU and ELEATION to the students. These agencies are imparting 80 hours of training in CAD/CAM to SE students and CAE training to TE students. This is planned so that it helps them in their project based learning, BE Projects and most importantly to meet expectations of the current and future industry.
27. He highlighted that these essential skills are brought for Mechanical Engineering students at extremely low cost and the syllabus that is configured is also very good. The same courses outside are costing more than 5 to 7 times what they do at AIT.
28. He also mentioned his discussion with training and placement officer about bringing in companies from Design outsourcing domain, Engineering design services and other service companies.



29. Further, he mentioned the guest lecture sessions and different workshops arranged for the students weekly in their timetable slots.
30. He also showed concern about the non-inclusiveness of programming language in curriculum of students in Mechanical branch, which used to be a good feature earlier. He also inspired students to become a good person at core.
31. Mr Vishwajeet though appreciated the efforts taken by department to increase the success rate in placements, also mentioned that tangible results in this regard are not visible and we must change our modus operandi in order to deliver more.
32. Dr Dhanvijay put forth a question regarding the lack of motivation of students towards coming to laboratory. In answer of that Piyush (ME student) responded that as the quality of projects being done by students improves, the utilization of all laboratory facilities, software will also increase. In accordance to that, Principal AIT underlined the necessity of project based learning and quality of these projects, which will help in development of the students' skills.
33. In response to underutilization of labs, Aanchal (SE student) mentioned that the students are more keen about getting higher salaries but less interested in investing their time in pursuing learning or knowledge accumulation.
34. Harshavardhan (TE student) said that the technical activities such as BAJA, SUPRA though are attractive with students, their direct culmination to job is not explicit, as less number of core mechanical companies come for campus recruitment. This may be one of the reasons of underutilization of facilities.
35. All committee members were of the opinion that better industry ~ institute connect can be established through guest lectures and workshops. Principal suggested the workshop on E-vehicles while Col R K Pathak (parent) insisted on more frequency of such lectures and workshops to keep interested students motivated.
36. Dr Sansgiri shared that once what was identified as core is no longer the scene. Multidiscipline engineering and solution to problem orientation is needed. This was seconded by Mr Mahajani and Dr Dhanvijay.
37. Principal also suggested about contribution of students who have expertise in some area in conducting such workshops and informal interaction with fellow students.
38. Mr Mahajani insisted on student ~ teacher informal interaction to motivate the students in achieving academic as well as career goals. In response to this Dr Sansgiri apprised the committee about three yearlong (SE, TE and BE) mentor



~ student relationship already prevailing in AIT. Mr Mahajani was very happy of this feature, now that he had come to know about it now.

39. Upon questioning in regards mentorship by Prof Kulkarni to his mentee Aanchal, she expressed her experience saying every query, academic and non-academic is always answered by the mentors/counselors.
40. Col R K Pathak was curious about the Value Added Courses run in the department and he was given satisfactory answer by Sahil Uttekar (BE student) and other students.
41. Dr Sansgiri while explaining reluctance of mechanical engineering students, highlighted that majority of students joining Mechanical Engineering do not have it to be their first choice and further they struggle to come out of this notion that "I am stuck in this area, which I am not interested in". This also demotivates them and keeps them underperforming. He further said that the faculty is continually taking efforts to correct their mindset.
42. Almost all the students expressed their opinion that if at all there is a lack of dialogue between faculty and the students, it is because students either are hesitant to ask questions or they are not serious about their overall growth.
43. Every individual (that of course includes all the students,) shared their thoughts.
44. Manoj (ME student) spoke about students need to also be initiated in spiritual aspects.
45. Dr Sansgiri talked about the different clubs that are functioning on campus that keep student in touch with other things beyond curriculum. One of them is the Spiritual Club, which is mentored by Prof RS Verma and Prof Anup Kadam; the club takes on festivities, LANGAR, etc on campus.
46. Prof V R Kulkarni Proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Prof V R Kulkarni
Asso Professor and Coordinator

Dr Sanjiv M Sansgiri
Professor and Head