

**MINUTES OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD**  
**ON**  
**29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2014 AT 10:30 A.M. AT NIFT CAMPUS, HEAD OFFICE,**  
**NEW DELHI**

The following were present:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Sh. Prem Kumar Gera, DG-NIFT             | Chairperson      |
| 2. Smt. Sunaina Tomar, Joint Secretary, MoT | Member           |
| 3. Smt. Kavita Bhartia, M/s Ogaan           | Member           |
| 4. Dr. Vandana Bhandari, Dean (A), NIFT     | Member           |
| 5. Prof. Suhail Anwar, Head (AA), NIFT      | Member Secretary |

The leave of absence was granted to:-

Sh. Pradyumna Vyas, Director, NID, Member of AAC

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1301**

**To confirm the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Academic Affairs Committee meeting**  
**held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 at NIFT campus, Hauz Khas New Delhi**

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated to all the members of the Committee. No changes or modifications were proposed. The minutes were therefore confirmed.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1302**

The Action Taken Report on the decisions of the previous meeting of the AAC was noted. However, the AAC emphasized the need of having a state of the art infrastructure and experienced faculty in place at all NIFT campuses to provide quality education to the students. In order to sustain a leadership position in a fashion and apparel industry, it was necessary for NIFT to enhance the quality of teachers and teaching-learning process. Ms. Kavita Bhartia stressed upon the requirements of inviting international faculty members and eminent speakers from the industry to interact and deliver lectures to the students. To increase outreach to all the NIFT students across all campuses, the AAC appreciated that videoconferencing techniques for such interactions and/or lectures would soon become available in NIFT campuses. She further stated that with the passage of time there had been sea changes in the mode of academic delivery and pedagogical practices being used by the teachers across the globe. Therefore it was essential for NIFT to use high-end technology and resources to stay ahead in the fashion business. AAC noted that NIFT being a self funding institution, fund shortage should not be an issue to achieve excellence as it was not acceptable to compromise with the academic standards in the current scenario where change was happening at the speed of thought. In order to meet the financial requirements, NIFT may hike the students' fee besides seeking funds from the Government. JS(MOT) assured to support if a suitable proposal was given to her with due justification for exploring the possibility of allocating funds in the next financial year.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1303**

**Inclusion of Leave of Absence (LOA) provision during the course of research for the scholars in the Ordinances & Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

The Head(AA) apprised the Committee that the regular UG and PG students of NIFT get one year Leave of Absence(LOA) on medical/extreme extenuating circumstances during the entire study period. The discussion took place about the necessity of having a provision of Leave of Absence (LOA) for PhD scholars. After due discussion, the AAC considered and approved the inclusion of Leave of Absence (LOA) provision during the course of research for the scholars in the Ordinances for the students pursuing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy as proposed in the agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1304**

**Proposal for 15% NRI seats as supernumerary seats to partially state funded NIFT campuses approved by circulation –req.**

The AAC took note of the proposal approved by circulation that provided for 15% NRI seats as supernumerary seats to partially campuses whose infrastructure was by the State Government. The seats reserved for domiciled students would allocated from the 30 seats of the campus with a provision for reservation for SC, ST and OBC applicants with in these reserved seats for the domiciled students.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1305**

**The power of granting LOA (Leave of Absence) to the students stated at Clause 5.8.3 page 170 of NIFT Academic Manual to Campus Directors**

The AAC considered and approved the power of granting LOA (Leave of Absence) to the students stated at clause 5.8.3 page 170 of NIFT Academic Manual to the LASC headed by the Campus Directors. However, AAC suggested that the concerned Campus Directors must inform the DG regarding the LOA cases approved through Head (AA) who would confirm that these had been upload on the Campus Management Software(CMS).

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1306**

**Research project award categories evaluation for DFT – the most commercially viable project and the most innovative project**

AAC note that the evaluation criteria for two award categories of Research Project namely a) Most Innovative Project & b) Most Commercially viable Project had some overlapping parameters, which created confusion while deciding the award. Often the same project was bagging both awards. In order to bring more clarity in the selection of these awards, a revised criterion for the project having

the highest potential for the commercial exploitation was proposed to the AAC which approved the same.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1307**

**Criteria for proposed awards category of KD Department**

Dean-A informed the AAC about the three awards conferred to the students of Knitwear Design department after completion of their Design Collection. She also brought to the notice of the AAC that from the year 2014, the students of Knitwear Design department would have a choice of doing either Design Collection or Diploma Project. However due to some overlapping parameters in the prescribed evaluation criteria for the selection of these awards, many times same student got way with both the awards. In order to address this concern, a revised criteria was proposed by the Chairperson, Knitwear Design department through Dean-A. The AAC has considered and approved the revised criteria as proposed in the agenda item.

The AAC suggested that NIFT should revive an old practice to procure two best collections of the students by respective NIFT Campus every year to display the same in the common area of that NIFT Campus. The would become a source of inspiration for junior students to put their best efforts. This would also make the NIFT Campus more appealing and fashion centric.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1308**

**Master of Design Program through Distance Learning Mode**

Dean-A briefed the AAC about the details and technical nuances of the proposed Masters' program. Having perused the details, the Committee appreciated the initiative and the efforts put in place to launch the course. However AAC suggested to the Dean to elaborate the proposal which needed to be more comprehensive so as to indicate the details of electives along with its course contents in the next meeting. The AAC stated that the selection criterion should be uniform for all applicants. The NIFT faculty could not be given any relaxation in selection process. In order to give equal opportunities of learning to all the students, the sessions may be conducted through video conferencing instead of calling all the students at one campus. Director General suggested that the fee could be charged on per credit hour basis as followed in various international design schools. The AAC requested the Dean to strengthen the proposal, which could be approved in a meeting that could be called at short notice.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1309**

**Research Funding Policy**

Dr Noopur Anand briefed the AAC about the agenda. The proposal was appreciated. The members agreed that there was a need to establish a research funding grant for promoting research in NIFT. The members commented that the

policy was very comprehensive and well drafted. It was approved with the following observations:-

1. It was felt that the funding option for carrying out research should be open to all the faculty members irrespective of their seniority in NIFT. The funding committee should support the best proposals. The selection criterion must be transparent and informed well in advance to all faculty members.
2. DG NIFT advised that the projects proposed for funding to Research Funding Unit(RFU) may also be put up to Ministry of Textiles which had a plan scheme where NIFT's projects were eligible for funding. This would save NIFT funds. This may all come under the research unit that is already there.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1310**

#### **Signing authority for duplicate or corrected degree certificate issued to ex-students of NIFT**

Head(AA) explained the agenda item and the problems faced for issuing the Degree certificates with corrections in name to the ex-students. The AAC after due consideration, accorded an ex-post fact approval of issuing Duplicate Degree certificates and the approval for signing and issuing the Degree certificates where any mistake in name was brought to the notice of NIFT by an ex-student. On the recommendation of the Head (AA), the Registrar (Establishment) and the Director General were authorized to issue a corrected Degree certificate, after cancelling the certificate issued earlier. In all such certificates, it may be mentioned at the back of the Certificate that 'This Corrected Degree Certificate was issued on .....

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1311**

#### **Any other item with the permission of Chair**

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