Alumni Association, IIT Kanpur

Minutes of the 6th Board of Directors Meeting

Date: October 30, 2021
Time: 8.30 PM (IST)
Medium: Online (Google meet)

Minutes of the 6th Board of Directors Meeting
Alumni Association, IIT Kanpur

AGENDA

Agenda Item 1	Ratification of the MoM.
Agenda Item 2	General health insurance scheme.
Agenda Item 3	Data sharing with Almashines.
Agenda Item 4	Any other agenda is subject to availability of time.

Prof. Amarendra K. Singh
Secretary, Alumni Association
IIT Kanpur

Members Present

Mr. Shyamendra Narain (SN), President

Prof. Ratnesh Kumar (RK), Vice President

Prof. Amarendra Kumar Singh (AKS), Secretary

Prof. Ankush Sharma (AS), Treasurer

Mr. Anand Verma (AV), Member 1

Mr. Pankaj Agrawal (PA), Member 4

Mr. Prakash Chandra Rastogi (PCR), Member 7

Ms. Apoorva Khandelwal (AK), Member 3

Ms. Smita Agrawal Nee Hashim (SAH), Member 2

Mr. Vivek Mudgil (VM), Member 6

Regrets:

Mr. Pradeep Bhargava (PV), Past President

Prof. Jayant K. Singh (JKS), Past Secretary

Ms. Deeksha Awasthi (DA), Member 5

1. Ratification of the MoM

Brief Outline: Ratification of the MoM of meeting held on September 11 2021.
Resolution:
After the Board MoM publication, a member raised the issue of inviting a third party to the Board meeting without prior intimation. Henceforth, the Board will be intimated over e-mail in advance in case a third party participation is required, and the agenda will have a specific time-slot allotted to the third party. With this modification, the minutes of the meeting held on September 11 2021, was ratified.

2. General health insurance scheme.

Brief Outline: Discussion as per last agenda item 1 MoM, September 11 2021. The insurance committee members (SN, AV, AK) were to address the concerns raised by the board members and bring the revised document to the board.

Committee Members noted and believed that those concerns were addressed over email multiple times. And given high demand from alumni for the insurance scheme and delay in setting up the board meeting, they went ahead and launched the insurance scheme. Committee saw their role as being empowered by the board to make such a call. Furthermore, the President had submitted a pdf document with details of the scheme as well as FAQ and the committee deemed that to be sufficient. This view had support from multiple board members including SN, AV, AK, VM, PA, SAH and PR.

- However, this approach of email-based resolution and the process followed therein were contested vigorously by several other members including RK, AS, AKS at the meeting. Similar concerns were raised over email by JKS, PB and DA who were not at the meeting. Also, they did not see email replies as sufficient and noted concerns (1) scheme was less applicable to young women and overseas alumni (2) a signed copy should have been submitted to the board for a call, (3) no MOU with the third party was provided to the board even though they would collect money from alumni and an open process to select the third party was not followed.

- Several board members including AS, SAH, RK noted the outstanding efforts of the committee and their hard work. Some members stated that their stated concerns were answered over email. For example, SAH had raised the question on lack of maternity insurance and received a satisfactory response.

- However, it was recognized that we need to develop a better procedure and get alignment on how committees operate, and email approvals take place. It was acknowledged that it is not possible for all board members to track emails and change tracking is needed for documents. It was recommended that a committee be set up to establish SOP for these better procedures.

Resolutions:
- The scheme is already public and supported by the majority of the Board members and very well received by alumni. Therefore, it is resolved that the AA Board will endorse the General Health Scheme.

- The efforts of the committee members were recognized by the Board members.
- GHI committee board members will submit a signed copy of the committee's report (done as of Dec 4th, 2021) as well as a signed MOU from a third party (in progress).
- A committee will be set up to define SOP for an improved velocity of board initiatives

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3. Data sharing with Almashines.

Brief Outline: The options for sending out online platform invite via emails was summarized by the President.

Option 1: DoRA will send emails to alumni in the database, once users approve and give details, these will be verified by API and added to Almashines platform; if no response or bounced email, then AA will need to authenticate the details while ensuring privacy and self-authorization.

Option 2: DoRA/AA can send email for introducing the Almashines platform, those who say no within a stipulated time of one week can be excluded, and rest will automatically be made to join the platform.

The discussion about the two Options was flagged to Patron who formed a group to deliberate and resolve the issue. A meeting of 5 of the group members was held. This subsequently helped in arriving at API approach, keeping in mind that the data-access involves member consent to provide a third-party access. Based on these facts IITK legal team has suggested Option 1 as the way forward. The committee based on above facts resolved with majority (4/1) that Option1 is best way forward.

Reservations:
- Several members noted that procedure followed in Option 1 will statistically have a poor turn around since email opt in rates tend to be ~2% and will be slow in building out alumni data base.
- Few members pointed that since only basic information is taken, there should be no legal objections, alumni will not object to coming to a common platform. Moreover, other IITs and Pan IIT platforms have opted for data sharing by giving out .CSV file.
- It was mentioned that this has not been verified, and even if true, this is not what IITK legal team supports. IITK legal team says we cannot share data with third party without explicit member authorized consent. It was proposed that IITK legal team consult with other IIT legal teams to see how they have rolled out and any best practices can be adopted
- If we have to go with Option 2, then the Board might be vulnerable to legalities even if a single alumni objects to the process of not taking consent. However legal team needs to be consulted to confirm and to see if there are viable options.

Resolutions:
- A strategic call needs to be taken with respect to data access based on discussion with the IITK legal team representative.
- AAIITK doesn't have its own legal team, so the inputs from the IITK legal team can come directly to Board, and not only to the secretary. It was resolved that a legal opinion can be brought to Board by inviting IITK legal representative to the group meeting, that will be open to all the Board members.

4. Any other agenda is subject to availability of time.

No other issue could be taken up in interest of time.