

**SONA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY (AUTONOMOUS), SALEM**  
**Governing Body Members Attendance Record**

**Venue: Management Conference Hall & Online Team Meeting**

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**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021**                      **Day: Thursday**                      **Time: 10.00 am**

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|-------|---|---|---|
| 1.    | <b>Thiru. C. Valliappa</b><br>Managing Trustee & Chairman<br>Sona College of Technology<br>Salem - 636 005  | - |    |
| <hr/> |   |   |   |
| 2.    | <b>Padma Bhushan Dr. R. Kumar</b><br>Educationalist,<br>Malleswaram, Bengaluru  | - | Online  |
| <hr/> |   |   |   |
| 3.    | <b>Dr. V. Veerappan</b><br>Industrialist<br>Co-Founder & President<br>Tessolve Semiconductor Private Ltd<br>Bengaluru, Karnataka  | - | Online  |
| <hr/> |   |   |   |
| 4.    | <b>Thiru. T. R. Parasuraman</b><br>Industrialist<br>President and Whole Time Director of<br>Toyota Industries Engines Pvt Ltd<br>President - Bangalore Chamber of<br>Industry & Commerce (BCIC)<br>Toyota Industries Engine India<br>Bengaluru, Karnataka | - | Online  |
| <hr/> |   |   |   |
| 5.    | <b>Dr Sandhya Chintala</b><br>Executive Director<br>IT- ITeS Sector Skills Council NASSCOM<br>VP NASSCOM<br>NASSCOM, Noida, Uttar Pradesh   | - | Online  |
| <hr/> |   |   |   |
| 6.    | <b>Dr. S. Xavier Alphonse SJ</b><br>Educationalist<br>Co-ordinator Jesuit Higher Education<br>Commission TN, Former UGC Nominee<br>Former Principal of Loyola College, Chennai  | - |  |
| <hr/> |   |   |   |
| 7.    | <b>Dr. (Ms).Vimal Rarh</b><br>UGC Nominee<br>Professor, Department of Chemistry<br>SGTB Khalsa College, Delhi   | - | Online  |

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8.     **Dr. D. Shoba Rajkumar**  
State Govt. Nominee  
Associate Professor & Head                      -                      Online  
Dept. of Civil Engineering, GCE, Salem

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9.     **Dr. S. Sanjeevi**  
University Nominee                      -                      Online  
Professor, Dept. of Geology,  
CEG Campus, Anna University, Chennai

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10.    **Thiru. Chocko Valliappa**  
Vice Chairman  
Sona College of Technology and  
Founder & CEO, Vee Technologies,  
Bengaluru



11.    **Thiru. Thyagu Valliappa**  
Vice Chairman  
Sona College of Technology and  
Founder & MD, Sona Valliappa Group  
Bengaluru



12.    **Dr. B. Sathiyabhama**  
Senior Faculty & Professor / Head  
Department of CSE                      -                      Online  
Sona College of Technology, Salem



13.    **Dr. S. Padma**  
Senior Faculty & Professor/ Head  
Department of EEE                      -                      Online  
Sona College of Technology, Salem

14.    **Dr. S.R.R. Senthil Kumar**  
Principal & Member Secretary                      -                      Online  
Sona College of Technology,  
Salem



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Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Day: Thursday

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### Special Invitees

1. **Dr. C.V. Koushik**  
Senior Academician & Advisor - Online  
Sona College of Technology  
Salem

2. **C.A. G. Goudhaman**  
Chartered Accountant -  
Odayappa Chettiar Colony,  
Salem

3. **Mr. Rudra Roy**  
IBM Thought Leader – Industrial Products  
& IBM Certified Supply Chain Engineer,  
Senior Solution Manager and Lean Six - Online  
Sigma Master Black Belt,  
IBM Academic Ambassador

4. **Dr.V.Karthikeyan**  
Principal,  
Thiagarajar Polytechnic College,  
Salem -

5. **Dr. G.M.Kadhar Nawaz**  
Principal,  
Sona College of Arts and Science,  
Salem -

## **MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 23.12.2021 at 10.00 am – University Block Conference Hall**

The Governing Body meeting was held at 10.00 am on Thursday 23.12.2021 at Sona College of Technology, Salem.

Thiru. C. Valliappa, Chairman, presided over the online GB meeting. The following members were present.

1. **Mr. C. Valliappa**  
Managing Trustee & Chairman  
Sona College of Technology  
Salem – 636 005
2. **Padma Bhushan Dr. R. Kumar**  
Educationalist  
47/1, 7th Cross, 5th Main  
Malleswaram  
Bengaluru – 560 003, Karnataka
3. **Dr. V. Veerappan**  
Co-Founder & President  
Tessolve Semiconductor Private Ltd  
Plot No: 31 (P2), Electronic City Phase II  
Bengaluru - 560 100, Karnataka
4. **Mr. T. R. Parasuraman**  
President and Whole Time Director of Toyota Industries Engines Pvt Ltd  
President - Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce (BCIC)  
Plot No. 9, Jigani Industrial Area Phase II, Jigani  
Bengaluru-560105, Karnataka
5. **Dr. Sandhya Chintala**  
Executive Director  
IT, IteS Sector Skills council NASSCOM  
VP NASSCOM, NASSCOM, Noida, Uttar Pradesh – 201 303
6. **Dr. S. Xavier Alphonse SJ**  
Co-ordinator Jesuit Higher Education Commission. Tamil Nadu  
Former UGC Nominee & Former Principal of Loyola College, Chennai  
Jesuit Residence, St. Joseph College, Trichy-620 002



7. **Dr. (Ms). Vimal Rarh**  
Department of Chemistry  
SGTB Khalsa College, Delhi  
C-281, SFC Flats, Sheikh Sarai, Phase-I  
New Delhi – 110017
8. **Dr. D. Shoba Rajkumar**  
Associate Professor & Head  
Dept. of Civil Engineering  
Government College of Engineering  
Salem - 636 011
9. **Dr. S. Sanjeevi**  
Professor, Dept. of Geology, CEG Campus  
Anna University, Chennai -600 025
10. **Mr. ChockoValliappa**  
Vice Chairman  
Sona College of Technology and  
Founder & CEO, Vee Technologies, Bengaluru
11. **Mr. Thyagu Valliappa**  
Vice Chairman  
Sona College of Technology and  
Founder & MD, Sona Valliappa Group  
Bengaluru
12. **Dr. B. Sathiyabhama**  
Professor & Head  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
Sona College of Technology  
Salem –636 005
13. **Dr. S. Padma**  
Professor & Head  
Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering  
Sona College of Technology  
Salem –636 005
14. **Dr. S.R.R. Senthil Kumar**  
Principal & Member Secretary  
Sona College of Technology,  
Salem – 636 005

## **SPECIAL INVITEES**

1.       **Dr. C.V. Koushik**  
Senior Academician & Advisor  
Sona College of Technology  
Salem- 636 005
2.       **Mr. CA.G. Goudhaman**  
Chartered Accountant  
29, Odayappa Chettiar Colony  
Salem- 636 007
3.       **Mr. Rudra Roy**  
IBM Thought Leader - Industrial Products & IBM Certified Supply Chain  
Engineer, Senior Solution Manager and Lean Six Sigma Master Black  
Belt, IBM Academic Ambassador
4.       **Dr. V. Karthikyeen**  
Principal  
Thiagarajar Polytechnic College, Salem 636 005
5.       **Dr. G.M. Kadhar Nawaz**  
Principal  
Sona College of Arts and Science, Salem- 636 005

Dr. S.R.R. Senthil Kumar, Principal, welcomed the Governing Body members and the faculty and the staff of Sona College of Technology and presented the details of the achievements of the institution to the members for comments, discussion, and approval.

## **A. GENERAL:**

**Item No.A1**

**To confirm and approve the minutes of the previous Governing Body Meeting held on 23.12.2021 and approve the actions taken on the minutes**

- The GB meeting started at 10:20 am Mr. C. Valliappa, Chairman, The Sona Group, presided over the meeting.
- Dr. S. R. R. Senthil Kumar, Principal, welcomed the Governing Body members and the faculty and the staff of Sona College of Technology. He extended a special thanks to Dr. Sandhya Chintala for accepting our invitation to be a member of Governing Body & Advisory Board. He congratulated Dr. VimalRarh and Dr. Shoba Raj Kumar for their promotions as Professors.
- Chairman, Mr. C. Valliappa welcomed the GB members. In his opening remarks, he mentioned that that was the first GB meeting in the tallest building in Salem. Both the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Chocko Valliappa and Mr. Thyagu Valliappa suggested that the new building, the 8 storeyed building be named 'Valliappa Block' and father Xavier Alphonse, seconded the suggestion and it was accepted and appreciated by all the members. The Chairman accepted the honour with a smile.
- The Chairman congratulated Sona team for commendable achievements in both admissions and placements.
- The members confirmed the minutes of the previous Governing Body meeting held on 02.07.2021 and approved the action and follow up of the minutes. The Principal made a power point presentation which was a consolidation of the activities and achievements of the college during the last six months.

## **B. ADMINISTRATION:**

**Item No.B1**

**To peruse the role of the administration of the institute under the Autonomous Status**

- Vice Chairman, Mr. Thyagu Valliappa, insisted on launching a television channel for Sona in another six months. Dr. Rudra Shankar Roy asked whether the channel will be connected with visual communication. In his reply, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Thyagu Valliappa listed that all the areas ranging from education to sports except politics and religion would be included.



**Item No.B2****To peruse the support system that higher administrative and regulatory bodies can extend in the development of the institute**

- The Chairman expressed his concern about the delay in the commencement of classes for PG programmes. Chairman also added that the application for emerging courses must be considered and approved by Anna University.
- The Principal explained that the Anna University is waiting for the court order to start the PG counselling. Dr.Vimal Rarh asked the Principal to follow up with the authorities concerned to sort out the issues related to PG counselling and also mentioned that she could extend her support whenever possible.

**C. ACHIEVEMENTS****Item No.C1****To peruse the State Level, National Level and International Level awards and honours received by the institution, departments and faculty members**

- The Principal was joined by the Vice-Chairmen and GB members in appreciating the faculty for the top ranking performance in NPTEL.
- The Principal and the GB members extended their appreciations to Vice Chairman, Mr. Chocko Valliappa, for authoring 2 chapters in the book titled 'Smart Villages' published by Springer.
- The Principal presented the ATAL award attained by Sona Vice-Chairman, Mr. Thyagu Valliappa, suggested video must be made on such special achievements and must be posted on You Tube.
- The honour bestowed on Sona alumnus, Mr. Prithiviraj Chauhan, by our Tamilnadu Chief Minister Mr. M.K. Stalin was presented and the same was recorded.
- The internshala team headed by Dr.Sivagami was congratulated for obtaining 15<sup>th</sup> rank in Tamilnadu. The ranking was bestowed by AICTE.
- The Principal presented the COVID relief measures carried out by Sona and expressed his gratitude to the Management members for their contributions to the society during the pandemic. He also mentioned that the District Collector, Mr. Karmegam, honoured our Chairman during the 75th Republic Day Celebration. Dr.Veerappan and other GB members jointly appreciated Sona for the timely contributions to the society.



- Vice Chairman, Mr. Chocko Valliappa mentioned that an app has been developed to prevent COVID infection taking all guidelines of ACMR.
- The GB members placed on record their special appreciations to Vice-Chairman, Mr. Thyagu Valliappa for the timely services offered to the society through Ayush which is operating full-fledged.
- The GB members expressed their appreciations to Mr. Chocko Valliappa for developing 'Sona Home' – an app for offering consultancy services for Civil constructions. The Vice-chairman mentioned that revenue of Rs. 10lakhs has been generated with a short span of time.
- The Principal took pride in informing the GB members that 12 faculty members, including the Principal, have been listed in top scientists world-wide as assessed by AD scientific Index 2021. The ranks range for top 15% in India top 25% in Asia and top30% in the world.
- Sona IIC received appreciations for winning 4 golden star out of 6 for 2020-2021 with 100/100 marks from MHRD
- The GB members congratulated Principal Dr. S.R.R. Senthil Kumar for being elected as a committee member representing the Civil Engineering Division of the Institution of engineers (India), Salem local centre for 2021-2023.
- The GB members gave a good round of applause to the entire Sona team for receiving the prestigious 'Digital Leaders' award at the Principal meet of Infosys campus connect conclave 2021.
- The GB members appreciated Dr. R. Malathy and Dr.Gulshan Taj for getting certified as IGBC Accredited Professionals in Green Buildings and Construction Building standards and codes.
- The GB members congratulated the team for the ranks conferred on Sona by top ranking magazines like Outlook, The Week, The Times.
- MrParasuraman congratulated the Sona team for its wonderful achievements in several areas. He expressed his opinion that an elaborate roadmap must be developed for taking the institution to the next level. He insisted that thorough benchmark for KPI, Pedagogy, feedback and placements (Ave: 12 LPA) must be fixed.
- He extended a special appreciation for Sona's achievements in the niche areas like wearable and augmented technologies by signing a MoU with UHN for fiber and related technologies research and with IIT for incubation and startup respectively.

#### D. APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET

Item No.D1 – D2

**To peruse and approve the Budget Allocation and Funds Utilisation**

- The budget utilisation and allocations for the period since the last meeting were presented to the members.

#### E. APPROVAL OF THE PERSPECTIVE PLAN

Item No.E1

**To peruse and approve the perspective plan of the institution for further development**

- The Principal presented the new courses to be introduced and the details of the increase and decrease in intake during 2022 – 2023.
  - ❖ **New Courses**
    - B.E. Computer Science and Design (Proposed intake for 2022-2023: 60)
    - B. Tech Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (Proposed intake for 2022-2023: 60)
    - M. Tech Apparel Technology (Proposed intake for 2022-2023: 12)
  - ❖ **Increase in Intake**
    - B. Tech Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (increase in intake 2022-2023: 60 to 120)
  - ❖ **Decrease in Intake**
    - B.E. Mechanical Engineering (decrease in intake 2022- 2023: 150 to 120)

**The same was approved by the GB members.**

- Mr.Thyagu Valliappa mentioned that the perspective plan for 2022 must include energy conservation as the prime aspect and in perspective plan 2023 the focus must be on attaining deemed university status, obtaining 5 patents per year and to apply for ABET Accreditation.
- Father Xavier Alphonse suggested concentrating on becoming "**An Institute of Excellence (IoE)**" which will be an alternative to Deemed to be University status. He further added that the institute must prepare a ten page write-up including the history and achievements of Sona, roadmap for five years and the outcome of becoming an Institution of Excellence.
- Father Xavier Alphonse expressed his opinion that Sona, including Arts and Medical colleges, must compete with Sona and establish a paradigm shift by drawing a roadmap for the next 3 years starting from 2022. He also mentioned that BCIC can be an industry partner for Sona's move towards IoE.



- Father also added that the GB members can move a resolution to form a task force to apply for IoE. Dr. Veerappan and both the Vice Chairmen along with the Principal endorsed the view expressed by Father.
- MrChocko Valliappa insisted that this proposal must be taken up immediately and the Principal asked for inputs from the GB members. Dr. Veerappan immediately responded that he would be part of the task force representing the industry.
- MrThyagu Valliappa added that a background paper must be developed at the earliest and also insisted on bringing in alumni strength.

## **F. ADMISSIONS**

### **Item No. F1**

#### **To Peruse and approve the student admission status**

- The Chairman mentioned that the Tamilnadu Governor was an NCC cadet. He also stated that like other states, Tamilnadu must also announce some reservations for NCC cadet in the admission.
- The Principal appreciated the Admission Team for admitting quality students for the academic year 2021-2022. He mentioned that the admission has been very good this year with 98% in the first year B.E/B.Tech, 100% in MBA & MCA programmes and 96% in Lateral Entry.
- The Principal thanked the Management for giving one crore worth scholarship for students who qualified Sona EEE.

## **G. INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Item No.G1 to G3**

#### **To peruse and approve the infrastructure development**

- Mr.Thyagu Valliappa requested the industry members to provide SonaLIKE with different industry profile catalogues for the benefit of students.
- Mr.Thyagu Valliappa suggested setting up industry coffee shop near library. The idea is to extend Sona's hospitality to industrial friends. When they pass by Sona, they can stop at Sona and have a cup of coffee and visit the landmark library.
- The Principal informed the members that the University block has been occupied by the respective departments.
- The block has proved to be one of the blessed blocks in terms of successful admissions, placements, awards and accolades that the institution received.

- Mr.Thyagu Valliappa mentioned that the MBA students were provided with i-pads. He also stated that the campus has already moved from more paper to less paper and will in future move to no paper.

## H. FACULTY/STAFF

**Item No.H1 to H2**

**To peruse and approve the faculty norms, recruitment, etc.**

- Dr. Veerappan stressed on taking feedback from faculty. He further added that a third person must be appointed to interact with the faculty to understand their feeling level to measure the happiness index. This was seconded by Father Xavier Alphonse.
- MrChocko Valliappa added that cultural audit must also be carried out.

## I. REVIEW OF AUTONOMOUS STATUS

**Item No.I1 to I2**

**To peruse and review the autonomous status and accreditation status**

- The Principal acknowledged the GB members and Father Xavier for their suggestions to offer Advanced Diploma Courses. He also presented the list of courses, curriculum and syllabi which were reviewed and approved by the GB members.

## J. COLLABORATION INITIATIVES WITH INDUSTRY

**Item No.J1**

**To peruse and approve the collaboration initiatives with industry**

- The Principal mentioned that Sona has signed an MoU with IITM to support start-ups with mentorship and to facilitate the flow of funds / grants. He also added that out of the four projects that were presented, 2 were selected for development. Vice-chairman, Mr. Chocko Valliappa reiterated the fact that the IIT has accepted to incubate Sona's projects.
- Mr. Thyagu Valliappa stated that the BCIC has agreed to establish its extended centre at Sona to provide the students with hands-on experience. Mr. Parasuram, President BCIC, assured to inaugurate the centre by January 2022.
- The Principal elaborated on the seven MoUs signed by Sona with different organisations



- MrThyagu Valliappa emphasised that education must be more powerful than industry only then it can become aligned with industrial advancements and nurture industry readiness among the students.
- The Principal presented the details of MoU signed with CapGemini for Embedded System and VLSI. He also stated that this facility will be extended to Mechanical, Mechatronics and Biomedical Engineering departments.
- Vice-Chairman, Mr. Thyagu Valliappa, insisted on extending services in skill matrix to graduates and give appraisal enabling them to building the required skills and apply for jobs appropriately. He also mentioned that Sona can become a centre for skill assessment.
- MrThyagu Valliappa added that Sona Star would give the industry support required to Sona students
- Dr. Sanjeevi also suggested that study and work culture must be nurtured among students.
- Mr. Parasuram suggested launching an exchange programme with Toyota. This facility will enable Sona faculty to get trained in the industry-oriented skills. He emphasized that all the above initiatives will go a long way improving the brand value of Sona.

## **K. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Item No.K1 to K3 To peruse and review progress in R&D work**

- The Principal presented the patent highlights. During the last six months, 10 patents have been published and two patents have been filed.
- Sona's research collaborations with Fiber Network which is based in Canada received due appreciations from the GB members. The Principal explained the scope of extensive research work in future.
- To promote the research works, it has been decided to introduce Research Fellowship with stipend up to Rs. 20,000/- for full time Ph.D scholars.
- Mr. Rudhra Shankar Roy mentioned that Sona faculty members can become IBM Fellow Researchers.
- Dr.Veerappan mentioned that most of the faculty exchange programmes and industry institute interaction programmes can be conducted online and Sona can function as satellite office for these programmes. This, he said that, will turn out to be a win-win model.

- The Principal mentioned that Ixceed and Tessolve have already established their centre on Sona campus.
- The members appreciated that the portal which has been developed exclusively for R&D has come out well.
- Dr.Veerappan highlighted the need for introducing industry support division.
- MrChocko Valliappa insisted on revisiting all the MoUs and said that the same must be updated in the R&D portal.
- Both the Vice Chairmen emphasized on increasing the number of publications and participation in International conferences. They also insisted on conducting at least one International Conference per year by the departments in rotation.

#### **L. ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CELL**

**Item No. L1**

**To peruse the activities of Entrepreneurship Development Cell**

- Mr. Thyagu Valliappa explained the functioning of 'Power On Me', the ideation camp, which will also foster rural entrepreneurship development.
- Two teams which have been selected and supported by Sona Management won the 1st and 2nd place in the TNSI 2020 competition and received a cash award of Rs.1lakh.

#### **M.NCC, NSS EVENTS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

**Item No. M1**

**To peruse and approve the NCC activities, NSS and Sports activities during July 2021 to December 2021**

- The Principal made a special mention of the club activities which were conducted online during pandemic. The activities of clubs like 'Speakers Forum, NSS, NCC and Sports club received special appreciations for their tremendous contributions towards both the overall development of the students and the society.

#### **N. STUDENTS**

**Item No. N1 to N3**

**To peruse the details of Alumni, placements, co-curricular and extracurricular activities of students**

- The Management, Principal and the GB members appreciated the Placement Team for the remarkable milestones attained during 2020-2021 placements. He also



presented the details of the Japanese Language students who have got placed in top notch companies.

- MrThyagu Valliappa expressed his idea that Finance must be taught to non-finance students to improve their financial literacy.
- Mr. Thyagu Valliappa stated that every month 5 alumni must be chosen by the departments and displayed in front of the respective departments and all these details must be posted in social media and Sona alumni portal
- The Chairman mentioned that Dr. Veerappan must be invited as a Chief Guest for an alumni day which must be hosted on campus.
- The Principal presented the details of the Mega Job Fair conducted in Sona by Tamilnadu Government. Principal mentioned that nearly one lakh people visited the campus and over 30,000 candidates were offered jobs.

#### **O. MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

**Item No. O1**

**To peruse activities of the Professional Societies**

- The members were apprised of the activities of all the professional societies since the last meeting.

#### **P. SONA-CSRI ACTIVITIES**

**Item No. P1 to R1**

**To peruse the details of the functioning of Sona-CSRI**

- The Sona CSRI activities have always been commendable. The activities revenue generated and the beneficiaries were presented by the Principal. The Principal thanked Father Xavier Alphonse for his valuable support and advices for the successful functioning of Sona CSRI.
- The Chairman, in his closing remarks, asked the faculty members to plan for doing academic works in advance considering the fact that there could be lock downs in the coming weeks.
- He also appreciated the Sona team for all the achievements during this period.

The meeting came to an end at 2.00pm with the vote of thanks by the Principal.

  
**Dr. S. R. R. SENTHILKUMAR,**  
M. E (Struct), Ph. D, MISTE, AIV, MIE, C. Eng(I), MICI, MACI  
**PRINCIPAL**  
SONA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
JUNCTION MAIN ROAD, SALEM - 636 005.