SSIM Board of Governors Meeting and Strategic Review
Date: May 9, 2026
Attendees:
Dr. Sailesh Sampathy, Srimati Deepika Sampathy, Dr. S.V. Ramnarao, Dr. N.R. K.S. Chakravarti, Dr. Vipul Singh, Professor Jagati Raj, Professor Ravi Kumar Jain, Professor Muhammad Masood, Professor Pavan Patel, Professor Jaya Lakshmi, Professor K.S. Harish, C. A. Dosapati Kiran, Professor Chaturvedi, Dr. Srinath,

1. Executive Summary:

The meeting served as a comprehensive review of the 2025-2026 academic year and a strategic planning session for the future. Dr. Sailesh Sampathy opened by celebrating SSIM's ranking as the second-best standalone B-School in Telangana. The board reviewed academic performance and discussed placement success. A major strategic focus was the urgent need to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) across the curriculum, operations, and faculty skill sets to remain competitive. This led to discussions on program restructuring, which involves reducing the number of courses per trimester to allow for more hands-on, practical learning and embedding "AI for Managers" and prompt engineering training. Another critical theme was the need to improve student and faculty diversity, as the institution is currently heavily reliant on Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Strategies to attract a more national student body, particularly from engineering backgrounds, were debated. The FY 2026-27 budget was presented, showing a projected deficit of ₹40.01 lakhs, attributed to investments in brand-building and student acquisition. Finally, members emphasized improving alumni engagement through a more structured, industry-focused model and addressed HR issues, including the financial implications of the new wage code.

2. Institutional Performance Review (AY 2025-26)

Dr. Sailesh Sampathy welcomed members, highlighting SSIM's recent accolades and quoting Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on fostering leadership.

Dr. S.V. Ramnarao presented the Secretary's report, covering accreditations (SAQS, NBA, NAAC, DASCA), faculty contributions (45 papers, 8 case studies), and industry connect (29 guest lectures, SIDBI project).

Academic Performance: First-year pass percentages was shared as PGDM program at 68%, the PGDM-BFS program performed at 89%.

Placements & Internships: For the 2025 batch, 205 of 252 students have been placed, with efforts ongoing for the remaining 47. 71% of students secured summer internships, with a highest stipend of ₹35,000.

Budget Review (FY 2025-26): The institution achieved 98% of its budgeted revenue. The actual deficit was reduced to ₹19.54 lakhs from a projected ₹41 lakhs, partly due to postponed capital expenditures.

Faculty Development: Four FDPs were organized, with an upcoming FDP for degree college faculty being shifted to a virtual format due to high demand.

Decisions Made:

The FDP scheduled from May 11-15, 2026, will be converted to a virtual format.

Action Items/Commitments:

Update Training Report: The report will be updated to include details of training programs conducted for PNB and other banks.

Submit Documents to SIDBI: Submit all required documentation to SIDBI for the validation of the entrepreneurship training project.

Dr. Vipul Singh highlighted that lack of diversity is a critical issue for a vibrant B-school. Regional Diversity: 80-90% of students and a majority of faculty are from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Applications from other states (e.g., Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra) exist, but a significant opportunity lies in the Eastern and North-Eastern regions.

Academic Diversity: The intake from engineering streams (B.Tech) has fallen to just 5-10%, with the majority coming from BCom and BBA backgrounds. This is a concern as engineering graduates are perceived as more marketable in an AI-driven job market.

It was suggested that hiring faculty from other states (e.g., Kerala, Odisha, Punjab) would help attract students from those regions. These faculty could spend time in their local areas to build admission networks.

The admissions strategy is shifting towards organic outreach via principals' conclaves and FDPs to reduce dependency on Inorganic way. Appointing local representatives in key cities like Kolkata and Pune was proposed, following the model of IMI Delhi.

The plan to increase organic outreach and appoint local representatives was endorsed.
The recruitment strategy will be updated to prioritize hiring faculty from diverse geographical backgrounds.

AI Integration and Curriculum Restructuring

A strong consensus emerged on the urgent need for SSIM to become an "AI-aligned" institution within the next year. This involves embedding AI across the curriculum, pedagogy, and evaluation systems.

Program Restructuring: The current 6-7-8-8-4 course model will be revised to a 5-5-6-4-2 model to reduce course load and allow more time for hands-on, practical learning (simulations, projects). The total credit load proposed at 120.

AI Curriculum: A new course, "AI for Managers," is planned, and AI concepts will be infused into all functional courses. Training in "prompt engineering" was deemed essential for students.

Faculty Upskilling: A top priority is to train all faculty in AI over the next three months (June-August 2026). Ravi Jain offered to share a template from his institution on this process.

Entrepreneurship: The entrepreneurship module should be a compulsory, full-semester, hands-on program taught by our expert faculty member and also rope in an active entrepreneur.
Micro-credentials: The concept of offering "capsules" of 9-12 credits (3-4 courses) with a separate certificate for specific skill sets was discussed.

Integrate AI Fluency: Embed AI across the curriculum and establish a separate reporting item to track progress.

Share Detailed Syllabi: Program chairs to share syllabi demonstrating the integration of practical learning.

Develop Structured Alumni Engagement Program: Create programs for alumni involvement in co-teaching, curriculum design, and placements.

Budget, HR, and Governance: FY 2026-27 Budget: A total expenditure of ₹2,195 lakhs is proposed against a projected fee collection of ₹2,155 lakhs, resulting in a deficit of ₹40.01 lakhs. Major expenses include manpower (37%), promotions (24%), and scholarships (19%). The deficit is driven by higher student acquisition costs and new investments.

New Wage Code: A critical issue was raised regarding the new labor codes mandating basic salary as 50% of total wages, which will significantly increase gratuity liability. Vipul cited massive liabilities created at TCS and Airtel.

Next Board Meeting: The group agreed to hold the next board meeting before August 15, 2026, to review progress on the actions initiated.

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