H L COLLEGE OF COMMERCE (AUTONOMOUS)

H. L. Campus, S.V. Desai Marg, Vasant Vihar, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009

MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF H L COLLEGE OF COMMERCE (AUTONOMOUS) HELD ON 26TH JULY, 2025, AT 11:00 AM, AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, HLCC BUILDING, AHMEDABAD.

The following members were present for the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Particulars	Attendance
1.	Shri Saurabh Soparkar	Chairperson	Present
2.	Shri Naishadh Parikh	Member	Present
3.	Shri Punit Lalbhai	Member	Online
4.	Shri Abhishek Lalbhai	Member	Online
5.	Dr Shriram Nerlekar	Member	Present
6.	Dr Parag Kalkar	Member	Online
7.	Dr Mona Kelshikar	Member	Present
8.	Dr Manisha Bhavsar	Member	Present
9.	Dr Parag Shah	Member	Present
10.	Dr. Payal Shastri	SF Program Representative	Present
11.	Shri Dharmesh Shah	Office Attendant	Present
12.	Name not received*	A State Government Nominee	Absent

The Principal welcomed all to the 4th Governing Body meeting of HLCCA.

Chairperson of the Meeting:
Shri Saurabh Soparkar, Chairperson, also welcomed all and the required quorum being present, he commenced the Meeting.

Approval of Previous Minutes:
The minutes of the previous Governing Body Meeting held on 11th January, 2025, were presented before the board. The minutes were reviewed, confirmed, and approved. The Chair confirmed that the minutes had been circulated to all members and there were no concerns or apprehensions in the Minutes. Following the approval of the previous minutes, the discussion proceeded with the agenda items scheduled for the meeting.

Update on Government and Vice Chancellor Nominees:
Dr. Mona Kelshikar informed the Board that Dr. Bharti Pathak, who was previously serving as a member of the Governing Body, retired on 14th June 2025 and, as such, is no longer eligible to continue in her role. She further apprised the members that the college has already written to Gujarat University, requesting nominations from the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for the vacant positions – the Vice Chancellor's nominee and the Government nominee. However, no official communication or nomination has been received from the University till date, and hence, the positions continue to remain vacant.

The Board took note of this and placed on record its sincere appreciation for Dr. Bharti Pathak's dedicated contributions during her tenure on the Governing Body. Shri Saurabh Soparkar thereafter suggested that a formal letter of gratitude be addressed to Dr. Pathak, acknowledging her valuable guidance and support.

Reporting the academic results of grant-in-aid and three self-financed programs:
Dr. Mona Kelshikar provided a comprehensive overview of the academic activities undertaken during the previous academic year. She highlighted key institutional initiatives such as the implementation of Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE), integration of modern educational tools into classroom instruction, ERP-based academic administration to streamline academic processes, and the installation of interactive panels across multiple classrooms to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.

She also shared the exceptional academic performance of HLCC students, noting that the college secured **11 gold medals at the undergraduate level and 1 gold medal at the postgraduate level (M.Com)**. Furthermore, out of the top 50 university rankers announced by Gujarat University, a significant number were HLCC students – a testament to the college's academic rigour and commitment to excellence.

In response, Shri Punit Lalbhai appreciated the achievements and suggested that, for future reporting, percentile scores and broader performance metrics be included alongside medal counts to offer a more nuanced understanding of student outcomes across the cohort.

However, Shri Saurabh Soparkar raised concerns regarding the relatively higher failure rates observed in some programs. Dr. Shriram Nerlekar addressed the concern by explaining that the college, post-autonomy, has been upholding rigorous academic standards, which might partly explain the dip in pass percentages when compared to earlier years. The focus remains on academic integrity and maintaining quality benchmarks in teaching and assessment.

Acknowledging the issue, Shri Soparkar advised the institution to adopt remedial measures such as semester-wise bridge courses, remedial classes to support students who may be academically underprepared or struggling that balances excellence with accessibility and student progression.

Dr. Nerlekar specifically pointed out that within the Self-Financed (SF) FinTech program particularly with Linux and Kotlin subject posed the highest failure rate in the first batch. He informed the Board that, recognizing this challenge, the college had proactively initiated two days refresher course for the same as a corrective step, which was appreciated by the Chair.

Dr. Kelshikar further clarified that the first batch of the program had a relatively smaller intake and included students who were less prepared for a technical subject Linux and Kotlin, thus partially contributing to the poor performance.

After deliberated discussion, the board passed following resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the Board appreciates the academic initiatives and achievements of the college, while also recognizing the concern regarding failure rates in specific subjects and thus to strengthen its academic support systems it is decided to institutionalize bridge courses, remedial classes, and targeted mentorship programs. Further, the academic team shall explore integrating student performance analytics to for better and timely interventions."

Reporting the admission status of grant-in-aid and three self-financed programs:
Dr. Kelshikar briefed the Board that the Government had centralized the undergraduate admission process through the Gujarat Common Admission System (GCAS) for the current academic year. She noted that while this initiative aimed to bring uniformity and transparency, it also posed certain procedural challenges. She then invited Dr. Parag Shah to elaborate on HLCC's experience with the new system.

Dr. Shah informed the Board that despite several hurdles and multiple rounds of admissions - HLCC successfully managed to fill all its seats across programs. Notably, regular classes commenced on June 23, 2025, making HLCC one of the earliest institutions amongst the peer institutions to begin the academic term. He further added that the quality of admissions was commendable, with visible year-on-year improvements in merit and academic preparedness of students.

Dr. Shriram Nerlekar added to the update by sharing that HLCC's growing academic reputation has led to students migrating from other colleges to enrol in HL's innovative and forward-looking programs, reflecting the institute's increasing appeal among aspirants.

Approval of the budget for the financial year 2025-26:
Dr. Shriram Nerlekar initiated the discussion by presenting the budget for the financial year 2025–26. He noted with satisfaction that after covering the accumulated deficit in the Government-Aided (GIA) section, the College had achieved a break-even last year. For the current year, the budget reflects a projected net surplus of approximately ₹36 lakhs — a significant step forward in HLCC's financial journey.

The Board reviewed the budget across all three streams — GIA, Postgraduate (PG), and Self-Financed (SF) — and appreciated the balanced approach to income and expenditure planning. Members expressed confidence in the financial outlook and commended the leadership for the strategic and disciplined management.

The Board congratulated one another on the achievement of financial stability and extended early congratulations for the projected surplus. Members acknowledged this as a reflection of sustained efforts and prudent planning. Looking ahead, they encouraged the optimal use of surplus funds to further strengthen academic and institutional development. The board after budget review passed the following resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT the Board unanimously approved the budget for 2025-26 and placed on record its appreciation for the leadership team's efforts in ensuring financial prudence and sustainability."

New faculty recruitment for the self-financed programs:
Dr. Mona Kelshikar apprised the Board of new appointments made during the academic year. Prof. Aman Khanna and CS Kaival Dave were appointed through the formal selection process coordinated by Gujarat University, strengthening the faculty team with subject-specific expertise. In addition, Ms. Usha Vyas has joined the institution to support both administrative operations and teaching-related activities, enhancing overall academic coordination and back-end efficiency.

Plan for future academic activities in general and 2025-26 in particular
Dr. Shriram Nerlekar introduced the agenda for discussion regarding outlining the institution's focused approach towards ensuring strong career outcomes for students enrolled in the Self-Financed (SF) programs.

Shri Punit Lalbhai raised a query regarding the types of job opportunities being explored for SF students and the concrete steps planned to ensure successful student placements.

In response, Dr. Nerlekar apprised the Board that HL College is committed to delivering measurable outcomes in student education and career progression. He explained that the process has been strategically divided into multiple phases, beginning with the Exploration Phase. As part of this, a student survey was conducted to understand future aspirations. Students were allowed to select multiple options reflecting their priorities. Based on responses received up to the day prior to the meeting, a majority of students indicated a preference for pursuing higher education, followed by those inclined toward enrolling in honours-level programs. A smaller number of students expressed a desire for placements, while only a very limited group showed an interest in entrepreneurship. He added that such surveys would be periodically repeated, including at the end of each semester, to continuously gauge student direction.

Dr. Nerlekar then elaborated on the Assessment Phase, scheduled to commence in August. During this phase, student capabilities will be evaluated by an independent placement agency using structured assessment tools aligned with industry standards. This will help map students' readiness for placements and tailor support accordingly.

Following this will be the Awareness Phase, during which students will undergo a structured 60-hour orientation. This program will expose them to various industry verticals, clarify entry-level job profiles and functional roles, and support informed decision-making regarding career paths. This phase aims to create clarity among students regarding opportunities, expectations, and progression across sectors.

Shri Lalbhai suggested that HLCC actively pursue tie-ups with industry partners to enhance placement opportunities. The suggestion was well received and unanimously endorsed by the Board.

The final phase, Deep Dive and Exposure, will involve intensive training in soft skills, professional development, and placement readiness. Students will be prepared for internship and placement opportunities through structured modules. This will continue until Semester 5, post which students will be eligible for internships and placements.

Dr. Nerlekar informed that financial provisions have been duly budgeted, with an allocation of ₹20,000 per student – already incorporated within the student fee structure – for all the phases. He further explained that this amount will be disbursed progressively over the course of these assessments, ensuring proper and timely utilisation of funds across each phase. The Board acknowledged this comprehensive planning and the structured phased strategy aimed at supporting student aspirations and career outcomes

Further, the plan for the year 2025-26 in particular was also discussed,

Dr. Shriram Nerlekar informed the Board about new academic strategies for the year, including the successful introduction of Block Teaching in SF programs. The model has been piloted in the Banking and Financial Services (BFS) stream, particularly for modules like Equity Markets, and has shown promising results in enhancing conceptual clarity and immersive learning.

He also announced that a Banking Conclave is planned to be scheduled and held on 13th December 2025, possibly in collaboration with NIBM, bringing together academicians, banking professionals, researchers, and students. Shri Saurabh Soparkar recommended segmenting the sessions to cater to different audiences — with one track for student engagement and another for high-level professional discourse.

Additionally, Dr. Nerlekar apprised the board about the international industrial visits are being explored to destinations such as Dubai and Melbourne, aiming to provide global exposure to students, although these are currently in the planning stage.

Thereafter, Dr. Kelshikar took up the discussion and updated the Board on parallel academic and co-curricular initiatives:

- **SWAYAM course enrolments**, where online learning is complemented by offline examinations hosted at HLCC.
- **Specialized software training** for FinTech students.
- **Sustainability Reporting sessions** embedded into the BFS curriculum.
- Other enrichment programs such as Data Analysis workshops, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Club, Competitive Exam Training, and the Annual Sports Meet to support holistic development.

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With respect to planning for this academic year 2025-26, even infrastructural development was also taken for discussions as follows:

The Board was presented with proposals for key infrastructure enhancements, including:

- Renovation of existing rooms to establish dedicated spaces for IQAC, NCC, and the Student Council.
- Upgrading the Self-Finance staff room to accommodate the growing academic team.
- Converting the conference room into a fully functional video conferencing facility for academic and administrative purposes.

Shri Saurabh Soparkar inquired whether these upgrades were accounted for in the annual budget. Dr. Nerlekar clarified that these are capital expenditures, typically managed on a case-by-case basis, and therefore not included in the routine budget.

The Board granted in-principle approval for the proposals and recommended that the matter be placed on the AES Board Meeting agenda for further discussion and final approval.

Any other matter with the permission of the Chair:

There being no other matter to discuss, the meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Place:
Date:

Shir Saurabh Soparkar
Chairman