

IIM Ahmedabad
February 10, 2021

Statement from the Board of Governors on Campus Preservation

Dear Stakeholders of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad,

Greetings!

The Board of Governors (Board) of the institute, after considering all the feedback received from stakeholders, has decided that the institute will conduct further consultations with international preservation and rehabilitation experts regarding the feasibility, safety, and sustainability of restoration and rehabilitation as well as the initial and ongoing costs. The Board is seized of the urgency of the matter, due to concerns about the deterioration and safety of the dorms.

We cherish the significant legacy of the Louis Kahn buildings and the institute has a record over many years of consultation and work toward the protection and care of its campus. Accordingly when it embarked on a preservation and rehabilitation journey in 2014, it invited international consultants for advice and held deliberations with alumni and the architect community. Our learning from the initial experiment with the Library and one Dorm (D-15) is that deterioration in the restored and rehabilitated buildings sets in relatively quickly, given the design features and brick quality. As a result, significant ongoing financial investments are required to sustain the restored and rehabilitated buildings.

Further, the advice on seismic safety by one expert is that the restored Dorm continues to have safety concerns linked largely to Ahmedabad's sensitive location, while another expert has opined that the restored Dorm can be considered reasonably safe. Critical considerations of longevity also remain open to a variety of interpretations. We will chart out a course of action based on our desire to preserve our heritage and bearing in mind that our responsibility is to firmly keep in sight the safety of those who utilize the buildings.

Our first priority as an educational institution is to the students who come to learn, the academic community, and the faculty who participate with them on that journey. Expert opinion does inform the core of our decision, but we are also driven by the safety of those who utilize the buildings and are sensitive to the functional requirements of users of the space, their needs, as well as financial considerations. Whilst recognizing the buildings are part of an architectural milestone in modern India and an important element of the identity of the campus, we would like to be practical that the restoration is cost effective over the long term.

We have deep gratitude for the wisdom and advice received from many stakeholders, and are humbled by the outpouring of concern and inputs over recent weeks. We recognize that no uniformity can be expected from such a range of advice, expectations and opinion. Nor can any single decision be expected to fulfil all the expectations of those who have expressed their passionate concern.

The next steps will be taken following our consultations, and in consonance with the goals articulated above. We are thankful for your patience and support as we proceed to do what is right for the institute and its future.

Thank You.

Chairman and Members of the Board of Governors of IIM Ahmedabad