



ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Eighteenth Meeting of the Senate

30th November 2016; 10:00 hrs.

Venue: Workshop-1, CSIR-IGIB, Mathura Road Campus, New Delhi

Sl.No.	Name of Participants	Mode of Participation
1.	Prof. Kunal Ray, Chairman	In person
2.	Prof. K. S. Krishna, Member	In person
3.	Prof. Shantanu Sengupta, Member	In person
4.	Prof. G. Parthasarthy, Member	In person
5.	Prof. Raj Singh, Member	In person
6.	Prof. SouvikMaiti, Member	In person
7.	Dr. Anurag Agrawal, Member	In person
8.	Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Member	In person
9.	Prof. A. Ajayaghosh, Member	Video Conference*
10.	Prof. D. Ramaiah, Member	Video Conference*
11.	Prof. A.K. Tripathi, Member	Video Conference*
12.	Dr. Rajender Singh, Member	Video Conference*
13.	Ms. Arpita Sengupta, Non-member Secretary	In person

*The members participating through video conferencing could follow the proceedings of the meeting with complete clarity.

The Quorum requirement (i.e. the presence of at least 9 members) was fulfilled.

Prof. Suman K. Mishra (CSIR-NML), Prof. S. Chandrasekhar (CSIR-IICT), Prof. KV Raghavan (INAE), Prof. DD Sarma (IISc) and Prof. S. Parasuraman (TISS) could not attend the meeting due to prior engagement.

INITIATION OF THE MEETING

Item No. 1: Welcome Address and update on major activities by Chairman of the Senate and Director, AcSIR: All the members of the senate were welcomed by the Chairman Senate, Prof. Kunal Ray. He briefed the Senate on the major issues as described below:

1. Constitution of Subordinate Legislation committee chaired by Prof. AsisDatta, former Vice Chancellor, JNU and on the conduct of its meetings to bring Statute and Ordinance in sync with the AcSIR Act.
2. He also appraised the Senators about the executive decision made to disburse the formal degree without holding Convocation with permission of Acting Chairman of BoG.

3. He informed that the Convocation was not held this year since the BoG and its Chairman are not yet in place.

To this, Prof. Shantanu Sengupta pointed out that according to AcSIR rules, results of examinations and award of degrees should be approved only by the Senate. Therefore, Convocation could still be held in future under such circumstances. Prof. Tripathi supported the statement mentioning that since the Vice Chairman would serve as Acting Chairman of AcSIR, there is really no void with respect to holding the Convocation. To this the Chairman, Senate commented that this should be taken into consideration in future.

4. Prof. Ray also informed the Senators that the file related to selection of Director, AcSIR has been submitted for attention of the Chairman, BoG and for necessary action.
5. The current Chairman, BoG and DG, CSIR desires that AcSIR activities should be consolidated. As an initial step, its Coordination office at Delhi should move from CSIR-CRRI to CSIR-HRDC Campus at Ghaziabad. For initiation of the process, space has been identified in CSIR-HRDC and file has been put up for necessary official approval from CSIR.
6. Prof. Ray also mentioned that the details of Agenda item should be circulated to Senate members one week prior to the meeting. In case details of all the agenda items could not be completed, this job can be completed through successive mails.

Item No. 2: Confirmation of the minutes of the 17th meeting of the Senate: The Secretary mentioned that the draft proceedings of the meeting has already been circulated among the members, the comments received have been incorporated appropriately and has received approval of the Associate Director (Academic). The proceedings of the meeting was accepted by the Senate.

Item No. 3: Action Taken Report on the 17th Meeting of the Senate: The Senate members were updated on the action taken on each item. Only those items for which any action is pending are reported:

- (i) **Item No. 1 #4(i): Nominations to replace outgoing members of the Senate:** The process of nomination has been taken up and is under process.
- (ii) **Item No. 1 #4(ii): Filling up of all vacant positions of Deans and Associate Deans:** Approval for extension of existing Deans and Associate Deans has been received from the Chairperson, BoG (DG, CSIR) for six months only (upto 3rd February, 2017). The Senate was updated that only the existing Deans and Associate Deans were given an extension for six months only pending further decision regarding this matter.
- (iii) **Item No. 1#(4)(iv): Introduction of Online Examination of PhD Thesis:** This was reported as a pending item.

The Senate pointed out that this item has been pending since at least one year and needs to be resolved soon. In this context Prof. Souvik Maiti proposed that if inhouse arrangement takes such a long time, it would be prudent to explore market opportunities to outsource this activity. It was also mentioned that CSIR-URDIP may be given a specific timeline to complete the job as a follow up of their earlier commitment.



- (iv) **Item No. 1 #4(vii): Modification in entry level eligibility criteria for IMP:** The required modification should have been done by the Admission committee. However, currently Admission Committee is not yet in place since appointment of all the Deans and Associate Deans are pending for approval from the Chairman, BoG.

The Senators felt that the matter is too important to wait any longer and a Committee was formed to take necessary action regarding this matter consisting of the following faculty of AcSIR: Prof. Raj Singh (CSIR-CEERI, Chairman), Prof. Suman K. Mishra (CSIR-NML, member), Prof. HK Sardana (CSIR-CSIO, member) and Prof. Chetan Gadgil (CSIR-NCL, member).

- (v) **Item No. 1#4(xii): AcSIR Policy on Online Repository of Theses – INFLIBNET/ Institutional Repository at URDIP:** The Secretary mentioned that as per the previous Senate decision, following UGC guideline, the repository of the Theses will be done with INFLIBNET. She mentioned that too many other important issues of high priority have delayed this activity and it would be taken up as soon as possible.

- (vi) **Item No. 1#4(xiii): Credit requirement for the PhD part of MSc-PhD program:** This will be taken up by Dr. Shantanu Sengupta along with the other Deans and Associate Deans.

- (vii) **Item No. 1 #4(xvii): Revision of Sitting Fee/ Professional Fee/ Honorarium:** Information regarding source of funding to meet the enhanced expenditure was asked for by the Chairman BoG and it will be provided to him through the Finance Committee for a decision.

- (viii) **Item No. 5#22: Need to fix tenure of AcSIR lab Coordinators:** The Senate's decision regarding this matter is yet to be communicated to all the CSIR Labs; it will be done soon.

ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

Item No. 4: Admission for the August 2016 session (PhD program in Science and Engineering): The Senate ratified the admissions in PhD programs at **CSIR-NCL, CSIR-IICT, CSIR-NIO, CSIR-NML, CSIR-CSMCRI, CSIR-IHBT and CSIR-IICB.**

It was noted by the Senate that the format for proceedings of selection of candidates is not uniform across different CSIR Labs. It was recommended that a common format should be created and circulated to all the Labs.

Item No. 5: Initiation of PG Diploma Programs at CSIR-CMERI and ratification of admissions:

Senate in its 17th meeting had opined that with present resources the Academy may not be able to handle new academic programs and hence the proposal was declined. However, based on in-principle approval given by the Senate in its 16th meeting, CSIR-CMERI had already advertised for the program and received applications. In view of the same, the Director of CSIR-CMERI had



requested the then Chairman, Senate (Prof. Ram Rajasekharan) to reconsider the decision. Prof. Rajasekharan approved the request of the Director, CSIR-CMERI subject to ratification by the Senate. On the basis of this approval CSIR-CMERI selected 27 students for its three PG Diploma programs.

The Senate ratified the admission. However, the Senate expressed its displeasure that its Chairman Prof. Rajasekharan had accorded approval on a matter that was not accepted through consensus in previous Senate meeting. It was mentioned that ideally the matter should have been brought to the attention of the Senators through circulation and seek their opinion.

After examining the documents related to the selection procedure, two additional points were made: (a) no interview should be accepted by teleconference. Interview conducted for candidates from a remote location will be conducted only through video connection to ensure authenticity of the candidate; and (b) it was strongly recommended that the approval of the selection proceedings should be accepted only as a signed scanned copy to prevent any oversight while giving electronic approval.

Item No. 6: PhD (Science and Engineering) results for the award of the Degree: The Senate ratified the result of 87 students for the award of the PhD (Science) and PhD(Engineering) degrees as detailed in the agenda.

Item No. 7: Course Related Items: The Senate ratified the proposed new and modified courses, as detailed in the agenda, from the following Labs:

New Courses:

Approved:

Biological Sciences: CSIR-CCMB and CSIR-IITR;

Chemical Sciences: CSIR-IICT, CSIR-NCL, CSIR-CSMCRI and CSIR-NEIST;

Engineering Sciences: CSIR-CEERI and CSIR-IICT.

Asked for revision:

Biological Sciences: CSIR-CCMB

Bio-CCMB-2-1212: Bio Safety

Bio-CCMB-2-1213: Gene Regulation and Genome Organization

Recommendation: credit distribution to be relooked and resubmitted for approval.

Modified courses:

Approved:

Engineering Sciences: CSIR-IICT.

Item No. 8: Minor revision of Eligibility criteria for Summer Training program: The Senate ratified a few minor revisions as follows:

- (i) the eligibility criteria were broadened to include other programs equivalent to those that were already approved previously (viz., BE/BTech/ MSc/ ME/ MTech/ Integrated ME or MTech programs),
- (ii) all applicants would be evaluated on the basis of CGPA



- (iii) where necessary, marks given in percentage will be converted to CGPA using the formula $CGPA = (Percentage + 5)/10$.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item No. 9: PhD (Science) and PhD (Engineering) results and award of degree: The results of Ph.D (Science), Ph.D (Engineering), M.Tech, M.Sc. and PG Diploma were approved by the Chairman Senate on the basis of the recommendation of the respective Deans. The Senate took note of it for declaration of result and award of final degrees as detailed in the Agenda.

Item No. 10: Faculty related (Updates on Faculty List): The Senate noted the updates in the faculty list due to new recruitments, promotion, superannuation, resignation etc. as detailed in the agenda, and based on the approval accorded by the Chairman, Senate as per the approved guidelines.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

Item No. 11: Guidelines for taking Academic Leaves by AcSIR Students: The Senate members accepted the draft guideline, proposed by Prof. Raj Singh, for taking academic leaves by AcSIR students. It was suggested to incorporate a minor amendment that the students would need to take permission from the Guide, as per Institutional Guidelines, and inform the AcSIR Coordinator whenever they need to go on outstation leaves. The guideline would be appropriately updated and made available.

Item No. 12: Redefining the criteria for the award of degrees with distinction: The need for discussion of this issue was prompted by a case of an MTech student from CSIR-CSIO who took a re-test of a failed exam from the first semester and cleared it at the end of fourth semester. He scored 8.01 CGPA but was not recommended for a Distinction – a decision that the student contested. The Senators discussed and deliberated on this issue in detail and appreciated that for maintenance of quality, Distinction should not be awarded if the necessary score is attained through a re-test. However, it was a considered opinion of the Senate that since such policy is not already in place in AcSIR, therefore, for consistency, the concerned student should be declared to have passed with a Distinction.

The Senate recommended that a change should be made in the relevant guideline to ensure that henceforth (1st December 2016 onwards) it would be a prerequisite for award of a Distinction that all the exams are passed in a single attempt. Appropriate changes should be incorporated in the final grade card identifying any course passed after taking a re-test and insertion of a note stating that Distinction is to be considered only when all courses are cleared in one attempt.

Item No. 13: Discussion regarding rules described in AcSIR Act: During the course of operation, certain inconsistencies have been observed between the AcSIR Act, Statutes and Ordinances leading to difficulty of functioning. In addition, based on working experience it is evident that certain minor amendments in the Act would be very helpful for the benefit of the Academy. Incidentally, AcSIR has received a communication from the Lok Sabha Secretariat regarding a proposed Amendment Bill to the AcSIR Act, 2011 for insertion of new Section 39 on



laying of Subordinate Legislations to the table of Parliament. The proposed Amendment Bill to the AcSIR Act, 2011 has been approved by the Senate at its 16th meeting held on 5th May, 2016. Given the opportunity for amendment of the AcSIR Act, 2011, the Senators were appraised of a few difficulties, mentioned above, in the functioning of AcSIR as per the Act and suggested amendments as mentioned below:

- (i) **Ex-officio members of the Board [Section 11(1)(c-g)] of the AcSIR Act 2011:** Ex-officio members of the Board holding high offices rarely attended BoG meetings. Thus, AcSIR does not get benefits of presence of these members.

In order to avoid the situation and to take advantage of the expertise of such members, the Senate approved the insertion of an additional clause as Section 11(5) of the AcSIR Act as under:

"The ex-officio members of the Board under Section 11(1) (c to g) may nominate an official from their Department holding academic position, not below the rank of Joint Secretary, to the Board meetings".

- (ii) **Term of office of members of Board [Section 16(1) explanation II Proviso]:**

Current text:

"Provided that an outgoing member of the Board shall, unless or otherwise directed, continue in office until another person is appointed, or, as the case may be, nominated as a member in his place"

Revised text:

"Provided that an outgoing member of the Board shall, unless otherwise directed, continue in office until another person is appointed, or, as the case may be, nominated as a member in his place".

Deletion of the word "or" (between the words "unless" and "otherwise") would allow continuation of the members in office till the positions are filled up following due procedure.

- (iii) **Appointment of Associate Director [Section 23(1) of AcSIR Act 2011]:**

Current text:

"The Associate Directors of the Academy shall, be appointed by the Director with the approval of the Board, from amongst Professors of the Academy or scientists of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research engaged in academic activity in the Academy, for such period, and on such terms and conditions, as may be laid down by the Statutes, and, shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned to them by this Act or the Statutes or by the Director".

Revised text:

"The Associate Directors of the Academy shall, be appointed by the Director with the approval of the Board, preferably from amongst Professors of the Academy or regular/superannuated scientists/staffs of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research engaged in academic/administrative/financial/networking activities for such period, and on



such terms and conditions, as may be laid down by the Statutes, and, shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned to them by this Act or the Statutes or by the Director”.

The above amendment will allow consideration of senior staff from Administration and Finance as well as superannuated Scientists to be considered for the various positions of Associate Director.

Item No. 14: Enrollment and registration of PhD students under Emeritus Scientists/professors: The Senators discussed the issue and recommended that Emeritus Scientists/Professors would have a maximum number of two PhD students enrolled with him/her. If however, he/she already have some PhD students being supervised from the period prior to superannuation, additional students may not be taken. Also, all PhD students enrolled with Emeritus Scientists/Professors must also have a Co-guide to ensure continuity of the study.

Any exception to this rule will be considered on case to case basis by the Senate on receipt of recommendation from the Laboratory Director through the concerned Dean.

Item No. 15: Quarterly declaration of formal results and award of degree certificates: The Senators felt it is very important that the students get their degree certificates in due time without delay so that their future career plan is not anyway affected. In that context, the Senators proposed the following:

- (i) PhD degree certificates and grade cards should be prepared every quarter (March, June, September and December) which would normally be given during Convocation or prior to 180 days, whichever is earlier, as per UGC guideline.
- (ii) All other degree/diploma programs (MTech, MSc, Diploma etc.) completing in July-August will receive the certificate during the Convocation normally held in September.
- (iii) The Senators recommended that there should be a charge of Rs. 1000/- payable for receiving Certificate.

Item No. 16: Proposal for recognition of AcSIR as member of additional network association/ institutes: AcSIR is already member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) for networking and higher visibility. Following the proposal brought by the Coordinator of CSIR-CSIO, Prof. HK Sardana, for membership for (i) Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) and (ii) Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI), the Senators, after due discussion, agreed that both the proposals for membership should be pursued.

Item No. 17: Proposal from Inter University Centre for Biomedical Research & Super Specialty Hospital for being an affiliate centre of AcSIR: The Senate accepted the proposal in principle and requested for detailed proposal for affiliation for its consideration.

In this context, the Senate noted that at least one joint endeavor with other academic institution formalized by AcSIR through an MoA, viz., LV Prasad Eye institute, has not been followed up to initiate the joint programs yet. This prompted the Senate to recommend that in future the MoA should also include a clause that the validity of MoA would be for a period of upto



two years for implementation of the programs under joint collaboration. Any proposal after conclusion of MoA remaining dormant beyond two years from date of signing will require its re-validation by the Senate.

Item No. 18: Proposal received for initiation of Diploma Programs:

- a) CSIR-NPL: Diploma in Precision Measurements & Quality Control
- b) CSIR-NIO: Diploma in Aquaculture Technology
- c) CSIR-IGIB: PG Diploma in Genomics and Molecular Technologies for Industrial Applications
- d) CSIR-IHBT: PG Advanced Diploma in Computational Biology, Big and Bio data analytics

The Senators perused the submitted proposals individually and were of the opinion that it is necessary that the proposals be submitted to AcSIR for its consideration in a specific format. The following was proposed:

- a) A proper format to be created by AcSIR having sections containing details of the proposal.
- b) The Course Committee would evaluate each of the proposals received individually examining their relevance, content and sustainability.
- c) The Dean of the concerned faculty would make his/her recommendation based on evaluation of the Course Committee.
- d) Finally, it should be submitted to the Senate for its approval.

In view of the above, all the four programs will be sent back to the concerned Lab to submit the proposals in the format suggested by AcSIR.

Item No. 19: An Update on UGC's recommendation for award of MPhil/PhD Degree, 2016 (follow up from 17th meeting of Senate):

The Senate deliberated point by point on all the recommendations made and accepted the proposed changes with minor modification in the following points (which correspond to the item nos. in the relevant Annexure No. A-16 of the agenda):

(ix) DAC should be conducted every six months. The six months Progress report with DAC members' signature is to be submitted to the coordinator and same is to be produced to AcSIR at the time of thesis submission.

(xi) Senate recommended that PhD scholars, before submission of thesis must have at least one published paper in peer reviewed journals. Manuscript accepted for publication from thesis work/ relevant field will also be accepted with proper evidence (i.e., acceptance letter from the peer reviewed journal). Also, accepted Patents/ Technology Transfers/ Know-how transfer can be considered equivalent to publication in peer reviewed journals.

Only in exceptional circumstances, DAC may recommend thesis submission in absence of meeting the above criterion which will be sent to the Chairman, Senate by the respective Dean with his/her endorsement for final approval.

(xii) Thesis Supervisors are to be included as one of the Examiners



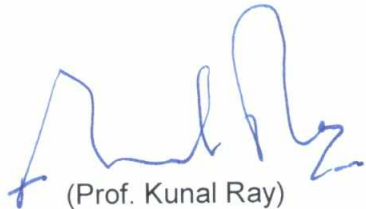
(xvi) Senate accepted the modification and also recommended to include one page copyright certificate from the student while submitting the thesis for examination.

Additional Item No. 1: Complaints received from CSIR-4PI students:

Recently AcSIR has formed a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. K.S. Krishna to evaluate academic complaints received from four students of CSIR-4PI. The findings of the committee were presented to the Senators. The committee report was compiled from its findings based on the collated complaint received from the students and the response from the Coordinator. The complaints were examined critically by the Committee and no wrong doing was found on part of the Coordinator. The senate agreed to submit the report to the concerned laboratory Director but made comment that direct interaction with the aggrieved students would have been preferred.

The Director thanked all the participating members for their presence in the meeting and their valuable suggestions to take AcSIR forward.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Prof. Kunal Ray)
Chairman, Senate