

# **Fourteenth Meeting of the Senate**

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 11:00hrs.**

## **AGENDA**



### **ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH**

**Headquarters:** Training and Development Complex,  
CSIR Campus, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai- 600 113

**Coordination Office:** CSIR-Central Road Research Institute,  
CRRRI P.O., Delhi-Mathura Road, New Delhi- 110 025

# Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research

## Agenda for the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate

8<sup>th</sup> May 2015; 11:00hrs.

Venue: Conference Room, CSIR-CRRI, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110025

	Item	Page No.	Annexure
<b>INITIATION OF THE MEETING</b>			
1	Welcome Address by Chairman of the Senate and Acting Director, AcSIR	1	-
2	Confirmation of the minutes of the 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate	1	A-1
3	Action Taken Report (ATR) on the 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate	1	A-2
<b>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</b>			
4	Course Related Items	2	A-3
<b>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</b>			
5	Report on transfer of students from one CSIR Lab to other	3	-
6	Report on students changing their faculty of studies	4	A-4
7	Initiation of Integrated Masters-PhD program in Nutritional Biology at CSIR-CFTRI	5	-
8	Update on Senate's recommendation for discontinuation of PhD program at CSIR-NISCAIR	6	A-5, A-6
9	Updates on Faculty List of AcSIR	7	A-7
10	Report on Workshop for AcSIR Lab Coordinators	8	A-8
<b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION &amp; APPROVAL</b>			
11	Admissions for the PhD January 2015 session	10	A-9
12	Students' Fellowship related items: i) Two CSIR-CSMCRI students on Deputation to Brazil ii) One CSIR-IGIB student selected for Nehru Fullbright Fellowship	11	A-10
13	Initiation of proposed AcSIR Engineering Sciences program on "Computational Biology and Bioengineering" at CSIR-NCL	12	A-11

Item		Page No.	Annexure
14	Proposal to review/ process-modification for IMP program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Admission criteria at the entry level</li> <li>ii) Eligibility criteria for admission to PhD after MTech</li> <li>iii) Whether current practice of reapplication of existing IMP students for PhD program can be discontinued</li> <li>iv) Whether TS candidates could continue their PhD program in self-financing mode?</li> <li>v) Whether student quitting the IMP program after completion of MTech could be allowed to be readmitted to PhD program?</li> </ul>	13	-
15	Issues related to PhD program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Proposal for continuance of research program after resignation and revalidation of registration after a long gap</li> <li>ii) Proposal for modification in thesis submission and examination process</li> <li>iii) Modification of Open colloquium and open viva process</li> <li>iv) Proposal for suitable modification of PhD certificate to accommodate studies undertaken in interdisciplinary areas</li> <li>v) To explore the possibility of introducing Teaching Assistantship (TA) for willing and capable Graduate students on the basis of specific needs</li> <li>vi) Honorarium payable to foreign examiners of theses</li> </ul>	16	A-12  A-13
16	Proposal for Creation of Industry Sponsored Chair Professor, AcSIR at CSIR-IICT	21	A-14
17	Request from Dr. Sudip Roy for extension of his mentorship of PhD students beyond the period of his resignation from CSIR-NCL	22	A-15
18	Proposal for short academic break at AcSIR at the end of each semester	23	-
19	Proposal for electronic archival of AcSIR related academic documents by CSIR Labs which are two years or older	24	-
20	Any other item with the permission of the Chair	-	-

## Initiation of the Meeting

### **Item No. 1      Welcome address by the Chairman of the Senate and Acting Director, AcSIR**

The Acting Director and Chairman, Senate of Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) welcomes all the members of the Senate attending the meeting. A brief update on the current activities of AcSIR will be given.

### **Item No. 2      Confirmation of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate**

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate of AcSIR was held on January 23, 2015 at Conference Room, CSIR-CRRI, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110025.

The Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted by the Chairman and circulated among the members of the Senate by e-mail on March 25, 2015 for their comments/ observations. No comment was received on the Proceedings.

The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate are being put to the Senate for confirmation at **Annexure A-1**.

### **Item No. 3      Action Taken Report (ATR) on the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate**

The Action Taken Report on the Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate of AcSIR held on January 23, 2015 is furnished at **Annexure A-2**.

## Items for Ratification

### Item No. 4 Course Related Items

Retrospective approval for change of name and credit structure of course in Biological Sciences for CSIR-IGIB and CSIR-NCL and Modification of courses for PHFI-Clinical Research Program

#### **CSIR-IGIB (Biological Sciences):**

CSIR-IGIB has been conducting a course on basic programming titled 'Basic Matlab for Biologists' (BIO-IGIB-3-285) since 2013 as a one credit course as approved by the Senate in its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, while conducting the course it was realized that the course need to be more exhaustive and accordingly the content was modified to suit the needs of the students.

Based on the content of the course it has been renamed as “**Basic Programming for Biologists**” with a credit distribution of **0-0-4-2**. Due approval for the modification of the course was sought from the Dean Biological Sciences and approval received.

#### **CSIR-NCL (Biological Sciences):**

CSIR-NCL has been conducting the course “**Advanced Techniques in Biology**” (BIO-NCL-2-521), which was approved as a 2 credit course by the Senate at its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, considering the requirement of the students, the course is being conducted at CSIR-NCL as a 3 credit course covering around 45 hours of teaching.

On request from the Coordinator of CSIR-NCL, the Dean, Biological Science has approved the proposal that the course “**Advanced Techniques in Biology**” (BIO-NCL-2-521) as a 3 credit course.

#### **PHFI – Clinical Research (Biological Science):**

PHFI has recommended certain modifications in existing courses, duly recommended by the Dean of Biological Sciences, as under:

Sl. No.	Course No.	Course Name	Modification in
1	MD108	Medicinal and Natural Product Chemistry	Title: Drug Discovery
2	MD207	Advanced epidemiology	Course content

The modification of course of CSIR-IGIB, CSIR-NCL and PHFI-Clinical Research are being put up for Senate’s ratification. Course description is furnished in **Annexure A-3**.

## Items for Information

### Item No. 5 Report on transfer of students from one CSIR Lab to other

Upon discontinuation of the PhD program at CSIR-NISCAIR as per the recommendation of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate, the following students have been transferred from CSIR-NISCAIR to other participating Labs to continue with their PhD program:

Name of the Student	CSIR-Labs	Faculty	Original Enrollment No.	Changed Faculty	Revised Enrollment No.
Anurag Kanaujia	NISCAIR to NISTADS	MIS	10MM14J42001	MIS	10MM14J30004
Tina Sharma *	NISCAIR to OSDD	MIS	10MM14J42006	Biological Sciences	10MB14J51001

\* Ms. Tina Sharma has already applied to DST for transfer of Fellowship

The Senate is requested to take a note of the same.

## Items for Information

### Item No. 6 Report on students changing their faculty of studies

The following students have received approval of the concerned Deans and the Chairman, Senate for change of faculty:

CSIR-Lab	Name of the Student	Faculty	Original Enrollment No.	Changed Faculty	Revised Enrollment No.
IGIB	RichaPahuja	Biological Sciences	10BB14A02024	Chemical Sciences	10BC14A02024
IICT	Archana Panyala	Chemical Sciences	10CC12A18056	Biological Sciences	10CB12A18056
CECRI	P. Dhandapani	Chemical Sciences	10CC12A05008	Biological Sciences	10CB12A05008
CFTRI	Sandhya Shewale	Biological Sciences	10BB15J08010	Engineering Sciences	20BE15J08010

Members may kindly take a note of the change of faculty of students. Necessary approvals are enclosed as **Annexure A-4**.

## Item for Information

### **Item No. 7      Initiation of Integrated Masters-PhD program in Nutritional Biology at CSIR-CFTRI**

The Board of Governors at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014 was reported about the CSIR-CFTRI receiving in-principle approval of the DBT for "Enhancing Research Capacity and initiating Integrated M.Sc-Ph.D program in the area of Nutrition Biology". The proposal had already received the approval of the Senate at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on April 4, 2014. The Senate also accorded its approval on the course content for the program at its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held on August 8, 2014.

The Board had sought clarification from CSIR-CFTRI about the amount and duration of financial commitment received from DBT so that the program does not become a liability of CSIR-CFTRI after the initial tenure of DBT financial support is over. The Director CSIR-CFTRI has responded that "After DBT Support, the course will sustain itself with the CSIR-CFTRI Institute's funds generated under Short Term Courses/Student Project fee etc". The Chairman, BoG has accorded his approval on the proposal and for initiation of the program from the August 2015 session.

Accordingly, CSIR-CFTRI is planning for intake of 10 students for the "Integrated Masters-PhD program in Nutritional Biology" program in the August 2015 session.



## Items for Information

### Item No. 8 Update on Senate's recommendation for discontinuation of PhD program at CSIR-NISCAIR

Consequent upon the decision of the Senate to discontinue the PhD programs in *Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (CBB)* and *Database Systems & Climate Change Informatics (DBS & CCI)* at CSIR-NISCAIR, the Senate requested Prof. Kunal Ray, Associate Director, to follow up on the status of the students from the Director, CSIR-NISCAIR.

1. Based on the above recommendation, Associate Director, AcSIR wrote to Director, NISCAIR on Jan 26, 2015. Director, NISCAIR showed no commitment for handling the matter of students in light of closure of the academic programs of AcSIR at NISCAIR. Copies of the communication with Director, CSIR-NISCAIR is enclosed at **Annexure A-5** for information of the Senate.
2. The issue of "Transfer of students from AcSIR to CSIR-NISTADS" was also raised in Parliament (Rajya Sabha) on Feb 26, 2015. Copy of the Parliament Question is enclosed at **Annexure A-6** for information of the Senate.

#### Current Status of Students enrolled at NISCAIR

Sl. No.	Enrollment No.	Name of Student	Program**	Status
1	10MM14J42001	Mr. Anurag Kanaujia	CBB	Transferred to NISTADS
2	10MM14J42006	Ms. Tina Sharma	CBB	Transferred to OSDD
3	10MM14J42002	Mr. Apurv Saxena	DBS&CCI	No information available
4	10MM14J42003	Mr. Ashutosh Saidawat	DBS & CCI	Continuing at NISCAIR
5	10MM14J42004	Mr. Pranay Kumar Singh*	DBS & CCI	Student has requested NOC to initiate the transfer
6	10MM14J42005	Mr. Tushar Kaushik	DBS & CCI	No information available

\*Pranay has expressed his desire to move to other Institute. Accordingly, he has submitted a request for NOC from Director, NISCAIR. Also, he is being not paid any fellowship since Feb 2015. Associate Director, AcSIR is communicating with the Director, NISCAIR urging her to take action on these pending matters, so that the student's hardship could be mitigated.

## Items for Information

### Item No. 9 **Updates on Faculty status of AcSIR:** New/Modified list received since 13<sup>th</sup> Senate Meeting

The Senate in its eighth meeting on August 2, 2013 had approved the *Faculty Guidelines of AcSIR*. The collated list of faculty was placed and approved in the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate.

AcSIR routinely receives requests for modification of faculty list based on participation of newly hired CSIR scientists in the Academy, promotion, superannuation or resignation of the existing staffs. Approval of the Chairman, Senate (as authorized at the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate) has been obtained for inclusion of new faculty, modification in status of faculty and deletion due to superannuation and other reasons for the following Labs:

Sl. No.	CSIR-Lab Name	Status
1	CSIR-AMPRI	Addition of Faculty; Modification of Status; Deletion
2	CSIR-CBRI	Addition of Faculty
3	CSIR-CECRI	Addition of Faculty
4	CSIR-CFTRI	Addition of Faculty
5	CSIR-CGCRI	Addition of Faculty
6	CSIR-CLRI	Addition of Faculty; Modification of Status
7	CSIR-IHBT	Addition of Faculty; Deletion
8	CSIR-IICT	Addition of Faculty
9	CSIR-IITR	Addition of Faculty; Deletion
10	CSIR-NCL	Addition of Faculty
11	CSIR-SERC	Addition of Faculty
12	CSIR-NEERI	Modification of Status

Details are placed at **Annexure A-7** for information of the Senate.

## Items for Information

### Item No. 10 Report on Workshop for AcSIR Lab Coordinators

AcSIR workshop was conducted for updating the Lab Coordinators about the matters related to the Academy and to communicate with them extensively for getting feedback for further improvement of the academic programs. In addition, presentations were made for local faculty of AcSIR and the students which was followed by interactive sessions. It was two day program in each case.

Three such workshops were held in the following venues:

- CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad on February 4-5, 2015
- CSIR-IICB, Kolkata on February 12-13, 2015
- CSIR-NPL, New Delhi on February 27-28, 2015

CSIR Lab Coordinators and the Executive Consultants and/or Executive Assistants were invited to attend the meeting based on their physical proximity of the Labs from the venue of the meeting or their itinerary, whichever convenient.

In brief, Prof. Kunal Ray presented on the state of AcSIR including its achievements and challenges. Ms Arpita Sengupta and Mr. Ashwini Mishra made presentation in detail on conducting PhD and MTech programs. Prof. Ray also updated the Lab Coordinators regarding the financial situation of AcSIR including overall large amount of pending tuition fees due from most CSIR Labs. Further details along with list of participants of the workshop are enclosed as **Annexure A-8**.

Here are some salient points on the Workshop:

- All Lab Coordinators appreciated conducting such workshops and recommended its continuance on a yearly basis.
- Many constructive suggestions were made by the Lab Coordinators. These points have been noted and action will be taken as appropriate.
- In general, all the Lab Coordinators expressed their frustration for lack of proper communication with AcSIR on financial matters.
- On our effort to initiate discussion on recoupment of substantial amount of money due from the labs, it was revealed that there is major inconsistency in the number of students recorded in the Lab and in AcSIR offices.
- It was realized that a major effort is needed to have common student related database in CSIR Labs and AcSIR office. The current data available at AcSIR office is skewed and projected earnings for future and number of students enrolled in AcSIR is not correct.

- Part of the reason for the current situation has been low number of staffs for financial work and lack of input from an effective FAO.
- For smooth functioning of AcSIR matters at CSIR Labs it is very important that specific instruction goes from CSIR Headquarters to administrative bodies at CSIR Labs.

As a corrective measure personnel have been hired at Chennai office to replenish the lost strength. In addition an Executive Consultant has been hired in Delhi office to provide support in financial matters. Currently the student database is being updated with all relevant information in liaison with the CSIR Labs.

## Items for Approval and Discussion

### Item No. 11      Admissions for the PhD January 2015 session

#### PhD program in Science and Engineering

Two hundred thirty one students from twenty six labs were admitted in Ph.D. program in Science for the January 2015 session and thirty six students were admitted in Engineering in the same session. The ratification of the process was completed in 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate.

Proceedings of the Selection Committee meetings of six labs, duly approved by the Deans of the respective faculty, could not be ratified due to non-availability of the data from CSIR-CCMB, CSIR-CDRI, CSIR-CMERI, CSIR-IICT, CSIR-IIIM and CSIR-NCL.

The Proceedings received from **CSIR-CMERI**, **CSIR-IICT** and **CSIR-IIIM** for admission of **147** number of students, **10** in Engineering Sciences, **91** in Chemical Sciences and **46** in Biological Sciences, duly approved by the concerned Deans of the faculty are being placed at **Annexure A-9** for approval of the Senate. Proceedings of CSIR-CDRI, CSIR-CCMB and CSIR-IIIM are yet to be received for approval of the Senate.

## Items for Approval and Discussion

### Item No. 12      **Students' Fellowship related items**

**(i) Two CSIR-CSMCRI students on Deputation to Brazil**

Two students of CSIR-CSMCRI, Bhavnagar, **Mr. Tonmoy Ghosh** (10BB12J16012) and **Mr. Chetan Paliwal** (10BB12J16013) have received DST funding for conducting joint experiments under the DST CNPq joint research project titled "Integrated process development for maximizing production of bio-pigments and residual biomass as an energy feedstock from algae and its life cycle assessment (LCA)" for one month in February-March, 2015. Both the students are enrolled with Dr. Sandhya Mishra of CSIR-CSMCRI.

The Senate is requested to take a note of this matter and accord post-facto approval.

**(ii) One CSIR-IGIB student selected for Nehru Fulbright Fellowship Ms. Neha Dhasmana of CSIR-IGIB (Registration No. 10BB12A02030)**

has been selected for Nehru Fulbright Fellowship which will require her to work at NIAID, National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, USA) for a period of nine months starting from the month of July 2015. The student has requested grant her leave of absence for a period of nine months, which has been duly recommended by the Director of CSIR-IGIB. The Dean, Biological Sciences has also accorded his approval on the same.

The Senate is requested to take a note of the matter and accord its approval.

Copies of the applications received from the students of CSIR-CSMCRI and CSIR-IGIB are enclosed for reference of the Senate at **Annexure A-10**.

## Items for Approval and Discussion

### Item No. 13    **Initiation of proposed AcSIR Engineering Sciences program on “Computational Biology and Bioengineering” at CSIR-NCL**

**Background:** CSIR-NCL has proposed introduction of an Engineering Sciences program on “*Computational Biology and Bioengineering*” in inter-disciplinary areas of Engineering and Biological Sciences with due approval from the Director of the Lab. Details of the credit requirements and course details have also been submitted to the Deans of Engineering and Biological Sciences due to the inter-disciplinary nature of the program.

The proposal has been reviewed by the Deans of Engineering Sciences and Biological Sciences and has received approval from both of them. The Chairman, Senate has also accorded his approval for the initiation of the program from August 2015 session. The detailed proposal and the coursework details are being placed at **Annexure A-11** for ratification by the Senate.

## Items for Discussion & Approval

### Item No. 14 **Proposal to review/ process-modification for Integrated MTech-PhD (IMP) program:**

- (i) **Admission criteria at the entry level**
- (ii) **Eligibility criteria for admission to PhD after MTech**
- (iii) **Whether reapplication for PhD program after MTech is required?**
- (iv) **Whether TS candidates could continue their PhD program in self-financing mode?**
- (v) **Whether student quitting the IMP program after completion of MTech could be allowed to be readmitted to PhD program?**

#### (i) **Admission criteria at the entry level**

**Background:** A proposal has been received from Prof. Raj Singh, Coordinator of CSIR-CEERI and member of the Senate to re-look into the eligibility criteria for students seeking admission to the IMP program.

**Proposal:** Since AcSIR gives preference to students having a valid GATE/NET Fellowship, it has been proposed to consider modification of CGPA/percentage eligibility criteria of 7.00/70% for the prospective students to first class in BE/BTech with valid GATE score or NET rank.

The Senate is requested to deliberate on the proposal.

#### (ii) **Eligibility criteria for admission to PhD after MTech**

**Background:** IMP Students with minimum 8.0 CGPA or more at MTech become eligible for continuation in its PhD program. However, there is no such restriction for admission to the regular PhD program in Engineering.

**Proposal:** A proposal has been received from Prof. Raj Singh of CSIR-CEERI to allow IMP students with CGPA of 7.00 (or more) i.e. first class for being eligible for AcSIR-PhD admission process.

The Senate is requested to deliberate on the issue and provide guidelines on the same.



(iii) **Whether current practice of reapplication of existing IMP students for PhD program can be discontinued**

**Background:** IMP Students having  $\geq 8.0$  CGPA at MTech become eligible for continuation in its PhD program. Currently, the eligible students have to once again fill up the on-line application form for admission. This issue was discussed at the AcSIR Workshops for the Coordinators held at various locations and thought to be redundant.

In this context it is worth mentioning that similar process of re-application is also involved for admission to the PhD part of an Integrated MSc-PhD program offered at AcSIR.

**Proposal:** The Senate is requested to deliberate on this issue and decide on the proposal for repeal readmission step for the qualified students for continuation to the PhD program for consistency with the name and design of the program.

(iv) **Whether TS candidates could continue their PhD program in self-financing mode?**

**Background:** The uncertainty of continuation of PhD program for 2011 and 2012 batch by the student enrolled by TS and QHF route is already known. It is likely that these categories of students in 2013 batch might confront the similar challenging situation. Their case is being heard by CAT and no clear directions in this matter have emerged from CSIR so far. In the mean time, the TS students who are offered SRF on accepting the fellowship their TS position will terminate.

The approved guidelines of AcSIR require a fellowship support for enrollment and continuation in the PhD program.

**Proposal:** A proposal has been received from Prof. Raj Singh, Senate member and Coordinator of CSIR-CEERI, to consider continuation of the PhD program to those students who are willing to continue the study in self financing mode.

The Senate is requested to deliberate on the issue by considering the statuses of its students and take a decision on the proposal.

**(v) Whether student quitting the IMP program after completion of MTech could be allowed to be readmitted to PhD program?**

**Background:** Prof. Raj Singh has come across such IMP students who have left the program after completion of MTech program despite having eligibility to continue in PhD but are willing later to return to join the program all over again for any change in circumstances with full credits earned. He has requested to bring this matter for discussion to Senate for its consideration.

**Proposal:** The Senate is requested to deliberate on the issue, decide whether such proposal for readmission to the program could be allowed and, if yes, suggest appropriate guideline for its implementation.

## Items for Discussion & Approval

### Item No. 15 Issues related to PhD program

- i) Proposal for continuance of research program after resignation and revalidation of registration after a long gap
- ii) Proposal for modification in thesis submission and examination process
- iii) Modification of Open colloquium and open viva process
- iv) Proposal for suitable modification of PhD certificate to accommodate studies undertaken in interdisciplinary areas
- v) To explore the possibility of introducing Teaching Assistantship (TA) for willing and capable Graduate students on the basis of specific needs
- vi) Honorarium payable to foreign examiners of theses

#### i) Continuance of research program after resignation and revalidation of registration after a long gap

**Background:** A proposal has been received from the Associate Dean, Chemical Sciences, Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, that **Mr. Victor Premsagar Miriyalao of CSIR-IICT (Enrollment No. 10CC11J18053)**, who was pursuing his Ph.D. degree had resigned in December 2011 and was appointed as a lecturer at Government Degree College, Naidupeta in a regular position. He had worked almost one year for his research and attended the classes of AcSIR at CSIR-IICT for coursework. Now he is eligible for UGC Faculty development program wherein one can carry out his research for a period of two years as a full time scholar with salary. His supervisor has consented to allow him to work under his supervision for a period of two years starting from May 2015 at CSIR-IICT. Therefore it is requested to allow him to carry out his research work for PhD by revalidating the old enrollment number and also to complete his course work with proper payment of fees as per AcSIR guidelines.

Beside this, there may be many cases in future due to prolonged illness, marriages, child care and unforeseen circumstances, similar requests may be received by AcSIR.

**Proposal:** The Senate is therefore requested to deliberate on the proposal and draw guidelines, if found appropriate, for continuance of research program and revalidation of registration after a long gap.

## ii) **Proposal for modification in thesis submission and examination process**

**Background:** AcSIR need to continuously modify/improve its processes to reduce the burden on the highest authorities of AcSIR and also reduce the turn-around time for the various academic processes involved.

Currently the process followed for thesis submission is as follows:

- (1) Once a synopsis is submitted to AcSIR, it is forwarded to the Associate Deans of the concerned faculty for verification. Upon verification, it is being forwarded to the Dean. The Dean recommends the order of examiners to the Director for his approval. Director finally approves the Examiners List. On receipt of approval of the Director, the examiner's list is conveyed to the Coordinator.
- (2) After the receipt of the report, the Oral Examination Board (OEB) is sent to the Director for approval.
- (3) Once OEB is approved, viva is conducted by the Lab. The result of viva exam is conveyed by the Coordination Office to the Dean for approval. The Dean then forwards it to the Director for his approval.

In the above process, submission related documents for one student is being sent to the Director for approval on three different occasions thereby creating more demand on his time for signature approvals.

**Proposal:** Therefore, it is being proposed that Steps #1 and #2 may be processed at the level of the Associate Director (Academic). However, approval of Step #3 will still have to be done by the Senate Chairman. Therefore, the Senate Chairman will remain the final approving authority for award of the degree. The Senate is to deliberate on the issue and provide its guidance on the same.

## iii) **Modification of Open colloquium and open viva process**

**Background:** As per Ordinance 7.7.2(c)(ii), a Ph.D candidate have to present his/her Ph.D proposal in a State-of-the-Art open seminar in presence of Doctoral Advisory Committee. On successful completion of the same, the student can submit the Summary of Work (Synopsis) to AcSIR for further processing and plan for submission of the thesis.

Clause 8.5.3 of the AcSIR Ordinances states that the Ph.D viva-voce shall be an open examination. Since at AcSIR the general timeline for holding the viva-voce examination is about 3 months after the colloquium (in some cases earlier also), it may not be necessary to always hold the viva in an open forum.

**Proposal:** A proposal has been received from the Associate Dean, Biological Sciences, Dr. Shantanu Sengupta that the Viva-voce examination may be made optional to be held in an open forum. The Senate is requested to deliberate on the issue and provide guidelines on the same.

**iv) Proposal for suitable modification of PhD certificate to accommodate studies undertaken in interdisciplinary areas**

**Background:** Currently the Ph.D degrees awarded by AcSIR mentions one of its five faculties in the final certificate based on the area of study undertaken. Concern has been raised by two Labs that such restriction in certificate does not truly represents multi-disciplinary area of study and may limit the opportunity to such students. Comments by two CSIR Labs are furnished below:

- (i) **Coordinator, CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur** has indicated that at CSIR-NEERI research is undertaken in multi-disciplinary areas and students are selected from various background like Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Geology etc. However, CSIR-NEERI is recognized as a Lab offering courses in Physical Sciences and Engineering Sciences only. The concern of the students and the Coordinator is that a degree in “Physical Sciences” for such students in Interdisciplinary Sciences will restrict their job prospects.
- (ii) Proposal has been received from **Dr. Rajender Singh of CSIR-CDRI** and member of the Senate that many of the students pursuing their Ph.D at CSIR-CDRI are from Pharmaceutical background. A PhD degree for such students in Biological Sciences or Chemical Sciences will hamper their future prospects, especially in pharmaceutical companies.

This issue was brought up before in August 2013 by CSIR-CDRI to the then Acting Director, Prof. Gautam Biswas. The issue was discussed among Prof. Gautam Biswas, Prof. Kunal Ray, Prof. Raj Singh and Dr. Shantanu Sengupta. Following the string of discussion at that time, Prof. Raj Singh’s opinion appears to be pertinent and is quoted here:

*“Considering the recently signed AcSIR-CSIR MoU and the broad mapping of clusters as defined by CSIR (plus mapping of CSIR labs in these clusters) as well as this being "mirrored" in AcSIR, I suggest that we carefully evaluate the reasons for creating a separate division on pharmaceutical sciences within AcSIR.*

*It would be more appropriate if a discussion is also done within CSIR on this issue – by scientists in the interested CSIR labs with their Directors and the concerned cluster Directors of Biological and Chemical Sciences.*

*Looking at the symbiotic relationship of CSIR and AcSIR, it would be immensely helpful if we request and seek the views of DG-CSIR, Cluster Directors, and the Directors of interested CSIR labs (e.g. CDRI, IICT, IITR, IIM) in addition to the AcSIR coordinators of such CSIR labs. I feel that AcSIR should not be out of sync with CSIR in this matter.”*

Email from Dr. Raj Singh dated 24.09.2013, enclosed at **Annexure A-12.**

**Proposal:** The Senate is requested to deliberate on the above two issues and provide guidelines.

- v) **To explore possibility of introducing Teaching Assistantship (TA) for willing and capable Graduate students on the basis of specific needs**

**Background:** A proposal has been sent by the Associate Dean, Biological Sciences, Dr. Shantanu Sengupta to explore the possibility of introduction of Teaching Assistantships in AcSIR. He suggested that in some cases PhD students come with a strong background in specific area which is part of the coursework. In such cases the students may be allowed to take limited class on the topic and AcSIR recognize their effort by a certificate or similar or other mode which would have future value to them similar to doing TA. The proposal received is enclosed as **Annexure A-13.**

**Proposal:** The Senate is requested to deliberate on the issue and provide guidelines on the same.

**vi) Honorarium payable to foreign examiners of theses**

**Background:** Currently, AcSIR do not have an approved rate for payment of honorarium to external examiners. Currently, there are foreign examiners of PhD theses who have agreed to examine the theses and we ought to pay honorarium to them when the process is complete. Therefore, it is important that AcSIR has a policy in place in this matter soon.

As a guidance to decide an amount of honorarium to be paid to the foreign examiners, we collected relevant data from four reputed educational institution and is furnished below:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount payable in equivalent of USD</b>
IIT, Gauhati	US\$ 250
IIT, Kanpur	US\$ 500
IISER, Mohali	US\$ 100
IISc, Bangalore	US\$ 200

**Proposal:** The Senate is being requested to consider paying an equivalent of **US\$ 200** to the foreign examiners of PhD theses of students. The proposal will have to be placed to the Finance Committee and subsequently to the Board of Governors for approval.

## Item for Discussion & Approval

### Item No. 16      **Proposal for Creation of Industry Sponsored Chair Professor, AcSIR at CSIR-IICT**

**Background:** A proposal has been forwarded by Prof. S. Chandrasekhar of CSIR-IICT and member of AcSIR Senate, which has been received from a major Chemical company, Vinati Organics Limited for creation of a Vinati Chair Professor at CSIR-IICT under the ambit of AcSIR within its guidelines and framework. Vinati Organics has been working closely with CSIR-IICT on developing technologies for fine chemicals. This creation will be a good beginning in strengthening the industry link of AcSIR as well helpful in recognizing and honoring the knowledge, expertise & experience of its vast pool of experienced scientists.

As per the guidelines prepared by the Senate Sub-Committee dated 8 November 2012,

1. The Labs are encouraged to look for sponsorship from industry for creation of Chaired Faculty positions at AcSIR.
2. The positions are to be for a fixed duration where the industry agrees to sponsor the position.
3. The appointment for these positions are to be reviewed by a Standing Committee formed for the purpose to assess the suitability of the candidate at the Academy and recommend Senate for necessary approval. Chairman, BoG will have to finally approve the appointment.
4. Concerned labs will have to provide space and resource for the Visiting Faculty to operate out of the Lab for AcSIR activities, even though they will be on AcSIR payroll, and will be guided by rules and regulations of AcSIR.
5. At least 15% of the money received as sponsorship for the Chaired Faculty position should be transferred to the Academy as overhead.

**Proposal:** The Senate is requested to review the proposal and convey its recommendations for further processing, if found appropriate. Necessary documents are enclosed at **Annexure A-14**.



## Item for Discussion & Approval

### Item No. 17: **Request from Dr. Sudip Roy for extension of his mentorship of PhD students beyond the period of his resignation from CSIR-NCL**

**Background:** AcSIR is in receipt of a communication from Dr. Sudip Roy of CSIR-NCL who has requested for an extension of his mentorship after his resignation from CSIR-NCL for one year (till March 2016) so that the thesis submission process of the students working with him are not affected.

**Proposal:** The Associate Dean, Engineering Sciences has endorsed the proposal, requesting a Co-guide may be appointed for all students who are working with Dr. Sudip Roy. The Senate is requested to provide its recommendations, if found appropriate. The application received from Dr. Sudip Roy and the recommendation of the Dean, Engineering Science is enclosed at **Annexure A-15**.

## Item for Discussion & Approval

### Item No. 18: **Proposal for short academic break at AcSIR at the end of each semester**

**Background:** A proposal has been received from Dr. D. Kar Chowdhuri, Coordinator of CSIR-IITR, Lucknow to have an essential short break (at least ten days; yearly twice) between two consecutive sessions which will provide the opportunity to the AcSIR faculty and Coordinators to honor their other commitments (institutional and otherwise). This issue was also raised by him during the AcSIR Workshop at CSIR-NPL, New Delhi.

The proposed break between two semesters, when no academic requests received from Labs will be processed, will also allow AcSIR Office to organize itself and start the new semester afresh.

**Proposal:**The Senate is requested to review the proposal and provide its recommendation.

## Item for Discussion & Approval

### **Item No. 20: Proposal for electronic archival of AcSIR related academic documents by CSIR Labs which are two years or older**

**Background:** A proposal has been received from Dr. D. Kar Chowdhuri, Coordinator of CSIR-IITR, Lucknow, highlighting the severe space crunch to cope with the increasing flow of papers/documents relevant to courses, examination sheets, assignments, two project proposals/reviews, CSIR-800 project reports etc. The quantity is expected only to increase as AcSIR progresses.

The Coordinator, IITR has proposed to archive only soft copies (scanned copies) of the above mentioned documents on an external hard disk drive as well as on CDs/DVDs for the students who have already completed their Comprehensive Examination after acquiring the requisite 16 credits through course work and project work. The Hard Disk/DVDs/CDs will be kept exclusively for this purpose.

**Proposal:** The Senate is requested to deliberate and provide guidelines whether academic documents related to student's academic activities, which are two years or older, can be saved in electronic format at multiple locations to avoid space-crunch at the Labs.