

Sixteenth Meeting of the Senate

6th May 2016, 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

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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 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 Update on current Review of AcSIR

Currently, AcSIR is undergoing a review initiated by CSIR. As per Clause 31(1) of the AcSIR Act and Clause 3 of the MoU between CSIR & AcSIR (dated July 27, 2013), a review of the functioning of the Academy will be done once in every four years by persons of eminence to be appointed by the CSIR for assessment and to take any corrective measure, if necessary. In this context, the following activities are worth mentioning:

- (i) Dr. Anupama, JS (Administration), CSIR, provided AcSIR with a questionnaire (containing 42 questions) with queries regarding the Academy's compliance to AcSIR Act, Statutes and Ordinances. The detailed response has been prepared and sent.
- (ii) AcSIR has been informed by JS (Administration), CSIR that DG, CSIR has constituted a Fact Finding Committee to look into the matters related to administrative and financial aspects of AcSIR. The committee is chaired by JS(A), CSIR and includes CSIR and DSIR personnel from Administration and Finance as its members.
- (iii) The Committee met with Prof. K. Ray and Ms. A. Sengupta at HQ, CSIR on 19th February 2016 for an initial discussion and asked for various documents which have been furnished to them later. The committee subsequently forwarded a list of 30 questions related to administration and finance matters for its compliance with AcSIR Act, Statutes and Ordinances. Response to these questions has been furnished and further input from the committee, if any, is awaited.
- (iv) We understand that there would also be an Academic Review Committee examining the programs run by AcSIR. However, we have not yet received any communication regarding this matter.

Initiation of the Meeting

Item No. 3 Confirmation of the minutes of the 15th meeting of the Senate

The 15th meeting of the Senate of AcSIR was held on August 7, 2015 at ISSH Conference Room, CSIR-IGIB, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110020.

The Proceedings of the 15th meeting were accepted by the Chairman and circulated among the members of the Senate by e-mail on October 1, 2015 for their comments/ observations. No comment has been received on the Proceedings.

The Proceedings of the 15th meeting of the Senate are being put to the Senate for confirmation at **Annexure A-1**.

Item No. 4 Action Taken Report on the 15th Meeting of the Senate

The Action Taken Report on the Proceedings of the 15th meeting of the Senate of AcSIR held on August 7, 2015 is furnished at **Annexure A-2**.

Item for Information

Item No. 5 **PhD (Science and Engineering) results: Degrees Awarded**

The PhD program of AcSIR formally begun from January 2011 session across all the CSIR laboratories. Currently, the program has around 3500 students enrolled/registered across the Labs in the five faculties of study.

Fifth Convocation could not be conducted in the year 2015 due to various unavoidable reasons. However, an executive decision (with approval of Acting Director/ Chairman, Senate, AcSIR and Chairman, BoG/ Chancellor, AcSIR) was made to distribute the Degree Certificates and Mark sheets without waiting for holding the Convocation. Accordingly, Degree Certificates and Mark sheets were distributed to the students who completed their programs by Dec 10, 2015.

In this context, total of 300 students were distributed their degrees with following breakup:

PhD (Sciences)	: 204
PhD (Engineering)	: 4
M.Tech	: 72
M.Sc	: 10
PG Diploma	: 10

List of Degree Certificates and Mark sheets distributed for all 300 students are placed at **Annexure A-3** for information of the Senate.

Of the above, results of 72 students [71 of PhD (Sciences) and 1 of PhD (Engineering)] completing their academic requirements after 15th Senate but on or before Dec 10, 2015 were also distributed with approval of Chairman, Senate and Chairman, BoG/Chancellor, AcSIR. These results are placed, as a separate item, for ratification by the Senate in Agenda Item No. 8.

Item for Information

Item No. 6 Student Related Issues

- (i) Change in faculty of study
- (ii) Change in host CSIR Lab
- (iii) Leave for research work at foreign Labs
- (iv) Leave Requests
- (v) Waiver of tuition fees

(i) Change in faculty of study

Requests have been received from the following students for change of faculty of study which have been accorded approval by the respective Deans and the Chairman, Senate. The details are provided below:

Student's Name	CSIR Lab	Old Enrollment No.	Revised Enrollment No.	Faculty change	
				From	To
Ms. Shobha Singh	CSIR-NBRI	10BB14J25009	10BC14J25009	Biological Sciences	Chemical Sciences
Ms. Deepali D. Shejawale	CSIR-CFTRI	10BB15A08009	20BE15A08009	Biological Sciences	Engineering Sciences
Mr. Praveen PJ	CSIR-NIO	10CC11A26031	10CP11A29011	Chemical Sciences	Physical Sciences

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

(ii) Change in host CSIR Lab

Requests have been received from the following students for change of host CSIR-Lab which have been accorded approval by the respective Deans and the Chairman, Senate. The details are provided below

Student's Name	Faculty of Study	Old Enrollment No.	Revised Enrollment No.	Request	
Mr. Sourav Chattopadhyay	Biological Sciences	10BB14A22006	10BB14A04001	CSIR-IITR	CSIR-CDRI
Mr. Praveen PJ	Chemical Sciences	10CC11A26031	10CP11A29011	CSIR-NCL	CSIR-NIO

Members may kindly take a note of the transfer of the above students. Necessary approvals are enclosed as **Annexure A-5**.

(iii) Leave for research work at foreign Labs

The following students have been accorded approval for leave (as detailed below) on request from the respective Dean/Associate Dean of relevant faculty:

Enrollment No.	Student's Name	CSIR Lab	Fellowship	Period of Academic Leave
10BB12A51005	Mr. Anurag Passi	CSIR-OSDD	Fullbright-Nehru Doctoral Research (FNDR)	Oct 15, 2015 to July 14, 2016
10BB11J26130	Ms. Sheon Mary Samji	CSIR-NCL	Commonwealth Split-side Fellowship	Oct 1, 2015 to Sep 30, 2016
10CC12A36009	Mr. Parth Sarathi Mahapatra	CSIR-IMMT	One year PhD fellowship term to work at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu.	From January 15, 2016
10PP12A06001	Ms. Purna Balyan	CSIR-CEERI	Queen Mary University of London under DST-UKERI program as an exchange PhD student	May 03, 2016 to July 29, 2016

Details are provided at **Annexure A-6**.

(iv) Leave Requests

The following students requested for leave for long period for the reasons cited below. The leave was approved by the respective Dean/Associate Dean of relevant faculty of study:

Enrollment No.	Student's Name	CSIR Lab	Reason	Period of Academic Leave
10CC14J12002	Ms. Namita Jaiswal	CSIR-CMERI	Personal	Aug 12, 2015 to Aug 11, 2017
10BB15A02005	Ms. Ambily Sivadas	CSIR-IGIB	Maternity Leave	Sep 1, 2015 to Feb 29, 2016

Details are provided at **Annexure A-7**.

(v) Waiver of tuition fees

The request of Ms. Ramya Visvanathan (Enrollment No. 10BB12J10006) have approval of the Dean, Biological Sciences for waiver from paying AcSIR fees as her assistantship (PA-Level II) was getting over by Sep 30, 2015.

Details are provided at **Annexure A-8**.

Item for Information

Item No. 7 **Faculty List: Additions/ Modifications** (Modifications received since 15th 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 9th 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 9th meeting of the Senate) has been obtained for appropriate changes in the Faculty for the following Labs:

	CSIR-Lab Name
Addition of new Faculty	CSIR-4PI; CSIR-AMPRI; CSIR-CCMB; CSIR-CDRI; CSIR-CECRI; CSIR-CEERI; CSIR-CFTRI; CSIR-CGCRI; CSIR-CIMAP; CSIR-CLRI; CSIR-CMERI; CSIR-CRRI; CSIR-CSIO; CSIR-CSMCRI; CSIR-IHBT; CSIR-IICB; CSIR-IICT; CSIR-IIIM; CSIR-IIP; CSIR-IMTECH; CSIR-NBRI; CSIR-NCL; CSIR-NEIST; CSIR-NGRI; CSIR-NML; CSIR-NPL
Modification due to promotion etc.	CSIR-AMPRI; CSIR-CCMB; CSIR-CDRI; CSIR-CIMAP; CSIR-CIMFR; CSIR-CLRI; CSIR-CMERI; CSIR-CRRI; CSIR-CSIO; CSIR-IGIB; CSIR-IHBT; CSIR-IICB; CSIR-IICT; CSIR-IIP; CSIR-IITR; CSIR-IMMT; CSIR-NAL; CSIR-NCL; CSIR-NEIST; CSIR-NIIST; CSIR-NIO; CSIR-NML; CSIR-NPL; CSIR-SERC
Deletion due to Superannuation, transfer, resignation etc.	CSIR-4PI; CSIR-AMPRI; CSIR-CBRI; CSIR-CCMB; CSIR-CDRI; CSIR-CECRI; CSIR-CEERI; CSIR-CFTRI; CSIR-CGCRI; CSIR-CIMAP; CSIR-CIMFR; CSIR-CLRI; CSIR-CMERI; CSIR-CRRI; CSIR-CSIO; CSIR-IGIB; CSIR-IHBT; CSIR-IICB; CSIR-IICT; CSIR-IIP; CSIR-IITR; CSIR-IMMT; CSIR-NAL; CSIR-NBRI; CSIR-NCL; CSIR-NEIST; CSIR-NGRI; CSIR-NIIST; CSIR-NIO; CSIR-NISTADS; CSIR-NML; CSIR-NPL; CSIR-OSDD; CSIR-SERC

Details are placed at **Annexure A-9** for information of the Senate.

Item for Ratification

Item No. 8 **PhD (Science and Engineering) results for the award of the Degree**

Background: The PhD program of AcSIR has formally begun from the January 2011 session across all the CSIR laboratories. Currently, the program has around 3500 PhD students enrolled/registered across the Labs in the five faculties of study.

Current Status: Since the last (fifteenth) meeting of the Senate, AcSIR held on Aug 28, 2014, **175** students have completed all the academic requirements for the award of PhD degree including successful completion of the Viva voce examination. The Chairman, Senate has already approved the award of the degree.

Out of 175 students, formal degree of 72 students [71 of PhD (Sciences) and 1 of PhD (Engineering)] were distributed following the approval of Chairman, Senate and Chairman, BoG/ Chancellor, AcSIR.

Issue for consideration: The Senate has to finally ratify the results, as approved by the Chairman, Senate, of all 175 students.

Recommendation: The reports of the viva-voce examination committee of all the 175 students along with the approval of the Chairman, Senate are being placed to the Senate for ratification of the results.

(Annexure A-10)

Item for Ratification

Item No. 9 Admissions

- (i) PhD program in Science and Engineering - January 2016 session
- (ii) AcSIR-Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Summer Training Program, 2016

(i) PhD program in Science and Engineering - January 2016 session

The admission for the PhD program in Science and Engineering for the academic session January 2016 session has been completed at different participating CSIR laboratories.

In all **318** students have been selected for PhD program (**272** students in Science and **46** students in Engineering) at the different CSIR Labs.

The following three students who had taken admission in the August 2015 session, deferred their admission to January 2016 and have joined:

Ms. Richa Loochach, CSIR-CEERI, Engineering Sciences
Mr. Senthil Kumar, CSIR-NML, Engineering Sciences (Sponsored Candidate)
Mr. Sundara Bharati, CSIR-NML, Engineering Sciences (Sponsored Candidate)

The Lab-wise list of selected candidates in the form of the *Proceedings of the Selection Committee meeting for the PhD programs* with proper approval from cluster Deans and the Chairman, Senate are being placed to the Senate for ratification at **Annexure A-11(a)**.

(ii) AcSIR-Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Summer Training Program, 2016

The AcSIR-Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Summer Training Program, 2016 was announced nationally in November 2015 and received 580 applications from across the country. The short listing committee formed for the purpose shortlisted 114 students who were called for final interview. Finally 20 students were selected (and 18 waitlisted) for the training program of two months duration who have been placed across different CSIR Labs.

The approved proceedings for the final selection interview are placed at **Annexure A-11(b)** for ratification of the Senate.

Item for Ratification

Item No. 10 **Course Related Items: New and Modifications**

A few laboratories have proposed new courses for introduction from the August 2016 session under different faculties of studies and also proposed some modifications in courses. All the proposals have been recommended by concerned Deans (or Associate Deans) and approved by the Chairman, Senate.

New courses:

Engineering Sciences:

CSIR-IMMT

CSIR-NAL

CSIR-SERC (Renewable Energy)

Chemical Sciences:

CSIR-NIIST

Physical Sciences:

CSIR-NIIST

Modified Courses:

Chemical Sciences:

CSIR-CBRI

CSIR-IIP

Engineering Sciences:

CSIR-SERC (Renewable Energy)

The details of the new and modified courses are furnished in **Annexure A-12** for ratification of the Senate. On receipt of approval of the Senate, the course booklet for each of the faculty will be uploaded on AcSIR website.

Item for Discussion and Approval

Item No. 11 **Amendment of AcSIR Act, 2011: Subordinate Legislation related issues**

Background:

AcSIR is in receipt of an OM (No. 1/51(1)/2016/L-II dated 8th February, 2016) from Lok Sabha Secretariat, forwarded by the office of the DG, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, based on a letter from Shri. P. Karunakaran, Member of Parliament. The letters gives notice for introduction of a Bill in the Lok Sabha, The Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016, by way of insertion of a new section 39 in the AcSIR Act, 2011. The OM includes a copy of the Bill together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The proposed Clause deals with proposal for publication of all Statutes and Ordinances made under the Act in the official Gazette and for laying of the same before each House of the Parliament (**Annexure A-13**: OM dated Feb 8, 2016 by Lok Sabha).

In this connection, it is worth mentioning that all Rules and Regulations framed under any Act passed by the Parliament, need to be laid down to both the Houses of the Parliament under Subordinate Legislation, as is mandated in every Act. The AcSIR Act, 2011 did not contain such a clause.

In addition, earlier in 2013 an OM was sent from Joint Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat to CSIR suggesting laying of the Statutes and Ordinances of AcSIR on the table of both the Houses of Parliament under Subordinate Legislation and also to suitably incorporate the standard laying formula for Subordinate Legislation in the Act. AcSIR has provided necessary documents to CSIR which were forwarded to DSIR/ Rajya Sabha (est. Dec, 2014). However, no further communication had been received from Rajya Sabha regarding this matter (**Annexure A-14**: OM Rajya Sabha to CSIR dated Sep 10, 2013).

Recently, we have been reminded by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat through a letter from Mr. J.G. Negi, Joint Secretary that AcSIR should complete the process of framing and laying of Subordinate Legislation under the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research Act, 2011. Necessary action has been initiated by AcSIR through CSIR to complete the formalities (**Annexure A-15**).

The proposed inclusion of a Clause as Section 39 of The Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016 has been examined by the Legal Advisor of AcSIR and found to be in proper order.

Proposal: It is requested that the Senate approves insertion of Section 39 in the AcSIR Act as proposed by Rajya Sabha Secretariat and also Hon'ble MP Shri. P. Karunakaran, as furnished in **Annexure A-13**.

Items for Discussion and Approval

Item No. 12 **Reinstatement of PhD program at CSIR-NISCAIR**

Background:

CSIR-NISCAIR was conducting two different PhD programs: (a) Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (CBB), and (b) Database Systems and Climate Change Informatics (DBS&CCI) as approved by the Senate at its 4th meeting held on 8th June 2012. On receipt of a specific complaint on improper conduct of the CBB program, a Committee was formed by the Acting Director, AcSIR in June 2014 to look into the issues raised by the complainant.

The committee had done a detailed enquiry on the conduct of the CBB program at CSIR-NISCAIR and observed that the program was not being conducted as per the guideline of AcSIR. The Committee submitted its report to the Senate with suggestion to discontinue the CBB program. The Committee also opined that *“The other PhD area of DBS-CCI of CSIR-NISCAIR also needs to be reviewed as the challenges of a suitable DAC, very limited AcSIR faculty numbers, absence of peer group, and non-cooperation from Acting-Director, CSIR-NISCAIR are the same as that for the PhD area of CBB”*.

Based on the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee, the Senate had a detailed discussion on this matter (at the 11th meeting on Aug 8, 2014), and recommended discontinuation of both the programs at CSIR-NISCAIR. The Senate also suggested Dean of MIS to help relocation of the PhD students enrolled in both programs to other suitable CSIR Labs.

Prof. RM Jha, Associate Dean, MIS while working on Senate’s recommendation found serious irregularities in the pursuance of academic programs in CBB and DBS & CCI.

Discontinuation of DBS&CCI program without a formal investigation was contested by Dr. J. Sundaresan Pillai running the program and this issue was also raised in Parliament for taking necessary corrective action.

Recently, in response to Parliament question, the Acting Director, AcSIR and Chairman, Senate, AcSIR, agreed to consider reinstatement of DBS & CCI program at CSIR-NISCAIR, subject to fulfillment of the requirements of AcSIR related to conduct of coursework and PhD program in general.

To facilitate discussion regarding this matter in Senate, Associate Director (Academics) has written to Acting Director, CSIR-NISCAIR to provide the proposed course and the name of the faculties to run the program after the period of discontinuity. The Acting Director, NISCAIR in her response has proposed Dr. JS Pillai as the Lab Coordinator of the CSIR Lab and suggested him to provide suitable response to AcSIR regarding reinstatement of the

program. On specific request, Dr. JS Pillai has provided a response which however does not contain any modified information of the original proposal. He has suggested a few additional faculty names including that of Adjunct Faculty who would be conducting the courses. Details of the proposal, as provided by Dr. Pillai are enclosed for consideration of the Senate (**Annexure A-16**).

Proposal: The Senate is requested to arrive at a decision regarding reinstatement of DBS & CCI program at CSIR-NISCAIR based on the information provided in the background. The following two proposals may be discussed by the Senate for reinstatement of the PhD program in DBS & CCI:

Proposal 1: The Senate may allow CSIR-NISCAIR to reinstate the PhD program in DBS & CCI on assumption that coursework as proposed originally remain valid with revised faculty list. The Senate may form a subcommittee to oversee proper compliance of AcSIR Rules and Regulations.

or,

Proposal 2: Senate may form a small committee to review the current situation and guide the CSIR Lab for reinstatement of the PhD program.

Item for Discussion and Approval

Item No. 13 **AcSIR Policy on Online Repository of Theses – INFLIBNET/Institutional Repository at URDIP**

Background: The Senate recommended in its 12th meeting held on Nov 17, 2014 for Online Deposition of PhD Theses through CSIR-URDIP for free access.

Recently, Acting Director of AcSIR has received a letter from INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar requesting to take necessary actions for deposition of PhD Theses awarded by AcSIR in Shodhganga, an open access national repository of full text theses hosted by INFLIBNET.

The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009) dated 1st June 2009, published in Gazette of India, also mandates submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations by the researchers in universities with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertations to the academic community world-wide.

Deposition of PhD Theses in INFLIBNET is also a requirement before issuance of Certificate to our students seeking academic job in Indian Universities that their Degrees fully comply with “UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for awards of MPhil/PhD Degree), Regulation, 2009” (Agenda item# 14).

Hosting of PhD Theses by AcSIR students in INFLIBNET will also relieve AcSIR of any extra responsibility for online storage of theses and provide better visibility by participation in a national effort.

The MoU to facilitate the online deposition of PhD Theses to INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar has been examined by the Legal Advisor of AcSIR with the following comment:

“If AcSIR decides to make thesis /dissertations submitted by their students available to entire scholarly community in open access then MOU as provided by INFLIBNET has to be signed. However before MOU is signed and thesis/synopsis are submitted to INFLIBNET, students have to give their consent to AcSIR to submit soft copy of their thesis /dissertation and synopsis to INFLIBNET for hosting on the website of INFLIBNET as well as grant permission to AcSIR to archive and make thesis accessible in whole or part in any forms of media and agree that the Copyright of thesis /dissertation shall be with AcSIR. Accordingly provision is to be made in the Ordinance or procedure of submission of thesis in AcSIR. Further it may also be considered by AcSIR whether student has to be given the right to use thesis /dissertation for his future

work if necessary. If AcSIR decides that student can use it for his future work then it may also be accordingly stated”.

Proposal: Senate is requested to consider the following comments of the Legal Advisor and take appropriate decision:

- 1) Students will
 - *give their consent to AcSIR to submit soft copy of their thesis /dissertation and synopsis to INFLIBNET for hosting on their website*
 - *grant permission to AcSIR to archive and make thesis accessible in whole or part in any forms of media*
 - *agree that the Copyright of thesis /dissertation shall be with AcSIR*
 - *be given the right to use thesis /dissertation for his future work if necessary*

- 2) Allow AcSIR to enter into MoU with INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar to facilitate the online deposition of PhD Theses in suppression of the previous recommendation (in 12th meeting held on Nov 17, 2014) to host the Institutional Repository at CSIR-URDIP. The standard of MoU is enclosed at **AnnexureA-17**.

Item for Discussion and Approval

Item No. 14 **Certification on AcSIR compliance with “UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for awards of MPhil/PhD Degree), Regulation, 2009”**

Background: Though AcSIR has been created by an Act of Parliament to award Degrees/ Diplomas and has formulated its own guideline but students after completing PhD from AcSIR are facing problems in application for academic jobs in Indian Universities. In many of the Universities, it is a mandatory requirement that a Certificate regarding compliance with “UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2009” is furnished along with the application for its consideration.

After careful evaluation of “UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2009” it was found that AcSIR follows all the prescribed guidelines of UGC, excepting deposition of PhD Theses to INFLIBNET. AcSIR is currently issuing a certificate to those candidates who request for the same stating *“In principle AcSIR follows the procedure to award Ph.D. degree which is in conformity to the UGC minimum Standards and Procedure for awards of M.Phil/ Ph.D. Degree, Regulation, 2009”*.

Proposal: It is proposed that the Academy provides a Certificate on individual request exactly as required by UGC that *“the Degree has been awarded in accordance with the provisions to these Regulations of the UGC”* on implementation of Online Submission of Theses to INFLIBNET, as mentioned in Agenda item# 13 above.

Item for Discussion & Approval

Item No. 15 **Guidelines related to submission of PhD Thesis for examination**

Background: The Senate issued specific guidelines regarding submission of PhD Thesis by AcSIR Students which includes furnishing names of potential examiners by the Supervisor of the student. It has been observed by the Deans/ Associate Deans that the proposed names of examiners are not always as per recommended guideline, which requires further modification and results in loss of time.

Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Associate Dean, Chemical Sciences, has provided a more elaborate guideline for submission of the panel of examiners for Ph.D Thesis for better compliance and making the system more efficient.

Proposal: The proposed guideline is furnished at **Annexure A-18** for discussion by members of the Senate and approval with or without revision as appropriate.

Item for Discussion & Approval

Item No. 16 Credit requirement for the PhD part of MSc-PhD program

Background: AcSIR is currently running Integrated M.Sc-Ph.D program in three specializations (i) Clinical Research (ii) Health Informatics and (iii) Nutritional Biology.

It has been observed that course completion guidelines do not specify the number of credits for PhD part of Integrated M.Sc-Ph.D program. Number of credits for M.Sc part of this program were proposed to be similar to the number of credits for another program of AcSIR i.e. M.Tech part of Integrated M.Tech-Ph.D.

Proposal: The number of credits for PhD part of Integrated M.Sc-Ph.D program may be approved to be similar to number of credits for PhD part of Integrated M.Tech-Ph.D program, as below:

Program	Min. Total Credits	Min. Credits thro' coursework	Credits thro' Research/ Project	Min. Residence Period	Normal Period of Completion	Max. Duration of Completion
Ph.D part of Integrated MSc-PhD program (after completion of MSc part)	12*	4	Completion of thesis	3 Sems	3years	4 years

*Over and above the credits and other requirements of the Master's Program; the 400 level courses

Item for Discussion & Approval

Item No. 17 **Proposal for Diploma in ‘Precision Measurements & Quality Control’ by CSIR-NPL, New Delhi**

Background: A proposal has been received from Prof. D.K. Aswal, Director, CSIR-NPL, New Delhi to start a Diploma, of one year duration, in **Precision Measurements and Quality Control**” under the Academy. It has been proposed under the “Skill India” mission of the Government of India.

This diploma program has been suggested to be unique in nature, as it cannot be awarded by institute other than NPL, which is “National Measurement Institute” (NMI), in the country. It is also proposed to develop new skilled human resources to cater the need for the various organizations and industries working in the field of quality production and R&D. The proposed Diploma program is of one year duration, having four quarters. The total credit requirement is 40 credits across the four quarters. The proposed number of seats are 25. The proposal has received the approval of the Dean of Physical Sciences.

Proposal: This program may be considered under the provision “Diploma in areas offering new knowledge” of the AcSIR Statutes 13. Due procedure needs to be followed for initiating such a program at AcSIR. The following issues may be discussed:

1. Admission procedure to be followed
2. Sharing of the course fee charged with AcSIR

The proposal along with broad framework of courses is enclosed as **Annexure A-19** for discussion and approval at the Senate.

Item for Discussion & Approval

Item No. 18 **Proposal for initiation of MSc Program in Food Technology at CSIR-CFTRI**

Background: At the 10th Senate meeting of AcSIR held on April 4, 2014, it was generally discussed as an additional item whether the Food Technology MSc program being conducted by CSIR-CFTRI in collaboration with University of Mysore be brought under AcSIR. As a follow up of that discussion, a proposal has been received from CSIR-CFTRI for initiation of a Master's program in "Food Technology". The course is planned for 4 semesters (2 years) having a total credit requirement of 80. The proposal has received the approval of the Dean of Biological Sciences.

As per AcSIR Statute 13 on "Conferment of Degrees and Diploma", AcSIR can award "Integrated M.Sc - Ph.D in Science" and there is no provision for award of a stand-alone MSc program. However, as per Clause 13.1 of AcSIR Statute, the Senate may expand the list of degrees/diplomas listed under the same.

Proposal: The Senate may consider the following issues:

1. The proposed MSc program in Food Technology may be considered under AcSIR Statute 13 "*Conferment of Degrees and Diplomas will be decided by the Senate*". If approved, the approval of the competent authority may be obtained.
2. Sharing of the course fee charged with AcSIR

The proposal along with broad framework is enclosed as **Annexure A-20** for discussion and approval at the Senate.

Items for Discussion and Approval

Item No. 19 Issues related to continuation of students in academic programs with special reference to academic leaves/job offers etc.

- (i) Revisiting the conditions for continuation of PhD as Part time candidate
- (ii) Guideline for PhD student regarding completion of the degree in case of a job offer from CSIR Lab
- (iii) Guideline for Master's student regarding completion of the degree in case of a job offer
- (iv) Guidelines for academic leaves for M.Tech students
- (v) Continuation of students in PhD program beyond the period of available fellowship/stipend/ salary

(i) *Revisiting the conditions for continuation of PhD as Part time candidate*

Background:

Case 1: On earlier occasion Senate (11th meeting; item #23) recommended that for conversion to part-time PhD candidate students have to complete all academic requirements. This issue needs to be revisited in the context of students getting job in the advanced stage of their PhD Theses and they have been in a situation where they needed to make a choice between the completion of all the requirements of PhD degree or accepting the job offer sacrificing the academic pursuit.

For example recently, Mr. Sandeep Vyas (former AcSIR PhD student at CSIR-CEERI) got a job offer from SAMEER when he was yet to complete last DAC meeting and make presentation in Open Colloquium. He requested for a part-time student status to complete the requirements for his PhD Degree. However, the Dean, Physical Sciences, could not recommend the case in the absence of any guideline and on that basis Chairman, Senate turned down the request.

Relevant documents are placed at **Annexure A-21**.

However, this specific case was brought up by Senate members by circulation for revisiting the current guidelines. On being asked about their opinion on the case, out of **13** responding Senate members (*total members: 22*), **10** members supported change of the guideline to accommodate such request for greater interest of the students. Majority of the members suggested formulation of detailed guidelines for conversion to part-time PhD candidate.

Case 2: This issue relates to a specific case of Mr. Vyasulu Akkiraju of CSIR-NGRI (Enrolment # 10PP11A28002) of the August 2011 batch. He had resigned from CSIR-NGRI to join another organization in December 2014 and have been

paying tuition fees for PhD, without any intimation to AcSIR offices. Before resignation, only one DAC meeting was conducted. As informed by the supervisor, he had completed all the mandatory coursework and had completed the data acquisition, analysis and interpretation towards his Ph.D. work and had prepared a draft write-up of his Ph.D. thesis. All other DAC meetings (II, III & IV) and Comprehensives were conducted after his resignation in December 2014.

Recently, a communication has been received from CSIR-NGRI for submission of his thesis. The Dean has rejected his thesis submission on the grounds that the student has violated the guidelines of AcSIR much beyond the acceptable level. AcSIR has received an appeal for reconsideration of the case of Mr. Vyusulu Akkiraju.

The details on the case are provided at **Annexure A-22**.

It has been generally the opinion of many members of the Senate that the Academy should promote interest of the students without anyway diluting its academic programs. Therefore, the following proposal is suggested:

Proposal: The Senate revisits the issue to allow more flexibility to students to work on part-time basis at the advance stage of their studies. This may be addressed through a Sub-committee, if judged to be appropriate and come up with a comprehensive guideline

(ii) *Guideline for PhD student regarding completion of the degree in case of a job offer from CSIR Lab*

Background: This issue relates to a specific case where Ms. Rimpdy Diman, a Project Assistant at CSIR-IHBT who is also a PhD student there. She is enrolled as an AcSIR PhD student since Jan 2011 session and in the last five years and 4 months completed 12 course credits and two DAC meetings. In the meantime, she has been selected and offered a job (Technical Assistant) in the same CSIR Lab. Since, she is in her advanced stage for completion of work related to PhD, she has requested to be allowed to complete her remaining two DAC meetings.

Current, AcSIR Rules and Regulations only allow a candidate to be part-time student when all the requirements for the study are complete excepting submission of Thesis for examination.

This is a unique situation that cannot be adequately addressed by the current Rules and Regulations of AcSIR.

Proposal: The Senate may kindly review the case and allow her to complete PhD as a special case, if appropriate.

(iii) Guideline for Master's student regarding completion of the degree in case of a job offer

Background: This issue was discussed in 11th meeting of the Senate held on August 8, 2014, to allow students, whose positions are not directly linked with CSIR positions, for withdrawal for specific period on legitimate ground and return to complete the program. Such cases will be considered by the Senate for approval but not Trainee Scientists of CSIR. This issue needs to be revisited in the context of changed landscape where Trainee Scientists, deputed to AcSIR for its M.Tech program, are being considered similar to regular students-with-fellowships with no further promise of absorption at CSIR in regular positions.

Case of Mr. Bhavesh Bhandari of CSIR-NML (Enrollment No. 30EE14A31001) is pertinent. He has completed three semesters of the MTech program (of four semester duration) at CSIR-NML and then got selected as a Management Trainee at SAIL. However, he had to join the position after completion of the 3rd semester. Since his experimental work for MTech thesis was complete, he requested permission to submit his thesis without completing the mandatory period of four semesters for the award of the degree. On receipt of the request, the Chairman, Senate sought comments from members of the Senate by circulation. Out of the 22 members, **2** members responded in affirmative for award of the degree and **11** members declined the request, based on which the request of Mr. Bhandari was not approved by the Senate.

Proposal: The Senate is requested to discuss the issue and, if agreed, formulate a comprehensive guideline which may allow students to take leave for a certain duration and submit thesis at the later date for award of degrees/diplomas.

(iv) Guidelines for academic leaves for M.Tech students

Background: Earlier, Senate, in thirteenth meeting held on January 23, 2015 approved that M.Tech students may avail short-term academic leaves to attend highly competitive career programs with a prior written permission from the Supervisor and Coordinator to apply for such programs.

Prof. K.V. Raghavan had kindly volunteered to formulate the modalities for academic leaves for M.Tech students, however, the guideline is yet to be formulated.

Proposal: Senate, AcSIR is to constitute a committee to formulate the guidelines as appropriate.

(v) Continuation of students in PhD program beyond the period of available fellowship/stipend/ salary

Background: Project Assistants (PAs) hired at CSIR Labs are admitted to PhD program of AcSIR on a selective basis following stringent criteria. The tenure of PAs is usually are for a shorter period depending on the duration of the project from which he/she is funded.

Such Project Assistants are in a dilemma regarding continuation of their student status at AcSIR when the tenure of their stipend expires. Currently, some CSIR Labs allow continuation of such PAs as PhD students on self-finance basis, while other Labs are not allowing such students to carry forward their academic program in AcSIR in absence of a clear guideline from the Academy.

Similar problems are being faced by students in Integrated MTech-PhD program after completion of their MTech program, where there is problem in payment of salary/fellowship to the students, particularly the Trainee Scientists and the QHFs. Also, after completion of the MTech program, a time lag remains before they can apply for SRF position for continuation of their fellowship.

Proposal: The following are being proposed for consideration of the Senate:

1. Project Assistants: The Project Assistants selected to PhD program based on stringent criteria, be allowed to complete their studies on the basis of payment of regular tuition fee. The source of the payment could be self-finance or funding through other projects or fellowships acquired later.
2. Trainee Scientists/QHFs: These students may be allowed to continue in self-financing mode till they secure funding from any other sources.

Item for Discussion & Approval

Item No. 20 **Issues and challenges related to continuation of IMP**

Background: Integrated M.Tech-Ph.D program has been suspended for August 2016 session due to following reasons:

- (i) Out of 22 specializations at 17 CSIR Labs, only two Labs communicated their concrete information regarding participation
- (ii) Discontinuation of NET (Engineering) from July 2015
- (iii) Limited number of positions for each CSIR Lab under GATE (JRF) scheme of CSIR
- (iv) Limit on number of Industry Sponsored candidates in a particular session

Prof. Arvind Sinha, AcSIR Coordinator, CSIR-NML raised concern that it is difficult for any industry to depute its young talent for academics for 3-4 semesters. He further suggested that AcSIR may evolve a mechanism for creating its own fellowships (Industry/ Corporate sponsored, as already been done by few private Universities or through a corpus) to initiate and sustain its postgraduate Engineering program.

Proposal: Majority of the specializations under the scope of IMP are unique and exclusive in nature in the country. So, the members of Senate are requested to evaluate the current situation and suggest ways to sustain IMP program which was once projected as flagship program of AcSIR.

Item for Discussion & Approval

Item No. 21 **Proposal for wider acceptability of Sponsored Candidates beyond only Industrial route**

Background: Currently, admissions under Sponsored category in the Integrated MTech-PhD and the PhD programs of AcSIR are open to persons working in different Industries.

Additionally, AcSIR admits a few students in PhD programs under **Teachers Research Fellowship (TRF)**, a scheme sponsored by INAE-AICTE for non-PhD faculty members in AICTE approved Engineering Institutions in India.

Recently AcSIR has received a query from Prof. Kanta Rao from CSIR-CRRI whether applications from the faculty of Universities/ Deemed Universities/ Autonomous Engineering Colleges to pursue Ph.D under sponsored category could be invited for its programs.

Proposal: The members of Senate, AcSIR are requested to evaluate the request and discuss whether faculty members from Institutions other than Industrial Organizations be allowed to apply for PhD program of AcSIR under 'Sponsored Category'.

Item for Discussion & Approval

- Item No. 22 AcSIR Faculty Related Issues:**
- i. Inclusion of JC Bose Fellows**
 - ii. Further Clarification on Faculty Guideline (re Co-Guide)**
 - iii. Inclusion of Adjunct Faculty members**
 - iv. Inclusion of Dr. Vijay Patel as Co-guide**

i. Inclusion of JC Bose Fellows

Background: It has been observed that current guidelines of AcSIR does not specifically include JC Bose Fellowship as one of the criteria to be an AcSIR faculty.

Proposal: Approval is sought from the Senate for modification of 'Eligibility Criteria to be an AcSIR Faculty' to include JC Bose Fellowship with following requirements:

- Must have a PhD/ MD or recognized equivalent degree
- He/ she would be expected to teach the courses under AcSIR and/ or could **serve as a Guide/ co-guide to PhD students.**

ii. Further Clarification on Faculty Guideline

Background: As per AcSIR Ordinance# 7.7, every AcSIR student shall have Supervisor from amongst the faculty members of the Academy and Co-Supervisor may or may not be a faculty of the Academy.

However, 'Eligibility Criteria of AcSIR to be an AcSIR Faculty' under Essential Requirement states that *"Should teach in at least one coursework in 4 semesters and/or guide PG or Doctoral students."*

Also, some concern were raised at the 15th meeting of the Senate regarding compliance to intake and number of PhD students by the Supervisors. It is worth mentioning that the number of students each faculty can register at any point of time is as per the "UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for awards of MPhil/PhD Degree), Regulation, 2009".

Proposal: The Senate is requested to approve the modification of 'Eligibility Criteria of AcSIR to be an AcSIR Faculty' to bring it in harmony with the AcSIR Ordinance# 7.7 and also to ensure compliance with the number of student registration per faculty as per approved guidelines.

iii. Inclusion of Adjunct Faculty members

Background: AcSIR has received requests from **CSIR-CBRI** and **CSIR-CECRI** for inclusion of the following faculty as Adjunct Faculty of AcSIR.

As per the guidelines of AcSIR, an Adjunct Faculty of AcSIR will spend substantial time for the activities of the Academy in terms of teaching, supervising Master's thesis, guiding PhD scholars, development of curricula etc. or any other work that the Institute he/she is associated with, deem fit.

Name of Faculty	Designation & Organization	Faculty	Lab Name	Request Type
Prof. S.K. Bhattacharyya	Professor of Civil Engineering, IIT, Kharagpur Former Director, CSIR-CBRI, Roorkee	Engg. Sciences	CSIR-CBRI	Fresh request for tenure of 3 years
Prof. Dr. Sabu Thomas	Director of International and Inter University Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala	Engg. Sciences	CSIR-CECRI	Fresh request for tenure of 3 years
Prof. Deepankar Choudhury	Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT, Bombay	Chem. Sciences	CSIR-CBRI	Request for extension for 3 years after completion of initial tenure on June 6, 2016

Proposal: Proposals, as above, have received recommendation of Dean/ Associate Dean of relevant faculty of study through proper process. Senate is requested to kindly consider and accord approval to above proposals.

Details are furnished at **Annexure A-23**.

iv. Inclusion of Dr. Vijay Patel as Co-guide

Background: A student of CSIR-NAL, Bangalore Ms. Jayalakshmi Nagam, (Enrollment# 20EE15J24001) is enrolled for PhD in the area of "Fault Tolerant & Adaptive/ Reconfigurable Control" under Dr. G.K. Singh, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NAL and Professor, AcSIR.

Dr. Singh has submitted that the thesis will entail various aspects related to advanced control techniques very relevant to the current & future national programs, inputs of Dr. Vijay V. Patel (Scientist G, ADA) as co-guide to the student would be immensely helpful.

Proposal: The recommendation of Associate Dean, Engineering Sciences along with approval Chairman, Senate, is being placed for approval by the Senate. Details are provided at **Annexure A-23**.

Item for Discussion & Approval

Item No. 23 Revision of Sitting Fee/ Professional Fee/ Honorarium

Background: Recently, there has been an enhancement in the amount of sitting and other fees payable to experts by different funding agencies including CSIR. The issue has been recently brought to the notice of AcSIR by a few members of the Senate for consideration of revision of such fees at AcSIR.

Proposal: It is proposed that the Senate of AcSIR reviews and revise fees payable by AcSIR for various purposes to be consistent with the current trend. Such payments include: Sitting Fee for various selection committees, Fees for taking classes, attending DAC/Comprehensive meetings; Thesis Evaluation Fee; Fee for attending Viva Voce examination etc. Copy of a recent OM issued by CSIR is attached herewith for perusal by Senate members (**Annexure A-24**). The recommendation of the Senate will be presented to the Finance Committee at its next meeting.

Profession Fee payable on monthly basis		
	Current	Proposed
AcSIR Coordinator at Labs	5,000/-	7,500/-
Associate Dean	7,500/-	10,000/-
Dean	10,000/-	12,500/-

Name of the Activity/Meeting	Existing amount of Honorarium Rs./Day	Proposed Amount of Honorarium Rs./Day
Sitting Fee for BoG	2000/-	7500/-
Sitting Fee (all other academic and administrative meetings of AcSIR)	2000/-	5000/-
Fees for taking classes (per session)	2000/-	2500/-
Invited Guest Lecture	-	5000/-
DAC/Comprehensive meetings	2000/-	2500/-
Thesis Evaluation Fee (for Indian Examiner, as proposed by Senate)	2000/-	5000/-
Fee for attending Viva Voce examination	2000/-	2500/-