

ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Proceedings of the 19th Meeting of the Senate
held on October 16, 2017; 10:30 hrs.
at CSIR-Science Centre, New Delhi

The following members participated in the 19th meeting of the Senate:

Sl. No.	Name of Participants	Mode of Participation
1	Prof. Rajender S. Sangwan, Director, AcSIR, Chairman	In person
2	Prof. Deepak Pental, Delhi University, Member	In person
3	Prof. Sanjay Mittal, IIT, Kanpur, Member	In person
4	Prof. Harini Nagendra, Azim Premji Univ., Bengaluru, Member	Skype*
5	Prof. Shantanu Choudhury, CSIR-CEERI, Member	In person
6	Prof. Sanjay Kumar, CSIR-IHBT, Member	In person
7	Prof. G. Parthasarathy, CSIR-NGRI, Member	In person
8	Prof. V. Subramanian, CSIR-CLRI, Member	In person
9	Prof. Suman Kumari Mishra, CSIR-NML, Member	In person
10	Prof. Shantanu Sengupta, CSIR-IGIB, Member	In person
11	Dr. Suwendra Nath Bhattacharyya, CSIR-IICB, Member	In person
12	Dr. D. Srinivasa Reddy, CSIR-NCL, Member	In person
13	Dr. Chetan Gadgil, CSIR-NCL, Member	In person
14	Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, CSIR-IICT, Member	In person

* The member participating through Skype could follow the proceedings of the meeting with complete clarity.

The Quorum requirement for the meeting, i.e. the presence of 11 members (being one third of total members of the Senate) was fulfilled. Prof. Ashwini Nangia (CSIR-NCL), Ms. R.V. Lakshmi (CSIR-NAL) and Dr. Bhanu Pratap Singh (CSIR-NPL) could not attend the meeting due to other engagements of their priority.

The meeting was also participated by Arpita Sengupta, Senior Manager, AcSIR as non-member Secretary of the Senate.

INITIATION OF THE MEETING

Item No. 1: Welcome Address and update on major activities by the Chairman of the Senate and Director, AcSIR:

Prof. Rajender S Sangwan, Chairman, Senate, welcomed the members of the newly constituted Senate of AcSIR. He also informed the House about the appointment of Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, NIAS, Bangalore as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors and Chancellor of AcSIR, with effect

from February 16, 2017 for a period of four years. The Members of the Senate welcomed and appreciated the new and esteemed leadership of AcSIR.

The members briefly introduced themselves.

The Chairman, Senate gave an introduction and update to the Members about AcSIR. Briefly, these included:

- Ongoing educational and research degree/diploma programs of AcSIR
- Present status of enrollment of students in various programs and students graduated from AcSIR.
- Gazette of India notification of AcSIR Statutes 2017 and Ordinance 2017 published on April 11, 2017.
- Need for better growth and improvement of quality in educational and research programs of AcSIR.
- Need for a higher level and dynamics of synergy between CSIR and AcSIR.
- Need for acquiring a better position and ranking for AcSIR through appropriate feedback system and participation in national level ranking surveys.

Item No. 2: Confirmation of the minutes of the 18th meeting of the Senate:

The minutes/proceedings of the 18th meeting of the Senate held on November 30, 2016 were communicated to the members on December 30, 2016. No comment was received in response from any of the members. The Chairman, Senate also invited comments from the members participating in this meeting then and there. In response, no comment was made by any of the members at this meeting.

The Senate confirmed the minutes/proceedings of the 18th meeting of the Senate.

Item No. 3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the 18th Meeting of the Senate

The Senate members were updated about the actions taken with respect to the decisions/suggestions on each of the Agenda items of the 18th meeting of the Senate. The Senate members were also updated about the extent of completion/progress of tasks in this regard. Discussions were held for way forward on issues, as under, where logistics or other difficulties were encountered in the actions of implementation:

- (i) **Item No. # 4 (iv) Introduction of Online Examination of PhD Thesis:** The Senate was of the view that in the interest of speed and efficiency, the activity may be outsourced and professional vendors may be engaged for introducing and implementing Online Examination of PhD Thesis. Such system operating in IITs/IISERs and other organizations may be referred and understood for the relevant help and assistance including vendor identification.
- (ii) **Item No. # 4 (vii) Modification in entry level eligibility criteria for Integrated M.Tech-Ph.D (IMP):** The item was taken up for detailed discussion as a separate agenda at this (19th) meeting as Agenda Item No. 16.
- (iii) **Item No. # 4 (Xii) AcSIR Policy on Online Repository of Thesis – INFLIBNET/Institutional Repository at URDIP:** Clarification is being sought from UGC with respect to adoption of NAD and/or INFLIBNET system to avoid redundancy and to have full compliance with the latest guidelines of the UGC.



- (iv) **Item No. #4 (xiii): Credit requirement for the PhD part of MSc-PhD program:** The item was taken up for detailed discussion as a separate agenda at this (19th) meeting as Agenda Item No. 21.
- (v) **Item No. # 4 (xvii): Revision of Sitting Fee/ Professional Fee/ Honorarium:** Since the matter has major financial implications and thereby significant effect on sustainability aspects in long run, it will be taken up again in the next meeting(s) of Finance Committee in this perspective.
- (vi) **Item No. # 4: Admission for the August 2017 session (PhD program in Science and Engineering):** A common format for recording the proceedings of the Selection Committee is being developed by Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Associate Dean, Chemical Sciences with help from Ms. Priyanka Kapoor, Senior Executive Consultant, CSIR-IGIB. This task is due to be completed shortly and will be taken further for approval of the Chairman, Senate and implementation at the earliest.
- (vii) **Item No. # 18: Proposal received for initiation of Diploma Programs:** Though the programs have been initiated at some of the Labs, its full operation in all the interested Labs requires a harmonized system. Therefore, a uniform format of the proposal along with detailed analysis of its likely outcomes and benefits to the society is being developed so that all such proposals may be submitted by the Labs to AcSIR accordingly.

The Senate appreciated and accepted the Action Taken Report.

Items for Information

Item No. 4: Notification of AcSIR Statutes 2017 and Ordinances 2017: The Members of the Senate noted the information on notification of AcSIR Statutes 2017 and Ordinance 2017 in the official Gazette of India on April 11, 2017. As per the official procedure, these notifications were laid to the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on July 24, 2017 and July 26, 2017, respectively.

Item No. 5: Agreement between AcSIR and RMIT University, Australia for Joint badged PhD program: The Members of the Senate noted the information regarding signing of the above agreement on July 27, 2017. It further noted that AcSIR is endeavoring to implement the Agreement with effect from January 2018 session.

The Senate highly appreciated the signing of the Agreement as well as the ongoing active efforts of AcSIR for its early implementation.

Item No. 6: Transfer of AcSIR students from one Lab to another: The Senate noted the transfer decisions and actions taken by AcSIR including one case of reversal of transfer order for the AcSIR students as per the list below:

Name of the Student	Faculty	Enrollment No.	CSIR Lab		New Enrollment No.
			From	To	
Sinjini Dhang	Biological Sciences	10BB16A26041	CSIR-NCL	CSIR-IICB	10BB16A17010
Satheesh Borra	Chemical Sciences	10CC15A18035	CSIR-IICT	CSIR-NEIST	10CC15A38024
Chandrasekhar Dangeti	Chemical Sciences	10CC15A18003	CSIR-IICT	CSIR-NEIST	10CC15A38023
Santosh Kumar Yadav	Engineering Sciences	20EE16A05007	CSIR-CECRI	CSIR-CEERI	20EE16A06006
Reversal of Previous Transfer order					
Tejasvi Bhatia	Chemical Sciences	10CC12A22013	CSIR-IITR	CSIR-IICT	-



Item No. 7: Change of Faculty/Discipline of Study of AcSIR students: The Senate noted Change of Faculty/Discipline of Study of the following AcSIR students:

CSIR-Lab	Name of the Student	Faculty	Enrollment No.	Changed Faculty	New Enrollment No.
CSIR-CSIO	Deepika Bhatnagar	Physical Sciences	10PP13A15001	Biological Sciences	10PB13A15001
CSIR-CECRI	Anusha Thampi V. V.	Physical Sciences	10PP14A05007	Engineering Sciences	10PE14A05007
CSIR-NCL	Monal Sudhir Salvi	Biological Sciences	10BB16J26025	Chemical Sciences	10BC16J26025

Item No. 8: Change of students' PhD program from Regular to Part-Time: The Senate noted the change of PhD program of following students from Regular to Part-Time:

Student	Registration No.	Lab	Faculty	Open Colloquium
Abhishek Kumar Mishra	10BB13J22002	CSIR-IITR	Biological Sciences	Sep 19, 2017
Hafizurrahman	10BB13A22002	CSIR-IITR	Biological Sciences	Sep 19, 2017
Jishad	10PP13J29004	CSIR-NIO	Physical Sciences	Details awaited
Zainab Asad	10BB12A02038	CSIR-IGIB	Biological Sciences	Nov 08, 2016
Niraj Rajesh Bhatt	10BB12A02016	CSIR-IGIB	Biological Sciences	Jan 19, 2017

Item No. 9: Updated information on strength and status of faculty members of AcSIR: The Senate noted that in view of several new recruitment, superannuation, promotion, resignation etc. of CSIR Scientists, an update has been made in the faculty list of AcSIR accordingly. The same will be uploaded in the AcSIR website. The Senate felt that it will be better if such information can be communicated to AcSIR by the CSIR Laboratories on a monthly basis or AcSIR can have information about likely dates of superannuation (based on date of birth) of the faculty from the CSIR Labs to cover the superannuation related changes in faculty list.

Item for Ratification

Item No. 10: Students admitted to Masters' and PhD programs of AcSIR (January 2017 session and August 2017 session): The Senate ratified the admissions made by AcSIR in its following programs in January 2017 Session and August 2017 Session:

- PhD program in Science and Engineering
- Integrated MSc-PhD program in Nutrition Biology at CSIR-CFTRI
- MSc in Food Technology at CSIR-CFTRI
- Integrated MSc-PhD program in Clinical Research (AcSIR-PHFI)

Also, the Senate ratified the admission of two foreign students, Mr. Ntemafack Augustin (Cameroon) at CSIR-IIIM and Ms. Florence Anem Aisuen (Nigeria) at CSIR-CECRI for PhD under CSIR-TWAS Fellowship program.

Admissions (three nos. of students) made in AcSIR-PHFI Integrated MSc-PhD program in Health Informatics will be put for ratification of the Senate in its next meeting.

Item No. 11: Students enrolled in Post Graduate Diploma (Aug 2017 session) and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Summer Training program (2017): The Senate ratified the enrollment of students in the following courses:

- (a) Post Graduate Diploma (August 2017 session) in **Patinformatics** at CSIR-URDIP
- (b) Post Graduate Diploma (January 2017 session) in **Advance Manufacturing Technology (PGDAMT)** at CSIR-CMERI
- (c) Post Graduate Diploma (January 2017 session) in **Robotics (PGDR)** at CSIR-CMERI
- (d) Post Graduate Diploma (January 2017 session) in **Industrial Maintenance Engineering (PGDIME)** at CSIR-CMERI.

The Senate also ratified Proceedings of Selection of Students for AcSIR-Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Summer Training Program, 2017 (during May-August 2017).

The Senate discussed whether the existing form of conducting the training program may be reviewed and AcSIR instead join the three National Academies that jointly conduct a Summer Research Training for students and teachers. However, after detailed discussion it was decided that the program should continue in its current form as it serves a special purpose of providing training opportunities to students pursuing Bachelors' and Masters' in Engineering and Sciences, respectively. It also serves to the Government of India mission of providing accessibility of research facilities in National Laboratories to students at their college level. It is also helpful for students from weaker sections of the society as it has inbuilt fellowship given by AcSIR to the students selected for the program.

Dr. S. K Bhattacharya suggested that the advertisement for the next session may be suitably modified to include that "*Cross-disciplinary interest research areas will be encouraged*". It may encourage the Engineering graduates also to explore the research areas in basic sciences and *vice versa*.

Further, Dr. Sanjay Mittal and Dr. Deepak Pental suggested that, in addition, AcSIR may also discuss with the three National Academies for becoming their potential partner in their joint program of Summer Research Fellowship Program for students and teachers.

The Senate ratified the admissions made by AcSIR under its different programs and approved the suggestions for improvement and expansion in its implementation. Additional financial implications, if any, particularly in case of joining the Summer Research Fellowship Program of the three Academies should also be taken into consideration and for approval at appropriate levels.

Item No. 12: Results and award of PhD Degrees in Science and Engineering: The Senate ratified the results declared for **344** students (provided in **Annexure P-1** of these Proceedings) for the award of PhD (Science) and PhD (Engineering) degrees.

Item No. 13: Results and award of Masters' Degrees:

- a) **MTech under the Integrated MTech-PhD program (2015-17 batch):** The Senate ratified the results of **33** students (provided in **Annexure P-2** of these proceedings) who had successfully completed all the requirements for award of MTech degree under the Integrated MTech-PhD program in Aug 2017.
- b) **MSc under the Integrated MSc-PhD program in Clinical Research and Health Informatics (AcSIR-PHFI):** The Senate ratified the results of **07** students (provided in **Annexure P-3** of these proceedings) from the third batch of students (2015-17 Session) of joint AcSIR-PHFI Integrated MSc-PhD program in Clinical Research for award of the MSc degree under this program.

Results of 02 students of the joint AcSIR-PHFI Integrated MSc-PhD program in Health Informatics are still awaited and, on receipt, will be sent to the Dean, Biological Sciences for recommendation before approval of the Senate/Chairman, Senate.

Items for Approval

Item No. 14: Results and award of Post Graduate Diploma Program at CSIR-CMERI: The Senate perused the recommendations of the Dean, Engineering Sciences regarding the results of **Eleven** students [(s per results of the students listed in **Annexure P-4**) of the 2016-17 batch of Post Graduate Diploma programs as under:

- Post Graduate Diploma in Advance Manufacturing Technology (PGDAMT) at CSIR-CMERI
- Post Graduate Diploma in Robotics (PGDR) at CSIR-CMERI
- Post Graduate Diploma in Industrial Maintenance Engineering (PGDIME) at CSIR-CMERI

The Senate approved the results.

Item No. 15: Introduction of New Courses and Modifications in existing Courses in Masters and PhD program: The Senate approved introduction of new courses and modification of existing courses under different Faculties of Study at the following Labs:

New Courses:

- a) CSIR-CCMB (Biological Sciences),
- b) CSIR-IICB (Chemical Sciences),
- c) CSIR-NIO (Physical Sciences),
- d) CSIR-CBRI (Engineering Sciences),
- e) CSIR-CMERI (Engineering Sciences),
- f) CSIR-CECRI (Engineering Sciences).

Modified Courses:

- a) CSIR-IGIB (Biological Sciences),
- b) CSIR-CFTRI (Biological Sciences),
- c) CSIR-CMERI (Chemical Sciences),
- d) CSIR-CEERI (Physical Sciences),
- e) CSIR- CSIO (Physical Sciences),
- f) CSIR-CBRI (Engineering Sciences),
- g) CSIR-CMERI (Engineering Sciences),
- h) CSIR-CEERI (Engineering Sciences)

The list and content of the new and modified courses, approved by the Senate, are annexed with these proceedings at **Annexure P-5**.

Item No. 16: Proposal for resuming Integrated M.Tech-PhD program with CSIR Fellowship: **The issue of exit provision:** Senate deliberated in detail on the proposal to resume Integrated M.Tech-PhD (IMP) program, entry to which has remained suspended from August 2015 session.

Members of the Senate also expressed their concern over very limited options of fellowship available to Engineering Graduates intending to pursue PhD Engineering in AcSIR, this is contrary to the situation in MHRD Institutions like IITs, NITs etc., where GATE qualified candidates get a fellowship from MHRD or Teaching Assistantships or Research Assistantship from the institution itself. For AcSIR GATE qualified candidates intending to pursue PhD in AcSIR, CSIR-HRDG provides only 5 fellowships to each of 17 Engineering Labs of CSIR. There also, there is a stipulation from CSIR-HRDG as under:

"As the JRF-GATE fellowship is awarded for pursuing PhD and therefore there will be no automatic exit after M.Tech."

This provision is contrary to the option of exit available with the present system of Integrated MTech-PhD program of AcSIR. Members of the Senate discussed the above CSIR guidelines regarding JRF-GATE fellowship for pursuing PhD.

In this complex and conflicting situation, the positions for PhD in Engineering for CSIR GATE JRF remain vacant in some Labs, while in others this number of fellowships falls short.

Chairman, Senate also informed the House of his brief discussion with Head, CSIR-HRDG regarding possibility of pooling and transferring vacant seats from one lab to another for optimal use of this fellowship option across CSIR Labs.

The Senate authorized its Chairman to discuss the issue of pooling and/or enhancement of number of fellowships under CSIR-HRDG GATE-JRF category with the Head, CSIR-HRDG. This will also serve as a policy input to CSIR from AcSIR to encourage Engineering Graduates in Research.

As concerns the CSIR-HRDG GATE Fellowship vis-à-vis AcSIR Integrated MTech-PhD Program, Chairman, Senate emphasized that a Program cannot remain suspended for want of fellowships or the provisions of exit option after MTech. In later case, virtually the Integrated MTech-PhD Program turns into a MTech program only if all the students opt for the exit option after availing CSIR-HRDG GATE Fellowship for two years. At this time, the program may be resumed only by removing exit option in case of students availing the GATE-JRF Fellowship offered by CSIR-HRDG. However, to take a comprehensive view of this program (two degrees i.e. M.Tech and PhD after B.E/B.Tech) vis-à-vis the Direct PhD program (i.e. single degree of PhD directly after B.E/B.Tech), it was suggested that a committee (under chairmanship of Dr. Shantanu Chowdhury) may be constituted by the Chairman, Senate to look into the matter and suggest a harmonized system of M.Tech-PhD for B.E/B.Tech level of entrants. It was also suggested that the same committee may also explore a standalone M.Tech program in the Engineering Labs on self-financing/industrial sponsorship/CSIR Labs internal resources support basis. The Committee is to look into this complex issue in details and provide its recommendation to the Chairman, Senate. The Committee may also look into possibility of CSIR Labs' internal fellowships for PhD Engineering. If a Lab has internal financial resource strength and can deploy the same for PhD in Engineering.

Item No. 17: Proposal for change in tenure of Board of Studies and its Reconstitution accordingly: The Senate discussed and deliberated on following points:

- (i) The three years tenure of the existing Boards of Studies (BoS) is not in harmony with the two-years tenure of a member of Board of Study at the Senate.
- (ii) Existing BoS are nearly at the end of their three years tenure (completing on January 20, 2018), without any activity.
- (iii) Revising the tenure of the Boards of Studies to two years (from current tenure of three years) to enable it to be in harmony with the two-year tenure of the members of Boards of Studies in the Senate of AcSIR. Necessary amendments be incorporated in the Statutes.
- (iv) The Boards of Studies may be reconstituted as per its composition [as per Statute 31(a), (b), (c)] with a tenure of two years.

The Senate unanimously decided that the Boards of Studies may be reconstituted immediately and to enable that the present BoS may be considered dissolved from the date of the 19th meeting of the Senate. The Senate authorized the Chairman, Senate to reconstitute the three Board of Studies with a tenure of two years in consultation with the Associate Director (Academic) following the prescribed stipulations of its composition. If desired, suggestions may be invited from the Deans and Associate Deans.

Item No. 18: Constitution of Academic Committee (AC) at all CSIR Labs other program Centres/Affiliates of AcSIR for maintenance of academic standards: The Senate discussed the proposal in detail. There was a general agreement among all the members of the Senate that Academic Committee (AC) at the CSIR Lab level would be highly useful for the purpose of better overall academic supervision at Lab level and strict compliance to rules and directives. This can also be a first platform to address the academic grievances of AcSIR students.

The Senate accepted the proposal for constitution of Academic Committee (AC) as per details below:

- (i) Each of the participating CSIR Lab should form an Academic Committee (AC) having a minimum of 5 members with the Coordinator of the Lab being the Member-Convener.
- (ii) The Director of the concerned CSIR Lab would constitute the Academic Committee with the concurrence of the Chairman, Senate (i.e., Director, AcSIR).
- (iii) The Committee should be Chaired by the Director of the concerned CSIR Lab or his nominee (who would be a person of repute in research/academics at the level of Professor of AcSIR and senior to the Coordinator).
- (iv) The remaining three or more members will be from amongst those currently involved in guiding the AcSIR students.
- (v) Tenure of the AC will be two years. However, not more than one of the nominated members may be re-nominated to the AC and that too only for one more term of two years.
- (vi) Vacancies arising in the interim period may be filled up by fresh nomination by the Director, CSIR Lab for the remaining tenure of the AC. Such changes in the composition of the AC may be communicated to the Chairman, Senate.
- (vii) The ACs in each of the Labs should conduct at least one meeting in each semester and monitor level of compliance with respect to the academic guidelines and standards (quality of teaching, students' participation, internal review/self-appraisal, feedbacks from teachers/students for improvement of academic learning, etc.) of the ongoing AcSIR programs. Additional meeting(s) may be convened on need basis, as felt by the Lab/Dean/AcSIR.
- (viii) The Coordinator of the Lab may refer any academic matter to the AC.
- (ix) AcSIR may assign any other task or responsibility or Terms of Reference to the AC for improvement of academic processes, compliance to guidelines, feedback or any other goal of AcSIR at the Lab.
- (x) Coordinator will submit the approved minutes of the meetings of AC to the Director of CSIR Lab, the Chairman, Senate and the concerned Dean(s) & Associate Dean(s).
- (xi) Senate also approved that additional member(s) may be co-opted by the Director of CSIR Lab depending upon the need and exigencies on a regular basis or for a specific meeting/agenda of the meeting.

Item No. 19: Report of Senate Sub Committee on reinstatement of PhD program in CSIR-NISCAIR and a meeting between the Director, AcSIR and Director, CSIR-NISCAIR for the way forward: The Senate took a note of the whole matter including discussions held between the Director, AcSIR and Director, CSIR-NISCAIR and recommendations of the Sub-committee.

The Senate agreed that it was desirable that the academic program in Science Information & Communication be included in the PhD program of AcSIR. However, *Database Systems and Climate Change Informatics* (DBS & CCI) are specific topics of research that can be duly covered under the PhD program in Science Information & Communication. The Senate also noted that in AcSIR degrees are awarded in 'Science' or 'Engineering' and thus award of degree in a specific topics/micro-topic (such as DBS & CCI) does not fit in this framework. However, the Senate desired to consider a new proposal of PhD program from CSIR-NISCAIR in the perspectives of strength and mandate of CSIR-NISCAIR i.e., Science Information & Communication etc. The interested AcSIR students may pursue PhD in Science Information and Communication with their topic of PhD dissertation related to topics of DBS or CCI under the supervision of guides having relevant expertise. The degree in such broader discipline also provides a wider window to students with respect to their future career path.

The Senate noted and appreciated that a fruitful discussion had already taken place between the Director, CSIR-NISCAIR and Chairman, Senate, AcSIR wherefrom it emerged that a new course curriculum be created for PhD program in Science Communication that would be submitted as soon as possible but not later than February 28, 2017 so that it can be subjected to approval processes for implementation from August 2018 session positively.

In view of the above, Senate agreed in principle to reinstate the PhD program at CSIR-NISCAIR which would be Science Information & Communication centric. The Senate desired that fresh proposal may be submitted by CSIR-NISCAIR accordingly.

Item No. 20: Proposal received from Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) for restructuring of the two Integrated MSc-PhD programs: The Senate discussed and accepted the proposal from PHFI to allow advertisement of the Integrated MSc-PhD program in Clinical Research and Health Informatics to be issued in the following way:

A two-year Master's program as, MSc in Clinical Research and MSc in Health Informatics, with further option of pursuing PhD, if eligible, as Integrated MSc-PhD in Clinical Research and Health Informatics.

Item No. 21: Credit requirement for the PhD part of MSc-PhD program: The Senate discussed the details of the 4 credits that is required for the PhD part of Integrated MSc-PhD program. The Senate approved, as proposed by two of the Deans, that the students would need to undertake two 300 level courses of 2 credits each preferably in the student's area of research. The Senate, further approved that one of these courses may be of 200 or 300 level and that it may also be in a discipline other than the student's own discipline of enrollment, subject to the recommendation of his/her DAC.

Item No. 22: Review of Eligibility Criteria for B.Tech to PhD (Direct) in Engineering Sciences: The Senate discussed and reviewed the eligibility criteria for Direct PhD (B.Tech to PhD) in Engineering Sciences, since several Coordinators of different Labs have raised concern over the current criteria for eligibility for the program resulting in low enrollment in PhD in Engineering. The Senate discussed in details all possibilities and approved that the following criteria that may be adopted for admissions to the program:

A. D. Singh

- B.E. / B.Tech with CGPA 7.0 + a valid GATE score
- B.E. / B.Tech with CGPA 7.0 + 2 years' experience as PA/CSIR SRF
- B.E. / B.Tech / M.Sc. with CGPA 7.0 or Ranked first in the University + National level fellowship (in either of the case)

The CGPA benchmarks of eligibility would be 0.50 and 0.25 points lower (i.e. 6.50 and 6.75, respectively) for candidates belonging to SC/ST and OBC (non-creamy layer).

The Senate further suggested that these are the minimum eligibility criteria and individual Laboratory may adopt higher benchmark for screening / selection based on the number and quality of the applications received.

Item No. 23: Enrollment of a student to AcSIR PhD program two years after selection: The Senate discussed in detail about enrollment of a student, Ms. Priyanka Kumari, of CSIR-CIMAP who was selected for the AcSIR PhD program in Biological Sciences for the August 2015 session and her joining information was not done at AcSIR. Based on the inputs received from the then Coordinator of CSIR-CIMAP accepting the lapses at his level, the Senate agreed to allow Ms. Priyanka Kumari to continue as AcSIR student and issue enrollment number. However, this permission is will remain valid only on payment of all pending fee and other dues to AcSIR, within one month of issuance of enrollment number.

Further, the Senate suggested that a communication be made to all AcSIR Coordinators/Executive Consultants/Executive Assistants at CSIR laboratories to take due care and prevent occurrence of such lapses.

Item No. 24: Extension of tenure of PhD students for completion of thesis beyond prescribed period: The Senate discussed and approved provisions enabling extension of tenure of completion of PhD beyond six years on a case to case basis. It was decided that all such applications for extension should be referred directly to the Associate Director (Academic) who will review each case and take appropriate action (in consultation with the Dean of the respective faculty). Thereon, approval of the Chairman, Senate would be sought accordingly. The application must be accompanied by evidences/ documents reflecting the reasons or situation to be beyond the control of the candidate. It should also accompany due and convincing monthly plans of action for completion of experiments and submission of thesis.

Further, a relaxation upto 2 years in the maximum duration for women candidates and Persons with Disability (more than 40%) was also approved as per UGC guidelines 2016 adopted in the 18th meeting of the AcSIR Senate. These two years of relaxation period for women candidates will include, if availed, Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave only once during the entire duration of PhD for up to 240 days.

In this connection, it was pointed by Dr. Shantanu Sengupta that since AcSIR has adopted the '*UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016*' in its 18th Senate Meeting, hence the provisions of the guidelines accepted by the Senate at its 18th meeting (held on November 30, 2016) will be applicable to students enrolled in the immediate next session, i.e., the January 2017 session and thereafter.

Item No. 25: Revisit maximum period of extension for thesis submission after Open Colloquium: The Senate discussed the proposal to revisit the maximum period of extension of thesis submission. The Senate approved the following modified guidelines in this regard:

- (i) *The PhD thesis can be submitted any time within six months after clearing the DAC IV through Open Colloquium.*
- (ii) *Submission beyond 6 months will require Dean's approval for the requested extension period (maximum upto additional 6 months), on the basis of satisfactory reasons for the delay/extension. The permission, if granted, will be recorded at Dean/Associate Dean's level under intimation to the Associate Director (Academic), AcSIR.*
- (iii) *If the thesis is not submitted within one year (i.e., six months of usual time plus six months of extension, if granted) of clearing the Open Colloquium, student will have to request Chairman, Senate (through the respective Dean) for continuation of the registration before the expiry of the granted period of one year. If such a request of the candidate is admitted, he/she will have to re-appear for Open Colloquium and clear the same within one month and must submit his/her thesis within the next eleven months of re-clearance of the Open Colloquium.*
- (iv) *No further request for reappearance for Open Colloquium will be considered.*
- (v) *During this period of special extension of one year, fees payable will be double and four times of his/her usual semester fee in the follow-up first and second semester, respectively. Further, fee charged will be for full semester(s), even if period covered is only part of the semester.*

All these provisions/relaxations and compliances thereunder must be completed within the period which is permitted (i.e., usually six years from date of enrollment) for completion of degree as per UGC guidelines.

Item No. 26: Procedure for transfer of AcSIR student from one Lab to another: For maintenance of uniformity in all its activities, the Senate discussed and approved the following procedure for transfer of AcSIR student from one Lab to another Lab:

- (i) *Student seeking transfer of Lab, should apply to AcSIR through the Lab Coordinator with due justification and consent of the current and prospective Supervisors of the respective Labs.*
- (ii) *Directors of both the Labs should accord their approvals on the proposed transfer.*
- (iii) *All the documents have to be forwarded to the Dean of the concerned Faculty through the Lab Coordinator, keeping the Coordinator in the receiving Lab in loop, for approval.*
- (iv) *The student is to submit approval of the funding agency for transfer of the fellowship (after receipt of consent from both the Labs and the Dean of the Faculty).*
- (v) *Finally, all documents in a compiled manner (along with the approval of the funding agency) is to be forwarded to AcSIR for obtaining approval of the Chairman, Senate and placing the matter for information at the Senate.*
- (vi) *Any request received at AcSIR without any of the documents/approvals mentioned above, will not be entertained / considered.*
- (vii) *The transfer will be at the risk, cost and responsibility of the student and/or funding agency with respect to fellowship and associated issues.*

Furthermore, a candidate seeking transfer must not resign from his/her affiliation as an enrolled/registered student of AcSIR at the current Lab. Resignation implies termination of his/her affiliation with AcSIR whereas transfer is only a change of location/Lab for pursuing AcSIR degree.

Item No. 27: Procedure for change of Faculty/School of study: The Senate discussed and approved the following procedure for change of Faculty of study:

- (i) *Student seeking change of Faculty/School of study, should apply with justification including consent of the Supervisor and approval of the concerned Lab Director.*
- (ii) *Deans of both the Faculties should also accord their approvals on the proposed change on the basis of the background of the student and the research work, availability of faculty for guidance in the desired area and recognition and approved coursework of the concerned Lab in the new area (Faculty) of research.*
- (iii) *Approvals of the Deans of the two concerned Faculties at AcSIR have to be obtained through the Lab Coordinator.*
- (iv) *All documents in a compiled manner is to be forwarded to AcSIR for obtaining approval of the Chairman, Senate.*
- (v) *No such request for change in Faculty/School of study will be allowed after Registration to the PhD program i.e., clearance of the Comprehensive Examination in the original Faculty.*
- (vi) *Any request received at AcSIR without any of the documents/approvals mentioned above, will not be considered.*

Item No. 28: The matter of students' rights vis-à-vis responsibilities and discipline: The Senate discussed and deliberated on the above issue and suggested constitution of a Central Grievance Redressal Cell. The modalities and mechanism to receive the individual students' grievances and address them may be developed.

Item No. 29: Issue related to publication of Masters' / PhD thesis by outside publishers: The Senate discussed on the above issue and recorded that in principle AcSIR has to comply with the provisions of the MoU between AcSIR and CSIR on this matter. Therefore, an appropriate undertaking, as provisioned under the MoU with respect to assignment of Copy Right to AcSIR by the student, be implemented. Issuance of Provisional/Degree Certificate may be withheld for non-receipt of the assignment of Copy Right to AcSIR for the thesis submitted to AcSIR.

It was agreed that the Chairman, Senate will seek opinion of the members of the Senate and, if desired, other experts in this domain, on the Draft Undertaking with respect to assignment of Copy Right, by circulation. The draft so prepared will be placed at the next meeting of the Senate.

Item No. 30: Procedure for issue of the final degree/ diploma/ certificate: The Members of the Senate were briefed about receipt of regular requests from successful students for issuance of final degree certificates immediately or within a very short period due to urgent requirements for their future Post-Doctoral or job opportunities, especially when Provisional Certificates are not accepted in a few Countries.

The Senate discussed and approved to arrangements for emergency/ out of turn issuance of final degree certificates, only to be issued to successful students under the following circumstances, where there is a clear documentary evidence or official statement that Provisional Certificates are not acceptable:

- (i) *Pursue higher study/ post-doctoral research/ job abroad*
Or
- (ii) *Take up residence abroad*

It was decided that only the Provisional Certificate (without the Provisional Grade Card) will be issued within 7 working Days of completion of all administrative and academic formalities. The formal Degree and the Grade Card will be endeavored to be issued within 3 months.

Notifications of the results would be issued in the form of an OM and made public through AcSIR website/ notification at AIU/ issuance of Note for Press/Media.

Item No. 31: Matters related to Faculty and Supervision

- (i) **Dual Faculty recognition:** After due deliberations, the Senate concluded that recognition of Dr. MVRK Sarma, Scientist, CSIR-CFTRI additionally in faculty of Engineering Science may not be required as this has no relation with his eligibility to guide an AcSIR student belonging to a different faculty.

In the interest of career plans and professional advantage to the students, it was clarified that a student can register in his/her choice of Faculty (irrespective of the Faculty of the intended guide/co-guide) subject to his/her appropriate educational background, fulfilling the entry requirements to the Faculty and the nature of the research project lie or significantly overlap with the domains of the Faculty of study being opted. There is no restriction with respect to the Faculty of the guide or co-guide of the student. It also serves the AcSIR objects of encouraging inter-disciplinary/ cross-disciplinary research at doctoral level.

- (ii) **Induction as Adjunct Faculty:** Senate approved the proposal of induction of Dr. Sourav Kundu of Tata Steel as an Adjunct Faculty, AcSIR at CSIR-NML, as per existing rules.

- (iii) **Mentorship status of Supervisors on Lien from CSIR:** Senate deliberated on the mentorship status of CSIR scientists (and AcSIR faculty) on lien/deputation to other organization due to non-availability of clear guidelines on the matter. Senate concluded that any CSIR Scientist who is also an AcSIR Faculty moving out of CSIR on lien/deputation can continue to be guide of AcSIR student(s) already enrolled with him/her, till the guide technically remains a scientist employee of CSIR.

Also, if a Scientist proceeds abroad on long term study leave or extraordinary leave or on fellowship etc. through official process of approval and remains on rolls of CSIR as a scientist employee, he/she will also continue to remain AcSIR faculty.

In both the cases, as above, a co guide has to be allocated for the student for administrative continuity and logistic support/facilitation to his/her research work.

- (iv) **Mentorship after resignation/superannuation from CSIR-** The Secretary briefed the Senate on the background of the request received from Prof. Rajesh Gokhale, former Director, CSIR-IGIB, (currently Scientist at National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi), forwarded by the Director of CSIR-IGIB, regarding his intent to retain supervisor status for the four students who are already enrolled/registered with AcSIR under his supervision.

The Senate took an appraisal of the fact that AcSIR had adopted the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016 through its Senate (Meeting #18), Clause 6.2 of the Regulation that states that:

"Only a full time regular teacher of the concerned University/Institution Deemed to be a University/College can act as a supervisor. The external supervisors are not allowed...."

Further, it was also noted that as per AcSIR rules, all the positions of the faculty drawn from among the CSIR scientists are co-terminus with their superannuation or discontinuation of service from the CSIR.

The House, after thorough discussion and careful deliberation decided that all the four students can be supervised by suitable AcSIR faculty member(s) who have already been identified by Dr. Rajesh Gokhale on the basis of the relevance to the discipline or area of doctoral research of these students. However, AcSIR rules permit co-guidance of students by scientist/faculty from other organizations. Therefore, Dr. Rajesh Gokhale can continue to guide them as co-supervisor.

Item No. 32: Proposed AcSIR (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of Section 4) by Shri Raghav Lakhanpal, M.P.: The members of the Senate reviewed the suggested amendment bill to the AcSIR Act, 2011, proposed by Shri. Raghav Lakhanpal, Member of Parliament and received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, regarding an amendment in Section 4 (i.e. Objects of the Academy) of the AcSIR Act and insertion of the following clause as 4(j):

"develop and integrated in its courses alternative models to animal in science and technology research, inter-alia, natural sciences, life sciences and medical sciences."

The Senate, appreciated the suggestion and valued it as an important topic of study. However, Objects of the Academy have a broader canvas, covering a variety of research disciplines where under there is a huge dynamics and diversity topics covered in the perspective of contemporary and future needs. Accordingly, this specific topic better fits to be taken as a suggested study/research topic under the relevant Faculty/Discipline. AcSIR would communicate the same to the relevant Faculty of Study for pursuance of this important suggestion in this mode.

Item No. 33: Supplementary agenda(s), if any:

Supplementary Item # 1: Ratification of the Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the AcSIR Finance Committee held on June 24, 2017: The Senate perused and ratified the minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Finance Committee as per requirement of Clause 10.1 of AcSIR Statutes.

Supplementary Item # 2: Need to increase the sanctioned number of posts of Executive Assistants/Executive Consultants of AcSIR: The Senate discussed and approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee for creation of 40 additional positions of Executive Assistants and/or Executive Consultants at AcSIR, taking the cap to the total sanctioned strength of AcSIR with respect to Executive Assistants plus Executive Consultants to 80. The engagement of the additional manpower would be carried out in a phased manner as per existing and ensuing needs of the office of AcSIR and its units in the CSIR Labs. The recommendation of the Senate will be taken up with higher authorities for approval and implementation.

The Senate further recommended that at the Laboratory level, only Executive Assistants to be engaged henceforth, and Executive Consultants will be placed at the AcSIR central Offices only. Any of the existing positions of Executive Consultants at Laboratory level, on falling vacant, will be replaced by an Executive Assistant.

Item No. 34 Any other Item with permission of the Chair

These items have been designated as Additional Items and include the following:

Additional Item # 1: Conduct of Workshop for AcSIR Coordinators and ECs/EAs: The Members of the Senate suggested that AcSIR may conduct a workshop or Coordinators' Meet in a mode that can be managed for improvement in operational guidance and timely compliances to the needs of the students and AcSIR.

Additional Item # 2: Prof. Deepak Pental proposed introduction of anonymous student's evaluation of courses and regular feedback system for evaluation and improvement, which was agreeable to all the members.

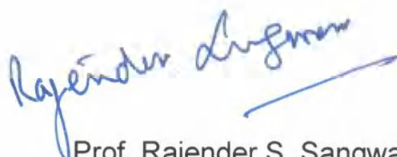
Additional Item # 3: Dr. Ramanuj Narayan proposed the following items on which Senate deliberated and decided on each case as presented below:

- (i) Consolidation of AcSIR Headquarters at Delhi/NCR region should be initiated immediately due to administrative reasons of location and proximity to CSIR with whom most of the major academic and administrative activities are conducted. Also, it is to be noted that most of the major activities are being conducted out of the Delhi/NCR office currently. AcSIR may maintain any other offices, including at Chennai for various activities. All the members wholeheartedly agreed to the proposal and approved the same. The Director, AcSIR may take further necessary action on the matter.
- (ii) Consolidation of the process of Enrollment and Registration to Registration during admission only. To this proposal, a few of the members had reservation that Registration during enrollment will dilute the importance of the Comprehensive Examination. Therefore, this proposal was not approved.

Additional Item # 4: Prof. Suman K Mishra proposed that while submitting the examiner's list for the PhD students, the submission documents should include a brief CV (upto one page) of the proposed examiners including a few recent publications to assess the suitability of the proposed examiner for a particular thesis. The members agreed to the proposal and it was decided that the same will be introduced with immediate effect.

The Director, AcSIR thanked all the members of the Senate for their participation in the meeting, thorough discussion, valuable suggestions and quality inputs for improvement and taking AcSIR forward.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


Prof. Rajender S. Sangwan
Chairman, Senate, AcSIR