



Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR)

February 2, 2011; 14.30 hrs.

Room No. 101, Anusandhan Bhawan, CSIR HQ, 2 Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110 001

Minutes of First Meeting of Senate

The following members participated:

Present in person

Prof. Gautam Biswas
Dr. Nagesh R. Iyer
Prof. Dinesh Singh
Prof. Prem Krishna
Dr. Amitabha Chattopadhyay
Dr. A. Ajayaghosh
Dr. Vinod Bhakuni
Dr. (Mrs) Asha A. Juwarkar
Prof. S.K. Bhattacharya
Prof. Indranil Manna
Dr. Shyam Sundar Rai
Dr. Mitali Mukherjee
Dr. Amitava Sengupta
Dr. Ram Rajsekharan

Through electronic media

Dr. P. Goswami	Video conferencing
Dr. B.D. Kulkarni	Video conferencing
Dr. K.S. Krishna	Video conferencing
Dr. Javed N. Agrewala	Video conferencing
Dr. Vijaya Mohanan K Pillai	Video conferencing
Dr. (Mrs) Lakshmi Kantam	Video conferencing
Dr. Pijush Pal Roy	Video-conferencing
Dr. Ashish Lele	Video conferencing
Dr. Sanjay Pandurang Kamble	Video conferencing
Dr. Debi Prasad Das	Skype

The following special invitees were present in person:

Dr. (Mrs) Santa Chawla
Mr. Zakir Thomas
Mr Dipankar Basu
Dr P.K. Biswas

The following special invitees attended through electronic media:

Dr. (Mrs) Suman K. Mishra	Video conferencing
Dr. Kunal Ray	Skype
Dr. Nilima Saikia	Video conferencing

The following special invitee was unable to attend the meeting:

Dr. Rakesh M. Jha

Item No. 1 Initiation of the meeting and Welcome Address by the Chairman of Senate:

Professor Gautam Biswas, Acting Director/OSD, AcSIR and Acting Chairperson of the Senate welcomed the members of the Senate and thanked them for participating in the historic first meeting of the Senate. He particularly expressed his solemn gratitude to the Acting Chairperson of the BoG of AcSIR, Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, who despite being unwell addressed the participants through Skype from AIIMS and actively participated in the discussions and deliberations.

Prof. Biswas while presenting a brief background of the Academy described the ethos and the driving motivation behind the inception of AcSIR. He further mentioned that the strength of AcSIR lies in its accessibility to the state-of-the art infrastructure/facilities supplemented with well-trained and most accomplished scientists as faculty. Prof. Biswas emphasised that the targets of the Academy are to i) increase the number of PhDs in the cutting-edge and interdisciplinary areas in the country, ii) establish communication between different branches of sciences and engineering towards trans-disciplinary research, and iii) assume pivotal role towards creating a paradigm-shift from brain-drain to brain-integration.

He pointed out that in order to develop high quality human resources there was a strong requirement of allowing academic freedom in the university campuses. All CSIR Laboratories will have this feature. These centres of excellence will foster for flexibility of curriculum and recruit brilliant faculty from anywhere in the world.

Item No. 2 Members of the Senate

Prof. Biswas, Acting Director, AcSIR introduced all the members of the Senate. Prof. Biswas also welcomed Mr. Dipankar Basu, Dr. P.K. Biswas, and Mr. Zakir Thomas, attending as special invitees, for their unstinted support to Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari for giving shape to the formation of the Academy.

Item No. 3 Opening Remarks by Acting Chairperson of BoG, Prof. Samir K Brahmachari

Acting Chairperson of the Board of Governors (BoG) of AcSIR, Prof. Samir K Brahmachari addressed the members from AIIMS via Skype.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, Acting Chairman, AcSIR and DG-CSIR welcomed all the members to this meeting and mentioned that as a member of the Senate everyone has an important and responsible role to play. He expressed

sadness over not being able to attend the meeting in person. Prof. Brahmachari requested the members to contribute their time and effort towards realization of this dream and vision. He highlighted the experience of stalwarts, such as Prof. Dinesh Singh (VC of Delhi University) and Prof. Prem Krishna (Vice President INAE) He took pride in stating that the most recognised and scholarly scientists of the CSIR system are the Senate members and hence the Senate of AcSIR is expected to function in the best possible way.

He advised AcSIR to go for early announcement for admission so that the best students start preparing for AcSIR. He emphasised that one of the challenges before the Academy is selecting and admitting the best students and training them in the most appropriate manner. He also added that while CSIR is project-focused, Academy should be student-focused. This can be achieved by completing the projects in time and giving the right amount of training to the PhD students involved in the projects.

Further, he championed synergizing of education, research and innovation as the development path for AcSIR. He went on to add that Indian universities are good at teaching and research; and AcSIR can bridge the gap between innovation and research. Therefore, he advised to create Statutes, Ordinances etc in such a way that they do not become impediment in nurturing exceptionally bright individuals who essentially do not follow the conventional tracks.

Item 4 Items for Information

The following items were placed for information of the Senate:

- (a) Discussion meeting on futuristic structure of Academic program of AcSIR
- (b) Minutes of the first meeting of BoG

Senate members sought clarifications on some of the issues during the presentation made by Prof Biswas. The issues were concerned with the ways and means of mentoring, maintaining student and faculty quality, implementation of CSIR-800 based social projects/programs for students, minimum residency period, industrial/ field experience etc. Prof. Brahmachari clarified many doubts. Prof. Biswas and Prof. Dinesh Singh offered some clarifications and explanations. The Senate took note of the items presented and the explanations/ clarifications provided.

Item No 5 Framing of Curricula and Courses to be offered by the Academy:

The members of the Senate took note of the Minutes of the BoG pertaining to the programmes to be offered for the January 2011 session. The Chairman detailed the background and significance of the courses and curricula. The Senate considered that this was a very important item and needed a detailed scrutiny. After discussions the Senate recommended the constitution of the following committee for framing of curricula and courses and requested for a report to the Senate within 3 months.

Course Committee:

- Amitabha Chattopadhyay (CSIR-CCMB, Dean, Convener)
- Raj Singh (CSIR-CEERI, Co-Convener)
- A Ajayaghosh (CSIR-NIIST, Dean)
- P Goswami (CSIR-CMMACS, Dean)

B D Kulkarni (CSIR-NCL, Dean)
K S Krishna (CSIR-NIO, Dean)
Kunal Ray (CSIR-IICB, Associate Dean)
Neelima Saikia (CSIR-NEIST, Associate Dean)
Rakesh M Jha (CSIR-NAL, Associate Dean)
Suman Kumari Mishra (CSIR-NML Associate Dean)
Santa Chawla (CSIR-NPL, Associate Dean)
S N Shome (CSIR-CMERI)
A Ram Mohan Rao (CSIR-SERC)
S K Mishra (CSIR-IMMT)
H K Sardana (CSIR-CSIO)
Ajay Dhar (CSIR-NPL)

Item No. 6 Procedure of Admission:

The members of the Senate took note of the draft Admission Brochure placed before them and after discussions about the credits and residency periods, approved the same for the January 2011 session. The Senate was informed that the admissions for the January 2011 session for the Ph D programs were in the process of completion. The corresponding Deans were finalizing the list of candidates selected for admission. The Senate directed the Deans of the corresponding areas to complete the ongoing process of selection and recommend the candidates to the Chairman-Senate for approval. The Senate also constituted the admission committee and stated that the processes and procedures formulated by it must have flexible criteria for admissions so that an outstanding student can be admitted even though he/ she may not be satisfying some criteria. The Senate also suggested drawing up of an academic calendar of events. The committee was given a time limit of one month to complete the task. The following are the members of the committee.

Admission Committee

A Ajayaghosh (CSIR-NIIST, Dean, Convener)
Shantanu Sengupta (CSIR-IGIB, Co Convener)
Raj Singh (CSIR-CEERI)
Chetan Gadgil (CSIR-NCL)
S N Shome (CSIR-CMERI)
Amarnath Sen (CSIR-CGCRI)

Item No. 7 Merger of PGRPE with MTech/ Integrated PhD (Eng) Programme of AcSIR

The members of the Senate noted that the Post Graduate Research Programme in Engineering (PGRPE) offered by eleven CSIR laboratories is proposed to be merged with the MTech.-Integrated Ph.D. (Engineering) of AcSIR. After studying the proposal and subsequent discussions the Senate unanimously endorsed the merger of PGRPE with the MTech programme of AcSIR. Senate also accepted the decision of awarding MTech degree to graduating batch of PGRPE students who would successfully complete the programme in 2011.

Item No. 8 Approval of the Senate for the various Faculty positions of the Academy and Recommendations for the Academy Professors

The Senate noted with considerable satisfaction that there are over 2000 faculty positions that constitute the faculty strength made out of talented pool of CSIR scientists. The Senate also noted that the process of identifying the faculty positions is dynamic due to assessment and recruitment that take place periodically in each CSIR laboratory. The Senate therefore approved the list provided in the background note. Furthermore, Senate suggested the list of faculty be periodically updated and modified as and when required and finally intimated to the person concerned. The Senate authorized Dr. Nagesh R. Iyer, Acting Associate Director (Academics) to coordinate this matter. The Senate unanimously acknowledged the enormous contributions of Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, former Director-General, CSIR and Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, Director-General, CSIR in creating AcSIR and gracefully approved the nomination of both of them as Academy Professors. In addition, the Senate placed on record the role played by Prof. George M. Whitesides during the formative stages of AcSIR and his enormous contribution in the CSIR's programme on Affordable Health Care. Senate endorsed nomination of Prof. George M. Whitesides also as Academy Professor.

Item No. 9 Formulation of the Statutes and Ordinances of the Academy

The draft Statutes and Ordinances of the Academy were placed before the Senate. The Senate noted that modification and updating of the Statutes and Ordinances needed to be carried out. In view of this the Senate recommended that the following committee formulate the draft Statutes and Ordinances for the consideration of the Senate for its next meeting.

Statutes and Ordinances Committee

Nagesh R Iyer (CSIR- SERC, Associate Director AcSIR, Convener)
Zakir Thomas (CSIR-DGTC, Co-convener)
Gangan Prathap (CSIR-NISCAIR)
Shantanu Sengupta (CSIR-IGIB)
Debashis Bandyopadhyay (CSIR-PPD)
Partha Banerjee (CSIR-NISTADS)
Mitali Mukherjee (CSIR-IGIB.)

Item No. 10 Examination Committee to oversee examination and subsequent evaluation processes

The Senate noted that it is essential to have an examination committee for the academic sessions of the calendar year 2011. The Senate constituted a committee to submit the process and procedures along with guidelines in two months. The following are the members of the committee:

Examination Committee

Amitabha Chattopadhyay (CSIR-CCMB, Dean, Convener)
S N Shome (CSIR-CMERI, Co-convener)
Santa Chawla (Associate Dean)

A Ram Mohan Rao (CSIR-SERC)
Raj Singh (CSIR-CEERI)
Sudip Ganguly (CSIR-IIP)
M Lakshmi Kantam (CSIR-IICT)
V Mudkavi (CSIR-NAL)
Ram Rajsekharan (CSIR-CIMAP)
Asha A Juwarkar (CSIR-NEERI)
Shyam Sunder Rai (CSIR-NGRI)
Vinod Bhakuni (CSIR-CDRI)
Amitava Ghosh (CSIR-CBRI)
Sanjay Kamble (CSIR-NCL)

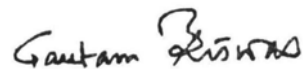
Item No. 11 (Any Other item)

Quorum of the Senate

The Senate resolved that the participation either by physical presence or by various communication mode such as Skype, Video conferencing, teleconferencing, etc would be counted as presence. One-third of the total strength of the Senate shall constitute the quorum for the AcSIR Senate meetings. It was further endorsed that a proposal will be deemed to be passed if more than 50% of the participating members voted in favour of the proposal.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

The minutes of the Senate Meeting is approved



(Acting Chairman)
Senate AcSIR

21-02-2011