

## Thirteenth Meeting of the Senate

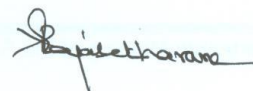
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015; 11:00hrs

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

Sl.No.	Name of the Member	Mode of Participation
1.	Prof. Ram Rajasekharan	In person
2.	Prof. Kunal Ray	In person
3.	Prof. Amitabha Chattopadhyay	In person
4.	Prof. S. Chandrasekhar	In person
5.	Prof. Raj Singh	In person
6.	Prof. G. Parthasarthy	In person
7.	Prof. Raj Hirwani	In person
8.	Prof. K.S. Krishna	In person
9.	Dr. Souvik Maiti	In person
10.	Dr. Anurag Agrawal	In person
11.	Dr. Manmohan Dass Goel	In person
12.	Prof. A.K. Tripathi	In person
13.	Prof. K.V. Raghavan	In person
14.	Dr. Shantanu Sengupta	In person
15.	Dr. Ramanuj Narayan	In person
16.	Prof. Santa Chawla	In person
17.	Prof. B.D. Kulkarni	Video Conference
18.	Prof. S.K. Bhattacharyya	Video Conference
19.	Prof. R. Nagaraj	Video Conference
20.	Prof. Rakesh Mohan Jha	Video Conference
21.	Prof. Suman Kumari Mishra	Video Conference
22.	Prof. D. Ramaiah	Video Conference
23.	Dr. Rajender Singh	Skype
24.	Prof. D.D. Sarma	Skype
25.	Ms. Arpita Sengupta, Non-member Secretary	In person

The quorum requirement, as per Statute No. 3.3 (d), of 'One-third of the total strength of the Senate' (i.e. presence of minimum 9 members) to conduct the meeting was fulfilled.

The members participating through Video Conferencing or Skype, except Prof. DD Sarma, could follow the proceedings of the meeting with complete clarity and there was no problem their following the proceedings of the meeting. Prof. DD Sarma could not attend the meeting in full due to connectivity problems.



Prof. A. Ajayaghosh, Prof. T.S. Balganes, Prof. Partha Banerjee and Prof. S. Parasuraman could not attend the meeting due to prior commitments. They were granted leave of absence.

### **INITIATION OF THE MEETING**

**Item No. 1:** Prof. Ram Rajasekharan, Acting Director, AcSIR welcomed the members of the reconstituted Senate in its First meeting as the Chairman of the Senate. He has taken charge as Acting Director of AcSIR from December 9, 2014.

#### **Item No. 2: Confirmation of the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate**

The Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senate of AcSIR held on November 17, 2014 was circulated on November 28, 2014 among the members. A minor comment received from Dr. Shantanu Sengupta has been incorporated. The revised version of the Minutes was accepted by the members.

#### **Item No. 3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate**

With respect to ATR the following discussion took place:

Board of Studies: The Senate was informed that the Board of Studies has been formed and the OMs issued for the purpose were presented.

Visiting Faculty of AcSIR: It was decided that this item will be taken up at a later stage when the regular Director of the Academy takes charge formally; currently the selection procedure is on. Till then, this item is being put on hold by the Senate.

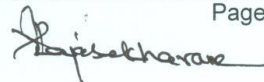
Establishment of a Summer Training Program: A Committee has been formed to decide on the modalities for selection process/ distribution of fellows among the labs etc. A meeting of the Committee is to be convened at an early date so that the program may formally be launched.

Proposal for Online Thesis submission: Efforts have been taken with help of Dr. Vinod Scaria for creation of an online portal for thesis submission. However, it was generally agreed that this activity should be professionally handled. The Senate advised a professional agency may be hired for the purpose.

Evaluation of PhD theses for award of excellence: The Senate opined that AcSIR at its current stage is not in a position to decide on institution of any award for the purpose. Also, the members agreed that there should be a substantial number of thesis awarded before this possibility may be explored. The Senate advised that the option provided in the viva form for "award of excellence" may be removed for now.

Course related items: The Senate was informed that the courses run at the CSIR Labs are having many inconsistencies and irregularities. The Associate Deans of each of the faculty have been given charge to make all the courses uniform across all the Labs. Currently the coursework are being appropriately modified by the Associate Deans in compliance with the guidelines.

To revisit the guidelines for Direct PhD and Sponsored PhD programs in Engineering Sciences: The Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. SK Bhattacharya. The Committee will submit its report at the next meeting of the Senate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rajasekharan', is written over a horizontal line.

Research Orientation program: The Senate recommended that instead of including this course in the final grade card issued to the student, the participants would be issued a *Participation Certificate* at the end of the program. Steps to implement the recommendation are being undertaken.

Creation of Online repository of Theses: Process has been initiated in consultation with CSIR-URDIP for creation of an Online Theses repository. A link for an Institutional Repository (IR) has been created for AcSIR (at <http://acsir.csircentral.net/>). A policy needs to be developed by AcSIR for activation of the same.

Engagement of Dr. Abdul Jaleel for online teaching: Opinions from Deans of Biological and Chemical Sciences and Associate Dean, Mathematical and Information Sciences shall be sought.

Status of joint PhD program with RMIT, Australia: Legal opinion has been sought on IPR related issues on the final proposal for joint academic program sent by RMIT. The Agreement is in its final stage of formalization.

#### **ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION**

##### **Item No. 4: Admissions for the PhD January 2015 session**

The Senate ratified the admissions of 231 students for PhD in Science and 36 students for PhD in Engineering for January 2015 session. Admissions in a few labs (CSIR-CCMB, CSIR-CDRI, CSIR-CMERI, CSIR-IICT, CSIR-IIIM and CSIR-NCL) remain to be ratified in the next meeting, since the approved proceedings were not received from the Labs.

##### **Item No. 5: Retrospective approval of courses in Chemical Sciences for CSIR-IIIM**

The Senate ratified the courses for CSIR-IIIM in Chemical Sciences retrospectively based on the recommendation of Dean, Chemical Sciences and approval of Chairman, Senate. It was found that the course material was in proper order based on which the approval was given. However, the Senate strongly discouraged such occurrence in future and that no course should be conducted by any lab without prior approval from the Senate.

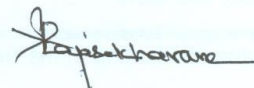
#### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

##### **Item No. 6: Constitution of Board of Studies**

Senate members noted the constitution of Board of Studies in (i) Biological and Chemical Sciences; (ii) Engineering and Physical Sciences; and (iii) Information Science Cluster including Humanities, Social Science, Law and Management.

##### **Item No. 7: Status of application for membership in academic bodies and recognition**

Senate members took note of the grant of Provisional membership of Association of Indian Universities (AIU). The Senate suggested following up the status of applications submitted to Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and Ministry of Human Research Development (MHRD).



**Item No. 8: Modification of various forms of AcSIR**

Senate members reviewed and noted the updated forms/ templates for the following:

- (i) Semester and Cumulative Grade cards as per new grading system
- (ii) DAC/Comprehensive Exam Forms
- (iii) Forms for introduction of new courses and modification of existing courses.

It was suggested that the grade cards and certificates should include the status of AcSIR as an Institution of National Importance formed by an *Act of Parliament*.

**Item No. 9: CGPA to Percentage conversion formula**

The Senate members took note of the CGPA to Percentage conversion formula for Master's programs at AcSIR. It should, however, be noted that in general only CGPA will be given and only under exceptional circumstances, on request of a student, the formula can be applied for conversion.

**Item No. 10: Updates on Faculty status of AcSIR**

Members were informed on the updates on faculty status of AcSIR from CSIR-IGIB.

**Item No. 11: Appointment of Distinguished Emeritus Professor at AcSIR**

The Senate members were informed about the appointment of Prof. Nagesh R. Iyer, former Director, CSIR-SERC and former Acting Director, AcSIR, as Distinguished Emeritus Professor of AcSIR.

**Item No. 12: AcSIR Workshop for CSIR Laboratories**

Senate members appreciated the plan for undertaking organization of AcSIR Workshop at different geographical locations to bring clarity and standardization of different academic and administrative processes across all the CSIR Labs.

Prof. A.K. Tripathi, Director, CSIR-CIMAP offered to host a similar event for CSIR Labs in Lucknow at a later date.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & APPROVAL****Item No. 13: MS by Research Program**

The Senate members decided to put the MS by Research program on hold citing the following reasons:

- (i) The opportunity to participate in the program should not be restricted only to the existing Project Assistants in different CSIR Labs.
- (ii) To review timeline for eligibility of Project Assistants to enroll in a degree program in the context of current rule of CSIR that Project Assistants can opt for PhD only after two years residency.
- (iii) Advertisements for Project Assistants should mention about the possibility of MS (Res) degree if found suitable to refrain any future litigant alleging lack of transparency and deprivation due to lack of information for the opportunity.

The Senate might take this up again in its next meeting based on input obtained from interested faculty members.

**Item No. 14: Proposal for change in Admission Procedure in Integrated M.Tech-Ph.D program**

The proposal of not mentioning Trainee Scientist and Quick Higher Fellow (QHF) positions in the advertisement for admission to Integrated M.Tech-Ph.D (IMP) program was approved by the Senate. Thus, the routes for admissions to IMP program from August 2015 session onwards shall be the following:

- (i) NET Engineering Qualified Candidates
- (ii) GATE Qualified Candidates
- (iii) Industry Sponsored Candidates
- (iv) Project Sponsored Candidates

**Item No. 15: Status of the PhD program at CSIR-NISCAIR**

The Senate noted logistic issues with respect to transfer of students from CSIR-NISCAIR to CSIR-NISTADS as recommended by Prof. RM Jha, Associate Dean (MIS). As the two PhD programs (*Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, and Database Systems & Climate Change Informatics*) have been discontinued at CSIR-NISCAIR, Prof. Kunal Ray, Associate Director was requested to know the status of the students from the Director, CSIR-NISCAIR and any future plan there for them.

Based on the response from Director, CSIR-NISCAIR, Senate would decide on the future plan of action.

**Item No. 16: Discussion on AcSIR policy on issuance of Merit Certificate to topper of M.Tech program**

Currently AcSIR does not issue any Merit Certificate to a student who tops a program. However, in order that toppers may be eligible to avail INSPIRE fellowships, Prof. Raj Singh, CSIR-CEERI was requested to look into the possibility and modalities of issuance of such a Certificate. He may co-opt any other members as deem fit.

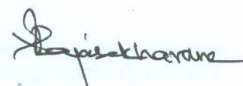
**Item No. 17: Proposal for Adjunct Faculty at CSIR-CBRI**

The Senate accorded its approval on the proposal received for induction of **Prof. V.A. Sawant, Associate Professor, Department Of Civil Engineering, IIT, Roorkee** as an 'Adjunct Associate Professor' at CSIR-CBRI for a period of 3 years with provision of further renewal as per AcSIR Statutes no. 12.7.

**Item No. 18: Eligibility of M.Tech students for short term academic leaves for attending highly competitive career programs**

The Senate deliberated on the issue of M.Tech students availing short term academic leaves for attending highly competitive career programs. It was approved on the condition that students enrolled in M.Tech (Master's) program shall have to take written permission from the Supervisor and Coordinator before applying for such a fellowship to avail leave on selection with due approval from Dean.

It was decided that a committee under chairmanship of Prof. K.V. Raghavan may look into the modalities. He may co-opt other members as deem fit.



**Item No. 19: Mandatory requirement of tuition fee submission to AcSIR Bank account by students**

Senate members unanimously emphasized that all students at different participating CSIR Labs should use 'Direct Debit Mandate' method for automated tuition fee deposition through SBI's Cash Management Product (CMP). It was also recommended that payment of tuition fees at any other location will not be considered by AcSIR from April 1, 2015 onwards. Further, Senate opined that tuition fees for the entire semester should be collected in advance and modalities for this needs to be worked out in consultation with the Finance Committee.

**Item No. 20: Modification in thesis submission process**

**i) Definition of "synopsis" of thesis**

It was decided that Synopsis shall be renamed as 'Summary of work done' to better reflect about the clarity of the document to be submitted.

**ii) Procurement of consent letters by supervisors from the proposed examiners**

Considering the need for time-bound submission and evaluation of Thesis, it was approved by the Senate that the Supervisor may obtain the consent of the potential examiners before submitting the list of examiners to the Coordinator for further processing. The Supervisor would be recommended to submit copies of the consent letters along with the list of examiners to the Coordinator. However, the Dean's selection of the examiners will not be influenced based on availability of fewer consent letters than the submitted list of examiners.

**iii) Selection of examiners by Deans followed by approval of the Chairman, Senate**

The proposed change in the selection of examiners was approved by the Senate. The Dean of the respective faculty would mark the order of preference for the proposed external examiners from the list provided, which would be sent to the Chairman, Senate for approval.

**iv) Requirement of submission of Hard copy of the final Thesis**

Proposal of submission of Hard copy for records and archival purposes was approved. The Coordinator of the Lab should ensure that the copies of the theses are properly maintained at the Lab. AcSIR Headquarters may request for the copies for archival purpose at a later date.

**Item No. 21: Adherence to any requirement for award of PhD degree**

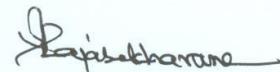
The Senate opined that AcSIR has been empowered by an Act of Parliament to award degrees, as followed by other Institutes of National Importance, and do not need any additional endorsement from other bodies for the award of the degrees. However, the Senate opined that to decide the equivalence of the degrees awarded and its notification, the UGC may be approached by AcSIR.

**Item No. 22: Proposal for modification in the format for PhD and MTech certificates and Grade cards**

It was decided that design, format and security features of PhD and MTech Certificates and Grade cards shall be prepared in consultation with Dr. Souvik Maiti and Dr. Ramanuj Narayan and will be put up in the next meeting of the Senate, AcSIR.

The Chairman, Senate thanked all the members present in person and through electronic media for attending the meeting and sharing their valuable opinion and suggestions on may important issues.

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



(Ram Rajasekharan)  
Chairman, Senate