



ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Seventeenth Meeting of the Senate

19th August 2016; 10:00 hrs

Venue: Conference Room, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru

Sl.No.	Name of Participants	Mode of Participation
1.	Prof. Ram Rajasekharan, Chairman	In person
2.	Prof. Kunal Ray, Member	In person
3.	Prof. Amitabha Chattopadhyay, Member	In person
4.	Prof. K. S. Krishna, Member	In person
5.	Prof. D. Ramaiah, Member	In person
6.	Dr. Souvik Maiti, Member	In person
7.	Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Member	In person
8.	Prof. Raj Hirwani, Member	Video Conference*
9.	Prof. G. Parthasarthy, Member	Video Conference*
10.	Dr. Shantanu Sengupta, Member	Video Conference*
11.	Prof. A. Ajayaghosh, Member	Video Conference*
12.	Prof. A.K. Tripathi, Member	Video Conference*
13.	Prof. Suman Kumari Mishra, Member	Video Conference*
14.	Prof. Raj Singh, Member	Video Conference*
15.	Dr. Rajender Singh, Member	Video Conference*

*The members participating through video conferencing could follow the proceedings of the meeting with complete clarity.

Ms. Arpita Sengupta (non-member Secretary) participated through skype with limited internet connection for first half of the meeting only.

The Quorum requirement (i.e. the presence of 8 members) was fulfilled.

Prof. S. Chandrasekhar (CSIR-IICT), Dr. Anurag Agrawal (CSIR-IGIB), Prof. Partha Banerjee (CSIR-NPL), Prof. KV Raghavan (INAE), Prof. DD Sarma (IISc) and Prof. S. Parasuraman (TISS) did not attend the meeting due to prior engagement.

INITIATION OF THE MEETING

Item No. 1: Welcome Address by Chairman of the Senate and Acting Director, AcSIR: Prof. Ram Rajasekharan, Acting Director, AcSIR welcomed all the members of the Senate present physically and via electronic mode and thanked them for participating in 17th Senate meeting.

Item No. 2: Update on major activities of AcSIR: Prof. Kunal Ray informed the Senate members that the report of Fact Finding Committee (FFC) formed by Secretary, DSIR has been received. He highlighted major points made by FFC on the administrative and financial aspects of AcSIR.

Acting Director opined that detailed discussion on FFC Report in Senate is not warranted since it mostly related to administrative and financial matters.

Item No. 3: Confirmation of the minutes of the 16th meeting of the Senate: On circulation of the proceedings of the 16th meeting, no comment was received from any of the Senate members. The minutes were accepted by the members of the Senate.

Item No. 4: Action Taken Report on the 16th Meeting of the Senate: The Senate members were updated on the action taken on each item. Only those items for which any action is pending are reported below (*number refers to item number mentioned in Annexure A-2 related to ATR*):

- (i) **No. 2(i): Nominations to replace outgoing members of the Senate:** The process of nomination has been taken up and is under process.
- (ii) **No. 2(ii): Filling up of all vacant positions of Deans and Associate Deans:** Approval for extension of existing Deans and Associate Deans has been received from the Vice Chairperson, BoG (DG, CSIR) currently functioning as the Chairperson, BoG for six months only.
- (iii) **No. 4(i): Reconstitution of the Board of Studies:** Currently the Deans and Associate Deans, who are members of the Board of Studies, are on extension for six months. Also, approval for induction of new Deans and Associate Deans is awaited from the Vice Chairperson, BoG (DG, CSIR) currently functioning as the Chairperson, BoG. The Board of Studies could be activated after the appointment of the Deans and Associate Deans.
- (iv) **No. 4(iii): Introduction of Online Examination of PhD Thesis:** Prof. Raj Hirwani informed that zeroth version of the solution has been prepared. However, he emphasized need for discussions with AcSIR officials involved in Thesis submission/ evaluation process to make the solution in compliance with rules and regulations of AcSIR.

It was further decided that henceforth only soft copies of PhD Theses would be sent to the examiners.

At this time (11:00 am), Senate members took the pledge to work for the emotional oneness and harmony of all the people of India regardless of caste, region, religion or language. And, that all differences shall be resolved through dialogue and constitutional means without resorting to violence. (*as Sadbhavana Diwas Pledge*)

- (v) **No. 14(ii): Review of Recruitment Rules of EAs, ECs and Senior ECs:** A committee under Chairmanship of Associate Director has been constituted to review the Recruitment Rules of EAs, ECs and Senior ECs (OM No. AcSIR/8/1(1)-2016-Admin. dated 12.08.2016). The meeting is yet to be convened.
- (vi) **No. 14(iv): Purchase Policy of AcSIR:** A committee under Chairmanship of Associate Director has been constituted to formulate the Purchase Policy of AcSIR (OM No. AcSIR/8/1(1)-2016-Admin. dated 12.08.2016). The meeting is yet to be convened.
- (vii) **No. 16(i): Modification in entry level eligibility criteria for IMP:** It was informed that any action is contingent upon formation of Admission Committee after the positions of Deans and Associate Deans are filled.
- (viii) **No. 25: Status of AcSIR-RMIT Agreement:** The draft agreement has been forwarded to CSIR for obtaining necessary clearances from the GoI. The file is now with DSIR for further processing. DSIR has suggested incorporation of some minor modifications in the draft Agreement for taking it further.
- (ix) **No. 27(ii): Analysis of Time lapse in submission and award of PhD degree:** Dr. Shantanu Sengupta, Associate Dean (Biological Sciences) apprised the Senate members about the detailed analysis of Time lapse between PhD Thesis submission and award of the degree done based on data related to 211 Theses submitted from January 1, 2015 onwards. The summary of the analysis is furnished below in tabular form:

Milestone	Activity	Time Period (in days)
I	Processing of Thesis related documents with appropriate corrections and approval from the Dean	53
II	Approval of Thesis Examination Board and sending the Theses to Examiners	22
III	Receipt of Adjudication Reports from Examiners	66
IV	Constitution of Oral Examination Board, conduct of Viva voce exam and award of Provisional Degree	60

Following recommendations were made to reduce the overall time taken for completion of the process of PhD Thesis examination:

- The average time for Milestone #I could be shorter only if a few CSIR Labs do not make inordinate delay for required corrections (grade calculation, course codes & titles and use of formats etc.) in documents related to Synopsis/ Thesis submission.
 - Supervisors should make a serious effort to get consent of the proposed examiners to hasten the downstream process of sending the thesis to the selected examiners.
 - The projected time lapse would be shorter in future with the delegation of powers by the Chairman Senate to the Deans for approval of Thesis Board and the OEB.
 - It has been observed that the reports on the PhD thesis are being received from the external examiners within a reasonable period (6-8 weeks).
 - However, the formation of Oral Examination Board (OEB) by the CSIR Labs is taking a long time, delaying the process. Approval of the OEB from the Dean further escalates the delay.
 - It is suggested that OEB can be approved by the CSIR-Lab Director and it can be informed to AcSIR office.
 - Overall it was suggested that submission of synopsis to AcSIR office to be done by Lab Coordinator within 3 weeks of submission of PhD thesis, approval of Thesis Board should be completed within one week, the review reports of the examiners should be attempted to restrict to 8 weeks, finally OEB should conduct viva voce exam within next 4 weeks.
 - Workshop for Lab Coordinators consisting of many new incumbents may be conducted, as done earlier, to appraise them about functional details of various processes in AcSIR including PhD thesis submission.
- (x) **No. 11: Amendment of AcSIR Act, 2011: Subordinate Legislation related issues:** It was informed that Secretary, DSIR and DG, CSIR has formed a 10-member committee under Chairpersonship of Prof. Asis Datta having the JS(A), CSIR as the Member Secretary and Prof. K. Ray as the Coordinating Member to look into the necessary amendments in the AcSIR Act, 2011 and related Subordinate Legislation. Action has already been initiated on this matter.
- (xi) **No. 12: Reinstatement of PhD program at CSIR-NISCAIR:** A sub-committee under chairmanship of Prof. Raj Hirwani has been constituted to review the current status and guide CSIR-NISCAIR for reinstatement of the PhD program (OM No. AcSIR/8/1(1)-2016 dated 27.07.2016). The meeting is yet to be convened.
- (xii) **No. 13: AcSIR Policy on Online Repository of Theses – INFLIBNET/ Institutional Repository at URDIP:** In the last Senate meeting the following were approved:

- i. AcSIR to obtain students' consent for submission of Theses to INFLIBNET and assignment of Copyright of Theses to AcSIR etc.
- ii. Entering into MoU with INFLIBNET

The action is yet to be initiated.

- (xiii) **No. 16: Credit requirement for the PhD part of MSc-PhD program:** As per recommendation of the Senate (16th meeting), the Deans and Associate Deans were to propose the levels of the courses to be taken. The comments are still awaited.
- (xiv) **No. 19(iv): Guidelines for academic leaves for M.Tech students:** It was informed that input from Prof. Raj Singh is awaited.
- (xv) **No. 19(v): Continuation of students in PhD program beyond the period of available fellowship/stipend/ salary:** A suitable order will be released based on the Senate's recommendation for continuation of PhD program for such students.
- (xvi) **No. 20: Issues and challenges related to continuation of IMP:** It was informed that any decision would be contingent upon CSIR's approval on increased number of GATE JRF fellowships.
- (xvii) **No. 23: Revision of Sitting Fee/ Professional Fee/ Honorarium:** Senate was informed that proposal with recommendation from Finance Committee has been returned by Vice Chairperson, BoG (DG, CSIR) currently functioning as the Chairperson, BoG without any comments.
- (xviii) **No. 1 (Additional): Payment of honorarium/Professional Fee to CSIR Scientists who devote time for administrative activity of AcSIR:** Senate was informed that proposal with recommendation from Finance Committee has been returned by Vice Chairperson, BoG (DG, CSIR) currently functioning as the Chairperson, BoG without any comments.
- (xix) **No. 2 (Additional): Observance of AcSIR Foundation day on 17th July at CSIR-NIO, Goa:** Necessary arrangement could not be made at Goa due to shortage of time and expected inclement weather there in July 2016. The Acting Director was informed about the challenges and approved to start the event from 2017.
- (xx) **No. 3 (Additional): Initiate the process of recruitment of five Associate Directors of AcSIR:** The Acting Director in capacity of Chairman, Finance Committee informed the Senate that projected revenue of AcSIR would not be able to sustain salaries of five Associate Directors. Thus, the recruitments for the position of Associate Directors will be considered later.
- (xxi) **No. 5 (Additional): Introduction of online course in AcSIR:** Prof. Hirwani was requested to provide the necessary course details regarding online course on 'Patent Informatics' to the Course Committee. Action pending.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item No. 5: Faculty related issues:

- (i) **Updates on Faculty List of AcSIR**
- (ii) **Dual Faculty position**
- (iii) **Recognition of Associate Professor as Professor of AcSIR on being elected as a Fellow of an Academy**
- (iv) **Inclusion of Co-Guide for a student at CSIR-IGIB**

The Senate noted the matters related to Faculty members of AcSIR at different CSIR Labs/ Institutes [(i) to (iii)] and inclusion of Co-guide for a student at CSIR-IGIB (iv), which has been uploaded in the AcSIR website.

ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

Item No. 6: Student related issues:

(i) Change in faculty of study

The Senate ratified the change in faculty of study for students (as detailed in relevant Agenda Item). Revised enrollment number will be issued to reflect the above change.

(ii) Change in host CSIR Lab

The Senate ratified the change in host CSIR Lab for students (as detailed in relevant Agenda Item). Revised enrollment number will be issued to reflect the above change.

In addition, a request was received from Prof. A. Chattopadhyay, Dean (Biological Sciences) for transfer of his students from CSIR-IICT to CSIR-CCMB in the context of his forthcoming superannuation and continuation of his research at CSIR-CCMB as a J.C. Bose Fellow. It was suggested to resubmit the request after obtaining NOC from CSIR-IICT.

In this context, it was pointed out by Dr. S. Maiti that current Faculty Guidelines of AcSIR do not have the provision for JC Bose Fellows to act as an independent guide to PhD students while Emeritus Professors do. The Senate members opined that J.C. Bose Fellows, S.S. Bhatnagar Fellows or any other similar fellows of high esteem should also be allowed to act as independent guide for AcSIR students

Request for long leave

The Senate ratified the request for maternity leave from Ms. Padmavathi (Enrollment 10PP16J128001) for the period from August 16, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

Item No. 7: Admissions for the August 2016 session:

(i) PhD program in Science and Engineering

(ii) Integrated MSc-PhD program in Nutrition Biology, 2016

(iii) Integrated MSc-PhD program in Clinical Research and Health Informatics (AcSIR-PHFI)

(iv) Post Graduate Diploma in Patinformatics

(v) MSc in Food Technology

(vi) Additional Item: Provisional Admission of Mr. Edward Senkondo, TWAS Fellow at CSIR-NIO

The admission proceedings of the programs as above in August 2016 session were ratified by the Senate members.

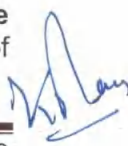
Item No. 8: MTech results (2014-16 batch) for the award of the Degree: The results of 36 students were ratified by the members of the Senate for the award of formal degree. And, the pending result of 13 students (CRRI: 3, SERC: 7, CSIO: 1 and NPL: 2) would be circulated among Senate members for ratification after approval of Chairman, Senate.

Item No. 9: PhD (Science) and (Engineering) results for the award of the Degree: The results of 80 students were ratified by the members of the Senate for the award of formal degree.

Out of the 80 students who completed their PhD, following is the faculty-wise distribution:

- Biological Sciences: 28
- Chemical Sciences: 37
- Engineering Sciences: 8
- Physical Sciences: 7

Item No. 10: Post Graduate Diploma in Patinformatics (2015 batch) for the award of the Degree: The results of 6 students were ratified by the members of the Senate for the award of formal degree.



Item No. 11: Integrated MSc-PhD program (2014-16 batch) for the award of the Degree: The results of 11 students of PHFI under the Integrated M.Sc-Ph.D programs (Clinical Research: 6 students; and Health Informatics: 5 students) were ratified for the award of formal degree.

Item No. 12: Course Related Items: The Senate ratified the course proposal as under:

New Courses	Modified Courses
Biological Sciences CSIR-CFTRI CSIR-NIIST CSIR-IHBT	Biological Sciences CSIR-CSMCRI CSIR-IITR Physical Sciences CSIR-CECRI

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

Item No. 13: Academic Issues related to PhD program:

(i) Approval process for Comprehensive Exam Committee: Suggested modification

The Senate agreed to the following proposed amendment in Clause 7.7.2(b)(iii) of AcSIR Ordinances on 'Approval process for Comprehensive Exam Committee':

Original Clause 7.7.2 (b)(iii)	Proposed amendment to Clause 7.7.2 (b)(iii)
Based on the proposal of the supervisor(s), the Comprehensive examination board shall be formed & approved for each student by the Dean with subsequent ratification by the Senate Chairman. Any observation from the Dean needs to come within 3 days from the day approval was sought for after which the proposed Comprehensive Examination Board will be deemed as approved.	The Comprehensive Board shall be approved by the Director of the Laboratory and subsequently informed to the Dean of the concerned faculty and the AcSIR Offices for updating records.

(ii) PhD Sponsored candidates: Difference in the guidelines for comprehensive examination:

Senate members deliberated on the issue and finally opined that the rules for completion of 400 Level courses will be same for both regular as well as sponsored PhD candidates (i.e. completion before Open Colloquium prior to submission of Thesis). This would necessitate revision of the approved guidelines for these programs.

Item No. 14: Request to reconsider the case of PhD submission of Mr. Akkiraju Vyasulu at CSIR-NGRI: The Senate noted that this issue had already been discussed in the last Senate meeting and the appeal was rejected. The members of the Senate did not find any convincing reason to reverse its earlier decision regarding the case. It was also noted that neither the Supervisor of the student nor the Lab Coordinator had taken necessary steps to record the discontinuation of the student from his program after he submitted resignation at CSIR-NGRI and allowed him to continue as a regular student of AcSIR. This was found to be in complete violation of AcSIR rules & regulations for a protracted period without any corrective action. The Senate took strong exception to the case and made the following decisions unanimously:

- Mr. Vyasulu's appeal to submit PhD Thesis is rejected.
- Dr. Sukanta Roy, the Supervisor of the student, can no longer serve as a faculty of AcSIR.
- It was recorded that Prof. R.K. Tiwari, who has retired from CSIR-NGRI had failed to conduct his duties as the AcSIR Coordinator for the CSIR Lab.

Item No. 15: An update on UGC's recommendation for award of MPhil/PhD Degree, 2016: implication to the procedure followed by AcSIR: Senate agreed in principle for adopting 'UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/ PhD Degrees) Regulations, 2016'. The members were presented with details of modifications in tabular form (Please see Agenda). Dr. Shantanu Sengupta suggested that the matter could be taken up by a Sub-committee. The Senate agreed and a sub-committee was constituted, to review the UGC Regulations for appropriate modifications in guidelines at AcSIR, with following members:

- Associate Director (Academic)
- All Deans
- All Associate Deans

Committee shall be Chaired by Senior-most Dean and may co-opt members as needed.

Item No. 16: Issues related to PhD (Engg.) program:

(i) Guidelines for PhD (Engg.) Programs: Some More Issues

(ii) Minor Inconsistencies in Guidelines for PhD (Engg.) Programs

It was decided that further input would be taken from Prof. Raj Singh for taking any action on the item proposed by him.

Item No. 17: Proposal on part-time MTech and part-time PhD in Engineering: Senate members deliberated on this matter and did not favor the proposal to start enrollment of students on part-time basis.

Item No. 18: PhD Thesis submission related guideline: follow up from last Senate meeting: The proposal was originally made by Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, circulated among Senate members and modified after comments received. Senate members discussed and approved the guidelines related to PhD Thesis submission with minor modifications.

Item No. 19: Issuance of Duplicate Certificate on request: Need to formulate the procedure: Senate members discussed the matter and accepted the proposed procedure for issuance of the Duplicate Certificate, with modification of charges as mentioned below:

- *For Certificates issued within 10 years*
 - Rs. 5,000/- per copy for applicants living in India
 - USD 350/- or equivalent in foreign currency per copy for applicants living abroad
- *For Certificates issued more than 10 years ago*
 - Rs. 10,000/- per copy for applicants living in India
 - USD 500/- or equivalent in foreign currency per copy for applicants living abroad

Item No. 20: Introduction of Diploma/ PG Diploma related to Skill India Program: The Senate had agreed in principle to the Diploma program (Precision Measurements & Quality Control) proposed by CSIR-NPL in the last Senate meeting. Also, Chairman, Senate had agreed in principle to the PG Diploma programs (Advance Manufacturing Technology, Robotics and Industrial Maintenance Engineering) proposed by CSIR-CMERI and suggested to discuss these in detail in Senate meeting.

Chairman, Senate informed the members that implementation of these programs would require approval of the Board, which is currently not in place. He also pointed to the fact that the Fact Finding Committee, constituted by Secretary, DSIR and DG, CSIR has made major comments regarding efficient functioning of AcSIR which lacks the Board, its Chairman, a regular Director and Associate Directors etc. He expressed his opinion that under such circumstances taking additional programs under the ambit of AcSIR would only weaken it further. He also mentioned that the Diploma programs are already being run by different CSIR Laboratories for a long time without involving AcSIR (for example, 12 months Certificate Course in Flour Milling Technology at CSIR-CFTRI). All the Senate members were persuaded by the arguments made by the Chairman, Senate



and it was finally decided that the programs related to Skill India initiative should not be taken up by AcSIR at the current time and the concerned Lab Coordinators will be appropriately informed.

Item No. 21: Complaints received from CSIR-4PI student issue: Prof. K. Ray informed the Senate members that four female AcSIR PhD students at CSIR-4PI had made complaint against the AcSIR Coordinator on June 27, 2016. The allegations leveled were withholding of results of Academic Session, gender discrimination, creating difficulties in selection of a guide and formation of DAC, deliberate discrimination/victimization being girl students, denied registration at the time of joining, non-availability of facilities, serious lack of academic support, etc.

Senate was further informed that after preliminary perusal of all the four complaints, AcSIR Coordinator at CSIR-4PI was requested to submit his comments in each case. The comments have since been received, which are being examined by AcSIR.

These students submitted a separate complaint on Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) on July 1, 2016 which was forwarded to AcSIR on July 8, 2016.

So far as grievances placed on CPGRAMS are concerned, the Head, CSIR-4PI has been requested on July 27, 2016 to take up these grievances for redressal.

Senate members opined constituting a Standing Committee to handle such kind of complaints from AcSIR students, till the Boards of Studies are activated, having following members:

- Dean of the relevant faculty of study (Chairman)
- Associate Dean of the relevant faculty of study
- Associate Director
- AcSIR Coordinator of relevant CSIR Lab (if not involved/ named in the complaint)
- Any other co-opted member(s)

Item No. 22: Need to fix tenure of AcSIR Lab Coordinators: Senate members were informed about the proposal received from Prof. K.S. Krishna, Dean (Physical Sciences), highlighting that unlike other positions in AcSIR (e.g. Deans, Associate Deans, Senate members, Board members etc.) the AcSIR Coordinators at CSIR Labs do not have a fixed tenure.

Senate discussed the matter and agreed to the proposal that consistent with the engagement of Deans and Associate Deans, AcSIR Lab Coordinators may also be initially engaged for three years by AcSIR, on recommendation of the Director of the CSIR Lab. The tenure may be renewed for another term by AcSIR based on his/her performance and consultation with the Director of the CSIR Lab and the Dean(s) of relevant faculty of studies.

The Director thanked all the participating members for their presence in the meeting and their valuable suggestions to take AcSIR forward.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Kunal Ray)
Associate Director (Academic)