ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH
(AcSIR)

Proceedings of the 27th Meeting of the Senate

The 27th meeting of Senate of the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) was held on September 10, 2020 at, 11:30 hrs. in video mode through MS Teams. The following members joined the meeting online:

SI. No.	Name of Participants
1	Prof. Rajender S. Sangwan, *Director, AcSIR, Chairman*
2	Prof. K. Ravikumar, *Associate Director, AcSIR, Member*
3	Prof. Ajay Dhar, *Associate Director, AcSIR, Member*
4	Prof. Partha Pratim Chakraborty, *Professor, IIT Kharagpur*
5	Prof. Santosh Kapuria, *CSIR-SERC, Member*
6	Prof. Rakesh Mishra, *CSIR-CCMB, Member*
7	Prof. A. Ajayaghosh, *CSIR-NIIST, Member*
8	Prof. Amitabha Chattopadhyay, *CSIR-CCMB, Member*
9	Prof. G. Narhari Sastry, *CSIR-NEIST, Member*
10	Prof. V. Subramanian, *CSIR-CLRI, Member*
11	Prof. Shantanu Sengupta, *CSIR-IGIB, Member*
12	Prof. Danda Srinivas Rao, *CSIR-IMMT, Member*
13	Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh, *CSIR-NIO, Member*
14	Dr. S. Venkata Mohan, *CSIR-IICT, Member*
15	Dr. Divya Agrawal, *CSIR-CSIO, Member*
16	Dr. Prosenjit Das, *CSIR-CMERI, Member*
17	Prof. Chetan Gadgil, *CSIR-NCL, Member*
18	Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, *CSIR-IICT, Member*
19	Prof. GK Patra, *CSIR-4PI, Member*
20	Ms. Arpita Sengupta, *Sr. Manager, AcSIR, Non Member Secretary*

* The members participating through electronic media could participate in discussion and deliberations of the meeting with full clarity.

Prof. L. Venkatakrishnan, Prof. Suman Kumari Mishra, Prof. Sharada Srinivasan, Prof. Paramjit Khurana could not attend the meeting due to their other engagements.

The quorum of the meeting was complete.

INITIATION OF THE MEETING

Item No. 1: Welcome address and update on major activities of AcSIR by the Chairman of the Senate: Prof. Rajender S. Sangwan, Chairman, Senate, AcSIR extended a warm welcome to all the members of the Senate. He updated the members on the various activities of AcSIR that had happened during the last few months since the previous meeting of the Senate. Especially, he updated

the house on the new methods adopted for August 2020 admissions and flexibilities extended to the ongoing students owing to COVID 19 pandemic situation, as detailed below:

- Extension of academic timelines in view of the COVID 19 pandemic;
- Conduct of online admission process for August 2020 session at most of the AcSIR Academic Centres. Despite pandemic situation, the number of student intake was increased at several Labs, on request due to huge response of interest in AcSIR academic programs by meritorious candidates;
- Academic Centres and students had been given option to defer their admission to January 2021 session in view of the COVID 19 pandemic. Several Labs and some students individually have availed the opportunity;
- For such students, who have deferred their joining to January 2021 session, their fee would be charged at the same rate as applicable for August 2020 during their entire tenure;
- Students, who could not produce their result of the qualifying examination or other necessary certificates at the time of joining, have been given the opportunity to produce the same and submit fees before December 31, 2020 beyond which their candidature would be cancelled;
- Restructuring of AcSIR Coursework for PhD programs (Science and Engineering);
- AcSIR Academic Centres have been permitted to decide on conduct of classes through online mode, classroom mode or in hybrid mode (online and classroom) for new and existing students, for the August 2020 semester;
- Students have been advised to complete their Societal Program in such a way where visits to various places are not required and data can be collected for analysis etc., due to the prevailing pandemic situation;
- Conduct of PhD Viva Voce Examination are done through online mode during this period and timelines w.r.t. to issuance of Degrees have been maintained;
- Induction of three new Associate Centres in AcSIR since the last Senate Meeting, i.e., ICMR-NIMR, New Delhi, DST-IASST, Guwahati and DST-INST, Mohali through Agreements. All three Associate Centres have taken part in the admission process for August 2020 session. Currently there are 6 Associate Centres of AcSIR;
- Updates on the steps taken by AcSIR in association with CSIR on NIRF related issues.

Item No. 2: Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 26th meeting of the Senate: The proceedings of the 26th meeting of the Senate, held on 22nd January, 2020 were communicated to the members for which no comments were received. The Chairman, further invited comments, if any, from the members then and there at the meeting. No comment were made by any member and the Senate confirmed the proceedings of the 26th meeting of the Senate.

Item No. 3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the 26th Meeting of the Senate: The Senate members were updated about the actions taken with respect to the decisions and suggestions on each of the Agenda items of the 26th meeting of the Senate. Members were also updated about the extent of completion / progress of tasks in this regard. Detailed discussions were held on those items where difficulties in implementation were encountered. Only those items where action(s) were still in process are stated below with their current status of progress:

(i)   **Item No. 24: Proposal for introduction of new Faculties of Study (a) Pharmaceutical Sciences and (b) Agricultural Sciences**: The Senate was informed that Committees

were formed by the Director, AcSIR for deliberations and recommendations on the matter. Reports of the Committees are delayed due to the pandemic situation.

(ii)　**Item No. 27: Proposal to keep the AcSIR Admission Portal open throughout the year:** Discussion with the vendor managing the portal is in progress w.r.t keeping the portal open throughout the year. It is expected to be made functional from the ensuing session.

(iii)　**Item No. 19: Exemption of AcSIR course work for candidates joining Ph.D. after passing M.Phil.:** The Senate took note that issuance of the OM related to the matter was pending, which will be done at the earliest.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item No. 4 Change of faculty/discipline of study of AcSIR students: The Senate took note of the changes in Faculties by the AcSIR students as detailed below:

CSIR-Lab	Name of the Student	Faculty	Enrollment No.	Changed Faculty	Revised Enrollment No.
CSIR-NEERI	Navneet Kumar	Biological Sc.	10BB17A27014	Physical Sc.	10BP17A27014
CSIR-NEERI	Mayuri Shrirang	Biological Sc.	10BB18J27007	Chemical Sc.	10BC18J27007
CSIR-NEERI	Sweta Kumari	Chemical Sc.	10CC18A27031	Physical Sc.	10CP18A27031
CSIR-NEERI	Vajaya Laxmi	Chemical Sc.	10CC18A27028	Physical Sc.	10CP18A27028
CSIR-CSIO	Poonam Kumari	Physical Sc.	10PP17A15006	Chemical Sc.	10PC17A15006
CSIR-CSIO	Vipasha Sharma	Physical Sc.	10PP17A15001	Biological Sc.	10PB17A15001
CSIR-CSIO	Disha	Physical Sc.	10PP17A15005	Biological Sc.	10PB17A15005
CSIR-CMERI	Suman Mondal	Chemical Sc.	10CC18A12018	Math.& Info Sc.	10CM18A12018

Item No. 5: Students availing Academic Break: The Senate noted the cases of 11 students who had been granted One Time Academic Break following AcSIR rules, as detailed below:

Lab	Student	Faculty	Enrollment No.	Academic Leave From	Leave upto
CSIR-IIIM	Santosh Kumar Rath	Chemical Sc.	10CC13A37006	27.06.2018	31.01.2020
					Extension till 26.06.2020
CSIR-NCL	Sumanta Pradhan	Chemical Sc.	10CC16A26024	28.05.2020	27.05.2022
CSIR-NCL	Moumita Roy	Chemical Sc.	10CC16A26005	01.08.2020	31.07.2021
CSIR-NPL	Shital Chouhan	Physical Sc.	10PP16A32005	01.07.2020	01.12.2020
CSIR-NPL	Aarti Bhardwaj	Physical Sc.	10PP18A32023	16.07.2020	15.07.2022
CSIR-NPL	Ravi Salwani	Physical Sc.	10PP14J32005	02.01.2020	01.03.2020
CSIR-NPL	Sudheer Singh Rawat	Physical Sc.	10PP15A32005	06.07.2020	05.07.2021
CSIR-NEERI	Asmita Jadhav	Physical Sc.	10PP15A27001	11.03.2020	11.09.2020
CSIR-CSMCRI	Denish Kubavat	Biological Sc.	10BB14A16022	26.05.2020	25.11.2020
CSIR-NBRI	Parvesh Rajput	Biological Sc.	10Bb18J25005	11.05.2020	31.10.2020
CSIR-IIP	Jitendra Diwakar	Chemical Sc.	10CC16A19001	16.03.2020	15.03.2022

Item No. 6: Inter-Lab Transfer of AcSIR students: The Senate took note of the cases, as detailed below, for Inter-Lab Transfer of AcSIR students as per AcSIR rules:

Name of the Student	Faculty	Enrolment No.	CSIR Lab		Revised Enrollment No.
			From	To	
Ammu Suresh	Biological Sc.	10BB16A8009	CSIR-CFTRI	CSIR-NCL	10BB16A26046
Gaurav Verma	Engineering Sc.	20EE18A12001	CSIR-CMERI	CSIR-CRRI	20EE18A14007

Item No. 7: Change of students' PhD program from Regular to Part-Time: The Senate took note of the following case of conversion of PhD program from Regular to Part Time as per AcSIR rules:

Student	Registration No.	Lab	Faculty	Open Colloquium	Approval/ Chairman, Senate
Mohd. Azhar	10BB15A02018	CSIR-IGIB	Biological Sciences	27.05.2020	04.06.2020

Item No. 8: Maximum tenure for students of PhD 2013 and 2014 Batches: The Senate took note of the decision of the Chairman, Senate that the students belonging to the batches of 2013 and 2014 (both January and August session) would be given a chance to submit their thesis by the extended dates as detailed below:

Batch	Extension reported at 26th Senate	Further extension for submission
Batch of Regular PhD (Science) and (Engineering) (excluding IMP)		
January 2013	7th January 2020	7th August 2020
August 2013	7th August 2020	31st December 2020
Batch of Regular Ph.D & Integrated M.Tech-Ph.D		
January 2014	–	31st December 2020
August 2014	–	7th August 2021

The Senate also took note of the decision of the Chairman, Senate with respect to grant of extensions in tenure on a case to case basis in view of very special situations.

Despite this notice, if any of the students of above batches fails to submit his/ her PhD thesis by the mentioned date, his/ her registration in PhD in AcSIR would stand cancelled. Nevertheless, students whose registration in Ph.D. gets cancelled as a consequence of non-submission of thesis by the mentioned dates, would be free to seek fresh Ph.D. admission in AcSIR on a competitive basis and, if admitted again, credits and grades of course-work successfully completed earlier would be considered for transfer as per extant AcSIR rules.

Item No. 9: Updated information on strength and status of faculty members of AcSIR: The Senate noted the updates in the list of faculty members of AcSIR based on the information received from 38 CSIR Labs and Units due to recruitments, promotions, superannuation, resignations etc. of CSIR Scientists since the 26th Senate Meeting. It was also appraised that, the information had been updated on the AcSIR website, with approval of the Chairman, Senate.

The Senate was further informed by the Chairman that currently, a total of 2452 scientists of CSIR and 48 scientists from AcSIR Associate Academic Centres, are recognized Faculty members of AcSIR, as detailed below:

CSIR Scientists and Scientists from Associate Centres recognized as AcSIR Faculty	Current number
Assistant Professor	1374 + 31 at Associate Centres
Associate Professor	545 + 14 at Associate Centres
Professor	482 + 3 at Associate Centres
Outstanding Professor	26
Emeritus Professor	25
TOTAL	2452 + 48 at Associate Centres

The Senate took note of the above information.

ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

Item No. 10: Recognition of Adjunct Faculty at CSIR-IGIB: The Senate ratified decision of the Chairman, Senate about the recognition of Dr. Manikandan Subramanian, Senior Lecturer in Cardiovascular Biology, Queen Mary University of London, UK as an Adjunct Faculty of AcSIR at CSIR-IGIB.

Item No. 11: Students selected and admitted for PhD programs of AcSIR for August 2020 session: The Senate ratified the selection of **1287** students for PhD program (**1144** students for PhD-Science and **143** students for PhD-Engineering) and **64** in the Integrated Dual Degree (MTech-PhD) Program (IDDP) at 35 CSIR Labs and 4 Associate Centres of AcSIR (BSIP-Lucknow, IASST-Guwahati, ICMR-NIMR-New Delhi and INST-Mohali). The Senate was informed that out of the 1287 students selected, 861 students had confirmed their admission in PhD program under the five Faculties of study and out of 64 students selected, in the IDDP program, 42 had confirmed their admission. The data on Faculty-wise selection and acceptance of offer of admission are tabulated below:

Sl. No.	Faculty	No. of candidates selected	Confirmation of Admission
1.	PhD Biological Sciences	484	344
2.	PhD Chemical Sciences	447	249
3.	PhD Physical Sciences	199	119
4.	PhD Math. & Information Sciences	14	9
5.	PhD Engineering Sciences	143	98
TOTAL: PhD (Science) & (Engineering)		1287	861
6.	IDDP Engineering Sciences	64	42

Item No. 12: Student selection for MTech programs of AcSIR for August 2020 session: The Senate ratified the selection of **88** students for MTech Program at **04** CSIR Labs (CSIR-CEERI, CSIR-CMERI, CSIR-CSIO and NCIR-NCL) in the August 2020 session.

AcSIR Academic Centre (CSIR Lab)	Program Name	No. of candidates selected	Confirmation of Admission
CSIR-CEERI	Advanced Electronics Engineering	10	2
CSIR-CMERI	1. Farm Machinery and Power Engineering 2. Mechatronics 3. Design of Machinery and Equipment	11 9 9	12
CSIR-CSIO	Advanced Instrumentation	19	1
CSIR-NCL	4. Chemical Engineering 5. Polymer Engineering 6. Computational Biology and Bioengineering	30	12
TOTAL		88	27

Item No. 13: Student selection for Integrated MSc-PhD program in Clinical Research and Health Informatics at AcSIR-PHFI:

The Senate ratified the selection of **23 and 10** students for the Masters' programs for Clinical Research (at IIPH, New Delhi) and Health Informatics (at IIPH, Hyderabad) respectively at PHFI, respectively.

Item No. 14: Student selection for M.Sc program in Science & Technology Communication at CSIR-NISCAIR and M.Sc program in Food Technology at CSIR-CFTRI:

i) The Senate ratified the selection of **20** students for M.Sc. in Science & Technology at CSIR-NISCAIR.
ii) The admission process for MSc Program in Food Technology at CSIR-CFTRI is yet to be completed.

Item No. 15: Student selection for Post Graduate Diploma programs on 'Patinformatics' at CSIR- URDIP and 'Advanced Manufacturing Technology' at CSIR-CMERI:

i) The Senate ratified the selection of **14** students for Post Graduate Diploma in Patinformatics at CSIR-URDIP.
ii) The Senate ratified the selection of **14** students for Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Technology at CSIR-CMERI.

Item No. 16: Results and award of PhD Degrees in Science and Engineering:

The Senate ratified the result of 254 students (since the 26th meeting held on 22nd January, 2020) who had completed all the academic requirements for the award of PhD degree (**Annexure - 1**), including the successful completion of the viva voce examination.

The Senate was informed that since inception of AcSIR, **2268 PhD Degrees had been awarded** by it (till 09th September 2020) and that the Final Degree Certificates for all awardees upto 31st July, 2020 were ready and are being issued on receipt of requests from the students (including postal address of the intended place of delivery of the Degree).

Item No. 17: Results and award of M.Tech Degrees:

(i) The Senate ratified the result of **03** students of M.Tech program (from CSIR-CBRI, CSIR-CEERI and CSIR-NEERI).
(ii) The result of **05** students of M.Tech at CSIR-CSIO (2018-2020) is pending for recommendation of the Dean, Engineering Sciences and approval of the Chairman, Senate. The Senate authorized the Chairman, Senate to approve and declare the result and the same may be placed at the next meeting of the Senate for information.

Item No. 18: Results and award of Master's Degrees:

i) The Senate ratified the result of **05** and **03** students of Integrated M.Sc.-Ph.D Programs for Clinical Research at IIPH, New Delhi and for Health Informatics at IIPH, Hyderabad (2018-2020) respectively.

ii) The Senate ratified the result of **09** students of MSc Program in 'Science & Technology Communication' at CSIR-NISCAIR (2018-2020) under Integrated M.Sc.-Ph.D Program.

iii) The Senate ratified the result of **30** students of M.Sc 'Food Technology' at CSIR-CFTRI (2018-2020)
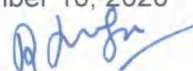
Item No. 19: Results and award of Post Graduate Diploma:

i) The Senate ratified the result of **05** students of PG Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (PGDAMT) at CSIR-CMERI (2019-2020).

ii) The Senate ratified the result of **05** students of PG Diploma in Patinformatics at CSIR-URDIP (2019-2020).

Item No. 20: Minutes of the 17th meeting of Finance Committee: The Senate gave its concurrence to all the recommendations of the 17th meeting of the Finance Committee (held on September 05, 2020) that were put up before it for ratification.

The Senate was separately appraised of Item No. 3 of the Minutes of the Finance Committee related to Fixation of Cohort Fees for the year 2021 (January and August), as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Program (Proposed for 2020 Cohort)	Regular/Semester		Sponsored/Semester (Double of Regular)	
		Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
1	**PhD (Science)**	9000	9000	18000	18000
2	**PhD (Engineering)**	9000	9000	18000	18000
3	**MTech**	27000	27000	54000	54000
4	**IDDP in Engg.**	9000	9000	18000	18000
5	**IDDP in Engineering** (for conversion to part time after 6 semesters with Provisional MTech Degree)	Difference of 27000 & 9000 for 1st 4 semesters	Difference of 27000 & 9000 for 1st 4 semesters	Difference of 54000 & 18000 for 1st 4 semesters	Difference of 54000 & 18000 for 1st 4 semesters
6	**Masters in Science**	27000	27000	54000	54000
7	**Integrated MSc-PhD in Science**	9000	9000	18000	18000
8	**Masters in Science** (for exit and conversion to part-time as per rules)	Difference of 27000 & 9000 for 1st 4 semesters	Difference of 27000 & 9000 for 1st 4 semesters	Difference of 54000 & 18000 for 1st 4 semesters	Difference of 54000 & 18000 for 1st 4 semesters

| 9 | PG Diploma | 28000 | - | 56000 | - |

One of the members pointed out whether fees should be revised during this period of pandemic situation, particularly for the students who were selected in August 2020 session but would join during January 2021. The Chairman, Senate explained that for such students, cohort fee applicable for August 2020 would remain applicable, even if they choose to join during January 2021 session.

The Senate also approved the following policies related to applicability of tuition fee in cases of deferred joining after selection with effect from the date of notification of the same:

(i) In cases where deferment of joining a program is approved by AcSIR for a batch as a whole or for individuals on request basis due to reasons not related to an individual but to a special/ *force majeure* situation (as determined by the AcSIR or the AcSIR Academic Centre) like the ongoing pandemic situation due to Covid-19 during August 2020 admissions- for such cases of deferred joining of the students at the next academic semester, the tuition fee would be charged at the same rate as applicable during the session of their selection (offer of admission). The fees paid for confirmation of admission would be considered to have been paid for the semester of joining (which would be deemed to be his/her first semester). A revised Enrolment number will be issued by AcSIR at the time of joining for keeping track of the tenure of academic program.

(ii) In cases of deferred joining of individual students, for reasons of their own (personal grounds) and with the prior approval from AcSIR, the tuition fee would be charged at the rate as applicable for the semester in which deferred joining happens. A revised Enrolment number will be issued by AcSIR during joining for keeping track of the tenure of academic program.

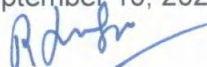The Senate ratified the matter.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Item No. 21: Recommendation of the AcSIR Boards of Studies for Restructuring of the Coursework requirement for PhD program:

The Senate approved the recommendations of the AcSIR Boards of Studies (at their 4th meeting held on 7th September, 2020) for restructuring of the coursework requirement for Ph.D program for Science and Engineering [as detailed in **Annexure 2 (1-4)**].

The revised credit requirements are detailed below:

Course 1	**Research Methodology - RM** **Research Publication and Ethics - RPE**	**6 Credits**
	(a) Research Methodology - RM	4 credits

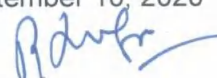|		
	(b) Research Publication and Ethics - RPE	2 credits
Course 2	**Inter-disciplinary / Cross-disciplinary Course**	**2 credits**
	Either two courses of 1 credit each OR one course of 2 credits, to be opted from the list of offered courses	
Course 3	**Advanced Course**	**6 credits**
	Either two courses of 3 credit each OR three courses of 2 credits each, to be opted from the list of offered courses within Institute; restrictions of exclusion may apply when opted across Institutes	
Course 4	**Societal Program: Problem Understanding and Analysis**	**4 credits**
	Group activity of upto five Team members from within the Institute or across Institutes, no restriction of Faculty of Study, discipline of an AcSIR student.	

The Senate further reviewed and approved the following:

1. **Total Credit Requirements for course completion and evaluation methods**:

   (i) **Course 1, Course 2, Course 3** (summing up to minimum of 14 credits): Students are to be evaluated by weighted grades and must successfully complete the courses with a CGPA of $\geq$ 6.50 to pass coursework;

   (ii) **Course 4** (4 credits): Course 4 (Societal Program) will be evaluated only as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory i.e. in S/X mode. This is a group activity comprising of upto 5 students from the same institute (AcSIR Academic Centre) or from any of the AcSIR Academic Centres without any restriction of geographic location, faculty etc.

   (iii) **Course 1(a)** (Research Methodology), **Course 1(b)** (Research Publication and Ethics), and **Course 4** (Societal Program: Problem Understanding & Analysis), are mandatory courses;

   (iv) **Course 2 and Course 3 are mandatory by credit numbers** (2 credits and 6 credits respectively) which can be opted out of the electives enlisted under each category, i.e., Course 2 and Course 3.

2. **Timeline for completion of the coursework:**

   (i) Courses 1, 2 & 3: To be completed preferable within Semesters 1 & 2, i.e., by the end of the 1st year of the student's enrolment;

   (ii) Course 4: To be completed preferably by end of 3rd Year of the student's PhD program but in any case, it must be completed before appearing for Open Colloquium.

3. **Applicability of the Revised Courses (from August 2020 session onwards):**

The course format and revised courses for Ph.D. (Sciences) and Ph.D. (Engineering) are to be implemented from the ongoing August 2020 session at all AcSIR Academic Centres and Associate Centres, across all Faculties of Study.

All students admitted during the **August 2020 semester and onwards** have to mandatorily study the restructured courses only.

4. **Applicability of Courses for students admitted to AcSIR PhD Program in different Sessions upto August 2020:**

Students enrolled in PhD (Sciences) and PhD (Engineering) would be governed by the guidelines of course requirements as consolidated below:

Session of Admission of Student	Courses and Credit Requirements Applicable
PhD Sciences	
August 2020	**Minimum Credit Requirements: 18 credits** From Course 1,2,3 and 4 in the revised format
January 2020	**Minimum Credit Requirements: 22 credits** • Coursework: **12 credits** • Research Publication and Ethics (Course 1B under the revised and restructured syllabus): **2 credits** • Other mandatory credits: **8 credits** (400 level courses)
August 2019 and Earlier	**Minimum Credit Requirements: 20 credits** • Coursework: **12 credits** • Other mandatory credits: **8 credits** (400 level courses)
PhD Engineering	
August 2020	**Minimum Credit Requirements: 18 credits** From Course 1,2,3 and 4 in the revised format
January 2020	**Minimum Credit Requirements: 18 credits** • Coursework: **8 credits** • Research Publication and Ethics (Course 1B under the revised and restructured syllabus): **2 credits** • Other mandatory credits: **8 credits** (400 level courses)
August 2018 to August 2019	**Minimum Credit Requirements: 16 credits** • Coursework: **8 credits** • Other mandatory credits: **8 credits** (400 level courses)
January 2018 and Earlier	**Minimum Credit Requirements: 20 credits** • Coursework: **12 credits** • Other mandatory credits: **8 credits** (400 level courses)

5. **Flexibility for students enrolled prior to August 2020 session and who are yet to complete their course credit requirements:**

   (i) Such students would need to take new courses (including Research Methodology) to earn their remaining credits to complete the applicable requirements of the program, by opting the courses from the courses in revised list;

(ii) Societal Program would also be completed as per guidelines (i.e. as a group activity) in new coursework.

6. **Completion of Course Requirements w.r.t. Conduct of Comprehensive Examination:**

(i) For PhD students enrolled in January 2020 session, additional 2 credits for "**Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)**" i.e. Course 1B has to be mandatorily cleared as a graded course before conduct of the Comprehensive Examination (in addition to the other mandatory completion of credits from academic coursework), to remain compliant to the Instructions issued by the UGC in December 2019, which were adopted by AcSIR at 26th meeting of the Senate (held on January 22, 2020).

(ii) Students enrolled in August 2020 session need to successfully complete Courses 1 (1A & 1B), 2 and 3 before appearance at the Comprehensive Examination.

(iii) For all students from January 2020 onwards (for whom Research Methodology and Research Publication and Ethics are being made mandatory), submission of **Course completion Report/ Grade Card by Coordinator of AcSIR at the Institute** (excluding 400 level or Course 4) is must along with Report of the Comprehensive Examination to the concerned Deans for and thereon for further necessary action at AcSIR HQ.

7. The following additional points were discussed in details and approved by the Senate:

(i) Some of the Courses suggested by the Labs are entitled "Special Topics". The Senate agreed that the concerned faculty need to specify the details of the course at least one month before its start so that the students are aware of the topics to be covered under that course;

(ii) It was approved by the Senate that if relevant faculty to teach a particular course in a Lab/ Academic Centre is not available, students can take courses offered at other Labs/ Academic Centres also, through physical attendance or online mode. It was also agreed that Courses 1 & 2 can also be taken across Laboratories.

(iii) It was approved that the students enrolled in Integrated Dual Degree Program in Engineering (IDDP) can take additional credits from these courses for their Master's program.

Item No. 22: Issues: Administrative and Academic - related to PhD program of AcSIR

(i) **Rationalize the academic eligibility criteria for PhD (Science)- Regular & Sponsored**
The Senate deliberated in details on this item. It was decided that educational eligibility criteria in Ph.D. (Sciences) for Regular & Sponsored Candidates would be the same.

(ii) **Proposal for Discontinuation of the "Direct PhD (Science)" program:** It was discussed in detail and the Senate concluded that Direct PhD (Science) with B.Tech entry and without

issuance of intermediary Masters Degree in the program may be retained only for those institutes which specifically expresses their interest in this program. Since AcSIR has adopted the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016 where the eligibility criteria for admission to Ph.D. program is a "Master's Degree", The Senate approved that UGC Compliance Certificate will not be issued for such Direct PhD students. These conditions would be clearly indicated at the time of advertisement for the program and/ or offer of admission to the selected candidate.

The house strongly felt that that AcSIR may explore the possibility of introduction of "Integrated M.Sc – Ph.D program", similar to that of IDDP in Engineering, where students would be given dual degrees for Master's and PhD.

(iii) **Modification of timeline for PhD Thesis submission after Open Colloquium**
The Senate approved modification of Clause 9(8)(h) of AcSIR Ordinances, 2017 which states that "*Open Colloquium for PhD students can be conducted two weeks before the submission of PhD thesis*". The Senate approved that students shall be allowed to submit their thesis any time after conduct of open colloquium provided that the result of Open Colloquium has been declared as successful.
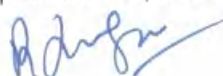
(iv) **Conduct of Comprehensive Examination**
To avoid non-compliance with respect to existing timeline for conduct of Comprehensive Examination, the Senate approved that students can appear for the Comprehensive Examination any time between the 2nd semester and end of the 4th Semester. In case of a delay, prior approval of the concerned Dean is mandatory with due justification.

Item No. 23: Any other Item with permission of the Chair:

(1) **Matters related to re-admission of students who fail to complete PhD program within maximum permissible duration**:

a) Considerable discussion took place regarding the practice of extensions granted for submission of PhD thesis after completion of the maximum duration. As suggested by Prof. Kapuria, this practice should be discontinued and the timeline for submission should be strictly enforced. Students who are not able to submit their thesis within the stipulated maximum timeline (6 years excluding period of Academic Break, if any) for genuine reasons, possibility of their re-admission may be considered. In cases of re-admission, where students still have course requirements unfulfilled, they would need to complete the remaining course requirements and appear for the Comprehensive Examination. In such cases, the minimum duration for submission of thesis would remain as 3 years from re-enrolment.

b) Dr. Sengupta suggested waiving the requirement of minimum 3 year tenure in case of re-admission as per the current rules since the entire course credit from the previous enrolment can be transferred towards completion of credit requirements. It was decided that in cases where the students have completed

the entire coursework and cleared the Comprehensive Examination during their previous enrolment, the entire credits may be transferred towards fulfilment of requirements for the new admission and waiver may be granted for re-appearance at the Comprehensive Examination. In such cases, the minimum duration for submission of thesis may be reduced to 2 years on recommendation of the concerned Dean and approval of the Director, AcSIR.

It was also decided that with respect to (a) and (b), the student must apply for withdrawal from the program & request re-admission before completion of six years i.e. well before the last date of thesis submission in his/her 12th Semester after enrolment. If re-admission is granted, he/she would have to register in the next semester as a re-admitted student. Semester Fee applicable would be the same as applicable for the new cohort (re-admission semester).

(2) **Matters related to re-admission of students in PhD program**:
Detailed discussion took place on strict monitoring of students' progress in PhD program by the DAC including introduction of conducting a Progress Audit around the time of completion of 3 years in a PhD program (minimum time requirement for thesis submission) so that termination from PhD program may be considered in case of unsatisfactory progress. A detailed mechanism needs to be worked out. It was agreed that a draft note on the matter may be circulated among the members of the Senate for finalization of monitoring methods.

(3) **Proposal received from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun for academic affiliation with AcSIR:**
The Senate was informed of the proposal received from Wadia Institute of Himalaya Geology for academic affiliation with AcSIR. As per Standard Operating Procedure, a Committee was constituted by the Director, AcSIR that comprised of the concerned Dean (Physical Sciences), two external members from the area of Physical Sciences (Prof. NC Pant, University of Delhi and Dr. Vinayak Sinha, IISER Mohali) and one of the Associate Directors, AcSIR. The Committee reviewed the proposal with respect to R&D, faculty strength as well as other facilities and strengths of the Institute and recommended induction of Wadia Institute of Himalaya Geology, Dehradun as an Associate Centre of AcSIR. The Committee submitted its report to the Director, AcSIR, who has accepted the recommendation of the Committee and accordingly an agreement would be signed.

The Senate took note of the matter and approved the affiliation.

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

(Rajender S. Sangwan)
Chairman, Senate