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Minutes of the second meeting of the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) of Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati - 781035, held on 11th February, 2011 at 11 am in the Conference Room of the Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP), Kolkata

Minutes of the Agenda

Item No. 2.1: Welcome Address by the Chairman:

The second meeting of the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) of IASST, Guwahati was held at the Conference Room of the Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP), Kolkata at 11 am on 11th February, 2011. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Milan K. Sanyal, Director, SINP.

Following members were present in the meeting:

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| 1. | Prof. Milan K. Sanyal
Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics
Kolkata. | Chairperson |
| 2. | Prof. Sibaji Raha
Director, Bose Institute,
Kolkata. | Member |
| 3. | Prof. A N Rai
Vice-Chancellor, NEHU
Shillong. | Member |
| 4. | Prof. Tapan Chakrabarti
NEERI, Nagpur. | Member |
| 5. | Prof. Arun Chattopadhyay
Department of Chemistry,
IIT Guwahati. | Member |
| 6. | Prof. Joyanti Chutia
Director, IASST | Member |

Prof. N. N. Dass, Honorary Professor, IASST attended the meeting as a special invitee.

Prof. Veena Tendon, NEHU, Shillong could not attend the meeting as she was abroad. Dr. P. G. Rao, Director, NEIST and Prof. Rahul Mukherjee, IIM Kolkata could not attend the meeting due to preoccupation.

The Chairman welcomed the honorable members of the SAC and introduced Prof. A. N. Rai, Vice-Chancellor, NEHU, Shillong who could not attend the first SAC meeting.

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Minutes of the Agenda

Item No. 2.2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the first meeting of the SAC of IASST, Guwahati held on 27th December, 2010:

The chairman requested the Director, IASST to read the Minutes of the first SAC meeting. The Director read out the Minutes of the last meeting and it was accepted after minor corrections and rearrangement.

Reshuffle of the Agenda items:

For convenience, Agenda Item No. 5 was taken to Item No. 3 as per suggestion of the Chairman.

Minutes of the Agenda

Item No. 2.3: Approval of the composition of the Selection Committees for the interview of the posts of Assistant Professors at IASST:

Long and detailed discussion was held on the prime objective of IASST to build up a research centre with facilities for fundamental and advanced studies. The members discussed that IASST has a very special role to play to raise the standard of research in the whole North Eastern part of the country. Development of proper laboratory facilities and dedicated, qualified human resources are necessary factors to promote pioneering researches.

To a question from the Chair, the Director explained that there are at present four divisions in the Institute. These are as follows:

- i) Material Sciences Division (Plasma and Polymer Unit)
- ii) Mathematical Sciences Division
- iii) Life Sciences Division
- iv) Resource Management and Environment Division

The members felt that a goal is necessary for the convergence of all the divisions. The Chairman stressed on the redefinition of the aim of the IASST for next five years in the line of other National Institute like "Bose Institute". After long deliberation it was concluded that research should be mission oriented and of national interest. The research programme, once accepted should continue for next five years and the area of research will be decided by the SAC. It should be interdisciplinary in nature and after five years the field of research may be expanded as practiced in some international institutes.

After detailed discussion it was proposed that the four divisions should be converged to two divisions. Life Sciences and Resource Management and Environment Sciences can be amalgamated. There should be only two broad divisions:

- i) Physical sciences
- ii) Life Sciences

Chemical Sciences will be in both divisions. The other agreed suggestions are to have:

- i) Central Facilities for Computational and Numerical Studies (Inclusive of Biomatrix, Climate Change and Bioinformatics)
- ii) Central Instrumentation Facilities which will be run by a Committee headed by a Chairman.

Regarding the recruitment of the Assistant Professors (Five posts including one reserved post), the Director informed that advertisement of posts were made on 18th January, 2010 (Adv. No. 163) and on 31st August, 2010 (Adv. No. 168). Out of total number of 153 candidates, 53

candidates were short listed by the Institute's Screening Committee meetings on 29th April - 4th May, 2010 and 2nd March, 2011.

After threadbare discussions, the SAC approved the expert panels for the Selection Committees of the posts of Assistant Professors. The list is attached (ANNEXURE - I).

Minutes of the Agenda

Item No. 2.4: Presentation of the Research Project of IASST:

On suggestion of the Chairman, the Director presented the project proposal "Upgrading of Infrastructure Facilities for Advanced Research at IASST" which consists of two parts:

- (a) To Study Biological and Physicochemical Properties of Muga Silkworm and Silk.
- (b) To Develop Advanced Functional Materials from Silk and Other Polymers.

The Principal Investigator: Prof. Joyanti Chutia, Director, IASST.

The Co-Investigators: 1. Dr. J. Kotoky, Head (i/c), Life Sciences Division, IASST

2. Dr. Dipali Devi, Assoc. Prof., Life Sciences Division, IASST

3. Dr. Rajlakshmi Devi, Asst. Prof., Life Sciences Division, IASST

4. Dr. H. Bailung, Head (i/c), Material Sciences Division, IASST

5. Dr. N. Sen Sarma, Asst. Prof., Material Sciences Division, IASST

6. Dr. D. Chowdhury, Asst. Prof., Material Sciences Division, IASST

7. Dr. A. R. Pal, Asst. Prof., Material Sciences Division, IASST

8. Dr. S. C. Bordoloi, Head (i/c), RMED, IASST

9. Dr. S. Deka, Assoc. Prof., RMED, IASST

10. Dr. A. Devi, Asst. Prof., RMED, IASST

11. Dr. B. C. Tripathy, Head (i/c), Math. Sciences Division, IASST

12. Dr. G. Choudhury, Assoc. Prof., Math. Sciences Division, IASST

13. Dr. L. B. Mahanta, Asst. Prof., Math. Sciences Division, IASST

Prof. Joyanti Chutia was assisted by Dr. Dipali Devi and Dr. Devasish Chowdhury during presentation of the project. SAC approved the two projects with some modifications of the budget for buying the equipments. SAC approved the list of equipments for purchasing within the first two years.

The rest of the equipments can be considered after reviewing the progress report of the research for the first two years. It was also suggested that the budget should include Consumables, Contingency and Library fund.

The Chairman then suggested that Impact Factor should be shown against the published papers. And the revised project proposal should be sent to the members of the SAC for final approval. The approved proposal will be submitted in the next Governing Council meeting.

The Council opined that the Academic Staff should utilize 50% of their research time in the Institutional project and other 50% in their individual research project. The members then discussed regarding the new recruitment of Academic Staff in the Institute. Before calling to the interview, the Director is advised to send the concept of the project proposal to the short listed candidates and instruct them to send a two page write-up about their contribution of future research activities in achieving the objectives of the project. The write-ups from the candidates will then be sent to the members of the SAC in soft copy for assessment and suggestions.

There being no other matter for discussion, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

