

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE UNDER DST, GOVT. OF INDIA)
PASCHIM BORAGAON, GARCHUK
GUWAHATI- 781035

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IASST), GUWAHATI HELD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2014 AT 4.00 P.M. IN THE TECHNOLOGY BHAVAN, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI

Members present

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| 1. | Prof. Sibaji Raha
Director, Bose Institute
Kolkata | Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. S. B. Kaushik
Director Finance
Nominee of Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser
DST, Govt. of India, New Delhi | Member |
| 3. | Dr. Mridul Kr. Hazarika
Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University
Guwahati | Member |
| 4. | Prof. P. Shukla
Vice Chancellor, NEHU
Shillong | Member |
| 5. | Prof. Rabindranath Pal
Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics
Kolkata | Member |
| 6. | Dr. Praveer Asthana
Head, AI Cell
DST, New Delhi | Permanent Invitee |
| 7. | Dr. N. C. Talukdar
Director, IASST
Guwahati | Member Secretary |

Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary (Additional charge) DST, Government of India and chairman, GC for, IASST had to attend meeting with the Minister and informed the Director to go ahead with the meeting with the senior most member in chair. Mr. A. K. Agnihotri, IAS, Secretary, Science and Technology department, Govt. of Assam couldn't attend the meeting due to preoccupation.

Agenda item No. 1: Welcome address and opening remarks by the Chairman


Professor Sibaji Raha chaired the Governing Council meeting. Prof. Raha welcomed the members to the 7th GC meeting of IASST and thanked everybody for coming to the meeting. In his welcome address, Prof. Raha mentioned that the primary objective of the meeting was to approve the Annual Report of IASST for the year 2013-14 and also to review the progress of the scientific activities of the institute. He commented that the institute was progressing steadily in the direction the GC expected and instructed. He congratulated the Director and staff and asked the Director Dr. N. C. Talukdar to say few words. Director then welcomed the Chairman and the members and introduced new members Dr. Mridul Hazarika and Prof. P. Shukla and requested the Honourable Chairman to conduct the affairs of the meeting.

Agenda item No. 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Governing Council meeting held on January 2, 2014

The minutes of the Sixth meeting of the Governing Council were circulated to the members earlier for comments, if any. No comments have been received on the minutes. The members discussed and approved the minutes of the last Governing Council meeting with a suggestion for slight modification of the wording in the last item as one scientist of the group will look after the day to day administration instead of to find a collaborator scientist in the group who will co-ordinate the research of Dr. Talukdar.

Agenda item No. 3: Action Taken Report on the decisions/deliberations as per minutes of the sixth meeting of the Governing Council

The Director informed that actions were taken on all the decisions of the last Governing Council meeting. The Governing Council noted the action taken on the items of the previous meeting. The Director informed that as per suggestion of the Council, research of the Institute has been reorganized into five major programmes. The Council discussed the proposed research programs and commented that the names were not appealing and suggested few modifications to finalise naming of the research programs as below:

- i. Basic and Applied plasma Physics
 - ii. Advanced Material Sciences
 - iii. Mathematical and Computational Sciences
 - iv. Biodiversity and ecosystem research
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- v. Traditional knowledge based drug development and delivery.

Regarding individual intramural collaboration project proposal of 3 scientists in group the council appreciated the spirit of the resolution and endorsed that scientists should also be given seed money for pursuing emerging research idea of individual scientists. GC also felt that the Scientific Advisory Council might revisit the proposal and advise.

Regarding recruitment of three academic staff, the Governing Council approved the proposal but commented that rolling advertisement is not a practical option to recruit scientists for only three posts and suggested to float normal advertisement in website and news papers after the advertisement is vetted by A.I. Cells DST. It has also suggested that in advertisement, it should be duly mentioned that the institute reserves the right not to hire anybody.

Agenda item No.4: Research program and Academic activity of IASST

The research programs of the IASST has been reorganized and regrouped into five programs and inter-divisional collaboration has also emerged. The Director, IASST made a presentation before the members on the research programs and the recent progress in the research activity of the Institute. The Council appreciated the progress in the research activities of the Institute.

Agenda item No.5: Discussion on Annual Report of IASST for the year 2013-14 and approval

The Annual Report of the IASST for the year 2013-14 was placed at the meeting for kind discussion and approval by the Council. The Council after discussion approved the Annual Report for the year 2013-14. The council appreciated the Institute's publications in high impact factor journal during the year. It was suggested that content of Annual Report should be prepared keeping in view the target groups which include the parliamentarian and general public along with scientific fraternity. It was stated that Annual report is not merely reflection of abstracts of good science conducted by scientists but it should also highlight researchable issues and achievements on research programmes relevant for NE India and taken up by the Institute.

Agenda item No.6: Reporting on Foreign Collaboration

The Institute is planning to carry out collaborative research work in the emerging research area of **Transport Properties in Low Dimensional Systems**. The proposed foreign collaboration is with Michigan Tech University, Michigan, USA. The council discussed the matter and appreciated the venture.



Agenda item No.7: Discussion on foreign visit of Scientists and approval

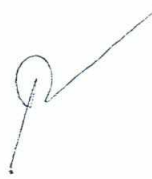
Normally, scientists can visit foreign university /institute to present their research by taking financial support from different funding agencies such as DST, DBT and CSIR. However, so far, there is no provision to support scientist travel from institute fund in case they receive invitation from foreign university/institute to make presentations of their research. This issue was brought to the notice of SAC in form of an Academic draft rule to administer Academic and research activities of the institute. The Scientific Advisory Council suggested that foreign visit of Scientists in case of invitation by foreign Institute and conference organizer should be supported by the Institute once in three years. There should also be provision in the Academic Rules of IASST that exceptional cases regarding support of foreign travel based on invitation from foreign university/ Institute, to present research papers will be handled by the Director.

The Council discussed the matter and advised to make provision of maximum ₹2.00 lakh per scientist for research presentation related foreign travel in a three year period and expenditure to be met from the sanctioned budget grant. The committee also advised to judge the merit of the research for support on case by case basis, through a committee before approval by the director.

Agenda item No.8: A bridge between national S&T research institutions and national educational needs

Following the Hon'ble Prime Minister's speech on Teacher's Day that we connect to teaching, the Minister Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, made an announcement at a press conference on September 8, 2014 about scientists connecting to teaching in schools and colleges. As desired and proposed by the Secretary DST, the following proposals was put for discussion and approval by the Council.

1. IASST shall enter into formal undergraduate/school-level teaching commitments.
2. The total extent of this commitment must consist of at least twelve hours of actual lecturing per faculty/scientific staff member per calendar/academic year. This institutional total should be met, but can be implemented in a flexible manner between scientists in the institution.
3. This commitment shall be treated as a national service intrinsic to the mandate of the institution, and shall neither involve remuneration/honoraria in any form, nor be treated as a cause for modification of any current institutional goals.
4. This commitment shall be designed and fulfilled in consultation and formal partnership with educational institutions.
5. This commitment is to be implemented after formal discussion, formulation and acceptance by the governing bodies of all-such institutions supported by the DST and



the DBT so that implementation will begin within three months.(CSIR: The DG CSIR will be taking appropriate steps on this for all CSIR Laboratories).

6. Thus, scholars engaged in publicly funded active academic work would have the opportunity to systematically convey the excitement of scholarship to school and/ or undergraduate students.
7. The programme will be reviewed for implementation at the end of one year, and for performance at the end of three years.
The Council approved the proposal and asked to send report.

Agenda item No.9: Reporting the recommendations/ deliberations of the sixth meeting of the Finance Committee of IASST held on 20/11/2014

The sixth Meeting of the Finance Committee was held on forenoon of 20.11.2014. The deliberation/ recommendations of the meeting were reported to the Governing Council for approval. The following recommendations were made by the Finance Committee:

1. The final budget grant for the year 2014-15 has been fixed at ₹ 19 crore.
2. The budget estimate for the year 2015-16 has been fixed at ₹ 24 crore.

The Committee recommended a budget of ₹ 10 crore for capital and ₹ 12 crore for salary and general expenditure for the year 2015-16 and recommended for making capital expenditure in prioritised projects.

The Governing Council after discussion approved all the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Agenda item No.10: Renewal of registration of IASST under Societies Act XXI of 1860

The validity of registration of Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology under Societies Act XXI of 1860 ended on 09-02-2014 and needed renewal. The matter was placed before the Council for kind consideration and passing a resolution to this effect. The Council after discussion passed a resolution to renew the registration of IASST.


Agenda item No.11: Extension of Service of Faculty members of IASST beyond superannuation

The Scientific Advisory Council suggested that the superannuating faculty members should get opportunity to apply for extension of two years service (initially). The prevailing practice in other DST institutes and other national institutes may be followed in this regard. The Governing Council discussed the matter and approved the suggestion of Scientific




Advisory Council provided the referee is chosen very carefully to see whether the candidate is of national eminence. The council took a decision to process for extension of service from 60 to 62 years as per rule FR 56 (D).

There being no other item for discussion, the meeting ended with thanks from the Chair.



Chairman,
Governing Council, IASST



Director, IASST
Member Secretary.