

## **Minutes of the Special IRDC meeting held on August 19, 2010**

**Members Present:** Drs. K. Muralidhar (Chairman), N. Verma (Convener), A. Kushari (co-convenor), B. Basu, D. Bahuguna, S. Qureshi, S. Banerjee, D. Philip, Utpal Das, Avinash K. Agarwal, A. Bandyopadhyay, A. Garg, S. Tripathi, Sandeep Verma, Kumar Ravi Priya, Satyajit Banerjee, Deepak Gupta, J. Subramaniam, Ms Rashmi Parihar, Mr. K. S. Rao, and Dr. R.K. Sachan, DR (R&D).

1. Convener welcomed all IRDC members, including new members, to the meeting.
2. The minutes of the IRDC meeting held on April 13, 2010 were confirmed.
3. Dean, R&D announced that 32 units (beds) of Type-I houses have been made available to the R&D office for the allotment to project personnel.
4. Dr. Dharendra Katti, Warden-RA Hostel informed the members that the number of project research employees seeking hostels on the campus continues to increase. Although, present waiting period for the allotment of RA hostels is not long (less than a month), the situation in future may become a matter of concern. It was decided that till upcoming RA hostel is ready for allotment (sometime towards the end of next year, 2011), R&D office may explore temporarily renting a few houses or flats in the neighborhood. The officer-in-charge, R&D office assured the members that he will look into such possibility.

It was also agreed upon that those research employees hailing from the places outside the State of U.P. will be given priority in the allotment of rooms in the RA hostel. It was also suggested that those who live within the city of Kanpur but have to commute more than an hour to reach the Institute will also be given priority. As always, female employees would be given preference to the extent possible.

Regarding request from registered students, it was proposed that the Warden of RA hostels would make discretionary, short-term allotments where necessary.

5. The IRDC members welcomed and invited the Director to address three finance-related matters.

### **Initiation grant**

The Director informed the members that the Finance Committee of the BOG rejected the recent proposal of IRDC for increasing the maximum limit of ten lacs currently in practice to twenty lacs.

The Director informed the members that the Institute will consider proposals from new faculty seeking relatively larger amount of grant (much in excess of ten lacs). In such a case, the proposal would be peer-reviewed internationally. An Institute level committee would then examine the proposal and the referee comments and arrive at an

overall recommendation. The Director also agreed upon the expansion of the present review committee to include the concerned HOD and a nominee from the list of three-four names suggested by the faculty.

### **Transfer of Institute's M. Tech/Ph.D. scholarship grant to PI**

The Director appreciated the development that faculty members conduct research through projects. He suggested that the graduate students should in fact be appointed on these projects so that they appreciate the context in which the work is being conducted. In addition, he felt that the money paid to graduate students as fellowship should, in some form be available to the PIs for meeting expenses on project work.

Director has suggested that if a PI financially supports from project an M. Tech or a Ph.D. student towards his or her thesis topic, the monetary savings accrued to the Institute may be transferred or allocated for the development activities of the respective PIs. The officer-in-charge, R&D office will work out the modality of transfer, in consultation with the Audit.

### **Interim research support**

The Director welcomed the idea of providing such a support to PIs during the *dry-period* (no projects in hand or inadequate funding). However, he wanted IRDC to identify a list of thrust areas of research for the next five years. The Institute would be willing to support PIs working on the projects covered in the thrust areas. In this respect, the IRDC would discuss the matter and prepare a vision document identifying thrust areas for the next ten years.

Director has also mooted the idea of forming a Research Council consisting of internal members as well as international experts from various disciplines. The council will report to and advise the BOG on matters related to the R&D.

One of the IRDC members raised concern that currently, the Institute infrastructure especially that of ACMS requires immediate attention. While responding that the Institute has several success stories, the Director wanted IRDC to invite the Head, ACMS to give a presentation on its current available facilities and capabilities. Based on the presentation and discussion, IRDC would suggest improvements to the Director for the functioning of the Center.

The conveners of IRDC thanked the Director for his time and valuable suggestions.

Prepared by



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Forwarded by



Dean: R&D