

Minutes of the IRDC Meeting held on 4th April 2009 at 11 am in PBCEC

Members Present: Drs. K. Muralidhar (Chairman), B. Basu (Convener), B. Prakash, R.N. Mukherjee, R. Moona, RajPala, S. Qureshi, Kumar R. Priya, D. Kundu, A. Kushari, V. N. Kulkarani, B.V. Phani, Utpal Das, Satyaki Roy, Deepak Gupta, Rashmi Parihar, J. Subramaniam and Mr. K.V. Satyamurty.

1. Expansion of IRDC: Director recently approved the inclusion of a representative from student community (nominated by President, Students' Gymkhana), one representative from project employees (nominated by Convener, IRDC) and one representative from Design and Scientific staff members (nominated by DORD) to IRDC. The recent inclusion was made to know the aspirations from the student community, project employees and research engineers. IRDC welcomed Dr. J. Subramaniam and Ms. Rashmi Parihar as new members. The students' representative, Mr. K. Sudheendra Rao could not attend the meeting.

2. Mr. Veerender, an undergraduate student presented the concept and plans of the recently launched students' body - **POWER** (Promotion of Work Experience & Research). This body has been formally launched on April 2, 2009 and is formed under Office of Research & Development to support students' ideas as well as to provide them opportunity to work on the real life problems from industries and various government bodies. After the presentation, IRDC discussed it over half-an-hour. A number of IRDC members opined that the involvement of the faculty is necessary to ensure the success of ideas as well as to manage financial aspects. IRDC members also suggested members of POWER to carefully think on the aspects of sustainability as well as to integrate their activities with those of SIIC. It was also opined that POWER should identify some problems in emerging or internationally important areas such as energy, automotive, and environment and nurture nucleation of small group of students to work on each of such problems. It was mentioned that large multinational companies often search for a group of young minds to work on some small scale well defined problems and POWER members can play an important role.

IRDC convener suggested that POWER members should carefully incorporate all the details, based on the input and the revised presentation file be uploaded on POWER website (<http://students.iitk.ac.in/power/>).

3. Dr. B.V. Phani presented the concept and details of the proposal entitled *Academic Administration System (AAS)*. It was mentioned that AAS should have all links such as R & D and stores on the

opening page and will have information retrieval. The components as well as implementation aspects of AAS was discussed in greater detail. IRDC was informed that the ASS model has already been implemented in Shinshei bank, Japan and this model has been originally developed by Dr. J. Dwivedi.

After the presentation, IRDC discussed various pros and cons of AAS. IRDC, in general, suggested that the user input on AAS must be taken during the implementation stage. Also, AAS should have sufficient compatibility with frequent upgradation depending on the users' newer requirement and satisfy legal issues. A core team of faculty consisting of Drs. Rajat Moona, Balaji Prakash, Satyaki Roy, B. V. Phani, Deepak Gupta/nominee and Mr. K.V. Satyamurty has been formed to have an effective communication with the AAS software provider as well as to convey specific/detailed requirements of PIs. It is expected that core faculty members will take the input from PIs prior to such discussion with the software provider.

4. Dean, R&D made a number of announcements.

a) It was announced that all research proposals for funding agencies need to be forwarded by Head of the Department. This suggestion was made primarily to bring HOD into confidence that the department will provide necessary support such as time, space, and manpower to ensure success in research. A note-file will be sent to all academic staff to mention the specific requirements that they may need to execute the proposal, while getting the proposal forwarded by HOD. It was also emphasized that the softcopy of all submitted proposals should be sent to avanti@iitk.ac.in.

b) Except for fast track and young scientist schemes as well as awards such as Swarnajayanti, a number of funding agencies often require that each proposal should have one or more Co-PIs. The Institute feels that collaborative proposals would have greater impact. After a detailed discussion on the pros and cons of the inclusion of Co-PI, DORD suggested the following:

- i) It is essential to have Co-PI for those funding agencies that require it.
- ii) It is understood that Co-PI will have a role akin to an *administrative co-PI* for internal purposes of record keeping. The Co-PI does not automatically gain intellectual credit unless an explicit scientific contribution is claimed.
- iii) If a faculty member so desires then he/she may include HOD as co-PI.

c) Mr. Satya Murty briefed the IRDC about the opening of bank accounts of PIs at UBI. This step has greatly reduced paper work in the R&D office. The interest accrued for each PI's account would be transferred to the Institute. Also, DORD office can issue a certificate stating that each project account has been opened only for project-related transactions.