

Minutes of the IRDC meeting held on March 11, 2010

Members Present: Drs. K. Muralidhar (Chairman), N. Verma (Convener), A. Kushari (co-convener) B. Basu, D. Kundu, S. Qureshi, T. Prabhakar, V. N. Kulkarni, D. Philip (in place of B. Phani), Utpal Das, Avinash K. Agarwal, Jonaki Sen (in place for A. Bandyopadhyay), A. Subramaniam (in place of A. Garg), Sandeep Verma, N. Tiwari, Miss Rashmi Parihar, and Mr. K. S. Rao.

1. Convener welcomed all IRDC members to the meeting.
2. The minutes of the IRDC meeting held on February 1, 2010 were confirmed.
3. Dean, R&D announced that effective April 1, 2010, the new procedure of hiring persons via manpower agencies recognized through empanelment will be in place and the current procedure of employment through work-assignment will be terminated. Dean, R&D office has already issued an office order in this respect. Dean, R&D once again emphasized that PI has complete flexibility and freedom of hiring any person of his or her choice and the required administrative paper-works are minimal. Most importantly, there is no such issue of exploitation of the hiring workers under the new scheme. Any incident, if it arises in the future, will be carefully addressed by R&D office.

Dean, R&D also announced that the foundation of the six-storied New-New-RA-hostel will be laid in the first week of April, 2010 and all IRDC members were invited to grace the ground breaking foundation ceremony. The hostel will be ready for allotment in the middle of the next year, 2011.

4. Dr. Bikramjit Basu informed the IRDC members about the recent initiative on Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA). At present, GITA is operational to facilitate collaboration between companies of India and Canada with future plans of including academic institutes as partners. Dr. Basu suggested that a few action plans may be initiated at IIT Kanpur to further nurture and build up strong networking among IITs and Indian industries under GITA. For example, large interdisciplinary research with involvement of companies in the area of Design and Development of Products and Solutions should be taken up. Similarly, modalities for IIT faculty members to spend their sabbatical at various Indian industries and to attract company executives to work as visiting professor at IITs should also be developed.

The IRDC members enthusiastically supported the idea and requested Dr. Basu to present a comprehensive proposal on the subject in the future meetings.

5. Dr. Nachiketa Tiwari continued with the presentation left over from the previous IRDC meeting, on the current roles, objectivities and capabilities of the 4-I Lab. The members present were happy to learn the existing capability of the Lab

through some of the state-of-the-art machines and equipment. Dr. Tiwari was requested to update the webpage of the Lab giving in the details of the existing projects, available machines, and the recent products developed. It was also suggested that an advisory committee be constituted to assist the smooth functioning of the Lab.

6. *Initiation Grant* (Policy matter): The IRDC members had detailed discussions on the existing procedure of providing initiation grant to the new faculty. All IRDC members appreciated that the initiation grant is indeed useful to the new faculty during his or her initial period of research activities in the Institute. However, the procedure of providing the initiation grant be revisited. A majority of the IRDC members suggested that the following points be put up to the Institute for implementation:

- a. The maximum limit of the initiation grant should be increased to Rs. 20 lacs from the existing Rs. 10 lacs, since there has been a significant increase in the cost of consumable and non-consumable items over the last five years.
- b. *Proposal*: Institute prescribes certain guidelines (for example, the maximum amount that can be spent on travel (national or international), contingency, equipment, etc) for the initiation grant, based on which 1-2 page proposal is prepared by the new faculty. If the amount envisaged in the proposal is Rs. 10 lacs or less, there is no need of presentation of the proposal by the faculty before an evaluation committee, and the grant is automatically approved. If the amount exceeds Rs. 10 lacs, the faculty may be asked to provide a detailed proposal and give a presentation. Majority of the IRDC members were of the opinion that such initiation grant scheme, if implemented, will have potential of attracting more new good faculty to the Institute.

It was also suggested that the existing evaluation committee of Dean (R&D), DOFA, and Dean (DRGP) be expanded to include HOD, and two expert members across the institute, whose names would be proposed by the incoming faculty.

- c. *Staff*: It was also suggested that certain amount in the grant may be budgeted for hiring of the project employees.
7. Research support for consumables and maintenance of equipment on a need basis (feedback received from BSBE): Owing to shortage of time, this item was deferred for discussion in the next meeting.
8. *Care Equipment* (Policy matter): Most of the IRDC members opined that the current procedure for providing grants for equipment under the Care scheme be continued. However, it was suggested that if a faculty desires to seek the reasons for which his or her proposal was not approved, the Care evaluation committee must provide the same to the faculty.

It was also suggested that a list of all equipment procured through Care should be provided on the R&D webpage, giving in all details, including the name, technical specifications, and features of the equipment, the respective contact person, and the percentage utility as well as the output (data) of the equipment.

Prepared by



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Forwarded by

