

Minutes of IRDC Meeting held on March 1, 2013.

List of members present:

Dr.A.K.Chaturvedi (Chair), Dr.Sandeep Verma (Convener), Dr.Y.M.Joshi, Dr. Anandh Subramaniam, Dr. D.Katti (for Dr.K.Subramaniam), Dr.T.V.Prabhakar, Dr.Rajeev Sinha, Dr.Pratik Sen, Dr.A.R.Harish (for Dr.Rajesh Hegde), Dr.Anirban Mukherjee, Dr. J.Ramkumar (for Dr.Sumit Basu), Dr.Anjan Gupta, Dr.Deepu Philip, Dr.B.V.Phani, Dr. Rajeev Gupta, Dr.Nachiketa Tiwari, Dr.S.Panda, Dr.Sameer Khandekar, Dr.R.Vijaya, Dr.Tarun Gupta, Mr. Mohd Shakeel, Mr. Anil Gonade.

1. DORD welcomed all new members of IRDC, including Mr Shakeel, DR, and Mr Gonade, AR, (DORD office).

2. Minutes circulated for the previous meeting were confirmed without any modifications.

3. Announcements:

i) DORD discussed the roles of IRDC members, their representation on behalf of their department and requested them to suggest useful agenda items for future meetings. It was also suggested to nominate colleagues in case the member is unable to participate in an IRDC meeting. This allows for presentation of departmental views. The members were also requested to circulate the IRDC minutes to their departments and provide feedback, if any.

ii) DORD detailed some success stories of IRDC in shaping up the norms of PDA and DPA, delegation of authorities to PIs, lab usage policies, introduction of new project positions, and revision of salary of project staff - to name a few. However, some work done by IRDC continues to be pending for quite some time. The two most notable such items are a new website for DORD which has been delayed because the institute decided to first come up with a new overall website for IITK before allowing any major changes in individual websites like DORD. The second such item is admission of project staff in PG academic programs. This needs to be taken up when the recommendations of the PGARC are deliberated in various institute bodies.

iii) DORD touched upon Research Complex and its progress; EOI is presently on the Institute website and there is a need to prepare a carefully drafted Design Brief for the architects.

iv) DORD mentioned that Frost & Sullivan has emailed individual passwords to all faculty members for accessing their reports and database. Feedback on the utility of these reports and database may kindly be sent to Coordinator, SIIC so that at the end of the year an informed decision can be made regarding its renewal.

4. Term of Prof Sandeep Verma, Convener, IRDC, ended with this meeting. Prof R Vijaya was chosen as the new Convener (proposed by S Verma, and seconded by S Panda, R Gupta, B.V. Phani, among others). Prof Vijaya kindly agreed to take this responsibility. The services rendered by Prof. Sandeep Verma as Convener, IRDC were highly appreciated and placed on record by the DORD.

5. IPR policy document (ref. BOG minutes 2004.3.7 dated 28th Aug, 2004) was presented by Dr Phani, Coordinator, SIIC (http://www.iitk.ac.in/siic/IP_policy.pdf). He detailed various FAQs (file attached) related to patents and urged IRDC members to encourage their colleagues for vigorous patenting activities from their research. He was requested to bring the draft of a possible certificate that students/supervisors can use for declaring that no patent is likely to arise from their thesis/project. The draft should take into account the sensitivity that a thesis/project from which a patent is not likely to arise is in no way reflective of the academic research content of the thesis/project. Various ideas about exciting students to file patent from their research work were discussed. It was suggested that every year SIIC should visit each department around February with a view to identify and encourage patents from B.Tech and M.Sc projects, as well as M.Tech and Ph.D thesis.

6. Dr Anandh Subramaniam, MSE, presented views on manpower management of technical instruments procured from projects, departments and by the Institute. Training of project staff, less dependence on PhD students, bringing multiple machines under common umbrella setup with operators (new technical staff positions for departments), common AMC, etc were discussed. Many members contributed to the discussion. Looking at the importance of the problem, an IRDC sub-committee (Rajiv Sinha, Convener, CE; A Subramaniam, MSE; Pratik Sen, CHM and DORD) was formed to look into various possibilities and to suggest solutions at the next IRDC meeting.

7. Dr S Panda, Coordinator, ICAG presented a report on the work being done and contemplated by ICAG. He informed that the institute has sent letters to DRDO, ISRO, DAE and CSIR labs encouraging their scientists and engineers to apply for admission under our External Registration category. Several enquiries have been received in response to these letters and hopefully this will provide a useful bridge for enhanced collaboration with these national research establishments.

8. Any other item:

i) DORD discussed certain pending points in smooth functioning of LDA accounts (operation, money transfer, hiring, etc.). An IRDC sub-committee was formed to look into these issues and apprise IRDC in one of the future meetings (R Vijaya, PHY (Convener); Tarun Gupta, EEM; Nachiketa Tiwari, Design/4i lab and DORD).

ii) DORD mentioned that EOI for Research Complex (RC) is presently announced on the Institute website and there is an urgent need to prepare a carefully drafted Design Brief for the architects to bring out the requirements of the potential users of the RC. IRDC empowered DORD to make a committee to prepare the Design Brief.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.