

MINUTES OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL held on 6th

December, 2021 at 3:00 PM



Institute of Advanced Study in Science & Technology (IASST), Guwahati

Members present in the meeting:

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Professor Abhay Karandikar Director, IIT Kanpur | Chairperson |
| 2. | Professor (Dr.) Uday Bandyopadhyay Director, Bose Institute, Kolkata | Member |
| 3. | Professor P. J. Handique, Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University | Member |
| 4. | Professor Kamal Lochan Panigrahi Department of Physics Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur | Member |
| 5. | Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty, Scientist - 'F', Representative of Secretary, DST Government of India, New Delhi. | Member |
| 6. | Shri Manoj Kumar, Director (Finance) Representative of Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, DST, Government of India, New Delhi. | Member |
| 7. | Ms. Kimnei Changsan, ACS Additional Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Science, Technology & Climate Change Deptt. (Nominee of Secretary, DST, Govt. of Assam) | Member |
| 8. | Professor Ashis Kr Mukherjee Director, IASST | Member Secretary |
| 9. | Dr. Diganta Goswami Registrar, IASST | Special Invitee (with permission from Chair) |

Leave of absentia granted to:

1. Professor Mohan Chandra Kalita, Department of Biotechnology, Gauhati University, Guwahati.

Agenda Item No:GC.15/2021/2/1.1: Welcome to members and opening remarks by the Chairman, GC

At the very outset, Prof. Ashis Kr, Mukherjee, Director IASST and Member-Secretary of GC, on behalf of all the staff of IASST, welcomed Professor Abhay Karandikar, Chairman, GC and distinguished members to the 15th meeting of the Governing council of IASST. He then requested the Hon'ble Chairman to start the meeting proceedings and Chair the session.

The Chairman begin the session by extending warm welcome to the members of the 15th GC meeting and took up the agenda for discussion.

Agenda Item No:GC.15/2021/2/1.2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council held on 25thJanuary, 2021

Comments were received from Members on the minutes were considered by the Chairman, GC. The minutes is placed at [Annexure I](#).

Minutes are submitted for confirmation by the Governing Council.

Decision: The minutes were confirmed by the GC.

Agenda Item No:GC.15/2021/2/1.3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the 14th meeting of the Governing Council held at IASST, Guwahati on 25thJanuary, 2021.

The Action Taken Report (ATR) of the 14th GC is as under:

| Agenda Item No. | Item no./reference to para of the minutes of 14th meeting | Action taken/proposed to be taken | Remarks |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| GC.14/2021/1/1.1 | Welcome to members, introduction to new Director of IASST and remarks by the Chairman, Governing Council. | Noted | Action taken report is accepted. |
| GC.14/2021/1/1.2 | Confirmation of the Minutes of the 13 th Meeting of the Governing Council held on 15 th February, 2020. | Noted | |
| GC.14/2021/1/1.3 | Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions/deliberations as per minutes of the 13 th meeting of the Governing Council. | Noted | |
| GC.14/2021/1/1.4 | Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations of the Apex Review Committee on review of DST Autonomous institutes- IASST in reference to the communication dated 11 th September 11, 2020 received from DST through email. | Noted | |
| GC.14/2021/1/1.5 | Consideration of the recommendations/deliberations of the 13 th meeting of the Finance Committee of IASST held on 29 th December, 2020 through Video conferencing. | Noted | |
| GC.14/2021/1/2.1 | Construction of a new Women Hostel in the IASST campus | The Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared by the CPWD and will be forwarded to the A.I. Division, DST for obtaining | |

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| | | administrative and financial approval. | |
| GC.14/2021/1/2.2 | Provision of two designated Head of Divisions (HOD) | Appointed Prof. H Bailung as HoD, Physical Sciences Appointed Dr. R. Devi as HoD, Life Sciences | |
| GC.14/2021/1/2.3 | Proposal for establishment of a Research and Development (R&D) Cell at IASST, and one faculty member as Head of the Cell. | Implemented. Prof. Neelotpal Sen Sarma is appointed as Head of R&D Cell. | |
| GC.14/2021/1/2.7 | Proposal for framing IASST Intellectual Property Right Policy (IPRP) and establishment of IPR Cell (IPRC) The GC recommended that services from some knowledgeable person in the form of consultant or on contract basis may be obtained for issues relating to IPR, MoUs, Licensing agreement issues etc. | Implemented. This cell is a part of R&D Cell of IASST. Persons to be engaged as and when required by following the Govt. norms. | |
| GC.14/2021/1/2.4 | Guidelines for Extramural Research Projects The GC further recommended that while implementing the Extramural Research Projects, the existing guidelines of DST in regard to engagement/appointment of JRF/SRF should also be included in the guidelines along with the Terms and conditions of the funding agency, if applicable, otherwise | Implemented as suggested. | |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| | emoluments will be as per DST guidelines. | | |
| GC.14/2021/1/2.5 | <p>Proposal for establishment of a Centre for Interdisciplinary Research</p> <p>The proposal to establish a Centre for Interdisciplinary research at IASST to bring together researchers from multiple disciplines that will lead to large working groups in selected areas of R&D was considered by the GC and approved the same. Some of the multidisciplinary approaches but not limited to of this Centre would be (i) drug discovery, (ii) disease diagnosis, (iii) impact of climate change on biodiversity, and (iv) bioremediation of environment pollutants.</p> <p>The GC also suggested that the scientists from different divisions will be involved in the centre for interdisciplinary research for which research proposals can be submitted jointly.</p> | <p>Implemented</p> <p>Implemented</p> | |
| GC.14/2021/1/2.6 | Proposal for renaming of discipline of “Traditional Knowledge Based Drug Development and Delivery” to “Drug Discovery and Disease Diagnosis” | Renamed the discipline as “Traditional and Modern Drug Discovery and Disease Diagnosis” as per the suggestion of the GC. | |

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| GC.14/2021/1/2.8 | <p>Proposal for re-constitution of Scientific Advisory Council (SAC)</p> <p>The GC desired that the Director, IASST will bring proposals in writing suggesting the names after collecting few from the members as well in order to fill up the vacant positions of the members of the SAC. The Director will internally propose and discuss with the Chairman and will send the list of scientists to him for approval and/or further advice.</p> | <p>As approved by the Chairman, GC the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) was reconstituted on 22/06/2021 with the following members:</p> <p>Prof. Sayed E. Hasnain - Chairman</p> <p>Prof. Avinash Khare</p> <p>Dr. Arun Sharma</p> <p>Prof. Pulok Mukherjee</p> <p>Prof. Amalendu Chandra</p> <p>Prof. P K Iyer</p> <p>Prof. B N Goswami</p> <p>Prof. Mahan Maharaj</p> <p>Prof. Neela Natraj</p> <p>Prof. D K Bhattachayjee</p> <p>Prof. A K Mukherjee</p> <p>Prof. H Bailung</p> <p>Dr. Rajlakshmi Devi</p> <p>Prof. Neelotpal Sen Sarma</p> <p>The 11th meeting of the SAC was held on 22/10/2021. (Minutes attached as Annexure II)</p> | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| GC.14/2021/1/2.9 | Proposal for re-constitution of Finance Committee (FC) of IASST. The GC advised the Director, IASST to discuss with Chairman after submitting a list of proposed members of FC for approval. | The Finance Committee was reconstituted with the approval of the Chairman, GC with the following members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, IASST - Chairman • JS&FA, DST • Head, AI Div., DST • Prof. Neelotpal Sen Sarma, IASST • Ashit Biswas, FAO, NIPER • FAO, IASST The committee held the 14 th FC meeting on 17/11/2021. | |
| GC.14/2021/1/3 | Reporting items with the permission of Chair | Reported | |
| 3.1. Technology transfer on 'Production of antioxidant rich beverage from black rice' | The GC approved and praised this endeavour of technology transfer | Noted | |
| 3.2. Fixation of Qualification requirements for the post of Director, IASST (revised): | The matter was discussed and GC approved the proposal. The GC suggested to send the proposal to DST for approval. | The revised educational qualifications sent to DST for approval. One comment was received and replied to DST. | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <p>3.3. Byelaws for Faculty Entrepreneurship program:</p> | <p>The GC suggested that while developing the Faculty Entrepreneurship programme, standard modules of Faculty Entrepreneurship program followed at IITs and other concerned educational/Research institutes may also be gone through. A suitable model (Society formation or Section 8A non-profit company) with guidelines may be framed for further discussion with GC members.</p> | <p>IASST's incubation Centre was registered as a Section 8(1) Company under the Companies Act 2013 and named as IASST Social Venture & Entrepreneurship Council (ISVEC). The by-laws for this company was also formed.</p> | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

Decision: The Director, IASST, and Member Secretary of GC elucidated on action taken on the decisions of the last Governing Council meeting. Accordingly, the Chairman and members of the GC noted the action taken report of each item of the 14th meeting of GC and expressed their satisfaction on action taken as per their recommendation. The members deliberated on the constitution of the Finance Committee and suggested that instead of “JS & FA or his nominee,” “Financial Advisor or his nominee” be substituted.

Agenda Item No:GC.15/2021/2/1.4: Consideration of the recommendations/deliberations of the 14th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 17/11/2021

The highlights of deliberation/recommendations of the committee are as follows:

1. Action taken Report:

Member Secretary apprised the house of the details of action taken on the recommendations of 13th FC minutes. The committee noted the action taken report. Regarding revision of the original budget estimate on Capital Expenditure from Rs.12.77 crores to Rs.31.80 crores, the committee

suggested that a detailed proposal be sent by the IASST to DST with bifurcation in the following manner-

- (i) Amount and items as approved by DST.
- (ii) Excess expenditure with proper justification. Escalation, if any, to be shown separately.
- (iii) New items/substituted items as per schedule rate.
- (iv) New items with the market rate.

The committee also suggested that the proposal be vetted through the CPWD/APWD/Civil Engineering Department of IITG before submission to DST.

Regarding the construction of 33/0.422 KV substation and associated distribution cable network at IASST in which DST has accorded approval for this project/work at a tentative cost of Rs 4.31 crores vide email communication dtd. 21.10.2020, member secretary informed that tenders were finalized only after getting on principle approval from DST, New Delhi. There was no escalation clause, and the selected bidder agreed to execute the work at the rate quoted in their tender. The committee suggested sending details of the final amount with work order and other related documents to DST for financial sanction.

Regarding the construction of 100 capacities Women Hostel, the committee suggested that all statutory clearance be taken if required before starting the construction as the location is near the Ramsar site. Moreover, proper justification must be provided for the necessity of a 100 capacity hostel; otherwise, capacity may be reduced at present with a provision for extension of one more floor in the future to accommodate more female students.

2. Information regarding current financial status of the institute

The Finance committee of IASST recommended approval of a Budget Estimate of Rs. 40.65 crores for the FY 2021-22, which the Governing Council duly approved in its meeting held on 25.01.2021. The member secretary mentioned that the tentative budget sanctioned by DST for the FY 2021-22 was Rs 33.39 crores; however, IASST has received an amount of Rs 20.70 crores to date.

The member secretary also mentioned that due to the lockdown on the COVID-19 Pandemic, the expenditure in the first half-year of 2021-22 was comparatively less because the developmental works slowed down. However, after opening the inter-district transport of Assam from 4th September 2021, the institute has geared up for spending the money in different heads by following

the guidelines. Major procurements under the Capital Head, namely-procurement of NMR (Rs 4.00 crore) and some other instruments, are under process, and the amount is to be paid in Nov-Dec, 2021. IASST sought RE of Rs 37.41 Crores, including funds for the 33/0.433 KV substation work (Rs. 3.02 crores). DST informed that financial sanction for the 33 KVA substations would be accorded only after receipt of all related documents by DST. As informed to the committee, DST has finalized the RE and will be communicating shortly.

Regarding the procurement of NMR, the committee suggested sending the proposal to DST for global tendering as there is no Indian Manufacturer.

The committee also suggested that (i) Fellowship for the institutional fellow, and emoluments of the contractual employee to be booked under the head “General” instead of “Salary”. (ii) A separate fund to be created for the Contributory Medical Scheme.

The committee also suggested that IASST prepare a scheme for SC/ST student Ph. D. fellowship and send it to the SEED division of DST for approval. The committee also suggested that a note be sent to DST for the record purpose on how COVID-19 affected IASST and its functioning.

3. Budget estimate for the financial year 2021-2022 for approval

A proposal of budget estimate amounting to Rs 50.73 Crores placed before the committee for consideration that includes Rs10.00 crores for the 100 capacity Women Hostel. The committee thoroughly discussed this point and approved Rs 40.00 Crores as a budgetary estimate for the year 2022-23, the details of which are furnished below:

- (i) GIA Salary Rs 17.00 crores
- (ii) GIA General Rs 10.00 crores
- (iii) GIA Capital Rs13.00 crores

Budget grant for the 100 Capacity Women Hostel will be considered only after receipt of DPR and all related documents by DST.

The committee suggested that a list of major and minor equipment to be purchased in the financial year 2022-2023 with a tentative cost to be sent to DST for approval/necessary action.

4. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

a) Information on the amended “Recruitment and Promotion Rules” of IASST

Member Secretary informed that as per the suggestion of the 13th GC meeting, the Director, IASST constituted a committee with two outside members for preparation/amendment of Recruitment Rules of IASST as per DOPT guidelines. The final draft guidelines will be placed in the Committee's next meeting, or they will be circulated to the members via email for perusal, observation, and suggestion (if any)/approval. The Committee noted the same.

b) Information on lien of the FAO and process of appointment of a person in leave vacancy

On his request, the committee was informed that after selection as Controller of Finance and Accounts of National Institute of Design(NID), Jorhat, Assam, the Finance and Accounts Officer of IASST, Mr. Pradyut Borkataki was granted lien for two years to enable him to join in his new assignment. Registrar, IASST assumed the additional charge of FAO in the interim. The advertisement was published to intake a new FAO for the lien period, and a candidate was selected, who later declined to join. Re-advertisement was made, and another candidate was selected but has yet to join. The committee suggested appointing one Financial Consultant (Govt. retired) for the remaining lien period if the selected candidate/waitlist candidate does not join. The committee also suggested that if the probation period of Mr. P. Borkataki completes and service is confirmed in the new organization at Jorhat, his lien may be terminated before the completion of two years.

c) Conducting of audit by the Indian Audit & Accounts Department, Office of the Director General of Audit, Environment & Scientific Departments, Kolkata Branch.

Member Secretary informed the house that Audit of the accounts of IASST was conducted by the Director-General of Audit, Environment & Scientific Departments Kolkata branch for the year 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 and raised few paras. The Institute replied the Audit Paras. The committee noted the same.

d) Granting of family pension as per CCS Pension Rules(1972) for deceased govt. servant of IASST on NPS

Member Secretary informed that two employees of IASST who were on NPS expired during their service, and families are facing hardship due to a meager amount of pension. There is a provision in the rule to choose Old Pension Scheme for the family pensioners. The committee suggested that the case be sent to the Head of the AI division for consideration/direction.

(Copy of approved Minutes of 14th Finance Committee Meeting is attached at [Annexure III](#))

Decision: The Member Secretary, GC summarized the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 17/11/2021 and the Governing Council after discussion approved the recommendations of the meeting of 14th Finance Committee meeting with the following minor changes:

As the major equipment of more than 50 lakhs to be purchased are examined and approved by the SAC and the budgeting for the items are done by placing before the Finance Committee and subsequently in the GC, there is no need to send the list of major and minor equipment to be purchased in the financial year 2022-2023 with a tentative cost to DST for approval/necessary action. However, before purchasing major foreign equipment, it should be placed to the DST for approval. The committee suggested that the matter of construction of the 100 bedded Women Hostel be expedited by pursuing the matter with the Chief Engineer, CPWD, Guwahati.

Regarding the framing of amended “Recruitment and Promotion Rules,” the committee suggested the Member Secretary circulate the amended rules to the members for comments. The pending grievance cases about anomalies in pay fixation are to be taken up with DST for rectification.

Agenda Item No:GC.15/2021/2/2: Items for consideration and approval in 15th GC meeting held on 06/12/2021

Items for approval/ratification:

2.1. Renaming of CIF to SAIC and appointment of a Head

The Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF) of IASST was renamed as Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Center (SAIC), and the scattered pieces of equipment in various laboratories were relocated to the building constructed for this purpose. Dr. A. R. Pal, Associate Professor, Physical Sciences Division, has entrusted the position of Head, SAIF, without any extra remuneration to look after the functioning of SAIF. Request for ratification.

Decision: The Committee ratified the proposal.

2.2. Constitution of the Academic Advisory Committee and revised rules for student admission and Ph.D. programme

The academic activities of the Institute need to be managed following a set of rules and regulations. The Director, IASST, has constituted the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) by following Clause 11.1(X) of the Rules and Regulations of the Bye-Laws of IASST). The Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) is entrusted to manage the academic activities, including admission of students under various categories of the programme in this Institute. The composition of the Academic Advisory Committee is enclosed as [Annexure IV](#) for ratification/approval.

The Academic Rules of IASST are also revised and placed in [Annexure V](#) for deliberation of the members and approval.

Decision: The composition of the Academic Advisory Committee and the revised Academic Rules of IASST were ratified.

2.3. Granting of lien to FAO

On his request after selection as Financial Controller of National Institute of Design, Jorhat, Assam, the Finance and Accounts Officer of IASST, Mr. Pradyut Borkataki was granted lien for two years to enable him to join in his new assignment. As per the Bylaws of IASST, Registrar has assumed the additional charge of FAO in the interim.

Request for ratification.

The advertisement was published to intake a new FAO for the lien period, and a candidate was selected, who later declined to join. Therefore, the lien position was re-advertised, another round of the selection process was completed, and an appointment letter was issued to the selected candidate and the candidate Ms. Komal Kumari has joined as FAO (on lien). Request for ratification.

Decision/Remarks: The GC ratified the decisions. As lien is not a privilege, subsequent requests by a person on lien can be declined by the competent authority in the interest of the Institute. At any case, the lien period should not exceed more than 3 years as per the DoPT guidelines.

2.4. Lien application of Prof. Heremba Bailung, Physical Sciences Division

After getting selection as Professor in Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, Assam, Prof. H. Bailung has applied for lien of 2 years to enable him to join in his new assignment ([Annexure VI](#)). Request for ratification.

Decision/Remarks: The GC ratified the lien request of Prof. H. Bailung.

2.5. Approval of MoU with Deakin University, Australia for a joint Ph.D. programme with IASST

The Institute had a MoU with Deakin University, Australia for joint Ph.D. programme and the MoU has expired. Therefore, a new MoU needs to be signed between these two Institutes, and the draft MoU is attached as [Annexure VII](#). There is no financial obligation of IASST as per this proposed MoU. Request for approval/ ratification for further communication to DST.

Decision/Remarks: the GC approved the MoU for further communication to DST.

2.6. Regularization contractual appointment of Shri Lelin Gogoi, Superintendent to Director

At the time of taking over of IASST by the DST in 2009, the institute asked to create some administrative posts, which inter-alia included the post of PS to the Director of IASST, Guwahati, on the scale of Rs. 9300-34800 with GP Rs 4600. The Govt sanctioned 11 no. of posts, except that of PS, to the Director. Subsequently, considering the utmost necessity of the post to be attached with the institute's Chief Executive Officer, IASST was advised by 1st GC meeting vide agenda item no 8 to appoint a person on contract as PS to the Director and process the case of creation of a regular PS to Director post immediately. Accordingly, Shri Lelin Gogoi was appointed on contractual service after selection through advertisement (copy enclosed in [Annexure-VIII](#)) in the pay scale of Rs. 9300-34800 with GP Rs. 4600. Subsequently, as advised by the GC and parent Ministry, the institute had submitted the case to DST, Govt of India, to create a regular post.

Being the only DST, Govt of India Research Institute in the entire NE region, IASST had made special requests to DST through its Governing Council to impress upon the Department of Expenditure, MoF, Govt of India to expedite the process of approval on the creation of the post of PS to Director of IASST, Guwahati. However, it was given to understand to the institute that the Department of Expenditure had linked up the case of creation of the post with the review of

Autonomous Institutes taken by the Niti Ayog, and the proposal for the early creation of the post is rather bleak and would take some more time.

The Adhoc/contract approach of engagement of contractual person for discharging the highly responsible function of the Director's Office is holding the institute back from functioning to its fullest potential in science and technology in the NE region as per directives of the Govt of India considering the non- congenial state of the socio-political scenario of the city and state. Therefore, such an Adhoc/contract arrangement may also turn out to be risky many times. The engagement of Shri Lelin Gogoi as a Private Secretary to the Director of IASST on a contract basis also suffered from the uncertainty of continuation of the incumbent in the position, which would have created an interim period of vacuum.

It is worthwhile to mention that the institute required continuous engagement of Shri Gogoi in the post assisting the Head of the institute, handling essential responsibilities with integrity, and commitment to the organization. The institute had also been facing outstanding audit observation on the case. Hence, for the more significant benefit of the institute, there was an urgent need to regularise the contract service of Shri Lelin Gogoi against a regular post in the same pay level for serving the institute efficiently, holding essential responsibilities of the office of Chief Executive Officer of the institute predominantly of confidential and strategic for an extended period (~09 years).

Keeping in mind the confidential nature of duties, when a post of Superintendent (scale of pay of Rs. 9300-34800 with GP Rs. 4600) was vacant due to superannuation in October 2019, a committee comprising of 7 experts, including the former two Directors of IASST, assessed the performance of Shri Lelin Gogoi and recommended his regularization in that post (Minutes enclosed in [Annexure-IX](#)) keeping in view that he has served diligently and with utmost sincerity for ~9 years in the post of PS to the Director and also that the creation of the post of PS to the Director is taking a long time. The basis of regularization of Shri Lelin Gogoi is in the purview of the DOPT order No. 49019/1/2006-Estt (enclosed in [Annexure-X](#)) and as per the Institute's Recruitment Rules (RR) clause No. 7 (Direct appointment).

Request for approval or advice on this matter.

Decision/Remarks: After a threadbare discussion on the merits of the case, the committee opined that the process of regularization of Shri Lelin Gogoi to the post of Superintendent was irregular

as this was not done by following proper procedure of selection through open advertisement and suggested that he may be asked to resign from the position. However, to run the functioning of the Director's Office, a post of PS to the Director on contractual basis is necessary. The post of Superintendent may be advertised, and recruitment may be done following proper procedure as per the rule.

2.7. Restructuring and revival of lapsed faculty positions:

Vacancies arising due to superannuation of one faculty (Prof. Suresh Deka on 30.09.2018), technical resignation of one faculty (Prof. B. C. Tripathy on 31.1.2019), and resignation of Dr. Rahul Pralhad Hepat (on 07.9.2021). Accordingly, these positions were advertised, with prior approval from the Chairman GC, and the reservation roster was followed for these positions.

In spite of extending the deadline for application two times and advertisement of positions in national and local newspapers, no candidate applied for these posts (Advertisement, corrigendum and status given in [Annexure XI](#)). Therefore, it may be proposed that these three (03) positions may be revised from the original positions of Assistant Professor-II (2 No) / Associate Professor-I (1 No) to Assistant Professor-I (3 Nos) so that the Institute can get applications for sufficient numbers of bright, young candidates at the entry level.

Further, several of the sanctioned posts (08), as shown below are lapsed, mainly due to not joining of selected candidates against these posts. These posts are laying vacant for more than 5 years.

Professor-II: 2 positions

Professor-I: 2 positions

Associate Professor-II: 2 positions

Associate Professor-I: 1 position

Assistant Professor-I: 1 position

IAAST requests the permission of GC to process this issue with DoPT via DST for the revival of the positions.

Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted the lack of applications received for the advertised vacancies (3 nos.) arising due to superannuation, technical resignation, and the resignation of faculties and suggested that the areas of specialization for the positions should be generalized to

attract more applicants. Further, for the vacant positions for more than two years but less than five years (deemed abolished posts), approval of DST is requested.

Regarding the abolished posts (8 nos.), the Committee suggested that IASST start the revival of the posts and pursue the matter with DST and Ministry of Finance diligently for immediate revival.

Considering the need for more faculty positions, the Chairman, GC suggested that the Institute prepare a project report to expand research to niche areas and restructure the existing research areas to justify the request for additional human resources. Because the revival of abolished posts is complicated and time-consuming; therefore, creating new and cutting-edge science faculty positions should get more human resources.

Agenda Item No:GC.15/2021/2/3: Reporting items with the permission of Chair

3.1. Discussion on achievements of targets set for the year 2020-2021

The achievements are shown in [Annexure-XII](#).

Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted the achievements with satisfaction and praised IASST for its societal welfare activity.

3.2. Resignation of Dr. Rahul Pralhad Hepat

Dr. Rahul Pralhad Hepat, Assistant Professor, Life Sciences Division, IASST resigned from his post after being absent for over a year. His resignation was accepted with the approval of the Chairman, Governing Council.

Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted the resignation.

3.3. Delegation of financial powers to the AIs

As per DST OM No. AI/5/2/2021 dated 23/03/2021, the Registrar, IASST has been vested with powers to approve and sanction for contingent/ miscellaneous expenditure up to Rs. 5.0 lakhs and has been implemented at IASST ([Annexure XIII](#)).

Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted the decision.

3.4. Recent achievements (February-October, 2021):

3.4.1 Output Indicators:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Publications: | 33 | Average IF-4.73 |
| (Peer-reviewed journals) | | |
| Patents: | 4 | |
| Book chapters: | 2 | |
| Book: | 1 | |

3.4.2 Awards/recognitions/Achievements:

- a) Prof. A.K. Mukherjee, Director, IASST, and Dr. M. R. Khan, Associate Professor, received felicitation on behalf of IASST from Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam and present Chief Minister of Assam and National Health Mission, Assam for the immense contribution of the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati, Assam during the Covid-19 pandemic in Assam.
- b) IASST was declared as “Best Research Institute for the year 2020” by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Assam.
- c) Two following two IASST scientists for the consecutive two years have been listed in the top 2% World ranking of Scientists-(i) Prof. Ashis Kumar Mukherjee, Director, IASST, and (ii) Dr. Biswajit Choudhury, Asstt. Prof., Physical Sciences Div., IASST.
- d) Prof. Ashis Kr. Mukherjee, Director, IASST, has been nominated to be an Expert Member for implementing the WHO strategic plan for control and prevention of snakebite envenoming.
- e) Prof. A. K. Mukherjee is also nominated as a member of the Editorial Council of Toxicon and Toxicon-X published by Elsevier on behalf of the International Society of Toxinology.
- f) Prof. A. K. Mukherjee is recognized as an Outstanding Professor in Biological Sciences by the AcSIR, Ghaziabad.
- g) Ms. Elima Hussain, a Ph.D. scholar, has got the first position of FAME-Biotech 2021, and she was also participated in one amongst five BRICS Young Scientists under healthcare theme to represent India in the 6th BRICS Young Scientist Conclave 2021 held at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

h) IASST signed MoU with Aaranyak, a premier biodiversity conservation and research organization at Guwahati, for academic and research cooperation.

Decision/Remarks: The Committee expressed satisfaction on the output and awards/ recognitions/ achievements of IASST scientists.

There being no other item for discussions, the meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Agenda Item No: GC.15/2021/2/3: AoB

The Director, IASST informed the house that the term of this GC is expired and new GC will be formed very soon. He expressed his thankfulness to the GC for their constant support and guidance for the growth and development of IASST. The members congratulated the Director, IASST, for his sincere efforts to bring the Institute in the limelight and suggested that IASST prepare a short-term and extended academic and research vision for the next 5 - 10 years, respectively. Also, initiatives would attract bright young candidates to join IASST.



Chairman

Governing Council, IASST

Dated: 06 December, 2021



Member Secretary

Governing Council, IASST