NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, SECTOR 67, S.A.S. NAGAR, PUNJAB

Minutes of the 18th Academic Planning and Development Committee (APDC) Meeting on June 27th, 2017 in the Board Room of the Convention Centre, NIPER, SAS Nagar.

Members present:

Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan
Prof. A. Raghuram Rao
Prof. H. Ila
Member
Dr. Dinesh K. Dikshit
Member
Prof. Prabhjeet Singh
Prof. N. Udupa
Member
Prof. Arvind K. Bansal
Member

Prof. Prasad V. Bharatam - Member Secretary

Leave of absence was received from Prof. Alok Bhattacharya and Prof. Vandana B. Patravale was recorded.

At the outset, Director, Prof. A. Raghuram Rao, welcomed the Hon'ble Members of the APDC on behalf of NIPER. He further apprised that the prolonged gap between the 17th meeting of APDC, which was held on 25th July, 2014, and present meeting was due to the absence of BOG and Senate, because of which, APDC could not be formed, anew. He welcomed Prof. Patwardhan as a Chairman of ADPC and all other members as the first time members of the APDC (including Prof. P.V. Bharatam, Member Secretary, APDC, as new Dean of the Institute).

Prof. Patwardhan, welcomed all the new members and regretted the large gap between the 17th and the 18th APDC meetings. Prof. A. Raghuram Rao, with the permission of the Chairman, APDC, invited all the faculty members of the NIPER for interaction with the APDC Members. All the faculty members introduced themselves to the members of APDC, explaining their area of specialization and their background.

18.1. Welcome address and presentations.

Prof. Raghuram Rao presented a progress report of NIPER, SAS Nagar in the last 25 years as a part of agenda item 18.1. He also presented a vision document to the members. Prof. P.V. Bharatam presented a short .ppt presentation explaining the mandate of the ADPC and the course structure of NIPER, SAS Nagar, for M.S. Pharm, M. Pharm, M. Tech, MBA courses as well as the Ph.D. courses. All the members appreciated the special efforts made by Prof. Raghuram Rao in making these two presentations and also in inviting the faculty members for the introductory interaction. After about one hour, the faculty members of NIPER, SAS Nagar, left the Board Room and then the rest of the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

18.2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 17th APDC meeting held on 25th July 2014

As there were no comments received from any of the ADPC Members, the minutes were confirmed.

18.3 Action taken on the Minutes of 17th APDC meeting held on 25th July 2014.

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17.2→ 15.7 To discuss setting up of NABL accredited laboratory at SMPIC, NIPER.

Taken up as separate agenda as 18.4

17.2→16.3 To discuss merging of Department of Biotechnology & Department of Pharmaceutical Technology

Take up as separate agenda as 18.5.

17.3 To discuss issue related to the enlisting the M.S. (Pharm.) degree in the Section 22 of the UGC act.

The matter has been taken up by the DoP with the officials of UGC, PCI, AICTE and MHRD. Many meetings were held. PCI accepted the demand of NIPER, SAS Nagar, in recognizing the M.S. (Pharm.) degrees. AICTE also accepted the request of NIPER, SAS Nagar. UGC has reservations in accepting the request of NIPER, SAS Nagar.

The Chairman pointed out that the following suggestion made during APDC agenda 17.3 should be considered and a report should be submitted to APDC:-

"The Chairman directed to form a Consultative Group in this regard consisting of 6 to 8 experts from academia as well as from industry to deliberate on this and to provide the inputs for the betterment. Prof. S. Singh proposed that out of 08 members, 04 should be having professional qualification and 04 may be from a nonprofessional background. They will submit a detailed report for consideration before the APDC within a period of 3-4 months."

Report should be submitted before the next APDC meeting.

17.4 Implementation and Monitoring of two multidisciplinary research projects one each in Tuberculosis and Leishmania funded by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

Take up as separate agenda as 18.9.

The rest of the Action Taken Report has been accepted.

18.4 To consider the NBA/ NABL accreditation for NIPER Laboratories (Agenda refered by BoG)

After thread bearing deliberations, it was resolved as follows.

"Considering the available resources and the limited number of faculty members, it is not advisable to take up NBA accreditation at this stage." "Similarly, as already accepted by APDC the NABL accreditation also need not be pursued at this stage".

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18.5 To consider merits and demerits of merging of Department of Biotechnology and Department of Pharmaceutical Technology.

Prof. U.C.Banerjee was invited to elaborate this issue. Considering that 70% courses of M.S. (Pharm) Biotechnology and M.Tech Biotechnology courses are different and also considering that the former course is based on science and the latter course is based on industrial applications, APDC is of the opinion the status-quo be maintained with reference to this proposal.

18.6 To consider the evaluation sheet/format for CAS cases.

The format prepared by the special committee headed by Dr. f.P.Singh has been approved with a small change, as given below:-

The importance for industrial collaboration should be increased to recognize the additional efforts involved in this process. This would encourage all the faculty to take up industrial research in future.

The cut-off values suggested by the special committee mentioned at page-47 are approved and accepted. It was suggested that the format information may be used as base data, however, the final decision should be taken based on review of the case by three eminent experts followed by interview.

18.7 (a) & (b)

Career advancement scheme (CAS): CAS in NIPER S.A.S. Nagar is covered by Clause 5 of NIPER Statutes 2003. It provides an avenue of promotion to young faculty members (Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and Associate Professor to Professor) based upon stringent evaluation by a selection committee appointed by the Director. The Board of Governors in its 67th meeting had approved the implementation of CAS.

The APDC members observed that IITs adopt a modality for carrier progression (similar to CAS) for faculty, where after a few years of service faculty can request for promotion.

Higher Academic Grade (HAG): HAG is not associated with any promotion or career advancement scheme and is associated with removal of stagnancy of senior professors with more than six years in position as professors. Only 40% of the professors are eligible to be considered under HAG. There is no change in designation or pay scale. In the IIT system HAG scale has been implemented. In UGC system also, a senior professor scale exists.

In view of this, CAS and HAG are completely different issues. CAS is targeted for career advancement from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and Associate Professor to Professor while HAG is associated with removal of stagnancy of senior professors only.

HAG may be implemented in toto as per the IIT Kanpur guidelines.

18.8 To consider Emiritus Professor Scheme

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In view of shortage of faculty, the Emiritus Professor positions may be instituted in NIPER, SAS Nagar, following the guidelines of IIT, Kanpur. The DoP, (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) may be requested for appropriate budgetary support for this important activity.

18.9 To consider the monitoring and implementation report of each project of Tuberculosis and Leishmania furnded by DoP

Two reports attached in the agenda may be sent to three experts (in each case) and the comments and recommendations be placed for consideration during the next meeting of ADPC.

18.10. To seek suggestions from the APDC members for further improvements in Academic programmes.

The following points were suggested to improved academic programs of NIPER.

- (i) We should explore the possibility of collaboration with institute working in Microbiome like projects (at NCCS, Pune and IMTECH, Chandigarh) and the DST-TIFAC core centre for pharmacogenomics (at Manipal University, Manipal).
- (ii) APDC is of the opinion that choice based credit systems approach may be adopted to offer some flexibility to students to opt certain percentage of credits from other courses/streams of NIPER.
- (iii) Number of credits for Ph.D. students should be uniform for all the Ph.D. students.
- (iv) Grants from European Union and other international sources as well as from MHRD should be explored by NIPER faculty.
- (v) QIP for the faculty of other institute should be encouraged at NIPER, SAS Nagar.
- (vi) GPAT and NIPER Entrance only one may be considered for NIPER Master's course admission.
- (vii) Special attention is needed to include rapidly emergin field of biologicals in NIPER courses and research activity.

18.11 Any Other Business with the permission of the Chair NIL.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Director and the Member Secretary for valuable suggestions put forth by the Hon'ble Members of the ADPC.

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Chairman, APDC