

MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 4, 2023 AT 12 NOON.

A meeting of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was held on 04 April 2023 at 1200 hours.

PRESENT:

The following were present:

Prof Prateek Sharma, Chairperson
Prof Shaleen Singhal
Prof Vinay Shankar Prasad Sinha
Prof Naqui Anwer
Prof Shashi Bhushan Tripathi
Dr Sudipta Chatterjee
Dr Sukanya Das
Dr Rajesh Tandon
Mr Vivek Kumar
Dr Divya Datt
Mr Manoj Chugh
Mr Kamal Sharma, Secretary

Dr O.S. Sastry, Mr Atul Bagai, Prof Ramakrishnan Sitaraman and Dr Chaithanya Madhurantakam could not attend the meeting.

Welcome and brief introduction

The Vice Chancellor welcomed the members and hoped that TERI SAS would get immensely benefitted from their experience and inputs. He further stated that since the RAC is meeting after three years and except for Dr Sastry and Prof Rajesh Tandon all the members are new, hence, for the benefit of new members he explained the scope and objectives of RAC. He further informed the members about the setting up of two Centres – Emerson Centre for Sustainability Studies and IPCA Centre for Waste Management and Research (set up by Indian Pollution Control Association). He further mentioned that the institute is striving to get industry sponsorship to establish more such Centres. He requested the members to provide their inputs for helping in identifying potential donors for establishing of similar Centres.

Establishment of Research Development Cell and proposed activities under RDC

Prof Shaleen Singhal made a detailed presentation on the establishment of Research Development Cell and proposed activities to be undertaken under RDC as placed at **Enclosure 1**. After the presentation, Prof Singhal requested the members to provide their advice and comments.

Mr Manoj Chugh said that we should approach the industry with concrete proposals that should map with the industry needs having impact. The RDC should encourage the youngsters to take up research and go to the field. It should not be restricted in the campus itself. Mapping of the students with the industry should be looked into. He informed that the institution should look to

work on the areas which impact the industry and engage with them on areas like sustainability, net zero, etc. He also stated placement cell can play an important role since they can approach the industry. [**Action: All Placement coordinators and Placement cell**]

Prof Rajesh Tandon also emphasized the engagement of students in research industry.

Dr Divya Datt stated that bringing investors to RDC would help. A nodal person may be appointed for this. She also stated that it would be good to appoint a Consultant to run the Cell instead of a faculty member.

Mr Manoj Chugh also stated that we should reach out to alumni who are in industry to get the list of projects that their companies are engaged in, which will help us to work in those areas and we can send them proposals accordingly. Similarly, we can approach the organisations which are coming to us for placements. [**Action: Alumni Engagement Committee**]

It was also suggested to consider starting research communication course which would help in getting projects.

Agri-business, food system, food safety, food processing, agriculture are some of the key areas suggested by members in which we can start research.

Dr Divya Datt suggested the following themes which can be considered: Environmental health, natural science, health and environmental linkage, green chemistry and food systems. The scope is high in these areas since very few agencies are available who are working in these themes. On funding opportunities tapping the right business for CSR funding would be good.

Prof. Rajesh Tandon stated that it would be good if student, faculty and alumni could be brought on same board which would be beneficial. He also informed having Professor of Practices from specific industry, connecting with those who are retiring and who are willing to come or persons working in industry but at the same time contribute to the institution.

Dr Vivek Kumar informed that Norwegian Research Council comes up with calls for proposals time to time and TERI SAS can consider tapping them. Regarding new themes, Dr Kumar mentioned that oceans, blue economy and circular economy may be considered. [**Action: Dean (Research and Partnerships)**]

The Chairperson once again thanked all the members for joining the meeting and taking active participation in the meeting and providing their inputs.

The meeting concluded at 1355 hours.

Sd/
Kamal Sharma
Registrar (Acting)

Enclosure: -

Establishment of Research Development Cell

Distribution:-

Electronic Copy:

1. Vice Chancellor, TERI School of Advanced Studies
2. All members of the Research Advisory Committee
3. Website

Printed Copy: Registrar Office