Report on Draft Policy on Prevention of Plagiarism in M.Tech. and Ph.D. Theses

Observations/Suggestions/Recommendations

- 1. It is suggested that the publications by faculty members too be brought within the scope of the Policy. Faculty members may wish to screen their manuscripts using the facilities available at the Institute therefor.
- 2. It is suggested that a particular name of the software be not mentioned in Policy document. Maybe another technique becomes available in the future, or another better/cheaper software is available at a later date.
- 3. At Item no. 1.3(a)(i), it is suggested that the respective Guide be exempted from liability of ensuring absence of plagiarism practice involved in thesis submitted by the student. This is in light of the fact that the teacher would not have time to go through the whole thesis. He may forward the thesis alongwith the necessary certificate produced by the student after due screening.
- 4. At Item no. 1.3(a)(ii), it is suggested that the material in one's own already published papers can be reproduced in his/her thesis giving reference and material presented in the thesis can be freely used in publications to be communicated.
- 5. It appears that Item no. 1.3(a)(iii) is not necessary as whole thesis has to be screened.
- 6. At Item no. 1.3(b), it is suggested that the Head of Department be relieved of ascertaining the plagiarism norms. He/she would believe the certificate attached with the thesis. This Certificate, bearing the date of screening can become an integral part of the thesis.
- 7. We could not understand the Item at 1.4(a). This Policy is an academic matter and the Senate of the Institute can decide on its implementation.
- 8. At Item no. 1.4(b), Permanent Standing Committee of the following composition is suggested with each member having equal voting rights.
- (i) Chairman nominated by the Director
- (ii) Member 1: Associate Dean (Academics)

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- (iii) Member 2: Associate Dean (R & C)
- (iv) Members 3 and 4: Faculty members from the concerned Department
- 9. At Item no. 1.4(a)(i), it is suggested that the aggrieved person lodges a complaint along with corroborative proofs.
- 10. At Item 1.4 (e)(i) It is felt that copying a few paragraphs being rated as low level plagiarism is too lenient. It is recommended that *paragraphs* be replaced by *lines*.
- 11. At Item 1.4 (e)(ii) it would be better to quantify "large amount." It might include doctoring one's own or others' data, figures, etc. so as to mislead the fellow researchers. Further, copying without acknowledging *any single* source no more than five percentages is acceptable subject to the limit that total copying does not exceed 20% in Chapters like Introduction, Experimental/Methods/Algorithm and 10% in Chapters like Results and Discussion.
- 12. At Item 1.4 (e)(ii) "... the faculty ... in future; and" be removed for the obvious inability of the teacher to go through whole thesis and despite going through it, chances are there that copied portion/s has not been identified. Also withdrawing the Degree maybe affected only if two of publications happen to be retracted. ?"
- 13. It is suggested to include "Only guide will communicate papers for publication or if the research student submits the paper for publication he/she will do that only with the written (e.g., through email, etc.) permission and knowledge of the Guide."
- 14. At item mentioned at the end as "Note," it is felt that with changing members of the said Committee, consistency in quantifying may not be ensured. Thus, either this Note be removed or quantification be standardized.
- 15. Before implementing the At Item 1.5(c), it is suggested to spell out the copyrights/IPR resting with student and/or Guide and/or Institute.
- 16. At item no. 1.5(d), it is suggested to add "the Institute Anti-plagiarism Policy be prominently displayed at each Department."

Dr Ravikant

(Member)

Prof Dr PA Parikh (Chairman)

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