

**Minutes of General Body meeting of the
Faculty Association, Indian Institute of Science,
held at Choksi Hall at 4pm on January 27, 2006.**

1. The Secretary Welcomed the gathering and requested the returning officer (RO) Dr. T. Shankar to announce the election results to Executive committee (EC). RO announced the following 6 EC members,

- (a) V. Kumaran,
- (b) S. Umapathy,
- (c) A.K. Nandakumaran,
- (d) M. Adinarayamurthy,
- (e) K.R. Shivakumar and
- (f) S. Raju

were elected in 2004, and completed their 2 year term as EC members. The following 6 EC members,

- (a) Dr. N. C. Shivaprakash,
- (b) Prof. B. Ananthanarayan,
- (c) Prof. E. Arunan,
- (d) Dr. S. V. Kailas,
- (e) Dr. V. B. Prasad,
- (f) Dr. M. K. Ravishankar,

were elected in 2005, and would be continuing as members of the EC for one additional year.

As there were no nominations received for the election of Executive Committee members for the present year, the RO invited nominations from the floor of the house. The following six nominations were received, duly proposed and seconded, and were declared elected to the Executive committee.

- (a) Professor Diptiman Sen, CHEP nominated by Prof. B. Ananthanarayan, seconded by Dr. U. Ramamurthy.

- (b) Professor K. V. S. Hari, ECE, proposed by Mr. M. Adinarayana Murthy, seconded by Prof. B. Ananthnarayan.
- (c) Dr. Soumendu Raha, SERC proposed by A. K. Nandakumaran, seconded by Dr. S. V Kailas.
- (d) Dr. C. Shivakumar, SSCU, proposed by Prof. V. Kumaran, Seconded by Prof. B. Ananthnarayan.
- (e) Dr. R. V. Ravikrishna, ME, proposed by Prof. V. Kumaran, seconded by Dr. S. V. Kailas.
- (f) Dr. U. J. Shenoy, EE, proposed, by Dr. B. Ananthnarayan, seconded by Mr. M. Adinarayana Murthy.

The RO declared the above members elected to the Executive Committee, and thanked all the members for their cooperation.

2. The confirmation of the earlier GBM held on was taken up. As there were no submissions and there were no comments from the floor, the minutes approved. Approval was proposed by Prof. M. Giridhar and seconded by Prof. K. V. S. Hari.
3. In the Presidential Address, the president felt there were two significant shortcomings in the functioning of the FA. The first was that FA is not sufficiently effective in assisting young faculty who have just joined the institute, and providing them support at the critical juncture when they are just launching their career. It is necessary to reach out to them even before they come to the institute, and to intervene with the administration if necessary to ensure that they have laboratory space, office space, housing, etc. reserved for them even before they come here. The FA should have a sub-committee exclusively for this purpose, and this is an issue that can be taken up by the next Executive Committee. The other shortcoming is that while the FA is active in discussing faculty benefits with the administration, there is not sufficient self-evaluation of the performance of the faculty, to see how we can improve our own performance and contribute to the improvement of the institute performance in general. Some framework should be developed so that the professional growth of individual faculty can be monitored with a view to improving their performance, and the performance of the institute as a whole.

4. The secretary presented the report on the activities of the last one year. He stated that there had been two meetings between the Executive Committee and the Director, and numerous other meetings of the Executive Committee. One important issue that was resolved is the institution of the Professor Selection Grade, which had been under consideration of the Council for many years. In addition, the Director had also met with the Technical Officers to address any grievances they may have.
5. The president made further comments on various options regarding House building cooperative society (HBCS). He said that it would not be possible to start a House Building Cooperative Society only for the faculty, but there was already a society on campus, and faculty could approach them to see if they can acquire land. The present layout of the society has been completed, so the society would have to acquire additional land. This would be quite expensive, and so it would require faculty to make significant up-front financial commitments if the society is to make a new layout and acquire additional land.
6. Dr Kailas wanted to know the status of the recommendations of the Infrastructure Committee on faculty housing. The president informed that the administration was not going to construct additional faculty housing in the near future, since the Director felt that campus was already too crowded and the demand on infrastructure was already too high. New buildings were planned for the institute nanoscience initiative, biological sciences, physics and aerospace engineering. In addition, housing for visitors was also planned.
7. Prof. Haritsa, who is on the institute Centenary committee informed that there are various initiatives under consideration by the committee, including creation of additional chair professors, an international center, additional campuses, etc. All faculty were free to forward their suggestions to the Centenary committee.
8. Dr. Avadhani asked about providing covered parking on campus. The Secretary opined that these were issues that could be taken up individually, and should not be officially taken up by the FA. The President said that when this issue was raised with the Director, he said that it

is not a good idea to modify already constructed buildings. When the buildings were constructed, there was a reason for the specific design of the buildings, and we should not modify them repeatedly.

9. Dr. Ravishankar pointed out that regarding health insurance, when one compares the contribution made to the benefit received under the insurance scheme, the benefit is much smaller than what one would get for the same premium outside. Prof. Abinandanan, a member of the Medical committee, clarified that though there was a limit of Rs. 50,000/- per year per family for medical expenses, even if the expenditure exceeded Rs. 50,000/-, the institute had a discretionary allowance to provide additional reimbursement. Therefore, the effective benefit is actually greater than the limit of Rs. 50,000/-.
10. Dr. Raha said that faculty could get much better internet connectivity to institute computers by implementing a Centrex system. However, the Secretary pointed out that when this issue was taken up previously with the director, he was not in favour of additional connectivity, because the rates of broadband connections today are already very low, and are likely to fall further.
11. On behalf of EC, the Secretary Thanked all the members for the cooperation.