

**Minutes of the General Body Meeting of the Faculty Association
held at 4:30 pm on 28/01/2005 at the Chokshi Hall, Indian
Institute of Science**

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July, 2004.

Dr. Vasant Natarajan, secretary, reported that the minutes were circulated and no comments were received. No comments were received from the floor of the house. Confirmation of the minutes was proposed by Dr. N. C. Shivaprakash, seconded by Prof. A. Surolia. Minutes were confirmed unanimously.

2. President's remarks.

The President, Dr. V. Kumaran welcomed the delegates, and called for introspection on the aims and objectives of the association, especially dealing with promotion of excellence among the faculty. He expressed the hope that apart from making representations to the institute on service matters, the association would also make efforts to promote and facilitate excellence among the faculty of the institute.

3. Secretary's report.

The Secretary, Dr. Vasant Natarajan, gave a brief outline on the activities during the past year. He listed out the meetings held by the Executive Committee, as well as the meetings held with the Director. He reported that the institute had initiated construction on 60 new E-type apartments, and this would significantly reduce the housing shortage on campus. He also reported that the CPF/GPF conversion had been offered to most eligible staff, except for some Technical Officers due to some administrative difficulty.

Among the agenda for the new Executive Committee, the Secretary stated that the Housing Allotment rules need to be revised and rationalised. There is a need to expand membership, especially for the new faculty. The purchase procedures need to be updated and simplified. In addition, there is a need for the faculty to contribute in a greater way for the Centenary Celebrations of the institute.

4. Elections to the Executive Committee of Faculty Association.

The Returning Officers, Prof. Prabhu Nott and Mr. T. Shankar, made a report on the recently conducted elections. The list of members elected in 2004, who will continue for their second year of the two-year term (2005-06), are

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

The list of Executive Committee members retiring in 2005 are

- (a) S. Ramaswamy
- (b) V. Natarajan
- (c) A. Rai Chaudhuri
- (d) M. Sekhar
- (e) N. Srinivasan
- (f) G. Narayana Naik
- (g) A. Suyambu

There are 6 vacant positions for the Executive Committee. There were three valid nominations received for the following members, who were declared elected unopposed.

- (a) N. C. Shivaprakash (ISU)
- (b) E. Arunan (IPC)
- (c) Satish Kailas (ME)

Nominations were called from the floor for the three remaining positions.

- (a) B. Ananthanarayan (CHEP) was proposed by V. Kumaran (CHE), seconded by D. Sen (CAOS), and was declared elected.

- (b) M. K. Ravishankar (ECE) was proposed by K. R. Shivakumar (CAF), seconded by P. T. Raghuram (CHE), and was declared elected.
- (c) V. B. Prasad (PH) was proposed by M. K. Ravishankar (ECE), seconded by M. Adinarayana Murthy (ISU), and was declared elected.

5. The floor was opened for discussion.

Prof. A. Surolia raised his concerns about the possibility of extension to the Director. He felt this would be a bad precedent, since no director had ever been granted an extension before. He was concerned that the date of superannuation of the present Director is near, and there is no news of the status of the search process for the next Director.

The President observed that a Search Committee for a new Director had already been constituted, and they had not yet reached a decision. Perhaps the Search Committee could be approached directly by concerned faculty to find out the status of the search process.

There were mixed opinions on the desirability of the Faculty Association directly given inputs to the Search Committee. Prof. Prabhu Nott observed that some faculty members ought to be consulted, but FA should not be involved. Prof. J. Haritsa was of the opinion that the FA did not really have a role to play in the appointment of directors. Members also asked for a clarification on how the Search Committee is constituted and how it functions.

- 6. Dr. Hari expressed discontent on the status of the Internet connectivity, and desired that FA EC take up the matter with the Director.
- 7. Dr. Shivaprakash pointed out that at present, only land line or mobile phone bills are reimbursed by the institute. He felt FA should advocate that both bills be reimbursed, to within the pre-specified limit.
- 8. Dr. Shiva Kumar pointed out that the telephone charges for Technical Officers are not reimbursed, and asked the FA EC to take up the matter with the institute.

9. Dr. Ravishankar pointed out that the period of evaluation for Technical Officers has been increased from 6 to 7 years, and asked to FA EC to examine the matter.
10. There was some discussion about whether FA continues to be relevant. Prof. Prabhu Nott expressed the opinion that the FA had lost its relevance, since so few members were attending meetings. B. Ananthanarayan stated that this is the only forum which interacts with the institute authorities on a regular basis, and so we should strengthen this forum. The President pointed out that there are fora like the Grievance Committee which serve a very useful purpose for the faculty. Dr. Shivaprakash felt that we could increase the membership by sending out individual letters of admission to incoming faculty.
11. Dr. Ravishankar indicated that there is a need to rethink promotion policies, especially with respect to new faculty. Credit should be given for services such as industrial consultancy, and promotion should not be based on publications alone. Prof. Arnab Rai Chaudhuri felt that teaching should also be taken into account while determining promotions, and the new Executive Committee could examine the matter.
12. Mr. Adinarayana Murthy made a presentation about the latest changes in the house allotment procedure.