

**Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA)**  
**Annual General Meeting Minutes, 26 May 2018**

The Annual General Meeting of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) was held from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the LaCentre Conference and Banquet Facility, 25777 Detroit Road, Westlake, OH 44145, USA.

For a list of CUFSAA-NA members participated at the AGM: See ***Attachment 1***

**Call the Meeting to Order**

Prof. LMV. Tillekeratne called the meeting to order.

**Approval of the Minutes of the Inaugural AGM Held in 2016**

The minutes of the inaugural annual general meeting held on September 4, 2016 at the Akbar Banquet Hall, 21 Cortlandt Street, Edison, New Jersey, 08837 USA, presented by the Joint Secretaries of the Association, was unanimously accepted, proposed by Sumedha Jayasena and seconded by Angelo Gunasekera. (See **Attachment 2** for the 2016 AGM Minutes)

**Welcome Remarks and President's Report**

In his welcome remarks and the President's Report, Prof. LMV. Tillekeratne welcomed all the members attended the meeting and highlighted the activities and projects that were successfully completed during the first two year-term from 2016-2018. These included; installation of drinking water fountains in the Science Faculty, Book donation program to the Science Faculty via both "Take-a-Book" program and the shipment of books by Sea. He informed that the installation of an AC and Sound System for the CLT, PLT and new lecture theaters was cancelled due to the high cost associated with the project. The funds in the account will be used for another project identified by the faculty. The funds collected for the emergency fund was distributed to 16 students affected by the floods, eight students in 2016 and eight students in 2017, each with Rs. 25,000.00. The CUFSAA mentoring program helped several graduates arrived in the United States by connecting them with local alumni mentors. In addition, several guest lecture programs were conducted in Sri Lanka under the Speakers Guild Program to present research and scientific work to the students and faculty of the University of Colombo. CUFSAA also donated Celestron CPC 1100 GPS 11-inch telescope to the Physics Department of the faculty. This will be used for undergraduate and graduate studies, to train students for upcoming Olympics of Astronomy program held in Sri Lanka, and also to inspire generations of school children through public outreach programs. Prof. Tillekeratne also mentioned about the launching of scholarship and memorial lecture series at the Tamasha 2018 in memory of Professor Valentine Joseph. He thanked all the members for their generous donations of over \$22,000 during 2016-2018 term and their support to make these projects success. He was happy that the association was so active during the past two years holding 26 regular Skype Meetings and additional weekly meetings to organize the Tamasha activities. (See ***Attachment 3*** for the President's Report)

**Annual Report Presented by the Joint Secretaries**

The Report of Joint Secretaries prepared by Harshani Munidasa and Chandrasiri Jayakody were distributed to the members attended the AGM. The Report summarized what we have accomplished during the term 2016-2018 (See ***Attachment 4*** Secretary's Report).

## Treasurer's Report

Saliya de Silva presented the Treasurer's Report for the period beginning from April 21, 2016 to May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The handouts of the Treasurer's Report were also distributed among the members attended at the AGM. Saliya reported that the total income as of 5/18/2018 was \$63,926.84 and the total expenses as of 5/18/18 was \$52,063.75 with the account balance as of 5/18/18 of \$11,863.09 (See **Attachment 5**: Treasurer's Report for details). The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted, proposed by Binodh De Silva and seconded by Palitha Jayaweera.

## The proposed amendments to the constitution (By-laws)

The amendments proposed and accepted at the AGM were as follows. (See Annexure 5).

1. ARTICLE 1, NAME AND OFFICE

[www.cufsa.com](http://www.cufsa.com) was also added to the official website.

"The official website of the Association shall be [www.cufsa.org](http://www.cufsa.org) and [www.cufsa.com](http://www.cufsa.com).

2. Section IV-A, Composition

Number of ordinary members reduced to 15 from 16 to include a newly created Assistant Treasurer position

"The Executive Committee shall consist of twenty-five (25) members including: The President, The President-elect, The immediate Past President, Three (03) Vice Presidents, Two Joint Secretaries, The Treasurer, **Assistant Treasurer, and Fifteen (15) Ordinary Members.**

3. Section IV-B, The Election and Terms of Office

Added the paragraph below.

"In the event that the ratification of an Executive Committee Member is failed at the Annual General Meeting by a two-third majority vote of the membership, the vacancies to the Executive Committee so created will be filled according to the Section IV-H below".

4. Section IV-D, The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year either physically (on even numbered years) or electronically (on odd numbered years) on or before the last Sunday of the month of September. **On odd years the AGM (electronic) will simply of approving the annual report and financial report by the Executive Committee, followed by its distribution to the membership.**

Binodh de Silva informed that according to the New Jersey Law, a 501 3(c) organization needs to send a copies of the final reports to the State before the AGM. It was suggested that we ask them to respond within 10 days. If no respond is received within 10 days, reports shall be accepted. She also asked to check whether .com web domain can be used for a 501 3 (c ) organization activities.

Regarding the AGM on odd years (electronic), Binodh de Silva suggested that annual reports to be electronically distributed to the general public for comments before the AGM and if no comments received within 10 business days, it shall be considered as approved. If there is any objections, the issue needs to be resolved by a teleconference within 5 days by the majority vote of the executive committee. Chandana Goonetilleke proposed this as an amendment to the Section IV. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee to work on the wording on this proposal. The proposal was seconded by Reshan Fernando.

## 5. Section IV-F, Special Meeting

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be requested by the President, or by any five members of the Executive Committee by providing a minimum of 3 days' written notice by email or ordinary mail.

Special meetings may be called for to occur through conference calls or by circulating items for vote by email. Minutes of the meetings shall be sent to the members of the Executive Committee within two weeks after the meeting.

## 6. ARTICLE V, POWERS AND DUTIES

President: S/he will preside at all meetings, appoint special (select or ad hoc) committees and generally perform the duties of the presiding officer. **A person shall not serve as President for TWO (02) consecutive terms.**

The change from "a person" to "a member" was unanimously accepted, proposed by Sumedha Jayasena and seconded by Harshani Munidasa.

A motion to adopt the proposed amendments to constitution were unanimously accepted, proposed by Mahendra Munidasa and seconded by Geetha Fernando.

### **Ratification of Nominations for the Executive Committee for the Term 2018-2020**

The following members for the Executive Committee for the term, 2018-2020 were nominated by the Executive Committee as per the definition in Article 4 of the By Laws and was unanimously accepted, proposed by Sunil Koswatta and seconded by Suramya Waidyanatha.

Chandana Goonetilleke (President)  
Vicumpriya Perera (President -Elect)  
Prof. LMV. Tillekeratne (Immediate Past-President)  
Kirthi Premadasa (Vice President)  
Sumedha Jayasena (Vice President)  
Reshan Fernando (Vice President)  
Saliya de Silve (Treasurer)  
Gajaka Weerasinghe (Assistant Treasurer)  
Chandrasiri Jayakody (Joint Secretary)  
Randara Pulukkody (Joint Secretary)  
Harshani Munidasa  
Oshadha Ranasingha  
Gomika Udugamasooriya  
Lalith Perera  
Angelo Gunasekera  
Chandika Wijesundara  
Waruna Fernando  
Lakmal Boteju  
Binodh De Silva  
Chryshanie Fernandopulle  
Jeeva Witanachchi  
Nalin Samarasinha  
Asoka Pinnaduwege

Harshica Fernando  
Hasitha Mahabaduge

### **Discussions/Suggestions**

The floor was then opened for discussion/suggestions.

#### **Venue, Date and Time for Tamasha-2020**

Dr. Sumedha Jayasena proposed that as the CUFSA-NA is a North American Association, and that we had two Tamasha's in the USA, we should consider having next Tamasha in Toronto, Canada. This proposal was seconded by Dr. Harshani Munidasa. It was decided that the new Executive Committee will consider all proposals from the membership and decide a suitable venue for the Tamasha 2020.

It was also discussed whether we should have the AGM after the Tamasha as we did in New Jersey (next day) in 2016 or before the Tamasha as of Cleveland, Ohio in 2018 (same day). Membership preferred to have it on the same day, before the Tamasha.

It was also discussed whether we should have it on the Memorial Day weekend in July, or Labor Day weekend in September or any other weekend. It was decided to send out a survey to general membership to find out their opinion on the date.

**Any Other Business** – None

#### **Adjournment**

With no other businesses to discuss, a motion to adjourn the AGM was proposed by Reshan Fernando, seconded by Lalith Perera.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chandrasiri Jayakody  
Randara Pulukkoy