

Minutes of the General Body Meeting at the 26th IAGRG Meeting

Venue: Auditorium, HRI, Allahabad; Date, Time: 20.1.2011, 6 p.m.

The General Body of the IAGRG met on 20th January, 2011 at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium of HRI, Allahabad, during the 26th IAGRG meeting. The GBM was chaired by the President of the IAGRG, Prof. Pankaj S. Joshi. Twenty six IAGRG members attended the meeting. The meeting began by condoling the sad demise of Prof. P. C. Vaidya. The President and the members also condoled the death of Prof. G. Mohanty, who was a member of the IAGRG.

After the last IAGRG meeting (January 2009) several members have joined the organization. Their names were read out by the Secretary and they were welcomed to the IAGRG by the General Body.

The minutes of the last GBM and the un-audited accounts of the IAGRG were confirmed and accepted by the members.

The following suggestions of the IAGRG Council, which met on the previous evening (19th January, 2011) were discussed. The resolutions arrived at are listed below.

(a) It was suggested that the IAGRG may organise two additional lectures with the name *Vaidya-Raychaudhuri Lecture* in the period between two consecutive IAGRG meetings (IAGRG meetings are held every two years). These lectures will be on the same footing and status as the VRE lectures. Essentially, the idea was to make the VRE lecture an annual affair. These lectures could preferably be held at Presidency University, Kolkata and at Gujarat University. However, organising these lectures at the above venues would require the consent and support of the administration at each venue. Dr. Pradip Mukherjee of Presidency University, Kolkata suggested that the IAGRG may forward a proposal to the Vice Chancellor of their University. Dr. Sarbari Guha of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata also volunteered to have the lecture at her Institution. The difficulty in organising the lecture at Gujarat University was also discussed. It was suggested that Gujarat Ganith Mandal may be requested to organise the lecture. Finally, it was decided that an email be sent to all IAGRG members, requesting for proposals related to organising these two lectures in any undergraduate college/university in India. These proposals will then be examined by the IAGRG Council and an appropriate decision taken.

On the whole the proposal of having two more VR lectures was accepted. The honorarium

and selection procedure etc for these lectures will be the same as the VRE lectures and the travel + honorarium of the speakers will be provided from IAGRG funds. A panel of five experts will be nominated, similar to the procedure of selecting the VRE speaker, to select the speaker for these lectures.

(b) It was mentioned that GR and Cosmology has a tradition in the Universities in India and efforts should be made to keep the tradition alive. Following earlier discussion over email, initiated by the President and other members, it was suggested that a list of published research articles (beginning from a certain date) by Indian scientists, on GR and Cosmology may be prepared. However, going by the amount of time and effort required for such a task, it was decided that a directory of research groups working in GR and Cosmology be prepared first. In order to prepare this directory, it was suggested that two members in each zone (East, West, North and South) may be given the responsibility. Thereafter all the data can be merged and properly placed in the IAGRG website.

It was suggested that, in both the IAGRG and ICGC meetings, the SOC of each meeting be sensitised to select serious workers from Universities/Colleges as plenary speakers/workshop chairs etc. Prof. Naresh Dadhich suggested that a provision be made so that all IAGRG members may suggest names of possible speakers to the SOC of each meeting, within a specified date, sufficiently before the meeting. The above suggestions were accepted by all members.

(c) It was suggested that the present format of the IAGRG meeting may be changed with lesser plenary talks and more contributory papers. The suggestion was criticised by some members and it was generally felt that the SOC of the next IAGRG meeting may be informed about this suggestion (and the criticism) and will be free to decide on the final format of the meeting.

(d) The next IAGRG meeting is scheduled to be held in December 2012 or January, 2013. The venue of this meeting is yet to be decided. Among members present in the GBM there were none who volunteered to host the meeting. Finally, it was decided that an email be sent to all IAGRG members requesting for possible organisers who may be interested in hosting the meeting. The Council will then consider the proposals and take a decision.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes prepared by Sayan Kar, Secretary, IAGRG Council.