

Minutes of the General Body Meeting at the 28th IAGRGR Meeting

Venue: Main Auditorium, Raman Research Institute

Date, Time: 19.03.2015, 6 p.m

The General Body of the IAGRGR met on 19th March, 2015 at 6 p.m. in the Main Auditorium of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, during the 28th IAGRGR meeting. The GBM was chaired by the President of the IAGRGR, Prof. Ghanashyam Date. Twenty two participants of the meeting (including many IAGRGR members) attended the GBM. The meeting began with the presentation of the audited accounts statement and a discussion based on questions raised by the council. The unaudited accounts of the IAGRGR were confirmed and accepted by the members. The suggestions of the IAGRGR Council were discussed. The resolutions arrived at are listed below.

1. Finances and updates since last IAGRGR meeting 2 years earlier:
 - (a) A question was raised in the Council regarding how the current funds were built up and if there was any seed money deposited initially. Senior members present informed the General Body that in the 1985 ICGC conference, Ahmedabad, Rs. 18,000 was received by negotiating with the publishers to publish for the first time, the ICGC proceedings. This was used as the seed money for the VR award. Since 1987, apart from the proceeds from publishing ICGC proceedings, savings (if any) from the funds raised for the IAGRGR meetings were transferred into the IAGRGR funds. A suggestion emerged that this method can be followed for current IAGRGR meetings as well.
 - (b) IAGRGR accounts are being audited and will be presented during the next IAGRGR meeting. The last audit was done in 2012.
 - (c) Fund for NR Sen award, VVN thesis award:
 - i. The following proposals were discussed:
 - A. The required funds for the NR Sen Award may be drawn from those kept for the VRE Award as there are adequate funds in the VRE deposits.
 - B. All FDs may be clubbed together.
 - C. Currently there are enough finances in the savings account to buoy up the award amounts.
2. It was resolved that if the best thesis award is given jointly, then all awardees will get the same award money, currently Rs 5000/-. This is applicable from the 2015 best thesis award onwards.
3. It was resolved that if the NR Sen award is declared jointly, then all awardees will get the same award money, currently Rs 10,000/-. This is applicable from the 2015 NR Sen Award onwards.

4. Role of IAGRG in improving GR education at Masters and PhD levels:

The following suggestions were discussed:

- (a) A dedicated seminar circuit on the lines of TPSC instead of teaching at Masters level schools. The seminar circuit if set up may need funding from agencies like DST etc. Since the IAGRG is an already established body, there could be strong support.
- (b) A 3 way split school on GR and Cosmology in increasing degree of advancement. Can be started by ICTS/IUCAA. Suggestions solicited by the Council via email.

5. Venue for next IAGRG

- (a) General mail is to be sent by the secretary to all members sharing the experience of organizing the meetings and detailing scope and requirements of the meeting. Proposals for hosting the next IAGRG meeting are to be invited. The Council will then decide on the host for the next IAGRG Meeting.
The next host could not be decided during the GBM.
- (b) It was observed that funding for future conferences may be difficult to obtain from individual institutes. One solution could be increase of registration fees.
The number of participants invited is limited by the logistics. Even with increased numbers, it is very likely that colleges/universities/institutes with more active groups will get higher representation.
- (c) To cope with and discourage, last minute cancellations, it was suggested that a prior registration fee may be made mandatory, with an appropriate non-refundable component.

6. Membership criteria:

- (a) Existing criteria is based on evidence of active interest in GR through recommendation of faculty or from an existing IAGRG member or publication in a related journal or participation in GR related activities or conferences or workshops. The Council has often felt that the publications are not very relevant or not in reputed journals and hence applicants are not worth giving a membership to.
- (b) Caveats and suggestions discussed: Irrelevant membership requests may be inevitable to some extent.
Also, a recommendation from an existing IAGRG member may be made mandatory and ill-considered recommendations may be heavily discouraged.

Minutes prepared by Sumati Surya, Secretary IAGRG.