

Minutes of the General Body Meeting held at the 30th IAGRG Meeting

Venue: Main Auditorium, BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad Campus

Date and Time: January 3, 2019, 7:00 PM

The General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Indian Association for General Relativity and Gravitation (IAGRG) took place at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 3, 2019. The GBM had taken place at the 30th IAGRG Meeting which was held during January 3-5, 2019, at BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad Campus. About 75 people had taken part in the GBM.

The points discussed at the GBM are as follows:

1. Executive secretary: The members were informed that Dr. Chellathurai of IUCAA, who has been providing administrative support to the Association for almost three decades, had wished to be relieved. In his place, Ms. Nirupama Bawdekar of IUCAA, had taken over the administrative responsibilities (as the Executive Secretary of the Association) from October 2, 2018. The Association had invited Dr. Chellathurai to the meeting at BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad. They had presented him with a small memento as a token of their appreciation for the dedicated support he had provided over the years.
2. State of finances: While the finances of the Association seem reasonably fine, it was recommended that the finances be augmented by approaching private sponsors. It was also suggested that we can approach members as well as others to provide donations to the Association.
3. Membership fees: The fee for current life membership to the association stands at INR 1,000/-. It was agreed that we should raise the fee to INR 3,000/-.
4. Moving membership application online: It was suggested that we should make the application process for the membership online. This is expected to be done soon. We will arrange for the application fee to be paid by bank transfer, once the application has been accepted by the council.
5. Criteria for membership: Occasionally, we receive applications for membership based on publications in journals which are not of quality and are possibly predatory in nature. It has been suggested that we identify a certain minimum quality of the publications that can be accepted in support of membership. It was felt that it would be difficult to converge on generic criteria to ensure quality. It

was recommended that the council makes a call on individual applications rather than try and arrive at broad criteria for ensuring quality.

6. IndIGO: The IndIGO Consortium was originally formed with the aim of gathering wide support for LIGO India. The current role of the Consortium was discussed. It had been proposed in the previous GBM that the Consortium be included as a Chapter of IAGRG. It was suggested that we should instead try to identify a wider role for Consortium with the aim of creating a long term vision for the Association and community.
7. Celebrating 50th year of IAGRG: It was suggested that the IAGRG Council looks into the possibility of holding a one-and-a-half or two-day meeting at Ahmedabad (at IIT Gandhinagar and/or PRL) later this year (in September/October/November), to commemorate the 50th year of the IAGRG.
8. Conducting regular Schools on GR, Cosmology and GWs: It was proposed that we should conduct regular Schools for graduate students covering GR, Cosmology and GWs, such as the SERC Schools in High Energy Physics. The main concern was the funding for such Schools. It was suggested that a few (may be from the Council) can come together and examine the possibility of conducting such Schools.