

Minutes of the Annual General Body meeting of the Society for Polymer Science, India (SPSI) held on November 2, 2022 (5:30 PM), at NCL Pune.

The AGBM meeting was adjourned and reconvened at 7:00 PM due to lack of quorum.

1. Prof. S. Ramakrishnan, President of the Society for Polymer Science, India, called the meeting to order at 1900 hrs.
2. Prof. Ramakrishnan welcomed the members. He gave his introductory remarks wherein he highlighted the challenges faced during the lockdown period in terms of conducting the activities of SPSI. He also explained the reasons for cancelling the SPSI Macro 2020, which was to be held at IIT Guwahati in December 2020. He then informed the members about the creation of the new Mumbai chapter. He expressed his deep appreciation for the initiative taken by the Pune chapter, especially Drs S K Asha and Samir Chikkali from NCL, to organize Macro 2022 at Pune, in fairly short notice. He further added that this event will provide the polymer science community an opportunity to express their appreciation for the remarkable leadership of our past president Dr S Sivaram, on the occasion of completing his 75th Birthday year.
3. Minutes of the AGM held on December 19, 2018 at IISER Pune were confirmed.
4. Prof. Anil Kumar, Hon. Secretary, presented a brief overview of the activities of SPSI, as detailed below:
 - i. Launch of Mumbai Chapter with one day symposium (2 March 2020).
 - ii. SPSI continued its activity in the online mode during the lockdown.
 - iii. We organized more than 33 webinars, symposiums, during this period wherein speakers were chosen both from within India and abroad.
 - iv. The first in-person meeting, post-pandemic (Two-day symposium) was conducted by the Mumbai Chapter and was held at the Somaiya University in May 2022 and was organized by Professor V N R Pillai.
 - v. A committee was constituted to examine and deliberate on improving the participation from Industries in the SPSI activities. The committee made several recommendations to improve the interactions and one of the major recommendations was to recognize industrial R&D, which has now been realized through the Dr K. H. Gharda Industrial Innovation Award in Polymers.
5. Through the initiative of the members, two Award Lectures, namely Sivaram Endowment Lecture and Palit Memorial Lecture were recently set up. During this 16th SPSI MACRO, two renowned Scientists delivered these lectures: Professor Yves Gnanou, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia, delivered the S. R. Palit Memorial Lecture and Professor Richard Hoogenboom, Ghent University, Belgium, delivered the Sivaram Endowment Lecture. The President appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee for their selection of outstanding researchers to deliver these named lectures and hoped that the Society will continue to bring the best researchers from across the world, in future conferences too. Two other important awards presented by SPSI are the Professor M. Santappa Award and Professor Kaushal Kishore award; the Santappa Award - 2020 was jointly awarded to Prof. Niranjana Karak, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam and Dr P. D. Trivedi, Gharda Chemicals Limited, Mumbai; the award talk was delivered by Professor Karak but Dr Trivedi could not deliver the talk due to prior commitments. Two younger colleagues, Professor Suryasarathi Bose from Indian Institute for Science Bangalore, and Dr Samir Chikkali from the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, were jointly awarded the 2020 Kaushal Kishore Award; both of whom delivered the award talks at the meeting. The President congratulated all the awardees on behalf of the Society.

6. Dr. C.V. Avadhani, Treasurer, presented a brief report of the audited accounts of the Society.
7. General Body was informed of the extension of the terms of the Office Bearers of the Society for the period 2020-22 and this was approved.
8. General Body was informed of the creation of Mumbai Chapter of the Society on 2 March 2020 and this was approved.
9. Recommendation of the sub-committee on SPSI Corporate Membership fees were approved, as detailed in Annexure 1.
10. Dr. Sivaram proposed a few changes to the Constitution of the SPSI; these were done primarily to reflect the aspirations of the membership and to streamline some of the processes. The proposed changes/modifications are detailed below:

Election of the Office-Bearers

- i) The election of the office-bearers and other Members of the Executive Committee shall take place every two years by a ballot of all the Life- Members with voting rights and the results shall be declared at the Annual General Body Meeting of the Society. Postal or electronic ballot shall also be considered.
- ii) The tenure of the Office Bearers will generally begin on January 1 of the year, following the elections, and will terminate on 31 December of the second year of assuming office.
- iii) The President and Vice-Presidents shall compulsorily retire every two years but are eligible for re-election. The balance nine Members of the Executive Committee shall also serve the term co-terminus with the President and the Vice-Presidents and will also be eligible for re-election.
- iv) The manner of conducting the ballot for election of office bearers of the Society are set forth below:
 - a) The outgoing Executive Committee shall prepare a slate of potential office bearers of the Society through a wide consultative process involving the Presidents of the chapters and members of the Society.
 - b) The slate of office bearers, thus arrived at, will be put on a ballot paper and sent to all the members in good standing by post/Email, or any other electronic means, for their ratification.
 - c) Members shall return their voting papers to the President/Honorary Secretary, by post/ E mail or web-based electronic voting.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than twelve persons including the President, two Vice-Presidents, one Past-President, one Honorary Secretary, one Treasurer and six elected members. In addition, the Presidents of all approved Chapters of the Society will be executive Members, ex-officio. Of the office bearers, the Treasurer shall preferably be from the Headquarters.

Local chapters and their administration

As per rule 3x, formation of local chapters to enhance and widen the activities of the society and carry forward the Aim and Objectives of the society is strongly encouraged. Local chapters shall elect a

President and at least two office bearers, namely Secretary and Treasurer, to manage and conduct the local chapter activities. The Duties and Responsibilities of the office bearers shall be the same as those for the office bearers of the society and the rules for election to the office and the terms and conditions of their service shall remain the same.

Prof. Ashok Misra seconded the proposed amendments and General Body unanimously approved the proposed modifications.

11. Prof. Vimal Katiyar proposed to host the 17th National Conference of SPSI, MACRO 2023 in December 2023. General Body agreed for this proposal.

The meeting ended with a Vote of thanks by the Chair.